

Mike Hedges AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA (By Email)

Dear Mr. Hedges,

PETITION P-05-722 Protect Special Educational Needs

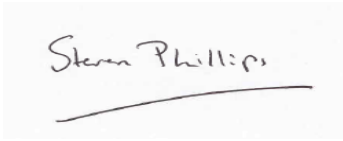
Thank you for your letter of 21 December 2016.

As regards the correspondence from Ms Nicola Butterfield (enclosed with your letter), I find it difficult to comment on the points raised because her letter cross refers to correspondence from the Minister which I have not seen. In addition, from Ms Butterfield's letter, it appears that most/all of the issues are directed towards the Welsh Government; but if she has specific issues that she wishes to raise with the Council, I can put her in touch with the relevant officers.

However, what I can say is that all schools in Neath Port Talbot follow the procedures detailed in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice for Wales and we adopt a graduated response in terms of meeting these requirements, including Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This response starts with school level interventions, including Individual Education Plans (IEPs), for those pupils who have been identified as needing them and where a concern is specifically raised regarding ASD the Council has an agreed ten step pathway (guidance enclosed) involving both education and health professionals. Ultimately this could result in a statement of special educational needs following the completion of a statutory assessment and depending on the circumstances of the individual child, it may result in a continued placement in mainstream education or in one of our Learning Support Centres for ASD.

I hope you find this background helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Steven Phillips" in a cursive script, followed by a horizontal line underneath.

Steven Phillips
Chief Executive