

# Children and Young People Committee

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## Children in Wales

### Possible issues for the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee

1. Cross Cutting issues that do not have a natural home in one of the other Scrutiny Committees - to avoid confusion or duplication - see 'a Wales Fit for Children and Young People'.

Children and young people's budgeting - consider the recent WAG budget and the extent to which data is disaggregated for children and young people

Integrated Service Delivery approaches such as

an integrated early years strategy focusing particularly on areas of deprivation (reference Joseph Rowntree Research etc)

integration of children and youth policies

children and community initiatives

### Children's Commissioner's Annual Report

Children's views and the way WAG and Assembly consultations are carried out with children and young people

Funding for children and youth organisations

Children's workforce - honest debate about the capacity of the children's workforce to undertake the work currently required by guidance - Common Core Skills for Children's Workforce - realise that this has just been consulted on, but joint training and looking at the children's workforce as a whole could be something of relevance, although the health committee is doing a review at the moment into the health and social care workforces.

However if there are priorities for the Children's Committee that the appropriate Scrutiny Committee has insufficient capacity to deal with it might be appropriate to support the work - there is always a danger that children's issues get lost in wider agendas.

## 2. Monitoring Role

Evidence based policies- promoting research on outcomes for children and young people - why are particular policies being promoted?

To consider in detail the way in which the UNCRC is implemented in Wales.

This will include the way in which the UNCRC (or individual Articles) are incorporated into all legislative developments relating to children and young people

To ensure that there are structures to promote the UNCRC and to monitor its progress taking into account the alternative reports from the voluntary sector, the Children's Commissioners and Funky Dragon to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This will include liaison with Westminster and act as a driver for action at UK level.

Unintended Consequences - Child Impact statements

Overview of policies and legislation that are **not** child or youth specific that may have unintended consequences for children and young people.

### Monitoring Implementation

Implementation of cross cutting policies such as Child Poverty Implementation Plan, Children's NSF and the Parenting Action Plan

eg of the NSF for Children - If delivered this could make a huge difference to the lives of children and young people in Wales especially as it includes mental health. What progress is being made and if some actions are performing worse than others why is this?

Outcomes for children 'looked after'

### Cross cutting recommendations from specific inquiries and Reports -

eg Safeguarding Vulnerable Children Review and many previous reports - a collation point for monitoring WAG's stated intentions in relation to responding to the recommendations

There was a commitment to develop an action plan to meet the challenges of the Keeping us Safe review, but there has been very little about the report since WAG's official response. Many of the challenges are cross cutting and it would be a worthwhile looking at

whether the challenges have been met. It feels as if the report has been completed and then just left on the shelf. Whilst this might not be the case it feels neglected when you consider the amount of work, including involving children and young people that went into it.

Previous reports into safeguarding - Ensuring that the recommendations from previous reviews and reports are being put into practice, e.g. Carlile, Lamming, Clywch, Waterhouse, etc. The Safeguarding Vulnerable Children Review was not able to do this and this should be the starting point for any review. Whilst there is significant activity shortly after a report is published, is this maintained?

3. Resolution of difficult issues where there may not be a consistent view or significant lack of progress eg Advocacy

4. Consider joint work with Welsh Affairs Committee in Westminster on matters such as youth justice, physical chastisement and child poverty as well as aspects of safeguarding

**Catriona Williams**  
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