

Carl Sargeant AM
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

8 August 2017

Dear Carl,

Follow up from general scrutiny session on 20 July

Thank you for your time in Committee at the end of term. During the course of the meeting you undertook to provide additional written information on the areas below, to supplement your oral evidence:

- The Child's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) process, including the system in place to monitor its use and examples of changes to policy which have occurred as a result of a CRIA;
- The relative independence of Wales' statutory commissioners model as compared with those in other countries (focusing on the Children's Commissioner in particular);
- The timescales to which Children First pioneer areas are working;
- An update on when the childcare workforce strategy will be delivered, and further detail on its content and plan for implementation;
- A note on the work being undertaken by your team in relation to children and young people in preparation for the UK's withdrawal from the EU;
- Details on recent (academic) evaluations of Flying Start and other similar post-code based schemes, with specific comparisons of outcomes for those children who access the schemes and those who do not.

During the course of the session you also undertook to provide early in the autumn term a definitive response to the question of whether you will re-establish a stakeholder advisory group on Advocacy. The Committee looks forward to receiving this information once available.



Further to the session the Committee also wanted to follow-up on the following specific areas:

Child poverty

As discussed in Committee, progress in tackling child poverty at a Wales level will now be assessed using the 46 National Indicators underpinning the *Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015*, in addition to a report every three years on the extent to which objectives in the Child Poverty Strategy have been achieved, as required by the *Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010*.

In response to the consultation on the National Indicators during the Fourth Assembly, as Minister for Natural Resources, you issued a written statement which stated:

In terms of the responses around ensuring we are capturing the well-being of children, we accept that this is important for understanding the well-being of future generations... However, many of the areas of subjective well-being are captured through the National Survey for Wales which does not cover children, and it will be for the next government to consider options for how this can be collected in the future. **(17 March 2016)**

As Child Poverty now resides within your Cabinet portfolio, the Committee would welcome further information on action taken by the Welsh Government to address this discrepancy, to ensure the collection and analysis of children's subjective well-being informs the approach to empowering resilient communities.

Childcare offer

The Committee noted the steps being taken to deliver the manifesto pledge relating to the childcare offer in Wales. As a Committee we intend to keep a close eye on the extent to which delivery of this pledge will impact on other important policy priorities for children and young people.

Communities First

Since our general scrutiny session you have received the recommendations made by the Equalities, Local Government and Communities (ELGC) Committee's Inquiry into learning the lessons from Communities First. Recommendation 1 of that report aligns with our discussion in Committee, which explored how the Welsh Government is working with local authorities to support the continuation of the most effective Communities First programmes for children and young people.

As you are aware, the Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) undertaken during the decision making process to phase out Communities First highlights that 207



of the 647 (32%) Communities First projects in 2016-17, are focused particularly on children and young people. The CRIA further states that to mitigate the impact following the decision to phase out Communities First, local authorities will be expected to produce exit strategies and Welsh Government officials will work closely with them on developing and delivering these strategies to maintain valued services, including those for children, young people and their families.

Where there is evidence of existing Communities First projects benefiting children and young people, the Committee believes that all opportunities should be taken by the Welsh Government to ensure that their activity continues. The Committee was concerned to hear you say in your evidence that the continuation of projects currently delivering services for children and young people will be a matter for the local authority to deal with locally. We concur with ELGC Committee's recommendation that the Welsh Government should work with local authorities to identify all programmes currently delivered by Communities First which should be delivered by other statutory bodies, and that responsibility for those programmes which are successful and are valued by local communities is transferred to the relevant statutory body.

Where there is no obvious statutory provider to deliver services, we also support recommendation 11 from ELGC Committee's report, which encourages adjustments be made to relevant Welsh Government programmes to mitigate against unintended consequences from the closure of Communities First. The Committee would welcome an update on your response to the ELGC Committee's recommendations in those areas which relate to children and young people.

Children's rights

The continued importance of embedding and strengthening children's rights across all government policy and legislation remains a key concern for the Committee. We remain to be convinced that:

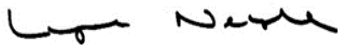
- the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (WFGA) alone is sufficient for ensuring that due regard is paid to the rights of children, especially as it does not include an explicit legal duty of due regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
- the UNCRC does not need to be extended to domestic legislation, such as the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill currently before the Committee. As set out in the [Committee's Stage 1 report](#) on the Bill (paragraph 282 and recommendation 31), the Committee believes that it is vital that the UNCRC filters down through policies to those responsible for delivery 'on the ground', and that the principles of the Convention are understood in the delivery of duties. The Committee believes that the Bill should include a specific duty on relevant bodies to have due regard to the UNCRC.



During our session you noted that you maintained an open mind on amending existing legislation if it was identified as an issue in the January 2018 Compliance Report on the children's rights scheme. We look forward to receiving an update on developments in this regard once the Compliance Report is available.

The Committee would be grateful for a response by **Tuesday 12 September** to inform its work over the next term. I will share a copy of this letter with the ELGC Committee given the relevance of certain aspects to its portfolio.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair



Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA- P/CS/3044/17

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
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14 September 2017

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter of 8 August, following my attendance at Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee on 20 July. As set out in your letter, during the session I agreed to write to the Committee to provide further detail on a number of points. This information is set out below.

Child's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Process

With respect to the Child's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) process, including the system in place to monitor its use and examples of changes to policy which have occurred as a result of a CRIA, the purpose of the CRIA is to help Welsh Government officials to consider the impact of any proposed law, policy or budgetary decision on children and their rights. This is as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Officials are therefore able to fully brief Welsh Ministers on these impacts. The CRIA process helps to ensure that the best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration in all Ministerial decisions which affect them.

The process includes completion of a template, which prompts officials to consider key questions around analysing the impact of the proposal on children and young people, and setting out whether and how the proposal supports and promotes children's rights. There is a high level of awareness across Welsh Government of the need to complete a CRIA wherever there are potential impacts on children and young people. The Children's Rights team within Welsh Government ensures that officials have access to up to date advice, guidance, UNCRC E-learning and examples of good practice for undertaking the CRIA process.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Regular related news items on the Welsh Government intranet, staff departmental newsletters and poster campaigns in Welsh Government offices ensure continued awareness raising.

The Children's Rights team also facilitate staff to draw on children's rights expertise outside of the Welsh Government which contributes to a better understanding of the application and interpretation of the UNCRC within their work.

There is a dedicated mailbox which staff are required to forward all completed CRIAs to for advice and guidance. All CRIAs received via the mailbox are logged on a central database which provides a record of CRIAs undertaken.

The Children's Rights team also monitors the Welsh Government's legislative programme and consultation webpage to ensure that CRIAs have been undertaken on all the key pieces of work. Where this cannot be established there is a follow-up procedure.

All CRIA documents relating to legislation are published on the Welsh Government website, alongside the relevant piece of work. For non-legislative decisions, all completed CRIA titles are listed in a quarterly CRIA Newsletter which are available upon request via the CRIA mailbox. The Newsletter provides a cumulative record of all completed CRIAs. To date the Children's Rights Team has received 24 requests for copies of CRIAs from external stakeholders who are on our distribution list for the CRIA newsletter.

An evaluation of the CRIA process was undertaken in 2015 and an updated CRIA template document is currently being piloted.

Changes to Policy Which Have Occurred as a Result of the CRIA

The Children's Commissioner for Wales' response to the CRIA for the Active Travel Bill (now Act) is an example of a situation where the CRIA prompted concerns and enabled discussion and a participative approach to working in the best interest of children, resulting in the development of new statutory guidance.

The Children's Commissioner's comments on the CRIA highlighted concerns about the personal safety of children and young people when walking to school. While traffic safety issues had been considered, a wider range of factors that might affect personal safety needed to be taken into account. These were issues such as whether a route was well-lit, contained isolated areas or areas known for anti-social behaviour by older children or adults. The Commissioner was of the opinion that article 19 of the UNCRC was not adequately being taken into account.

Although the Bill itself was not amended, the then Minister for Economy, Science and Transport pursued this point and as a result developed new statutory guidance on the risk assessment of walked routes to school which Local Authorities are now required to consider. The subsequent guidance included specific provision for personal safety which was informed by the views of children and young people, in addition to expectations regarding their participation in implementing the guidance.

Statutory Commissioners Model

At Committee we discussed the relative independence of Wales' statutory Commissioners model as compared with those in other countries (focusing on the Children's Commissioner in particular).

As my remit relates to children and young people, I have focused below on the position with regard to the role of Children's Commissioners.

The model in Wales is that the Children's Commissioner is appointed by the First Minister and funded by the Welsh Government. The Commissioner has corporate sole status and is an independent human rights institution. This is fundamental to the operation of the Commissioner's remit. The Commissioner's work programme is set by the Commissioner, in compliance with the legislative obligations, and no areas of the work plan (including statutory reviews or examinations) require the approval of Ministers.

This model is essentially the same as that for the roles of the Children's Commissioner for England (CCE) and the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, which are both also sponsored by government departments.

In contrast, the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland (CYPCS) is appointed by Her Majesty on the nomination of the Parliament and is funded by and accountable to the Scottish Parliament. The models which exist in Belgium and in the Netherlands are closer to the Scottish model. In Belgium the office of the Children's Rights Commissioner is a public independent agency, funded by and reporting annually to the Flemish Parliament. In the Netherlands, an Ombudsman for Children function is embedded in the National Ombudsman office and under legislation a Deputy Ombudsman was designated the first Ombudsman for Children. Both the National Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Children report directly and independently to the Dutch Parliament.

In Northern Ireland the Commissioner is appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister. There have been two reviews of the Commissioner's legislation (2006 and 2013) and both recommended that to be [Paris Principles](#) compliant (the principles around the independence of public bodies involved in human rights), NICCY should be independent of government and report to the Northern Ireland Assembly rather than a government department. These reports identified critical constraints in the NICCY legislation that impact on the ability of the Commissioner to fully exercise her legal powers. The NI Executive has not implemented any of these recommendations or required changes to date.

The former Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty commissioned an independent review into the current legislative and governance frameworks supporting the Children's Commissioner for Wales, which reported its findings in December 2014. The review made 42 recommendations, including that the Welsh Government should transfer the appointment and funding of the Children's Commissioner to the National Assembly.

In the Welsh Government's view, the current model protects the Children's Commissioner's independence. While the First Minister appoints the Commissioner and funds her office, she has independent status as a sole corporation, and sets her own agenda. Further, it is the National Assembly for Wales, not the First Minister or Welsh Government, which holds her to account. Dividing responsibility for appointment and funding on the one hand and for scrutiny on the other, between the Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales, helps to ensure both the independence and the accountability of the Commissioner.

Children First Pioneer Areas

You asked about the timescales to which Children First pioneer areas are working. The Pioneer areas will be developing a range of approaches for Children's First over the next 12 months. Their focus for the first year will be upon the Pioneer areas engaging with their communities to develop a strategic plan.

Each Pioneer area will develop a Theory of Change, which will provide a clear vision of their planned activities and how these relate to outputs and short-term and long-term outcomes, as well as the linkages between each stage. Data from the Pioneer areas will be gathered during the summer of 2018 and will be used to evaluate the different approaches taken by the Pioneer and inform any decision about whether to roll it out to other communities.'

Delivery of the Childcare Workforce Strategy

I agreed to provide the Committee with details of my plans for publishing the childcare, play and early year's workforce plan and how I intend to take forward its implementation.

As I stated at Committee, I want to ensure the plan is right and that it meets the needs of the sector. In my ongoing discussions with the sector, they have raised a number of concerns with me regarding the rising costs of childcare provision, in particular the impact of the National Minimum Wage and meeting cost increases such as business rates and premises costs. As part of finalising the workforce plan, it is crucial that we support the sector to build its capacity and capability, not only to deliver the roll out of the childcare offer but to also support the longer term aspirations of the workforce plan.

I have discussed with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure and the Minister for Skills and Science and our officials are currently considering what additional business and skills support can be provided to the sector in taking forward the work to finalise the plan. I anticipate this work being completed shortly. In the meantime, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure has recently announced £100,000 to help childcare businesses to offer more places. This funding will also be made available within the Local Authority early implementer pilot areas to test how best to support the sector moving forward.

In terms of taking forward the implementation of the workforce plan, it's important to note that this work is already well underway in a number of areas. For example, in meeting the aspirations of the plan, it will be key for the sector that the new suite of qualifications are ready for teaching in September 2019. A significant amount of progress has already been made to ensure this will be delivered. In addition, Progress for Success has been developed alongside the workforce plan, with the main purpose of increasing the levels of recognised childcare and play qualifications held by the existing workforce. The current programme is due to end in October 2018, and as at the end of July 2017, there were 823 participants accessing the programme.

It is vitally important Welsh Government's policies and programmes align to ensure we are able to fully support the sector. I hope the above provides the Committee with an update on progress and I look forward to publishing the final workforce plan in the autumn.

UK's Withdrawal from the EU: Children and Young People

You also asked for a note on the work being undertaken in relation to children and young people in preparation for the UK's withdrawal from the EU. A young person's summary document of "[Securing Wales' Future - Moving from the European Union to a new relationship with Europe](#)" has been developed and published on the Welsh Government's campaign website alongside the [White Paper on Securing Wales' Future](#). This document has been shared widely both with officials and external stakeholders including the children's participation workers across every Local Authority, Children in Wales, Unicef and the Wales Observatory on the Human Rights of Children.

I have agreed funding to procure the services of an external organisation(s) to deliver a series of workshops across Wales to enable children and young people to have a voice and have their views taken into account on the European Union, and to develop an online consultation to begin in this financial year.

I have also agreed to setting up an advisory group of young people who will ensure the views collected through the workshops and consultation, are passed on to the European Advisory Group and given serious consideration by Welsh Government.

Any young persons' working group or representatives would feed into the Welsh Government's European Advisory Group. My officials are currently taking this work forward. I will provide further details in due course.

Evaluations of Flying Start and Similar Post-code Based Schemes

An Impact Evaluation of Flying Start was published in 2013:

<http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/131205-national-evaluation-flying-start-impact-report-en.pdf> . The report is based on the findings of the second wave of a longitudinal survey of 2,116 families with children aged between two and four living in Flying Start delivery areas and non-Flying Start comparison areas. To estimate the impact of the programme, respondents in Flying Start areas were matched with respondents in the comparison group on a range of factors such as age, family size, education, type of housing, lone parent status and other socio-economic variables. While this method accounts for a number of observed differences between the two groups, it cannot overcome all underlying differences. The evaluation concluded that it is possible that Flying Start has had a positive impact on parent and child outcomes. This conclusion is based on the assumption that families living in the Flying Start areas started from a lower 'base' than those in the comparison group before the programme was introduced. There is some evidence that the matching process could not fully adjust for all underlying differences. Therefore, the lack of a statistically significant difference suggests that Flying Start may have brought about improvements, with families' outcomes now being on a par with their less disadvantaged counterparts.

A report [was](http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170208-flying-start-educational-outcomes-en.pdf) published in February 2017 which presents the findings of an analysis of the educational outcomes of children living in Flying Start areas using existing datasets:

<http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170208-flying-start-educational-outcomes-en.pdf>

The analysis found that the attendance rates of children who were potentially eligible to receive at least two years of Flying Start support, is higher than those who lived in the same area before the introduction of Flying Start. Their attendance was also found to have improved at a more rapid pace than children living in non-Flying Start areas.

We are currently piloting an approach to collecting individual level data on engagement and outcomes for Flying Start children. It is anticipated that this will lead to a more robust analysis of outcomes for Flying Start children compare with those for similar, non-Flying Start children, including both eligible children not in receipt of entitlements and children living in non-eligible areas.

Annex 1 to this letter lists other relevant studies commissioned by the Welsh Government.

Other Issues

Your letter also raised a number of points on which the Committee wanted to follow-up. Responses are set out below.

Advocacy

I will update the Committee on Advocacy in due course.

Child Poverty

Welsh Government recognises the importance of capturing the well-being of children and young people from their own perspective and for this to inform policy development and evaluation.

The Welsh Government already publishes and utilises the [Health Behaviour in School-aged Children \(HBSC\) Wales](#) survey which allows for analysis of key trends in health outcomes, behaviours, and the social context on a national level. This is used to report on the national well-being indicators for Wales arising from the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – indicator 5, percentage of children with fewer than two healthy lifestyles (composite indicator using data on smoking status, alcohol consumption, physical activity and fruit/vegetable consumption).

In addition, we have recently provided additional funding, approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, to boost the HBSC survey to include data on child well-being and children's rights in Wales. The data from this additional research will be reported alongside the National Indicators, with the potential for being adopted formally as part of the suite of indicators.

The HBSC study offers a platform to collect and analyse these data for young people of secondary school age in the first instance. This study is being administered via the School Health Research Network (SHRN) hosted in Cardiff University. The additional funding is supporting the development, testing, collection, analysis and dissemination of data on subjective wellbeing. This is provided by a variation of an existing grant to SHRN via the National Centre for Population Health and Wellbeing Research (funded by the Research and Development Division in the Department for Health and Social Services).

The fieldwork for the HBSC survey, along with additional subjective well-being questions, will be undertaken during the Autumn/Winter of 2017/18, with reporting in the spring of 2018.

Over and above this work, the Welsh Government also regularly undertakes qualitative and quantitative research with children and young people as part of other survey work and policy specific studies. Examples include:

- the Evaluation of the Foundation Phase;
- the Wales boost to the Millennium Cohort Study;
- Understanding the educational experiences and opinions, attainment, achievement and aspirations of looked after children in Wales

All these studies are published on the Welsh Government's Statistics and Research webpages: <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/?lang=en>

Further background about HBSC and SHRN

The main objectives of the Health Behaviour of School Aged Children (HBSC) study are:

- to provide an in-depth understanding of young people’s health and well-being, including the social determinants of health;
- to inform policy and practice to improve young people’s lives;
- to disseminate findings to various groups, for example Welsh Government policy makers, local government, the NHS, teachers, parents, young people and researchers; and
- to initiate and sustain national and international research on health behaviour and the social context of health among young people.

The School Health Research Network (SHRN) extends to more than 50% of secondary schools in Wales, the largest network of its kind in the world, with some 39,000 pupils. The network is well on its way to achieving 100% during the 2017/18, with plans to extend the work to primary schools. The Network provides a strong infrastructure on which to build the evidence base about wellbeing. Each school in the network completes a bilingual electronic Student Health and Wellbeing Survey every two years. The survey is based on the World Health Organization’s collaborative Health Behaviour of School-aged Children Survey to allow integration of the two surveys every four years and is accompanied by a School Environment Questionnaire, which allows relationships between school policies and practices and student health to be investigated. The surveys provide a flexible and responsive infrastructure to collect data on school practice, emerging and policy-relevant issues and provide a cost effective infrastructure to conduct school-based surveys, research studies and natural experiments of new policies. Utilising an existing network increases the efficiency of the work and reduces burden on schools with the added benefit of bringing together health and education funding to support children’s well-being across portfolios.

Childcare Offer

I welcome the Committee’s continued interest in the development of a Childcare offer and its impact on related policies, and I will keep members updated on progress.

Children’s Rights

The Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 was a milestone and this Government’s commitment to the UNCRC remains absolute. As my evidence on the CRIA process demonstrates, the Welsh Government is committed to placing children’s rights at the centre of our policy and decision-making.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act provides a stronger governance framework for public bodies to improve how they serve the interests of children and young people. The Act provides for better decision making by ensuring that public bodies look to the long term; help prevent problems occurring or getting worse; take an integrated and collaborative approach; and involve people of all ages – including children and young people.

The First Minister has written to the Children’s Commissioner outlining our position on the due regard duty, and our position has not changed. We do not agree that there is a need to place a general duty to have due regard to the UNCRC in all primary legislation relating to children and young people.

The Welsh Government, as required by the 2011 Measure, considers children's rights and ensures they are built into the development of legislation. By complying with these duties, service providers and practitioners will give effect to the rights described in the Convention. A general due regard duty on service providers would not itself lead to improved outcomes for children and young people. It would not guarantee a particular action or result and there is no evidence it would have a positive impact in terms of improved outcomes.

If we were to place a due regard duty directly on those exercising statutory functions, we risk distracting frontline practitioners by creating layers of red tape and bureaucracy – meaning professionals have to evidence that they have taken the convention into account in their interactions with all children and young people.

The duty would put organisations with functions under an Act at risk of litigation on grounds of procedural failures. Protecting themselves against such risks creates an additional layer of bureaucracy, and may take up time and resources which might otherwise have been spent on supporting children and young people and improving outcomes.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Sargeant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

Evaluations of Flying Start and Similar Post-code Based Schemes

The following list includes studies Welsh Government have commissioned which are all published on the Welsh Government's Statistics and Research webpages in accordance with our Principles for Research and Evaluation:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/?lang=en>

It should be noted that making comparisons between outcomes for those children who access or are affected by schemes and those who do not concerns the strength of the analysis possible given data availability and practicality. For instance, arguably randomised controlled trials methodology would provide stronger evidence of impact, whilst before and after measures or comparisons of outcomes between areas have weaknesses limiting the analysis of causality between intervention and outcomes. Nevertheless, the Flying Start research listed below has used the best methods available and practicable to understand the contribution of Flying Start and other area-based programmes to children's outcomes. By way of comparison, the evaluation of the Welsh Government's Free Breakfast programme did use randomising of clusters of schools to demonstrate impact of the programme on participating children compared to those who didn't participate. The following is a list of evaluations of the most relevant programmes (i.e. those that targeted at children on an area based approach). It excludes other studies of area based interventions (e.g. European programmes such as Leader) that are not directly aimed at children but may have an indirect effect.

National Evaluation of Flying Start

The Welsh Government has undertaken a programme of research into Flying Start resulting in a series of reports starting in 2010 with the most recent analysis of educational outcomes published in February 2017. All the reports are available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-evaluation-flying-start/?lang=en>

- Flying Start evaluation: Educational outcomes
- Qualitative research with Flying Start Families: Wave 2
- Qualitative research with Flying Start Families: Wave 1
- Flying Start: Synthesis report
- National evaluation of Flying Start: Impact report
- National evaluation of Flying Start: Area case study synthesis report
- Flying Start: Qualitative research with high need families – interim report
- Evaluation of Flying Start: Findings from the baseline survey of families
- Interim Evaluation of Flying Start

Communities First

The Communities First programme has been operational since 2001 and a series of evaluations commissioned by the Welsh Government has helped identify changes that would reform and improve the programme. The latest study is reported here:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-communities-first/?lang=en>

Previous studies of Communities First including analysis of educational outcomes for children is reported here:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-communities-first/?tab=previous&lang=en>

Free Breakfasts

The Welsh Government's own evaluation and other academic studies have provided a rich source of evidence on the differential impact of free breakfasts for participating pupils:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140409093431/http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/schoolhome/foodanddrink/breakfast/evaluation/?lang=en>

Cardiff University follow-up study of the effect of free breakfast on attainment:

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/162112-good-breakfast,-good-grades>

Child Poverty Strategy Evaluation

The Welsh Government commissioned this study in 2012 which includes a meta-review of the effectiveness and impact of a sample of key Welsh Government programmes, whose aims are relevant to the three core objectives of the Child Poverty Strategy. The final report is available here:

<http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/20483/1/140709-child-poverty-strategy-wales-final-en.pdf>