

Pennaeth Addysg (dros dro) Head of Education (interim)

Owen Owens

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12 December 2014

To Gwynedd primary school headteachers and chairpersons of governing bodies

Dear Headteacher and Chair of Governors

Re: Cognition and Learning Service

You will be aware that the Council will be holding a Strategy Review of Additional Learning Needs (ALN), and preparing for legislative change in the near future. In order to plan and prepare for this during 2015/16, the LEA intends, in January 2015, to notify the Schools Budget Forum that 'Cognition and Learning Service' delegated funding to our schools will be discontinued as from April 2015.

The intention is to conduct a Service review during 2015/16 whilst continuing to provide school support, but having eliminated the bureaucracy associated with the current SLA.

The current arrangements:

- The Cognition and Learning Team was established following Service re-structuring of the schools support Service in the cognition and learning field.
- The budget has been delegated to the primary schools and every school is offered the provision by the LEA through a Service Level Agreement (SLA)
- Over the last 2 years, a number of schools have opted not to buy this Service through the SLA and provide the Service themselves – due to several reasons.

The case for change

- A new ALN strategy together with new legislation places specific responsibilities on the authority for more detailed monitoring and review of the service and provision.
- The ALN review has provided an opportunity to review the entire provision so as to ensure the outcome "That ALN pupils receive a quality service from multi-agency and integrated teams throughout Gwynedd, who share information, jointly plan, and provide parents with explicit advice and information"
- So as to achieve this, there is a need to:
 - Simplify the service presentation method
 - Ensure consistency, quality and provision throughout the county
 - Better collaboration with the various agencies
 - Realise the potential of the special schools

If you wish to present comments on the LEA's intention, please submit your comments and send them to me by **the end of the day, Wednesday 11 February 2015** – for the attention of Annie Sanson anniesanson@gwynedd.gov.uk

I will report on this issue to the Schools Budget Forum and the Council Cabinet and seek their support.

Yours sincerely

Owen Owens

**Owen Owens
Interim Head of Education**

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