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Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref yourref
Ein cyf/Our ref ourref
GT/00049/08

Address

Val Lloyd AM

Dear Val,

15th February 2008

PETITION – YOUNG CARERS (IDENTIFICATION AND SUPPORT MEASURE)

Thank you for your letter of 24 January addressed to Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education Lifelong Learning and Skills. It has been passed to me to respond in my capacity as the lead Minister on the Proposed Legislative Competence Order (LCO) for Vulnerable Children and Child Poverty.

I can confirm that the LCO has broad coverage for all children and young people up to 25 years of age, including young carers. The LCO could therefore provide scope for a measure to place a specific responsibility on local authorities to identify and support young carers. I must emphasise that any such measure would be subject to the support and approval of the Welsh Assembly Government and the National Assembly for Wales.

Many young carers are deemed to be in need under the Children Act 1989 and entitled to an assessment for services under section 17 of that Act. The National Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services recognises young carers as one of the groups to be supported by local authorities and their partners. The Welsh Assembly Government also recognises the need to support young carers who may be in need and our Strategy for Carers and objectives under the Children First programme have made significant resources available for local authorities to provide targeted support to young carers.

You will also be aware that Helen Mary Jones AM was successful in the last ballot for a Members Proposed LCO, under the Assembly's standing order 22 and submitted a proposal relating to Carers Rights which is being debated in Plenary on 20 February 2008. Members of the Petition Committee will have an opportunity during that debate to explore the opportunity that the proposed LCO may provide in relation to the petition calling for the introduction of a Measure to place a specific responsibility on local authorities to identify and support young carers.

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