

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

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

Jeremy Miles MS
Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Dawn Bowden MS
Minister for Children and Social Care

Sarah Murphy MS
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

17 October 2024

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26

Dear Jeremy, Dawn and Sarah,
As last year, we would like written information to support our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2025-26. 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 13 December 2024. I note that the Welsh Government intends to publish the Draft Budget on 10 December 2024. 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.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

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We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Annex A: Request to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding CYPE Draft Budget scrutiny 2025-26

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 2025-26
- Final Budget 2024-25 allocations
- 2024-25 First Supplementary Budget
- 2026-27 indicative budget (if set)
- A description of any changes to baselines used in the Draft Budget 2025-26 from the First Supplementary budget June 2024.

2. New Ministerial Portfolio: children and social care

Narrative explanation of the role of the new portfolio holder of Minister for Children and Social Care in respect of budget allocations for children across government.

3. Impact assessments

- **Combined CRIA across all portfolios:** The overall Child's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) undertaken to inform allocations in the draft Budget 2025-26.
- **CRIA for Health and Social Services MEG:** The CRIA for the Health and Social Services MEG for 2025-26.
- **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.

4. Programme for Government

Allocations in the Draft Budget 2025-26 and the latest position on funding in the context of the latest [Welsh Government Annual Report](#) for:

PFG Commitment	Requested allocations and narrative detail
Advocacy services for parents whose children are at risk of coming into care.	Allocations and accompanying narrative setting out desired outputs and outcomes for 2025-26.
Fund regional residential services for children with complex needs.	Allocations and accompanying narrative setting out desired outputs and outcomes for 2025-26.
Eliminating private profit from the care of children looked after.	A breakdown of the £68 million commitment over 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allocations and spend by year ▪ Outputs / new placements by local authority at the end of the three year period
Specialist support for children with complex needs who may be on the edge of care.	Allocations and accompanying narrative setting out desired outputs and outcomes for 2025-26.
Fund childcare for more families where parents are in education and training or on the edge of work.	Allocations and accompanying narrative setting out desired outputs and outcomes for 2025-26.
Phased expansion of early years provision to include all 2 year olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh medium provision.	Allocations and accompanying narrative setting out desired outputs and outcomes for 2025-26. Flying Start Childcare: An estimate of the current of 2 years old offered the 15 hours by local authority. A Flying Start Childcare: timeline for roll out of to 2026 across each local authority, from the current baseline.
Flying Start (the four entitlements).	Allocations and accompanying narrative setting out desired outputs and outcomes for 2025-26 (revenue and capital).

5. Children's social care

Children's Social Care workforce

Any allocations associated with additional support to local authorities to address the instability of the workforce in children's social care, such as vacancy rates and the use of agency staff.

Sustainable Social Services Grant Scheme

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

Care Experienced Children Change Fund

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

6. Children's health

- Allocations in the Draft Budget 2025-26 and the latest position on funding for:
- Tackling NHS paediatric waiting times
- 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
- Any changes in WG funding arising from the new arrangements for mental health at Hillside Secure Unit. You recently confirmed to us in writing that from February 2025 a Service Level Agreement (SLA) will be in place between Hillside and Swansea Bay "enabling a more holistic approach to the mental health needs of the young people residing at Hillside."

7. Cost of living

General commentary about the impact of cost of living on:

- **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:** the provision of all social service activities of Local Authorities in Wales and any associated discussions with the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government.
- **Child poverty:** details of what discussions have taken place with other relevant cabinet colleagues in respect of allocations which have a significant impact on children's health and social care, for example the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip in terms of the budget of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and broader policy issues such as child poverty.

8. Costs of legislation

- Financial implications or anticipated in 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.