

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymchwiliad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg i weithredu diwygiadau addysg](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) inquiry into [Implementation of education reforms](#)

IER 38

Ymateb gan: Parents Voices in Wales CIC

Response from: Parents Voices in Wales CIC

Evening Minister

We hope you are well. We write to you today on the news of the ongoing shortage of ADHD medication for children and adults across the UK.

At a time of increased school absence and poor mental health, the majority of whom are known to be neurodivergent learners, it is another layer of disadvantage and concern for those undertaking exams in the 2023/24 series. In addition the majority of school exclusions are related to ADHD and social communication and Statistics for Wales show a dramatic increase of those being forced out of schools.

The concerns being raised about the shortage of medications by families in Wales is therefore justifiable. As a parent of an ADHD learner, I can only empathize with their concerns.

Parents report that medication shortage impacts classroom engagement and teacher-child relationships become strained. This in turn impacting motivation, attendance, wellbeing and ultimately attainment.

Parents Voices kindly asks if you as the Welsh Government Minister for Education could consider the impact on outcomes for these learners with the WJEC Exam Board/Qualifications Wales and if possible, make a statement to all Local Authorities and schools about the need for adjustments for ADHD/neurodivergent learners in the absence of appropriate medication, such as :

- o quiet rooms for exams to reduce distractions
- o additional time for exams for frequent breaks ie Pomodoro Technique or stop the clock adjustments for those who require it
- o for adult readers to be available for those who have cooccurring conditions with ADHD such as dyspraxia, dyslexia, developmental language disorder, autism etc

- o for additional study skills sessions (groups or 1:1) to be made available
- o to suspend exclusions for all learners to cater for those not yet identified with ADHD
- o for schools to ensure that neurodivergent learners have open access to a learner selected trusted adult to support their wellbeing and promote emotional regulation and thereby reducing impulsive behaviours
- o for schools to undertake ADHD inclusion courses (WLGA Neurodivergence Team, Parents Voices in Wales CIC, ADHD Foundation Schools Award and many more third sector, who can support the Local Authorities and school improvement services) to meet the needs of these disadvantaged pupils.

As a parent I am lucky that our school provides all the support and adjustments my ADHD learner requires but it appears we are in the minority.

Please could we ask for families to receive assurance, that for the many learners who cannot access ADHD medications and are concerned that this is not only currently impacting their relationships in school, engagement in learning but also their ability to meet their potential in the 2023/24 exam series should this shortage continue.

ADHD learners have many strengths and talents but these cannot be realised without the appropriate psychoeducation and medication, inclusive and relational practices. They require an equity in opportunities to achieve and that the ALN Reform will meet their needs in this context.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards.

Parents Voices in Wales CIC