

## Agenda – Children, Young People and Education Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 24 October 2019

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

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Committee Clerk

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### Private pre-meeting

(09.15 – 09.30)

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

(09.30)

#### 2 Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill – Stage 2 Proceedings

(09.30 – 12.00)

Julie Morgan AM, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

Karen Cornish, Deputy Director Children and Families Division – Welsh Government

Emma Gammon, Lawyer – Welsh Government

In accordance with Standing Order 26.21, the order of consideration for Stage 2 proceedings will be: Sections 1 to 3; Long title.

Documents relevant to Stage 2 proceedings are available on the [Bill page](#).

**There will be break at an appropriate time during the proceedings**



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### **3 Papers to note**

(12.00)

#### **3.1 Letter from the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services – additional information following the evidence session on 2 October**

(Pages 1 – 2)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–29–19 – Paper to note 1

#### **3.2 Letter from the Minister for Health and Social Services – Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales Strategy**

(Pages 3 – 4)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–29–19 – Paper to note 2

#### **3.3 Letter from the Chair to the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services regarding Early Childhood Education and Care in Wales**

(Page 5)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–29–19 – Paper to note 3

### **4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of the meeting**

### **5 Perinatal Mental Health – Follow-up – consideration of the October update from the Welsh Government**

(12.00 – 12.30)

(Pages 6 – 22)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–29–19 – Private paper 1

## **6 Inquiry into Education Otherwise than at School – consideration of approach to evidence gathering**

(12.30 – 12.45)

(Pages 23 – 30)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-29-19 – Private paper 2

# Agenda Item 3.1

CYPE(5)-29-19 - Paper to note 1

Julie Morgan AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref MA-(P)/JM/5133/19

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

16 October 2019

Dear Lynne,

Following my recent appearance Committee session 2 October 2019, I agreed to provide you with some further information beyond the answers provided to some of your questions.

During discussions I confirmed that by the end of July almost 16,000 children across Wales were accessing the Childcare Offer, with 29% taking up their provision in Welsh language or bilingual settings. I was asked to provide the number of children accessing the Offer in Welsh language settings, without including the bilingual settings.

This is something we do want to know, and have been trying to calculate from the termly datasets for the Offer, which, while anonymous, go to an individual record level in their detail. However, due to the way data for the Offer is currently captured by the different systems used to administer it, and the difficulties in classifying the language of childcare provision, we do not have an accurate all Wales picture of separate 'Welsh' and 'bilingual' provision delivered through the Childcare Offer.

We are working with Care Inspectorate Wales and the local authorities to improve this data and provide a more detailed picture of language provision delivered through the Offer in future.

The Committee also asked for further information on the costs associated with HMRC administering the Offer as compared to the cost of local authorities administering it. The estimate provided by HMRC for the annual cost of undertaking the eligibility checks was £2m per annum, to include system support and a bilingual helpline. The estimated current cost of the equivalent service by local authorities is £1m, based on 40% of delivery authorities' time being spent on this part of the service. The main difference in the level of services provided at these costs is that parents will need to provide evidence of pay under the current process that would not be needed for salaried parents if we were using the HMRC system. Self-employed and other non-standard parental situations would require manual intervention whichever system was used. The Business Case estimated the

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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.

differential time cost to parents of manually uploading standard pay details would be some £0.4m.

The Committee has requested information on the rates of take-up of Flying Start childcare offers. Before addressing the query relating to take-up rates it may help the Committee if I set out the annual account management process for Flying Start.

Each Local Authority submits a Flying Start delivery plan before receiving formal confirmation of their grant award for the year. These plans are scrutinised and agreed by Account Managers as formal records of a Local Authority's annual programme delivery intentions. In July the annual Flying Start statistical bulletin is published which allows for year-on-year comparison of data. Formal account meetings with Local Authorities usually take place in November and coincide with the publication of Term 1 Flying Start Data. These data sets are used at account meetings to identify trends, areas of concern and good practice alongside progress. If significant delivery concerns are identified additional discussions will take place between Account Managers and local Flying Start teams.

In view of the Committee's specific concerns relating to take-up rates of Flying Start childcare, my officials have sought clarification from Ceredigion and Denbighshire in advance of formal account monitoring activity. As I mentioned during the evidence session, there are a range of factors that may influence take-up and, for the Local Authorities in question, these include the transient nature of some families and a family's choice whether to take up the offer of childcare or not.

Finally, there was discussion at Committee on the work of the Early Years Transformation Programme. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide more information on this work, and some indicative timescales.

As I mentioned during the Committee session, there are eight PSBs undertaking a programme of work to establish what it will take to create a more joined up responsive early years system locally, focussing on the coordination of services, planning, commissioning and how best to identify and address needs.

The programme is at an early stage with pathfinders at different stages of development. The work the pathfinders are undertaking will help shape a national framework for transforming the early years, by testing what the core components of a system are. This work, alongside a programme evaluation which started in September which will take at least 12 months to complete, will help inform future decisions.

I trust the Committee will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



**Julie Morgan AC/AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

# Agenda Item 3.2

CYPE(5)-29-19 - Paper to note 2

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/VG/2058/19

Chair  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Chair  
Children, Young People and Education

16 October 2019

Dear Chairs,

Following your interest in the consultation and development of the Healthy Weight; Healthy Wales, I wanted to make you aware that the final strategy will be launched on 17 October 2019.

Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales our long term strategy to prevent and reduce obesity in Wales is a culmination of the views of our stakeholders, international evidence and research. The Strategy is a 10 year plan to reduce and prevent obesity for the people of Wales. Whilst I am the lead Minister, this long term plan adopts a cross government and cross sector approach to tackling obesity.

Obesity is complex and cannot be solved by the government or NHS working in isolation; the evidence available suggests a partnership and whole-systems approach is the only way to achieve positive change. In line with the approach of A Healthier Wales, this is the first time that the Welsh Government has adopted a co-ordinated approach to tackling obesity and the range of proposals highlights how existing programmes and approaches can be refocused, whilst strengthening governance and leadership.

The four themes of the Strategy illustrate the system-wide approach that will be required to tackle obesity, recognising that the food and physical environment influences choices. They include consideration as to how interventions in areas such as transport, planning, early years, education, communities and health services can be brought together to develop a coherent approach.

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

Accompanying the strategy will be 5 two-yearly delivery plans which will span the lifetime of the strategy. The first delivery plan for 2020-22 will follow in early 2020 and provide detail of the exact action proposed to see changes in population behaviour and habits, encouraged and promoted through our settings and environments, and through local and nation-wide leadership. Over the next two years we will begin to develop policy and legislation and I will introduce new funding to help achieve our aims. This will allow us to put a greater focus together with partners on prevention and early intervention through all systems as part of our approach to building a healthier Wales. The strategy will help to ensure that we can leverage and maximise additional funding and opportunities to drive change across partners, to see a shift in how we use spend towards prevention.

There is strong support for the proposals we have set out in the strategy, together with energy and backing within our communities to support positive lifestyle change. I want to ensure that our strategy unlocks this potential. I remain grateful for the cross party support and the understanding of the significance of this issue. I intend to make a further statement on the Strategy in the chamber next week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Vaughan Gething'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'V' and 'G'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

**Julie Morgan AM**

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

18 October 2019

Dear Julie,

**Early Childhood Education and Care**

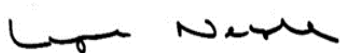
We are writing to you following the public scrutiny session held on **2 October 2019** to discuss the Welsh Government's work on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). We are grateful to you, and to the Minister for Education, for your ongoing engagement with the Committee's work in this important area, and for your letter of **16 October** providing further information on detailed matters that arose during our session.

During this Assembly, matters relating to ECEC have arisen frequently as part of scrutiny work, most notably as part of our **inquiry into outreach elements of Flying Start**, and our scrutiny of the **Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill and childcare offer**. We recognise that a number of relevant pilots are underway at the moment, and that responsibility for this area straddles both yours and the Minister for Education's portfolio. We further recognise the complexity of the current ECEC landscape in Wales to which you referred during our most recent session.

In light of the above – most particularly the very complex nature of the ECEC policy area – we believe that a clearer statement of the Welsh Government's overarching vision for ECEC is required as a matter of priority. This will enable us to measure progress against your vision, and will provide a clearer framework within which we hold the Welsh Government to account for its policy, legislation and expenditure in this crucial area.

We would be grateful to receive a response in advance of our session on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21 (4 December 2019) to inform our scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**

**Chair**

Cc Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education



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# Agenda Item 5

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

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