

## **Information Further to Ministerial Answers**

**Information further to OAQ38211, issued by Rhodri Morgan, the First Minister, on 21 October 2004**

**To Jonathan Morgan:**

During questions to the First Minister on 12 October you referred to the report from the charities Barnardo's and Transport 2000 concerning the problem of child road casualties in deprived communities and the Assembly's commitment to extend 20 mph zones into these communities. I promised to respond to you on this matter and to include the impact of any budgetary announcements by Andrew Davies.

Our commitment to 20 mph zones still stands and this is supported and strengthened by the recent economic development and transport budget announcements and the 'Wales: A Better Country' commitments, which clearly state: 'extend 20 mph zones and safer routes to school'.

The spending programme to improve road safety is approximately £13 million for 2005-06 and 2006-07 rising to over £15 million in 2007-08. A big part of this allocation goes to the local road safety grant and the guidance to local authorities clearly states that we would like to see more implementation and extension of 20 mph zones and limits. These zones are a matter of great importance for many communities, particularly in relation to the safety of children.

**Information further to OAQ38187, issued by Edwina Hart, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, on 29 October 2004**

**To Mark Isherwood:**

Thank you for your letter of 15 October that covered concerns expressed to you by Barbara Roberts, particularly about the lack of voluntary sector representation within the Flintshire community safety partnership. Can I ask that you also accept this letter as a response to the points you made during First Minister's questions on 12 October?

You may recall that I wrote to you in this issue in July last year. I explained that while voluntary organisations were not represented at executive level in the Flintshire partnership, I felt that their membership as valued practitioners would ensure the worthy contribution they make to community safety work. All I can now add is that since the community safety partnership reconfigured its structure it appears to have grown in strength and is delivering an effective community safety strategy to the people of Flintshire. Ultimately, membership of the Flintshire community safety partnership, whether at strategic or practitioner level, is a matter for local determination with reference to statutory guidance and is not something in which I would wish to become directly involved.

**Information further to OAQ38211, issued by Rhodri Morgan, the First Minister, on 9 November 2004**

**To Ann Jones:**

I am writing in response to the question you raised about the dental fissure sealant programme in Plenary on 12 October.

Since November 2001, we have allocated funding from the health inequalities fund for a dental fissure sealant programme targeted at six to eight-year-olds in deprived areas. Dental

disease is strongly related to socio-economic deprivation and it was decided that the initiative would be targeted at areas of high need as identified for Communities First, that is, the 100 electoral divisions with the worst index of material deprivation (WIMD, 2000). However, the fissure sealant programme is clinically driven and not an integral part of the Communities First initiative.

In consultation with the representatives of the dental profession in Wales we concluded that, for maximum coverage and expediency, the programme should be delivered by the community dental service at schools in those areas. The programme, which currently receives £0.5m a year, is now in its fourth year. A total of 255 schools were initially deemed eligible for inclusion in the programme. We have recently provided more flexibility by identifying a further list of schools in pockets of deprivation so that the CDS can extend the programme within their local areas.

An interim report of the initiative has been completed and the programme is currently being further evaluated. Once we have considered the next report from the Welsh Oral Health Information Unit, we will involve the providers and national public health service colleagues in discussion about any future development of the programme. This will allow us to make any decisions based on good data and a clear view of the costs and the benefits of any expansion to the scheme.

**Information further to OAQ38187, issued by Edwina Hart, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, on 10 November 2004**

**To Eleanor Burnham:**

During First Minister's questions on 12 October you made a point about a perceived lack of funding and local authority support for the voluntary sector within the context of community safety in Wales. The First Minister asked me to look into your comments.

The Assembly provided voluntary support to a variety of organisations working to combat domestic violence, sexual violence and youth offending. It is also open to the voluntary sector to seek access to a share of the significant funding which goes to the local community safety partnerships both from the Assembly and the Home Office. This year, for instance £3.5 million will be coming from the Assembly's safer communities fund, of which £2.8 million will go to the community safety partnerships and also £7.5 million from the two main Home Office funding rounds. Voluntary organisations need to negotiate with the partnerships for a share of this if they have projects that will complement local partnership working.

I am sure that the voluntary sector will continue to make an important contribution to community safety in Wales.