

By email

25 August 2023

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter dated 20 July 2023 regarding the report **'If not now, then when?'** published by the Children, Young People and Education Committee and your request for my views on Welsh Government's response to this report.

I note the recent [briefing](#) produced by the Senedd Research Team, highlighting the complex picture which has led to an increase in children going into the care of Welsh local authorities. More than one child in every hundred in Wales is in care and numbers have significantly increased in the past ten years.

I have reviewed the Welsh Government's response to your report and the subsequent debate that took place in the Senedd. I note the extensive number of recommendations rejected or accepted in part and I can understand the Committee's consequent disappointment. Unfortunately, my office does not hold extensive evidence or research specifically related to this particular issue to inform further the debate.

I understand that the Children's Commissioner has also written to the Committee regarding this issue, and I too would like to stress the importance of clear communication between Government, stakeholders and the public on the steps Welsh Government is taking to support children in care. I strongly encourage all parties to read the Children's Commissioner's comments to your committee in full.

I share the sentiment that it is crucial for all stakeholders, including the Welsh Government, to actively and progressively engage in discussions that look to safeguard and enrich the lives of our children and young people.

I will look forward with keen interest to the Committee's continued exploration on this matter, especially the forthcoming session with the Deputy Minister of Social Services in September. Even though my immediate contributions may be limited in this area, I am always interested in discussions and proposals to further the interests and needs of future generations.

I look forward to sharing my priorities for my term with Committees in the coming months and if my Office can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Marie Brousseau-Navarro  
Deputy Future Generations Commissioner