

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Deputy Minister for Social Services
Julie Morgan MS

22 April 2022

Child sexual abuse

Dear Julie,

During a discussion about the Children, Young People and Education Committee's forward work programme during our meeting of 31 March 2022, we considered the issue of child sexual abuse. We discussed its significant impact on children and young people and looked at some of the work being done to prevent, support and protect them. We also considered a request from the NSPCC for the Committee to launch an inquiry into child sexual abuse in Wales.

We would appreciate the following information to help inform our decision-making in this area:

- i. How the Welsh Government responds to the evidence from the NSPCC that "lockdowns in response to COVID-19 and subsequent isolation from support heightened the risk of CSA for some children". What steps the Welsh Government has taken - and will take - to ensure that the relevant authorities have the capacity and expertise to respond appropriately to all cases of child sexual abuse?
- ii. Any trends the Welsh Government has identified in the numbers of children on the child protection register, taken into care, and in need of care and support by the local authority during the 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 financial years?
- iii. An update on the Welsh Government's review of evidence on the impact of its National Action Plan: Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse, scheduled to begin from 31 January 2022, and its plans to engage with Safeguarding Boards and other stakeholders on any next steps.

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- iv. The Welsh Government's view on calls from the NSPCC for "a Welsh Government Online Safety Plan exclusively focussed on children and young people that connects all partners in a pan-Wales protection and prevention approach".
- v. The Welsh Government's views on:
- the findings of the Child Sexual Abuse Independent Inquiry's work in relation to Wales to date generally including its investigation and research reports;
 - how the findings of this UK wide inquiry feed into Welsh policy and practice.
 - the performance of public authorities outlined in the February 2022 report into organised networks within the City and County of Swansea Council; and
 - the UK Home Secretary's response to that report., including the commissioning of a national inspection into police response to child sexual abuse.

I would be grateful for this information no later than Friday 27 May 2022.

Yours sincerely,



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.