

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 17

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

National Assembly for Wales
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Vaughan Gething AM

Minister for Health and Social Services

6 August 2018

Dear Vaughan,

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21

In line with our usual practice, we are writing in advance of the publication of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020-21 to request written information to inform our scrutiny.

Both the Finance Committee and the Finance Minister have written to all Assembly Committees to inform us that uncertainty remains about the timing of this year's budget process while plans for the UK Government Comprehensive Spending Review are unconfirmed. In the meantime, we thought it would be helpful to provide as much notice as possible of the written information we would welcome in time for the oral evidence session we hold with you, whether it takes place as normal (in autumn term 2019), or later (in spring term 2020). Please find this attached at the annex to this letter.

As in previous years, we will base our approach on the four principles of financial scrutiny: affordability, prioritisation, value for money and budget processes. In addition, our intention this year is to focus our oral evidence session in respect of your cabinet portfolio on three key areas:

- emotional and mental health
- looked after children
- perinatal mental health

As such, we will also be writing to health boards and local authorities to request relevant information. We will ensure that you receive copies of these letters for information.

To avoid unnecessary duplication, we will also invite Members of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to participate in our scrutiny of matters relating to children and young people – I have copied the HSCS Committee's Chair, Dr Dai Lloyd AM, for awareness. I have also copied this letter to the Public Accounts Committee's Chair, Nick Ramsay AM, given the



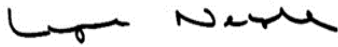
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work that Committee has undertaken on care experienced children and young people. We will also seek evidence from the Minister for Education on matters of relevance to our remit.

The Clerk will liaise with your officials to agree dates for our oral evidence session, and by when we would welcome the written information. We recognise that it will not be possible to confirm arrangements until there is more clarity about the UK Government's position. We will retain as much flexibility as we can in our forward work programme until we know more.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair

Cc Dr Dai Lloyd AM, Chair, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Nick Ramsay AM, Chair, Public Accounts Committee



ANNEX – REQUEST FOR WRITTEN INFORMATION IN ADVANCE OF DRAFT BUDGET SCRUTINY

We request information on the following, if they are not already covered in the budget narrative:

1. Allocations within the Health and Social Services Major Expenditure Group

- A breakdown of the 2020-21 Health and Social Services MEG allocations as relevant to children and young people by Spending Programme Area (SPA), Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL), including an analysis and explanation of significant changes since the 2019-20 First Supplementary Budget (June 2019).
- Indicative 2021-22 Health and Social Services MEG allocations as relevant to children and young people.
- Commentary on each of the Actions within the Health and Social Services MEG as relevant to children and young people, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2020-21 and the First Supplementary Budget 2019-20.
- In the absence of a child health plan, the Welsh Government to present more clearly in Draft Budget documentation how resources for children and young people are being allocated.
- The Minister for Health and Social Services to ensure that resources relating to children and young people are presented clearly so that we can identify the assigned resources, assess the extent to which they are being prioritised, and understand how they will deliver value for money.

2. Child's Rights Impact Assessment and other cross-cutting considerations

The Welsh Government did not carry out a specific Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) for its overall draft budget in 2019-20, despite the request of this Committee that it do so (letter of 15 May 2018), instead relying on its Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment.

In terms of the Welsh Governments Draft Budget 20-21 **across the portfolios**, the Committee:

- Reiterates its request for a CRIA to be undertaken for the draft budget as a matter of course.
- Requests a copy of the overall CRIA undertaken by the Welsh Government to inform the allocations in the draft Budget 2020-21. If a specific CRIA has not been undertaken, the reasons for this and a copy of any alternative integrated impact assessment.
- Requests an explanation of how the joint report of this Committee, the Finance Committee and the Equalities, Local Government and Communities Committee, *Assessing the impact of budget decisions*, and the Welsh Government's response, have influenced the approach to impact assessment in the 2020-21 draft budget.



In respect of the **Health and Social Services MEG**, the Committee would be grateful to receive information about:

- How the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has influenced allocations to budget lines within the MEG.
- Details and/or examples of any changes made to allocations within the Health and Social Services MEG following considerations of children's rights, equalities, sustainability, the Welsh language, or the Wellbeing of Future Generations.

3. Areas of general interest

An update on allocations within the Draft Budget 2020-21 Health and Social Service MEG in the following areas of interest to the Committee including:

- Childhood obesity: Information on the anticipated allocations required to implement 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales', including the extent to which money transferred to the Welsh budget from the soft drinks industry levy is being used and will be used to tackle childhood obesity and to improve children's health in Wales.
- Neonatal Services: The allocations to deliver the latest revision of the All Wales Neonatal Standards; the Welsh Government's priorities for neonatal services for the next 12 months; and how the budget allocation for 2020-21 will help to drive deliver performance improvement.
- Costs of legislation: early implementation of the Childcare Funding (Wales) Act and the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill
- Flying Start: Revenue and capital funding; the latest position on the outreach funding
- Families First Programme
- Child poverty
- Childcare: the childcare offer; Parents, Childcare and Employment (PaCE); workforce development; other childcare funding
- Family Information Services
- Parenting support, including any updates on allocations associated with the implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill
- Safeguarding
- Adoption services including post-adoption support
- Advocacy services: including allocations to support the National Approach
- The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
- Children and young people's rights and entitlements, including Young Wales
- The Children's Commissioner for Wales



- Play policy and services, including Play Wales
- Disabled children's services

Areas for focused scrutiny

4. Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Well-being

We would welcome:

- Detailed commentary in relation to Children and Young People's mental health and emotional well-being, including the financial implications for the Health and Social Services MEG in 2020-21 of the Welsh Government's response to the recommendations set out in the Committee's Mind over Matter report and subsequent actions.
- Information on allocations for children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being in 2020-21 and where they can be found in the Health and Social Services MEG i.e. Details of the relevant Spending Programme Areas, Actions and Budget Expenditure Lines (BEL).
- Information on the additional recurrent investment of £7.1m announced in 2019-20 for children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being, including
 - commentary on whether the funding priorities/ allocations will be the same in 2020-21 as in 2019-20
 - a breakdown of the objectives for this funding and what arrangements Welsh Government has in place to monitor spend and evaluate its impact.

The Minister's **Mind over Matter progress update** outlines the different funding streams that contribute to service provision to support children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being. We would welcome commentary about the funding for support services for children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being in Wales including, for transparency:

- details of the Welsh Government's strategic approach;
- the objectives and aims for the funding streams (including information about the national goals, together with any performance indicators or quantified targets);
- evidence that demonstrates how the different funding streams are linked to achieve national goals, specifically details of:
 - **Mental Health Transformation Fund:** Details of how Mental Health Transformation Funding is being used to drive change/deliver service improvements in relation to support services for the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people, and the proportion of the budget allocation for 2020-21 that is being set aside from the Mental Health Transformation Fund for children and young people.



- **Transformation Fund:** Indicative allocations for 2020-21 for children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being support services accessed from the Transformation Fund in supporting 'A Healthier Wales', and how this compares with any allocations made to date.
 - **Integrated Care Funding:** details of the assessment made by the Welsh Government of the impact of changes to Integrated Care Fund guidance, which now includes the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people, including details of allocations for 2019-20, what lessons have been learned and how these have been applied in relation to budget planning for 2020-21.
 - **Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs):** Details of the funding allocations for individual RSBs in relation to children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being.
- Details of how the Welsh Government determines the allocation of funding/ additional investment to individual Health Boards.
 - Information on how the priorities and outstanding actions identified in the Together for Children and Young People programme will be delivered for 2020-21 and how much has been allocated for this, specifically in relation to the Early Help and Enhanced Support workstream.
 - Details of any transfers between the Health and Social Services MEG and Education MEG for 2020-21 to deliver the Whole School Approach and CAMHS In-reach Pilots.

5. Perinatal Mental Health

Perinatal mental health services is identified as a key priority for 2019-2022 in the Welsh Government's consultation document *Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022*. Priority 5 identifies the need to improve access to and the quality of perinatal mental health services. We request the following information:

- In terms of the draft budget for 2020-21, what the allocations are for perinatal mental health services to support further development of services across all areas of Wales, including in relation to quality standards and care pathways and in-patient provision.

Specifically:

- the level of investment to establish a specialist in-patient perinatal mother and baby unit in Wales;
- a breakdown of the funding by Health Board for community perinatal mental health support services, including commentary on the objectives for this funding, and what



arrangements Welsh Government has in place to monitor spend and evaluate its impact.

We expect to receive an update from the Welsh Government on perinatal mental health services in August 2019, and will consider whether this provides sufficient information on how improvements to the quality and availability of perinatal community mental health services in support of better outcomes for mothers and their families are being delivered across all areas of Wales, and/or whether we will need to write for further information in relation to budget scrutiny.

We may also write to the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee for further information on developments with regards to inpatient perinatal mother and baby unit provision in Wales, and for an update on the number of out of Wales placements.

6. Looked after children

We would welcome:

- Detailed commentary on the allocations in the Health and Social Services MEG in 2020-21 and where they can be found in the MEG (i.e. details of the relevant Spending Programme Areas, Actions and Budget Expenditure Lines (BEL) including an analysis and explanation of significant changes since the 2019-20 First Supplementary Budget (June 2019)) in respect of grants / services for:
 - Looked after children, including fostering services;
 - Edge of care services / services to prevent children becoming looked after;
 - Leaving care support.
- Details of discussions, and outcomes from discussions, with the Minister for Housing and Local Government about the resources local authorities need within the Revenue Support Grant to deliver the Welsh Government's ambitions for looked after children.
- Details of discussions with the Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group and how those have influenced the allocations for looked after children in the Draft Budget 2020-21.

With regard to the overall Welsh Government allocations across the portfolios, we would be grateful for an update on the [Welsh Government's 2016 response to a letter from the Public Accounts Committee](#) in respect of looked after children.

With regard to local authorities, please can you set out how the Welsh Government monitors the outcomes for looked after children and any assessment as to whether this is linked to expenditure levels from both the Revenue Support Grant and Hypothecated Grants. We would also be grateful for your views on the variation in expenditure per looked after child by local authority.



We will also be asking local authorities about their views on the funding available to them to both prevent children entering the care system and also to support those children who become looked after.

