

Buffy Williams MS
Buffy.Williams@senedd.wales
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

3rd October 2024

Thank you for the Committee's work on the 'Children and Young People on the Margins' inquiry.

Dear Buffy Williams MS,

I hope this finds you well.

On behalf of NYAS Cymru, I would like to thank you and the Children, Young People and Education's Committee for the continued work into the 'Children and Young People on the Margins' inquiry.

We were thrilled that the Committee held a scrutiny session with the Minister for Children and Social Care and the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip on September 19th. It was welcomed that Committee members raised several issues regarding data collection in Wales, the status of return interviews, progress of the Corporate Parenting Charter and devolution of the youth justice system. We would like to thank you for considering the questions we had submitted to the Committee in support of the scrutiny session.

The offer of a return interview

NYAS Cymru recognise that for return interviews to be truly effective in keeping children safe after missing incidents, they must be child-led. We believe there has been some confusion regarding the process of return interviews and we wanted to clarify that we believe children should have a choice as to whether they participate in a return interview or not, and they should be able to decide who completes this interview. NYAS Cymru believe that it should be a statutory right for every missing child or young person to have an offer of an independent return interview and that right is taken up with the voluntary agreement of the child or young person, rather than it being "mandatory". I really welcomed you clarifying this within the scrutiny session and would like to thank you for doing so.

We know that across Wales access to return interviews remains unequal and not every child can access these services. This is why we believe making the offer of a return interview a statutory right is important, so all care-experienced children across Wales have an equal opportunity to decide whether they wish to participate in a return interview.

Inquiry next steps

Please would you be able to confirm the next steps the Committee will take on this important work. NYAS Cymru would like to offer the Committee our full support with the next steps of this inquiry, including helping to shape any recommendations the Committee may make to the Welsh

Tower House • 1 Tower Road • Birkenhead • Wirral • CH41 1FF

T: **0151 649 8700** DX: **17887 Birkenhead** E: main@nyas.net

Helpline 0808 808 1001 www.nyas.net



Children
Law



Family
Law



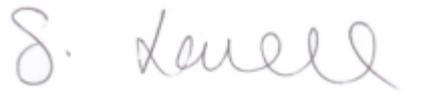
@NYASServices



NYAS.yp

Government. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can do in the coming months to support this. Once again, thank you Buffy for all the work you and the Committee have undertaken as part of this inquiry.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "S. Lovell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sharon Lovell MBE
Chief Executive
NYAS Cymru