



27th September 2007

Ruth Hatton,
Deputy Committee Clerk,
Proposed Additional Learning Needs
LCO Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA.

Dear Ms Hatton,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the LCO Committee.

We were very pleased with the positive response we received from the committee with regard to our recommendations, and hope that members found our written and verbal evidence helpful towards their deliberations.

As we stated we feel that to amend the LCO to include communication within the definition of disabled person would assist in providing better services for people who would otherwise fall through the gap.

Should the Committee and the National Assembly allow our recommendation the LCO would read:

2.—(1) Field 5 (education) of Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 is amended in accordance with this article.

*(2) After matter 5.16 insert—
“Matter 5.17*

Education and training for—

(a) persons who have a greater difficulty in learning than the majority of persons of the same age as those persons;

(b) persons who have a disability.

*A person has a disability for the purposes of this matter if that person has a physical, mental or **communication** impairment.*

This matter does not include travel arrangements for persons receiving education or training to and from the places where they receive it. ”

We feel that this focused and specific amendment would bring about significant change in the quality of life for many people in Wales whilst remaining within the spirit and intended scope of the LCO.

Other questions posed on the day included our views on the exclusion of travel arrangements within this LCO. After consideration we feel that whilst travel arrangements are an important issue, it would not however be appropriate for it to be included in this LCO as it would extend the scope of the Order beyond what we believe is intended. It may be appropriate for this issue to be raised within the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure.

We were also asked if we thought that the transfer of powers contained within the LCO is appropriate. The answer to this is yes.

Thank you again for allowing us to present to the committee and please do not hesitate in contacting us should you believe we could be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Rosie Jones
Member of Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists

Dr Alison Stroud
Member of All Wales Speech and Language Therapy Managers Committee and
RCSLT