

CYPE(5)-01-21 - Paper to note 8

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref MA/JM/4292/20

Lynne Neagle MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1SN



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

17 December 2020

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 4 December 2020 informing me of the recent stakeholder consultation you undertook on the Welsh Government's response to your enquiry and report on Children's Rights in Wales.

You asked for a copy of the CRIAs in relation to:

- the review and changes made to the Welsh Government Activity Based Funding model; and
- the allocation of funding to the 2020-2025 Welsh Government Health and Social Care Research Infrastructure, as referred to in evidence from Noah's Ark Children's Hospital.

The Research and Development Division, within the Health and Social Services Department, has completed an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) in respect of the new funding approach, which included a Children's Rights Impact Assessment. However, there have been delays in publishing the IIA due to COVID pressures within the Research and Development Team. It is the intention to prioritise this task by the end of January

Through Health and Care Research Wales (the 'external arm' of Research and Development Division) the Welsh Government is investing heavily in research affecting children and young people within the Health and Care Research Wales Research Development Infrastructure (HCRW RDI). For example, we fund the Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE), which focuses on children's social care research, including looked-after children, and the Centre for Development, Evaluation, Complexity and Implementation in Public Health Improvement (DECIPHer), the public health research centre of excellence which focuses on the well-being and health behaviour of children and young people and incorporates the Schools Health Research Network (SHRN). In addition, our National Centre for Population Health and Wellbeing Research has an early years and primary school focus as one of its two core work streams and runs the Health and Attainment of Pupils in a Primary Education Network (HAPPEN).

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@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.

Also as part of the HCRW RDI, the Welsh Government funds a number of other research development infrastructure groups, such as clinical trials units, health economists and the Secure Anonymised Information Linkage group (SAIL), to collaborate with research groups seeking to win research funding from high-quality research funders (public, charitable and commercial) from across the UK and beyond.

In addition, and in relation to research capacity in paediatric research, Health and Care Research Wales provides funding for one session a week (0.1wte) of Dr Phillip Connor's time as our Specialty Lead for paediatric research. The role is one of championing paediatric research by creating networks that can help to build critical mass in researchers (known as principal investigators) and supporting the uptake of studies throughout Wales. This gives Dr Connor the opportunity to take a national leadership role to specifically grow paediatric research and confers membership of the relevant UK-wide National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Specialty Group, which should enhance his ability to bring trials to Wales. There are around 30 specialty leads in Wales across a breadth of disease areas or themes. The commitment to Dr Connor's sessional time (one session a week) is comparable to posts in the other 29 disease and topic areas and is similar to roles funded within NIHR (our equivalent organisation in England).

You also requested the terms of reference for the Welsh Government-commissioned research into strengthening and advancing equality and human rights in Wales which I referred to in my response to the Committee's Children's Rights report.

The research specification sets out the following aims and objectives:

- Develop a clear understanding of existing legislation and statutory guidance frameworks to determine if and to what extent these are relevant to the protection and promotion of equality and human rights in Wales.
- Explore whether there is evidence that making changes to existing legislation and statutory guidance frameworks would serve to strengthen and advance equality and human rights in Wales.
- Explore whether there is evidence that introducing new legislation and powers, including the incorporation of further UN conventions into Welsh law and/or the possibility of a Welsh Human Rights Act, would serve to strengthen and advance equality and human rights in Wales. To include an assessment of whether any new legislation and powers would serve to undermine and/or add further complexity to the existing legislative framework in Wales.
- Compare and contrast the options of making changes to existing legislation and statutory guidance frameworks with introducing new legislation and powers, in terms of strengthening and advancing equality and human rights in Wales. To include evidence based recommendations detailing how to strengthen and advance equality and human rights in Wales.

These aims and objectives should be considered in the context of non-Welsh legislation in order to determine what aspects of equality and human rights are dependent on wider legislation.

The research will not consider specifically the merits and feasibility of placing duties on public bodies in respect of the UNCRC, but it will consider whether human rights obligations should be imposed at all levels of government in Wales..

In relation to the Curriculum and Assessment Bill, I am aware that you have received correspondence from Kirsty Williams AS/MS Minister for Education dated 5 November.

Our consultation on the draft Children's Rights Scheme (due to go live before the December recess) will contain reference to our updated awareness raising strategy. We very much see the new curriculum as part of our long term strategy to raise awareness of the UNCRC.

Yours sincerely,

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

Julie Morgan AS/MS

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