

Agenda – Children, Young People and Education Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: Wednesday, 14

September 2016

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

Marc Wyn Jones

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCYPE@assembly.wales

09.15 – 09.30 – informal meeting

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Children's Commissioner for Wales – discussion on priorities

(09.30 – 10.30)

(Pages 1 – 13)

Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales

Hywel Dafydd, Policy and Public Affairs Manager

3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for item 4

(10.30)

4 Consideration of Committee Forward Work Programme

(10.30 – 11.00)

(Pages 14 – 19)

5 Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport and Minister for Social Services and Public Health – Scrutiny session

(11.00 – 12.00)

(Pages 20 – 42)

Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport



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Cenedlaethol
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Wales

Rebecca Evans AM, Minister for Social Services and Public Health
Dr Sarah Watkins, Senior Medical Officer
Dr Heather Payne (TBC), Senior Medical Officer for Maternal and Child Health
Albert Heaney, Director of Social Services and Integration
Irfon Rees, Deputy Director, Public Health

6 Paper(s) to note

Letter from Chair of Finance Committee regarding approach to scrutiny of Welsh Government draft budget 2017-18

(Pages 43 – 45)

Letter from Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee regarding the Wales Bill

(Pages 46 – 51)

Letter from Presiding Officer to the Chair regarding Committee Statements in Plenary

(Pages 52 – 53)

Letter from Chair of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee regarding the Committee's remit

(Pages 54 – 58)

Letter from Cabinet Secretary for Education – further information following meeting on 13 July

(Page 59)

Letter from Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children – further information following meeting on 13 July

(Pages 60 – 63)

Letter from Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh language – further information following meeting on 13 July

(Pages 64 – 65)

7 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting on 22 September 2016

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Children's Commissioner for Wales

A Plan for all Children and Young People: 2016–19

Championing children and young
people's human rights

“ I aspire to a Wales where all children and young people have an equal chance to be the best that they can be. ”

Sally Holland, Children’s Commissioner for Wales



The work of the Children’s Commissioner is guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and she strives to ensure that it is implemented fully in Wales.

The Children’s Commissioner for Wales is an independent children’s rights institution established in 2001. The Commissioner’s principal aim is to safeguard and promote the rights and welfare of children.

In 2016 very many children and young people in Wales lead safe, happy and active lives and feel listened to and respected by the adults around them. However, there are large groups of children who miss out in a variety of ways:

- Children and young people want to feel safe out and about in their local communities and have things to do. Children from less well-off families are less happy with facilities in their community and feel less safe than others. Children aged 3-7 want the Children's Commissioner to put play as her top priority.
- Too many children report everyday experiences of bullying and this is children aged 7-18's top priority for the Children's commissioner to tackle.
- Children who need extra help with their mental health wait too long for the right care. This is parents' and professionals' top priority for the Commissioner's work.
- Children and young people who need extra social and health care experience a 'cliff edge' when they turn 18, with poor transition planning and support.
- More children are looked after in foster, kinship or residential care than previously and not enough of these children have stable care or good enough outcomes when they leave care.
- Children receive a mixed message that they have rights to keep them safe under the UNCRC but the law gives them less protection from physical assault than adults have.
- Many children, young people and adults are concerned that children's provision, like play and youth centres, and financial support for families with children, have lost out more than other groups in the last few years of cuts to public funding.

The Children's Commissioner's aspirations for children and young people in Wales

By 2019 I hope that Welsh Government and public services will have made significant progress towards delivering the following improvements for children:

- Children and young people will have access to the mental health services they need in a timely manner. There will be stronger programmes for promoting emotional health and wellbeing in place in our health and social services, schools and youth services
- Children's contemporary experiences of bullying will be better understood and more schools will prevent and tackle bullying effectively
- There will be better access to play, culture and leisure activities by children who are most likely to miss out on these, particularly those living in poverty and disabled children.
- Care leavers will have better access to safe and secure housing options and an active offer of a job, education or training place,
- All young people requiring continuing health and social support will have improved transitions to adult services
- Children will have the same legal protection as adults from physical assault
- Children and young people will be better involved in public services, including my own organisation

I will promote these improvements by encouraging public services to commit to the UNCRC and improve how they plan and deliver their services as a result. I will seek to influence and shape Government policy and legislation so that it delivers for children's rights. I will help individual children and young people whose rights have been breached and seek to address the systemic implications of such breaches, challenging services to do better in the future. I shall do these things through listening to and collaborating with children and young people as active citizens with an important contribution to make to their schools, communities and nation.

I will work with the other Children's Commissioners in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland to urge the UK government to implement the concluding observations of the UN Committee of the Rights of the Child, due to be published in June 2016.



Priorities **2016-2019**

- **Mental health, wellbeing and tackling bullying**
- **Poverty and social inequalities**
- **Play and leisure**
- **Safety (in the community, school and at home)**
- **Raising awareness of the UNCRC and promoting its adoption across public services**
- **Transitions to adulthood for all young people requiring continuing support and care**

A plan for all children and young people

Over the three years I will focus on all age groups from 0-18+ in a series of activities. The What Next II Beth Nesa consultation has given me information about children's priorities for their rights, and the concerns of adults who care about them or care for them.

My Beth Nesa consultation showed that under 7s can be included to express a view and I will work to ensure that the experiences of the youngest children are listened to and recognised. Under 7s asked me to prioritise play opportunities during the next three years. I will promote children's rights to play and access leisure and cultural activities, whatever their circumstances.

Children from 7-18 have identified bullying as their top priority. I will work with children and others to identify and promote effective ways of tackling bullying. The issue of bullying is also connected to mental health and wellbeing – the overwhelming concerns of professionals and parents.

In 2016-17 I will launch a three year project to improve the transition from childhood to adulthood for those who need support and services – this includes care leavers and those with chronic health conditions and disabilities.

I will work with children and young people throughout Wales and through both English and Welsh languages. I will ensure that I listen to children and young people who may have most difficulty in accessing their rights, including disabled children, looked after children and those from ethnic, linguistic and sexual minorities. I will measure how I engage with different groups throughout Wales so that I can be held accountable for this by children and young people.

How I will carry out my work.

The Children's Commissioner's work targets rights issues at 3 levels

1. Underpinning policies and laws for children's rights
– I will work to influence and change these so that they fulfil the Welsh Government's commitment to putting children's rights at the centre.
2. Effective implementation of these policies and laws throughout Wales and for all groups of children – I will monitor how children's rights are fulfilled, promote best practice and challenge those who do not respect rights.
3. Children and young people's experiences and outcomes
– I will listen to children and young people and seek real changes in their everyday quality of life and equal chances to fulfil their potential

Where required, I will use the powers set out for me in legislation to hold Government and public bodies to account on how they deliver human rights to children and young people.



Sally Holland
Children's Commissioner
for Wales

Strategic Goals for the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

Overall goal¹

To achieve positive outcomes in the lives of children and young people in Wales and their ability to access their rights

Strategic goals (the Four Ps / y Pedwar D)

To keep children's rights at the centre of how we work and to work with all public services in Wales to achieve the same goal (Provision / Darpariaeth)

To assist children and young people to access their rights (Protection / Diogelwch)

To include children and young people's expertise in informing and directing our work and to work with all public services in Wales to achieve the same goal (Participation / Dweud eich Dweud)

To ensure that children and young people know that they have an independent champion called the Children's Commissioner for Wales and that they have rights under the UNCRC (Promotion / Deall eich Hawliau)

¹ These goals and plans are based on the following sources:

- The views of children and young people, professionals and parents expressed in the Beth Nesa II What Next consultation in 2015.
- Other key sources of evidence including the Children and Young People Well-being Monitor for Wales (published December 2015)
- The analysis of the current state of children's rights in Wales and The UK as reported to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2015 and the Committee's list of issues arising from the Committee session in October 2015.



0808 801 1000 / 80800*

post@childcomwales.org.uk

* Text us for free (start your message with COM)

@childcomwales

www.childcomwales.org.uk

Write to us:

Children's Commissioner for Wales

Freepost RRGL XLYC BHGC

Swansea SA7 9FS

Agenda Item 4

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

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Agenda Item 5

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

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES: Children, Young people & Education Committee

Date: 14 September 2016

Venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: General scrutiny session

Purpose

This paper provides an update on the areas of focus and issues relating to children and young people across the Health, Well-being and Sport Ministerial portfolio, including specific reference to those areas of interest identified by the Committee and outlined in the Committee Chair's letter of 25 July 2016.

Overview of portfolio focus in relation to Children, Young People and Education

This Government has demonstrated its commitment to children and the importance of a cross-portfolio, partnership approach to deliver improved outcomes for children across Wales by appointing a Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children. Unfortunately, there has been a necessary delay in setting out this Government's new programme to take account of the result of the referendum on UK membership of the EU. In that time the Minister for Social Services and Public Health and I have already met with the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children to ensure there will be a joint approach to delivering on agreed priorities for children in the new Programme for Government.

In 2015, there were over 33,000 births in Wales, and NHS Wales and social services will provide universal support and targeted interventions for these children through their lifetime. In 2015, there were over 19,000 children in need and receiving social care and over 5,600 looked after children. There are over half a million children between 0 and 14 years registered with GPs in Wales, with those under 5 having on average 14 Primary Care contacts annually and 5 contacts annually thereafter. And, in 2014-15, there were just shy of 100,000 paediatric outpatient visits, over 78,000 inpatient consultations and over 69,000 admissions. Of course, in addition to meeting the demands placed on our services, we will continue to drive improvements across health and social care. We will judge progress through improved outcomes for children as set out in our Early Years, Health, Public Health and Social Services Outcomes Frameworks.

Across our portfolios, the evidence tells us that there needs to be a continued focus on addressing inequalities. It is still the case that the health prospects of children are closely linked to the socio-economic position of their families. As highlighted by the recent report into Adverse Childhood Experiences, good quality parenting plays a central role in delivering improved outcomes for children. We will work across Government to provide appropriate support and advice to parents delivered through services such as the Healthy Child Wales Programme. There is a growing body of evidence that the greatest value is derived from effective intervention in the early years. There will be a continued focus on delivery in this area through the Maternity

Strategy, effective screening and immunisation programmes, the 10 Steps to a Healthy Weight Programme, the introduction of the Healthy Child Wales Programme and the development of the 1,000 Days Programme. If we are to fully support children across Wales to maximise their potential we need to support good mental and physical well-being, as exemplified through the Together for Children and Young People Programme and the ongoing initiatives to improve children's diets and increase their activity levels in line with CMO recommendations. It will always be our aim to deliver specialist health services to the children who need them, but we must focus on prevention if we are to continue to make a positive impact on our children's lives both in the short term and into adulthood.

Areas referenced in the letter from the Committee Chair

1. How parity of esteem for child mental and physical health will be achieved

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring parity of esteem between mental and physical health. This means placing children's mental health at the centre of policy development, and in practice by ensuring they have appropriate access to both services and treatments in line with their health needs, whatever their problem. We have taken positive action by:

Policy development

- Providing strategic direction to health boards by developing a dedicated mental health strategy (Together for Mental Health, 2012) and associated delivery plans, which place children at its very heart. It recognises the need to address problems early to prevent or reduce more serious problems later in life. To deliver this intent we targeted increased expenditure on CAMHS of almost £8m, a 19% increase on 2014-15 (latest available) expenditure.
- Including children's mental health in the Public Health Outcomes Framework (March 2016) helps understand the impact our work is having on health and well-being.
- Continuing to provide opportunities for young people to take part in sport and physical activity which can help to sustain mental and physical health.

Improving access

- Setting new more stringent waiting time expectations, which are comparable or, when necessary, better than those in physical health for all ages. With mental health assessment targets in local primary mental health services of 28 days and a further 28 days to intervention for those needing it. We expect services to work to meet a first assessment appointment offered in specialist CAMHS this year, which will then compare favourably to many 26-week routine targets in physical healthcare. We have also told health boards they must match the 26-week pediatric target for their new neurodevelopmental, (ADHD and Autism, etc.) services once fully established by the end of March 2017.
- Ensuring services are accessible locally in primary as well as secondary care, ending the overreliance on specialist CAMHS which has resulted in long

waiting lists. Over 1,600 young people have received their mental health intervention in primary care between April 2015 and March 2016.

- Ensuring young people access services in a timely fashion when they present during out of hours and at weekends by investing £2.7m annually to establish crisis intervention teams, with almost two-thirds of the over 44 new whole-time-equivalent (WTE) posts recruited into by March 2016.
- Ensuring young people have their care in appropriate settings, particularly those detained under mental health legislation, by reducing the use of police custody. The new Mental Health Act Code of Practice for Wales states police stations should be used only in exceptional circumstances, as a place of safety and it has been agreed this should be reported as a never event. In 2014-15, 16 young people were detained in police custody rather than alternative places of safety, but in 2015-16 only 7 young people were detained in police custody, an encouraging trend.

Access to interventions

- The Committee's 2014 CAMHS inquiry highlighted the need to improve access to psychological therapies. These have always formed a key part of treatment within children's mental health services, though we recognize there is room for expansion. From 2015-16, we made £1.1m available recurrently to recruit new therapists to help patients manage their conditions and improve their quality of life. As at the end of March 2016, health boards had recruited to just over half of the over 22 new wte posts being created, with other recruitment well advanced.
- Diagnostic support is also an important priority as it can unlock access to other services, particularly in relation to neurodevelopmental conditions, which is why we made £2m available annually in 2015-16 to develop new services. At the end of March 2016, health boards report they have recruited to a third of the almost 39 new wte posts being created, enabling more young people not only to receive a diagnosis, but also access support and help.

2. The focus on tackling child poverty and reducing inequalities linked to poor child health

The social gradient in health is as unambiguous in Wales as elsewhere: health gets progressively better as the socioeconomic position of people/communities improve. This calls for both targeted and universal actions across the gradient. The Welsh Government is taking cross-government action to tackle inequalities in health.

We know that to create a more equal society we need to provide universal access to high quality primary care, quality services in the early years, an inclusive education and learning system, good quality employment and working conditions, as well as healthy environments for all.

This Government, through legislation including the Well-being of Future Generations Act, has placed a more equal Wales as a goal of all public services and action to tackling inequalities is a feature of a range of Government

commitments, including employment programmes, quality housing, and access to childcare.

The Social Services Act includes a commitment to strengthening powers for the safeguarding of children as well as to the creation of a National Adoption Service to improve the outcomes of children in need of a permanent family.

Within the NHS, we can contribute at key junctures to ensure all children have the best start in life. The implementation of our Healthy Child Wales Programme will provide early intervention and preventative approaches in a way that is universal but targeted at identified needs. We can expect to see particular progress through the ongoing development of primary care clusters which, as part of a population approach, can help to identify, design and provide more person-centred services across the lifecourse. We also contribute to the Welsh Government Child Poverty Strategy which provides a focus for targeted action to improve outcomes for children and young people such as addressing low birth weight.

We expect service providers to be focused on addressing inequalities in how they deliver their services, and there will be many examples of local initiatives focused on local needs. Sport Wales is working with partners to ensure that young people, irrespective of their social circumstances, have equality of opportunity to take part in sport and physical activity. NHS Boards and Trusts are required, through the NHS planning framework, to factor in the need to reduce inequalities to their planning arrangements.

3. How you will work with the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children in relation to children's social services, in particular looked after children, adoption and fostering services

The allocation of Ministerial responsibilities between the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, the Minister for Social Services and Public Health and I provides an excellent opportunity to integrate work across departments and policy portfolios to achieve shared goals and improve outcomes for children.

The Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children has responsibility for looked after children, fostering, adoption and safeguarding children and young people. The legislative framework for these policy areas is set out within the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

Responsibility for implementing the duties of the Act and those contained in the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 cut across all three Ministerial portfolios. For example, the Minister for Social Services and Public Health is responsible for the regulation of social services, including residential children's homes and I have responsibility for the health of children including the Healthy Child Wales Programme and Children and Mental Health Services (CAMHS). Where there is a clear connection, we have a duty to ensure our responsibilities and policy areas join up.

To do this, we have put in place regular bi-lateral and tri-lateral meetings to discuss the areas of common interest and how we best manage priorities between policy areas. We have recently considered the core elements of our Joint Ministerial programme together with senior officials. This will help to maximise opportunities, and where appropriate, pool resources across overlapping policy areas such as looked after children, workforce, early years provision, health and housing. This will ensure greater alignment of policy development and decision making across social care, family support and health agendas and encourage effective multi-agency responses when carrying out their responsibilities for children. We are supported by senior officials across policy divisions with whom we meet regularly. We also have a direct line of communication with the key stakeholders responsible for social services in Wales as the Minister for Social Services and Public Health meets twice yearly with the Social Services Policy Group.

To illustrate with a specific policy example, our Improving Outcomes for Children phase 2 work programme, overseen by a Ministerial Advisory Group, chaired by David Melding AM on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, to improve the opportunities and life chances of children in care and to support families who are at risk of having children taken into care. Achieving this requires working with colleagues across portfolios in health, housing, education and social services. ADSS Cymru and the WLGA are also represented on this group as key stakeholders who are able to inform our strategic direction.

In this instance, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children has the policy lead for looked after children whilst the oversight of social services sits with the Minister and I have responsibility for health services e.g. CAMHS. We do of course work closely with the Cabinet Secretary for Education in relation to education issues, as evidenced by the recent Dylan Seabridge case.

We are confident the arrangements we have in place are effective, productive and flexible. We will monitor and review their efficacy as our work progresses.

4. Public health challenges

This Government remains committed to working in partnership with children, families and the broad range of services that can influence people's health – both by identifying and taking action on risks to people's health and by supporting individuals, families and communities to enjoy healthy lifestyles.

The latest survey of the nation's health, published this year, shows encouraging signs of improvement. 94% of children were reported to have very good or good general health. Smoking levels are at their lowest ever reported levels, as are drinking and binge drinking.

Obesity rates have not increased over the past two years – against a backdrop of significant increases prior to that. While this is to be welcomed, we now want to drive those rates down. It is well recognised that tackling obesity requires actions at many different levels and we are taking a cross-government approach to the issue, with a particular focus on children.

We support a number of policies and initiatives that aim to improve access and uptake of a healthy diet, and to increase physical activity levels. In March 2016, Public Health Wales launched the *10 Steps to a Healthy Weight* campaign. The intent of the 10 Steps is to align action across the system to address the factors which lead to overweight and obesity.

Together with work on education and behaviour change, we are working to influence the food environment. We are expanding nutritional standards to more settings and will be working with the food industry, at both Welsh and UK levels, to influence the availability of healthier products and encourage the use of the UK Government's front of pack nutrition labelling scheme and responsible promotion and marketing. We have pressed for UK action on sugar and a strengthening of the restriction on advertising of unhealthy foods to children. Whilst we are pleased that the introduction of the UK sugar levy is included in the UK Government Childhood Obesity Strategy, we are disappointed at the lack of ambition in other areas, and in particular on the advertising of unhealthy foods.

We continue to invest in cost-effective preventative measures to protect children and young people. Our population based screening programmes allow for the early detection and treatment of potential health problems: the newborn hearing screening programme consistently achieves higher uptake rates than the target rate of 95% (uptake rate of 99.5% achieved in 2014/15).

All children in Wales are routinely offered free vaccinations against a range of diseases. The measles outbreak in South West Wales in 2013 provides a reminder of the potential impact of these diseases and the importance of investing in these programmes to maintain good coverage. The outbreak was caused by the introduction of measles virus into communities with large pockets of children who had not received their routine MMR vaccinations during the late 1990s and early 2000s. During the catch-up campaigns more than 77,000 non-routine MMR doses were given. Coverage levels of one MMR dose are currently among the highest in Europe.

All the established immunisation programmes for under five year olds now achieve uptake rates of over 90%, and uptake exceeds 95% in many areas of Wales. We invested millions of pounds last year in the introduction of two new meningitis programmes and continue to expand the flu programmes, meaning thousands more children each year are better protected against these potentially very serious illnesses. Details of the full range of vaccination programmes are available at <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/59487>

Public health challenges remain and we know we cannot be complacent. Our manifesto identified those areas where we will be accelerating progress, such as on levels of physical activity and tackling inequalities. The bringing together of our portfolios allow us to better align and target these efforts. The First Minister has also previously announced this Government's intention to bring forward a new Public Health Bill, reflecting the importance we attach to using legislation to improve and protect the health of our population.

5. Update on CAMHS and the Together for Children and Young People Programme

I understand Carol Shillabeer, Chief Executive of Powys Teaching Health Board and Chair of the Children and Young People Programme, is providing a separate update on progress with the Programme. I will therefore not seek to replicate her paper but will add that work is continuing apace with two key products now launched – a National Framework for Improvement for specialist CAMHS and the Public Health Wales Needs Assessment and Evidence Review. Welsh Government is supporting this activity, in particular the Framework for Improvement. This involved a comprehensive baseline, variations and opportunities assessment of CAMHS -the first audit of specialist CAMHS in Wales identifying services provided, workforce and funding. The Framework supports the achievement of consistent outcomes, clearly defines the role of specialist CAMHS and priority areas.

Our investment in CAMHS of almost £8m complements this work and focuses on strengthening provision in those areas we know are rightly the remit of specialist CAMHS, such as developing new early intervention in psychosis teams. £800,000 has been invested, with an additional £300,000 announced this year to fund third sector support staff. As at March 2016, health boards had recruited to half of the 16 new wte posts being created and are developing their proposals with the third sector for the support worker posts. In addition, the £2m invested in developing dedicated neurodevelopmental services enables those young people to have the needs catered for without recourse to specialist CAMHS, enabling that service to focus on young people with the most severe mental illnesses.

To enable services to move forward quickly we allowed health boards to use funding to prioritise reducing waiting lists as they recruit new staff. Whilst it is still early days figures show the numbers waiting to access CAMHS have reduced by 17% as at May 2016 compared to the same point last year, reversing the upward trend of recent years. Health boards are also seeing 14% more young people within the new 28-day CAMHS target within the same period (732 May 2016 and 640 May 15 – source StatsWales).

6. Update on Neo-Natal Care

Of the 34,000 babies born in Wales each year, about 1 in 12 need lifesaving neonatal care. Advances in knowledge and technology mean that the chances of survival for babies who are born early or sick, are better than ever before. Standards have been raised, those set in 2008 were superseded by the 2013 version, and these are again being revised to keep pace with advances in care. Our aim is to ensure that every baby needing neonatal care gets the best chance of life, which has been demonstrated through the Welsh Government's establishment of the Neonatal Network in 2010. The Network provides leadership across the services and supports health boards in improving skills, learning, training, quality and safety across all neonatal units and transport services.

To support improvements in neonatal services, structural changes are being implemented in both North and South Wales. Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board approved the full business case for the new Sub Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Centre in July.

In West Wales, Hywel Dda University Health Board has concentrated neonatal, consultant-led maternity and inpatient paediatric services at Glangwili Hospital in Carmarthen. The changes have worked well and led to improved compliance with clinical standards and helped address recruitment and staffing issues. A recent review by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has confirmed that these services are now safe, sustainable in the long-term and have led to improved outcomes for mothers and babies in the region.

In addition to the 24-hour transport services provided across North Wales, the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee has agreed proposals for a similar level of service to be implemented across South Wales. The Neonatal Network closely monitors health boards' progress against the neonatal standards, and this shows that health boards are either meeting, or making steady progress towards the All Wales Neonatal Standards and I expect this to continue against what are appropriately increasingly stringent standards. Ultimately, we want to see improved outcomes for all neonates in Wales, with health interventions during pregnancy reducing the risk of babies needing specialist neonatal services in the first place. The MBRRACE report published in May 2016 showed that Wales' neonatal outcomes were comparable with the UK as a whole, and better than similar areas with high deprivation. We will continue to build on this strive and achieve further improvements, but this key outcome measure shows that Wales is meeting the challenges effectively.



'TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE' PROGRAMME

BRIEFING FROM THE PROGRAMME BOARD CHAIR

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE, 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a briefing on the *Together for Children and Young People* (T4CYP) service improvement programme.

BACKGROUND

Following a number of critical reviews of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), most notably the National Assembly for Wales CAMHS inquiry, the Health and Social Services Minister launched T4CYP in February 2015. This programme aims to improve the emotional, mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Wales.

Led by the NHS, this multi-agency service improvement programme is reshaping services in line with the principles of prudent health and care. T4CYP is based on a human rights approach and is committed to embedding the 7 Core Aims for children and young people under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES/PROBLEMS?

The problems highlighted within the reviews included:

- 103% surge in referrals over the four year period 2007-2011.
- Waiting times getting longer for both assessment and interventions in spite of 25% increase in specialist workforce during this time.
- Lack of clear consistent pathways consistently across Wales for CAMHS and neurodevelopmental issues.
- Concerns raised by young people and families in relation to the transition between young people's and adult services and between different parts of the wider care system.
- Under developed psychological therapies services.
- Safety issues including inappropriate admissions to adult mental health wards, problems with sharing information and acting upon safeguarding duties, and unsafe discharge practices (WAO).
- Inappropriate prescribing (particularly anti-depressants) for young children.
- Lack of alternatives to referral to sCAMHS for those needing emotional health support or early intervention.
- Significant workforce challenges across sectors including workforce supply, training and development.

WHAT APPROACH HAS BEEN TAKEN?

In response T4CYP is adopting the following approach:

- **Windscreen Model** – We are using the windscreen model to develop the resilience of all children and young people in Wales, intervene early for those at risk and ensure that those with mental illness get access to sCAMHS as quickly as possible.



- **Programme arrangements.** We have established a cross agency, multi disciplinary leadership board overseeing the work. A number of workstreams are taking forward work across the windscreen areas. Expert advice is provided by a UK wide CAMHS expert and a reference group of stakeholders is scrutinising our work.
- **Engagement with Children and Young People.** We are listening to and learning from those groups already in existence. These include 'Young Wales', the Youth Fora across Wales, those set up by the Children's Commissioner and the third sector *Making Sense* initiative.
- **You Said..... We Did'**. Our regular updates will outline the action to respond to key priorities identified by children and young people, assuring them that their input is leading to tangible action. The first update is available on our website.
- **T4CYP Website** – Requested by children and young people our website hosted by the Welsh Local Government Association as part of Good Practice Wales, provides an on-line resource, identifying best practice across all the programme areas and sharing programme products. The website also has an interactive Twitter feed. The website is available at: www.goodpractice.wales/T4CYP
- **Annual Conference.** We are holding annual events to check and challenge the areas for high impact change. All Committee members will be invited to the next Conference on Thursday 22 June 2017.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED TO DATE?

During the first year products delivered include:

- **Increased investment.** This is in new models of care for specialist sCAMHS which are already reducing waiting times to access sCAMHS provision, and for young people in the justice system.
- **Needs Assessment.** This sets out the data and evidence in respect of mental health issues, including the prevalence, risk and protective factors and the evidence of what can be done to support children and young people. The full report is published on our website at: www.goodpractice.wales/health-needs-assessment-and-evidence-review
- **Baseline Variations and Opportunities Audit of sCAMHS.** This most comprehensive audit of sCAMHS to date, outlines current service models and provision benchmarking our position within the UK. It highlights variations in Welsh service and identifies both areas for improvement and of good practice for health boards to adopt.
- **Framework for Improvement for sCAMHS.** This provides a definition of core sCAMHS and pathways for crisis care, eating disorders and early intervention in psychosis. Adoption by health boards will support them to improve access through reducing waiting times, ensuring children and young people receive evidenced based services and consistent outcomes.
- **National neurodevelopment pathway.** This sets out quality standards and aims to provide a single point of access in each local area.
- **Clinician's toolkit for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** developed in partnership with the WLGA National ASD Development Project. This provides NICE compliant evidenced based practice in assessment and diagnosis.
- **Emerging workforce programme.** This will focus on workforce planning and education and training across all sectors.
- **Care closer to home.** This is resulting in a significant reduction in young people being admitted into bed based care outside of Wales. (Some young people because of their specific needs will continue to need bed based care outside of Wales).
- **Listening to the voices of young people.** The 10 recommendations from young people have been taken into account in terms of remodelling services.

WHAT WILL BE DELIVERED NEXT?

The programme work plan for the next 12 months includes:

Universal Resilience and Wellbeing

- Resource pack for professionals in relation to good mental wellbeing and resilience.
- Measuring wellbeing toolkit for schools and services.

Early Intervention and Enhanced Support for Vulnerable Groups

- Directory of third sector projects and schemes.
- Advice and guidance for local authorities on recommended services for vulnerable children and young people.
- Revised pathway for local primary mental health support services.

Neurodevelopment

- Support for the implementation of the integrated care pathway across child health, CAMHS, local authority and third sector service providers.
- Development of a core data set, outcomes and measurement tools.

s CAMHS

- Implementation plan and additional pathways to include care and treatment planning, self harm and psychiatric liaison.
- Guide for young people, their families and carers.
- Referral advice and guidance for GPs.

Care Transitions

- Transition pack of resources for professionals.
- Transition passport for young people.
- Good practice guidance for health boards

Workforce, Education and Training

- Multi professional, cross agency, national core competencies and training framework
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) framework for CAMHS professionals.

**Carol Shillabeer, Chair T4CYP
September 2016**

CYPE(5)-03-16 – Paper 5 – to note

18 July 2016

Dear Committee Chairs

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2017–18

At our meeting on the 14 July, the Finance Committee agreed the approach to the budget scrutiny. I am writing to all the Chairs of subject committees to share our thinking, and to encourage your committees to consider how they can contribute to deliver the most coherent and effective scrutiny of the Government's spending plans.

Budget focus

In the fourth Assembly all Committees agreed to adopt a co-ordinated approach to budget scrutiny, based on the performance and outcomes to be achieved with the resources available, and priorities identified by the wider public (based on feedback from engagement).

This approach centred on the four principles of financial scrutiny: affordability, prioritisation, value for money and process. These principles were used as the basis for all Committee briefings, evidence sessions and reports. The principles are:

- **Affordability** – to look at the big picture of total revenue and expenditure, and whether these are appropriately balanced;
- **Prioritisation** – whether the division of allocations between different sectors/programmes is justifiable and coherent;
- **Value for money** – Essentially, are public bodies spending their allocations well – economy, efficiency and effectiveness (i.e.) outcomes; and
- **Budget processes** – are they effective and accessible and whether there is integration between corporate and service planning and performance and financial management.

We have identified a number of areas which we would like to see the focus of the scrutiny, these are:



- *Approach to preventative spending and how is this represented in resource allocation (Preventative spending = spending which focuses on preventing problems and eases future demand on services by intervening early)*
- *Welsh Government policies to reduce poverty, mitigate welfare reform and prepare for an aging population*
- *Sustainability of public services, innovation and service transformation*
- *Local health board financial arrangements*
- *Preparation for the UK to leave the EU*
- *Low carbon budgeting and preparing for the Future Generations Act*
- *Preparation for the impact of further devolution included with the Wales Bill*
- *Impact of the Welsh Government's legislative programme and whether its implementation is sufficiently resourced*
- *Scrutiny of Welsh language, equalities and sustainability*

We would encourage you to use some of these areas as the focus for your budget scrutiny.

Draft budget consultation

As has been the previous practice are consulting over the summer recess. Additionally, we intend to have a form of 'social media conversation' when the draft budget has been published, which will enable stakeholders to feed in additional views on the actual figures published within the draft budget. We invite you to direct your stakeholders to our consultation.



Timetable

As you will be aware by now the dates for the draft budget have been agreed and are:

- Draft Budget Laid – 18 October
- Deadline for Finance Committee to Report – 29 November (5 sitting weeks/6 weeks in total)
- *Debate on the Draft Budget – 6 December*
- Annual Budget Motion tabled – 20 December

We would request that in accordance with Standing order 20.10, should your Committee report on the budget, it would be helpful to have your response by Friday 18 November.

Finally, if you have any questions about any aspect of the draft budget process, please feel free to contact me or the Clerk to the Finance Committee, Bethan Davies, 0300 200 6372, Bethan.Davies@assembly.Wales

Yours sincerely



Simon Thomas

Chair



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair, Children, Young People and Education
Committee

18 July 2016

Dear Lynne

Wales Bill

We are currently scrutinising the Wales Bill as it goes through the UK Parliament. Its Committee stage was completed on 11 July in the House of Commons, and we envisage Report Stage and Third Reading will be in September, before the Bill progresses to the House of Lords.

We have already taken evidence from a range of academics and legal experts, as well as the First Minister and y Llywydd. We have invited the Secretary of State for Wales to give evidence but he has, so far, declined the invitation.

We held an excellent stakeholder event to discuss the Bill in Siambr Hywel earlier this month, which brought together stakeholders from the legal profession, academia and devolved policy areas. Building on this event, we have launched an online engagement forum to continue the discussion with stakeholders as the Bill progresses.

Our predecessor Committee was able to draw on the excellent work undertaken by your predecessor Committee when considering the draft Bill. The work of the Committees was incredibly helpful, especially in considering the policy impact of the specific reservations within their remits and the ability to make coherent, joined-up laws. I enclose a copy of the correspondence for your reference.

We would therefore welcome any views you have on the Wales Bill, particularly in respect of the impact of the reservations on your remits and whether the pre-



legislative scrutiny has changed the position outlined in your predecessor Committee's letters.

Our Committee is hoping to influence the House of Lords' scrutiny of the Bill, as well as informing the Assembly's debate when the Legislative Consent Motion is tabled. While we do not have a set timeframe for our deliberations, if you do wish to respond, it would be helpful to us, if we had this information in the first few weeks of the autumn term.

Yours sincerely

Huw Irranca-Davies

Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



The Right Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Secretary of State for Wales

19 November 2015

Dear Secretary of State for Wales

Draft Wales Bill

The Children, Young People and Education Committee considered the draft Wales Bill in its meeting on 12 November. In doing so, we sought to answer three questions in the context of the Committee's remit and work:

- Is the draft Bill clear and are there ways it could be made clearer?
- Does the draft Bill affect the Assembly's current competence in relation to children, young people and education?
- What does the draft Bill mean for the Assembly's ability to legislate effectively in future?

We hope that our answers to these questions will assist you in taking forward the draft Bill and you will be able to reassure us that you are addressing our concerns.

Is the draft Bill clear and are there ways it could be made clearer?

The draft Bill contains over 200 specific reservations, wide-ranging general reservations, new "necessity" tests and broadened requirements for consents. The combination of these tests and reservations make it difficult for us to assess with confidence the impact of the draft Bill on those areas that fall within the Committee's remit. The extent of the specific reservations should be explained in the explanatory notes accompanying the draft Bill.

Further, it is unclear why certain policy areas have been reserved as no rationale has been provided. You have described *how* the reservations in the Bill were developed. However, the reservations should be underpinned by principles, which can be explained clearly and



simply. It is incumbent on the UK Government to explain *why* reservations have been included in the draft Bill.

It would be helpful to receive clarification as to why certain Silk recommendations have not been given effect in the draft Bill. In particular, the Committee notes that the Secretary of State gave a commitment in his letter of 3 September to the First Minister to give further consideration to the devolution of teachers' pay and conditions. The Committee would be grateful for an update on progress.

Does the draft Bill affect the Assembly's current competence in relation to children, young people and education?

During our discussions, we identified specific reservations which appear to reduce the Assembly's competence in relation to children, young people and education and the matters that affect them. We were not able to identify or consider the potential impact of all of the reservations given the time available.

Reservation 38 – The prevention, detection and investigation of crime

This reservation is potentially very wide and reduces the legislative competence of the Assembly. It could have significant implications if the Assembly wished to legislate in areas concerning child protection, for example. The Committee cannot support this proposal.

Reservation 61 – Charities

It is not clear whether this reservation applies to charity law or the regulation of charities. The Committee notes that the Wales Office's analysis of Acts passed in the 4th Assembly states that this reservation is intended to apply to charity law. However, that is not clear in the Bill. This reservation could be interpreted in such a way as to impinge on the Assembly's ability to legislate in relation to private schools with charitable status as well as institutions in the Higher and Further Education sectors.

Reservation 193 – Family Law

The current Government of Wales Act devolved the following elements of family law –

- (a) Welfare advice to Courts, representation and provision of information, advice and other support to children ordinarily resident in Wales and their families, and
- (b) Welsh family proceedings officers.



These elements are not listed as exceptions in the draft Bill. This would clearly constitute a reduction in the competence of the Assembly and the Committee cannot support this.

The Assembly's current competence as set out in Schedule 7 of GOWA includes "adoption and fostering". In the draft Bill, the family law reservation includes an exception relating to "adoption agencies and their functions". It appears that the current competence would be reduced by the draft Wales Bill. The Committee cannot support this.

Reservation 206 – Equal Opportunities

Under the current settlement the Assembly can amend equality legislation insofar as its legislation relates to Equal Opportunity public authorities. This reservation appears to remove that competence and the Committee cannot support this.

General restriction as to the criminal law.

Schedule 7B of the draft Bill provides for various general restrictions on the legislative competence of the Assembly, including restrictions related to the Criminal law. The potential effect is wide and could have a considerable impact on matters that relate to the remit of this Committee, for example, if the Assembly wished to legislate in relation to child protection.

In conclusion, we are concerned that the Assembly's competence in relation to matters affecting children, young people and education will be reduced as a result of the draft Bill. This could be addressed by ensuring that reservations and exceptions in the draft Bill accurately and fully reflect the Assembly's current competence.

How will the draft Bill affect the Assembly's ability to legislate effectively in future?

We are concerned that the reservations, necessity tests and other restrictions in the draft Bill will unnecessarily constrain the Assembly's ability to legislate effectively in areas where it already has powers or functions. Such is the extent of the reservations that there will be unintended consequences which may restrict the Assembly further than was originally intended or envisaged.

We would like to draw your attention to two examples related to the remit of the Children, Young People and Education Committee –

Under the new model, Section 134 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, which designates the Chief Officer of police as a partner on safeguarding boards, would



require Secretary of State consent, as police forces are reserved authorities. It is clear that the Act relates to a devolved purpose – social welfare, and the creation of safeguarding boards and specifying the partners thereof would be within competence. However, the consequence of this reservation means that the Assembly could not designate a Chief Officer of a Welsh police force as a partner on a safeguarding board located in Wales without the consent of the Secretary of State. The rationale for this constraint is unclear. It may be an unintended result of the designation of police forces as reserved authorities.

The second example of an area affected by the wide-ranging reservations could be the Children’s Commissioner for Wales. Under the current settlement it would be possible to extend the powers that the Commissioner has in relation to matters which relate to or affect children in Wales including “silent” subjects. However, taking into account some of the specific reservations and the general restrictions in Schedule 7B, the draft Bill limits the potential for the Assembly to do this.

In conclusion, the Committee is concerned about the lack of clarity in the draft Bill. Further, the Committee has grave concerns about the proposed reduction in the Assembly’s competence in areas that fall within the Committee’s remit. The Committee welcomes your undertaking that there will be further discussion on the content of the draft Bill and looks forward to seeing the issues outlined in this letter addressed.

Yours Sincerely



Ann Jones AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

cc Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee



Committee Chairs
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

21 July 2016

Dear Chair

Committee Statements in Plenary

Over recent weeks, the Business Committee has started considering how greater variety could be introduced to Assembly time in Plenary. Part of the impetus for doing so came from the Legacy Report of the Business Committee of the Fourth Assembly which included the following recommendation:

“The new Business Committee should look at scheduling a greater variety of business during non-government time, including more committee business to increase the integration between Plenary and committees. Types of business could, for example, include statements at the beginning of committee inquiries, annual reports from committees, debate topics chosen by young people and other stakeholders, and series of debates on a particular theme.”

The view that Plenary time is not always used as effectively as it could be is one I share, and during the autumn term I will be bringing forward proposals for change for Business Managers to consider, with a view to expanding Members’ opportunities to scrutinise the government and represent their constituents.

The Committee has however taken an early decision that it would like to see greater integration between Plenary and committee work, and that one way of doing that would be to have committee Chairs make statements in Plenary from time to time regarding their committee’s work and priorities. Whilst it is up to Chairs, in consultation with their committees, to decide when they would wish to make a statement, examples we would like to encourage in the first instance include the beginning of inquiries, possibly to help scope out the committee’s



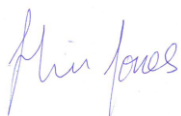
work, and follow-up work on the committee's recommendations, or when a committee was considering its work programme.

We consider that such statements would be a useful tool in increasing the profile of committees' work both among other Members and with the public more generally, and allow greater engagement with, and understanding of, committee inquiries by those who aren't directly involved with them. If properly used, we are confident that such statements and the response to them, could be a valuable tool in informing a committee's thinking and priorities. They would therefore serve a different purpose to the debates on committee reports which are a long-established feature of Assembly business, and which we would want to see continue.

The Business Committee meets weekly to agree the organisation of Assembly business, and while statements can be taken without notice with my permission, we would usually expect any request for time to be received at least a week before the statement is to be made, so that it can appear on the Business Statement and Announcement.

I'd be grateful if you would consider how you and your committee could make use of plenary statements, and I would encourage you to bring some forward in the near future. I am aware that many committees will be launching new inquiries and deciding on priorities during the autumn term, and so the coming period provides a perfect opportunity to trial the use of committee statements. I hope you can play your part in making it a success.

Yours sincerely



Elin Jones AM, Presiding Officer
Chair, Business Committee



Agenda Item 6.4

Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
Chair, Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee
Chair, Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
Chair, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
Chair, Finance Committee
Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Chair, Petitions Committee
Chair, Public Accounts Committee

25 August 2016

Dear Committee Chairs,

Implications for Wales of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union

You will be aware that an additional policy and legislation committee was established to relieve pressure on other committees and to scrutinise other matters of public importance.

Business Managers re-considered the remit in light of the EU Referendum result and agreed that the Committee should prioritise its work around the effect that leaving the European Union will have on Wales.

Consequently, its name was changed to the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee ('the External Affairs Committee').

I would like to draw your attention to the interim remit for the External Affairs Committee proposed by the Business Committee:

1. To examine the implications for Wales of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union and to ensure Welsh interests are safeguarded during the withdrawal process, in any new relationship with the European Union and in



the intra-UK post-withdrawal arrangements for relevant policy, finance and legislation.

2. To coordinate activity across Assembly committees in relation to point 1 above.
3. To carry out the functions of the responsible committee under Standing Orders 21.8 to 21.11.
4. To consider any other matter, including legislation, referred to it by the Business Committee.

Further information can be found in the report by the Business Committee on revising the remit of the Committee, which is enclosed with this letter.

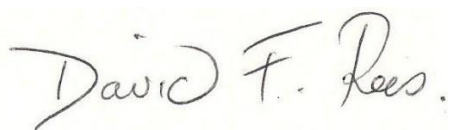
A motion to formally amend the remit of the External Affairs Committee will be tabled by the Business Committee for agreement by the Assembly on Wednesday 14 September 2016.

We will need to have a co-ordinated approach to the scrutiny of these matters across Assembly committees.

I would be grateful if you could indicate whether your committee is planning any work that relates to the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, or any other aspect of our remit. I would also like to offer you an open invitation to attend any meeting of the External Affairs Committee that relates to matters within your committee's remit.

I look forward to building a constructive working relationship with you as this important work progresses.

Yours sincerely,



David Rees AM
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Business Committee report on revising the remit of the External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee

Purpose of the Committee

The Committee will need to ensure that Welsh interests are safeguarded in negotiations and eventual decisions on:

- the UK's withdrawal from the European Union;
- the UK's future relationship with the European Union; and
- intra-UK post-withdrawal arrangements for policies, finance and legislation that stem from the European Union.

This work could be summarised as having three interdependent loci: Cardiff, London and Brussels.

Approach

The approach could be phased accordingly:

Understanding the implications – A comprehensive assessment of the policy, financial, legislative and constitutional implications for Wales. Draw on Commission, Government, academic and third sector expertise to deliver this. It could convene an expert panel to assist with this aspect of its work.

Understanding the practical steps – Once the magnitude and detail of the implications are understood, the Committee could look at what needs to be done to ensure that Welsh interests are adequately represented and acted upon during the exit negotiations. In doing so, it would scrutinise the Welsh Government's strategy for managing this process and, if necessary, recommend alternative approaches.

Understanding the Welsh interest – the Committee could play a positive role in terms of providing a platform for dialogue between stakeholders and the exit negotiations – ensuring stakeholder views are heard and inform scrutiny of those involved in the negotiations. Additionally, feeding-back progress as negotiations progress can assist in ensuring stakeholders remain engaged

and that the Assembly stays ahead of the game in terms of representing the people of Wales.

Holding the Welsh Government to account – the Committee could use the knowledge it has developed in these first phases of its work to scrutinise the Welsh Government’s actions and influence on the exit process.

The focus throughout would be on ensuring the best possible outcome for the people of Wales.

Where a committee is able to support the Welsh Government, this cross-party endorsement could strengthen the Welsh position. If a committee makes constructive criticism, this too can strengthen the prospect of positive outcomes for Wales if acted upon by the Welsh Government.

The work to understand the implications and engage stakeholders could start immediately. It provides an opportunity to position the Assembly as the forum for debate about the Wales-specific issues surrounding the UK’s exit from the EU.

Other committees will wish to examine the implications for domestic policy of the negotiations. This Committee could co-ordinate that work and draw on this to augment its own work (rather than duplicating). The Business Committee notes that the Chairs’ Forum is due to discuss this in the Autumn.

In order to obtain the information and intelligence needed for this work, the Committee (and Chair in particular) will need to ensure that it is embedded in inter parliamentary networks such as the EC-UK forum, that they have a thorough understanding of the field of play in Brussels and London and to be in a position to respond with agility and pace to emerging developments.

The Business Committee could consider whether this Committee should be required to report on progress to the Assembly on a rolling basis.

Additional Legislation

This Committee can also undertake the scrutiny of legislation, in any subject area referred to it by the Business Committee, where capacity does not enable it to be scrutinised within the existing Committee structure.

It would also be logical to reallocate the responsibilities for draft European Union legislation, which currently lie with the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Committee, to this Committee.

There is nothing to prevent the Business Committee reviewing these arrangements in the future.

Revised remit proposed by Business Committee to the Assembly

Business Committee proposes the following remit:

1. To examine the implications for Wales of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union and to ensure Welsh interests are safeguarded during the withdrawal process, in any new relationship with the European Union and in the intra-UK post-withdrawal arrangements for relevant policy, finance and legislation.
2. To coordinate activity across Assembly committees in relation to point 1 above.
3. To carry out the functions of the responsible committee under Standing Orders 21.8 to 21.11.
4. To consider any other matter, including legislation, referred to it by the Business Committee.

A corresponding change will also be needed to the remit of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee.

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People & Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

1st September 2016

Dear Lynne,

The Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language wrote to you on 19 August to provide you with an update on the Welsh Government's vision for Youth Services. This was in response to a commitment I made at the Children, Young People and Education Committee meeting on 13 July.

During the meeting we also discussed the ongoing evaluation of Schools Challenge Cymru and you will recall that I committed to sharing the evaluation's findings with committee members. I am therefore pleased to be able to provide you with the first evaluation report on the programme that was published this summer:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-schools-challenge-cymru/?lang=en>
<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-schools-challenge-cymru/?skip=1&lang=cy>

In terms of context, the evaluation is being undertaken by SQW, and this first report is titled 'Evaluation of Schools Challenge Cymru: Implementation in Pathways to Success schools (2014/15)'. It focuses on the early implementation of the programme in Pathways to Success schools and is based on information collected by fieldwork in the summer term of 2015. The evaluation continues with schools having been revisited during the summer term 2016. A further report will be published from the evaluation in due course, considering the longer-term implementation findings as well as outputs and outcomes associated with the programme. I will, of course, be happy to refer this further report to committee members when it is published.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref : MA/P/CS/5677/16

Lynne Neagle, AM
Chair – CYPE Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

31st August 2016

Dear Lynne

Thank you for inviting me to attend Committee on 13th July to discuss my forthcoming priorities. I promised to write to you regarding two issues:

- An update on timescales for the publication of the 10 year early years and childcare workforce plan.
- A note on the publication of Children's rights impact assessments (CRIA's).

The 10 year workforce plan for Early Years, Childcare and Play

The Welsh Government developed its draft 10 year workforce plan in the latter part of 2014. The draft plan set out our goals for the early years, childcare and play workforce and how we intended to support the delivery of our ambition.

There have been a number of new policy developments which need to be strategically aligned with the ambitions set out in the draft plan. One of these is the Qualifications Wales recent review into the current vocational qualifications for the sector. I have asked my officials to consider how best to take forward their recommendations and this work will need to feature in the final 10 year workforce plan.

My officials are currently working through the policy and financial implications of developing the final plan and I will be able to provide the Committee with an update on timeframes once this work has been completed.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Carl.Sargeant@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Carl.Sargeant@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As I mentioned at Committee, we have developed the new European Structural Fund - Progress for Success programme. The programme will provide support to existing practitioners to up skill in recognised sector qualifications at Levels 2 to 6. The first phase of this project covering Levels 2 to 3 was launched on 1st August. This will see the start of delivering against a key aspiration of the workforce plan by increasing the skills of the early years and childcare workforce as well as being vitally important in assisting to deliver on the new 30 hours free childcare offer.

Children's Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA's)

I attach a separate note on the key aspects of the publication process for your information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carl Sargeant', written in a cursive style.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

CRIA publication

- In May 2014, all Ministers agreed to make CRIAs publicly available. This was widely welcomed by Members and stakeholders when the Children's Scheme was approved by the National Assembly for Wales.
- CRIA documents relating to legislation are published on the Welsh Government website. This is also the case for subordinate legislation which includes, for example, regulations made under primary legislation.
- For non-legislative decisions, all completed CRIAs are listed in a Newsletter which is issued on a quarterly basis. It provides links to all published CRIAs during the quarter and lists the titles of all those CRIAs which are available on request. Officials are currently preparing CRIA Newsletter number 6 for publication.
- The question of when to publish CRIAs has been a critical element in implementing the revised Children's Rights Scheme. The guidance provided in the Scheme provides assistance on the timing of publication and suggests Ministers incorporate the CRIA into consultation processes and encourage engagement on the initial assessment of impact.
- It is important the policy is not prescriptive and does not constrain the ability of Ministers to effectively utilise the CRIA process in a flexible way to best effect.
- CRIAs have been published at various stages of different pieces of work, for example, consultation stage; in legislation at Explanatory Memorandum; or alongside final published Strategies and Action Plans.
- Our Children's Rights Scheme promotes transparency and accountability. Therefore, if there are concerns regarding either a CRIA on a specific issue, there are mechanisms for challenge. The CRIA publication policy in particular enables this and so if the CRIA is not available as a matter of course, they can be requested.

Driving the CRIA process

- Developing the Compliance Report has provided a valuable opportunity to consider how far we have come, and to reflect on the progress made in implementing the Measure. The Compliance Report has also provided a focus for identifying possible areas which will merit further attention. In being transparent and open about compliance with our Children's Rights Scheme, the previous Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty led a plenary debate on the Compliance Report in June last year.
- The next Compliance report is due to be published in January 2018.
- The Welsh Government commissioned an independent evaluation of the Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) process last year. It was undertaken by the Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and Young People. My officials are currently working on implementing the recommendations made in the evaluation report to drive forward the CRIA process.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: MA-P/ARD/6377/16

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay

19 August 2016

Dear Lynne,

At the Children, Young People and Education Committee meeting on 13 July, the Cabinet Secretary agreed to provide you with an update on the Welsh Government's vision for Youth Services. The Cabinet Secretary for Education has asked me to respond as Youth Work falls under my portfolio.

I recognise the great potential youth work has to enrich the lives of young people in Wales – whether it's through the experiences it opens up for them or the support it offers. The [National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014-18](#) recognises that high quality youth work has a crucial role to play in supporting many young people to achieve their full potential and advance their life chances. It is concerned to maximise the role and contribution of youth work provision to young people's engagement and success in their mainstream education. The strategy integrates with and supports the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. Substantive progress has been made in delivering on the commitments within the strategy.

I am aware that public service funding cuts are having an impact on youth service provision, both in the statutory and voluntary youth work sector. The Revenue Support Grant is an un-hypothecated funding stream, therefore local authorities determine how the is funding spent in order to best meet local needs and priorities, including the provision of youth services.

Our national Quality Mark for Youth Work in Wales was launched last autumn, this will support and ensure quality youth work provision is available to young people. The [Quality Mark](#) can be used by organisations for self-assessment, to plan for improvement and to gain the nationally recognised Quality Mark. [Atkin Associates](#) were recently awarded a two year contract to begin the roll out of this quality mark.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Alun.Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Alun.Davies@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

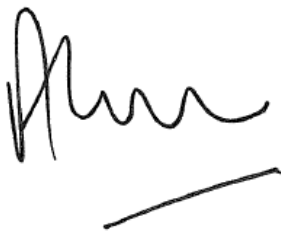
We are developing a National Outcomes Framework for Youth Work in Wales. This aims to strengthen the sector's ability to demonstrate the outcomes and impact of youth work. A 12 week [consultation](#) closed in June; Children in Wales also facilitated a consultation with young people. My officials are currently reviewing responses.

A recent report on the contribution of Youth Work in Schools from schools perspective has provided a number of recommendations that my officials considering. I recognise that youth workers can have a positive effect on a range of indicators linked to formal education, including behaviour, attendance and transitions. This report will be published early autumn.

[The Wales Charter for Youth Work](#) sets out our minimum expectation for youth work to young people. We recognise that to ensure the implementation of the charter there will need to be changes in how the system is governed and funded. Work on options for taking this forward, including the setting up of a Wales Youth Development and Support Framework, are at an early stage. Options will build on existing arrangements bringing together, initially at the national level, the strategic direction, planning, resources and data gathering. As options begin to develop we will engage with the sector and young people.

I am looking forward to working with the Cabinet Secretary for Education to ensure the capacity to deliver youth work is sustained so that our young people can access a range of quality youth work provision irrespective of where they live in Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Alun Davies AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language