

# Children, Young People and Education Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

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Meeting date:

**Thursday, 11 December 2014**

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Meeting time:

**08.45**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

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## Agenda

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**Private Pre-meeting – 08.45 – 09.00**

**1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions (09.00)**

**2 Qualifications Wales Bill – Evidence Session 1 (09.00 – 10.00) (Pages 1 – 13)**

Welsh Government

Huw Lewis AM, Minister for Education and Skills

Catherine Lloyd, Lawyer, Education (Schools) and Welsh Language Team

Siwan Daniel, Lawyer, Education (Schools) and Welsh Language Team

Alison Standfast, Deputy Director, Qualifications Wales Transition

Cassy Taylor, Head of Qualifications Wales – Transition Branch

**3 Papers to note (10.00)**

**Additional information from the Children's Commissioner for Wales following the meeting on 13 November (Page 14)**

CYPE(4)-30-14 - Paper to note 1

**Letter from the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee (Page 15)**

CYPE(4)-30-14 - Paper to note 2

# Agenda Item 2

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# Agenda Item 3.1

National Assembly for Wales

Children, Young People and Education Committee

CYPE(4)-30-14 – Paper to note 1

Additional information from the Children's Commissioner for Wales following the meeting on 13 November

**Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act**

The Act has related to many issues that have been prioritised during Keith Towler's time as Commissioner. In particular, safeguarding, independent advocacy, care leavers and wellbeing. The Commissioner is pleased that some of the most concerning issues that children and young people have raised with him have been addressed through the legislation. However, he remains deeply concerned that the legislation does not reflect the distinct needs of children and young people. It is essential that this is now reflected through guidance, eligibility criteria and the code of practice. The Commissioner has not seen sufficient evidence during the discussions in 2013/14 to reassure him that this would be the case. For example, the Eligibility Technical Group recognises that the eligibility framework must be sensitive to differing needs, context and outcomes for children, adults and carers. However, this acknowledgement is not sufficiently demonstrated in the content of the remainder of the analysis in the report which is adult centric and does not pay sufficient regard to the position of children.

The wider issue of eligibility 'pass-porting' appears on the basis of the report to relate only to children at harm or at risk of harm. However there is a strong case for consideration of other groups of children who should automatically be considered as having social care and support needs. For example, the impact of parenting capacity on child well-being outcomes for those whose parents have substance misuse issues or where domestic abuse is identified. This would better support the preventative approach within the Act and would go some way to ensure that the population of 'children in need' would receive an intervention after reaching the new threshold test.

We wish to assure members of the CYPE committee that the Office of the Children's Commissioner is engaging thoroughly with the legislative process to ensure that the safeguarding and promotion of the rights and welfare of children and young people in Wales is as robust as possible.

# Agenda Item 3.2

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol  
Health and Social Care Committee**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
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Wales



**Ann Jones AM  
Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee**

02 December 2014

Dear Ann,

The Health and Social Care Committee considered its forward work programme for spring 2015 at its meeting on 26 November 2014. During the meeting, Members discussed the possibility of undertaking a piece of work on the Welsh Government's [Autistic Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\) Strategic Action Plan for Wales](#).

Unfortunately, due to a number of competing priorities, Members agreed that the Committee does not have sufficient time in its programme to consider this topic before the end of the Fourth Assembly. Furthermore, Members noted the Children, Young People and Education Committee's relevant work on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. In light of your on-going work in this area, Members agreed to write to you to suggest that you may wish to consider the Autism Action Plan as part of your future policy and legislative scrutiny work. Although conscious of your already heavy programme, Members felt that suggesting consideration of this topic by your Committee would avoid any unnecessary duplication of effort across committees.

Yours sincerely,

**David Rees AM  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee**

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh