

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 14 January 2015

Meeting time:

09.00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



For further information please contact:

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Agenda

Private pre-meeting (9.00 – 9.15)

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

**2 Inquiry into Poverty in Wales (Strand 1) – evidence session 10:
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty (9.15 – 10.30) (Pages 1 – 19)**

Lesley Griffiths AM, Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

Maureen Howell, Deputy Director, Tackling Poverty, Welsh Government

Eleanor Marks, Deputy Director of Communities Division, Welsh Government

3 Papers to note (Pages 20 – 27)

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting and from item 1 of the meeting on 22 January 2015 (approach to scrutiny of the Local

Government (Wales) Bill, subject to introduction)

5 Inquiry into Poverty in Wales (Strand 1): discussion of evidence received in session 10 (10.30 – 10.45)

6 Consideration of the proposed timetable for the Local Government (Wales) Bill (10.45 – 11.00) (Pages 28 – 31)

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Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee – Inquiry into Poverty in Wales

Introduction

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide evidence to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee in relation to Strand 1 – Poverty and Inequality.

The Impacts of Poverty on Different Groups of People

2. There are inextricable links between poverty and those with protected characteristics. The Welsh Government has a deep rooted commitment to tackling inequalities and tackling poverty.
3. It is understood persistent or extreme poverty is more likely to impact on disabled people, young people not in education, employment or training, lone parents (who are predominately women), ethnic minority groups and older people.
4. Research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation identified disabled people are more likely to live in poverty than non-disabled people. This has been exacerbated by the UK Government's programme of Welfare Reform. The Welsh Government's research programme into the impact of Welfare Reform showed disabled people in Wales will be disproportionately affected. They are also more likely to be affected by cuts to local services as a result of cuts to Local Authority budgets.
5. Linked to the greater likelihood of living in poverty, we know particular groups with protected characteristics have disproportionately low educational attainment. These include some ethnic minority groups, e.g. Black and African Caribbean pupils and those with Bangladeshi and Pakistani origin, as well as those with Special Educational Needs and white boys from lower socio-economic groups. Ethnic minority pupils and white working class boys are also represented disproportionately in those permanently excluded. For pupils with Special Education Needs (SEN) this is even starker, approximately half of those excluded have SEN.
6. Women report their caring responsibilities for either children or parents are affecting their chances of working or progression in the workplace. Recent reports conclude caring pressures continue to prevent women from reaching their full potential and limit the role women can play in the Welsh economy by trapping them in lower paid, part time jobs. The Welsh Government Ministerial

Task and Finish group reported in July 2013, compared to men, women would be hardest hit. In November 2014, a Chwarae Teg report 'Women and Welfare Reform' outlined how Welfare Reform to date has disproportionately impacted women and how it will continue to do so.

Effective join up between the Tackling Poverty Action Plan, Strategic Equality Plan and other Government Strategies

Effective Join Up

7. The Welsh Government considers the impact of equality and poverty in all policy areas, and advancing equality and tackling poverty is at the heart of our Programme for Government.
8. The Welsh Government policy and strategy documents form a coherent and consistent approach to tackling poverty. The Tackling Poverty Action (TPAP) sets the high level approach to addressing poverty in Wales, with specific and measurable targets. The themes it identifies as priorities are reflected and built upon in more focused and detailed documents.
9. For example, targets around breaking the link between educational attainment and poverty are included in the TPAP. The Rewriting the Future document, produced by the Minister for Education and Skills, refers to and builds on these targets. It provides a more thorough analysis of the approach and actions which are needed to affect the educational attainment of those living in poverty.
10. Similarly, the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework links directly to the targets in the TPAP, in respect of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET). It sets out the actions needed to reduce the number of NEETs and the specific process which should be adopted. It is already making real progress and has been well received by Local Authorities.
11. Other documents, including the Early Years and Childcare Plan and Fairer Health Outcomes for All, also link directly to the objectives of the Action Plan.
12. It is clear one size does not fit all to tackle poverty. We know different groups are affected differently by poverty, particularly those with protected characteristics. It would be inappropriate to group people together and assume the same interventions will have the same impact on all. This is what necessitates the need for different policy responses and strategies to target different groups and aspects of living in poverty.

Strategic Equality Plan

13. There are a number of comparable objectives in the Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) and the TPAP. These include objectives around reducing the number of young people who are NEET.

14. Within the SEP our objectives on gender, ethnicity and disability pay gaps, advice services, affordable childcare and helping disabled people to live independently also mutually reinforce the actions within the TPAP.

Child Poverty Strategy

15. The Revised Child Poverty Strategy highlights and strengthens the links with the TPAP, which is the key mechanism for delivering the objectives we have set to tackle child poverty. It includes a renewed focus on ensuring our strategies, policies, plans and programmes all link together, including with the SEP, to ensure a consistent and ongoing focus on children and young people.
16. The Strategy commits the Welsh Government to developing an integrated approach to assessing impact, considering poverty and equality together. This will enable Departments to consider impacts on those most at risk of living in poverty.

Coordination and prioritisation of legislation, policy and budgets targeted at tackling poverty and reducing inequality across Welsh Government

Tackling Poverty Implementation Board

17. The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty chairs the Tackling Poverty Implementation Board. The Board is made up of senior officials from across Welsh Government accountable for the targets and milestones in the TPAP. This is the Minister's opportunity to ensure policies, programmes, strategy documents and departments are working together to reduce poverty in Wales in a coordinated and coherent manner.

Legislation

18. Most of the legislation introduced by the Welsh Government is making a significant contribution to this agenda. Beyond topic-specific legislation, the Welsh Government has underpinned its activities with a focus on tackling poverty and inequality. Equality and human rights is enshrined in the founding legislation and reflected in the guiding principles of the Welsh Government. The Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 placed a statutory duty on Welsh Ministers (and other key public sector bodies) to publish a Child Poverty Strategy for Wales and to set objectives for tackling child poverty and improving the outcomes of low income families.
19. Moving forwards, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill will create a stronger framework for all subsequent legislation, strengthening governance and ensuring a coordinated approach to activity. The goals include "A more equal Wales" and "A Wales of cohesive communities". These goals demonstrate our commitment to achieving a society which enables people to fulfil their potential regardless of their background or circumstances. They will place sustainable development at the heart of all activity and ensure social issues, the economy and the environment are considered together.

Policy

20. Across the Welsh Government policies and programmes are aimed at supporting the poorest communities in Wales, and also target groups with protected characteristics in many instance. There is a focus on improving the lives of people living on low incomes through bespoke programmes and, importantly, through 'mainstream' policies.
21. For example, the Minister for Education and Skills has made tackling the links between poverty and low educational attainment a top priority, and allocated significant resources to help achieve this through the Pupil Deprivation Grant, Schools Challenge Cymru and a campaign highlighting the role of the family.
22. The Minister for Health has made his commitment to addressing health inequalities clear and committed to review the formula used to distribute resources to Health Boards to ensure allocation reflects need.
23. Within the Communities and Tackling Poverty portfolio we have made a strong commitment to strengthen and build on the (already strong) links between the Housing sector and efforts to reduce poverty. This includes through the regeneration of communities, maximising resources by embedding community benefits in procurement and strengthening links between social landlords and other partners.
24. Beyond this, the Tackling Poverty Division are working with external partners and colleagues across the Welsh Government to ensure tackling poverty is a priority for all, efforts are coordinated and there is a common approach to shared priorities.

Integration of Tackling Poverty Programmes

25. The principal programmes which are specifically aimed at reducing poverty sit within the Communities and Tackling Poverty portfolio, which are Communities First, Families First, Flying Start and Supporting People. Each is playing a vital role to help people on low incomes most at risk of poor outcomes, and those with protected characteristics. We have also recognised there are opportunities to improve the join up of these programmes, improve the coordination of our approach on the ground and maximise resources.
26. In 2013, the Supporting Resilient Communities project made recommendations to align the outcomes frameworks of Communities First and Families First projects and put them onto a common platform. This includes the development of semi-formal joint working patterns and communication routes in localities and increased thematic focus, working together and sharing best practice on common themes such as "parenting".
27. These recommendations are being taken forward by the Integration Project. Four Regional Integration Officers support 'Programme Integration' through facilitating collaborative approaches between the Communities First, Families First and Flying Start programmes.

28. A Task and Finish Group has been established to develop a Combined Outcomes Framework for Communities First, Families First and Flying Start. It is anticipated the use of this Framework will be tested by a number of “early adopter” areas in the New Year, before being rolled out across Wales. Since the inclusion of Housing within the Communities and Tackling Poverty Portfolio, consideration is now being given to whether the Framework needs to be expanded or reconsidered to include Supporting People Outcomes.

Links between Tackling Poverty Programmes and Equalities

Families First:

29. The programme is a key contributor to the aims of the Welsh Government’s revised Child Poverty Strategy and contributes significantly to our overall Tackling Poverty Action Plan.
30. A key element of the Families First programme is a ring-fenced sum to be spent on innovative ways of improving services for families with disabled children and young carers. Local Authorities are expected to provide for these families in all their services, however, the ring-fenced funding is provided to ensure their specific needs are catered for. This element of the programme has funded new services and led to better integration and co-ordination of existing services. Practitioners are now more aware of the range provision available for disabled people and the value of integrating disability services with mainstream and other provision.
31. The Families First Year 2 Evaluation Report, which was published in June 2014, suggests Families First has improved the capacity of local services and staff to deliver services for families affected by disability, particularly in areas where existing services were being adapted. In addition, 71% of Team Around the Family action plans specifically for families affected by disability, between April and December 2013, were closed with positive outcomes.
32. Families First also supports individual and population based interventions. Local Authorities are given a significant amount of flexibility to commission large-scale projects. Many of these projects are able to meet the needs of those with protected characteristics, including examples in Cardiff, Carmarthenshire and Anglesey.

Flying Start:

33. Flying Start is the Welsh Government’s flagship early years intervention. By the end of this Assembly term the reach of Flying Start will have doubled to 36,000 children and their families, in our most disadvantaged areas.
34. Evaluation data for the programme demonstrates evidence of the anticipated immediate outcomes for the programme. This includes language development, social and emotional development and cognitive development of children in the programme. Qualitative research also demonstrates impacts for parents in terms of parenting behaviour, health and well-being and their perceptions of the local communities where we offer Flying Start services.

35. There is also some evidence parents of children in the programme benefit from opportunities available to learn new skills and therefore improve their employment prospects. In particular, the ability to access free childcare has enabled parents to access training and employment. This is particularly important for lone parents.
36. There is a range of data collected in respect of children with protected characteristics. Disaggregated data collected for the 2013–14 financial year for the children on the Health Visitor caseload is available.

Communities First:

37. Communities First Clusters are required to outline in their Delivery Plans the activities will take place to ensure delivery is responsive to the needs of people with protected characteristics. Clusters must actively promote principles of equality, diversity, inclusion and human rights. Under-represented groups should be involved in the decision-making and management of the work of Clusters, as well as being beneficiaries of the programme. Clusters should also demonstrate in their Community Involvement Plan how local people, particularly the most vulnerable are represented and included at every level in the programme.
38. There are also a range of Shared Outcomes Projects which aim to address the issues in poverty, inequity and inequality. Projects such as StreetGames, funded through Communities First, are supporting young women and girls, particularly from minority ethnic groups, to become more active and involved in physical activity. This project improves the health of young women and promotes social inclusion, improves confidence levels and teaches new skills.
39. “Add to Your Life” Health and Wellbeing Check for the Over 50s, funded through Communities First and Department for Health and Social Services (DHSS), has strengthened the link between Departments. This is providing support for implementation in all Communities First areas.

Supporting People:

40. The Supporting People programme is making an important contribution to help some of the most vulnerable people in our communities, providing housing-related support to help people live as independently as possible. It is being used to specifically target some groups with protected characteristics, including older people, young people, single parents and ethnic minorities.

European Funding

41. Across all European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-20 (through the European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and Rural Development Plan) tackling poverty and equality are separately identified as Cross-Cutting Themes. This means all funded programmes must include a consideration of these themes.

Budgets

Assessment of Budgets

42. The Welsh Government is committed to assessing the impact of its spending decisions on the people of Wales. At the outset of the spending review in 2010 a comprehensive Impact Assessment of spending plans was published alongside the Final Budget 2011-12. The Welsh Government was the first UK administration to do so and have continued to lead on this work and build on it each year.
43. Each year, Welsh Government supplements the detailed report by assessing the impact of significant budget decisions made each year. This assessment includes considerations of key policy areas such as Tackling Poverty and Equality and feedback from key stakeholders.
44. This commitment to continuous improvement is one of the key reasons the Minister for Finance established the Budget Advisory Group for Equality (BAGE) in 2012, in order to improve quality of information provided to the Impact Assessment. BAGE has a key role in supporting the continuous improvement of the Impact Assessment and provides a forum for sharing and discussing the nature of inequalities in Wales. It is a valuable source of advice and a key channel for engagement.
45. This year, Welsh Government published its Strategic Integrated Assessment of the Budget, along side the Draft Budget in September 2014 and the report specifically considers equality, tackling poverty and socio-economic disadvantage, children's rights and Welsh language.
46. This approach reflects the importance of considering the sustainability of decisions as well as complementing the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill. This approach also recognises the relationship between different Welsh Government priorities and the cross cutting impacts of budgetary decisions.

Funding for groups with protected characteristics to tackle poverty

47. Through various programmes the Welsh Government is supporting people with protected characteristics, seeking to lower their risk of living in poverty and reduce inequity. The Equality and Inclusion Grant is awarding £4.9 million over a the three year programme period to 16 third sector organisations contributing to the delivery of the Welsh Government's strategic equality priorities, in particular the equality objectives within the Strategic Equality Plan (SEP). The grant supports people across different protected characteristics.
48. The Homeless Grant supports organisations such as Welsh Refugee Council and Shelter Cymru to work with Refugees and Asylum Seekers and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Groups respectively. Whilst the Housing Policy Development Grant funds organisations such as Tai Pawb, who promote equality and social justice in housing in Wales with the aim for all

people to have the right to access good quality housing in cohesive and safe communities.

49. Women Adding Value to the Economy (WAVE) is funded by the European Social Fund and project partners until June 2015. The primary aim of the project is to better understand, and tackle, the ways in which gender pay inequalities are reproduced through factors such as occupational segregation and part-time and contract work.
50. Communities 2.0 is providing advice and support to help build skills so vulnerable people can be digitally included.
51. The Welsh Government is supporting a range of Third Sector organisations through core and project-based funding. This includes organisations focusing on protected characteristics, including Disability Wales, Chwarae Teg, Age Cymru, the Black Association of Women and Barnardo's Cymru.

Conclusion

52. Welsh Government are working hard to ensure the cross cutting themes of tackling poverty and inequalities are joined up in their approach to each other and are embedded in policy and legislation decisions across Welsh Government.

Agenda Item 3

14 January 2015 – Papers to note cover sheet

Paper No:	Issue	From	Action Point
Public papers to note			
2	Inquiry into Poverty in Wales (Strand 1)	Barnardo's Cymru	Additional Information following the meeting on 19 November 2014
3	Legislation for the Welsh historic environment	Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism	Correspondence from the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism in relation to legislation



Title: **Inquiry into Poverty in Wales: supplementary questions following oral evidence**

From: Dr Sam Clutton
Assistant Director, Policy

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1. Information and working context of Barnardo's Cymru

Barnardo's Cymru has been working with children, young people and families in Wales for over 100 years and is one of the largest children's charities working in the country. We currently run 88 diverse services across Wales, working in partnership with 19 of the 22 local authorities, supporting in the region of 8,500 children, young people and families last year. Barnardo's Cymru services in Wales include: care leavers and youth homelessness projects, young carers schemes, specialist fostering and adoption schemes, family centres and family support, parenting support, community development projects, family support for children affected by parental imprisonment, domestic abuse and parental substance misuse, short breaks and inclusive services for disabled children and young people, assessment and treatment for young people who exhibit sexually harmful or concerning behaviour and specialist services for children and young people at risk of, or abused through, child sexual exploitation and young people's substance misuse services.

Every Barnardo's Cymru service is different but each believes that every child and young person deserves the best start in life, no matter who they are, what they have done or what they have been through. We use the knowledge gained from our direct work with children to campaign for better childcare policy and to champion the rights of every child. We believe that with the right help, committed support and a little belief, even the most vulnerable children can turn their lives around.

- **This response may be made public.**
- **This response is on behalf of Barnardo's Cymru.**

Barnardo's registered Charity Nos. 216250 and SC037605
Rhifau Cofrestru'r elusen Barnardo's 216250 a SC037605

Inquiry submission: Strand 1: poverty and inequality

Barnardo's Cymru works with families, children and young people across Wales. This work includes provision of Families First services, provision in Communities First areas and work with specific groups who are particularly vulnerable to poverty such as families with disabled children, young carers whose parents are disabled or have issues such as substance misuse, children affected by parental imprisonment, young parents, care leavers and homeless young people.

1. Leadership and coordination

- **How successful is the Tackling Poverty Action Plan in linking with child poverty strategies?**
- **How could coordination between different strategies to tackle poverty be improved?**
- **Is there a tension between integrated, cross-governmental approaches to tackling poverty, and the need to provide tailored solutions to specific groups of people?**

We set out in our first written submission concerns about the loss of a specific Child Poverty Delivery Plan (as set out at consultation stage in relation to the current Strategy) and the development instead of an all age Tackling Poverty Action Plan. In particular the loss of a clear framework to deliver change for children affected by poverty against the UNCRC is less likely to achieve a position where children and young people living in families experiencing material deprivation can access their rights in the same way as their peers to secure good outcomes.

It is fair to say that revisions of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan since 2011 have led to incremental improvements in terms of inclusion of child poverty issues. The revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales (currently out for consultation) has a much stronger focus on the UNCRC than the current Strategy as published in 2011. The revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales has been developed in a way that clearly links the Strategy and the current Tackling Poverty Action Plan. Work has been undertaken to set out the link between Tackling Poverty Action Plan outcomes and revised Child Poverty Strategy outcomes with shared targets/indicators and key policies for policies and programmes (see pages 23-26 of revised Child Poverty Strategy).

However we would strongly advocate the need for a separate Child Poverty Strategy Delivery Plan that utilises a children's rights framework in line with the UNCRC. The Welsh Government 'Evaluation of the Welsh Child Poverty Strategy' 2014 evidences that the percentage of children in relative poverty after housing costs (33%) and in-work poverty after working costs (21%) is worse than in the baseline year of 2005. The current global economic situation, UK austerity measures and welfare reform mean that realistically we are unlikely to see a reduction in material deprivation and in the number of children living in poverty in Wales. However Welsh Government can still take measures to mitigate the effects of poverty on children and young people and to ensure that household income does not impact on the degree to which children can access and realise their rights in line with their peers.

An approach that focuses on ensuring that children in poverty can realise their rights will in turn impact positively on the potential for them to enjoy good outcomes. Without this focus and investment children will remain in poverty as they grow into adulthood and will have children who grow up in the poor households and the cycle of poverty will not be broken.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales has set out in his Child Poverty Strategy (2012) that: *'Child poverty is the result of family poverty. However a child poverty approach to tackling the issue is essentially different from a family poverty approach.³ A child poverty approach puts the child at the centre of all policy measures and acknowledges the child as a rights bearer with rights that extend beyond the family. Once framed in a child rights context, based on the UNCRC the distinctiveness of a child poverty approach becomes clear and should drive all policy initiatives to combat child poverty.'*

We are concerned about the loss of the Deputy Minister for Tackling Poverty portfolio at a time when welfare reform, employment practises such as zero hour contracts and the increased cost of living mean that strong leadership on poverty across Welsh Government divisions is critical. The children's sector in Wales is advocating strongly for a Children and Young People's Minister who could provide strong leadership on child poverty as a cross-cutting issue.

2. Tackling poverty and inequality

- **Although some levers of influence over the labour market do not sit with the Welsh Government, what action could it take to encourage employers in Wales to assist in tackling poverty?**

The introduction of a socio-economic duty in Wales would assist in securing employer practices that would tackle poverty such as consideration of the placement of new premises in communities of multiple deprivation, an increase in flexible working arrangement offers and improvements in the potential for securing the living wage for employees. The Welsh Government commitment to support the development of a skilled workforce through education, training and workforce development must go hand in hand with structural changes to support employers in providing real and sustainable employment opportunities.

- **How could the introduction of a socio-economic duty in Wales support the Welsh Government's strategic focus on tackling poverty?**

A person's socio-economic background remains a key factor in determining their life chances and there is a clear link between the risk of socio-economic disadvantage and protected characteristics. The introduction of a socio-economic duty in Wales would contribute significantly to driving forward efforts to reduce the impact of child poverty and to improve equality of outcomes for children and young people in Wales.

The introduction of a socio-economic duty would support a process of integrated accountability for 'poverty proofing' in relation to the development of legislation and of policy at the national, regional and local

level. The duty could also impact positively on recruitment and employment practices, procurement policy and the focus on tackling poverty across key sectors such as housing, health, education etc.

While a Child Poverty Duty already exists as a result of the Children and Families Measure 2010 that required public bodies to produce a Child Poverty Strategy our original written evidence set out the ways in which the demonstration of this duty has been diluted in new integrated planning processes.

- **Your evidence highlights evidence of in-work poverty and food poverty. Can you expand on the specific issues faced by users of your services?**

Unfortunately many of the issues we have identified are very well rehearsed and have been examined over a number of years but continue to persist. Issues such as fuel poverty, transport costs, digital exclusion, the poverty premium, high interest debt, costs associated with education, and extra curricula activity and food poverty in the school holidays for families who qualify for free school meals.

However the impact of the radical changes that have been made to benefits system, unemployment rates, zero hour contracts and the rising cost of living are leading to a marked increase in families who are approaching our services in a state of destitution. We have seen a marked increase in the number of families experiencing food poverty because of rising living costs but also because of issues such as benefits changes and benefit sanctions.

3. Definition and evidence

- **To what extent does the Welsh Government's understanding of poverty reflect the actual experiences of families living in poverty, particularly around stigma and public attitudes?**

Our engagement with Welsh Government in relation to poverty suggests to us that they actively seek evidence from the sector in relation to the impact of poverty on families. Key programmes such as Communities First, Families First and Flying Start are underpinned by an approach based on community development and working with family strengths. The importance of supporting pupil well-being to tackle disadvantage has been recognised through guidance such as 'Rewriting the Future' but more could be done to ensure the implementation of processes to support pupil well-being. Exclusionary practices such as demand for course materials (especially for vocational education and training), expensive school trips and the expense of events such as the school prom (now common practice), insistence on uniform from more expensive suppliers, continue to leave children and young people from low income households feeling singled out and stigmatised.

- **Witnesses told the Committee last week that there needs to be a better understanding of who is living in poverty, as it is not a static and homogenous group. Should the Welsh Government adopt a clear definition of poverty?**
- **Could the Welsh Government collect more data to understand and address how people experience poverty in Wales, for example by taking into account debt and other expenditure rather than just measuring household income?**

We believe that there is already firm evidence from Wales and the UK in relation to poverty, for example from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the New Economics Foundation as well as from the Welsh Government. There is an official measure of poverty and Welsh Government has recognised the issue of in-work poverty. We do not believe that the adoption of a clear definition is a priority; rather it should be a priority to tackle the poverty that is already identified.

We already understand what the issues are- we have been examining the issue of child poverty in Wales for well over a decade. Data is already available from tackling poverty programmes as well as from UK sources. Some useful analysis of the impact of the welfare reforms was generated through work commissioned by Welsh Government. The focus must be on mitigating the impact of poverty and securing the well-being of families in poverty and the rights of children in poor households.

- **How effectively does the Welsh Government evaluate its actions to tackle poverty, such as Families First and Flying Start?**

The Welsh Government has commissioned evaluations of both programmes which has been published and are reasonably in-depth. We also understand that a shared outcomes framework for Families First, Flying Start and Communities First is being developed. As providers of Families First and Flying Start services we are subject to rigorous accountability measures in relation to use of resources, value for money and outcomes. The frequency of reporting and the level of scrutiny at a local level are very robust.

Ken Skates AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Christine Chapman AM
Chair of the Communities, Equality and Local
Government Committee
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8 December 2014

Dear Christine,

I shall be introducing legislation for the Welsh historic environment to the National Assembly before the summer recess next year.

The Bill aims to:

- give more effective protection to historic assets;
- enhance existing mechanisms for the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

If, at this stage, you and any other interested members of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee would like to gain a clearer understanding of the Bill's objectives and the scope of its provisions, I shall be happy to arrange a meeting.

Yours ever,

Ken Skates AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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