

Response from the British Heart Foundation Cymru, the British Red Cross (Wales) and St John Cymru to the draft Health and Wellbeing AoLE statements (Jan 2018)

We're excited to see the way the new curriculum is being designed. The focus on Health and Wellbeing as an AoLE and the use of a series of "big ideas" for young people to explore throughout their schooling represents a radical and engaging new approach to education in Wales.

However, we are concerned about the current list of "What Matters" statements in the Health and Wellbeing AoLE because there is major gap at present with no clear focus on the need for young people to also learn that: **We can protect and improve other people's health through what we do.**

Our organisations work with several hundred schools each year in Wales. We know that students and staff enjoy and value the opportunity to learn new skills about how to help other people. To improve public health in Wales we must empower future generations to support and protect *others health*, as well as improving their own health-related literacy and behaviours.

A statement on *protecting and improving other people's health* would allow schools to coordinate and enhance a disparate range of teaching and learning activities already undertaken in Wales on:

- Life-saving skills (e.g. First Aid training, CPR training, swimming and lifesaving, etc.)
- Mental health awareness (e.g. Youth Mental Health First Aid training, reducing stigma, etc.)
- Bullying and violence prevention (e.g. restorative approaches, bystander intervention, etc.)
- National, global and humanitarian health issues (e.g. the role of the NHS, WHO, UN, etc.)
- Health and social care careers (e.g. via volunteering, vocational experience, workshops, etc.)

Learning about how to protect and improve other people's health complements the proposed strands of teaching on *individuals'* physical literacy, social and emotional health, and health behaviours (Health and Wellbeing draft statements 1-3), and learning about the wider social/cultural determinants of health beyond individuals immediate control (draft statements 4-5).

Learning about protecting and improving other people's health also compliments teaching in other AoLE, such as humanities (e.g. through teaching and learning about the birth and evolution of the NHS in Wales, responsible global citizenship, etc.), science and technology (e.g. through learning about how diseases spread, medical and life sciences, etc.), and language and communication.

We would be happy to discuss the points made here further and look forward to working with officials and pioneer schools to explore how we can support the development of the new curriculum to ensure all young people have the opportunity to learn a range of life-saving skills and other ways of protecting and improving other people's health.

– BHF Cymru

– the British Red Cross (Wales)

– St. John Cymru