

CYPE(6)-20-23 – Paper to note 11

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

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

Derek Walker
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

26 June 2023

CYPE Committee's inquiry: Do disabled children and young people have equal access to education and childcare?

Dear Derek,

We recently launched a new and wide-ranging inquiry which is looking at disabled children and young people's access to education and childcare. This inquiry is being framed within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People. We are asking whether childcare providers, schools and local authorities are meeting their duties under the Equality Act 2010. We have kept the scope purposefully broad, covering all aspects of statutory school provision and childcare. It encompasses neurodivergence, physical, sensory and learning disabilities. You can find out more information on our inquiry webpage, including how to provide a consultation response:

<https://business.senedd.wales/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=40923>

We have held our first oral evidence sessions with the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the Equality and Human Rights Commission in May. The EHRC indicated that one of the barriers to inclusive education, as envisaged by the UN, are the physical school buildings, which may not be accessible to neurodivergent children, or those with physical or sensory disabilities.¹

We are interested in your views on the extent to which the Well-Being of Future Generations Act is being complied with, in both spirit and intent, in the delivery of the 21st Century Schools programme. Are you aware of any concerns raised with your office about the extent to which all sections of the community are being engaged with in the design and delivery of new or redeveloped school estates? We are particularly interested in how well disabled children, young people and their families are being meaningfully engaged and consulted with, but any wider views would also be welcome. We would

¹ Children, Young People and Education Committee, 18 May 2023, Record of Proceedings, paragraph [122]

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also be interested to know if this is an issue more broadly in the development and design of buildings with a social purpose, or that are being delivered through public funding.

If you need any further information about the inquiry or our specific request, please contact the Clerk, Naomi Stocks on 0300 200 6222 or seneddchildren@senedd.wales

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.