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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref LN/01094/25

Cllr. Dylan Rees  
Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

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09 October 2025

Dear Dylan,

Thank you for your letter of 17 September regarding the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's discussion on the provision of additional funding to the additional learning needs (ALN) and inclusion service.

I'd like to begin by acknowledging the considerable work and dedication shown by all those involved across Wales in supporting the transition from the special educational needs system to the ALN system over the past four years. This has been a significant undertaking, and I'm pleased to read that Isle of Anglesey County Council has successfully moved all learners onto the ALN system.

This achievement marks an important milestone and reflects the sustained effort by schools and local authorities not only in implementing systematic change, but also in engaging meaningfully with families, and ensuring that learners receive the support they need during this period of reform. Crucially, it ensures that their needs and aspirations are clearly reflected in statutory plans moving forward.

I fully recognise the immense pressure the education workforce is under, particularly in the context of finances and the resulting impact on workload and staff wellbeing. I want to express my sincere gratitude for their continued and unwavering commitment to supporting learners with ALN.

Most of the funding for ALN from Welsh Government is provided through the revenue support grant (RSG) which forms part of the local government settlement. This year we increased the Local Government settlement by £262m to safeguard as far as possible core funding to schools, alongside other pressures such as social care and homelessness.

We have listened carefully to the challenges facing the sector and have responded with sustained investment. Since 2020, over £150 million of extra revenue grant funding has been provided to local authorities, schools and settings through the Local Authority Education Grant (LAEG) to support implementation of the ALN system, increase resources in schools and lead whole-school strategies to embed inclusive education.

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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.

I was pleased to confirm that the final budget for 2025–26 maintained the £10 million uplift, bringing total ALN funding through the LAEG to £32 million. This continued investment reflects our commitment to ensuring that learners with ALN receive the support they need and that the workforce is equipped to deliver high-quality, inclusive provision.

I recognise the pivotal role that Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) play in delivering the ALN system. We are aware of the increasing demands placed on ALNCo and the importance of ensuring they are well-supported within their schools to avoid isolation and the strain of unmanageable caseloads. To help address these pressures, over £20 million has been deployed in 2023-24 and 2024-25 via the LAEG to schools and settings to support the role of the ALNCo. This funding is directed to schools and settings specifically to strengthen the capacity around the ALNCo role and support their continued leadership in embedding inclusive education.

In February 2024, we published the report of the ALNCo Task and Finish Group, established to examine the remuneration and non-contact time allocated to ALNCo. The report has since been submitted to the Independent Welsh Pay Review Body (IWPRB) for their consideration. As part of its 2024/25 remit, the IWPRB has been asked to make recommendations on appropriate remuneration and terms and conditions for the statutory ALNCo role. This includes ensuring that pay and workload expectations fairly reflect the responsibilities, working time, and demands associated with leading ALN provision in schools.

We recognise that schools are facing an unprecedented and sustained demand to meet an increasingly diverse range of learner needs across all age groups. In particular, the growing complexity around social and emotional well-being presents significant challenges. To support the sector, £13.6m has been allocated in 2024–25 to embed and support the implementation of the Whole School Approach framework. This investment underlines our commitment to promoting emotional and mental well-being across education settings. This investment also enables the expansion of school counselling provision, the delivery of both universal and targeted interventions for learners, well-being training for staff, and the national roll-out of the CAMHS school in-reach service, which provides consultation, liaison, advice, and training to support mental health needs within schools.

Earlier this month, the Welsh Government launched a new [Behaviour Toolkit](#) to provide practical support for education settings in Wales. This follows a [National Behaviour Summit](#) in May which provided opportunities for open dialogue to explore current issues, celebrate what works, and shape support for practitioners.

I am aware of the increasing number of legal challenges and the pressure this places on schools and local authorities. There is evidence that the definition of ALN is being applied inconsistently across local authorities and schools, and that more needs to be done to provide greater clarity of the legislative framework. My priority now is to ensure that the provisions of the legislative framework are clearly understood and consistently applied. I have asked my officials to work through the issues presented.

Educational psychologists play a vital role in supporting children and young people, which is why we continue to fund their training. We recognise regional workforce challenges, particularly in North and Mid Wales, and have agreed in principle to fund three places at Bangor University in 2027/28, subject to the establishment of a DEdPsy programme.

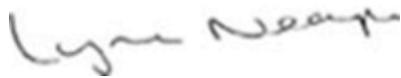
My officials have, therefore, discussed a proposal from Bangor University for the development of a DEdPsy programme. Last year, the Welsh Government agreed in principle to fund three places in 2027/28 dependent on an DEdPsy programme having been

established and meeting all necessary academic and professional requirements. This commitment in principle was enough to enable the university to proceed with its work to develop a DEdPsy programme. I have asked my officials to meet with Bangor University in the autumn to discuss progress.

As I hope you will understand, in the future we would need to ensure a transparent and fair means of securing the on-going training of EPs in Wales. If Bangor University are successful in their establishment of a DEdPsy programme, then there will be an opportunity to review options.

Thank you again for writing to me on these important matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle'.

**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**  
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Cabinet Secretary for Education