

Concise Minutes – Children, Young People and Education Committee

Meeting Venue:

Hybrid – Committee room 4 Tŷ Hywel
and video conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Thursday, 6 October 2022

Meeting time: 09.15 – 12.41

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/12985>

Hybrid

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jayne Bryant MS (Chair) James Evans MS Laura Anne Jones MS Ken Skates MS Jenny Rathbone MS (In place of Buffy Williams MS) Sioned Williams MS
Witnesses:	Joe Atkinson, NUS Wales Orla Tarn, NUS Wales Dr Ben Calvert, Universities Wales Sophie Douglas, Universities Wales Professor Elizabeth Treasure, Universities Wales Tom Snelgrove, Colegau Cymru Ceri Wilcock, Open University in Wales
Committee Staff:	Naomi Stocks (Clerk)



	Tom Lewis–White (Second Clerk) Sarah Bartlett (Deputy Clerk) Rosemary Hill (Researcher)
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1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

1.2 Apologies had been received from Buffy Williams MS, Jenny Rathbone MS substituted.

1.3 Under Standing Order 17.24A Sioned Williams MS declared her husband was a Professor and employed by Swansea University.

2 Mental Health support in Higher Education – evidence session 1

2.1 The Committee heard evidence from NUS Cymru.

2.2 NUS Cymru agreed to provide further information on any work that has been undertaken on trying to undermine the culture of excessive drinking and further data on part time jobs available to students in Wales to supplement their income.

3 Mental Health support in Higher Education – evidence session 2

3.1 The Committee heard evidence from ColegauCymru, Universities Wales and the Open University.

3.2 Universities Wales agreed to provide further information on the following:

- on suicide rates and whether this has gone down because of students’ greater willingness to disclose their mental distress;

- further comment of the advice that had been published by Universities UK with the aim of preventing suicide by contacting key contacts of students and whether additional funding is needed to support this work and

– in relation to the cost of living crisis to provide examples of “how costs are shooting up”.

4 Papers to note

4.1 The papers were noted.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting

5.1 The motion was agreed.

6 Mental Health support in Higher Education – consideration of the evidence

6.1 The Committee considered the evidence it had heard in the previous sessions.

7 Pupil absence – consideration of the draft report

7.1 subject to amendments to be agreed electronically outside of Committee, the Committee agreed the draft report.

8 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2023–24 – consideration of the approach

8.1 The Committee agreed its approach to the draft budget.

9 Peer on peer sexual harassment among learners – consideration of the Welsh Government's response to the report

9.1 The Committee considered the response from the Welsh Government and agreed to seek the views of stakeholders ahead of the plenary debate on the Committee’s report on 26 October 2022.

10 Implementation of education reforms – consideration of the letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language

10.1 The Committee considered the letter and agree to seek the views of stakeholders.