

Agenda – Children, Young People and Education Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: Wednesday, 12 October
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 Inquiry into Youth Work – Evidence session 3 – Welsh Government

(09.30 – 10.45)

(Pages 1 – 28)

Alun Davies AM, Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language

Kara Richards, Head of Youth Engagement

Sam Evans, Senior Youth Work Strategy Manager

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

CYPE(05)–07–16 – Paper 1

CYPE(05)–07–16 – Paper 2 – Summary of Committee consultation with
children and young people

Break – 10.45 – 11.00



3 Discussion with Professor Sir Ian Diamond on the Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Arrangements in Wales

(11.00 – 12.30)

(Pages 29 – 53)

Professor Sir Ian Diamond

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

CYPE(05)-07-16 – Paper 3

4 Paper(s) to note

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport & Minister for Social Services and Public Health – further information following meeting on 14 September

(Pages 54 – 56)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(05)-07-16 – Paper 4 – to note

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children – further information following letter sent on 15 September re action point from meeting on 13 July

(Page 57)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(05)-07-16 – Paper 5 – to note

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education from the Chair of Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

(Pages 58 – 61)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(05)-07-16 – Paper 6 – to note

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

(12.30)

6 Consideration of committee forward work programme

(12.30 – 12.40)

(Pages 62 – 74)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(05)-07-16 – Paper 7 – Private

Document is Restricted

Children, Young People and Education Committee: Inquiry into Youth Work

The Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, Alun Davies AM

YOUTH WORK SERVICES IN WALES

Youth work has great potential 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. Youth workers are educators, whether this takes place in a community youth club, on the streets or supporting formal education. Youth work provides and facilitates an environment within which young people can relax, have fun, feel secure, supported and valued. It is intended that through non-formal and informal educational opportunities and experiences youth workers challenge young people to enhance their life chances. Young people participating in youth work can increase their emotional competence; learn team building and communication skills; and learn how to have their voice heard.

Youth work in Wales is offered through local authority youth services and the voluntary sector. In Wales the youth service is a universal entitlement, open to all young people. Through the Learning and Skills Act 2000, section 123(1), Welsh Ministers have directed local authorities to provide, secure the provision of, or participate in, the provision of youth support services.

Our national audit for Youth work in Wales 2014-15 key results show:

- Around 106,450 young people were registered members of the statutory sector Youth Work provision in Wales. This figure represented 18 per cent of the population of 11 to 25 year olds in Wales. Around 100,600 of these members were aged 11-19 years, representing 31 per cent of the 11-19 population. The proportions reported ranged from 54 per cent in Wrexham to 15 per cent in Bridgend.
- At March 2015, there was 803 full-time equivalent (FTE) Youth Work management and delivery staff working across local authorities in Wales. 9 per cent (71) of these FTE posts were management staff and 91 per cent (732) were youth work front-line staff (both core and externally funded).
- The ratio of registered members aged 11-25 to FTE youth work delivery staff (excluding management staff) was 145 young people per worker in 2014-15. For the 11-19 population, the ratio was 137:1. (Note that these ratios reflect the total registered membership and not attendance at sessions).
- Around 12,400 young people received a nationally recognised accreditation during the year, representing 12 per cent of the registered membership. Around 18,000 young people (17 per cent of all

registered members) were reported as having gained a local accreditation.

- The type of individual projects is also recorded as part of the audit. The most numerous in terms of projects were After School Clubs with 1,565 in Wales and Sports and Physical Activity with 1,464. 19 per cent of all projects were delivered entirely or mainly through the medium of Welsh. The audit also showed that there was 538 black and ethnic minorities projects, 54 other minority group projects, 118 gender specific projects and 111 young offender projects.

All local authorities support the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, have youth centres, youth clubs and the majority have street based teams.

Youth Services sit in a range of directorates across local authorities including education and communities. A small number of youth services have merged with Youth Offending Teams, to provide a more integrated model of support for young people. Local authorities Youth Service set ups vary as they aim to meet local needs.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH WORK STRATEGY FOR WALES (2014-2018)

The National Youth Work Strategy for Wales was launched in February 2014, setting the direction for youth work organisations for the next 4 years. It seeks 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.

Our strategy seeks to ensure that we are making the best possible use of our Youth Work organisations and drawing on the expertise, enthusiasm and dedication of Wales' Youth Workers to improve the lives of our young people.

Substantive progress has been made in delivering on the commitments within the strategy.

- Our national **Quality Mark** 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. 3 organisations have been successful in achieving the Bronze Quality Mark, the wider roll out across Wales has now begun.
- 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.

- We have **undertaken research into youth work in schools**, from a youth work and schools perspective. This work has helped us understand the value youth work is adding alongside formal education and the different approaches which are being taken to delivering youth work in school settings. It is also aiding our thinking as the new school curriculum evolves.
- We have **established a Youth Work Reference Group** to bring together expertise and provide advice to Welsh Ministers on key challenges and issues.
- A key feature of many professions is a requirement to register with a professional regulatory body that sets and maintains professional standards, retaining public confidence and demonstrating a shared commitment to professionalism. In recognition of this we will bring forward legislation on **workforce registration** that will see Youth Workers being required to register with the Education Workforce Council from 1st April 2017.
- We have undertaken research into the support received and needed by national and local **voluntary youth work organisations**. This work has helped us to understand the true value of networking for the voluntary sector.
- We have undertaken research into the contribution of youth work to the **Welsh Language Strategy**. Recommendations from this research included the consideration of Welsh language training within youth worker training packages, youth work organisations to utilise digital media, sharing of good practice and partnership working are currently being considered by my officials.

The Wales Charter for Youth Work

September 2015, the previous Government accepted a recommendation from the Youth Work Reference Group to establish an independently chaired sub-group to develop a core youth work offer and advise on how this might be delivered.

Tom Wylie was appointed to chair and lead on this piece of work. Wylie has extensive experience of developing youth policy in the United Kingdom and Europe. This has included chairing groups on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education in England, for the Northern Ireland Government and for the Council of Europe.

Wylie worked closely with a wide range of stakeholders across the youth work sector to develop The Wales Charter for Youth Work. The Charter sets out the minimum expectation for youth work to young people in Wales and was published in March.

Looking to the future we want to see youth work continuing to play its part in;

- supporting young people to remain in education, training and employment;
- continuing to promote young people's health and wellbeing;
- continuing to promote participation in community and civic life; and
- continuing to reduce anti-social activity.

Youth Work in schools

When it comes to supporting a young person to stay on in education, a Youth Worker can make all the difference. Research has shown that youth work can help improve pupil attendance, attainment and behaviour.

Summer 2015 we accepted all 68 recommendations contained within Professor Graham Donaldson's report - Successful Futures. Since then we have begun the exciting and transformative journey to develop a new curriculum for Wales. We recognise the important role that the youth work sector can play to support the delivery of the new curriculum, particularly in relation to the Four Purposes where young people become:

- Ambitious, capable learners
- Healthy, confident individuals
- Enterprising, creative contributors
- Ethical informed citizens.

In line with actions set-out in the National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014-18, we commissioned research on the impact of youth work provision in schools from a schools perspective. The research identified a number of key curriculum areas youth workers are contributing towards and found that school-based youth work provides a vital link between young people, families, communities and school, which improves educational and life chances for pupils.

We recognise the important role **Third Sector organisations** play in supporting young people and their communities. Welsh Government is committed to providing £5.593 million in 2016/17 to support the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) and the 19 County Voluntary Councils (CVCs) covering all Local Authority areas in Wales. This funding enables WCVA and CVCs to help local community and voluntary organisations to thrive.

In January 2016 the WCVA stated that there was 33,000+ third sector organisations in Wales, 7.74% (2,554) of these are Youth Groups supporting young people across Wales.

In order to raise the profile of the voluntary sector organisations working in the field we commissioned Cordis Bright to undertake a national mapping exercise to gather information about voluntary sector provision that can support young people aged 14-18 to engage or remain engaged with education, training and employment (ETE). The aims of the mapping exercise have been to; enhance the local authority provision maps used by lead workers who support young people; encourage closer partnership working between the voluntary and public sectors and; support delivery of the Youth

Engagement and Progression Framework. This work is due to be completed later in the Autumn.

FUNDING FOR YOUTH WORK

We have provided an annual £2.756 million **Youth Work Strategy Support Grant** to the statutory youth work sector, to support the implementation of the youth work strategy.

In 2015 we rolled out our 3 year **National Voluntary Youth Organisation Grant** committing an annual amount of £679,000 to 7 national voluntary organisations providing youth work provision across Wales.

Local authorities receive core funding from the Welsh Government to support their delivery of youth support services through their **Revenue Settlement Grant**. The RSG is an un-hypothecated funding stream and it is therefore a decision of local authorities as to how this funding is utilised in order to best meet their local needs and priorities, including their youth work provision.

Our national youth work audit 2014-15 showed that the total income for Youth Work in 2014-15 was £36.6 million and the total of core Youth Work budgets was £22.9 million. In addition to the core Youth Work budget, the total budget for Youth Work in Wales for 2014-15 included income of £13.8 million from other sources, accounting for 38 per cent of the total income. 'National Sources' contributed the majority (£9.9 million or 72 per cent) of these funds, £3.8 million of which was provided by Cymorth. Other sources of additional income in 2014-15 were: Communities First (£0.9 million), European funding (£0.3 million) and 14-19 Pathways (£0.2 million).

VOICE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

We know that youth work encourages active participation and supports young people to have a voice. We are clear that the participation of young people will continue to be key in the development and delivery of our legislation, policies and programmes. We will continue to fund a national model, Young Wales, to enable the voices of children and young people to be heard. 'Young Wales' is facilitated by 6 children/youth organisations; the main partner being an umbrella body for children's organisations within the voluntary sector and a centre of excellence for children's rights.

CYPE(05)–07–16 – Paper 2 – Children, Young People and Education Committee

Inquiry into Youth Services Analysis

The Children, Young People and Education Committee consulted young people aged 11-25 as part of its [*Inquiry into Youth Work*](#). The consultation ran from July to September 2016 and received **1511** responses from young people.

Here is a summary of what young people said;

01. Do you ever use youth services (like a youth club or project)?

Yes 51.93%

No 48.07%

(In interpreting these statistics it's relevant to note that the numbers may be affected by the focused engagement of the

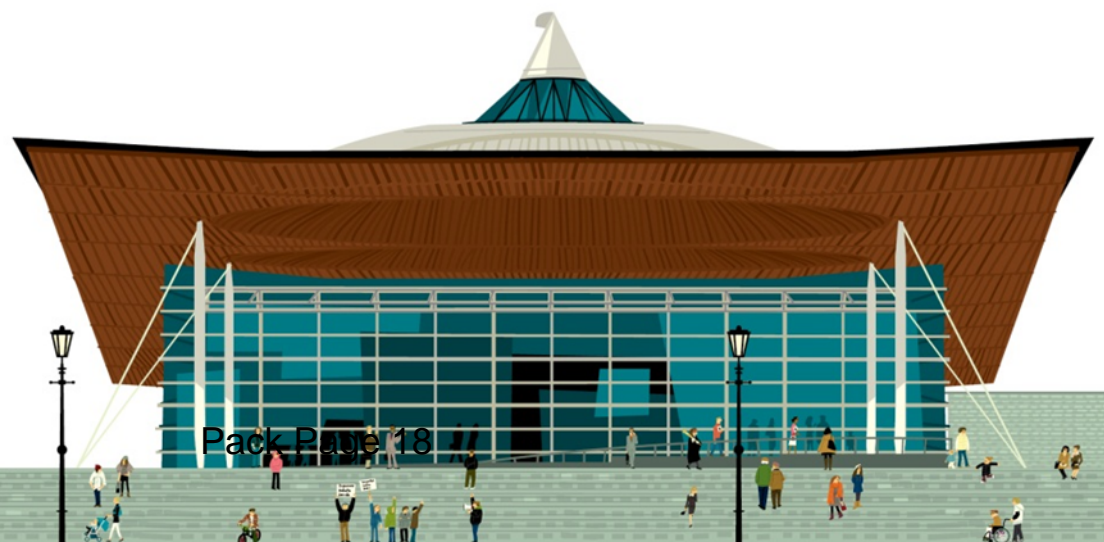
Of those who answered 'yes', we asked:

02. When?

In the day 13.90%

At night 37.54%

After school / college 32.59%



Weekends 15.97%

03. How often?

Most days 21%

About once a week 58.45%

Less than that 12.33%

Other 8.13%

Other answers included:

- In the holidays 6.67%
- When there is an event on 8.33%
- Fortnightly 18.33%
- Uncategorised (Included specific days) 66.67%

04. Where?

I can walk to it 51.09%

I need to use transport to get there 48.91%

You can tell us what the project or club is called if you like:



Clubs and projects mentioned were:

- Guides/Scouts/cadets 9.69%
- Sports/performing arts/music 11.63%
- Young farmers 42.25%
- Young Carers 4.65%
- Forums and Youth Councils 2.71%
- Youth Clubs 15.50%
- The Urdd 1.16%
- Uncategorised 12.41%

05. Do you know who runs it?

The council 34.75%

A charity 20.93%

A school 3.15%

Don't know 25.31%

Other 15.86%

Wales Government Youth Private Company
National Yfc Local Church Organisation
Communities First Club Parents
Volunteers Centre

06. How would you rate it?



Poor 1.02%
 OK 8.30%
 Good 19.36%
 Really good 27.51%
 Excellent 43.81%

07. What sort of things do you do there?

Singing Wales Training Climbing Public
 Speaking Issues Football Support
 Learn Local Activities Fund Raising
 Games Arts and Crafts Sports
 Young People Friends Swimming Trips
 Fitness Lots Practice Play Pool Netball Food

08. Have there been changes in the project hours or activities?

The project is open more than it used to be / we do more
 activities 19.25%
 No change in hours or activities 56.72%



The project is open less than it used to be / we do less activities
24.03%

Of those who said they don't currently use a service, we asked:

09. Have you ever used a youth service or project?

Yes 53.14%

No 46.86%

10. If yes – why don't you go anymore?

Too busy 21.96%

Don't want to 26.75%

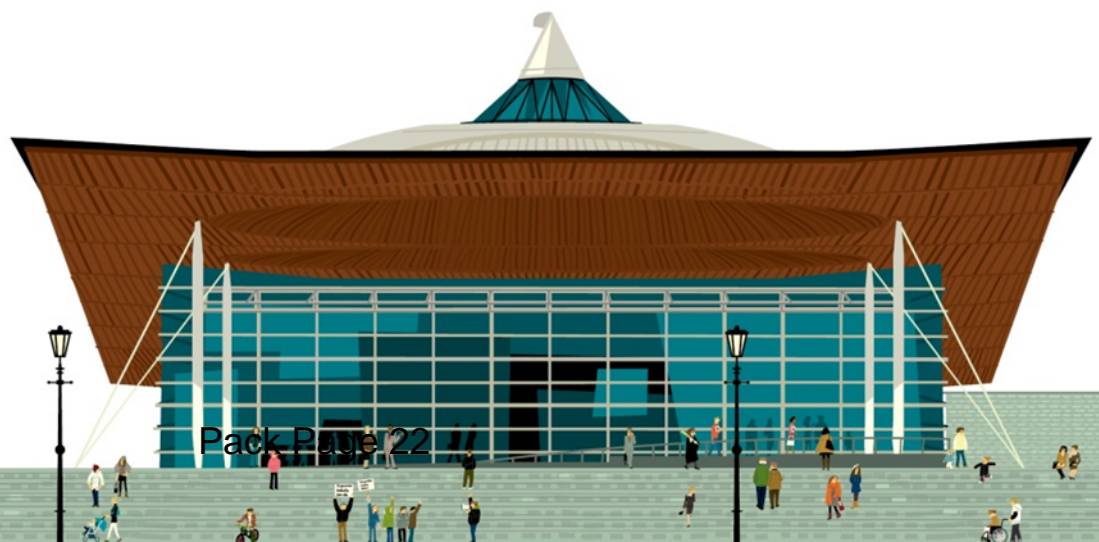
Service/project not open anymore 24.75%

Other 26.54%

Other answers included:

- Boring 6.02%
- Funding cut / centre closed 7.52%
- Too old / lost interest 32.33%
- Uncategorised 54.13%

11. If no – Why not?



Too busy 19.91%

Don't want to 33.69%

Don't know about any projects near me 33.26%

Other 13.14%

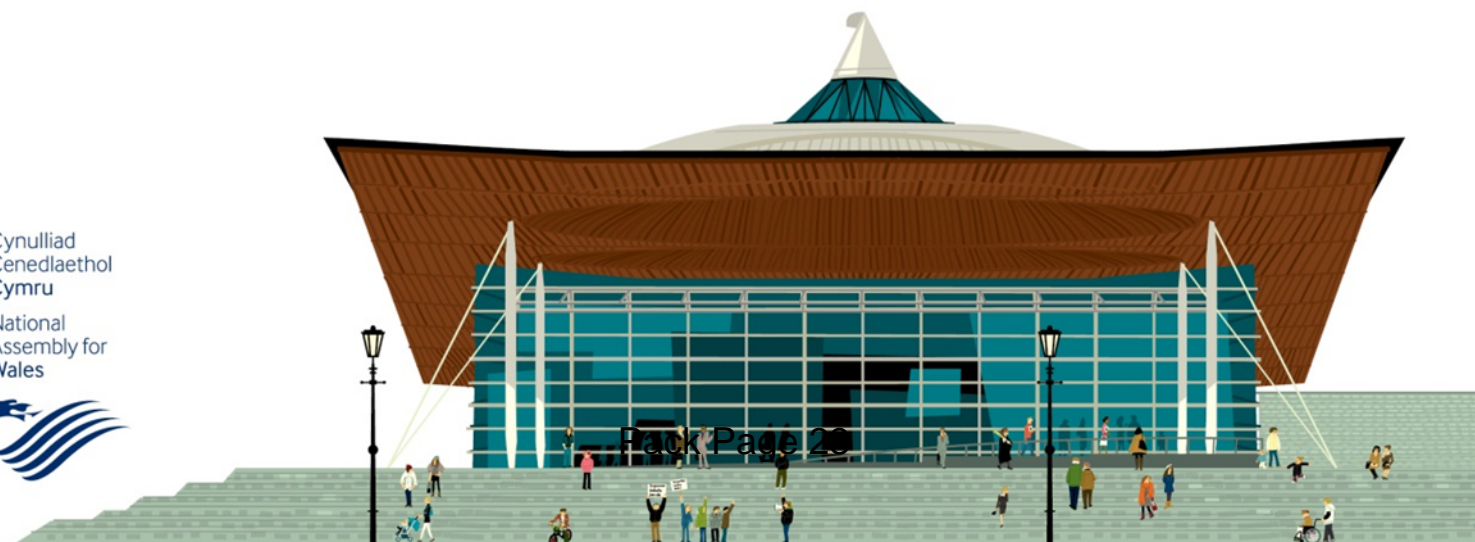
Other answers included:

- Closed down 9.68%
- No free time/school work 4.84%
- No projects near me 19.35%
- Not interested 9.68%
- Social issues (some felt intimidated, not enough of their friends went) 8.06%
- Transport issues 6.45%

Of all those who responded, we asked:

12. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about youth services / projects?

(see quotes at the end)



Key themes were:

- Closure and funding issues. 26.41%
- Lack of information and publicity advertising services 4.45%
- Not enough provision for older children/Young adults 3.56%
- Rural/community aspect 8.30%
- Support and counselling 1.19%
- Positive aspects 26.41%
- Negative aspects 13.06%
- Uncategorised 16.62%

The lack of Welsh language provision did appear in replies but this was unquantifiable.

13. How old are you?

11 – 13 32.22%

14 – 17 49.92%

18 – 25 17.86%

14. What is your gender?

Male 53.53%

Female 43.09%

Prefer not to say 2.43%

If you prefer to use your own term, please outline below:

0.95%

Transgender / gender fluid



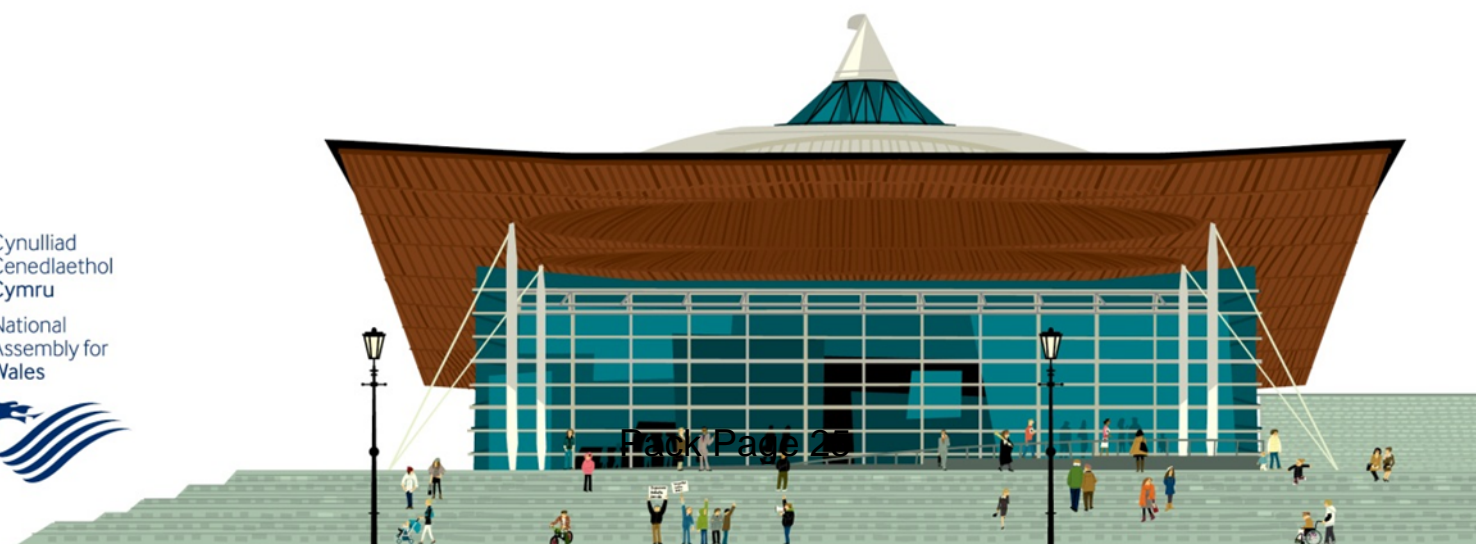
15. In which local authority do you live?

Blaenau Gwent 5.76%	Merthyr Tydfil 0.95%
Bridgend 8.93%	Monmouthshire 6.47%
Caerphilly 4.02%	Neath Port Talbot 1.03%
Cardiff 11.76%	Newport 4.42%
Carmarthenshire 2.21%	Pembrokeshire 4.82%
Ceredigion 1.26%	Powys 7.73%
Conwy 2.92%	Rhondda CT 2.68%
Denbighshire 2.92%	Swansea 2.05%
Flintshire 2.60%	Torfaen 14.76%
Gwynedd 2.84%	Vale of Glamorgan 2.21%
Isle of Anglesey 0.72%	Wrexham 6.94%

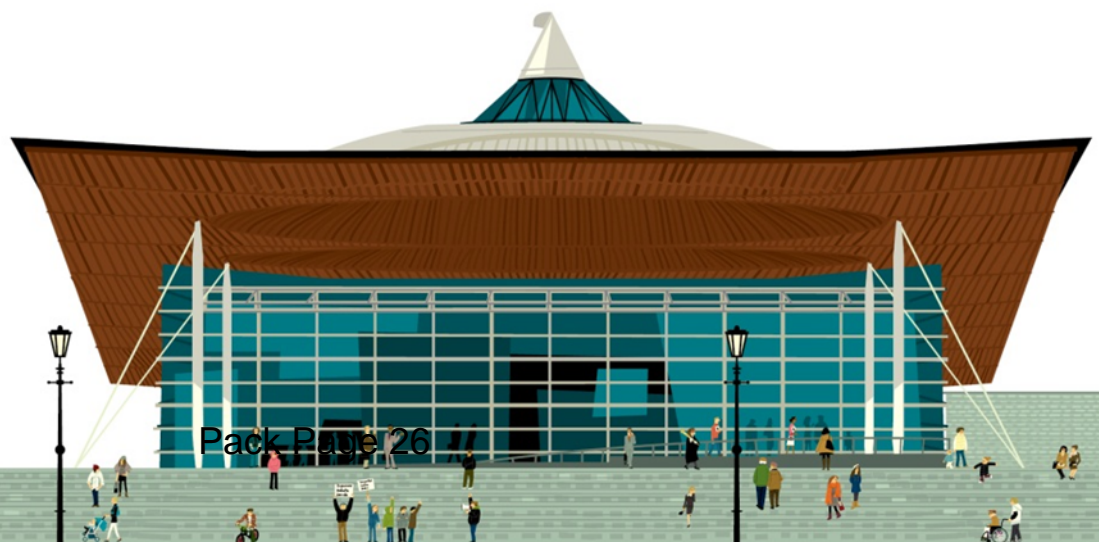
Below are a selection the quotes from question 12

- **Closure and funding issues.**

1. I used to love going to youth club but pen-y-cae youth club closed and I miss it
2. It's a shame that it's closed down as it kept children/kids off the streets



3. Council cut all the funding and grants to our community club and we were told the community grants weren't available anymore either, so couldn't afford to run as much stuff. nobody asked us
4. The club I used to go to has now been closed. It is annoying that the first thing to be cut are provisions for young people.
5. Funding for youth services should be protected. WG should do more to ensure that money allocated for Youth Services is being spent effectively.
6. I know that money was being cut which is sad because we really like our youth club. I also know that without that youth club the staff there wouldn't be youth workers because they started just like we did, people going to youth club who now work there and want to help us. Sometimes it seems like people there get better treated and get to do more fun stuff than we do too which isn't fair
7. An inadequately funded youth service is demoralising both to staff members and young people. It also limits opportunities for YP to do new things.
8. Youth services need to continue to be supported as much as possible by public money. The support and opportunities they provide to young people are invaluable.
9. I think it should be open more than it is. They should get more money to do fun things with young people because it is expensive for parents to pay when they cant afford it. I like the youth centre because it is fun and a happy place
10. There should be more of them across wales. Need more money to grow more services – too many being cut by councils. Not all my friends can attend them as they live in the sticks. Youth workers are amazing and they really help us – they are life savers :)



- **Lack of information and publicity**

11. If I knew more information and location I would go
12. There should be more and we should be made more aware of ones local to us

- **Not enough provision for older children/Young adults**

13. lots of them are more aimed at younger children – there isnt anything for teenagers anymore
14. Youth groups for 18+ year olds would be good. Also groups for us people with little confidence, an opportunity to meet others who feel similar

- **Rural/community aspect**

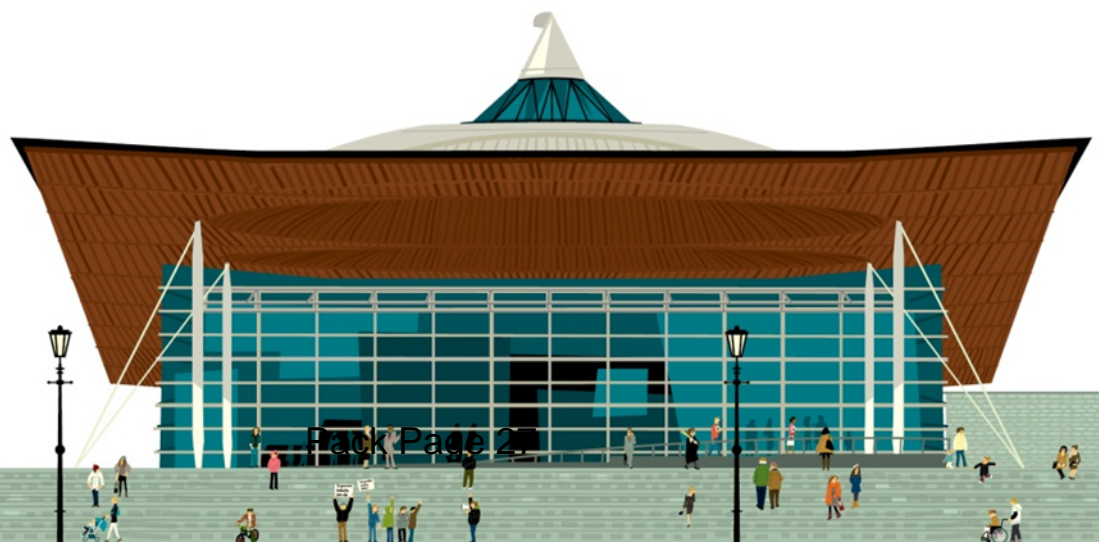
15. There needs to be more available for young people in rural areas, not just urban areas.
16. not enough rural youth clubs or projects. I would need to get a bus either 7 miles in one direction or 11 miles in the other direction, but public transport finishes at 7pm, so I would need one of my parents to drive me and pick me up.

- **Support and Counselling**

17. It's a good place to go if there's nothing else for you to do and they help you with any problems you've got

- **Positive aspects**

18. I feel like they are really good for people with fewer friends as it gives a chance to make friends



19. Given me so much confidence, experiences and life skills that I would not have be able to gain anywhere else
20. It is an absolutely wonderful opportunity for young people to boost their confidence, make friends and to develop their skills.
21. the youth forum and the youth service are really important to us. they keep us off the streets and give us new opportunities to learn different things, learn new skills, meet new friends and develop as young people
22. Our youth club has been around for years, my dad went to the same club I go to. Youth workers help kids understand things and help them do new things.

- **Negative aspects**

23. The concept of Youth Clubs is outdated – young people need a safe space to spend their time with optional activities – NOT forced fun!
24. They only attracts a certain 'type' of young people and therefore stops it appealing to others.
25. Most youth services are based around fitness/sport and so there is less choice for those who prefer to do other things such as a debating society
26. I have Asperger's syndrome & found it difficult to go to youth club to start with. Mum wanted me to go because I always stay home after school. After a while I really enjoyed going & now that it's closed because of no funding I'm not going to have anywhere to go in the evenings. It was a really good youth club and the staff were very friendly and helpful. I was really sad that it closed.



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CYPE(05)-07-16 – Paper 3

Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance Arrangements in
Wales

[Final Report](#)

[Executive Summary](#)

CYPE(05)-07-16 - Paper 4 - to note
Agenda Item 4.1

Vaughan Gething AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Gweinidog Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Services and Public Health

Ein cyf/ Our ref MA-P-VG-6361-16

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

4 October 2016

Dear Lynne,

During our attendance at the Children, Young People and Education Committee on Wednesday, 14 September 2016, we agreed to provide the committee with additional information.

The committee will wish to note the following:

Number of school nurses in Wales

The most recently published statistics show that as of 30 September 2015 there were 222 Whole Time Equivalent nurses working in mainstream schools in Wales (comprehensive schools and their feeder primary schools). There has been a 42.6% increase in the number since 2009. This figure does not include nurses employed directly by special schools.

The above figure includes non case holding managers, fixed term officers who do vaccinations and other nursing staff who work only part of their time with schools. If these officers are removed from the total so that the number only includes practising school nurses and broken down by Health Board the following will apply:

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@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.

Health Board	School Nurse head count	WTE
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg	32	25.49
Cardiff & Vale	26	20.27
Powys	13	8.30
Cwm Taf	23	19.00
Aneurin Bevan	34	27.40
Betsi Cadwaladr	32	20.70
Hywel Dda	39	26.04
TOTAL	199	147.20

The number of practising nurses stated above is mainly Registered Specialist Community Public Health Nurses - School Nurses (SCPHN SN) and with the remainder being Registered Nurses who have not undertaken the specialist school nursing course but have the required competencies to fulfil the role.

A Framework for a School Nursing Service for Wales (2009) review/refresh update

As the Framework for a School Nursing Service for Wales has been in place for eight years, a review of its application across Wales was commissioned. The Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) had received feedback from the All Wales Health Visitor and School Nurse Forum that indicated that there were some inconsistencies in the way the 2009 Framework was being implemented, for example, not all schools had nurses 52 weeks a year, some had them in term time only. In addition, as the 2009 Framework did not cover special schools it was felt that a dedicated review of the health needs of children accessing such schools should also be undertaken to determine whether specific provision should be developed as part of a revised Framework. A pilot using a multidisciplinary 'team around the family' approach was undertaken in three special schools in the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board catchment area in 2015. Evidence from this pilot is being used to develop a new service approach for children with special needs accessing mainstream as well as special schools. This work to develop a new service model is running in parallel to the review of the main framework.

The CNO established a small review team with members from the school nursing services in each of the seven health boards to revisit, revise and refresh the original Framework document. This approach was taken to ensure a consensus approach is achieved with relevant practitioners helping to inform the process.

Three consensus conferences have been held during 2016 with representation from the seven health boards including a Lead Nurse, an Operational Team Manager, a Community Practice Teacher and SCPHN (SN) staff representatives. Delegates also included student SCPHN (SNs), Higher Education Institute nurse education representatives and Public Health Wales. These events indicated that currently school nurses spend the majority of their time on vaccinations and immunisation programmes, doing developmental checks and child safeguarding. A strong desire was expressed to extend their role to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

In parallel, to ensure the work maintained a 'rights based approach', a consultation with children and young people was undertaken by Public Health Wales which helped establish what children want from their school nurses.

Informed by the above, work is currently underway to draft, by December, a refreshed document that will both guide professional practice and advise health boards of the Welsh Government's expectations by setting minimum standards for school nursing provision nationally. The revised Framework will support the recently launched Healthy Child Wales

Programme and provide a platform for future work to develop a Healthy Child Wales Programme for older school aged children and young people.

The latest plans on the new neonatal development in Cardiff

Welsh Government has provided capital funding of £7.472m for the initial phase of neonatal services development at UHW. This funding enabled the health board to provide interim facilities following the closure of the neonatal unit due to bacterial infections and also to refurbish the existing unit. The interim solution provided significantly more physical space around the cots than the previous layout with benefits around infection prevention and greater space to undertake clinical interventions. This is replicated in the refurbished unit. The health board is on track to deliver this phase by the end of November 2016.

In terms of the further phases of development, the Welsh Government has received the business case for the next phase of development of obstetric and neonatal facilities at UHW which is currently undergoing scrutiny. The business case submitted will allow for the expansion to allow for an additional 1,000 births, with the provision of an additional theatre and nine obstetric beds, and increasing the number of commissioned neonatal cots from the existing 28 up to 42.

Together for Children and Young People Programme

In addition, we wish to clarify one point relating to our evidence session. During the session a question was asked about the governance arrangements in place for the Together for Children and Young People Programme following comments by the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Not having been present during the Commissioner's evidence giving, Dr Watkins' response referred to the Welsh Government's arrangements to oversee and drive forward our Together for Mental Health Strategy Delivery Plan. However, having reviewed the transcript of the Commissioner's evidence we now appreciate that the point raised related specifically to the frequency of meetings for the Expert Reference Group set up as part of the Children and Young People Programme. The Expert Reference Group is chaired by Prof Sue Bailey and was always intended to operate primarily as a virtual group - although it has met once. We are assured that members of the virtual group routinely receive all board papers and all programme products for their comments. In future, the intention is for this group to meet in person twice a year and the next meeting is scheduled for December 2016.

We hope you find these responses helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd, Llesiant a Chwaraeon
Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport



Rebecca Evans AC/AM

Gweinidog Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Services and Public Health

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



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

 October 2016

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter of 15 September seeking further information on the timeframe for the completion of the 10 year Early Years, Childcare and Play workforce plan.

My officials are currently working through the policy and financial implications of a number of policy developments as indicated in my letter of 31st August. It is anticipated this work will be completed to enable publication of the final plan in the Spring 2017.

Yours sincerely



Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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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.

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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.

Agenda Item 4.3

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth leol a Chymunedau

National Assembly for Wales
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Kirsty Williams AM
Cabinet Secretary for Education
Welsh Government

7 October 2016

Dear Kirsty,

The Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee is currently undertaking post-legislative scrutiny work on the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act). I enclose the Committee's agreed terms of reference. As part of this work, we will be revisiting the issue of education on healthy relationships, including whether enough is being done within educational settings to ensure the development of a whole school approach to challenging violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

You may recall, during the passage of the Gender Based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Bill (which gave rise to the Act), the issue of whether the Bill should make provision for compulsory education on healthy relationships was the focus of much debate. At the time, the view of the Minister for Public Services was that such provision was not necessary given that proposals put forward by Professor Donaldson following his review of the National Curriculum would, if accepted, mean that healthy relationships would feature in any new curriculum that was developed. The Minister gave a commitment that he and the then Minister for Education and Skills would explore with the Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence sector how it could contribute to taking forward this work. We understand that work is now underway to develop a new curriculum and that the Pioneer Schools Network has been established.

Respondents to the Committee's consultation have raised concerns about the Welsh Government's current and future approach to healthy relationships education. These largely relate to the non-compulsory nature of guidance (especially given that the [original White Paper on the legislation](#) proposed to ensure education on healthy relationships



was delivered in all schools), inconsistency between institutions, and confusions about the duty on local authorities to report on how schools are implementing guidance.

The [**Good Practice Guide: A Whole Education Approach to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales**](#) (developed with Welsh Women's Aid) was published in October 2015. The Act placed a duty on local authorities to report on how they are addressing gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence within their education institutions, including through sex education.

In order to assist the Committee in its work, we would welcome evidence from you on the following:

- Will teaching about health relationships be included in the 'health and wellbeing' area of learning and experience proposed by Professor Donaldson? If not, will it be included in any of the other five areas?
- How the 120 Pioneer Schools (that have been charged with developing the new curriculum) are taking forward the Good Practice Guide?
- When will local authorities begin reporting on how schools are implementing the Good Practice Guide?
- How will the Welsh Government ensure that the healthy relationships education is consistent between institutions and age-appropriate?
- When will Estyn's thematic review on violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence take place?
- Will there be a target date for when all education institutions should have implemented the good practice guidance?
- How will the effectiveness of healthy relationships education be monitored?
- How will these issues be addressed in further and higher education institutions?

The Committee will be concluding its evidence gathering on 19 October, when it will hear from Carl Sargeant AM, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, with overall responsibility for domestic abuse, gender-based violence and sexual violence. It would be helpful if you could respond as soon as practicable and as close to this date as possible.



I am copying this letter to Lynne Neagle AM, Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee for information.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and connected.

John Griffiths AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair



Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Post-legislative scrutiny work on the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015

The Committee will be looking at progress made in the implementation of the Act's provisions and its impact to date. In particular, the Committee will be considering:

- To what extent the approach to tackling violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence is improving as a result of the obligations in the Act?
- What are the most effective methods of capturing the views and experiences of survivors? Are arrangements in place to capture these experiences, and to what extent is this information being used to help inform the implementation of the Act's provisions?
- Whether survivors of abuse are beginning to experience better responses from public authorities as a result of the Act, particularly those needing specialist services?
- Whether the National Adviser has sufficient power and independence from the Welsh Government to ensure implementation of the Act?
- To what extent the good practice guide to healthy relationships is successfully influencing the development of a whole school approach to challenging violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence?

Agenda Item 6

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

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