

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref Scrutiny
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00033/26

Meryl Lawrence
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny / On
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Dear Meryl,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January bringing to my attention the concerns of Bridgend council 's Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding mental health support for children and young people in schools, and school transfers.

I can confirm that Welsh government will again be providing £13.6m of funding in 2026-27 to support provision and activity by local authorities, schools, Public Health Wales and health boards in Wales to embed our Whole School Approach for Emotional and Mental Well-being. Launched in 2021, considerable progress has been made implementing the WSA framework, though there is always more to be done to ensure all learners get the best and most appropriate support, at the right time, when they encounter problems with their well-being and mental health.

I am pleased to say that 100 percent of secondary schools in Wales have completed their action planning phase of implementation, achieving the First Minister's national Delivery Ambition that all secondaries should have a well-being plan by the end of the current Senedd term. A majority of primary schools are also completing their action planning stage with more progressing their plans, with support from PHW implementation co-ordinators for whom we have provided £780k of funding in 2025-26.

Over £3 million of funding will again be allocated across the 22 local authorities to support delivery and improvement of their independent school and community-based counselling service. Over £5m will ensure continuing support for schools from the CAMHS School In Reach teams which have been working with schools and settings, providing information, advice and guidance on mental health and well-being support for learners.

Our Whole School Approach also provides complementarity with the Curriculum in particular the Health and Well-being Area of Learning Experience. Officials are working across health and education departments, with external partners including local authorities and schools, to improve integration and deliver mentally healthy and inclusive environments for learners and school staff.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

The WSA Framework recognises that transition between home and education settings, education settings and school, primary and secondary school, or between different schools, can be particularly destabilising for some learners, such as those with ALN. For younger learners the importance of early years support, establishing partnerships between parents/carers and education settings from the earliest stage will help smooth the process. Other transition points may include a learner moving schools for health reasons.

I understand this may be frustrating for schools where there has been a lack of communication or prior knowledge and the range of Welsh government guidance in place seeks to provide clarity and assist schools and settings with admissions and transfers. I encourage all settings, parent and carers to try and plan as far as possible, including sharing any necessary support or relevant health information, because of the potentially negative impact this may have on a child or young person.

I welcome your committee's feedback and views on this important point but there are no plans at the present time to amend the policy. Should more information and evidence of significant problems emerge then the Welsh government will always consider where any necessary or appropriate changes should be made.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

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