

Buffy Williams MS
Chair of the Children and Young People Committee

January 15th 2025

Dear Buffy,

Budget Scrutiny on Welsh Benefits Supporting Children

Before publication of the Draft Budget, the Bevan Foundation called for the Welsh Government to uprate the eligibility criteria and cash value of Welsh benefits in line with inflation. This includes the Education Maintenance Allowance, the School Essentials Grant and Free School Meals for pupils in secondary schools.

The Equality and Social Justice Committee asked the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice about uprating these benefits during our Draft Budget evidence session on 13 January. The Cabinet Secretary responded that this was a matter for the Cabinet Secretary for Education. Due to time constraints we were unable to challenge this response, however we agreed to draw it to your attention.

In light of the relevance of these social justice issues, I would be grateful if the CYPE Committee would allow me to attend your budget scrutiny with the Cabinet Secretary for Education tomorrow in my capacity as Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee. I have the agenda and the Cabinet Secretary's supporting evidence and would be grateful with your agreement, if I might be able to ask a couple of questions.

Cofion cynnes,



Jenny Rathbone MS
Equality and Social Justice Committee