

RT Hon Carwyn Jones AM  
First Minister of Wales

Welsh Assembly Government

Our Ref: FM/01029/10

Dyfed Edwards and Brian Jones  
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11 August 2010

Dear Dyfed, Brian

Thank you for your letter dated 13 July 2010, on the future of Cymorth – the fund that supports children and young people.

We wish to assure you that we will not be cancelling the funding given under Cymorth, although wider discussions on the budget will influence our funding decisions from next year onward. If we are to provide national guidance regarding the response to the needs of families, we must retain sufficient flexibility when dealing with core grants for assisting children and families. In order to achieve this we have decided not to transfer Cymorth to the Revenue Support Grant.

We acknowledge the valuable contribution of the Children and Young People Partnerships in the management of the work of delivering projects for families. Consequently, we will be transferring that element in Cymorth that at the moment assists in paying for the costs of the Partnerships' activities. We anticipate that this funding will continue to be available to support the important work of the Partnership Co-ordinators and their teams in terms of planning provision at local level. Officers will contact the Co-ordinators to discuss the way forward.

Funding will not be taken away from people that have the greatest need for it. We do not intend to direct funding away from families. Rather, it must be ensured that we find the best way of targeting funding to those that need it, making it easier for successful projects – including co-operative projects across the sectors - to receive funding.

If a Cymorth funded project has a real beneficial effect on families, we are eager to take advantage of, and foster, that success. However, we also know that some projects have not been as successful. Nevertheless, we are sensitive to the situation and we wish to manage funding changes in a way that ensures that any reduction would have the least possible effect on those projects.

Over the coming months, we will be developing a framework for the single grant programme and a vital part of that process will be discussions with our partners in local authorities, the voluntary sector and other stakeholders regarding the most appropriate approach.

I understand that arrangements are in the pipeline for the Deputy Minister for Children, for whom Cymorth funding forms part of his portfolio, to visit Gwynedd Council Children Services on 16 September. He will also attend the Gwynedd Child Poverty Seminar on 8 November.

I am confident that the discussions will proceed in a positive and co-operative manner.

Yours truly

Carwyn Jones

CC. Darren Griffiths  
Cllr Brian Jones