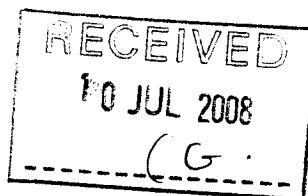


Gwenda Thomas AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Social Services
Oddiwrth yr Ysgrifennydd Dyddiadur
From the Diary Secretary



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref GT/00277/08
Helen Mary Jones AM
Chair of Children and Young
People's Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



July 2008

Dear *Helen Mary*,

Advocacy Services and Legislative Competence

Thank you for your letter of 1 July to Jane Hutt, the Minister for Children, Educational and Life Long Learning seeking clarification on specific matters in the proposed Legislative Competence Order for Child Poverty and Vulnerable Children in respect of the legal provision of advocacy. As Minister with the responsibility for the statutory provision for advocacy services by local authorities and leading on the LCO, the letter has been passed to me to respond.

Jane's letter of 9 June set the legal position in respect of local authorities duties for the provision of advocacy under section 24D and 26 of the Children Act 1989 and confirmed the broad scope of the LCO. Your letter requires confirmation on what elements of the LCO provide competence in relation to a set of legislative proposals, which are not those of the Welsh Assembly Government.

You will therefore appreciate that it is not appropriate for the Welsh Ministers to provide advice on such matters. I recommend that the Committee seek the legal advice of the National Assembly's Commission open to Assembly Members.

I trust you can appreciate our position on this.

Gwenda
Gwenda Thomas AM