

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 8

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Deputy Minister for Social Services

Julie Morgan MS

17 December 2021

Support for children leaving care

Dear Julie,

We have spent time over recent weeks considering which areas of work should be the subject of our first policy inquiries in the new year. One potential area of work relates to the support provided to children and young people who have left, or in the process of leaving, local authority care. This is one of a range of important issues raised by stakeholders in our recent consultation on Committee priorities.

To help us with our forward work and strategic planning, we would be grateful if you could provide us with the following.

1. Information about what support is currently being provided to children and young people who are transitioning from living in care to living independently and those who have left care, and how the impact of that support is monitored and evaluated. This should include the duties **in the Social Services and Well-Being (Act) 2014** and the delivery of corporate parenting across the wide range of statutory services including education, health and housing. The latest data on outcomes for children leaving care in terms of education, employment, housing and health and any plans to collect / publish additional data on outcomes.
2. A detailed update on the **Programme for Government** commitments to:
 - 'explore radical reform of current services for looked after children and care leavers' which includes a timeframe for any announcements; and
 - Strengthen public bodies in their role as 'corporate parent'.

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3. An update (which includes the Welsh Government's progress to date, current view of timescales, and how/with whom policy is being developed) on the following, as set out in its **response to the Children Commissioner for Wales' 2020-21 Annual Report**:

"While we intend to bring forward the proposals suggested by the Children's Commissioner as a package of support for care leavers, the statutory elements are not applicable in all cases.

The Welsh Government is committed to working with our partners to develop and implement policies to support care leavers successfully transition to independence. To take forward this commitment we will:

- *Legislate in this Senedd Term to ensure all care leavers have an entitlement to a Personal Advisor up to the age of 25;*
- *Observe and learn from England's experience of banning the use of unregulated placements for under 16s. To use that learning to explore safe and realistic options for use in Wales;*
- *With our partners, continue our work to develop a range of good quality accommodation options for care leavers;*
- *Continue to offer additional support for care leavers to successfully transition towards independent living and this includes continuing the support offered through the St. David's Day Fund."*

4. An update on the development of an alternative approach to the 'When I am Ready' scheme to support young people in children's residential care.
5. Clarification on the future role of the Ministerial Advisory Group for Vulnerable Children which focussed on care experienced children and those leaving care during the Fifth Senedd.
6. Any other information that may be relevant to the Committee's consideration of this important policy area.

I would be very grateful if we could have this information no later than Thursday 13 January 2022 to inform our discussion that will take place in Committee the following week.

If you have concerns about meeting this deadline, or if you or your officials would like clarification of any of the above, please contact the Committee clerks (SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales).

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Bryant

Jayne Bryant MS

Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

