

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

Minister for Health and Social Care
Eluned Morgan MS

Deputy Minister for Social Services
Julie Morgan MS

Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Lynne Neagle MS

9 October 2023

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25

Dear Eluned, Julie and Lynne,

As last year, we would like written information to support our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2024-25. The annex to this letter sets out in detail the information that we would like to receive.

I would be grateful to receive the written information no later than 19 December 2023. I note that the Welsh Government intends to publish the Draft Budget on 19 December 2023. While we usually ask for the written information a few days after the publication of the draft budget, due to the planned publication date of the draft budget, we are asking for this information on the same day. To help alleviate some of the issues in preparing the written evidence and provide you with the maximum time possible to prepare the submission we are issuing our request earlier in the autumn term. Please contact my clerks if you are concerned about meeting our proposed deadline in light of the budget timetable.

Given the shared interest across committees in some of the areas listed in the annex to this letter, I have copied in the chairs of the Health and Social Care Committee and the Equality and Social Justice Committee.

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Yours sincerely,

Jayne Bryant

Jayne Bryant MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Annex A: Request to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding CYPE Draft Budget scrutiny 2024-25

1. Allocations for children and young people

Allocations in the Health MEG by Action, and Budget Expenditure Line (as directly relevant to children and young people):

- Draft Budget 2024-25
- Final Budget 2023-24 allocations
- 2023-24 First Supplementary Budget
- Forecast 2023-24 out-turns
- 2025-26 indicative budget (if set)

A description of any changes to baselines used in the Draft Budget 2024-25 from the First Supplementary budget June 2023.

2. Impact assessments

- **Combined CRIA across all portfolios:** The overall Child's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) undertaken by to inform allocations in the draft Budget 2024-25.
- **CRIA for Health and Social Services MEG:** The CRIA for the Health and Social Services MEG for 2024-25.
- **Other impacts:** Details and/or examples of any changes made to allocations within the Health and Social Services MEG following considerations of equalities, sustainability, the Welsh language, and the Wellbeing of Future Generations.

3. Programme for Government

Allocations in the Draft Budget 2024-25 and the latest position on funding for:

| PFG Commitment | Requested allocations and narrative detail |
|---|---|
| Advocacy services for parents whose children are at risk of coming into care. | Allocations for the roll out of support for parents whose children are on the edge of care, which is to be delivered in accordance with a national framework. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Fund regional residential services for children with complex needs. | <p>Allocations for 2024-25 for the Regional Partnership Boards for the 8 projects which are now operational (and how many additional placements this funds).</p> <p>Allocations for delivery of any new projects (and how many additional new placements this funds).</p> |
| Eliminating private profit from the care of children looked after. | <p>An annual breakdown of how the commitment to spend £68m is broken down by total over the three years 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25.</p> <p>Final outturns for 2022-23 / breakdown of who that was allocated to and for what purpose (by local authority and third sector)</p> <p>Forecast outturns for 2023-24 / breakdown of who that was allocated to and for what purpose (by local authority and third sector)</p> <p>Detailed planned allocations for 2024-25 (or the process by which that will be decided)</p> |
| Specialist support for children with complex needs who may be on the edge of care. | <p>Details of the 32 projects so far identified by Regional Partnership Boards cover the whole of Wales and how these are funded by the Health and Social Care Regional Integration Fund as detailed in the most recent PfG Annual Report.</p> |
| Fund childcare for more families where parents are in education and training or on the edge of work. | <p>Overall allocations for the Childcare Offer in 2024-25.</p> <p>The cost in 2023-24 of the additional 438 families and the total costs allocated in 2024-25 for the estimated 3,000 more eligible families as referred to in the most recent PfG Annual Report.</p> |
| Phased expansion of early years provision to include all 2 year olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh medium provision. | <p>Allocations and what they are intended to deliver in 2024-25</p> <p>Information on whether it will be a full 30 hour offer for all two year olds, and by when this will be delivered</p> |
| Flying Start. | Revenue and capital |

4. Sustainable Social Services Grant Scheme

The total amount for the Scheme and a breakdown of all grants relevant to children and young people.

5. Care Experienced Children Change Fund

The total amount for the Fund and a breakdown of all allocations.

6. Children's Social Care workforce

Any allocations associated with supporting local authorities to address the instability of the workforce in children's social care, such as vacancy rates and the use of agency staff, identified both in our Report on [Radical Reform for Care Experienced Children](#) and the recent [Care Inspectorate Wales rapid review of child protection arrangements](#) September 2023.

7. Children's Health

- Allocations in the Draft Budget 2024-25 and the latest position on funding for:
 - Public health as it relates to children and young people, including vaccination
 - Obesity strategy
 - Mental health services, including child and adolescent mental health services, and services to support perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships
 - Eating disorder services
 - Suicide prevention as it relates to children and young people
 - Substance misuse, including vaping among children and young people
 - Neurodevelopmental services

8. Cost of living

- **Health Boards:** The delivery of services to children and young people by the Health Boards in Wales and the impact of the rising costs of energy on this provision.
- **Social Services:** Policy and oversight of the provision of all social service activities of Local Authorities in Wales and any associated discussions with the Minister for Finance and Local Government.
- **Child poverty:** Details of what discussions have taken place with other relevant Ministers in respect of allocations which have a significant impact on children's health and social care, for example the Minister for Social Justice in terms of the budget of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and broader policy issues such as child poverty.

9. Costs of legislation

- Financial implications or anticipated in 2022-23 and 2023-34 of any subordinate legislation relevant to children and young people within the Minister's portfolio.
- Information on the financial impact of any relevant UK Parliament legislation.