CYPE(5)-24-18 - Paper to note 5

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

National Assembly for Wales Children, Young People and Education Committee

Huw Irranca-Davies AM
Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care
Welsh Government

18 July 2018

Dear Huw

Thank you for the <u>letter dated 11 July 2018</u> in which you provided an update on the Child and Families Delivery Grant (CDFG). In light of your response, the Committee has some additional points on which it wishes to seek clarification.

In our <u>letter of 8 May 2018</u> we requested copies of the evaluations of the five projects which ran from 2014–17 and which were allocated more than £10 million Welsh Government funding during this three year period. In your response, you provided a link to the evaluation Cwlwm commissioned of its own work.

Can you therefore clarify what evaluation, if any, the Welsh Government undertook to satisfy itself that the five CFDG projects delivered the outcomes outlined in the grant letters? For example, the grant to Groundwork Wales was awarded on the basis that "over 11,500 children are expected to be involved in the programme's play activities", and the grant to Tros Gynnal was to fund "over 550 parents and practitioners" to be involved in training projects.

We note that when the grants were awarded, the accompanying Cabinet Statement said that "the assessment and award process attached the greatest importance to the quality of the service and the outcomes that we expect to be delivered".

Your letter states that the CDFG was "not designed" to be a long term funding stream "with future iterations of the grant intended to evolve so as to support changing Government priorities". We would be grateful if you could clarify:

- To what the remaining £1.35 million (which would have made up the annual CDFG allocation) has been reallocated for 2018–19?
- Whether there is any intention to reinstate a bidding /grant process for 2019–20? If not, what will the process be going forward?

Play Wales was initially not awarded a CDFG grant from 2014–17 but this decision was subsequently revised and it was awarded Welsh Government grant funding for eighteen months initially. Its Welsh Government funding continues and we note from your letter that Play Wales has been awarded £360,000 funding in 2018–19. We would be grateful if you could clarify the criteria for this allocation and how this relates to the Welsh Government Programme for Government priorities as referred to in your letter.

We would also be grateful if you could clarify when a decision is likely to be made regarding Children in Wales funding and whether you will be publishing the review of the CFDG funding it has received to date. We note that funding has been extended until September 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Neagle AM

Chair

