



Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL Cymru's) Response Youth Support Services 11-25 and Learner Support Services 14-19

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers represents over 160,000 education professionals across the four constituent parts of the United Kingdom. It draws its membership from teachers and lecturers, leaders and support staff in maintained and independent schools, and Further Education Colleges. As well as campaigning vigorously to protect and enhance members' pay and conditions ATL also believes that the education profession has a key role in developing education strategy and policy. ATL Cymru represents over 6,500 education professionals in colleges and schools across the whole of Wales.

ATL welcomes the publication of this statutory guidance but has concerns about how realistically the aspirations can be delivered on the ground without increased funding being made available. The establishment of Young People and Children's Directorates at council level in theory provides joined up thinking and joined up provision, but the reality is often that the funding for school based education is squeezed to cover shortfalls in Children's Social Services and other young people's provision so that local councils can say they are delivering on the Welsh Government's agenda. For many schools cutbacks mean the reduction in curriculum choice at school level at the very time that relaxation of National Curriculum content has given schools freedom to widen choice and make curricula more relevant.

Members in Wales are concerned that they will be measured against the delivery of this guidance and it will affect their school's Estyn grading. If this is the intention then investment must be forthcoming

The document needs to make it clear that Education and youth support services are not the same thing. Education, if given the resources, can deliver far more real opportunities for all young people than any council led youth support service. The term 'reasonably practicable' in regards to the provision of services for pupils needs to be added in light of the funding implications of the statutory guidance (i.e. the right to all learners to access learning coaches).

Contact:

Dr Philip Dixon
Director, ATL Cymru
Tel: 02920 465 000
Email: cymru@atl.org.uk