

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

**Children, Young People  
and Education Committee**

Gillian Baranski

Chief Inspector, Care Inspectorate Wales

20 December 2023

## **Annual scrutiny**

Dear Gillian,

As you may know, we carry out annual scrutiny of a series of public bodies whose work is directly relevant to our remit (Estyn, Qualifications Wales, and the Children's Commissioner for Wales). The scrutiny usually comprises one evidence session per year following the publication of the public body's annual report. These annual scrutiny sessions offer an opportunity to discuss the public bodies' work in detail and consider any corporate and financial issues outlined in their annual reports.

Our inquiry into radical reform of services for care experienced children and young people illustrated to us the crucial role of Care Inspectorate Wales in relation to overseeing, and driving improvements within, local authorities' children's services departments and other registered children's care providers. Although our report was published in May 2023, our work in this area is ongoing. We remain concerned about the experiences of many children and young people of the care system, and the capacity of the Welsh Government and public bodies to deliver the truly radical reform that we believe the care system needs. We are also aware of the vital role of Care Inspectorate Wales in relation to childcare and early years education, both of which also fall with our remit.

We would therefore like to add scrutiny of Care Inspectorate Wales in its role as the independent regulator and inspector of children's social care and childcare to our recurring annual scrutiny calendar. We propose that the first such session would be held during the morning of **Wednesday 20 March 2024**, and would cover:

- the performance of local authority children's services,
- your recent rapid review of child protection arrangements;
- the use of unregistered accommodation for children in care;

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- care homes for children operating without registration;
- Deprivation of Liberty Orders;
- criminally exploited children and young people;
- missing children;
- workforce issues; and
- other matters relevant to your 2022-23 Annual Report.

Future sessions would be held shortly after the publication of your annual report (i.e. during the autumn/spring terms).

I very much hope that you are amenable to this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our clerks in the first instance (SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales).

Due to the mutual interest in the issues that we will discuss during the proposed scrutiny sessions, I will invite members of the Senedd's Health and Social Care Committee to attend. I have copied this correspondence to the Chair of that Committee for his information.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair

Cc. Russell George MS  
Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.