

CYPE(6)-04-23 – Paper to note 8

Julie Morgan AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
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Our ref JMSS/0160/23

Jayne Bryant
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
Welsh Parliament
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20 January 2023

Dear Jayne,

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2022 regarding Child Sexual Abuse.

I was pleased to have been able to attend the Cross Party Group on Preventing Child Sexual Abuse on 15 December in order to provide an update on the National Action Plan on Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse.

You will be aware that I issued a Written Statement on 29 November 2022 to accompany the publication of the Delivery Report of the National Action Plan which set out the work that has been achieved throughout the three year period of the National Action Plan which concluded in June 2022. The progress that had been achieved against the objectives of the National Action Plan, not least given that this took place during the unprecedented demands of the pandemic, was remarkable. I remain thankful to the Cross Party Group in providing constructive feedback and scrutiny throughout the life of the Action Plan.

In order to inform the next National Action Plan, Welsh Government is in the process of considering the Delivery Report as well as the important final report of the Independent Inquiry on Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) - which was published on 20 October. We will also be consulting with stakeholders, including young people and adults with lived experience, to ensure we consider their views on what the next National Action Plan should look like. In the meantime, the Regional Safeguarding Boards have committed to continue with their focussed work from actions within the original plan, and for this I am grateful.

The final report published by IICSA set out its' final recommendations. Of the 20 final recommendations, six are for Welsh Government to directly respond to. All Government Departments are provided up to six months to provide a response outlining whether these each recommendation is accepted in full, partially accepted or not accepted. Officials are

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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.



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engaging with counterparts in UK Government to discuss the recommendations and how these may be taken forward in both England and Wales. Work is ongoing to develop a timeline in order to respond accordingly.

It is important that the work to respond to the recommendations outlined within the final IICSA recommendations are aligned with the work to develop the next iteration of the National Action Plan on Preventing and Responding to Child Sexual Abuse. I want to see a joined-up approach to ensure that the important work of the IICSA report is reflected as fully as possible in the next National Action Plan. It is intended that the next National Action Plan will also be for a three-year period.

The organisation, Children in Wales have been commissioned to lead a programme of engagement with stakeholders and this has already commenced earlier this month. This will provide an opportunity for partners to provide feedback on areas already identified for action and to identify any further issues that should be considered for the next phase of work. It is anticipated that this will be a further opportunity to consider the IICSA recommendations.

A draft implementation/action plan will then be developed by the Welsh Government. We will engage and consulta with those with lived experience and with multi-agency stakeholders on the draft action plan in June/July 2023. This will inform the publication of an implementation/action plan on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse in the Autumn of 2023.

This does not mean that the work on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse will cease until the Autumn of 2023. In line with the statutory obligations set out in our legislation and guidance, and explained in the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, duties to protect children at risk of abuse, neglect, or harm, including child sexual abuse remain in place.

I hope that this provides sufficient information to assist you in the development of your work programme.

Yours sincerely



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Deputy Minister for Social Services