

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Cllr Mark Pritchard
Leader
Wrexham Council

leader@wrexham.gov.uk

18 June 2015

Dear Mark,

I have received numerous representations from AMs, parents and other key stakeholders about the inability of Wrexham County Borough Council to provide sufficient Welsh- medium reception class places, particularly in Bro Alun but also in other Welsh-medium schools in the area. It is apparent that your planning for Welsh-medium education remains ineffective despite modifications being proposed by me both in approving the original WESP and with the revised WESP.

There appears to have been an unsatisfactory use of data in establishing sound projections for places in Welsh-medium schools coupled with a lack of effective dialogue with key partners such as Mudiad Meithrin about the likely demand for such places. This has resulted in an unacceptable level of refusals for places at Ysgol Bro Alun and is causing a substantial degree of anxiety for the parents concerned.

It is particularly disappointing for me that the introduction of statutory WESPs has not led to the improvements in planning that was intended by the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. On the contrary, the current situation demonstrates in Wrexham displays a distinct lack of adequate planning.

I would, therefore, urge you to find a short-term solution to ensure that you can provide the extra needed places at Ysgol Bro Alun quickly and to adopt processes that will transform your collection and use of data so that adequate Welsh-medium school places can be provided.

I understand that officers from the local authority will be meeting shortly with my officials and this will give you an opportunity to outline how you have resolved these short-term issues and to indicate how you will improve your planning mechanisms in the longer term.

I look forward to a positive resolution.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis', written in a cursive style.

Huw Lewis AC / AM

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