

**Welsh Liberal  
Democrats**

**Democratiaid  
Rhyddfrydol Cymru**



**MOTION AGREED BY AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2023**

## **EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES IN CYMRU/WALES**

### **Conference notes:**

- A. The significant step forward represented by the Additional Learning Needs reforms, pioneered by Kirsty Williams as Education Minister. The new ALN arrangements are a definite improvement on the previous bureaucratic SEN system.**
- B. The impact on children of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.**
- C. The government's recent ALN action plan contains some good ideas but is unlikely to address the root causes of the problem.**

### **Conference believes:**

- I. The public services that support children and young people have been eroded. This particularly impacts the most vulnerable children, such as those living in poverty, or needing mental health support.**
- II. The failure to properly cost and then fund major reforms introduced by the Welsh government in 2021 has created a system that is failing many pupils, families and schools.**
- III. Cuts to local authorities, schools and other agencies mean that too often the services children need are not there. Support staff cuts are denying children educational opportunities. Many Welsh local authorities' ALN budgets are in significant deficit. Too many schools are struggling to meet the needs of pupils with ALN, through no fault of their own.**
- IV. In the importance of the role of Educational and Child Psychologists (ECPs) in supporting children, recognises the recruitment and retention crisis in**

**the profession and the way this stems from the combination of underfunded services, workload pressures, and real terms cuts to pay.**

**Conference calls on the Welsh Government to:**

- 1. Support the Association of Educational Psychologists' call for fair pay to protect and rebuild services.**
- 2. Value the role of support staff in delivering an inclusive education.**
- 3. Commit to a needs-led approach to inclusion, reasonable adjustments and the full provision of ALN funding, so that every pupil has the level of support they require, including in-classroom teaching assistant support.**
- 4. Focus on and resource early intervention and prevention support for children across Wales, including expanded access to specialists like ECPs.**
- 5. Double the places on the Cardiff ECP Training Course designated for Welsh-medium candidates.**
- 6. Establish a second Educational and Child Psychology training course for North and Mid-Wales, based either at the Wrexham Glyndwr University or University of Bangor.**
- 7. Create a specialized fund for research and development in educational technology, with a focus on producing innovative tools and platforms to aid educational psychologists in assessments, tailored intervention planning, and progress monitoring for students with Additional Learning Needs (ALN), prioritizing multilingual projects aimed at substantially enhancing the quality and efficiency of ALN support.**