

Proposal for the registration of School Learning Support Workers with the Education Workforce Council

Consultation response form

Your name: National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)
Cymru

Organisation (if applicable): National Deaf Children's
Society (NDCS) Cymru

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Cymru is the national charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people. We support and represent the interests of deaf children and young people from birth through to 25 years old. In referring to "deaf" we refer to all levels of hearing loss, including mild, moderate, severe, profound and temporary hearing loss.

e-mail/telephone number:
campaigns.wales@ndcs.org.uk

Your address: NDCS Cymru, 2 Ty Nant Court,
Morganstown, Cardiff CF15 8LW.

Responses should be returned by **1 July 2015** to

Nathan Huish
Practitioner Standards and Professional Development Division
Department for Education and Skills
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or completed electronically and sent to:

e-mail: ewc.enquiries@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Question 1 – Do you agree with the proposal that a requirement to register will fall on service providers who carry out one or more specified activity defined under paragraph 6.13?

Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Supporting comments

NDCS Cymru considers that there are benefits to registering support staff at schools and FEIs. We believe that such registration should be utilised to:

- enhance avenues for communicating key information to support staff (i.e. relevant training opportunities, changes to legislation, availability of new guidance)
- liaise with Welsh Government, Regional Consortia and Local Authorities in order to gain an accurate picture of support available to specialist groups, such as deaf learners, and to assist forward planning.

NDCS Cymru also considers that it would be useful to record information about appropriate qualifications. For example, it would be useful to have a record of the level of BSL (Stages 1-6) held by Communication Support Workers working with deaf children and young people. Qualifications among such staff can vary and recording this information as part of registration could help to drive up standards and identify regional training requirements.

We welcome that the registration requirement would apply to support staff at both schools and FEIs. It is important that we have an accurate picture of support staff in all educational institutions.

However, it is important to consider professions which may be utilised within the education context but are not solely used within education. For example, deaf learners (particularly within FE) may require a BSL interpreter or a lip-speaker. These professions are not limited to education and by requiring registration prior to working in an educational context, we could limit the availability of such professionals to deaf learners. While it would still be desirable to record information on such workers, it is important to carefully consider how this is achieved with this type of profession.

Question 2 – ‘School learning support worker’ is a category of registrant within the 2014 Act which is used to describe a person who wishes to provide specified services within a school. However, there could be a range of other titles/job roles

which are used to describe this role and these are set out under 6.5 (for illustration purposes only).

Are there any other service providers not captured within this list who you feel also fit within this description (taking account of the definition as set out under paragraph 6.13)?

NDCS Cymru believes it is important that the registration of support workers is categorised appropriately in order to maximise the potential and usefulness of the information for the purposes as outlined in our answer to question 1. For example, 6.5. lists “special needs assistant”, but we would wish for more detailed subcategories within this category.

In particular we would wish to include Communication Support Workers and LSAs with specialist skills.

Question 3 – Paragraph 6.12 lists (for illustration purposes only) those service providers who will not be required to register with the Council.

Is there any other job title/role you feel should be exempt from registering with the Education Workforce Council under the category of ‘school learning support worker’ (taking account of the definition as set out under paragraph 6.13)?

Question 4 – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

In addition to the recording of Communication Support Workers as a distinct group, we would also welcome the distinct recording of Teachers of the Deaf. Although these professionals should already be registered as teachers, it would be useful to have central information on the Teacher of the Deaf workforce specifically. In particular, information around their qualification status (i.e. whether they hold the mandatory qualification for Teachers of the Deaf; whether they hold a BSL qualification; and if so, what level of BSL – stage 1-6) would be useful.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here: