

## **Answers issued to Members on 1 August 2007**

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## Questions to the Minister for Education, Children and Young People

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Does the Minister have any plans to extend the school day through the use of after-school clubs, as has been announced in England? (WAQ50261)

**The Minister for Education, Children and Education (Jane Hutt):** I am answering this as Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills.

The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to the principle of out of school hours learning and sees it as an integral part of all young people's education. Out of hours learning reinforces work undertaken during the school day, helps raise pupils' standards of key skills, and improves motivation and self-esteem.

To support this principle, through our Community Focused Schools programme we are also encouraging local education authorities to provide a range of services and activities outside normal school hours to meet the needs of pupils, their families and the wider community. Over £10 million has been distributed to local authorities for this purpose.

The Assembly Government also promotes after-school childcare clubs through its childcare strategy 'Childcare is for Children'. We provide financial support to Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs, the national organization for school-age childcare clubs, and will be bringing into force relevant sections of the Childcare Act 2006, placing a duty on all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable.

## Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

**Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on the treatment of Age Related Macular Degeneration with Pegaptanib Sodium (Macugen) and Ranibizumab (Lucentis)? (WAQ50262)

**The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart):** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recently consulted on its provisional recommendations in connection with its technology appraisal of Pegaptanib (Macugen) and Ranibizumab (Lucentis) for the treatment of age-related macular degeneration.

A copy of the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the NICE consultation was recently sent to party health and social services spokespersons, and has also been placed in the Senedd library.

NICE will consider all responses to the consultation, following which it will produce a final appraisal determination (FAD) which will again be the subject of a consultation, and possible appeal process.