

Rt. Hon. Mark Drakeford AM
First Minister

21 June 2019

Dear Mark,

Improving outcomes for children

Thank you for your letter of **16 April 2019** in response to my **request** for more information on the work underway to deliver you commitments for looked after children.

Further to this correspondence, it has been drawn to my attention as Chair of the CYPE Committee that there are concerns in relation to expectations for reductions in the numbers of looked after children.

As a Committee, we recognise that the first workstream in the **Welsh Government's programme for improving outcomes for children** refers to *safely* reducing the numbers of children in need of care. Nevertheless, we are concerned by the matters which have been raised with us, amongst which is the suggestion that local authority will be expected to set targets as a driver to reduce the numbers of children in need of care.

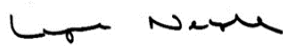
To establish a clear understanding of the latest position, we would be grateful if you could provide more information on the Welsh Government's expectations of:

- how the aims of the workstream and wider programme will be put into practice at both a national and local authority level;
- the nature and aims of any targets that will be introduced;
- (if they are to be introduced), who will be responsible for setting them, risk assessing them, and monitoring their impact.

I will be writing to both the Association of Directors of Social Services and the Children's Commissioner for Wales to request information on their understanding of these matters. I will share a copy of all relevant correspondence with the Public Accounts Committee given its work on care experienced children and young people, and with David Melding AM as Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children.



Yours sincerely



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair

Cc Julie Morgan AM, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

Nick Ramsay AM, Chair, Public Accounts Committee

David Melding AM, Chair, Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children



Professor Sally Holland
Children's Commissioner for Wales

21 June 2019

Dear Sally,

Improving outcomes for children

Earlier this year I wrote to the First Minister to **request** more information on the work underway to deliver his commitments for looked after children. The Committee received a response on **16 April 2019**.

Further to this correspondence, it has been drawn to my attention as Chair of the CYPE Committee that there are concerns in relation to expectations for reductions in the numbers of looked after children.

As a Committee, we recognise that the first workstream in the **Welsh Government's programme for improving outcomes for children** refers to *safely* reducing the numbers of children in need of care. Nevertheless, we are concerned by the matters which have been raised with us, amongst which is the suggestion that local authority will be expected to set targets as a driver to reduce the numbers of children in need of care.

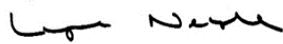
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I will be writing to the First Minister to seek clarity on the above, and the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru for its view on these matters. I will share a copy of all relevant correspondence with the Public Accounts Committee given its work on care experienced children and young people, and with David Melding AM as Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children.



Yours sincerely



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair

Cc Nick Ramsay AM, Chair, Public Accounts Committee

David Melding AM, Chair, Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children



Susan Cooper
President
Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) Cymru

21 June 2019

Dear Susan,

Improving outcomes for children

Earlier this year I wrote to the First Minister to request more information on the work underway to deliver his commitments for looked after children. The Committee received a response on 16 April 2019.

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As a Committee, we recognise that the first workstream in the Welsh Government's programme for improving outcomes for children refers to *safely* reducing the numbers of children in need of care. Nevertheless, we are concerned by the matters which have been raised with us, amongst which is the suggestion that local authority will be expected to set targets as a driver to reduce the numbers of children in need of care.

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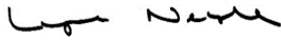
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people, and with David Melding AM as Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair

Cc Nick Ramsay AM, Chair, Public Accounts Committee

David Melding AM, Chair, Ministerial Advisory Group on Improving Outcomes for Children

