



## Enterprise and Learning Committee Support for People with Dyslexia in Wales

### What is dyslexia?

People with dyslexia find reading, writing and spelling difficult. They may feel that they read slowly, get letters in the wrong order when they are spelling and struggle with the order of words.

Anyone can have dyslexia. It is not linked to levels of intelligence. Some people think that boys are more likely to have dyslexia. Often more than one person in a family can have dyslexia.

### Who was involved?

Four Members of the Enterprise and Learning Committee, one from each political party, were asked to look at what could be done to help people with dyslexia in Wales.

The Assembly Members were:

Alun Cairns AM            Janet Ryder AM  
Jeff Cuthbert AM        Kirsty Williams AM

The full Committee agreed with their conclusions.

### What did they do?

The Assembly Members talked to people from dyslexia charities and people who provide support services for people with dyslexia.

They also met adults with dyslexia, children with dyslexia and their parents.

The Members went on visits in Wales and America to find out more about the support for people with dyslexia and to hear the latest scientific research on dyslexia.

During Dyslexia Awareness week in November 2007, three experts with a special interest in dyslexia came to talk to the Enterprise and Learning Committee.

### How many people have dyslexia?

There are no official statistics but many people agree that about one in every ten people has dyslexia.

### What did the Enterprise and Learning Committee Recommend?

- It is really important to identify children who may have dyslexia as early as possible and to provide support for them as quickly as possible.

- Teachers, classroom assistants and specialist teachers (SENCOs) all need much better training themselves so that they can provide good support to children with dyslexia.
- There should be a specialist teacher for dyslexia in every school.
- Children should be tested in Welsh or English to find out if they have dyslexia and then support materials should be available in the language of their choice.
- There should be independent research to provide reliable information to help people with dyslexia to decide which type of support may help them the most effectively.
- There should be a separate study of the *Fast ForWord*® computer based support.

An electronic copy of the report can be found on the National Assembly's website: [www.assemblywales.org](http://www.assemblywales.org)

Hard copies or copies of alternative formats of the report can be obtained from:

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