

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-551  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05324/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter of 29 October, regarding Petition P-04-551 - Support for children and young people participation standards.

The recommendations within *Small Voice, Big Vision* have been useful and we have moved forward on the majority of these. National Participation Structures have changed recently with Children in Wales now leading on a National model for the participation of children and young people and the National Participation Standards. As a result, there has been a need to update information and my officials have been working with Children in Wales, the Children's Commissioner and Local Authorities to make sure the new model is promoted and implemented.

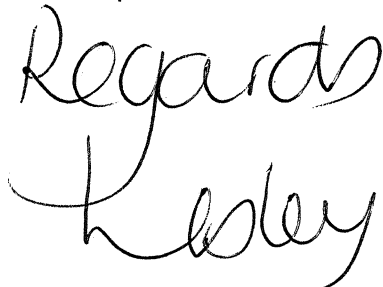
The Participation Hub will continue to be supported and promoted by Children in Wales. It sets out clearly what is meant by participation and outlines the structures to support workers. Children in Wales have met with Save the Children to ensure this includes the resources developed as referred to in the Participation Unit's final report.

In terms of setting out the local and national structures to support participation, we have re-issued *Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery*, the statutory guidance for Local Authorities and their partners in developing Single Integrated Plans (SIP). This now includes an Annex which sets out the statutory guidance for providing and promoting children and young people's participation under Section 12 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

To date, all 22 Local Authorities have received an assessment visit to examine how they are implementing the duty in the context of their Single Integrated Plans. During these visits officials met with Participations Workers, CYP Co-ordinators, Chief Executives, SIP lead officers, Lead Directors, Youth Forums, Youth Parliaments and Youth Councils.

We have been very pleased with the commitment, innovation and breadth of opportunities evident in most Local Authorities. For those who are exemplary we will be sharing elements of their good practice with others. Those who have not been able to evidence they have fully implemented the guidance will be re-visited within 12 months and will be informed about areas in which progress will be expected.

The Children's Rights Scheme 2014, approved by the National Assembly in May, ensures clarity and transparency around how Ministers will have due regard to Children's Rights, which of course includes their participation. We are grateful to the NGOs, Local Authorities and other organisations who advised us throughout this development and continue to do so in its implementation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Regards' on the top line and 'Lesley' on the bottom line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

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