

CYPE(6)-20-22 - Paper to note 3

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jayne Bryant MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

3 October 2022

Dear Jayne,

I write in follow up to the Welsh Government's response to recommendation 6 of the Committee's report on the 2022-2023 Welsh Government Draft Budget published earlier this year.

You will recall that recommendation 6 in the report is: *The Welsh Government must set out a clear and detailed timetable for its plans to reform services for looked after children as set out in the Programme for Government and response to the Children's Commissioner for Wales' Annual Report. The timetable must include key implementation milestones and associated funding requirements.*

Our response to that recommendation stated that "*We are currently working through plans, including funding and timetabling to take forward our Programme for Government commitments which we can provide at a future date*". The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on how these plans are progressing.

New governance arrangements for transforming children's services

We have been working to review the governance structure for the transformation of children's services. This work has looked at a future structure which would include a Ministerial Oversight board. The Board will be supported by a new Delivery Group which will replace the existing Oversight Board, to programme manage delivery and implementation of the Programme for Government commitments.

We have developed an infographic which outlines how all the services and Programme for Government commitments link up with children at the heart of that diagram. This is being used to refine our plan outlining deliverables, interdependencies and timelines which the Delivery Group will oversee. This will be finalised next month. I will keep Committee up to date on progress against the plan.

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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.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Information on forthcoming events which all inform the radical reform of children's social services.

There are several activities due to take place before the end of 2022 which I would like to update Committee on, all of which support the work we are taking forward. These are:

The **Inaugural Care Experience Summit to shape radical reform of services** was due to take place on 10 September but had to be rescheduled due to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The Summit will enable care experienced young people to work with Welsh Government Ministers and their teams across portfolio to develop a coherent vision of what radically reformed services would look like, influencing policy and service delivery across portfolios as it affects them. The Summit is currently being rescheduled and will take place before the end of the calendar year.

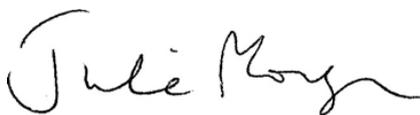
On the 4 October, a launch event will take place to present the results of **the Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) interim evaluation** of the Cardiff and Vale Pilot which began at the beginning of this year. The FDAC is an alternative family court for children's care proceedings. It is specially designed to work with parents who struggle with drug and alcohol misuse problems. The court looks to take a problem-solving approach to proceedings, which parents can choose to enter rather than going through standard care proceedings.

Public consultation on eliminating profit proposals – The public consultation on a range of potential areas for primary legislation, including implementation of the Programme for Government and Co-operation Agreement commitment to eliminate profit from the care of children looked after will close on 7 November. Work will be undertaken to review the responses and develop the next steps to take this forward.

Corporate Parent charter - The draft corporate parenting charter is currently being finalised. We will be working over the next couple of months now to taking forward a national conversation. Organisations and senior leaders signing up to the Charter will be making a clear public commitment stating their support of care experienced young people and by so doing be held accountable to ensure a better offer of support is provided to care experienced young people by all parts of the public sector.

I hope that this response is helpful in updating on the work being taken forward to support the transformation of children's services and the focus to deliver our commitments within the Programme for Government.

Yours sincerely



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Deputy Minister for Social Services