

CYPE(6)-20-23 - Paper to note 14

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Elin Jones MS
Llywydd, Chair of Business Committee

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29 June 2023

Joint debate on reports relating to care experienced children and young people

Dear Llywydd,

As you may be aware, the Petitions Committee and the Children, Young People and Education Committee have recently published reports relating to care experienced children and young people. The Petitions Committee's report, 'Supporting care experienced parents', was published in March 2023. The Children, Young People and Education Committee's report, 'If not now, then when?', was published in May 2023.

There is a significant policy overlap across the two reports. The Children, Young People and Education Committee's report considers services for care experienced children and young people as a whole, including services for care experienced parents. The Petitions Committee report focuses specifically on services for care experienced parents. Our reports both fall primarily under the portfolio of the Deputy Minister for Social Services, they have been informed by the views of some of the same stakeholders (including some specific young people who have contributed to both inquiries), and they make very similar recommendations in certain areas.

Rather than schedule a separate Plenary debate on each report, we propose to the Business Committee that we hold a joint debate on the two reports during the Plenary slot currently allocated to the Children, Young People and Education Committee's report (currently scheduled for 4.55pm on 12 July). We propose some minor changes to the terms of a normal Committee report debate, as follows:

- The motion for the debate would be that the Senedd notes both committees' reports.
- The title of the debate would relate to the subject matter, rather than to either report specifically.

- The Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, Jayne Bryant MS, would open and respond to the debate.
- The Chair of the Petitions Committee, Jack Sargeant MS, would be called to speak immediately after Jayne Bryant MS opens the debate.

In light of the overall time-efficiency of scheduling one committee report debate rather than two, we ask that you give consideration to:

- giving the Chair of the Petitions Committee additional time to speak, in recognition that he will be introducing the Petitions Committee report;
- giving the Deputy Minister of Social Services additional time to speak, in recognition that she will be responding to two reports; and, within reason,
- giving all Members of the Senedd who wish to speak during the debate the opportunity to do so.

We do not believe it would be necessary to make any other significant changes to the normal procedure for Senedd debates on committee reports.

We hope that you are able to respond favourably to our request. We believe that our proposed approach is a sensible use of Plenary time, and allows for a more complete and holistic debate for Members and stakeholders alike on the important and inter-connected issues raised in both reports.

I have copied this letter to the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair of the Children, Young People
and Education Committee



Jack Sargeant MS
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.