

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)

CYPE SP 103

Ymateb gan: Diverse Cymru

Response from: Diverse Cymru

Beth yn eich barn chi yw'r prif flaenoriaethau neu'r materion y dylai'r Pwyllgor eu hystyried yn ystod y Chweched Senedd? Os oes modd, nodwch eich barn o ran sut y gallai'r Pwyllgor fynd i'r afael â hyn.

What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.

We would like to be added to the Children, Young People and Education Committee's contacts list in order to receive updates about your work.

We are writing to provide evidence on the forthcoming strategic priorities for the Children, Young People and Education Committee and in particular how the focus of the committee relates to, and can build on commitments to a fair and equal Wales for all.

Diverse Cymru promotes equality for all. We work across all protected characteristics and with other people who experience discrimination and disadvantage, such as carers and people from lower socio-economic backgrounds. We believe that we can work together to challenge discrimination in all its forms and create an equitable future for the people of Wales.

We believe that equality and human rights should be at the heart of every decision the Senedd makes affecting Wales. Equality, diversity and inclusion must be a cross-cutting theme, central to all inquiries and work of every Senedd committee and policy area.

We would welcome any opportunity to work with you to build commitments to a fair and equal Wales for all into your policies and work as the Children, Young People and Education Committee.



A copy of our Manifesto for 2021 is available, in both English and Welsh, here:
<https://www.diversecymru.org.uk/a-manifesto-for-a-fair-and-equal-wales-2/>

What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.

Theme 1: School-age education & Theme 2: Further and higher education

We believe that equality and diversity must be embedded into the curriculum. The content of all subjects should be reviewed to ensure that Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic people, disabled people, LGBTQIA+ people, people of different religions and faiths, and women are fully represented. This is particularly true in history, but extends to other subjects, such as examples used in mathematics textbooks. The review of the curriculum in Wales and the new curriculum provide a once in a generation opportunity to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion for all are fully integrated throughout the curriculum. We feel this should be a priority for the committee.

Work placements in schools, colleges and universities should be more practical, longer, and provided in a wider variety of careers to enable young people to develop more skills and experience before entering the employment market. These need to include ensuring that all communities and individuals can participate and benefit from work placements with appropriate support, and tackling career segregation on gender and other characteristics.

Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)

We believe that health and social care must provide an integrated, seamless service, which actively recognises and accounts for each individual's views, wishes, and circumstances. Social care must be seen as just as valuable to society as health care.

We believe that health, wellbeing, and social care services must ensure support and treatment are integrated, holistic, and tailored for diverse communities across Wales. Mental health must be seen as an equal priority to physical health, including public health messages, quick and early access to support, tackling stigma, and providing tailored services to meet the needs of different protected characteristics. Children and young people need to be fully recognised as diverse people with more than one



characteristic and whose voices need to be heard and integrated into service design and delivery.

A comprehensive and multi-sectorial approach to mental health promotion, prevention, treatment, care and recovery is vital. This approach must be culturally sensitive and competent. It must take full account of all the diversity and equality factors each individual experiences, including children and young people.

Support for carers should be improved, including training, mental health support, respite and a specific bereavement service for carers, this includes young carers.

Investment in advocacy, including specialist advocacy services, is needed to ensure that barriers to accessing services and receiving equal outcomes are addressed. This includes making sure that advocacy for children and young people are fully responsive to their characteristics, background, and individual requirements.

Theme 4: Children and young people

As we recover from Covid-19 it is vital that equality and human rights is placed front and centre of all legislation, strategies, policies, programmes, and actions. The impact on all different communities and groups in Wales must be monitored and action taken to ensure that we emerge from this crisis stronger and more equal, rather than equality and human rights being detrimentally affected.

A 'one size fits all' approach will not meet the equalities requirements of people with one or more protected characteristics. We need to recognise and act on the voices and experiences of people in Wales, including intersectional issues. Failure to make this fundamental shift in the way we address equality and diversity will leave many people in Wales at risk of discrimination, poverty and injustice.

Legislation, policy and practice must be co-produced with individuals representing the diversity of the Wales across all characteristics to ensure that it respects every individual and advances equality for all. There is significant evidence that legislative compliance is not reflected in people's experiences of barriers to accessing services and in discrimination in Wales. This implementation gap must be closed. Effective monitoring and ensuring that the public are directly involved in continually evaluating the effectiveness of steps taken to advance equality and human rights are vital.

Additionally youth groups and services should ensure that specific funding and support is available for LGBTAIQ+ youth groups in every local authority area in



Wales. Where this is needed or requested for other characteristics or communities this should also be provided. Additionally ensuring that mainstream youth groups and services receive comprehensive training in each protected characteristic, wider disadvantaged communities, and specific sub-groups is vital to ensuring accessibility and inclusion for all children and young people.

