

Jane Hutt AC/AM

Y Gweinidog dros Blant, Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau
Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

our Ref: MB/JH/409/09

Helen Mary Jones AM
Chair - Children and Young People Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

22nd April 2009

Dear Helen Mary,

I attended the Children and Young People's Committee on 31st March 2009 to update members on developments in regard to advocacy for children and young people, and particularly the implementation of the new Model for Delivering Advocacy for Children and Young People in Wales.

Following the Committee meeting, I have been asked to respond to four Action Points;

1. Provide further information about when and what level of advocacy for all children and young people in Wales will be provided in 2009-10.

The Assembly Government's commitment is to provide a National Advocacy and Advice Service to provide a single point of contact via telephone or text, 7 days a week for all children and young people in Wales in 2009/10. The Advocacy Development and Performance Unit is currently consulting with children and young people and compiling specific options for various aspects of this service. Children and young people have shown that they want to receive advice and advocacy through a variety of different ways such as text messaging, websites and information leaflets in information shops. These options will be considered as a priority at the National Independent Advocacy Board's first meeting in June. Once the decision has been made, the ADPU will proceed with the commissioning process to procure this service to be in place in the autumn.

2. Provide information on allocations of spend within the Counselling and Advocacy Budget Expenditure Line.

The allocated budget for 2009-10 is £800,000

The allocated budget for 2010-11 is £850,000

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It is estimated that the National Advocacy and Advice Service will be in place in the autumn 2009 and therefore the budget has been amended to reflect the projected costs for the current year. The budget for 2009-10 is now £560,000 (reduction of 30%).

This budget is to fund;

- National Advocacy and Advice Service to provide a single point of contact via telephone or text, 7 days a week
- National Independent Advocacy Board (including funding support for children and young people, accommodation, travelling, venues, interpreters etc)
- Development and production of the training materials and qualification
- Training and awareness raising events
- Production of promotional materials

3. Provide the Committee with the guide to the model for delivering advocacy services for children and young people.

The guide to the model is being finalised and is currently with legal services. The guide will then come to me to consider and clear. As soon as this process is completed, I will ask the Advocacy Development and Performance Unit to ensure that a copy is sent to you and the Committee Business Unit for dissemination to the CYP Committee members.

4. Confirm whether or not any money was drawn out of the one-off grant made available for the establishment of Children and Young People's Partnership consortia.

No money was drawn down. The money was only available for one financial year and was not accessed due to delays in the Government's final plans as a result of the NHS reforms where the position of LHB and CHC was unknown.

I hope this is helpful,

Yours,

Janet