

Children, Young People and Education Committee remit

July 2021

Purpose

1. The paper sets out the remit and responsibilities of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Recommendation

2. The Committee is invited to note its remit.

Background

3. The rules and procedures of the Senedd are laid out in Standing Orders. Standing Order 16.1 requires the Senedd to establish committees with power within their remit to:

“(i) examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the government and associated public bodies;

(ii) examine legislation;

(iii) undertake other functions specified in Standing Orders; and

(iv) consider any matter affecting Wales.”

4. In doing this, the Business Committee has to ensure that every area of responsibility of the Welsh Government and associated public bodies, and all matters relating to the legislative competence of the Senedd and functions of the Welsh Ministers and of the Counsel General, are subject to committee scrutiny.

Committee remit

5. The remit of this Committee, as agreed by the Senedd on 23 June 2021, is:



“to examine legislation and hold the Welsh Government to account by scrutinising its expenditure, administration and policy matters, encompassing (but not restricted to): the education, health and well-being of the children and young people of Wales, including their social care.”

6. Further details on the wider roles and responsibilities of Senedd committees are set out in the Business Committee’s report [Sixth Senedd Committees: Titles and remits](#), laid before the Senedd on 23 June 2021. This report states:

“As was the case in the Fifth Senedd, it is important to understand that, in the case of the policy and legislation committees, their remits are not prescriptive or restrictive. We have deliberately allowed them to remain broad and we decided not to provide a list of subjects attached to each committee. As in the previous two Seneddau, we believe that providing committees with the ability to pursue issues across portfolios and subject areas makes for better scrutiny and avoids the risk of too narrow an approach.”

7. Notwithstanding this, an indicative list of the ministerial responsibilities that broadly fall within the Committee’s remit is attached at Annex 1 for information.

Annex 1: Ministerial responsibilities within the Committee's remit

Minister for Health and Social Services

- Adoption and fostering services
- Children and young people's advocacy including complaints, representations and advocacy under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Information sharing under the Children Act 2004
- Cafcass Cymru
- Children's and young people's rights and entitlements, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Early years, childcare and play, including the Childcare offer and workforce
- Early childhood education and care
- Flying Start for children 0-3
- Families First and play policies

Minister for Education and the Welsh Language

- School governance, organisation and admissions
- School standards, improvement and pupil attainment, including National Categorisation
- Estyn work programme remit
- Funding of schools
- Curriculum and assessment up to and including A levels
- Welsh medium and bilingual education
- Foundation Phase
- Additional learning needs, including needs of pupils with severe, complex and/or specific learning difficulties, disabled pupils, able and talented pupils
- Support for people with Dyslexia
- Safeguarding and inclusion in schools, including internet safety
- Complaints against Local Education Authorities and school governing bodies
- Delivery and management of 21st Century Schools and education programme
- Qualifications Wales
- Education workforce training and development, including initial teacher training and Post Compulsory Education and Training

- Teachers' Pay and Conditions
- Further Education
- FE student support: Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG FE)
- Youth-work policy
- Adult community learning*
- Credit and Qualifications Framework including vocation, key and essential skills qualifications
- Prisoner Learning
- Higher Education policy, strategy and funding
- Tertiary Education, including post-16 curriculum reform
- International learning and strategy, including the International Learning Exchange Programme and Global Wales
- Medical Education (except for post graduate training)

**Given this Committee's focus on children and young people, it is likely that discussions will need to take place with the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee to ensure that relevant aspects of adult and lifelong learning are scrutinised within its programme, alongside relevant issues including skills and employability.*

Minister for Social Justice

- Co-ordination of measures to mitigate Child Poverty
- Relationship with the Children's Commissioner for Wales
- Youth Justice blueprint

Areas of overlap between committee remits

Matters relating to the health and social care of children and young people fall primarily within the remit of this Committee. However, in line with the Business Committee's view that remits are not prescriptive or restrictive, this would not prevent other committees considering matters relating to children and young people.

Similarly, scrutiny of the Minister for Social Justice will largely sit under the remit of the Equality and Social Justice Committee, however matters of relevance to children and young people listed under that ministerial portfolio are included above.