

Mark Drakeford
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh
Language

Dawn Bowden
Minister for Children and Social Care

14 February 2025

Dear Mark and Dawn,

On 10 February, we considered a letter from the Expert Advisory Group on Childcare (EAGC) to the Minister for Children and Social Care highlighting concerns regarding the childcare budget. Members agreed to write to seek your views in response to their concerns.

Our report 'Their Future: Our Priority?' from July 2024 highlighted the need for significant investment in childcare to develop and improve the quality, availability and accessibility of provision, including the roll-out of phase 3 expansion of Flying Start.

Please can you provide us with assurances that the Draft Budget allocation will be sufficient to enable the roll-out of phase 3 of Flying Start childcare expansion, and to meet your Programme for Government commitment to deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to all 2-year-olds. Given the importance of childcare investment to tackling child poverty, please can you also outline what discussions you have had with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language and Minister for Children and Social Care on this issue.

I would be grateful for a response ahead of final budget debate scheduled for 4 March so that Members can take your response into account.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

Cc Jane Hutt, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament