CYPE(6)-17-22 - Paper to note 16

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Eich cyf/Your ref Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JMEWL/1800/22

Jayne Bryant MS Chair Children, Young People and Education Committee Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government

30 August 2022

SeneddChildren@senedd.wales

Dear Jayne

Thank you for your further letter of 30 June about Welsh Government support for Service children in Wales.

Data collection

As stated in my previous letter of 24 May, work is on-going on data collection, however due to the recent challenges you mention in your letter, there is currently a lack of space in the Legislative Programme for 2022-23 for the necessary work to make changes to Regulations to enable data to be collected. I am not therefore able to provide a date for implementation of data collection at this stage.

I will provide a further update as this work progresses.

Support for Service Children

Education is devolved, and Wales has never provided funding to support Service children in the same way as England. Provision in Wales is more tailored and is closely aligned to schools and individual learners' needs. It is not currently possible to provide a 'Service Pupil Premium' style fund as we do not yet collect data on the number and location of Service children in Wales.

The data collected by the SSCE Cymru project shows that the number and demographic of Service children in Wales outside of a few areas is very sparse, with many schools having only one or two children from Service families. This means that a Service Pupil Premium of around £300 would be of limited benefit to an individual school or child. By funding the SSCE Cymru project, the support we provide is done in a more holistic way and has a wider benefit to the children, young people and their families.

There has not been a Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) completed on funding in Wales vs England as there has never been a Service Pupil Premium in Wales. However, a

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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.

CRIA was undertaken as part of a full Impact Assessment for the creation of the Supporting Service Children in Education Wales fund.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg Minister for Education and Welsh Language