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Welsh Government's response to 'Children and Young People on the Margins' inquiry recommendations

Dear Buffy Williams MS,

On behalf of NYAS Cymru, I would like to sincerely thank you and the Children, Young People and Education's Committee for your ongoing work and final report recommendations on the 'Children and Young People on the Margins' inquiry.

Last week, Welsh Government responded to the Committee's final report recommendations. While we were initially pleased to see that Welsh Government accepted 15 recommendations and a further six in principle, we ultimately do not believe that these have been truly accepted by Welsh Government, nor do we believe Welsh Government's response clearly outlines what next steps they will be taking to action the recommendations they have accepted.

NYAS Cymru were delighted with the recommendations made by the Committee, so we are disappointed that Welsh Government have not used these to make transformative legislative changes to improve responses to missing children and children at risk of exploitation in Wales. We are disappointed that Welsh Government have not decided to introduce legislation to provide children and young people with a statutory right to the offer on a return home interview after returning to home or care following a missing episode. We believe this is a missed opportunity to ensure a strong and robust safeguarding response to missing episodes in Wales, as well as a missed opportunity to give children and young people in vulnerable situations another way of having their voices heard by professionals.

As you are aware, NYAS Cymru chairs the 'All Wales Missing the Point' Steering Group. The group will be meeting next week to discuss Welsh Government's response to the recommendations and produce a policy briefing ahead of the Plenary debate on Wednesday 19th February. NYAS Cymru would be pleased to share this briefing with the Committee and put forward questions for Committee members during this Plenary debate.

Once again, we would like to thank you and the Committee for truly listening to our calls, the day-to-day experiences of our frontline workers and most importantly, the children and young people we support. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can do to support the Committee ahead of the Plenary debate.

Best regards,



Sharon Lovell MBE, Chief Executive, NYAS Cymru

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