

Mark Drakeford AM
Minister for Health and Social Services
&
Vaughan Gething AM
Deputy Minister for Health

29 October 2015

Budget Scrutiny

Dear Ministers

In advance of the Welsh Government's draft budget 2016-17, the Committee would be grateful if you could provide information on the following issues to assist it in its scrutiny. At this stage, the Committee does not plan to undertake a specific oral evidence session in respect of children's health and social services, but will liaise closely with colleagues on the Health and Social Care Committee to ensure that relevant issues are scrutinised.

Detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

The Committee requests:

- a breakdown of the Health and Social Services MEG to Budget Expenditure Line level.
- a breakdown of the actions within the H&SS MEG as relevant to children and young people (specifically the: Children's Social Services, Grants in support of Child and Family Services and CAF/CASS actions), including commentary and an explanation of any significant changes since the final budget December 2014 and the first supplementary budget June 2015.

Children's Rights and equalities

The Committee requests the following:

- A copy of the Child's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) undertaken to inform the allocations in the H&SS Budget 2016-17;
- What changes, if any, were made to allocations within the H&SSMEG in respect of allocations for the Draft Budget 2016-17 as a result of the Child's Rights Impact Assessment;



- How equalities, sustainability, and the Welsh language have been considered in budget allocations and any examples where such considerations have directly influenced budget allocations or altered initial proposals.

CAMHS

The Minister will be aware of the Committee's keen and on-going interest in expenditure on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. We are particularly keen to ensure that services are funded in a way that can deliver the step-change which the Committee has identified is needed. We would be grateful for the following information:

- Further to your letter to the Committee of the 21 May 2015, what provision you have made for any expenditure associated with the outcome of the review of CAMHS, should the review identify that expenditure additional to the £7.6 million per annum that you have allocated is needed.
- How you will ensure that the additional £7.6 million allocated in 2016-17 will be specifically spent on services for children and young people, given that CAMHS funding is not ring-fenced.
- Further to your letter to the Committee of the 17 August 2015, any further information on your response to the recommendations of the Price Waterhouse Coopers review of the mental health-ring fence and your commitment to consider within this review whether expenditure on CAMHS should be ring-fenced.
- Further detail in respect of information in the first Supplementary Budget of June 2015 which stated that £14.6 million has been transferred from reserves into the H&SS MEG to support mental health services, all of which is stated will be directed at supporting the implementation of our mental health strategy 'Together for Mental Health' (What proportion of this does the Minister anticipate will be allocated to services for children and young people; does the £14.6 million include the £7.6 million announced in May 2015).

Other information

The Committee also requests:

- Information to assist the Committee with its **legacy work** on budget provision associated with the Welsh Government's policies and programmes aimed at:
 - improving **neo-natal care**;
 - reducing **childhood obesity**;
 - improving children's oral health;
 - improving adoption services, including budget provision associated with the **National Adoption Service**.



- Information on how the delivery of the child and young person commitments in the HSS portfolio and their associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate **value for money**.
- Information on the allocations for school nurses; palliative care for children; speech therapy for children (including Welsh Language); and autism strategy. The Committee would also welcome information on the outcomes Ministers expect as a result of those allocations.
- Details of the costs associated with **Programme for Government commitments** within the HSS portfolio as relevant to children and young people and whether they will be delivered within the available budget (for example reducing health inequalities as they affect children; implementing the Designed to Smile programme; school nursing; health needs of children in special schools; public health campaigns relating to teenage pregnancies; increasing immunisation among children).
- Details of specific policies or programmes in the H&SS MEG as relevant to children and young people that are intended to be **preventative** and how the value for money of such programmes is evaluated.
- Information on allocations (and their location) in the H&SS MEG to provide for **legislation which has the potential to impact in the financial year 2016-17** as relevant to children and young people (including any child and young person specific costs relating to the *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014* (further to your written statement of 30 June); the *Public Health Bill* and the *Social Services Regulation and Inspection Bill*; the *Smoke-free Premises etc. (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015* which come into force in October 2015).
- Commentary on the transfer in of £1.06 million to the Children's Social Services action from the Communities and Tackling Poverty MEG in respect of the **Advocacy** Fund and information on what factors have influenced the allocations for advocacy provision in the Draft Budget 2016-17.

The Committee would be grateful to receive the above information by Thursday 10 December.

With many thanks for assisting us in our scrutiny work.

Regards



Ann Jones AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

