

The National Autistic Society Cymru
6&7 Village Way
Greenmeadow Springs Business Park
Cardiff
CF15 7NE
30 August 2013

William Powell
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear William Powell

The National Autistic Society [NAS] Pembrokeshire branch welcomes the positive response from the Deputy Minister for Social Services to our petition.

We believe that there are some constructive actions outlined in her letter that have the potential to make a real impact on reducing diagnosis times for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD] in Wales.

We note that the Deputy Minister recently met with NAS Chief Executive Mark Lever, and discussed autism policy, including diagnosis. We are also pleased to know that an expert Advisory Group is being established to refresh the Government's ASD Strategic Action Plan.

We are very glad to know that the Deputy Minister has tasked that Advisory Group to consider the implementation of, and ensure compliance with, the NICE guidelines on diagnosis for children as part of the refresh.


In order to help the Advisory Group in that task and to gain an accurate picture of the situation across Wales, we would urge the Deputy Minister to ask each of the seven Health Boards to update the Advisory Group on current waiting times and how they are each implementing the NICE guidelines on child diagnosis.

We are grateful for the written update from the First Minister on the situation in Pembrokeshire and acknowledge the commitment from Hywel Dda Local Health Board to implement an action plan from September to address the local waiting list. We would however ask the Deputy Minister to update this Committee on what progress is been made in implementing the action plan in six month time, in February 2014.

We look forward to hearing the Committee's response

Kind regards

Lisa Phillips
NAS Pembrokeshire branch



Accept difference. Not indifference.
Gwahaniaeth. Nid difaterwch.