

# Agenda – Children, Young People and Education Committee

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meeting Venue:                   | For further information contact:                                         |
| <b>Committee Room 1 – Senedd</b> | <b>Llinos Madeley</b>                                                    |
| Meeting date: 8 November 2017    | Committee Clerk                                                          |
| Meeting time: 09.00              | 0300 200 6565                                                            |
|                                  | <a href="mailto:SeneddCYPE@assembly.wales">SeneddCYPE@assembly.wales</a> |

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## Private Pre-meeting

(09:00 – 09:30)

### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09:30)

### 2 Scrutiny of Welsh Government draft budget 2018 – 19 – Evidence session 1

(09:30 – 10:45)

(Pages 1 – 62)

Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services

Huw Irranca-Davies AM, Minister for Children and Social Care

Officials TBC

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

CYPE(5)–30–17 – Paper 1 – Welsh Government

## Break

(10:45 – 11:00)

### 3 Scrutiny of Welsh Government draft budget 2018 – 19 – Evidence session 2

(11:00 – 12:15)

(Pages 63 – 98)

Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Services



Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales

Huw Irranca-Davies AM, Minister for Children and Social Care  
Officials TBC

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

CYPE(5)-30-17 – Paper 2 – Welsh Government

#### **4 Paper(s) to note**

(12:15)

##### **4.1 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education – Community Focused Schools**

(Pages 99 – 100)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-30-17 – Paper 3 – to note – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education – Community Focused Schools

##### **4.2 Letter from the Chair to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children – Further follow-up to 20 July general scrutiny session**

(Pages 101 – 103)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-30-17 – Paper 4 – to note – Letter from the Chair to the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children – Further follow-up to 20 July general scrutiny session

##### **4.3 Letter from the Children's Commissioner following the meeting on 18 October**

(Pages 104 – 121)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-30-17 – Paper 5 – to note – Letter from the Children's Commissioner following the meeting on 18 October

##### **4.4 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure – Learner Travel**

(Pages 122 – 133)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-30-17 – Paper 6 – to note – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure – Learner Travel

**4.5 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education following the meeting on 18 October**

(Pages 134 – 136)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-30-17 – Paper 7 – to note – Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Education following the meeting on 18 October

**4.6 Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding funding for Governor Wales**

(Pages 137 – 140)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-30-17– Paper 8 – to note – Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding funding for Governor Wales

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

(12:15)

**6 Welsh Government draft budget 2018 – 19 – consideration of the evidence**

(12:15 – 12:35)

Document is Restricted

## Children, Young People and Education Committee

**From:** Welsh Government  
**Date:** 8 November 2017  
**Time:** 9:30 – 11:00  
**Title:** Evidence paper on the Draft Budget: 2018-19: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

### 1. Introduction

This paper provides comments and information to the Committee regarding the Communities and Children (C&C) portfolio and future programme budget proposals outlined within the Detailed Draft Budget which was laid on 24 October 2017 that fall within the remit of this Committee.

### 2. Summary Financial Tables

The tables below provide a breakdown, as requested, of the 2018-19 Communities and Children MEG allocations, as relevant to children and young people, by Spending Programme Area, Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL).

#### Resource

| SPA                                      | ACTION                                       | BEL                               | 2018-19 Draft Budget Allocation £000's |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Enabling Children and Communities</b> | Supporting Children                          | Support for Childcare and Play    | 27,706                                 |
|                                          |                                              | Support for Children's Rights     | 357                                    |
|                                          |                                              | Supporting Children *             | 1,989                                  |
|                                          |                                              | Children's Commissioner           | 1,543                                  |
|                                          |                                              | Cafcass Cymru                     | 10,267                                 |
|                                          |                                              | Advocacy Board                    | 1,100                                  |
|                                          | Early Intervention, Prevention and Support** | Prevention and Early Intervention | 140,156                                |
|                                          |                                              |                                   | <b>183,118</b>                         |

\* Formerly Grants in Support of Child & Family Services BEL and Services for Children BEL. Merged into one BEL

\*\* Renamed Action - formerly 'Prevention and Early Intervention'

#### Capital

| SPA                                     | ACTION                           | BEL                  | 2018-19 Draft Budget Allocation £000's |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Communities and Tackling Poverty</b> | Communities and Tackling Poverty | Flying Start Capital | 566                                    |
|                                         |                                  |                      | <b>566</b>                             |

### 3. Budget Overview

This budget includes spending plans for 2018-19, together with indicative revenue budgets for 2019-20 and indicative capital plans until 2020-21. This is the second budget of this term of Government and the third year of the UK Government's current Spending Review settlement.

Austerity continues to be a defining feature of public expenditure. This long period of sustained reductions has had an impact on all services, even those where we have been able to provide some protection. It means that as Welsh Government and as a National Assembly for Wales we continue to face tough choices.

An analysis of evidence on current trends and projections has informed a focus on the areas most critical to delivering the needs of the population of Wales and has informed these spending proposals.

In September, we published our national strategy designed to bring together the efforts of the whole public sector towards this government's central mission of delivering Prosperity for All. This places the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 and the national goals at the heart of our decision making. The twelve well-being objectives represent the areas where the Welsh Government can make the greatest contribution to the national goals, working in partnership with others. The Act has been used to inform spending plans, to maximise opportunities to join up activities across my portfolio and to align resources with the national strategy.

The priorities for my portfolio are to build resilient communities, and to prevent future problems within those communities. I have had to make some tough decisions. Savings have had to be made in some areas in 2018-19, with greater savings needed in 2019-20. However, I have managed to protect front line services from the worst of the cuts in 2018-19. This includes protecting funding for Flying Start, Families First and Youth Justice Services.

In finding savings, I have been rigorous in applying the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. I am looking to ensure that within my department we bear down on administrative inefficiencies which is why I have committed to find £2.5m of savings while shielding front line funding and the services they support in 2018-19.

In Taking Wales Forward we have pledged to provide working parents of 3 and 4 years olds with 30 hours per week of free early education and childcare for up to 48 weeks of the year, delivered in a way that works for parents and children. Expenditure will increase to £25m in 2018-19 and £45m in 2019-20 to support the roll-out of the offer. I have also been able to invest an additional £500k in the Domestic Abuse Support Grant and £1m in Discretionary Assistance Fund to support some of our most vulnerable citizens.

I want all local authorities to be able to respond to the needs of their population, to promote their well-being, to plan for the long term and to focus on early intervention, prevention and support. So I am challenging all PSBs and local authorities across Wales to engage in service re-design and to do this I will work with them to identify where we can make funding flexibilities available.

Specific to my portfolio in 2019-20, I will be considering the introduction of a new Early Intervention, Prevention and Support Grant subject to engagement on the issue – this means creating one grant to replace the myriad of funding streams that currently exist. Each of these grants creates an administrative and compliance burden which could be removed allowing efficiencies to be made. But more importantly this proposed change could empower local authorities and PSBs to plan with the needs of their citizens in mind.

I know that a move to a single grant will offer many opportunities but will also present some challenges as well. With this greater flexibility there will be greater accountability. The mechanisms for this will be developed with key partners to ensure we get this right operationally and strategically. This is why I intend to work with a small group of local authorities and a PSB in 2018-19 to pioneer these flexibilities, so that we can learn from each other before considering extending further in 2019-20. In the meantime all local authorities will be able to benefit from increased flexibility to move funds between grants.

Through this proposed approach I want to release creativity and innovation in our local authorities and PSBs to find solutions to long standing local issues. This approach will build on the work of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to reform local government, ensuring greater participation in civil society and democracy.

With these changes in 2019-20, I am confident that working together we can mitigate the effects of austerity and reduce the impact of the £16m of savings that need to be found over the next two years.

#### **4. Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations**

Final outturns for 2016-17 and forecast outturns for 2017-18 based on estimates as at 13 October 2017 are provided at Annex A along with indicative allocations for 2019-20.

Commentary on each of the Actions within the C&C MEG as relevant to children and young people, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2018-19 and the First Supplementary Budget (June 2017) is provided at Annex B.

#### **5. Children's rights and equalities**

##### **Impact assessments**

The Equality Act 2010 aims to ensure public authorities consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society in their day-to-day activities through paying due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

In terms of the Welsh Government Draft Budget, Ministers have again decided to complete an Integrated Impact Assessment which takes into account children's rights alongside impacts on equality, Welsh language and socio-economic disadvantage. This approach was informed by recommendations from a range of

stakeholders including the Assembly Committees, the Budgetary Advisory Group for Equality and the EHRC. The SIIA highlights where such impacts were identified.

An integrated assessment provides a more comprehensive assessment of the overall impact of spending decisions. This approach reflects our wider understanding of the sustainability of our decisions and the aims and objectives set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, including the focus on prevention, collaboration and long-termism. This impact assessment was published alongside the draft budget.

As a Government, we are responsible for proposing and implementing policy and legislation which would apply in Wales and which aims to improve the lives of everyone in Wales. In doing so, we are absolutely committed to listening to the views of the people of Wales, including children and young people. To enable this to happen, I am continuing to provide funding in 2018-19 to enable children and young people to have their opinions heard and influence our work while I consider the best way to hear the views of Children and Young People.

All of our grant award letters set out that recipients; “must apply a policy of equal opportunities as employers, as users of volunteers, and as providers of services, regardless of race, gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, religion and belief, age or any disability.”

There are no significant changes to either children’s rights or equalities as a result of this budget. We will ensure our Families First programme will continue to promote the development of more effective services for families with a disability as well as encouraging disability concerns to be embedded in mainstream service delivery.

The funding we provide to the Children’s Commissioner enables the organisation to make a significant contribution to developing policy in relation to equalities. The Commissioner must have regard to the UNCRC in exercising her functions to ensure children’s rights are upheld in Wales. The role also allows the review and monitoring of the arrangements which certain public bodies have in place to safeguard and promote the rights of children in respect of dealing with complaints and representations, ensuring that proper action is taken in response to whistleblowing, representing the views and wishes of children, and providing children with advice and support. The Commissioner allocates resource into listening to the experiences of children and young people’s in their everyday life through survey, Ambassador Schemes in schools and communities, and face to face meetings.

Children’s Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA) have been conducted for many areas within the Communities and Children Portfolio including:

- In relation to the Positive Parenting Campaign. There were no changes to allocations as a result of the assessments. The CRIA is available at Annex C.
- A CRIA was completed in relation to the Children and Families Delivery Grant within the Families First Budget. There were no changes in 2016-17 to allocations as a result of the assessments. The CRIA is available at Annex D:.



- There was no requirement to carry out impact assessments in respect of refocusing the Families First programme.
- A full impact assessment will be conducted if we introduce a new Early Intervention and Prevention Support Grant using information gathered from the local authorities who will be trialling greater funding flexibilities in 2018-19.

### **Equalities, sustainability and the Welsh Language**

All programme publications and promotional materials we produce are printed bilingually and all services to families are provided bilingually. All of our social media communications are posted bilingually and all messages to Programme staff are sent in accordance with their specified language preference. We ensure Welsh language provision is an integral element of the Flying Start and Families First programmes with a requirement on local authorities to respond to parental choice, and to deliver Welsh-medium provision where required. Our strategic guidance makes it clear that local authorities must put in place arrangements to meet the preference of parents for Welsh medium and/or bilingual provision.

Our Childcare activities include support for organisations such as Mudiad Meithrin and the Cwlwm consortium which provide Welsh Medium childcare. Our enhanced childcare offer will work to ensure that there is adequate Welsh Language Provision, for those requesting it. In line with the Welsh Language Standard requirements, our Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE) programme asks each of its participants what their preferred language would be for receiving services. These services are then delivered to the individual according to their preference.

### **Wellbeing and Future Generations Act**

All Cabinet Secretaries are committed to embedding the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act to improve how we make decisions about the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Our goal is to ensure we reflect the sustainable development principle and our spending plans aim to achieve a balance between short and long-term priorities. We recognise the need to collaborate with our partners and to use our collective resources effectively to plan for the tough choices ahead.

The First Minister published 'Prosperity for all – the national strategy' in September. It sets the aims of this Government and provides clarity about how we want Government and delivery partners to be part of a new approach to delivering priorities. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 supports the Welsh Government and delivery partners in making these important changes to the way we work.

The strategy sets out 12 revised well-being objectives and the steps we propose to take to meet them. Together with the well-being statement published alongside the strategy, these objectives set out the areas where the Welsh Government can make the greatest contribution to the seven well-being goals for Wales and provide the basis for strong partnerships with others.

As stated above, I have taken the Act into account as I have made tough choices about funding allocations across the whole MEG. The Sustainable Development

Principle is a fundamental part of how I want to continue to develop and implement my programmes. These programmes seek to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The principle is made up of five key ways of working which apply to this portfolio as follows:

- *Collaboration* – recognising that many of the solutions to the ‘sustainability’ challenges Wales faces cannot be solved by one organisation. Multi-agency working is now recognised as essential and not optional. Our Flying Start and Families First Programmes have improved the way agencies work together to support our most vulnerable families through joint commissioning of services and Team around the Family approaches to service delivery. I want this to go further by working with pilot areas to understand what an Early Years Service should comprise of and what steps we need to take to enable such a service to be developed. This will mean that we continue to pursue opportunities for collaboration across Government and with other partners, including the third sector, in order that programmes and services reach into the communities that most need them. CAFCASS will strengthen the partnerships with local authorities and contribute to improving services and outcomes for children and families by sharing data and information more effectively. With Looked after Children, the protection of individuals and improvement in well-being outcomes will be achieved through collaboration via multi-agency working and communities.
- *Integration* – within the Flying Start, Families First and the Communities First Legacy programmes local authorities are expected to involve other relevant programmes and organisations including Local Health Boards, and third and private sectors in drawing up their plans, ensuring that needs assessment and delivery are jointly managed and, where appropriate, there is a seamless progression for children between different interventions and programmes.
- *Long-term* – I have taken account of the potential long-term impacts of decisions and balanced this against the short-term needs. In particular the evidence is that, through investing in early years and family support, this will have greater benefits in the long term. For example, investing in the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Support Hub to work with practitioners to develop an ACE informed workforce will support our goal to reduce the impact of ACEs which, evidence suggests, will have a benefit on our public services over the longer-term.
- *Prevention* – Prevention and early intervention is an approach which not only benefits people and communities but has the potential to generate long term cost savings. This approach is at the heart of my programmes, in particular Families First, and in the approach to tackling the inequalities experienced by those with protected characteristics and those experiencing multiple ACEs. CAFCASS will continue to work with parents and carers who are involved in private law matters that are before the family court to support them to come to a mutual agreement on arrangements that will promote the physical safety and emotional well being of their child.
- *Involvement* – a core tenet of what this portfolio does is recognising the importance of involving people in the decisions that affect them. An example

of this is our highly successful #TalkChildcare campaign which has engaged over 6,500 parents and providers since its launch in August 2016, giving us confidence that we are developing an offer which meets the needs of working families. Promoting the rights of children can not be achieved without the involvement and voice of the child heard in decision making about their lives. As set out above the proposed single grant and Early Years service will require the ongoing involvement of key stakeholders and service providers to help shape the approach.

## **6. Other information**

### **Value for Money**

Evaluation takes place as part of normal grant and project management activities. Where I directly fund Third Sector organisations, my officials undertake due diligence before a grant is awarded and then regularly review during the life of the project before payments are made. In relation to funding to local authorities, I will continue to collect data from them to monitor performance, assess outcomes and drive the future improvement and delivery including value for money.

### **Prevention and sustainability**

I recognise the on-going need to make hard choices. In my budget preparations, I have focused on how best to meet the growing needs of key service areas within the MEG in the face of another challenging budget. Over successive years, prioritising preventative spending has been a way of avoiding more costly interventions at a future point and improving the quality of people's lives over the long term.

These budget proposals, therefore, reflect my continuing commitment to protect and prioritise investment that supports preventative measures as far as possible. The spending decisions have not only considered how best to meet the current demand for services but have also focused on supporting interventions that are able to prevent problems arising in the future. This preventative approach is an important part of our planning for public services, both now and in the future.

Prevention and early intervention are key drivers in considering the proposed changes to a single grant from 2019-20. I am committed to working with communities to build resilience and support children and young people to have the very best outcomes possible. I cannot achieve this on my own. Collaboration with Cabinet colleagues across Government as well as with key partners and stakeholders continues to underpin my approach to delivering on my priorities.

We know that the early years are vital and that early life experiences have a profound impact on a child's development. That's why ongoing investment in Flying Start, Families First, parenting, the childcare offer and the ACE support hub are crucial and why I am looking more broadly at what an Early Years Service could look like learning lessons from what we know already works. Likewise, the funding allocations to Advocacy, the St David's Day Fund and supporting Children's Rights all have a strong focus on prevention in the longer term.

## **Legislation**

Assessing the costs of legislation and the impact on those it affects is an essential part of the policy development process. I recognise there cannot be a blank cheque for legislation and that every new commitment made has to be paid for by a cutback somewhere else.

This is why every Bill is subject to a robust assessment of costs and benefits, achieved through consultation and engagement with our stakeholders in the development of the accompanying regulatory impact assessments (RIAs). This ensures our decisions are informed by the people who will be affected by them.

Steps are being taken to improve the clarity and consistency of RIAs, but changes made to a Bill during scrutiny and other factors will inevitably result in some variances between estimated costs at the published RIA stage and actual costs during implementation. In accordance with the commitment given by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to the Finance Committee, a year on year table showing the cost of legislation falling to the Welsh Government was published as part of the detailed draft budget on 24 October.

The First Minister has set out the Welsh Government's intention to introduce legislation to remove the defence of reasonable punishment in Year 3 of the legislative timetable and that formal consultation will be undertaken in the coming months. The £400k currently allocated to support positive parenting will be used in part to support the communication, engagement and consultation activity associated with the legislation in 2018-19.

In addition to this we are bringing forward legislation in relation to our childcare offer. The Bill, which is scheduled for introduction to the National Assembly for Wales in Year 2 of the legislative programme, will help ensure that the application process is as straightforward as possible. Over 6,000 parents, providers and other stakeholders have been engaged to date as part of our #TalkChildcare campaign and we will be undertaking further consultation and engagement as we continue to test the offer, with £70m over the next two years to support delivery. This will be reflected in the RIA.

## **Implications of the UK exit from the EU**

The Welsh Government established a specific team to co-ordinate European Transition issues, which is working closely with the existing team in Brussels and policy departments.

There are no immediate direct effects of the decision to leave the European Union on the core programmes that form part of my portfolio. We will ensure the impact of leaving the European Union is carefully monitored and discussions held to limit the impact. I have agreed funding to deliver workshops across Wales to enable children and young people to have a voice and have their views taken into account on the European Union – at a cost of up to £50,000 over the financial years 2017-18 and 2018-19. These views will be passed on to the European Advisory Group (EAG) so that we can be sure they are given serious consideration by the EAG and by the Welsh Government.

## 7. Specific Areas

### Flying Start

*Taking Wales Forward* confirms the Welsh Government commitment to Flying Start. This evidence based programme is a key aspect of *Prosperity for All* and we will build on what works in Flying Start as part of creating a more joined up early years system.

The core entitlements of the Flying Start programme are:

- high quality, part-time childcare for 2-3 year olds;
- an enhanced Health Visiting service (where the Health Visitor caseload is capped at 110 children);
- access to parenting support and programmes; and
- access to speech, language and communication support.

The programme is currently being delivered to over 37,000 children less than 4 years of age, which equates to around 25% of all children under the age of 4 in Wales. Flying Start is geographically targeted using income benefit data provided by the Department of Work and Pensions and HM Revenue and Customs. The data provides local authorities with information on geographical Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which shows the proportion of children under four years of age living in income benefit households in each of those areas. The Welsh Government guidance directs local authorities to prioritise the LSOAs for Flying Start support in a ranked list in order of the highest concentration of disadvantaged children.

Flying Start can support children and their families living outside of Flying Start areas. Outreach funding can be used to continue to provide support to children who have moved out of an eligible area; to help children who live outside of an eligible area as part of a tailored package or support; or to target children of specific communities of interest e.g. those living in refuges; traveller communities; homeless shelters; Flying Start women in prisons. I would like local authorities to use their discretion in how they allocate the grant in order to meet local needs. Programme funding for 2018-19 remains at the same level as 2017-18.

Flying Start has been subject to a robust independent programme of evaluation which considers impact and value for money. Evaluation reports are published on the Welsh Government Social Research web page. The latest statistical release, published in July 2016, can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/flying-start/?lang=en>

Both Flying Start and Families First are early intervention programmes informed by the growing international body of evidence that supports the positive role of interventions in early years in improving the development of children and young people and their prospects in adulthood. A report published in 2015 by the Early Intervention Foundation highlighted the fiscal cost of missed opportunities to provide early, targeted support to children and young people. The report concluded “early Intervention is the smart and realistic choice for using ever scarcer public money”.

Recent qualitative research found that parents whose children had attended Flying Start childcare felt they had improved social skills and were better prepared for

school. Investment is targeted in the communities with the highest proportion of households with children aged 0-4 who are on income benefits.

Value for money of childcare within the Flying Start programme is assessed on an on-going basis. Costs are compared across local authorities; take up of places purchased is monitored and childcare budgets are agreed as part of annual work plans. Welsh Government Account Managers discuss delivery and budget allocations at regular meetings. Expenditure is agreed and projects assessed on an on going basis for eligibility with programme objectives and value for money.

A range of activity is currently underway to allow us to build on the findings of the independent national evaluation of Flying Start. This includes developing and testing an approach to identify outcomes for Flying Start children in relation to their level of engagement with the programme, including the childcare element. Children’s attainment and attendance will be explored as they move through school as well as a range of health outcomes, which will strengthen the existing evidence base on the cost-benefits of Flying Start.

### Childcare

| 17-18   |         | 18-19   |         | 19-20   |         | 20-21   |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Revenue | Capital | Revenue | Capital | Revenue | Capital | Revenue | Capital |
| £10m    | -       | £25m    | £20m    | £45m    | £20m    | -       | £20m    |

We recognise that childcare is one of the biggest challenges facing working families in Wales. As part of Prosperity for All, we will provide working parents of 3 and 4 years olds with 30 hours per week of free early education and childcare for up to 48 weeks of the year, delivered in a way that works for parents and children.

Increasing the availability of affordable, available and accessible childcare should enable parents to work, supporting our drive to increase economic growth, tackle poverty and reduce inequalities. It will also provide opportunities and long-term benefits for our children and improve their life chances.

In June 2017, I issued a written statement updating Assembly Members on the delivery of the offer. As part of this we issued detailed guidance and announced an hourly rate of £4.50 in relation to the childcare we fund. This was set after detailed consultation with stakeholders and has been well received by the sector. Our highly successful #TalkChildcare campaign has engaged over 6,500 parents and providers since its launch in August 2016, giving us confidence that we are developing an offer which meets the needs of working families.

In order to get it right for parents and providers, we have begun testing the offer in specific locations within seven local authorities. These local authorities were chosen to provide a good geographical spread across Wales and represent a good mix of rural, urban and valley communities. Over the summer all seven early implementer local authorities opened for applications from eligible parents.

We have a revenue budget of **£10m** in 2017-18 and expect the majority of this funding to be spent on childcare, including provision to support children with special educational needs to access the offer. We have included some provision for the administration costs incurred by the local authorities, and set aside money to

undertake a rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the early implementation of the childcare offer across all seven early implementer local authorities from September 2017. Learning from these early implementers will be important in helping us fine-tune policies and systems prior to a wider roll-out.

The funding to support the childcare offer increases to **£25m** in 2018-19, and to **£45m** in 2019-20. This will allow us to expand and test aspects of the delivery of the offer in different circumstances, to ensure the offer works when it is fully available across Wales from September 2020. In addition, **£60m** up until the end of this Assembly term has been included in the Education MEG for investment in childcare settings alongside the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries Schools and Education programme. Consideration is currently being given to how the funding will be managed and allocated.

### **Other childcare policy and programmes**

Successive evaluations have concluded that the availability of quality, affordable childcare is essential to support people who need to work, or acquire skills to enable them to work. Alongside affordable childcare some parents may need additional support to return to work and sustain employment. Some of the barriers to employment include financial stability, reluctance to use formal childcare and parents' lack of confidence in returning to work especially if they have been out of work for some time. **Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE)** is a £13.5m project jointly funded by the European Social Fund and Welsh Government, working in partnership with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). PaCE targets parents who are out of work and consider childcare to be their main barrier to accessing training or work opportunities. Up to the end of September 2017, the project had engaged 2339 participants and supported 665 into work.

The childcare offer has the potential to be a catalyst for a wider transformation in the childcare sector, increasing the accessibility, affordability and availability of childcare for all parents and children of all ages, improving the flexibility and quality of what is available. This will build on the other support we currently provide for childcare providers including:

- Providing local authorities with **£2.3m** funding each year since 2012 to support local authorities to meet gaps identified through their childcare sufficiency assessments and their play sufficiency assessments. In line with my priorities, local authorities have focused on offering out of school childcare, including holiday play schemes, to children from low income families and those with specific needs;
- Providing **£1.43m** per annum to the Cwlwm consortia, comprising the five main childcare organisations in Wales, to support the childcare sector and help us develop innovative flexible childcare solutions to meet the needs of families;
- Providing funding to Social Care Wales (SCW) as a key delivery partner and the sector skills council for the childcare workforce. From April 2017, SCW gained new powers to lead the improvement of social care and childcare in Wales and are working with us to support the implementation of the 10 year workforce plan. For 2017-18, we have allocated **£105k** to SCW.

In terms of support for the **workforce**, a 10 year workforce plan for childcare, play and early years will be published in the autumn with the aim of professionalising the sector to become one which is highly regarded as a career of choice and, one which parents and carers value as offering quality, affordable and sustainable childcare. This contributes to the wider Early Years priority under Prosperity for All, as good quality early years provision is widely acknowledged to help children experience a good start in life. In recognition of the need to build capacity and capability across childcare settings, Ministers have agreed to prioritise the childcare sector to support development and delivery of the childcare offer and the implementation of the 10 year workforce plan.

Under our Apprenticeship programme and utilising the European Social Fund we have developed our **Progress for Success (PfS)** programme. PfS funds existing early years, childcare and play practitioners (including self-employed registered childminders), to undertake recognised childcare and play qualifications. The aim of the programme is to raise the quality of provision offered to our youngest children in Wales by increasing the skills levels held by the existing workforce. PfS has been successful in providing support and opportunities for 979 existing practitioners to up-skill. Building on its achievements and alongside our new all Age Apprenticeship programme, we are exploring the best use of European Social Fund investment to continue to support practitioners.

## **Play Policy**

Wales was the first country to place play on a statutory basis in recognition of its significant contribution to children and young people's physical, social and cognitive development and wellbeing. Play Wales has a strategic role in supporting local authorities to deliver their statutory duties in relation to play and in supporting the Welsh Government to take the play agenda forward in Wales. It was in recognition of this that I decided to extend the funding for Play Wales beyond September 2017 for a further 6 months, bringing the total amount of funding to **£360k** in 2017-18. I am currently considering a business plan to provide future support to Play Wales from 2018-19 onwards.

## **Adverse Childhood Experiences**

There is a growing body of evidence on the impact which exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) has on well-being and economic prosperity. The importance of giving children the best possible start in life is already recognised in programmes such as Flying Start and Families First. However, in light of the findings of the studies into ACEs by Public Health Wales, it was recognised there is a need to increase awareness of ACEs and their impact on children's educational outcomes, employment prospects and health and wellbeing.

For 2017-18 funding of £300k has been provided to Cymru Well Wales (CWW), a collaborative partnership of public and third sector organisations working together to secure better health for the people of Wales, to support the development of an ACE Support Hub as a centre of knowledge, evidence and expertise on ACEs in Wales. An additional £100k has been provided from the Education budget to support school staff to become ACE informed and Public Health Wales has committed £250k towards the establishment of the Hub.



For 2018-19 I propose to provide £300k of funding to support the continuation of the ACE Support Hub.

## **Children First**

Children First brings together a range of organisations to improve children and young people's outcomes, based around a distinct place, based on seven key principles:

- Clarity of place;
- Long-term, shared, strategic focus;
- Focus on a community's strengths;
- Local freedom and autonomy to decide the focus of activity, whilst aligning to the shared strategic vision;
- Anchor organisations;
- Multi-agency approach to system change and effective data sharing; and
- Dedicated secretariat support.

Local authorities were invited in January 2017 to submit proposals for Children First, from which five were chosen as pioneer areas. Children First takes a contextually-sensitive approach to working with our most disadvantaged communities. These communities are not the same and because of this, they need unique solutions. The highly localised strategies developed by Children First areas work to address the distinctive forms of disadvantage and to use the distinctive resources available in these communities.

There is no direct funding available from the Welsh Government to support the development of Children First pioneer areas, as the objective is to empower and enable the community and organisations to collaborate and make a difference for their children and young people. Funding of £100k is available to support evaluation. The pioneer areas will be supported to develop a key set of data to monitor outcomes. This monitoring data will also feed into future evaluation of Children First, to include an exploration of the value for money of the activities delivered.

## **Communities First legacy fund**

The Legacy Fund is a revenue fund that has been allocated to local authorities which currently have Communities First areas. To assist in planning, indicative allocations formed part of the Communities First award letter for 2017-18. This fund is to support the continuation of the most effective aspects developed by the Communities First Programme that are highly valued locally.

Whilst the detail of the guidance for the Legacy Fund is still being developed, we have taken a 'co-production' approach to the development to ensure that both Lead Delivery Bodies' and LAs experience and views are reflected in the written guidance.

Legacy Fund principles have been issued to all eligible LAs to ensure they have the information required to plan, with existing LDBs, for the next financial year.

The choice of what should be funded will be locally determined, local authorities will need to take account of both their duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and the assessment of local well-being in making those decisions.

In discussions with LDBs and LAs, officials have emphasised the importance of them working with their clusters, public service boards and other partners to ensure any concerns are taken into account.

The total allocation for 2018-19 is £6m.

### **Families First Programme, including specific reference to the Children and Families Delivery Grant**

Families First provides innovative and effective multi-agency systems and support for families, with a clear emphasis on prevention and early intervention. The Welsh Government is investing £38.352m in the Families First programme in 2018-19.

Evaluation evidence has found that the programme has led to fundamental changes to the culture and commissioning of services which has directly contributed to ensuring these services meet the needs of families. In particular, the Team Around the Families (TAF) approach is one of the successes of the programme and the concept of providing bespoke services which meet the needs of the whole family is now firmly embedded in service provision, and services have improved as a result.

We are working to ensure the Families First programme is focussed on providing services which can help to prevent ACEs, as well as providing support to mitigate the harmful effects of ACE exposure. To help achieve this, parts of Families First are being refocused to ensure the programme is able to do more to support parents, children and young people to build their resilience and confidence and achieve positive wellbeing.

Revised Families First programme guidance was published in April 2017 and all local authorities will be operating under the new arrangements from 1 April 2018. The TAF will continue unchanged, and the continued focus on providing bespoke, multi-agency support to whole families will have a key role in helping parents to create stable and nurturing environments in which children and young people can thrive.

#### Children and Families Delivery Grant (CFDG)

The Families First budget supported the Children and Families Delivery Grant (CFDG) which represented a £10.2m investment over the 3 years of the current grant programme (1 October 2014 to 30 September 2017). The focus of the CFDG was to support the tackling poverty agenda by reinforcing the work of our key programmes together with that of the childcare, children's rights, play and participation programmes operated by the Welsh Government. Five grants were awarded to Third Sector organisations.

Grants to PromoCymru (for Family Point), Groundwork Wales and Tros Gynnal ended in September 2017, however PromoCymru will receive an additional £35k to support its helpline for the period October-December 2017, to allow time for transition arrangements to be made. The grants for CWLWM and Play Wales were extended to March 2018, and the grant for Children in Wales has been extended to September 2018.

## **Integrated Family Support Services**

The funding linked with the Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS) transferred into the RSG from 2015-16.

## **Family Information Services**

Family Information Services (FIS) are the first point of contact for impartial advice and information on local services for families and carers. Local authorities are required to have a FIS that meets the minimum standards set out in the Childcare Act 2006.

Children in Wales currently carry out a support function on behalf of the Welsh Government (£45k provided via a contract). A review will consider whether such a function is required when the contract ends in March 2018.

## **Parenting Support**

Our approach to positive parenting is set very firmly within the wider context of economic improvement and wider wellbeing. As set out in Prosperity for All, we are committed to helping improve health and well-being for all to ensure everyone can fulfil their potential, meet their educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Wales.

Across Wales, parents and carers have access to a range of services to support positive parenting delivered by local government, health, education, social services and social justice. Support is delivered at different points in a child's life (antenatal to teenage) through parenting groups and one-to-one work, ranging from informal, bespoke support for parents, through to more targeted, specialised interventions.

Our 'Parenting, Give it time' campaign promotes positive parenting messages in a number of different ways, including through social and print media and digital advertising. A dedicated website and Facebook page provide parenting tips, information and advice, and signpost parents to sources of further support. A media agency actively promotes the campaign through a variety of advertising avenues.

Parents should expect support to be of high quality. Our non-statutory guidance sets out the Welsh Government's expectations on how parenting support should be provided. In addition we are providing additional funding to help local authorities develop the core skills and knowledge of their workforce in line with the key themes of the guidance.

The Welsh Government commitment to introduce legislation to remove the defence of reasonable punishment will form a key part of our overall action on promoting positive parenting, driving behavioural change and bringing about positive outcomes for our children in Wales.

Given the importance of promoting positive parenting, the budget of £400k remains unchanged for 2018-19.

## **Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant 2016-19**

Within the field of social care, Welsh Government support for the third sector has substantially moved towards a three-year funding model. The Sustainable Social Services Third Sector grant is a three-year grant scheme introduced to support implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Nearly £22m of grant funding was awarded to 32 organisations and projects via the Health and Social Services Main Expenditure Group which support children, young people and their families, looked after children and care leavers, older people, people with learning disabilities and autism, people with physical and/or sensory impairments and carers. Applications for the grant were carefully considered as part of a competitive process matching applications to the advertised grant funding criteria and policy priorities. To ensure there was equity across sectors, the maximum award made to any organisation was £1.5m over three years, representing 10% of the total funding available. In 2018-19 a total of £7.25m is due to be distributed.

The application process for the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector grant, a three-year grant scheme introduced to support implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, required applicants to demonstrate how projects would support the key themes including prevention.

### **Child Poverty**

There is no separate budget for tackling child poverty for the Welsh Government. This is because there are a range of policies and programmes in place to tackle child poverty, which are being taken forward. This includes key commitments such as Flying Start, Families First, the Pupil Deprivation Grant and the Healthy Child Wales Programme. There are also a range of other mainstream services which are delivering support for low income households, which form part of wider funding arrangements.

### **Children's and young people's rights and entitlements**

Welsh Ministers are under a duty to have due regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in all their work, and to raise public awareness (including among children and young people) of children's rights and the UNCRC. The arrangements in place for doing this are set out in the Children's Rights Scheme 2014.

Section 5 of the Measure also places a duty on Ministers to take appropriate steps to promote knowledge and understanding amongst the public, including children and young people, of the UNCRC and its Optional Protocols.

A budget of £357k has been allocated at a level sufficient to deliver on Ministerial commitments in relation to the Rights of Children and Young Person's (Wales) Measure 2011, the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010; and the necessary work in these areas in relation to children's rights, the UNCRC and children and young people's participation. This includes:

- raising awareness of children's rights, both internally and externally to Welsh Government: hosting and maintaining the [childrensrights.wales](http://childrensrights.wales) website and Twitter account;
- ensuring appropriate UNCRC training is in place, actively promoted and taken up;
- promoting participation by children and young people; and
- ensuring Welsh Government policy and legislation is formulated having given proper consideration to children's rights.

## **Children's Commissioner for Wales**

Established by the Care Standards Act 2000, the Children's Commissioner for Wales (CCfW) is an independent children's rights institution. The remit is laid down in the Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001, which amended the Care Standards Act 2000. The budget covers the running costs of the Commissioner's office for 2018-19 and the resources required in discharging her statutory functions.

This budget received a 10% cut for 2016-17 in line with other Commissioners (budget was previously £1.715m) but has been maintained at cash flat for 2017-18 and 2018-19. This is considered sufficient to deliver the Commissioner's functions.

## **Advocacy**

Social Care is a priority in Prosperity for All and is clear that children should be listened to and helped to develop positive relationships.

With our partners, we have developed a National Approach to Statutory Advocacy for looked after children, children in need and other specified individuals which went live in July. This means a consistency of entitlement and good practice in the commissioning, delivery and awareness of statutory advocacy provision in Wales. The implementation of the National Approach will cost in the region of £1.1m and Welsh Government has agreed to provide up to £550k to the Social Services Regional Collaboratives to deliver the offer in full. Local authorities will fund the rest.

## **Safeguarding**

We established the National Independent Safeguarding Board under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to work with Safeguarding Children Boards and Safeguarding Adult Boards to drive improvement; to report on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children and adults and make recommendations to Ministers about how arrangements could be improved. We provide secretariat and support the work programme of the Board valued at £200k per year.

We support National and regional events during safeguarding week, valued at £22k to raise awareness of safeguarding and related issues.

We will provide generic training for practitioners in delivering Child and Adult Practice Reviews valued at £45k. We will provide £100k grant to Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board to deliver the National Protection Procedures arising from the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and related subordinate legislation

and guidance to assist better protection for children and adults at risk of abuse, neglect or other forms of harm.

## **Cafcass Cymru**

Allocation – 2018-19

- Total programme allocation           £10.267m
- Running costs                           £9.950m
- Contracted costs                       £0.317m

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass Cymru) is a direct service delivery and demand-led organisation undertaking statutory functions across Wales on behalf of Welsh Ministers in accordance with the Children Act 2004. In 2016-17 we worked with 8,491 of the most vulnerable children and young people in Wales, an increase from 7,546 in 2015-16. Its financial allocation for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 is £10.267m per year of which £9.045 m (92%) of the budget is committed to staff costs. Therefore all inflationary costs must be absorbed within the budget.

There has been a significant increase of 25% in public law and 29% in private law work over the past two years with the volume of work being sustained in 2017-18. This increase has been absorbed within Cafcass Cymru's existing resources. Any reduction in budget will result in essential posts not being filled with existing staff managing even higher workloads with potential staff welfare implications. This could also have an impact on children and young people having to wait for a service in Wales resulting in delayed court proceedings.

Cafcass Cymru has over the last 5 years significantly reduced its management structure, streamlined internal processes, introduced flexible ways of working and enhanced practitioner capability to ensure services are delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible and performance maintained.

## **Adoption, fostering and looked after children**

Taking Wales Forward includes the chapter on Ambitious and Learning which states that we will “examine ways of ensuring children in care enjoy the same life chances as other children and if necessary reform the way they are looked after”. Building on this Social Care is a top 5 priority in Prosperity for All and is clear that children should be listened to and helped to develop positive relationships.

A programme of work is being taken forward under the Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children which will identify early and preventative action to help reduce the numbers of children taken into care, improve outcomes for children already in care and improve outcomes for care leavers. This includes the £1m St David's Day Fund which will continue for a second year in 2018-19. This Fund allows local authorities to provide financial support to care leavers so they can successfully access employment, education and training opportunities, improving their opportunities towards independent lives.

In 2017-18 the Welsh Government received an additional £20m consequential funding from the UK Spring Budget for improvements in social care. £8m of that

budget was allocated to expedite the Ministerial Advisory Group's work programme. The funding will be used to reduce the numbers of children entering care and improving the outcomes for children and young people in care through a £5m investment in expanding local authority edge of care services; £850k to roll out the Reflect project across Wales which aims to reduce the number of children being taken into care by breaking the cycle of repeat pregnancies and recurrent care proceedings; £1.625m to support care leavers to successful futures and independent living by providing additional resources to local authority traineeship/work placement schemes and extending the provision of personal advisers up to age 25; £400k to implement the National Fostering Framework and £125k to develop adoption support work. This funding will be included in the RSG from April 2018.

The Welsh Government is also providing £90k to the National Adoption Service to develop and support its strategic and holistic approach to adoption support services in Wales. We have invested £172k to maintain a database to provide the basis for the future Wales Adoption Register and have awarded three grants under the Sustainable Social Service grant scheme totalling £435k to Voluntary Adoption Agencies to develop adoption support services. Additional stand alone funding will be provided in 2018-19 to take forward a new Welsh Adoption Register and to provide resources to deliver key elements of the Adoption Support Framework.

| COMMUNITIES AND CHILDREN MAIN EXPENDITURE GROUP (MEG) |                                        |                                                             |                                   |                                      |                                  | ANNEX A                                                 |                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| RESOURCE BUDGET - Departmental Expenditure Limit      |                                        |                                                             |                                   |                                      |                                  |                                                         |                |
| SPA                                                   | Actions                                | BEL Title                                                   | 2016-17<br>Final Outturn<br>£000s | 2017-18<br>Forecast<br>Outturn £000s | 2018-19<br>Draft Budget<br>£000s | 2019-20<br>Indicative<br>Budget<br>Allocations<br>£000s |                |
| Enabling<br>Children and<br>Communities               | Supporting<br>Children                 | Support for Childcare and Play                              | 5,463                             | 11,979                               | 27,706                           | 48,351                                                  |                |
|                                                       |                                        | Support for Children's Rights (and prevention from 2019-20) | 215                               | 257                                  | 357                              | 991                                                     |                |
|                                                       |                                        | Children's Commissioner                                     | 1,543                             | 1,543                                | 1,543                            | 1,543                                                   |                |
|                                                       |                                        | Advocacy                                                    | 780                               | 917                                  | 1,100                            | 550                                                     |                |
|                                                       |                                        | Supporting Children                                         | 634                               | 2,116                                | 1,989                            | 989                                                     |                |
|                                                       |                                        | CAFCASS Cymru                                               | 9,875                             | 10,267                               | 10,267                           | 10,267                                                  |                |
|                                                       | Prevention and<br>Early Intervention   | Prevention and Early Intervention                           | 157,155                           | 152,564                              | 140,156                          | 0                                                       |                |
|                                                       |                                        | Supporting Communities                                      | 0                                 | 0                                    | 0                                | 6,162                                                   |                |
|                                                       |                                        | Early Intervention, Prevention and Support Grant            | 0                                 | 0                                    | 0                                | 252,153                                                 |                |
|                                                       |                                        | Support for children and families                           | 0                                 | 0                                    | 0                                | 3,004                                                   |                |
|                                                       |                                        |                                                             |                                   | <b>175,665</b>                       | <b>179,643</b>                   | <b>183,118</b>                                          | <b>324,010</b> |
|                                                       | Communities<br>and Tackling<br>Poverty | Communities and<br>Tackling Poverty                         | Flying Start Capital              | 3,461                                | 2,760                            | 566                                                     | 529            |
|                                                       |                                        |                                                             | <b>3,461</b>                      | <b>2,760</b>                         | <b>566</b>                       | <b>529</b>                                              |                |
|                                                       |                                        | <b>TOTAL RESOURCE</b>                                       | <b>179,126</b>                    | <b>182,403</b>                       | <b>183,684</b>                   | <b>324,539</b>                                          |                |



Commentary on each of the Actions within the C&C MEG as relevant to children and young people, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2018-19 and the First Supplementary Budget (June 2017)

#### Action: Supporting Children

| 2017-18<br>Supplementary Budget<br>June 2017<br>£000's | Changes<br>£000's | 2018-19<br>New Plans<br>Draft Budget<br>£000's |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 26,675                                                 | 16,287            | 42,962                                         |

#### Increases to Action:

- £30k transfer from Education MEG in respect of the Development of Early Years and Childcare Workforce (BEL 310)
- £1m from reserves in respect of a Bursary Scheme for Looked After Children (BEL 410)
- £67k from reserves in respect of SAIL project (tampon tax) (BEL 410)
- £230k allocation from reserves in respect of MEIC (BEL 5333)
- £15m allocation from reserves in respect of childcare offer (BEL 310)

#### Children's Commissioner

There are no proposed change to the Children's Commissioner's budget allocation.

#### Support for Children's Rights

There are no proposed changes to this budget.

#### Action: Early Intervention, Prevention and Support

| 2017-18<br>Supplementary Budget<br>June 2017<br>£000's | Changes<br>£000's | 2018-19<br>New Plans<br>Draft Budget<br>£000's |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 154,383                                                | -14,227           | 140,156                                        |

#### Reductions to Action:

- £300k transfer to the Education MEG in respect of funding to Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
- £13m transfer to reserves in respect of discontinuation of Communities First
- £1.890m savings found in respect of administrative savings on European Social Fund projects.

**Increases to Action:**

- £963k transfer in from reserves

We are reducing the level of reporting and testing a new approach to a larger grant to increase potential efficiencies. The changes as a result of the reduction to Communities First have been mitigated through the Legacy Fund. Planning against the agreed principles is underway. The additional saving has been found as a result of prudent planning of the PaCE programme ensuring our domestic funding was front loaded.

**Action: Communities and Tackling Poverty**

| <b>2017-18<br/>Supplementary Budget<br/>June 2017<br/>£000's</b> | <b>2018-19<br/>Plans as per<br/>2017-18<br/>Final Budget</b> | <b>Changes<br/>£000's</b> | <b>2018-19<br/>New Plans<br/>Draft Budget<br/>£000's</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1,260</b>                                                     | <b>566</b>                                                   | <b>0</b>                  | <b>566</b>                                               |

**Flying Start Capital**

There have been no proposed changes to the funding compared to plans published in the final budget of 2017-18. Our ability to provide funding to complete existing projects is adequate but our ability to fund maintenance activity on existing Flying Start Childcare Estate will be restricted.



## Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Template

|                                               |                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title / Piece of work:</b>                 | 'Parenting. Give it Time' – positive parenting campaign |
| <b>Related SF / LF number (if applicable)</b> | <b>SF/LG/1589/15</b>                                    |
| <b>Name of Official:</b>                      | Lucy Akhtar                                             |
| <b>Department:</b>                            | Education and Public Services Group                     |
| <b>Date:</b>                                  | 18 July 2015                                            |
| <b>Signature:</b>                             |                                                         |

Please complete the CRIA and retain it for your records on iShare. You may be asked to provide this document at a later stage to evidence that you have complied with the duty to have due regard to children's rights e.g. Freedom of Information access requests, monitoring purposes or to inform reporting to the NAFW.

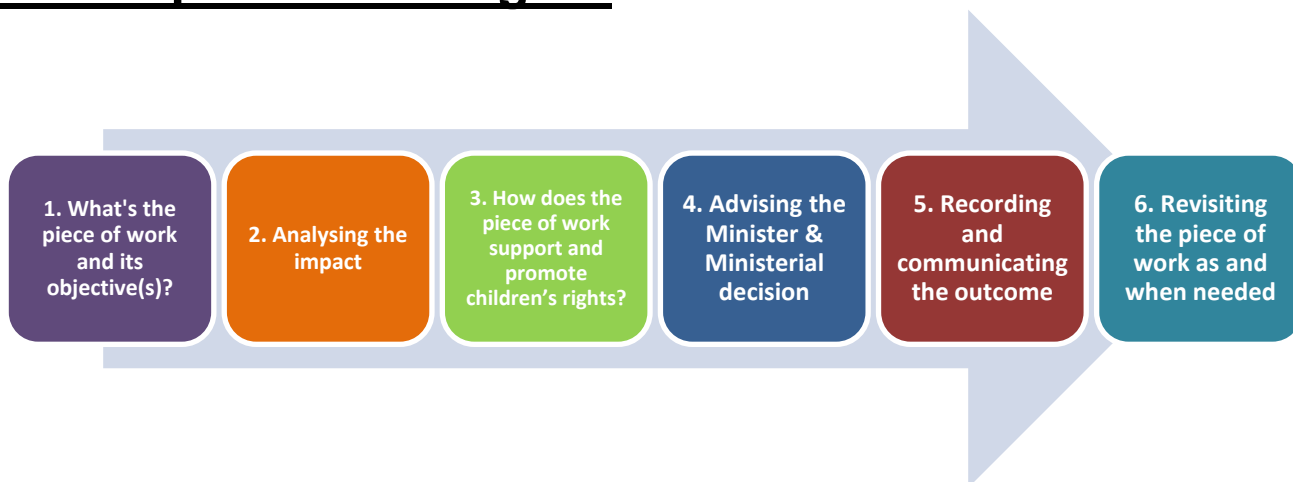
Upon completion you should also forward a copy of the CRIA to the Measure Implementation Team for monitoring purposes using the dedicated mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

If officials are not sure about whether to complete a CRIA, they should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Measure Implementation Team by forwarding any questions to our mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

You may wish to cross-reference with other Impact Assessments undertaken.

**NB.** All CRIAs undertaken on legislation must be published. All non-legislative CRIAs will be listed on the WG website and must be made available upon request. Ministers are however, encouraged to publish all completed CRIAs.

## Six Steps to Due Regard



### Step 1. What's the piece of work and its objective(s)?

You may wish to include:

- A brief description of the piece of work
- What the time frame for achieving it is?
- Who are the intended beneficiaries?
- Is it likely that the piece of work will affect children?
- Will the piece of work have an affect on a particular group of children, if so, describe the group affected?

#### Description of the piece of work

Evidence suggests that certain approaches to parenting promote successful outcomes for children and research has shown that a positive parenting style is more likely to lead to better social, emotional and academic outcomes for children.

(Stroufe, et al 1990; Emler, 2001; Desforges and Bouchaard, 2003; Seaman et al, 2005; Feinstein and Sabates, 2006 O'Connor and Scott 2007; Moullin et al, 2008; Katz and Redmond, 2009; Asmussen and Weizel, 2010 and Nixon, 2012). Please see a full list of references in 'Parenting in Wales: Guidance on engagement and support'

<http://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/cyp/140910-parenting-in-wales-guidance-en.pdf>

Positive parenting is where parents:

- are loving, nurturing and respectful;
- are supportive and involved;
- provide clear consistent boundaries based on realistic expectations according to a child's age and stage of development;
- model good behaviour;
- provide appropriate supervision;
- praise good behaviour; and
- handle problem behaviours consistently without resorting to physical punishment and excessive shouting.

In the Autumn the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty will launch a positive parenting campaign. The overall aim of the campaign is to help bring about an attitudinal change in the general public on the way children and young people are brought up and disciplined, by making physical punishment unacceptable and promoting positive alternatives.

'Parenting. Give it time', will promote positive approaches to raising children through a number of

different media channels. Using the theme of 'time,' the messages given to parents will be positive and supportive. Initially the main target audience will be parents and carers of young children (0-5), as evidence suggests children in this age group may be more likely to be smacked.

(See: Jackson (1999) cited in Henricson, H. & Grey, A. (2001) "Understanding Discipline" National Family and Parenting Institute; and Bunting, L., Webb, M. & Healy, J. (2008) "The 'Smacking Debate' in Northern Ireland – Messages from Research", Barnardo's Cymru, Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People and NSPCC Northern Ireland).

The campaign would support the overall aim by:

- using a range of 'marketing' techniques and approaches to raise awareness of the positive parenting message;
- providing 'products' (such as leaflets, web content, video clips, posters and Facebook posts) which will offer information, practical tips and strategies to support attitudinal and behaviour change;
- signposting parents to services (such as health visitors, Family Information Service, Families First, Flying Start etc); and
- bringing together a range of internal and external stakeholders who can use their influence to support attitudinal and behaviour change.

## Research

Running parallel to this piece of work will be three strands of research activity:

Campaign development: focus groups will be undertaken to explore the key campaign messages and the most effective approaches to promotion. It is likely this will include focus groups with parents of children aged under seven years old.

Children and young people's attitudes towards physical punishment: qualitative work will be undertaken with children to explore their attitudes towards methods of parenting including physical punishment. Previous work has explored adults' attitudes on this topic, but there has been no work yet with children and young people who are more likely to be affected by physical punishment. Specialists will be commissioned to carry out this research due to ethical sensitivities.

Quantitative baseline of attitudes: We will commission some work to gauge the attitudes of parents who have children in the target age group, prior to the campaign. We then intend to conduct the research again a few years into the campaign with parents in the target group to explore if there are any differences in attitudes.

## Time frames

As attitudes are formed by a complex range of factors, our approach will require a concerted effort over a number of years. It is envisaged that the campaign could run over a period of three years. The first phase will run from autumn 2015 until the end of March 2016.

## Beneficiaries and affect on children

- Children should benefit from positive parenting by having a happier home life, displaying improved behaviour and having better social and emotional development;
- Parents should benefit from adopting positive parenting methods by experiencing less stress and improved well-being;
- Parents and children should benefit from a better parent-child relationship.

## Step 2. Analysing the impact

- What are the positive and/or negative impacts for children, young people or their families?
- Where there are negative impacts; what compensatory measures may be needed to mitigate any negative impact?
- How will you know if your piece of work is a success?
- Have you developed an outcomes framework to measure impact?
- Have you considered the short, medium and long term outcomes?
- Do you need to engage with children & young people and/or stakeholders to seek their views using consultation or participatory methods?
- Do you need to produce child friendly versions of proposals/consultations?

- **What are the positive and/or negative impacts for children, young people or their families?**  
**What compensatory measures may be needed to mitigate any negative impact?**

It is not expected that there will be negative impacts on children and their families. The campaign will be a vehicle for promoting positive parenting strategies and helping parents to find positive solutions to managing their children's challenging behaviour.

### Positive Impacts:

The campaign intends to affect a culture change in attitudes towards physical punishment of children in Wales, making it unacceptable. The campaign will promote the rewarding of good behaviour rather than punishing bad behaviour.

The campaign will provide parents with options and alternatives to physical punishment and encourage parents to look after their own health and well-being better to manage stressful situations.

This campaign will promote positive parenting to a wide audience. It will raise awareness among the wider public of the value of positive parenting and help normalise the process of seeking parenting help.

### Potential Negative impact:

There may be a perception by some parents that the Welsh Government is telling them how to parent. However we will be promoting the following supportive messages:

- The campaign isn't about telling parents how to raise their children.
- There is no 'one size fits all' way to parent. Every child and every parent is unique and the campaign does not provide a set of parenting rules that must be followed. It gives tips and strategies so parents can make decisions about what can work for their child and family.
- Nobody has all the answers and there is no such thing as a perfect parent. However, psychologists have found the positive parenting style is most likely to help children grow up happy and learn well.

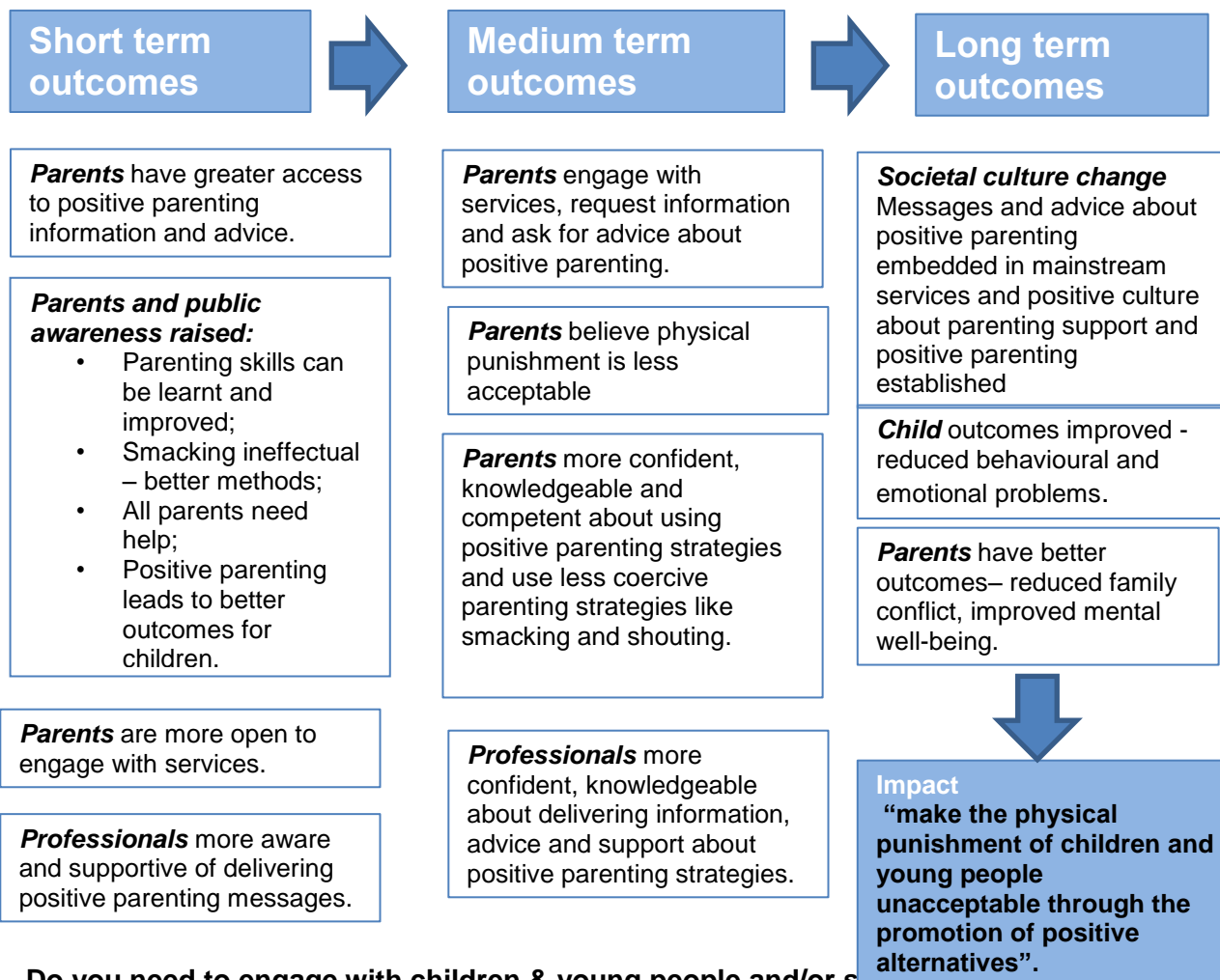
The campaign aims to empower parents to maximise their skills and knowledge in order to build a positive, healthy relationship with their children.

- **How will you know if your piece of work is a success?**

We will do this on a number of levels:

- The research activity described earlier will explore attitudes to physical punishment and parenting practices amongst parents in the target group prior to and later in the campaign.
- We will be measuring traffic and engagement on social media and our dedicated website.
- The media agency, engaged to support delivery of the campaign, will monitor the effectiveness of the various media channels used to promote the campaign messages.
- **Have you considered the short, medium and long term outcomes?**

The Logic Model below summarises the intended short, medium and long term outcomes.



- **Do you need to engage with children & young people and/or service users using consultation or participatory methods?**

We will be seeking the views of children and young people on physical punishment and parenting practices through commissioned research, as described above.

### Step 3. How does your piece of work support and promote children’s rights?

Dependant upon the impact of your piece of work, use balanced judgement to assess:

- Which UNCRC articles are **most** relevant to the piece of work? Consider the articles which your piece of work impacts upon. <http://uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/images/PDF/UNCRCRights.pdf>
- How are you improving the way children and young people access their rights?
- What aspects of children’s lives will be affected by the proposal?
- What are the main issues that the CRIA should focus on?
- Does the piece of work help to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?

- If no, have any alternatives to the current piece of work been considered?

**Which UNCRC articles are most relevant to the piece of work? Consider the articles which your piece of work impacts upon**

The Positive Parenting Campaign is based on the core principles of the UNCRC which centres on respect for children's best interests and rights and support for parents in carrying out their role:

- ensuring best interests of the child (article 3);
- parental guidance and evolving capacity (article 5);
- parental responsibilities (article 18);
- ensuring the child's rights for basic care and survival, (Article 6), play and education (Articles 28 & 31);
- protection from abuse, neglect and degrading treatment (Article 19); and
- a right to have a say in matters affecting them as their abilities develop (Article 12).

The UNCRC contains a number of provisions relating specifically to parents and highlighting the importance of their role. E.g. the UNCRC gives parents responsibility for providing their child with appropriate guidance and direction on using their rights properly (Article 5) and in matters relating to religion and conscience (Article 14). Article 18 identifies both parents as having the primary responsibility for bringing up their children, making it clear that governments must provide resources and support to help them fulfil their responsibilities. It also gives parents responsibility to provide adequate living conditions to meet their child's development needs, with financial assistance from the Government if needed (Article 27).

**How are you improving the way children and young people access their rights?**

Ultimately the campaign is intended to provide advice and information for parents rather than support directly to children. However, for a majority of children, the family home is where they will realise many of the rights laid out in the UNCRC. Parents clearly have a pivotal role as guardians and advocates of children's rights with a responsibility on the state to act as final guarantor. It is hoped that the campaign will assist parents to parent in a positive, supportive manner that considers and reflects children's rights. This will ultimately benefit children and enable them to realise their rights and maximise positive outcomes for them.

We will be seeking the views of children and young people on physical punishment and parenting practices through commissioned research, as described above.

- **What aspects of children's lives will be affected by the proposal?**

The information provided to parents will encourage them to incorporate positive parenting strategies (such as praise, talking, playing and listening) into every day activities with their children like dressing, playing, shopping, bathing and mealtimes. It will provide specific tips and information for parents on dealing with common behaviours and situations where parents may be more likely to resort to shouting or physical punishment. It will also provide information to parents on what their child can be expected to do, to encourage parents to adopt realistic expectations.

- **Does the piece of work help to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?**

For a majority of children, the family home is where they will realise many of the rights laid out in the UNCRC. The campaign is intended to maximise the articles of the UNCRC through:



- a culture change in attitudes towards physical punishment in Wales, making it unacceptable and promoting positive parenting techniques. Helping mothers and fathers understand the importance of their role and the positive difference they can make to their child's development, (Article 5,18)
- providing all parents with easy to access tips and information about ways to help take some of the stress out of everyday family activities, such as bed time, bath time and the weekly food shop. Providing details of organisations for parents who may need further help and support. (Article 18)
- encouraging parents to play, talk and listen to their children and encourage positive behaviour by adopting positive parenting strategies (Articles 28 & 31)
- encouraging parents to consider their young child's emerging capacity for autonomy – e.g. giving their young child some choices about what to play with, what to wear and what to eat. (article 5)
- encouraging parents to adopt positive parenting strategies and providing them with options and alternatives to physical punishment. E.g. praising positive behaviour rather than punishing bad behaviour. Highlighting the negative impact of using physical punishment and that it is not an effective method of discipline (article 19)
- The campaign will provide age appropriate tips and strategies to promote children's development (article 3)

The campaign will also work with professionals who support parents and provide information to them on positive parenting.

#### **Step 4. Advising the Minister and Ministerial decision**

When giving advice and making recommendations to the Minister, consider:

- The ways in which the piece of work helps to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?
- Has any conflict with the UNCRC articles within the proposal been identified?
- Consider the wider impact; does the proposal affect any other policy areas?
- With regard to any negative impacts caused by the proposal; can Ministers evidence that they have allocated as much resources as possible?
- What options and advice should be provided to Ministers on the proposal?
- In relation to your advice on whether or not to proceed with the piece of work, is there any additional advice you should provide to the Minister?
- Is it appropriate to advise the Minister to reconsider the decision in the future, in particular bearing in mind the availability of resources at this time and what resources may be available in the future?
- Have you provided advice to Ministers on a LF/SF and confirmed paragraph 26?
- Is the advice supported by an explanation of the key issues?

#### **Advice to Minister**

Although parents have some access to universal parenting support delivered by partners in local government, health and education, services are primarily provided through our anti-poverty

programmes – Flying Start, Families First and Communities First. In his Annual Report (2013-14) the Children’s Commissioner for Wales expressed concern all parents and carers should have access to universal parenting support.

Targeting parenting support to families living in deprivation or to families assessed by professionals to have problems may attract stigma, which could affect parents’ readiness to engage. A targeted approach to parenting support also does not contribute to a culture where parenting is seen as a learned skill everyone can acquire and benefit from.

It is important for parents to receive consistent messages on the key aspects of good, positive parenting from a range of sources. Non-statutory guidance, "Parenting in Wales: Guidance on engagement and support" sets out the Welsh Government's expectations on how parenting support should be provided. The guidance is intended to inform the decisions made by those delivering and commissioning parenting services. It contains a firm expectation for positive parenting principles to be promoted actively and consistently.

Research we commissioned last year has provided us with insights into attitudes in Wales to child discipline. It has contributed to our knowledge of different discipline strategies parents use and their information needs. The research highlights the potential to build on parents' existing skills in order to reinforce the effectiveness of the positive strategies they already use.

Evidence suggests attitudes towards parenting and physical discipline could be influenced by a national social marketing campaign. Lessons can be learned from the implementation of various social marketing campaigns in the UK and internationally. The success of these campaigns depended on having clear, consistent and positive messages promoted through a number of media communication methods.

To take forward the Programme for Government and manifesto commitment on positive parenting, the Minister was advised to consider funding a social marketing campaign and funding research with children and parents on attitudes to physical punishment and parenting practices.

No advice was given on legislation as the Welsh Government has no mandate to legislate on this issue as it was not part of the Government’s manifesto and does not feature in the legislative programme.

The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty has given agreement for the campaign in SF/LG/1589/15

## **Step 5. Recording and communicating the outcome**

**Final version to be retained on i-share**

Evidence should be retained that supports:

- How the duty has been complied with **(Steps 1-3 above)**
- The analysis that was carried out **(Steps 1-3 above)**
- The options that were developed and explored **(Steps 1- 3 above)**
- How have the findings / outcomes been communicated? **(Step 4 above)**
- ‘Tells the story’ of how the assessment has been undertaken and the results **(Step 4 above)**

### Step 6. Revisiting the piece of work as and when needed

In revisiting the piece of work, consider any monitoring, evaluation or data collection that has been undertaken:

- Has your piece of work has had the intended impact as set out in Step 2.
- Have you engaged with stakeholders to discuss how the policy or practice is working.
- If not, are changes required.
- Identify where improvements can be made to reduce any negative impact.
- Identify any opportunities to promote children’s rights, bearing in mind any additional availability of resources at this time.

#### Reviewing intended impact:

We will do this on a number of levels:

- The research activity described earlier will explore attitudes to physical punishment and parenting practices amongst parents in the target group prior to and later in the campaign.

**Review date:** research conducted prior to campaign – follow up research – date tbc

- We will be measuring traffic and engagement on social media and our dedicated website.

**Review date:** Initially monthly and thereafter bi-monthly

- The media agency, engaged to support delivery of the campaign, will monitor the effectiveness of the various media channels used to promote the campaign messages

**Review date:** The media agency will provide regular updates, which will be reviewed

#### Engagement with stakeholders to discuss how the policy or practice is working

Engagement will take place through the following activities:

- presentations to national networks, forums, meetings, conferences and events;
- articles in external Newsletters or briefings;
- meetings with key individuals

The working links with key relevant organisations, already established, will be maintained. These include regular attendance at

- All Wales Health Visiting Forum;
- FIS Network;
- North Wales Families First Parenting Learning Set; and
- National Parenting Coordinators Network.

#### Budgets

**As a result of completing the CRIA, has there been any impact on budgets?**


It is important that where any changes are made to spending plans, including where additional allocations have been made, that this has been assessed and evidenced as part of the CRIA process.

**No**

Please give any details:

**Monitoring & Review**

|                                                     |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Do we need to monitor / review the proposal?</b> | <b>Yes /</b>                             |
| <b>If applicable: set the review date</b>           | <b>Month / Year</b><br><b>March 2016</b> |



**See next page for a  
Summary List of the  
UNCRC articles**

# THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

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The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international agreement that protects the human rights of the children under the age of 18. On 16 December 1991, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland formally agreed to make sure that every child in the UK has all the rights as listed in the convention. The Welsh Government has shown its commitment to the convention by adopting it as the basis for policy making for children in Wales.

Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments should work together to make sure all children are entitled to their rights. The information contained here is about articles 1-42 which set out how children should be treated.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

## Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

## Article 2

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.

## Article 3

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

## Article 4

Governments should make these rights available to children.

## Article 5

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

## Article 6

All children have the right of life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

## Article 7

All children have the right to a legally registered name, the right to a nationality and the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

## Article 8

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

## Article 9

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good, for example if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.

## Article 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or get back together as a family.

## Article 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

## Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making

decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

## Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

## Article 14

Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

## Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

## Article 16

Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

## Article 17

Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

## Article 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

## Article 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

## Article 20

Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

## Article 21

When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born or taken to live in another country.

## Article 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

## Article 23

Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives.

## Article 24

Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 25

Children who are looked after by their local authority rather than their parents should have their situation reviewed regularly.

## Article 26

The Government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

## Article 27

Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

## Article 28

Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

## Article 30

Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

## Article 31

All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

## Article 32

The Government should protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or their education.

## Article 33

The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.

## Article 34

The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.

## Article 35

The Government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.

## Article 36

Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

## Article 37

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their families.

## Article 38

Governments should not allow children under 15 to join the army. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

## Article 39

Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self respect.

## Article 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences.

## Article 41

If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws should stay.

## Article 42

The Government should make the Convention known to all parents and children.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC Website: [www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/)

Cic - The National Information and Advice Service for Young People [www.ciconline.co.uk/news/](http://www.ciconline.co.uk/news/)



## Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Template

|                                               |                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title / Piece of work:</b>                 | Children and Families Delivery Grant                                                                          |
| <b>Related SF / LF number (if applicable)</b> | SF-JC0456-14 Replacement for the Children and Families Organisation Grant: Children and Family Delivery Grant |
| <b>Name of Official:</b>                      | Robert Edwards                                                                                                |
| <b>Department:</b>                            | Children Young People and Families Division.                                                                  |
| <b>Date:</b>                                  | 24 March 2014                                                                                                 |
| <b>Signature:</b>                             |                                                                                                               |

Please complete the CRIA and retain it for your records on iShare. You may be asked to provide this document at a later stage to evidence that you have complied with the duty to have due regard to children's rights e.g. Freedom of Information access requests, monitoring purposes or to inform reporting to the NAFW.

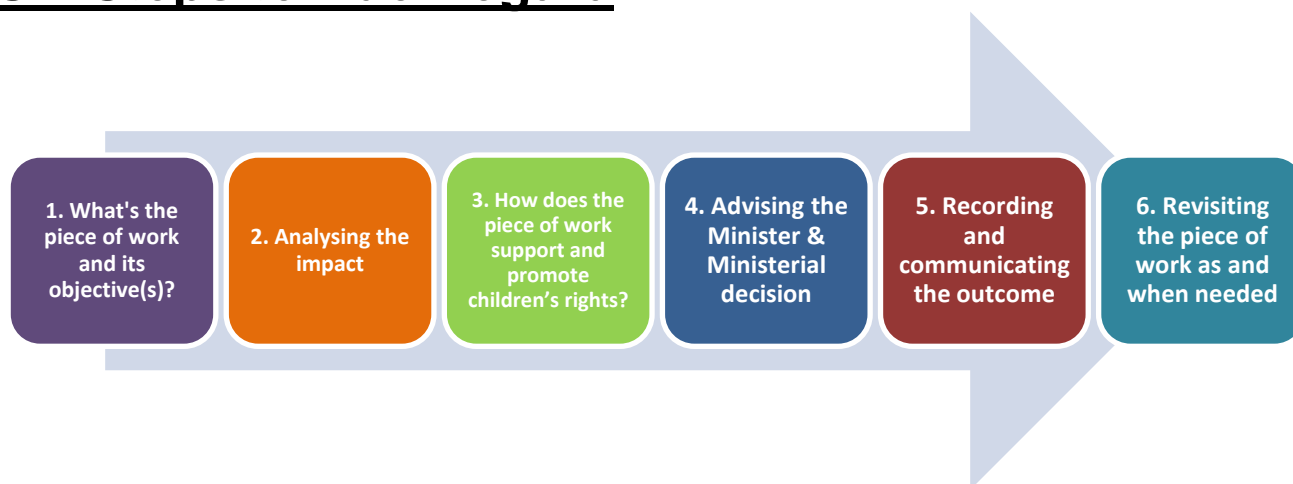
Upon completion you should also forward a copy of the CRIA to the Measure Implementation Team for monitoring purposes using the dedicated mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

If officials are not sure about whether to complete a CRIA, they should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Measure Implementation Team by forwarding any questions to our mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

You may wish to cross-reference with other Impact Assessments undertaken.

**NB.** All CRIAs undertaken on legislation must be published. All non-legislative CRIAs will be listed on the WG website and must be made available upon request. Ministers are however, encouraged to publish all completed CRIAs.

## Six Steps to Due Regard



### Step 1. What's the piece of work and its objective(s)?

The Children and Families Delivery Grant (CFDG) will replace the current Children and Family Organisation Grant (CFOG).

An independent review in 2011 of the CFOG Family Support and Childcare and Play strands considered that too many organisations were funded through the grant. The report also considered that monitoring arrangements by the Welsh Government were weak and relationships insufficiently dynamic. Following further consultation with stakeholders a decision was reached to move to a more delivery focussed funding model.

The grant, to Third Sector organisations, will be to drive outcomes in five specific priority areas that complement and add value to the Welsh Government's Family Support agenda. The grant will support families in practical, measurable ways, with a strong emphasis on outcomes that will directly impact on children through its focus on participation and engagement, childcare, policy and play.

The CFDG will commence 1 October 2014 and run for 36 months. Funding will be £2.8 million per 12- month period. The intention is to award 5 grants to address each of the following 5 stated priorities:

- Families across Wales can access affordable, quality **childcare**;
- Increased opportunities for children in Wales to **play**;
- Families are **informed** about financial and other practical support that builds resilience;
- 'Seldom heard' families are **engaged** and access programmes, support and services; and
- Policy and strategic development in relation to Children, Young People and Families is supported and systemic opportunities for Children and Young People to participate in decisions that affect them and have their **voices heard** is increased.

### Step 2. Analysing the impact

The Children and Families Delivery Grant is specifically about better outcomes for children, young people and their families. It is about ensuring delivery on the ground that will be seen and felt. The Minister is clear that all grant activity must be able to evidence that its delivery is making a positive difference to those it intends to affect.

Each application for funding will include a section which outlines the arrangements for monitoring and reporting within the project. The Welsh Government is recommending a Results Based Accountability approach to this activity. Applicants will be expected to outline how they intend to monitor progress of the project and respond to unexpected problems, provide details of milestones and timescales and project tolerances. As part of this requirement applicants will be required to state how they will measure the achievements of the project. They will be required to include details of proposed surveys and research activities and whether or not they will be carried out by independent assessors.

Successful applicants will be expected to submit a quarterly grant claim form which will include a requirement to report progress against agreed outputs. Annual progress reports will also be required.

At project end applicants will be required to evaluate the actual impact and outcomes of their project in accordance with the methodology outlined in their application. This will include the requirement to submit an evaluation report to the Welsh Government within 6 months of the end of the project.

The collaborative approach that this grant encourages is intended to provide children, young people and families with a more coherent service through organisations working together move from focussing on services and process to focussing on delivery.

### Step 3. How does your piece of work support and promote children's rights?

Every priority area of this grant is intended to further children's rights. The grant focusses on making rights a reality for many children, young people and families. The range of activities which could be covered by the grant is potentially wide. Successful applications could include projects which range from the provision of high level over arching services to the sector as whole to on the ground delivery of services directly to children and their families.

The Grant focusses on supporting the following UNCRC Articles/themes:

**Article 3.** The success of the programme will be monitored closely and evaluated with a primary focus being the best interests of children and young people. The measurement of Outcomes and impact is an integral part of the grant programme.

**Article 5.** Provide Parenting activities so parents learn how to bring their children up in a structured and supportive environment.

**Article 6.** The programme will potentially support Health Visitor activities with the flying Start programme. This will increase the likelihood of children surviving through the identification of domestic risk and help ensure they grow up healthy.

**Article 12.** Provide child advocacy services to ensure children's voices are heard.

**Article 18.** Support programmes that help both parents have input into the development of their children, Whether the parents are together or living separately.

**Article 24.** Increased Health care through support for the Flying Start enhanced health visitor service.



**Article 26.** The primary aim of the programme is to tackle poverty using an early intervention model wherever possible. £8.4million is being made available across a 36 month period to support the aims of the grant.

**Article 29.** Language and Play are essential components of divisional activities. The new grant can provide additional support in this area. Early interventions allow the child to develop both in terms of their personality and linguistic abilities making them more sociable and amenable to engaging more closely with the education system.

**Article 31.** Play activities are eligible for funding under the CFDG .

Priority area 5 is specifically intended to attract proposals that increase and realise opportunities for children and young people in Wales to have their voices heard (article 12). The following eligible activity was identified in the application guidance:

- enabling children and young people to have a voice in the workings and developments of the Welsh Government;
- the collective voices of children and young people from local forums are heard nationally by Ministers;
- ensuring that children and young people, and those who work with them, are aware of children's right to participation as set out in the UNCRC; and
- promotion of meaningful and effective participation through the sharing of good practice.

The range of activities which could be covered by the grant is potentially wide. Successful applications could include projects which range from the provision of high level over arching services to the sector as whole to on the ground delivery of services directly to children and their families.

#### **Step 4. Advising the Minister and Ministerial decision**

Ministerial advice was provided under submission:

SF-JC0456-14 Replacement for the Children and Family Organisation Grant. - Children and Family Delivery Grant

The Minister has approved the recommendation of the submission.

#### **Step 5. Recording and communicating the outcome**

**Final version to be retained on i-share**

Documentation relating to the development of the grant can be found on iShare under reference: zA745098.

### Step 6. Revisiting the piece of work as and when needed

The grant commences October 2014 following a grant assessment panel in June 2014. Reviews of the programme will take place on an annual basis and reviews of project progress on a quarterly basis. Each successful applicant will be assigned an account manager to monitor progress.

#### Budgets

##### As a result of completing the CRIA, has there been any impact on budgets?

It is important that where any changes are made to spending plans, including where additional allocations have been made, that this has been assessed and evidenced as part of the CRIA process.

Yes

##### Please give any details:

Tackling Poverty Budgets are expected to increase over the 3 year life span of the new grant. There will however be some adjustment of priorities within the main funding Programmes to accommodate changing priorities. The CFDG budget will be similar to the current CFOG grant which it replaces with an annual budget of approx. £2.8m available to support the funded projects.

#### Monitoring & Review

##### Do we need to monitor / review the proposal?

No

##### If applicable: set the review date

See next page for a  
Summary List of the  
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## Article 42

The Government should make the Convention known to all parents and children.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC Website: [www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/)

Cic - The National Information and Advice Service for Young People [www.ciconline.co.uk/news/](http://www.ciconline.co.uk/news/)

# Agenda Item 3

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

Document is Restricted

## **Children, Young People and Education Committee**

**From: Welsh Government**

**Date: 8 November 2017**

**Venue: Senedd Cardiff Bay**

**Title: Scrutiny of Draft Budget 2018-19**

### **1. Purpose**

The Committee's Chair wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Health Well-being & Sport on 3rd August inviting him and the Minister for Social Services and Public Health to give evidence on their Draft budget proposals to the Committee and asking for a paper in respect of children's health and social services within the Health, Well-being and Sport Main (HW&S) Expenditure Group (MEG) which falls within the remit of the Children, Young People and Education Committee (CYP&E).

### **2. Introduction**

The Draft Budget process is now in two stages. The outline budget (Stage 1) was published on 3rd October 2017, and the detailed budget (Stage 2) on 24 October. The outline budget focuses on the overall fiscal envelope for Welsh Government and the main MEG level allocations, while the detailed budget covers the Budget Expenditure Level (BEL) spending plans within each MEG.

This paper provides information for the CYP&E Committee on the Health, Well-being and Sport (HW&S) Main Expenditure Group (MEG) future budget proposals for 2018-19 and also provides an update on specific areas of interest to the Committee.

### **3. Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations**

The detailed Draft Budget published on 24<sup>th</sup> October set out the spending plans by BEL for the HW&S MEG for 2018-19 and future years. Children's and young person's expenditure occurs across a range of budgets within the HW&S MEG. Local authorities receive funding in their revenue settlement from the Local Government MEG to deliver on their children and family services.

NHS service provision in relation to children, children's medical conditions and general health of children is funded primarily through the annual revenue allocations to health boards. Given the universal nature of health services, planned spending is not routinely identified by age category. However, a proportion of NHS spend will be funding services provided to children. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee will scrutinise budget plans for all planned NHS spending.

### **4. Legislation**

We are allocating the following funding in respect of relevant legislation.

#### **Social Services & Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014**

In 2018-19 up to £0.2 million is being retained in BEL 0920 Sustainable Social Services to support national activity to ensure consistent approaches to common processes across the regions delivering duties under the Act (e.g. performance management, new approaches of practice) and facilitate third sector engagement, whilst £2.8 million of recurrent funding was transferred to the Revenue Support Grant with effect from 2017-18 to support delivery through regional partnership boards.

#### **Regulation & Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016**

The Regulation and Inspection of Social Care Wales Act 2016 received Royal Assent on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016. As announced in the last administration, the service regulations under the Act are being developed in three phases with Phase 1 and 2 expected to come into force from April 2018 with the expectation that the Act will be fully implemented by April 2019. It is forecast that the transitional costs for CSSIW related to implementation of the Act during 2018-19 will be in the region of £1.5 million which are in BEL 0920 Sustainable Social Services.

#### **Public Health (Wales) Act 2017**

Following Royal Assent in July this year, £0.728 million has been included within the Health Improvement and Inequalities BEL (0231), to support the implementation of the Public Health (Wales) Act during 2018-19 (this excludes funding for the pharmacy provisions which is covered under NHS Primary Care BEL (0180)). This will support a range of activity, including the preparation of and consultation on subordinate legislation, as well as training and communications. A number of the policies to be implemented under the Act will directly benefit children and young people, including the development of a national obesity strategy, restrictions on smoking in school grounds and public playgrounds, and preventing the intimate piercing of children. Implementation will then continue beyond the 2018-19 financial year, corresponding with the coming into force arrangements for different aspects of the Act.

### **5. Children's Rights and Equalities**

#### **Impact Assessments**

We have not undertaken a specific Child Rights Impact Assessment on the budget changes for the HW&S portfolio. It will be for NHS organisations to undertake local CRIAs when developing their detailed medium term plans taking account of the additional investment provided in this budget.

#### **Equalities, sustainability and the Welsh Language**

All programme publications and promotional materials we produce are printed bilingually, all services to families are provided bilingually and all of our social

media communications are posted bilingually. NHS organisations are also covered by Welsh Language Standards.

We cover issues of equality and prevention later in this paper.

### **Wellbeing and Future Generations Act**

The First Minister published 'Prosperity for all – the national strategy' in September. It sets the aims of this Government and provides clarity about how we want Government and delivery partners to be part of a new approach to delivering priorities. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 supports the Welsh Government and delivery partners in making these important changes to the way we work.

The strategy sets out 12 revised well-being objectives and the steps we propose to take to meet them. Together with the well-being statement published alongside the strategy, these objectives set out the areas where the Welsh Government can make the greatest contribution to the seven well-being goals for Wales and provide the basis for strong partnerships with others.

By continuing to increase our investment in NHS Wales, the Welsh Government is taking account of the Act in terms of ensuring the long term sustainability of health services. Within our portfolio, we have used the Act as a basis to protect our investment in Public Health Wales NHS Trust, to support our continued ambition to shift the focus towards prevention, and to increase our investment in education and training of the health and care workforce, to ensure we have a workforce fit for the long term.

- We have used the prevention way of working to influence specific budget allocations for children and young people. Two examples are as follows: Investing in prevention of avoidable diseases through expanding the children's flu vaccination programme by an additional school year in 2017-18, and then accelerating the roll out to all primary school children in 2018-19. This is expected to significantly lower the public health impact of flu by preventing a large number of cases of disease in immunised children as well as in unvaccinated infants and older people in clinical risk groups through reduced circulation and transmission of flu.
- Health & Social Services and Education are investing in a cross cutting initiative to pilot the provision of mental health in-reach support for children in school settings. £1.4 million is being jointly invested in three pilots that will run from 2017-18 to 2019-20; one in North East Wales, one between North Gwent and South Powys and one in West Wales. The pilot schemes will test approaches on early identification and intervention for children with emotional and mental health problems. There will also be funding to support a national coordinator to support the pilots. The contribution from the Health & Social Services MEG for 2018-19 will be £0.229 million.

## **6. Other Information**

### **Value for Money**

Evaluation takes place as part of normal grant and project management activities. Where we directly fund Third Sector organisations, my officials undertake due diligence before a grant is awarded and then regularly review during the life of the project before payments are made. In relation to funding to health boards, we will continue to monitor performance, assess outcomes and drive the future improvement and delivery including value for money through the NHS Delivery Framework.

### **Implications of UK exit from the EU.**

The Welsh Government established a specific team to co-ordinate European Transition issues, which is working closely with the existing team in Brussels and policy departments, including those in our portfolio. While there is a limited direct impact from EU exit on our portfolio programmes, we are working with the NHS to continue to consider the impact of Brexit proposals as they develop and employers are working in the wider UK Cavendish coalition to both assess impact and influence the UK Government on these issues.

## **7. Specific Areas**

### **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services**

CAMHS funding sits within the overall mental health ring-fence allocation to health boards, which is £629 million in 2017-18. In line with the Budget Agreement with Plaid Cymru, a further £20 million will be invested in ring-fenced mental health services in 2018-19. It is for health boards to ensure expenditure is in line with the needs of their population. In 2016-17 we have invested recurrently approximately £8 million new funding into CAMHS. We do not collect data on the split of CAMHS expenditure by individual Tier of provision. Data across all CAMHS services shows expenditure of £45.8 million in 2015-16, the most recent available data. This is up from £41.3 million in 2014-15. We would expect to see this figure to rise considerably in subsequent years in line with this additional investment.

### **Together for Children and Young People programme**

Our additional £8 million investment in CAMHS compliments and enables the work of the programme to be embedded across CAMHS services. We would expect the financial implications of the programme to be cost neutral or even generate efficiencies which can be reinvested back into CAMHS, as the Programme is about ensuring the existing system works better for young people. For example reducing inappropriate referrals brings efficiencies, as not only are these referrals not in the interests of the young person, but they take up valuable clinical assessment time, time which should be spent



working with those young people with the greatest need of a specialist mental health service.

In 2017-18 we have provided some further financial support to ensure the programme progresses. This includes £0.135 million to fund the post of National Director of Mental Health, who also fulfils the role of Together for Children and Young People Programme Lead. We have also provided funding of £0.056 million to provide some dedicated administrative support to the post holder specifically in relation to their Programme Lead role.

### **NHS spend on CAMHS**

We do not specify the proportion of overall NHS revenue funding that health boards should spend on CAMHS services. We are investing a further £20 million in ring-fenced mental health services in 2018-19, and we will expect health boards to invest this funding in meeting our priorities including in CAMHS services.

### **The percentage of Local Health Board mental health spending allocated for CAMHS since September 2015.**

Figures from StatsWales show that during 2015-16 (the latest available figures) total expenditure on mental health was £683 million, comprised of CAMHS, general, elderly and other mental health. CAMHS expenditure accounted for approximately 7% of this total (£46 million). However, there will also be elements of CAMHS expenditure in general and other mental health as these headings would encompass primary mental health services, etc. It is also not a like for like comparison, comparing expenditure on CAMHS with other areas of mental health given the nature of the illnesses and differences in treatment. Adults and older people tend to have more enduring conditions, which require expensive hospitalisation more regularly and for longer periods. Our priority in CAMHS has been that hospitalisation should always be the last resort, which is why health boards have invested in community treatment teams. This means many more young people are treated in the community without requiring admission and facilitating a reduction in costly out of area placements.

### **Whether the additional, almost £8 million, invested in CAMHS will continue to be allocated on an ongoing annual basis.**

Yes this has been a clear commitment. Funding has now been incorporated within health board main allocations and we continue to monitor health boards implementation of this funding.

**An update on the actual expenditure on CAMHS, both the outturns for 2017-18 and predicted spend for 2018-19, broken down by Tier and/or government priorities such as neuro-developmental services, crisis CAMHS response, access to psychological therapies, local primary mental health support services, provision for those children and young**

**people in the criminal justice system and young people who have an early onset of a severe illness, such as psychosis.**

This information is not available at the individual Tier level, as detailed above. In relation to the government priorities listed these formed the additional annual new investment in CAMHS announced during 2015-16. This funding has been incorporated within health board main allocations for the current year and forms the minimum level of spend health boards should provide and forms part of the protected ring-fence of mental health funding. This funding was broken down into the following priorities:

- £2.7 million to develop crisis intervention teams
- £2 million to develop new neurodevelopmental services
- £1.1 million to expand provision for psychological therapies
- £0.800 million to improve children's local primary mental health support
- £0.800 million to develop early intervention in psychosis teams and a further £0.318 million for third sector support workers
- £0.250 million to improve provision for those in the youth justice system

**Any additional, discretionary monies (a) budgeted for and (b) spent on child, adolescent and young adult mental health.**

The Committee will be aware that in recent weeks we have made some important announcements on new funding for mental health including:

- Meeting a key priority in Prosperity for All Welsh Government announced in September £1.4 million over the period 2017-18 to 2020-21 to fund pilots in north, south and west Wales. These will provide dedicated mental health in-reach support to schools, focusing on secondary schools and year six feeder primary schools in Wrexham; Denbigh; Torfaen; Blaenau Gwent; south Powys; and Ceredigion. The pilots will seek to improve the emotional resilience of children, identify children requiring more targeted interventions, signposting them in a timely manner to an appropriate provider. They will also support teachers, within their competence, in becoming more confident in identifying and dealing with issues before they escalate.
- an additional £0.500 million recurrent funding to improve the provision of eating disorder services. The focus of this funding is on strengthening the transition of young people from CAMHS to adult services, enabling CAMHS and adult services to work more closely together to meet the needs of the young person and to enable adult services to develop proven models of delivery which are commonly used in CAMHS.

- From 2018-19 we also propose additional funding, in line with the budget agreement with Plaid Cymru to increase the mental health ring-fence by £40 million over the next two years, to further strengthen mental health provision, including provision for children and young people with over £1 million new funding to further support the delivery of key priorities and the Together for Children and Young People Programme. Over the course of the next few months we will work with health boards and other stakeholders to see how this funding can be used to best effect and will make formal announcements in due course.

**How expenditure on CAMHS is being tracked by the Welsh Government and the processes in place to hold Local Health Boards to account for ensuring health board expenditure is in line with the needs of their population requiring CAMHS services and the additional investment in CAMHS since 2015-16.**

Any investment in CAMHS needs to be evidenced through improved service performance and provision. I am pleased that this has been the case in relation to CAMHS. We now have new services in place such as neurodevelopmental teams where there was previously no, or poor, service provision. We also have new crisis teams working extended hours during the week and with availability at the weekend where there was previously none. We are also seeing the benefits in terms of CAMHS performance and waiting times.

We continue to track health boards implementation of the additional funding announced for CAMHS in recent years and more generally ensure CAMHS performance is kept under scrutiny as part of general NHS performance monitoring arrangements.

**Local authorities spend on mental health services to support children, young people and young adults.**

Figures from StatsWales indicate that local authorities spent £577 million on social services for children and families in 2016-17. We do not have a further breakdown of this funding to identify the amount they spent on mental health services for children, young people and young adults. We know emotional and mental health support is provided across a range of organisation and settings. These include what we would class as clear emotional and mental health support, such as that provided by school counselling services and the £1.4 million the Cabinet Secretary for Education and I recently agreed to invest in schools mental health in-reach support.

However, it also encompasses a range of other support to children provided on a daily basis by teachers, youth workers, social workers and other professionals which all contribute to emotional wellbeing in some way. For instance having access to self-help books in libraries as part of our 'Better With Books' scheme, helps families and children understand emotional issues around bullying, bereavement, exam stress, etc. Equally the support and care

teachers provide to their pupils was highlighted in the 2016 'Making Sense' report by CAMHS service users, which stated that 39% would prefer to seek help and support from a trusted teacher. These types of intervention provide invaluable support to families and children but are impossible to quantify in financial terms.

## **ACEs**

The Welsh Government has agreed in principle to commit to funding of £1.2 million over three years (2017 – 2020) to help resource the Wales ACE Prevention and Support Hub proposed as one of the first three programmes of work to be taken forward by Cymru Well Wales. This hub would be the centre of knowledge, evidence and expertise on ACEs for Wales. It would increase understanding of ACEs, as well as support and inspire individuals, communities and organisations to learn about ACEs and change their thinking and behaviour. This funding comes from several different cabinet portfolios, predominantly the Communities and Children, Education, Public Health and Social Services portfolios.

Public Health Wales has a budget of £0.143 million for its 1,000 Days work.

## **Child Health budgets**

I have agreed to release programme funding of £0.168 million for a 3 year post to support the development of child health policies. The programme funding was requested to provide a dedicated resource to deliver child health policies, including work streams of the Healthy Child Wales Programme, developing a Children's Health Plan and leading on gynaecology policy.

Health boards report on an annual basis to Welsh government on breastfeeding rates within maternity care and how they are working to support this, including specialist midwives and peer support programmes. Data on breastfeeding rates is also collected as part of the Healthy Child Wales Programme. Breastfeeding rates have remained static generally in Wales and in response the Cabinet secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport has requested a review of breastfeeding strategic direction. In conjunction with the Royal College of Midwives, Public Health Wales and Welsh Government currently have a task and finish group reviewing best practice and future direction for Wales. The group will report recommendations early in 2018.

Additionally, all maternity units in Wales currently have the UNICEF Baby Friendly Award (which emphasises protecting, promoting & supporting breastfeeding) and meet their standards.

## **Healthy Child Wales Programme**

The HCWP is included in Taking Wales Forward and was launched in October 2016. It sets out a universal set of planned contacts children and their families can expect from their health boards from maternity service handover

to the first years of schooling (0-7 years). These universal contacts cover three areas of intervention: screening; immunisation; and monitoring and supporting child development.

Health boards currently offer different contacts to families and are working towards providing the universal schedule contacts set out in the HCWP. The programme must be fully implemented across all health boards within 2 years, by October 2018.

The HCWP is a service led reconfiguration Programme supported by the Welsh Government and there are no direct financial costs to the WG as a result of developing/implementing the programme itself, although there are costs attendant on the evaluation of the programme.

The HCWP has a two phased process evaluation, which will include evaluating implementation progress against the programme and ensuring delivery is consistent across Wales:

- First phase- to be undertaken one year into the implementation period, (October 2017); and
- Second phase- to be undertaken at the end of the implementation period, (October 2018).

### **Perinatal and maternal mental health**

Community perinatal mental health teams, now established within every health board, receive £1.5 million each year and act as the main source of support for mothers with maternal mental health issues.

The 'Two in Mind' project, delivered by Mind Cymru, will receive £15,720 in 2017-18 for the last stage of the project.

The budget for 2018-19 will be £1.5 million for community perinatal mental health services across every health board in Wales. The majority of this funding is contained within the ring fenced allocation for mental health. This does not include funding for specialist inpatient care, which is commissioned by WHSSC on behalf of the LHBs.

The projected budget for 2019-20 and 2020-21 is £1.5 million for community services, though health boards may add to this from their ring-fenced mental health budget.

### **Neonatal services**

Health board neonatal services are funded through the annual discretionary revenue allocation and health boards will set out their local priorities with regards to neonatal services in their Integrated Medium Term Plans (IMTP), which will also detail their neonatal budget allocation to WHSSC for 2018-19. WHSSC manages the majority of the health boards' budget for commissioning Neonatal Intensive Care (Level 4) and Neonatal High Dependency (Level 3)

services. The Special Care Baby Unit budget is managed by the Health Boards.

In terms of capital, budget allocations for neonatal for 2017-18 & 2018-19 are £33.396 million and £9.407 million respectively. The Welsh Government announced capital funding of £11.156 million (17-18) to support additional capacity and improvements in neonatal facilities in North Wales. The Sub Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Centre in Ysbyty Glan Clwyd will provide the best possible standards of care and clinical outcomes for mothers and their babies across North Wales, centralising intensive care at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd.

The South Wales Programme sets out the future provision of obstetric, paediatric and neonatal services across South Wales hospitals. The Welsh Government has received individual business cases from health boards to take forward the South Wales Programme. Capital proposals of £15.935 million (17-18) and £7.772 million (18-19) has been approved for additional capacity and improvements in neonatal and obstetric facilities at the University Hospital Wales in Cardiff and £6.305 million (17-18) for Cwm Taf Health Board for the delivery of remodelled services at Prince Charles Hospital.

Priorities for Neonatal services over the next 12 months include working with the Neonatal Network to secure a 24hr transport, 7 day a week neonatal transport service across South Wales and ensure that the correct critical care capacity is in place across South Wales. I also expect Health Boards to work with Neonatal Network to ensure their neonatal service plans are sufficiently robust to achieve the all Wales Neonatal Standards and improvements across the service.

From the NHS programme budgeting expenditure analysis for 2015-16 shows that £63.6 million was spent on treatment on neonatal services.

**How expenditure on neonatal services is tracked by the Welsh Government and the processes in place to hold local Health Boards to account for ensuring that neonatal services have the funding and staffing they need to meet national standards.**

I expect health boards to deliver safe and sustainable neonatal services, supported by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) and the Neonatal Network.

The Wales Neonatal Network oversees neonatal care against the All Wales Neonatal Standards and ensures regular monitoring of progress to full compliance. The Network has recently been moved into the NHS Collaborative, hosted by Public Health Wales and provides evidence based timely advice to Health Boards, Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee and Welsh Government in relation to neonatal services.

The Neonatal Network has recently revised the Neonatal standards. The standards use the most up to date evidence and best practice guidelines to make them clinically and operationally relevant. They are influenced by neonatal developments across the United Kingdom and take into account recommendations by the British Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM), the National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP), the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health (RCPCH) Bliss and other standards published in England and Scotland.

The Standards includes the requirement for Health Boards to assess against the most recent BAPM quality indicators. Health Boards will be asked to self assess annually against the Standards, which will form part of the peer review process currently in development at the NHS Wales Health Collaborative.

The Neonatal Network are developing a dashboard that will provide evidence of compliance to the new standards (including staff compliance and cot capacity); provide assurance on the quality of neonatal services in Wales; provide a platform for monitoring the NNAP measures on an all Wales basis; and support Welsh Government business requests for information on the provision of neonatal services.

### **Child health inequalities**

The Well-being of Future Generations Act has placed a more equal Wales as a goal of all public services. Action to tackle inequalities is a feature of a range of Government commitments, including employment programmes, quality housing and access to childcare.

We continue to take action across Government to create a more equal society and to tackle inequalities in health. This includes the provision of universal access to 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.

A focus on tackling inequalities will continue to be integral to a range of policies and programmes relevant to children. For example, in the case of immunisation programmes we look to Public Health Wales and Health Boards to ensure a strong focus on tackling inequalities in uptake in those programmes. However, spend on tackling inequalities specifically is not separate from the broader programme spend. In the case of planning, we expect Health Boards to demonstrate that appropriate action is being taken to address health inequalities through their Integrated Medium Term Plans.

Ensuring children have the best start in life is a key component of efforts to reduce inequalities. The NHS is responding to that in a number of ways. For example, through the introduction of the Healthy Child Wales Programme, we aim to ensure that inequalities linked to poor child health are further reduced by ensuring that we deliver a universal service to all children in Wales, with additional support provided in response to identified need. We also continue

to provide support for work on Adverse Childhood Experiences, and to support a shift to primary and community care.

We are also working across a range of agendas with a view to supporting a health in all policies approach. This includes education and skills, where there is significant potential for the new curriculum, and the role and culture of schools, to improve health literacy and support healthier lifestyles for children; and the early years, where the focus needs to be joining up agendas so there is an integrated offer of support for the public.

### **School nursing framework**

The allocated budget for the year 2017-18 is £18,500 across two work streams linking both school nursing and health visiting, contained within the Health Improvement & Healthy Working BEL. The first work stream aims to co-produce, with health visitors, national service performance indicators and develop a monitoring process to provide assurance and monitor best practice across the universal early years health service offer to families. The second work stream plans to scope current early years workers across statutory bodies and propose future development to support a team around child health provision both within health visiting and school nursing teams.

In 2014-15, £13,512 was allocated. This was split between: £3,180 on a conference event with school nurses from across Wales to scope what should go in the new school nursing framework; and £10,332 was spent on a part time project lead to develop a service model to address the health needs of children and young people in special schools. This 12 month project was run in three special schools in the ABMU Health Board catchment area.

In 2015-16 £33,000 was allocated of this; £28,801 was spent to support leadership development of school nurses in each health board and undertake work to develop the revised framework. In 2016-17 £19,000 was allocated, of which 16,976.00 was spent to progress leadership development programmes. This included stakeholder forums and leadership events to ensure effective rollout and sustainability of the framework with the final launch event in May of 2017. The under spend in 2015-16 and 2016-17 was due to costs being lower than expected.

No additional cost implications are anticipated regarding the revised 2017 'Supporting Learners with Healthcare Needs' statutory guidance, as it provides guidance around existing legal duties. Therefore the support provided to learners with healthcare needs should have already been in place. The guidance is about improving the planning and processes around this.

### **Support for disabled children and the Family Fund**

The Welsh Government directly, and indirectly, supports a number of organisations providing support for disabled children. Within the HW&S portfolio from April 2016 a new three year grant, the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector grant, was introduced to support implementation of the



Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Nearly £22 million of grant funding was awarded to 32 organisations and projects which support children, young people and their families, looked after children and care leavers, older people, people with learning disabilities and autism, people with physical and/or sensory disabilities and carers. Applications for the grant were carefully considered as part of a competitive process matching applications to the advertised grant funding criteria and policy priorities. To ensure there was equity across sectors, the maximum award made to any organisation was £1.5 million over three years, representing 10% of the total funding available.

The Sustainable Social Services Third Sector grant is monitored through reporting of progress and face to face review at mid year and end year of annually agreed work plans which set out key performance indicators and outcomes for each funded project.

As part of the three year Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant, the Family Fund has been awarded £1.5 million in the three years 2016-19. The grant funding has been awarded to all grant recipients on the basis of a 5% year on year reduction, the award in the three years 2016-17 to 2018-19 is:

- 2016-17 £0.526 million
- 2017-18 £0.499 million
- 2018-19 £0.475 million

In addition in 2016-17 transitional funding of £0.400million was awarded to Family Fund to enable them to manage transition to the new grant arrangements, to help them refocus their grant making model and seek alternative funding sources. The Family Fund Trust claimed all awarded grant funding in 2016-17 and are projecting full spend against the 2017-18 award.

## **Prevention**

### **Immunisation**

Immunisation is an important prevention measure and remains one of the most cost effective health interventions. Ongoing support for the costs of our immunisation programme is a key area of the budget and we continue to respond to advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the cost effectiveness of new and existing national immunisation programmes.

Since 2013, a number of new childhood immunisation programmes have been introduced. and changes made to existing programmes. We have allocated additional funding to Health Boards each year. In 2018-19 the children's flu programme will be expanded to include primary school years five and six. This will take the total expected spend in 2018-19 to £16 million. New programmes include rotavirus for infants, whooping cough for pregnant women to protect their new born infants, the childhood flu programme, meningitis B and meningitis ACWY. From August 2017, a new '6 in 1' vaccine has been introduced, which in addition to offering protection against

diphtheria, polio, tetanus, whooping cough and Hib, will also protect against hepatitis B.

Evidence from the roll out of the childhood flu vaccination programme elsewhere in the UK has shown that, as well as protecting the children themselves, vaccinating younger children can have a significant impact on reducing the circulation of flu virus in the community and, through a herd effect, reducing GP consultations, hospital admissions and deaths from flu. In 2017-18, the childhood programme in Wales will be extended by one additional primary school year i.e. school year 4. In 2018-19, the roll out of the programme will be accelerated to include two additional school years i.e. school years 5 and 6. This means that from 2018-19 all children aged two to eleven years will be offered the flu vaccine.

### **Substance Misuse**

As part of our substance misuse budget allocation to Area Planning Boards, £2.75 million continues to be ring-fenced for children and young people services. Service providers who receive this money deliver a range of services which includes counselling, emotional well-being and education and prevention for children and young people under the age of 18. For those children and young people who do begin to misuse substances, the funding can be used for early identification and intervention, which is crucial to limit harm and minimise the chances of the misusing behaviour becoming entrenched and requiring specialist treatment services.

We are also finalising a new Children and Young People Outcome Monitoring Tool, which is a questionnaire children and young people who are using substance misuse services will complete together with their case worker. The aim is to gauge whether the services are delivering tangible outcomes, and how children and young people benefit. This information will strengthen the evidence basis for substance misuse services in Wales and support policy development and funding decisions. The aim is to start a trial of the questionnaire later this year, and an evaluation to be carried out early next year, with a target of starting implementation of the tool in summer 2018. This is subject to funding being made available for the evaluation.

We have secured £2.7 million of European Structural Funding to support young people aged 16-24 in recovery from substance misuse (including alcohol) and/or mental health who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). The aim is that the Out of Work Service will provide peer mentoring and specialist support to just over 3,300 young people in Wales by the summer of 2020.

We have also continued to provide nearly £2 million in funding to the All Wales Schools Liaison Core Programme. In the last academic year the programme operated in around 95% of all primary and secondary schools across Wales to educate children and young people about a range of personal and social education issues including substance misuse, internet safety, and problems associated with personal safety. This programme, which

we will keep under review as the new schools curriculum develops in Wales, is jointly funded with the Police and the Police and Crime Commissioners.

## **Social Services for children and young people**

### **Adoption, Fostering and Looked after Children**

Ensuring children in care enjoy the same life chances as other children is a key commitment in the programme for Government, *Taking Wales Forward* and included in the well-being objectives of our national strategy *Prosperity for All*.

This budget sits within the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children's portfolio. Its work contributes to reducing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) by supporting prevention and early intervention priorities and improving outcomes for children in care and those leaving care. The Government is taking this forward through a comprehensive programme of work aimed at improving outcomes for children which is led by a Ministerial Advisory Group, chaired by David Melding, AM on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children.

The Ministerial Advisory Group for Improving Outcomes for Children includes representatives from across local government, health, the court system, education and housing to enable effective links and joint ownership to be delivered. The Group oversees a wide reaching work programme aimed at improving outcomes for children, involving cross-government co-operation as well as close partnership working with external stakeholders.

Last financial year, budgets were aligned with ministerial portfolios. As such, the budgets used to support the maintenance and development of adoption, fostering and looked after children transferred from the Health and Social Services MEG to the Communities and Children MEG as part of the Second Supplementary Budget. I work alongside my ministerial colleagues to discuss common priorities.

This year, we received an additional £20 million consequential funding from the UK Spring Budget for improvements in social care. £8 million of that budget was allocated to reducing the numbers of children entering care. The set of priorities listed below was agreed between ministers and Cabinet Secretaries:

- £5 million investment in expanding local authority edge of care services
- £0.850 million to roll out the Reflect project across Wales which aims to reduce the number of children being taken into care by breaking the cycle of repeat pregnancies and recurrent care proceedings
- £1.625 million to support care leavers to successful futures and independent living by providing additional resources to local authority traineeship/work placement schemes and extending the provision of personal advisers up to age 25
- £0.400 million to implement the National Fostering Framework

- £0.125 million to develop adoption support work

In addition to the consequential funding, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children announced the £1 million St David's Day Fund earlier this year. This Fund allows local authorities to provide financial support to care leavers so they can successfully access employment, Education and training opportunities, improving their opportunities towards independent lives.

### **National Approach to Statutory Advocacy**

Taking Wales Forward states that we will “examine ways of ensuring children in care enjoy the same life chances as other children and if necessary reform the way they are looked after”.

Building on this Social Care is a top 5 priority in **Prosperity for All** and is clear that children should be listened to and helped to develop positive relationships.

With our partners, we have developed a **National Approach to Statutory Advocacy** for looked after children, children in need and other specified individuals. This means a consistency of entitlement and good practice in the commissioning, delivery and awareness of statutory advocacy provision in Wales. Responsibility for this policy area falls within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children.

The implementation of the National Approach has been costed at between £1 million and £1.1 million. At the Children, Young People and Education Committee's Inquiry into Statutory Provision, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children gave a commitment that Welsh Government would make a contribution of up to £0.550 million to the Social Services Regional Collaboratives to deliver the active offer in full and support the approach. The rest of the funding will come from the Local Authorities' own funds.

The funding is a grant, monitored for the initial two years with quarterly monitoring reports. At the end of the first year of implementation 2018-19 the Welsh Government has committed to review the implementation.

The National Approach includes a National Standards and Outcomes Framework which has been mapped to the Well-being Statement that underpins the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The Welsh Government does not deliver this activity directly but received regular monitoring meetings and reviews with the Senior Leadership Group for the National Approach.

In addition Welsh Government has awarded a 2 year contract, valued at £0.550 million per year, to Pro-Mo-Cymru for the provision of Meic. Meic is the national information, advice and advocacy helpline providing children and young people with a single point of contact via freephone, instant messaging and text. Meic is monitored on a quarterly basis through contract management meetings and KPIs. Currently options for the future delivery of

the service are being considered to ensure it aligns with developments under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.

### **Safeguarding**

We established the National Independent Safeguarding Board under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to work with Safeguarding Children Boards and Safeguarding Adult Boards to drive improvement; to report on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children and adults and make recommendations to Ministers about how arrangements could be improved. We provide secretariat and support the work programme of the Board valued at £0.200 million per year.

We support National and regional events during safeguarding week, valued at £22,000 to raise awareness of safeguarding and related issues. We will provide generic training for practitioners in delivering Child and Adult Practice Reviews valued at £45,000.

We will provide £0.100 million grant to Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board to deliver the National Protection Procedures arising from the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and related subordinate legislation and guidance to assist better protection for children and adults at risk of abuse, neglect or other forms of harm.

**Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport**

**Rebecca Evans AM, Minister for Social Services and Public Health**

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf / Our ref: MA(P)/KW/3712/17

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

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September following the Children, Young People and Education Committee's consideration of my letter of 24 July with respect to community focused schools.

You requested clarification of the following areas which I will address in turn:

- Whether Circular 34/03 remains operational and if so, what assessment has been made of the extent to which our delivery partners are following the guidance?

*Circular 34/03 is still relevant and will be used when we take forward the commitments outlined in Prosperity for All to establish community learning centres and to ensure that schools take on a more wide-ranging role as community hubs.*

*The guidance will be a useful point of reference for headteachers, governing bodies and the wider community.*

- Whether the definition of community focused schools is still current

*This definition is still appropriate. Community focused schools will form a critical part of community learning centres. These new models will not just be about buildings but about service provision delivered from those buildings; for example, providing extended services with childcare, parenting support, family learning and community access to facilities built around the school day.*

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto: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.

*It is important that schools connect with the community that surrounds them and that the school team of the headteacher, teaching staff and governing body play their part in enabling joined up work to move forward.*

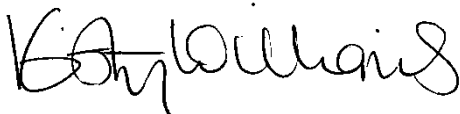
- The inclusion of specific criteria within the conditions for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools funding and Estyn's inspection framework.

*Investment in our school and college infrastructure through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education Programme will be one of the levers to enable our plans for community hubs and learning centres to progress. We will draw upon all our budgets across education, in particular 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools, to take forward this agenda.*

*Appropriate measures will be added to the Estyn inspection framework where necessary.*

A copy of this letter will be sent to the Chair of the Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

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

Carl Sargeant AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

24 October 2017

Dear Carl,

Thank you for your response of 14 September to my letter following up on our general scrutiny session on 20 July. The Committee has considered your response, and has since taken **evidence from the Children's Commissioner for Wales on her Annual Report**. Members would be grateful for further information on the points listed below.

### 1. Children's rights

In your letter of 14 September you state that there is 'no evidence' that a general due regard duty to the UNCRC would have a positive impact in terms of improved outcomes. In reaching its recommendation for there to be a duty of due regard to the UNCRC on the face of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill ('ALNET Bill'), the Committee considered evidence on the impact of children's rights approaches to service delivery and a range of information submitted by key stakeholders. As an example, I attach a briefing by UNICEF, made available to the Committee during Stage One of the ALNET Bill, in support of their rights respecting schools programme, which draws on UK and international evidence on the impact of children's rights approaches to education.

The Committee would welcome further clarification on:

- whether your statement that there is 'no evidence' that a general due regard duty would have a positive impact on outcomes applies to the Welsh Government's own due regard duty under *the Rights of the Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011*.
- the impact of the due regard duty within the *Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014*.
- the basis for the Welsh Government's current policy position on the due regard duty.





## 2. Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIAs)

You state in your letter of 14 September that the purpose of a CRIA is to help Welsh Government officials (i) consider the impact of proposed laws, policy and budgetary decisions on children and their rights, and (ii) brief Ministers on impacts accordingly. The Welsh Government's Children's Rights Scheme explains how Ministers' fulfilment of their duty of due regard to the UNCRC will be met in part by their direct engagement with the CRIA process. During scrutiny of the Children's Commissioner's Annual Report on 18 October, she described the quality of CRIAs undertaken to date as "variable".

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The Committee:

- would be grateful if you could outline your view on the influence that CRIA are having within the Welsh Government's current decision making and policy development.
- will take a continued and active interest in CRIA through this Assembly and will seek formal dialogue with you following the publication of the Compliance Report under the *Rights of the Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure*, due in January 2018

## 3. Children's Commissioner for Wales

During the Committee's scrutiny of the Commissioner's Annual Report, the Commissioner re-iterated her desire to be accountable to the National Assembly, in accord with the Paris principles. She also noted her view that the legislation surrounding her role is outdated, complex and untidy.

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The Committee would be grateful if you could clarify whether you remain satisfied that the governing legislation for the Children's Commissioner for Wales is compliant with the Paris principles.

## 4. The UK's withdrawal from the EU: children and young people

In your letter of 14 September you note that you have:

- agreed funding to procure the services of an external organisation(s) to deliver a series of workshops across Wales to enable children and young people to have a voice and have their views taken into account on the European Union, and to develop an online consultation to begin in this financial year.



- agreed to setting up an advisory group of young people who will ensure the views collected through the workshops and consultation, are passed on to the European Advisory Group and given serious consideration by Welsh Government.

You also refer to the work you have undertaken with children and young people on the Welsh Government's 'Securing Wales' Future' White Paper.

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The Committee would welcome:

- confirmation of whether, as part of the 'Securing Wales' Future' White Paper, a CRIA (usually published alongside legislative proposals) has been undertaken to underpin Welsh Government's approach to the Brexit process (and more information on it if so)
- an update on the workshops and online consultation to capture the views of children and young people on EU withdrawal
- an update on progress with the establishment of the promised advisory group of young people.

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## 5. Advocacy

In its report on advocacy, the Committee recommended that the national approach to advocacy be implemented by June 2017. In your letter of 14 September you promise to provide an update on Advocacy "in due course".

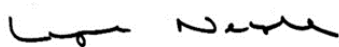
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The Committee would welcome confirmation of what role the Welsh Government is taking to monitor whether authorities have fully implemented the approach, which was targeted for June 2017 in the implementation plan to which you referred in evidence.

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If possible the Committee would welcome a response before our draft budget scrutiny session with you on 8 November.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair



## Agenda Item 4.3

# Comisiynydd Plant Cymru Children's Commissioner for Wales Sally Holland

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By e-mail only

To: Lynne Neagle AM, Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales

27 October 2017

Dear Chair,

During the scrutiny session of my Annual Report and Accounts 2016/17 on 18 October 2017, I promised to send you a further note about the Welsh Government's approach to Children's Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA).

[This particular CRIA](#), on Communities First, is an example of a thorough and well-argued CRIA, which performs the required balancing exercise well. Whilst the policy changes it relates to (i.e. how Communities First will be replaced), have not yet occurred, it identifies a number of different potential consequences that should therefore feed into future policy setting, provided it is used as intended.

I believe this particular CRIA could and should be used as a training example for others within Welsh Government, demonstrating how CRIAs can play an active part of planning and analysing the potential impact on children's rights from the outset of policy making, and helps to mitigate the identified risks to children's rights if taken into full consideration during the life-cycle of policy making.

I trust the above adequately responds to your question. If you require further information or discussion about this, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

I would like to extend my gratitude, once again, to you and your members for a stimulating discussion around my Annual Report.

With best wishes,



Sally Holland  
Children's Commissioner for Wales



## Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Template

|                                               |                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Title / Piece of work:</b>                 | Potential phasing out of Communities First and the new approach to Resilient Communities (updated after engagement and analysis) |
| <b>Related SF / LF number (if applicable)</b> | MA-(C)CS/0003/17                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Name of Official:</b>                      | Laura Reed/Richard Self/Amelia John/Zoe Holland                                                                                  |
| <b>Department:</b>                            | Communities Division, EPS                                                                                                        |
| <b>Date:</b>                                  | 30/1/2017                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Signature:</b>                             |                                                                                                                                  |

Please complete the CRIA and retain it for your records on iShare. You may be asked to provide this document at a later stage to evidence that you have complied with the duty to have due regard to children’s rights e.g. Freedom of Information access requests, monitoring purposes or to inform reporting to the NafW.

Upon completion you should also forward a copy of the CRIA to the Measure Implementation Team for monitoring purposes using the dedicated mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

If officials are not sure about whether to complete a CRIA, they should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Measure Implementation Team by forwarding any questions to our mailbox [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

You may wish to cross-reference with other impact assessments undertaken.

**NB. All CRIs undertaken on legislation must be published alongside the relevant piece of work on the WG website. All other CRIs must be listed in the WG CRIA newsletter and must be made available upon request. Ministers are however, encouraged to publish all completed CRIs.**

# Six Steps to Due Regard



## **Step 1. What's the piece of work and its objective(s)?**

### **Context**

On the 11th October 2016 the Cabinet Secretary ("CS") for Communities and Children announced that he is minded to phase out the Communities First Programme ("CF"), and would engage with stakeholders on a proposed new approach to building resilient communities, focusing on early years, employment and empowerment. Prior to this, an Equality Impact Assessment was carried out with as much data and evidence as was available, though it was recognised that more needed to be gathered through engagement with a cross-section of stakeholders.

The CS made clear that no decision would be made until after the first phase of engagement ended and that he would make a statement in early 2017. As such, the purpose of this Impact Assessment relates to:

- a) The potential phasing out of the CF Programme during the financial year 2017-18 and a new approach to building resilient communities. During the lead up to the potential closure there will be a transitional period of 12 months with reduced funding.
- b) Development of the new approach to building resilient communities focusing on early years, employment and empowerment.

CF is 17 years old and has had many successes but, since it was launched and then refocused in 2012, there have been enormous changes in the economic and political landscape, including a new administration and Programme for Government, 'Taking Wales Forward', a new legislative context, including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ("WFG Act") and the introduction of Public Services Boards ("PSBs") as well as proposed local government reform.

*Taking Wales Forward* is the Welsh Government's new Programme for Government, for

the period 2016 -2021. Published in November 2016, it sets out the Government's programme to drive improvement in the Welsh economy and public services, delivering a Wales which is prosperous and secure, healthy and active, ambitious and learning, united and connected. The approach set out in *Taking Wales Forward* is intended to be cross-government, integrated, collaborative and long-term.

It has become clear that jobs growth and full-time employment opportunities for low income households are essential, particularly if we are to reduce the number of people living in workless households and also tackle rising levels of in-work poverty. For some time, CF Lead Delivery Bodies ("LDBs") have been encouraged to focus more on employability outcomes. It is evident that employability is key to tackling poverty in our most deprived communities. We know that 70% of those who move out of poverty do so because they have found employment.<sup>1</sup>

The decision to review CF is in a context where a number of other programmes and policies are refocusing their outcomes, in line with the Government priorities set out in *Taking Wales Forward*. For example, the Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales has a new strategic objective 'to use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales'. In addition, this is a time of continuing public sector austerity with the consequent pressure on budgets and need to find increasing cost savings.

The new approach to resilient communities and the phasing out of CF is set firmly within the context of the WFG Act which has come into force since the re-launch of CF in 2012. The Act places expectations on Local Authorities, and other public bodies subject to the Act, including the Welsh Government, to involve people in decision-making, work together, and take account of the long-term and look for opportunities to prevent things getting worse. In addition, it places PSBs under a duty to assess local needs and set out their plans to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of their local area and the communities they represent.

The new approach to building resilient communities will be developed using the WFG Act's 5 ways of working, involving communities and partners from across the third, public and private sectors. We want to ensure our offer to communities is based on an integrated, cross-government approach that equips them for the long-term challenges and opportunities they face and empowers them in the decisions that affect their lives. Working in this collaborative way to get this approach right will take time, but will ultimately deliver better results for our communities.

More broadly the new ways of working established by the Act, focussing on much more integrated and partnership working at a local level, with much greater involvement of local communities, calls into question the appropriateness of a 'top-down' Welsh Government grant programme targeted at very geographically limited areas and feedback from the engagement identifies the need for greater community involvement, engagement and empowerment going forward. This is in tune with Local Government reform proposals which are likely to include measures aimed at strengthening local democracy and participation. It also supports the Welsh Government's increased expectation on local authorities to act as 'place shapers', to improve their engagement with communities and to

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<sup>1</sup> Over the period 2007 to 2012, of people aged 18 to 59 who were not working and living in a household in poverty, 70% of those who entered employment left poverty (Source: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/povertyandemploymenttransitionsintheukandeu/2015-03-10>)

understand, reflect and meet their needs.

Whilst there has been a great deal of feedback from CF staff and service recipients on the value of individual projects, there is no evidence to suggest that overall CF has been effective in tackling poverty at a population level Wales-wide (with a higher proportion of certain groups with protected characteristics and their children living in poverty, e.g. disabled people and some BME groups), or promoting prosperity at a Wales-wide level. Whilst the programme assists people on an individual basis, statistics on those living in poverty in Wales suggest that it makes no impact on poverty levels in the general population. Independent evaluations of CF's effectiveness to date have not provided strong evidence.

Decisions around the future of CF will be taken in the context of *Taking Wales Forward* and evidence about where resources are best directed to promote prosperity and tackle disadvantage and poverty. Within the context of continuing austerity, it is clear that if new priorities are to be funded then some existing programmes will have to cease. If this does not happen, there will not be sufficient funding for the priorities outlined in *Taking Wales Forward*. These priorities are set within a Wales-wide context, rather than being focused on 52 small areas and it is acknowledged that communities, public services, third sector organisations and partners are best placed to understand local need and where to focus efforts to tackle disadvantage. The local authority and PSB roles are important in this context as well as the information gathered in the well-being assessment.

The first phase of engagement focused on the new approach to resilient communities and, within that context, the potential impact of any proposed decision to phase out CF. The proposed new approach to resilient communities particularly focuses on the priorities of employment, early years and engagement and people's views on those. It ran for 12 weeks, ending on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017. Engagement activities were undertaken with a wide range of individuals and organisations, including delivery partners, those with experience of CF, as well as the wider public and Third Sector. These activities included an online survey, focus groups and face to face meetings. There was a specific engagement with children and young people ("CYP") in two focus groups run by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action with 71 attendees. An additional 5 CYP attended the focus groups for CF participants. CYP also took part in the Talk Communities online survey and there were 54 written responses from young people.

This Impact Assessment has been prepared in light of the responses received during the engagement period.

### ***Will the piece of work have an effect on a particular group of children?***

CF is an area based initiative i.e. it tries to improve the profile of an area by addressing the needs of individuals resident in those areas. CF is delivered in 19 of the 22 local authorities in Wales (it does not cover Ceredigion, Powys and Monmouthshire) in specified areas known as Clusters. The Clusters of which there are 52, are made up of Lower Super Output Areas ("LSOAs") initially selected from the 10% most deprived LSOAs (as measured in Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011). There are a small number of areas now in the top 10% of WIMD not included in CF as it is based on 2011 data. CF is also a 'cradle to grave' programme which people can access on multiple occasions. There is a particular focus on the 'hardest to reach'. However, principally for reasons of scale and viability only 41% of current CF Clusters are within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in the 2011 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

The range of projects and target client groups varies across the LDBs and Clusters as CF is designed to be a needs based programme that is responsive to local need. Review of submissions from CF LDBs has highlighted that all LDBs deliver projects that either target CYP directly or would benefit them indirectly (e.g. parenting classes). Across the 19 LDBs there is variation as to which groups of CYP receive CF projects. However LDBs report that there are some groups of CYP which receive a particular focus within CF:

- Early years through support to pregnant women, and new mothers;
- School age children;
- Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) 16-24 year olds;
- BME CYP;
- Disabled CYP;
- Refugee and Asylum seeker CYP;
- CYP in socio-economically deprived households.

Out of the 647 CF projects in 2016-17, 207 (32%) are focused particularly on CYP.

## Step 2. Analysing the impact

### ***What positive impacts will this piece of work have on children, young people or their families?***

Should a decision to phase out CF be made, the future approach implemented by the Welsh Government will take account of the needs of CYP and their families to ensure that support for them is maximised, and offers many opportunities to promote positive impacts on CYP Wales-wide. In his October announcement, the Cabinet Secretary outlined that the new approach would be based on the 'three E's': Early years; Employability; and Empowerment. Employment and employability are widely recognised as the best way out of poverty and disadvantage. This focus on Early Years and Employability will naturally have a positive impact on CYP. Feedback from the engagement saw support for this approach with an additional area on which many respondents thought should be focused on – early intervention.

Whilst some elements of the future approach are still in development, particularly how best to empower communities (and on which there will be ongoing engagement), the intention is that the new future approach would no longer be solely and prescriptively area-based, so that the benefits of any approach would not be restricted to CYP resident in CF LSOAs only, but instead be Wales-wide. This should help in reaching significantly more CYP and provide for an increased impact and improved service provision.

Elements of the new approach already being taken forward include the ACE (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Hub and the launch of Children's Zones pilots, both of which are focused on improving the lives of CYP, particularly those facing most barriers and disadvantage. Children's Zones bring together organisations in a strategic way to work with a defined community on the long term needs of CYP in that area. The Zones will drive a clear focus on how all the programmes and interventions within an area can work together to best effect. By focusing on prevention, building resilience and working together to provide seamless support to CYP, especially through the many transitions they face, they will improve CYP's life chances.

ACEs are traumatic experiences that occur before the age of 18 and are remembered



throughout adulthood. These experiences range from suffering verbal, mental, sexual and physical abuse, to being raised in a household where domestic violence, alcohol abuse, parental separation or drug abuse is present. Evidence shows children who experience stressful and poor quality childhoods are more likely to develop health-harming and anti-social behaviours, more likely to perform poorly in school, more likely to be involved in crime and ultimately less likely to be a productive and happy member of society. Tackling ACEs requires us to be smarter about earlier intervention in the lives of the very youngest members of our society, shifting resources into prevention and protection. In order to tackle ACEs at a population level, Cymru Well Wales is taking a whole-system approach to preventing and mitigating their ongoing effects. The ACE Hub is being established to drive the achievement of the collective vision for Wales as a world leader in ACE-free childhoods. It will help create the environment for change, enable and support individuals, communities and organisations to achieve their local ambitions around the ACEs agenda. There will be a small team in the hub who are skilled, knowledgeable and experienced to work on further research, co-ordinate activity, push for opportunities and leads in each sector (housing, health, education, etc) to drive forward change and engage in those areas.

In addition, the £13.5 million Parents, Childcare and Employment ('PaCE') programme which targets parents who face childcare barriers which prevent them accessing education, employment or training opportunities has been extended to 2020.

The new approach will build on other programmes particularly focused on the wellbeing of CYP, which include:

- Building a Brighter Future
- Work to support Public Health Wales First 1000 days initiative
- Flying Start
- Families First
- Team around the Family
- Childcare offer
- New school curriculum
- Jobs Growth Wales
- Careers Wales support
- Youth Engagement and Progression Framework
- Apprenticeships

This new approach has at its heart the five ways of working set out in the sustainable development principle in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ("WFG Act"), with a long-term and preventative approach, with collaborative and integrated delivery which involves people and communities. In addition, future approaches around resilient communities in addition to the grants and initiatives already announced will be developed within the context of the WFG Act and *Taking Wales Forward*.

For example, delivery of the future approach will be based upon the statutory well-being assessments prepared by PSBs under the WFG Act. The Act prescribes that those assessments must include consideration of a number of issues including the adequacy of nursery education and childcare provision as well as play opportunities in the area. The statutory requirement on PSBs to consult on both their assessment of well-being and their local well-being plan will give children, parents, guardians and representatives chosen by or working with children considerable opportunities to raise any concerns they have over how their well-being has been assessed and how the local well-being plans address those concerns.

In *Taking Wales Forward*, the Welsh Government set out its well-being objectives required under the WFG Act. Some of the objectives directly relate to CYP e.g. “create conditions to give every child the best start in life” but all 14 have a strong connection to the themes of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and action taken to achieve each/all of them will have positive impacts on Welsh CYP.

***What are the negative impacts and what compensatory measures may be needed to mitigate them?***

CF has delivered significant activity through a range of projects directed at the well-being of younger people, often through the delivery of projects which engage parents, children or both.

There has also been a range of projects delivered for young people of pre-school age and early years, working closely with Families First and Flying Start. CF also works closely with young people who are Not in Education, Employment and Training. There has been significant activity around employment related projects focused on around basic skills, CV building and interview skills together with the social skills needed to progress to employment.

Feedback from stakeholders during the engagement activities raised the following issues/concerns relating to CYP:

- CF Staff in many of the focus groups highlighted that there is limited provision currently for children and young people aged 4–16 other than what is provided by CF; there is a risk that provision for ‘older’ young children will be reduced.
- CF provides targeted support that aims to address the needs of the whole family. There were recurring concerns among staff that a scaling back of the programme – including activities to support vulnerable families – may have a particular effect on children and young people.
- LDBs highlighted a wide range of ways in which provision for CYP and families would be impacted by the potential phasing out of CF if the services were not maintained. These include parenting programmes, training programmes targeting parents, targeted support for young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET, activities providing a link with the local community and addressing mental health needs of people, including young people. However, LDBs did note that some of this activity is jointly funded by CF and the other tackling poverty programmes, Families First and Flying Start. LDBs were unanimously of the view that any phasing out of CF will result in less opportunity for CYP to socialise with their peers and others experiencing similar challenges.
- Feedback from CF staff noted that CF in many areas provides a link between schools and residents, and participants in three of the focus group explained that this had led to improved attendance.

Mitigation

If CF in its present form ceases, the projects it currently delivers will potentially be lost depending on the greater onus placed on other programmes and policies to ‘fill the gap’ and the nature of the future approach. However, as noted by LDBs, a number of the CF

projects are already provided in conjunction with other government programmes e.g. Flying Start and Families First and these programmes will continue so it is quite possible that not all provision will cease. Also, it is envisaged that a more integrated delivery of other programmes may deliver as/more effectively for more communities.

In developing the new approach to Resilient Communities, officials will seek to ensure that due regard to the best interests of children will be taken in respect of any new programmes. Should the CS decide to phase out CF, LDBs will be expected to produce exit strategies and officials will work closely with them and local authorities on developing and delivering these strategies and maintaining and sustaining valued services, including those for CYP and their families.

In addition, the CS has signalled that, should he decide to phase out CF, there will be a phased closure over 12 months with reduced funding of 70% of 16-17 levels. From April 2018, a specific grant of £6m per annum will be established to fund some legacy activities of Communities First (continuing successful projects or maintaining provision of facilities). Funding will be distributed through local authorities to determine local priorities. The specific grant, distributed in line with current CF budgets, will operate for two financial years before being rolled into the RSG to manage the long term legacy of CF.

There is a proposed additional £4m per annum made available for 4 years from 2017-18 for capital investment in community buildings to make them sustainable.

Work is underway to develop a new employability policy for Wales, underpinned by a new All Age Employability Programme. While important progress is being made to reduce unemployment in Wales, levels of economic inactivity remain high. Evidence shows that bespoke support (such as that provided by Lift and Communities for Work) for those furthest away from the labour market (and those closer to employment) plays a critical role in reducing unemployment. There is also evidence that increasing employability is particularly important for certain groups (who are more at risk of being economically inactive). This includes young people aged 19-24 years.

From April 2018, it is proposed that a new employability grant will be established to support Lift and Communities for Work and to provide additional funding for employability programmes, at a cost of £11.9m per annum. Many of the participants in the CF employment/prosperity projects will be able to access support through this strengthened employment programme. In addition, under these new arrangements the geographical scope of Lift and Communities for Work will be widened from CF Clusters to being Wales-wide. Should this proposal be agreed by the CS, this means that more CYP will become eligible for support from these programmes, including those living in deprived areas not currently covered in the CF Clusters.

The Citizens Advice Bureau project and Streetgames, aimed at engaging children and young people, will continue to be funded. As referenced above, pilots of Children's Zones and an ACE hub will be launched to support the early years and early intervention approaches. This will complement the work of Flying Start, Families First, the refresh of Building a Brighter Future, the child care offer and that of other public and third sector organisations such as Public Health Wales' focus on the first 1000 days. In addition, within the new Programme for Government and the new approach to resilient communities, there are currently a number of Welsh Government projects and programmes in addition to the ACE hubs and Children's Zones that are designed to address the needs of CYP across the Welsh population, some of which are detailed below (and cited above in answer to

question ):

- Building a Brighter Future
- Work to support Public Health Wales First 1000 days initiative
- Flying Start
- Families First
- Team around the Family
- Childcare offer
- New school curriculum
- Jobs Growth Wales
- Careers Wales support
- Youth Engagement and Progression Framework
- Apprenticeships
- Parents, Childcare in Employment
- Proposed legislation on chastisement.

In addition, the Welsh Government's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 contributes significantly to any potential negative impact of a phasing out of CF. It is the cross Welsh-Government plan to advance equality, eliminate discrimination and promote good relations. All objectives will contribute to equality for CYP. In particular, objective 1, 'Put the needs of people with protected characteristics at the heart of the design and delivery of all public services, in particular health and mental health services, education, housing social services and transport. Specifically to ensure support and tackle barriers to enable disabled people to enjoy their right to independent living and have voice, choice and control in their lives' will mitigate the impact of closure of any education-related programmes. Government action on this includes the Additional Learning Needs Transformation Programme. It includes ensuring all children and young people aged 0-25 with additional learning needs are provided for within an inclusive education system, where needs are identified early and addressed quickly and where all learners are provided for in an inclusive education system so that they can reach their potential.

Equality objective 3, and cross-Government work to deliver on it will help to mitigate the impact on young people: 'Identify and reduce the causes of employment, skills and pay inequalities related to gender, ethnicity, age and disability including closing the attainment gaps in education and reducing the number of people not in education, employment or training (NEET)'. This includes plans to publish an Employability Plan to underpin future approaches to delivery aimed at assisting young people and adults to gain, retrain and progress within employment, as well as the recent extensions to funding for CfW and proposed Wales-wide Lift and CfW infrastructure.

So too objective 4 will mitigate negative impact, 'Reduce all forms of harassment and abuse, including (but not limited to) violence against women, hate crime, bullying, child abuse, domestic abuse and abuse against older people'. Action is included on addressing bullying in schools and safeguarding through education settings. In addition, there is a commitment to action under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 in respect of reducing child abuse.

Objective 7, and the actions to support it, cite children and young people, 'Reduce poverty, mitigate the impacts of poverty and improve living conditions for those groups most at risk of living in low income households, particularly disabled people, lone parents, certain ethnic minority groups and families with disabled children', including numerous specific

actions to address child poverty.

**How will you know if your piece of work is a success?  
Have you considered the short, medium and long term outcomes?  
Have you developed an outcomes framework to measure impact?**

With regards to a decision on the future of CF, there won't be a specific outcomes framework, but LDBs will be expected to have an exit plan which includes:

- Striving to maintain valued services and make them sustainable;
- Plans for engaging and empowering their communities;
- Plans for an infrastructure for the CfW and LIFT employability programmes, with extended funding for CfW to 2020.

The short-term outcome should CF be phased out would be a potential reduction/cessation of CF-funded projects for CYP resident in CF LSOAs and the consequent reduction of support. The medium to long term outcomes are dependent upon the future approach, but in line with the new employability programme, the expectation is that this will have a far wider geographical reach, with the resultant positive impacts for CYP and their families, due to the move away from a delivery model focused on specific post codes (this being one of the criticisms of CF).

Measures of success for the future approach will be considered as part of the development of the new approach, in discussion with people, communities and organisations. They will include not only how individual programmes operate but integration between them and the extent to which communities are engaged and empowered. Any outcomes/indicators/methods for measuring success will be developed in line with the National Indicators set under the WFG Act. Where appropriate, the exact nature of any outcomes/indicators will be influenced by engagement with stakeholders as part of the ongoing engagement.

**Do you need to engage with children & young people and/or stakeholders to seek their views using consultation or participatory methods?  
Do you need to produce child friendly versions of proposals/consultations?**

The views of CYP have been sought via an online survey and, as outlined above, two of the focus groups were specifically for CYP. In addition LDBs and CF Clusters have been encouraged to engage directly with CYP in their regions. Child friendly versions of questions used in the engagement activity were employed to facilitate the participation of CYP.

As the engagement is continued, we will ensure it is inclusive of, and appropriate for, CYP.

**If yes to above, how have their views influenced your work?**

Feedback from the various engagement activities has been incorporated into the analysis of stakeholder feedback conducted by an independent research company, Arad Research, commissioned by the Welsh Government.

Arad's analysis has been incorporated into the assessment of impacts in this document, e.g. in the impacts section. If the CS decides to phase out CF, Arad's analysis will be published.

**Does the piece of work have any links to delivering the key objectives of the Child Poverty Strategy for Wales?**

CF is one of the four Tackling Poverty programmes (Supporting People, Families First and Flying Start) that formed key elements of the previous Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy.

**If so, state how the work may impact on child poverty.**

The future approach is cross Government and based on the 5 ways of working in the WFG Act. The approach will focus on early years, early intervention, employability (which evidence shows is the best route out of poverty) and community empowerment. This should have a positive impact on child poverty, in particular the focus on employability, and Wales-wide rather than focused solely on 52 small areas. CfW and Lift are targeted on those furthest from the jobs market, offering intensive one to one support.

One of the new strategic objectives for tackling poverty in the Revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales is 'to use all available levers to create a strong economy and labour market which supports the tackling poverty agenda and reduces in-work poverty in Wales'. The new approach will contribute towards this strategic objective.

**Step 3. How does your piece of work support and promote children's rights?**

As highlighted above in detail, should the decision to phase out CF be taken, the new approach to building resilient communities will be developed in the context of *Taking Wales Forward* and the WFG Act and will support and promote children's rights. The Welsh Government's well-being objectives, set out in *Taking Wales Forward*, including that of creating conditions to give every child the best start in life, are consistent with the themes of the UNCRC. The focus in the new approach on early years, in particular, will support CYP's rights and build on the foundations of the other Welsh Government programmes designed to support CYP, which include:

- Flying Start
- Families First
- Refresh of Building a Brighter Future
- Team around the Family
- ACE Hubs
- Children's Zones
- Childcare offer
- New school curriculum
- Jobs Growth Wales
- Careers Wales support
- Youth Engagement and Progression Framework
- Apprenticeships
- PaCE
- Strategic Equality Plan 2016-20.

Consideration has been given to the rights of the child enshrined in the UNCRC and those articles that are not necessarily engaged given the policy rationale and intent are, in summary, as follows:-

- Article 6-11 regarding inherent right to life, right to a birth name, preservation of identity, separation from parents against their will, family reunification and the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad.
- Articles 15-18 regarding freedom of association, arbitrary or unlawful interference, access to media and parental rights.
- Articles 20-22 which enshrine the rights of a child to their family environment, adoption and refugee status.
- Article 25 about the right of looked after children to have their situation periodically reviewed.
- Article 26 about provision of social security for children of families in need.
- Article 32 –33, 35-38 and 40 protection from dangerous work, illicit drugs, abduction, exploitation and harmful activities, cruel punishments, and armed conflict.
- Article 34 regarding protection from sexual exploitation and abuse - while the policy proposals do not directly address this they will indirectly assist by supporting children through provision of the 3 E's.
- 
- Article 39 - while the policy proposals do not directly address measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim the work towards employment, early intervention and empowerment will provide support levers in this regard, particularly via ACE Hubs and Children's Zones.

However, the new approach to building resilient communities will engage, and has the potential to positively support, a number of UNCRC articles. These include:

- Articles 1-5 - the Welsh Government observes these articles in taking forward the policy proposals.
- Articles 12 - 14 (freedom to form and express views and for those views to be taken into account) – as referenced above, the new approach will focus particularly on empowerment.
- Article 19 (protection from violence and abuse) – the Welsh Government publishes an annual action plan for it's Hate Crime Framework for Action, and Objective 4 in the Strategic Equality Plan also focuses on hate crime and other forms of abuse. The policy proposals will also provide support in this regard via work on ACE's and Children's Zone's.
- Article 23 (disabled children's right to a full and independent life) – the focus on Children's Zones and actions around legislating for those with Additional Learning Needs ('ALN') will contribute to delivering in respect of this right.

- Article 24 – (right to good quality health care) – by focusing on early years, the new approach will help to improve children’s life chances by preventing problems rather than tackling them after they have happened. In addition, the ACE Hub will help to ensure that children who have experienced traumatic events grow up to be as healthy as possible.
- Article 27 (right to an adequate standard of living) – the focus on employability and the proposed extension of Lift and Communities for Work and PACE will focus on enabling both young people and people with dependent children to gain employment. This will help to lift families and young people out of poverty. The focus on those who are not in education, employment or training, including in the SEP, will support this as will the creation of 10,000 apprenticeships.
- Articles 28 and 29 (right to education and development) the policy will assist in supporting learning and development of children, as will ALN legislation and the new curriculum.
- Article 30 (not to be denied the right to enjoy minority culture, religion or language) ) the new policy approach together with the new way of working required by the WFG Act will work towards cohesion and inclusion which in turn will see a strengthened approach in relation to this right.
- Article 31 (right to relax and play) - the Welsh Government will continue to fund Streetgames (a charity dedicated to helping CYP living in disadvantaged areas to access sport).
- Articles 41 and 42 - relate to existing statutory provision and promotion of the Convention which, the Welsh Government will continue to work towards in respect of the policy proposals.

In developing the new approach, officials will continue to be mindful of the need to ensure that, as far as possible, it supports the UNCRC.

#### **Step 4. Advising the Minister and Ministerial decision**

This Children’s Rights Impact Assessment has been developed to ensure due regard is given to Children’s Rights when ministerial decisions are made about the future of CF.

The CS has been advised of the possible impacts on CYP in CF cluster areas and a copy of this CRIA will be included as part of the advice to him before he makes the final decision on CF and on the future approach to resilient communities.



### **Step 5. Recording and communicating the outcome**

**Final version to be retained on i-share**

All paperwork relating to the potential phasing out of CF, including this Children's Rights Impact Assessment has been stored on the Welsh Government's record management system. Should the Cabinet Secretary decide to phase out CF, this CRIA will be published on the Welsh Government website, along with a summary of the responses received during the engagement.

### **Step 6. Revisiting the piece of work as and when needed**

As highlighted above, this is a living document and has been revisited following the engagement exercise. It will be assessed and updated as the new approach to resilient communities develops and evidence of impact is gathered.

### **Budgets**

**Does the piece of work have any associated allocation of budget?**

**Can you identify how much of this budget will be used for children and young people?**

It is important that where any changes are made to spending plans, including where additional allocations or savings have been made, that this has been assessed and evidenced as part of the CRIA process.

**Has any additional spend been identified to ensure children and young people have been given an opportunity to contribute to the piece of work and have their opinions heard? If so, how much?**

**Please give any details:**

In 2016-17, CF clusters were allocated a budget of £31.782 million. It is not possible to

disaggregate how much of this spend is specifically targeted at CYP. All aspects of communities related funding for 2017/18 will not be confirmed until later this spring.

Should the CS decide to proceed with a phasing out, there will be cost savings and further advice will be submitted outlining options for the alternative use of this funding in 2017/18

In addition to usual staff costs, an additional £25,000 was spent on the engagement exercise – some of this spend was to ensure the involvement of CYP and that their views were properly/fully taken into account in the analysis of responses.

**Monitoring & Review**

|                                                     |                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Do we need to monitor / review the proposal?</b> | <b>Yes</b>       |
| <b>If applicable: set the review date</b>           | <b>July 2017</b> |

Please forward a copy of this CRIA to [CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk) for monitoring purposes





# THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

[www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international agreement that protects the human rights of the children under the age of 18. On 16 December 1991, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland formally agreed to make sure that every child in the UK has all the rights as listed in the convention. The Welsh Government has shown its commitment to the convention by adopting it as the basis for policy making for children in Wales.

Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments should work together to make sure all children are entitled to their rights. The information contained here is about articles 1-42 which set out how children should be treated.

## Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

## Article 2

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.

## Article 3

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

## Article 4

Governments should make these rights available to children.

## Article 5

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

## Article 6

All children have the right of life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

## Article 7

All children have the right to a legally registered name, the right to a nationality and the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

## Article 8

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

## Article 9

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good, for example if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.

## Article 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or get back together as a family.

## Article 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

## Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making

decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

## Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

## Article 14

Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

## Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

## Article 16

Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

## Article 17

Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

## Article 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

## Article 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

## Article 20

Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

## Article 21

When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born or taken to live in another country.

## Article 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

## Article 23

Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives.

## Article 24

Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 25

Children who are looked after by their local authority rather than their parents should have their situation reviewed regularly.

## Article 26

The Government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

## Article 27

Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

## Article 28

Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

## Article 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

## Article 30

Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

## Article 31

All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

## Article 32

The Government should protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or their education.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

[www.cymru.gov.uk](http://www.cymru.gov.uk)

## Article 33

The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.

## Article 34

The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.

## Article 35

The Government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.

## Article 36

Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

## Article 37

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their families.

## Article 38

Governments should not allow children under 15 to join the army. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

## Article 39

Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self respect.

## Article 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences.

## Article 41

If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws should stay.

## Article 42

The Government should make the Convention known to all parents and children.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC Website: [www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/](http://www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/)

Cic - The National Information and Advice Service for Young People [www.ciconline.co.uk/news/](http://www.ciconline.co.uk/news/)

# Agenda Item 4.4

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-KS-3471-17

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair  
Children Young People and Education Committee

Lynne.neagle@assembly.wales

25 October 2017

Dear Lynne

Following your correspondence of 3 October and my letter in July this year I am writing to update you on actions taken to address your concerns about learner travel.

In my earlier response I committed my officials to undertake a survey of local authorities over the summer to monitor how they risk assess walked routes to school. The exercise has now been completed and I attach for your information a brief report on the local authority responses.

In addition to this report you will need to note that Welsh government has received correspondence about three walked routes to school. In two of these, I wrote to the local authorities concerned and the cases were resolved. The third case I also wrote to the local authority without resolution and the matter has been referred to the Ombudsman.

Your latest letter asked about the review of the learner travel guidance in 2016. This was a light review following a query about terminology where discrepancies had been identified by the Welsh Local Government Association. Minor changes were made to clarify meaning and ensure consistency. The changes did not relate to the risk assessments for walked routes to school.

You also asked about a review of the guidance in light of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill. The guidance will require review and revision in due course in order to ensure that it is consistent with the new statutory system of support for children and young people with additional learning needs introduced by the Bill. Whilst undertaking that review, officials will consider whether any aspect of the guidance requires strengthening in relation to these learners. The review will also ensure that the learner travel guidance and the new Additional Learning Needs Code are consistent in the information they provide.

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Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

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.

I remain committed to ensuring the safety of all learner travellers. This is not limited to the safety of the routes they take to school but also through promoting active travel to provide learners with long term benefits in health and well-being.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', written in a cursive style.

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

## **Analysis of Local Authority Risk Assessment of Walked Routes to School –Returns**

### **Introduction**

The Children, Young People and Education Committee wrote to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure in July 2017 regarding learner travel, in particular the risk assessments of walked routes to schools. The Cabinet Secretary responded addressing a number of their concerns and a commitment to undertaking a survey of local authorities to monitor the work of local authorities in risk assessing walked routes to school.

### **Background**

The Learner Travel Measure 2008 places a duty on local authorities to assess the travel needs of all learners up to the age of 19. Local authorities must provide free transport to learners of statutory school age (5 – 16 years) based on age, distance and aptitude criteria. Local authorities also have a duty to assess the nature of the routes which learners could reasonably be expected to take to the relevant places where they receive education or training (s. 2(4) (e)). The regulations (s. 3(8)) state that a route is available if it is safe for a child (without a disability or learning difficulty) to walk with or without an escort as age appropriate.

If transport arrangements are not found to be suitable for a learner, for instance a walked route is found to be unsafe, causes the learner unreasonable levels of stress or takes an unreasonable amount of time the local authority has a duty to make other travel arrangements to ensure the learner attends their relevant place of learning.

Welsh Government provides non statutory guidance to local authorities to assist them in undertaking their duties. Local authorities must pay due regard to the guidance. Previous guidance issued to local authorities for risk assessing walked routes had been developed by Road Safety GB and was based on physical, geographic and traffic considerations. Following a public consultation in 2014 the guidance in Wales was amended to include social dangers.

The new risk assessment regime for walked routes to school guidance was issued by the Welsh Government in June 2014 as part of the publication of the revised Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance.

See link; <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/learner-travel/?lang=en>

It is for local authorities to decide whether and when to risk assess a walked route and this will depend on a number of factors, for example;

- When the route was previously assessed
- Recent accident or similar incident
- High accident statistics
- The opening or closure of schools
- Changes made to a route – road works, infrastructure changes
- Changes to traffic composition and volumes, including cyclists
- Changes affecting the route – new builds/housing developments, large scale construction projects

## Methodology

The Minister wrote to all local authority leaders (8 December 2014) about the revised learner travel guidance and risk assessments of walked routes. The letter included details of the proposed monitoring regime for walked route risk assessments. Questionnaires (see attached at Annex A) have since been sent to local authority transport coordinators for completion, though generally have required a number of reminders to elicit responses. The most recent questionnaire was sent to local authorities on 21 August 2017.

## Analysis

16 Local authorities returned completed questionnaires by 15 September 2017. Six local authorities did not respond to requests for information.

Three previous monitoring surveys have been undertaken between December 2014 and July 2016. The details are below including the variable response rate.

| Details of Monitoring Exercises |                     |                             |             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Time Period of Exercise         | Number of Responses | Risk Assessments Undertaken | Nil Returns |
| Sept 2014 – July 2015           | 22                  | 258                         | 7           |
| July – December 2015            | 16                  | 161                         | 3           |
| January – June 2016             | 13                  | 52                          | 5           |
| January – June 2017             | 16                  | 91                          | 2           |

The first exercise which returned the highest number of completed questionnaires and the highest number of completed risk assessments followed the release of the revised guidance and covered the longest time



span. The second exercise was completed over the first six months of the academic year. The last two exercises were completed over the second half of the academic year which may explain the reduced number of risk assessments undertaken.

The analysis below provides an overview of how the regime has operated between 1 January 2017 and 30 June 2017.

**Question 1(a): How many walked routes to school have been assessed for the period 1 January 2016 – 30 June 2016?**

- From the 16 responses received 91 risk assessments were undertaken.
- The majority of the risk assessments were undertaken by three local authorities; Carmarthenshire, Conwy and Merthyr Tydfil.
- Since the revised guidance was issued in 2014 three local authorities have reported undertaking no risk assessments; Bridgend, Ceredigion and Wrexham.
- Since 2014 five local authorities have reported undertaking a high number of risk assessments (40 - 136); Carmarthenshire, Conwy, Denbighshire, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport.
- During the same period the remaining 14 local authorities have undertaken in their areas between 1 – 21 risk assessments per authority.

**Question 2: Were any routes assessed more than once in the same period?**

- Only two local authorities repeated a risk assessment, both at the request of a parent and one also because of long term road works.

**Question 3: What were the specific issue that led to the risk assessments taking place (physical, environmental, social, topographic or geographical)?**

- The risk assessments issues identified were over a range of issues as listed above.
- One local authority was systematically reviewing all walked routes and in relation to local planning applications.
- Two local authorities were measuring walking distances.
- One local authority also considered accident statistics and pedestrian counts.

**Question 4: Which other agencies did you engage with?**

- All the local authorities who carried out risk assessments worked with other agencies (the Police; Safeguarding Children's Boards; relevant

schools; Local Authority Services (Education, Health and Safety, Road Safety Units, Planning, Traffic and transport engineers)

**Question 5: Were learners consulted during the same period?**

- Nine local authorities consulted learners; Caerphilly, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Swansea and Vale of Glamorgan.
- Five local authorities did not consult learners; Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd and Torfaen.

**Question 6: How were the primary, secondary or college learners consulted?**

- Seven local authorities used informal discussions and often used road safety officers.
- Five used written consultation, with one using a form.
- One provided a drop-in box.

**Question 7: Have you got evidence of your engagement with learners?**

- Seven local authorities kept records of engagement.

**Question 8: Were parents/carers consulted during the same period?**

- Six local authorities consulted parents/carers.

**Question 9: How were risk assessments made available to the public?**

- Eleven local authorities made reports available on request.
- Six sent the report to parents, one of these was also sent to the school and one sent to a councillor.
- Only one local authority made the information available through a web site.

**Conclusions**

The Welsh government guidance on risk assessing walked routes to school is not statutory and there is no duty on local authorities to provide data to Welsh government on the risk assessments they undertake. As a consequence not all local authorities have responded to the exercises requesting information. This means that the data is limited.

From the data received it is apparent that some local authorities are diligent in undertaking assessments whilst others report that they undertake few or no assessments. This may in part be due to the low number of learners walking

to school in their area or because the local authority has already completed a comprehensive programme of risk assessments. In some areas a large proportion of learners receive free transport to school based on their age and the distance to their nearest suitable school. Under these circumstances there might be a reduced number of walked routes that need to be risk assessed.

The Welsh Government provides funding to local authorities to improve road safety on the national and local road network. This has been consistent for a number of years and for 2017-18 for example, £12.6 million has been awarded and to proactively mitigate against identified risks.

It is positive to note the reported engagement with learners and parents along with the range of agencies involved in the risk assessment processes.

### **Monitoring**

The Welsh government guidance on risk assessing walked routes to school is not statutory and there is no duty on local authorities to provide data to Welsh government on the risk assessments they undertake. The Welsh Government will however continue to keep the process under review through monitoring of the process of Local Authority Risk Assessment of Walked Routes to School on an annual basis.

# RISK ASSESSMENT OF WALKED ROUTES TO SCHOOL – MONITORING FORM

## Return on the Risk Assessment Process

Local Authority:

Reviewed by:

Date:

1. (a) How many walked routes to school have been assessed in the academic year 2014-2015?

(b) If no walked routes have been risk assessed, please state the reason(s) for this.

# RISK ASSESSMENT OF WALKED ROUTES TO SCHOOL – MONITORING FORM

2. Were any routes assessed more than once in the academic year 2014-2015?

Yes

No

If so, why?

3. What were the specific issues that led to the risk assessments taking place:

Physical

Environmental

Social

Geographical/  
Topographical

Any others, please list:

4. Which other agencies did you engage with?

Police

Local Safeguarding  
Children's Boards

Local Authority  
Services

None

# RISK ASSESSMENT OF WALKED ROUTES TO SCHOOL – MONITORING FORM

Any comments:

5. Were learners consulted during the same academic year?



6. How were the primary (p), secondary (s) or college learners (c) consulted? Please indicate by using P, S and C below

- Written Correspondence
- Informal Meetings/Discussions
- Children and Young People's Partnerships

# RISK ASSESSMENT OF WALKED ROUTES TO SCHOOL – MONITORING FORM

|                                                            |                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Walked Routes to School Form                             | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| - School Councils                                          | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| - Road Safety Officers                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| - School Lessons                                           | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| - Police and Communities Together (PACT) assemblies        | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| - The All Wales Schools Core Liaison Programme             | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| - School Travel Plans                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| - Drop in boxes                                            | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| - Other                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
| 7. Have you got evidence of your engagement with learners? |                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                               | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

# RISK ASSESSMENT OF WALKED ROUTES TO SCHOOL – MONITORING FORM

8. Were parents/carers consulted during the same academic year?

Yes

No

If so, how?

9. How did you make the risk assessments available to the public? Please tick:

- Copy of risk assessment sent to school
- Copy of risk assessment sent to parent
- Copy of risk assessment made available on request
- Copy of risk assessment made available online through the Council website
- Other – please state



# Agenda Item 4.5

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA(P) KW/3248/17

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

31 October 2017

Dear Lynne,

Following the Minister for Lifelong Learning & Welsh Language and my attendance at committee on 18 October, I agreed to provide you with further information on two separate issues, namely:

- The calculations underpinning the additional £10m that would be made available to HEFCW following the Statement of 18 October on Student Finance; and
- A note of the views of Universities on the Welsh Bacalaureate.

## Additional funding to Universities in Wales

My written statement of 18 October confirmed that the maximum tuition fee in Wales would remain at £9,000. The statement acknowledged that this may cause some short-term challenges within our university sector and that financial plans will have included additional income from increased tuition fees.

To help our institutions deal with any immediate issues arising from the tuition fee changes, I allocated HEFCW an additional £10m. I did not confirm which financial year the additional money would be allocated as I am still discussing the implications with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government and the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

However, as confirmed at the committee meeting, I attach the initial estimate that I used to calculate the additional allocation:

## Analysis of full-time undergraduate fee scenarios for

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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

[Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto: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.

## Welsh HEIs

|                                      | 2017/18    | 2018/19     |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>Projected student numbers [1]</b> | 62,638     | 62,638      |
| <b>Average fee scenarios [2]</b>     |            |             |
| £9,000 maximum                       | £8,872     | £9,000      |
| £9,295 maximum                       | £8,872     | £9,155      |
| <b>Fee income scenarios</b>          |            |             |
| £9,000 maximum                       | £556m      | £564m       |
| £9,295 maximum                       | £556m      | £573m       |
| <b>Difference</b>                    | <b>£0m</b> | <b>£10m</b> |

*Higher Education Division internal analysis, Welsh Government*

Note that fee income estimates are rounded to the nearest £1m.

[1] Home and EU students at Welsh HEIs; Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record, 2015/16.

[2] The average fee for 2017/18 has been estimated by HEFCW from Fee and Access Plans. For 2018/19, the average fee is increased by inflation (RPIX), unless constrained by the given maximum fee scenario.

I am keen to emphasise that these calculations have been prepared by a statistical team that is a part of a wider financial management system that has been set up to ensure that Welsh Government operates an effective and efficient assurance and accountability system to manage the student loans and grants system in Wales.

My statement also confirmed that I would continue to work in partnership with our Funding Council to ensure there are no short-term financial issues for our institutions as a result of this change. These discussions will acknowledge that there is no definitive answer as to the impact that enabling a fee increase would have had given the individual restrictions that may or may not have applied to individual institutions (for example, whether they would have been able to charge all students a higher fee or just new students).

### Views of Universities on the Welsh Baccalaureate

The reformed, level 3 Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate that had its first certification this summer is more rigorous than in the past and is a better indicator of the true acquisition of level 3 skills. It ensures that all learners who have taken the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate are properly recognised as they take their next steps.

As an internationally recognised and benchmarked qualification, we would therefore expect all UK universities to accept the reformed Welsh Baccalaureate - Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate as part of future entry requirements or as part of an alternative offer within universities and their departments.

In May, I wrote to all university Vice Chancellors to seek assurance that their institutions would accept the reformed Welsh Baccalaureate - Advanced Skills Challenge Certificate (WBQ) as part of their future entry requirements or as part of an alternative offer. My officials are working with universities, including the Russell Group universities, to make sure that Welsh learners taking the WBQ are not disadvantaged when it comes to entry onto HE courses.

Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, are clear that they value the WBQ and are taking an increasingly flexible approach to recognising it in their offers. The majority of HE institutions broadly recognise the WBQ as an appropriate qualification, although some universities and courses do not count it towards their entry requirements.

We keep the WBQ under review to ensure it remains rigorous and useful. Qualifications Wales will be publishing a review of the WBQ in the autumn term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

## Agenda Item 4.6

Mrs K Williams  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

02 November 2017

Dear Ms Kirsty Williams

### **Funding for Governor Wales**

I have been a governor for nearly 30 years in both primary and secondary schools and have held positions of Chair and Vice Chair of the full governing body and Chair of various committees. I was Clerk to the governors for eight years when a governor could be both posts. In short, I am a ‘professional’ governor, taking my position very seriously, whilst being committed to doing the best job I can as a knowledgeable governor.

Since 1995, I have appreciated the tremendous support given by staff at Governors Wales and also, since 1989, my Local Governor Support officer. Their advice has been invaluable both to myself and to fellow governors, enabling us to react appropriately to changes in legislation and inspection requirements. This strategic overview offered by a national organisation such as Governors Wales ensures all school governors and Headteachers receive the same up-to-date information, which enables them to carry out their duties in a uniform and consistent manner.

I have copied this from the Governor Wales newsletter item I received on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017

*‘Whilst this news is extremely disappointing and whatever happens to the future of Governors Wales and its services, we must endeavour to ensure that the support needs of school governors across Wales remains at the forefront of any future developments. Our school governors are often referred to the unsung heroes of the education system, if they are to play their part in the Wales’ far reaching education reform agenda they will need to receive high quality support to meet the ever increasing challenges and opportunities that they will undoubtedly face.*

*Although the overall Welsh Government governor support budget has been cut, governors could argue that they are very much at the forefront of school improvement. As such could it be an option to explore whether Governors Wales could be eligible to receive funding from the School Improvement budget heading.’*

I endorse everything stated above and add that I am extremely disappointed about the news of the cuts to Governor Wales support and the probable knock-on effect to local Council Governor Support officers. This is a retrograde step and gives the impression that Welsh Government Ministers have little respect for the vast amount of voluntary work carried out by members of governing bodies throughout Wales and seems totally and utterly counterproductive.

I quote from your 'Education in Wales Our National Mission Action Plan 2017-2021'

*'To deliver our reforms across the entire system, we will need a bold commitment to effective collaboration along with integration of services where appropriate. This will include Welsh Government, the teaching profession and the wider education workforce, our key partners in local authorities, diocesan authorities, regional services, Estyn, the Education Workforce Council (EWC), Qualifications Wales, higher education institutions and others. Successful implementation will require effective and honest engagement between all facets of the education system. We are committed to providing the conditions to enable this to happen. In delivery we will also seek to work with the wider public service and third sector where required.'*

*'Involvement: We have involved and will continue to involve partners with an interest in our reform agenda. We also recognise the need for continued support from effective practitioners and other expert input'*

What a pity there is no mention of Governors in either of these statements. How could any school function without governors? The government is putting more responsibility onto governing bodies, making more statutory requirements part of their duties and therefore up to date and accurate advice is essential to them carrying out their duties effectively and in compliance with all government regulations and legislation.

I quote from 'A guide to the law to help you be an effective governor'

*'All school governors should know and understand their roles and legal responsibilities and how these fit in with the responsibilities of the head teacher, the local authority and the Welsh Government. They should also know their responsibilities regarding other parties such as diocesan authorities and foundations, where applicable.*

*Although this is a comprehensive guide, you will need to add to your knowledge through governor training events organised by your LA or Governors Wales. Other guidance and publications are available from your local authority and Governors Wales. Annex 2 to the Guide contains contact details of these organisations. Please note that although this Guide is detailed, it does not replace the law which takes precedence.'*

The above statement is taken from the Welsh Government web site and clearly states that governors will need to add to their knowledge through training events put on by the Local Authority or Governor Wales. There is a mandatory requirement for LAs to provide appropriate governor training, free of charge and I appreciate it is up to LAs to decide how to do that using the delegated budget Welsh Government allocate them. I am aware that training across Wales is variable and often does not deliver all the prescribed mandatory content. Governor Wales deliver training for Local Authority colleagues and I am sure this is necessary in some areas.

I am fortunate to be in a Local Authority with an excellent Governor Support Officer who has been a wonderful support for all the years I have been a governor. I am also aware that due to reduced budgets, my LA has relied heavily on Governor Wales to

help fulfil their statutory duties with regards to governor support. **I ask who will train and support the LA officers after April 2018?**

*'The Education (Wales) Measure 2011 includes provisions to allow Welsh Ministers to make regulations to make governor training mandatory on specific issues. The Government of Maintained Schools (Training Requirements for Governors) (Wales) Regulations 2013 were made for this purpose and came into force in September 2013.'*

This statement is in 'Guide to the Law' Spring 2016. Ministers took the decision to make it law that governors are trained and I agree with this, as the work undertaken and the responsibility of being a governor, require commitment and training. **Again I ask who will undertake this training?**

I can foresee the possibility of private companies offering these services at great expense. The Education budget does not include provision for buying this type of service. **Does that mean that a dedicated volunteer, like me, will have to pay for my own training?**

Only Governor Wales has the national overview of what is happening across the country and, through its network of Associations and its inclusive Management Board, acts as a conduit to ensure national priorities are understood by governors and their response is reflected back to government colleagues, locally and nationally.

**How can you uphold a law of statutory training whilst taking away the budget for the company that supports the Local Authority Officers delivering training?**

In speaking with a representative from Governor Wales I understand that there is support from Government for a South East Wales School Improvement Consortium (EAS). This is set up as a private organisation for school improvement, including governance, in five Authorities that were 'failing'. They are funded with public money through the five Authorities and they appear to have more resource than in other regions when it comes to supporting governors. I am concerned that a private company will be making money from this and that this model will be hard to replicate in other areas of Wales due to geographical and cultural issues, and possibly lack of skills with some officers. (See my comment above re private companies)

The volume and categories of calls to the Helpline at Governor Wales demonstrates the increasing pressure that governors feel. Many Local Authority Officers are supporting governors but would not have the capacity to field all of the enquires and Governor Wales often takes the 'load' of difficult situations that governors find themselves in. We must not forget governors are volunteers who do their best to deal with the very difficult issues that parents may have, for example accusations against staff, and the issues that staff may face, for example staff redundancy.

**Who will take the load of support needed if Governor Wales ceases to exist?**

I took part in the recent consultation about the reform of Governance for schools and the changes to the make-up of governing bodies which was to be implemented in

September 2017. **What has happened to the proposed changes to governing body structure and how will the lack of funding impact on this?**

Governor Wales staff have spent a lot of time developing the National Template for Self-Evaluation of school governing bodies and I am proud to say that through one of the schools in which I am a governor we gained both the Bronze and Silver Awards during the pilot of this scheme. Estyn constantly tell us how important self-evaluation is and for governing bodies to test their effectiveness.

**Who will maintain and update the self-evaluation document from a national perspective?**

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Merrill Tanton

Cc

Michelle Brown  
Nathan Gill  
Mark Isherwood  
Llyr Gruffydd

Children young People and Education Committee

Delyn Constituency MP  
David Hanson

Delyn Constituency AM  
Hannah Blythyn