



Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref: WAQ74023

Lynne Neagle AM  
[Lynne.Neagle@assembly.wales](mailto:Lynne.Neagle@assembly.wales)

15 August 2017

Dear Lynne,

In response to your Written Assembly Question regarding what assessment has been made of how the Supporting Learners with Healthcare Needs guidance has worked on the ground since its introduction earlier this year? I can confirm the [Supporting Learners with Healthcare Needs](#) guidance was published on 30 March 2017.

I wrote to all maintained schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) in May to reiterate the requirement to read the statutory guidance and implement a healthcare needs policy. I also wrote to all health boards in May, emphasising the need for collaborative working to support learners with healthcare needs.

My officials are working with local authorities to assess how the guidance is being implemented across Wales. In response to initial feedback about implementation, the Welsh Government has produced templates for local authorities and schools to assist with production and implementation of healthcare needs policies. These were issued in June.

Local authorities have been asked to provide an update on the implementation of policies within all of their maintained schools and PRUs. Based on the feedback received to date; the guidance together with the templates has been welcomed and local authorities and schools are working with key stakeholders, including healthcare professionals, to ensure plans are in place.

A further update about the implementation of this guidance will be sought in the autumn term.

Yours sincerely

**Alun Davies AC/AM**  
Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes  
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Alun.Davies@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Alun.Davies@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Alun.Davies@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Alun.Davies@gov.wales)

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.