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June 27th 2011

Dear Chair,

P-03-265 Include leaving home information and education in the national curriculum

Thank you for the correspondence on April 5th 2011 in relation to our petition.

We appreciate the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning's consideration of our submission 'Making the Case for Leaving Home Education'.

Whilst we are disappointed that the Minister is unable to support the submission's recommendations, we recognise that there are no current plans to review the PSE curriculum. We will continue to collect evidence to support our call for including leaving home education in the curriculum. This evidence will be used as a lobbying tool when the PSE curriculum is reviewed.

Furthermore we are fully aware that the delivery of the curriculum is delegated to schools working in partnership with the local authority. We will continue to promote leaving home education at this local level to ensure young people gain access to high quality and consistent information. We have completed a consultation exercise on the 2011-2014 Children and Young People's Plans across Wales and look forward to seeing the contents of the final drafts in due course.

We fully understand that including leaving home education in the curriculum does not guarantee that all young people will gain access to the necessary information. However we strongly believe that including it as a statutory requirement would ensure access to the majority of young people.

Our Education Service will continue to work with a range of partners across Wales to ensure we are also reaching hard to reach groups and targeting the information according to young people's specific needs.

May we take this opportunity to thank the Petitions Committee for considering our petition and to the Minister for responding to our evidence and recommendations. The young people involved in developing and promoting the petition found it extremely worthwhile. We recognise and appreciate the support of the National Assembly's Outreach Team during the entire process.

Your sincerely

Rhian Jones
Education Coordinator
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