

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jayne Bryant MS
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Dear Jayne,

During questions to the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language at Plenary on 25 October, the Minister agreed to follow up on the points you raised regarding time frames in relation to training for childcare professionals and support for those already qualified professionals who may wish to move across to Welsh medium provision. I am writing to respond on these points given that the responsibility for childcare and early childhood education fall within my portfolio.

A new suite of Childrens Care, Play, Learning and Development qualifications (Levels 2-5) were introduced from 2019. These qualifications, which are available bilingually, cover key areas of caring for children from health and safety to child development and professional practice.

Given the importance of all units within the qualifications, there are no plans to shorten current qualifications or fast track learners through them as we are committed to maintaining the quality of these qualifications.

Whilst the Level 3 Childrens Care, Play, Learning and Development qualification can take up to two years to complete, a key element of the qualification is the requirement to undertake a minimum of 700 practice hours. This critical practice element supports learner development and understanding and means that shortening the time to undertake the qualification may be difficult to achieve.

We continue to explore options for supporting those with relevant prior learning to enter the sector without having to undertake the full Childrens Care, Play, Learning and Development qualification. We recently funded Social Care Wales (SCW) to map qualifications from other sectors to identify the potential for a more flexible approach in the consideration of relevant prior learning and to identify the actions required to enable individuals to be employed in the childcare sector. We are continuing to work closely with SCW on possible options while still maintaining the integrity of the qualifications required to work in the sector.

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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.

We are supporting an increase in Welsh medium provision in a range of ways through a £3.78 million investment in Welsh medium provision over three years. This includes funding to Mudiad Meithrin to support 150 learners to achieve their Level 3 and Level 5 Childrens Care, Play, Learning and Development qualifications through the medium of Welsh. As well as additional funding to support *Croesi'r Bont*, which offers language support for new settings established under the *Sefydlu a Symud* programme and English medium settings looking to introduce or improve Welsh language provision.

We have also worked with the National Centre for Learning Welsh on their *Camau* courses, which are bespoke Welsh language courses for early years practitioners. We also fund a co-ordinator to support these courses and the learners undertaking them to make the best use of their Welsh in childcare settings.

Welsh Government funding supports a range of setting types through the funding of development officers who work with settings to increase their use of Welsh or change their language of operations to Welsh and co-ordinate the provision of dedicated Welsh medium training for existing staff. We have also provided funding to support childminders seeking to offer Welsh provision as well as funding to support the achievement of playwork and other childcare qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

Yours sincerely



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