

**Huw Lewis AC/AM**  
**Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Blant**  
**Deputy Minister for Children**



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf / Our ref: SF/HL/21/11

Helen Mary Jones AM  
Chair  
Children and Young People Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

7 March 2011

*Dear Helen Mary*

**Follow-up enquiry into Child Poverty**

Thank you for your letter regarding concern at the decision to withdraw funding from the Partnership Support Unit (PSU) which was raised in evidence by the End Child Poverty Network during the CYP Committee's follow up enquiry into Child Poverty.

The funding for the PSU was initially provided in order to support the development of the then new Children and Young People's Partnerships in each local authority area. Since that time, the PSU has undertaken important and valuable work to support local Partnerships in developing and embedding practice and systems, in order to become effective strategic planning and co-ordinating bodies. More recently, the PSU has taken the lead in training local areas in the use of outcome based accountability techniques and promoting a strong results based focus.

We have taken the view that, as a result in part of this work, CYP Partnerships have matured considerably and are now capable of taking forward the partnership agenda in their own right. The savings made by such a decision can now be used to support front line delivery of services for children and young people at the local level.

We remain fully committed to the partnership agenda, and will continue to support local partnerships, working closely with CYP Partnership co-ordinators to address ongoing issues and new developments, including the roll-out of Families First. Key to this will be the skills and knowledge of the CYP co-ordinators themselves, whom we will support and facilitate in sharing their considerable expertise and learning.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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The Welsh Assembly Government continues to support Child Poverty Solutions and we have agreed to provide a total grant of c. £187k over three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) to support its work. Following the cessation of funding for the PSU, officials in the Child Poverty Unit met with Save the Children to discuss and review the outputs for years 2 and 3. Officials do not believe that the cessation of funding for the PSU will have a significant impact on the delivery of the project as the in-kind support of £8.9k represented a relatively small proportion of the overall costs. Regular quarterly monitoring meetings between Save the Children and the Child Poverty Unit have been put in place to help ensure that the aims of the project can be delivered.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis', written in a cursive style.

**Huw Lewis AM/AC**