

# Agenda Supplement – Children, Young People and Education Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 1 – Senedd

Meeting date: 18 September 2019

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

Llinos Madeley

Committee Clerk

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## Papers to note

Please note the documents below are in addition to those published in the main Agenda and Reports pack for this Meeting

### 3 Papers to note

(11.00 – 11.10)

#### 3.1 Letter from the Minister for Health and Social Services – Draft Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019–22

(Pages 1 – 45)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 1

#### 3.2 Letter from the Minister for Health and Social Services – additional information following the Minister's scrutiny session on 20 June

(Pages 46 – 49)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 2

#### 3.3 Letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister for Education – Follow-up on the Committee's inquiry into the Emotional and Mental Health of Children and Young People in Wales – Mind over Matter

(Pages 50 – 62)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 3



**3.4 Letter from the Minister for Education – Update on the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transformation programme**

(Pages 63 – 65)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 4

**3.5 Letter to the Minister for Education – request for information for the Committee's inquiry into Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Wales**

(Page 66)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 5

**3.6 Letter to the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services – request for information for the Committee's inquiry into Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Wales**

(Page 67)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 6

**3.7 Letter from the Chair to the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services – request for information for the Committee's post legislative scrutiny of the Children's Rights Measure**

(Pages 68 – 69)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 7

**3.8 Letter from the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services – Update on the Children's Rights Scheme**

(Page 70)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 8

**3.9 Letter from Qualifications Wales – overview of the work undertaken by Qualifications Wales in relation to the summer exam series**

(Pages 71 – 76)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 9

### **3.10 Letter to the Minister for Education – UK-wide common policy frameworks**

(Page 77)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 10

### **3.11 Letter from the Minister for Education – response to the Committee's letter on UK-wide common policy frameworks**

(Pages 78 – 82)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 11

### **3.12 Letter from the Minister for Education – Update on Education Otherwise than at School (EOTAS) Framework for Action**

(Pages 83 – 92)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 12

### **3.13 Letter to the Minister for Education – request for information on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020–21**

(Pages 93 – 108)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 13

### **3.14 Letter from the Minister for Education – response to the Committee's letter on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020–21**

(Page 109)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 14

### **3.15 Letter to the Association of Directors of Social Services – request for information on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020–21**

(Pages 110 – 113)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 15

**3.16 Letter to Directors of Finance at Local Health Boards – request for information on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020–21**

(Pages 114 – 115)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 16

**3.17 Letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services – request for information on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020–21**

(Pages 116 – 123)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 17

**3.18 Letter from the First Minister – response to the Committee's letter regarding improving outcomes for children in Wales**

(Pages 124 – 125)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 18

**3.19 Letter from the Association of Directors of Social Services – response to the Committee's letter regarding improving outcomes for children in Wales**

(Pages 126 – 127)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(9)–24–19 – Paper to note 19

**3.20 Letter from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales – Committee's involvement in the first Future Generations Report**

(Pages 128 – 129)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 20

**3.21 Letter from the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Care – Childcare Offer Wales – Digital Project**

(Pages 130 – 131)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)–24–19 – Paper to note 21

**3.22 Letter from the Chair of the Petition Committee – Petition P-05-748 School Buses for School Children**

(Pages 132 – 133)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-24-19 – Paper to note 22

**3.23 Letter from Children Commissioner for Wales – Petition P-05-748 School Buses for School Children**

(Pages 134 – 136)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(5)-24-19 – Paper to note 23

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 1

Vaughan Gething AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-C-VG-0072-19

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair, Children, Young People and Education  
Committee

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

National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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12 July 2019

Dear Lynne and Dai,

In our meeting on 2 April, I agreed to share with you the draft Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-22, prior to formal consultation (attached).

As we discussed, the draft delivery plan aims to prioritise and refocus the current range of commitments and recommendations into a coherent and deliverable work plan for both Welsh Government and delivery partners. This includes commitments made in *Prosperity for All*, *A Healthier Wales* and the significant number of related Assembly Committee reports published during the last 18 months. In particular, the priority themes included in the plan have been shaped by the recommendations in the *Mind over Matter*, *Everybody's Business*, *Perinatal Mental Health* and *Use of Anti-psychotic Medication in Care Homes* Committee reports.

For ease, I've included a summary of the priority areas included in the draft plan below:

- 1. Preventing poor mental health and maintaining mental well-being** – *through targeted work on prevention and cross-Government action on the wider determinants of mental health and well-being.*
- 2. Improving access to support for the emotional and mental health well-being of children and young people** - *improving access and ensuring sustainable improvements to timeliness of interventions, as well as supporting the new curriculum and whole school approach. Extending the reach of NHS services into schools and filling gaps in services within both primary and secondary care through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).*
- 3. Crisis and Out of Hours provision for children and adults** – *moving to a common, multi agency offer across Wales.*

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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.

4. **Improving the access, quality and range of psychological therapies across all ages** - *to deliver a significant reduction in waiting times by the end of this Government, increase the range of therapies offered and support the workforce to provide these interventions to improve service user experience.*
5. **Improving access and quality of perinatal mental health services** – *further development of perinatal mental health services including in relation to quality standards and care pathways and the provision of in-patient provision.*
6. **Improving quality and access to services whilst developing recovery orientated services** – *including responding to Healthcare Inspectorate Wales/Care Inspectorate Wales thematic reviews and reviews by NHS Delivery Unit.*
7. **Supporting vulnerable groups** – *with a focus on improvements to services for eating disorders, offenders (including prison health and the Youth and Female Offender Blueprints) and co-occurring mental health and substance misuse issues.*

These priority areas and the improvements we want to see are dependent on a number of overarching work streams which will also need to be prioritised but will continue beyond the life of the delivery plan. These include improving outcome data, developing the workforce, strengthening third sector and service user engagement and improving access to services in the Welsh language.

The draft delivery plan, which has been informed by the views of service users and a range of partners, has been agreed by Cabinet and a public consultation is planned to commence this month.

Yours sincerely,



**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Welsh Government  
Consultation Document

# Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022

Date of issue: 18 July 2019

Action required: Responses by 30 August 2019

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.



<b>Overview</b>	This consultation seeks your views on the Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022.
<b>How to respond</b>	<p>This consultation will close on 30 August 2019. You can respond online, by e-mail or by post.</p> <p><b>Online</b> Please complete the consultation response form on the consultation pages of the Welsh Government website.</p> <p><b>E-mail</b> Please complete the consultation response form and send it to: <a href="mailto:mentalhealthandvulnerablegroups@gov.wales">mentalhealthandvulnerablegroups@gov.wales</a></p> <p><b>Post</b> Please complete the consultation response form and sent it to:</p> <p>Mental Health, Vulnerable Groups &amp; Offenders branch Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>
<b>Further information and related documents</b>	<p><b>Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.</b></p> <p>Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh.</p>
<b>Contact details</b>	<p>For further information, please contact:</p> <p>Mental Health, Vulnerable Groups &amp; Offenders branch Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:mentalhealthandvulnerablegroups@gov.wales">mentalhealthandvulnerablegroups@gov.wales</a></p>

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data.

In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation

If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

## Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data held about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data
- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer:  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
CARDIFF  
CF10 3NQ

e-mail:

[Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales](mailto:Data.ProtectionOfficer@gov.wales)

The contact details for the Information Commissioner's Office are:

Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Tel: 01625 545 745 or  
0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

## Introduction

*'Together for Mental Health'*, is the Welsh Government's 10 year cross governmental strategy to improve mental health and well-being across all ages. Published in October 2012, following significant engagement and formal consultation with stakeholders, the strategy has been supported by a series of detailed delivery plans. This is the third and final plan.

*Together for Mental Health* sets out a number of high level outcomes aimed at achieving a significant improvement to both the quality and accessibility of mental health services for all ages. The strategy recognises that the causes and effects of poor mental health are complex, challenging and multi faceted and therefore require an integrated, cross government and cross sector partnership approach if we are to achieve these outcomes.

Whilst the delivery plan outlines a number of new priority areas for the next 3 years, some of these actions represent a necessary continuation and investment in services, whilst in other areas the delivery plan is intended to drive a step change in service provision and/or additional government led activity to prevent poor mental health as it now firmly recognised that mental health is not only the concern of the NHS - it is 'everybody's business'.

In 2018, the Welsh Government published 'A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care'. The plan sets out our long term future vision of a 'whole system approach to health and social care', which is focussed on health and wellbeing, and on preventing illness. Realising the ambitions of A Healthier Wales requires a further improvement in terms of integrating services, co-production and holistic approaches to treating physical and mental ill health.

The priorities that will be delivered through the delivery plan continue to support principles of prudent healthcare and the vision outlined in 'A Healthier Wales' with its focus on integrated, person centred care delivered in a way that has been informed by service users and carers.

The delivery plan contains a number of proposed actions for Welsh Government and key partners. We have engaged with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders to agree the key priorities contained in this plan, as well as taking into account relevant reports, National Assembly Committee recommendations and feedback from those with lived experience of mental health issues.

An annual report detailing progress against the delivery plan and an annual statistical and prevalence report will also be published.

Since the publication of the cross-governmental *'Together for Mental Health'*, the profile of mental health has grown considerably. *Prosperity for All*, the Welsh Government's national strategy, challenges all Welsh Government Departments to consider the impact of their work on the mental health and well being of the population in Wales. Therefore, building on a rapid review of a number of areas where we know that additional focus across government departments could make an impact, this latest delivery plan places greater emphasis on the protective factors for good mental health, identifying those

areas of cross-government working such as in education, employment and housing that can make a significant contribution to improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes in a way that is sustainable for the future.

### **Consultation questions**

We would welcome your feedback and views in relation to the '*Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022*' and have included some specific questions which we would ask that you answer. The questions can be found online on the Consultation Response Form.

## **'TOGETHER FOR MENTAL HEALTH' DELIVERY PLAN 2019-2022**

### **Strategic Context**

*Together for Mental Health*, is the Welsh Government's 10 year cross governmental strategy to improve mental health and well-being across all ages. Published in October 2012, following significant engagement and formal consultation with stakeholders, the strategy has been supported by a series of detailed delivery plans. This is the third and final plan.

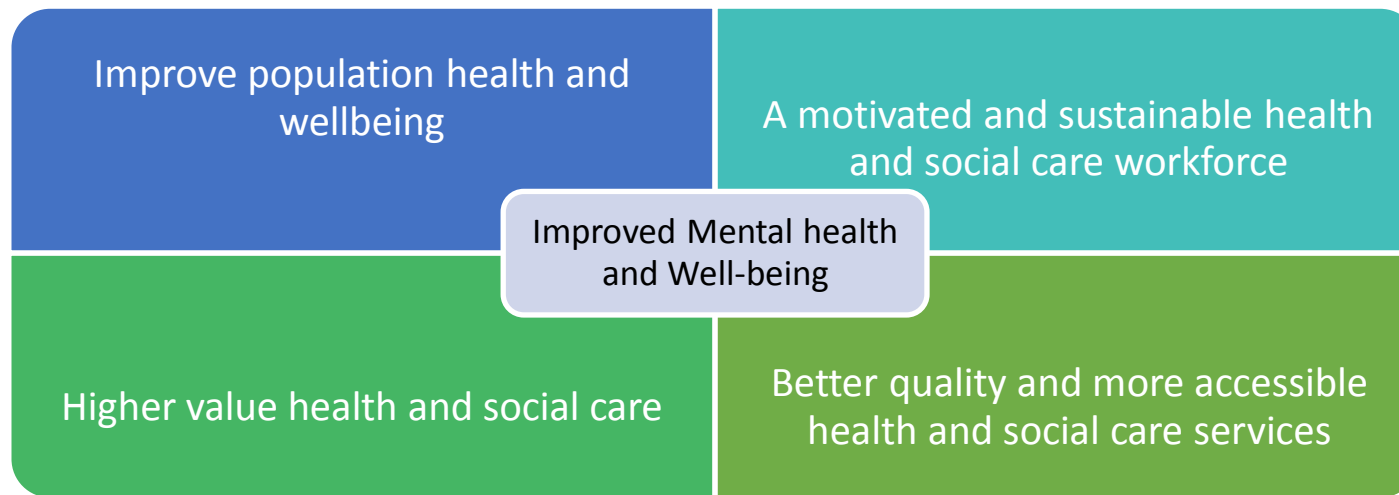
*Together for Mental Health* sets out a number of high level outcomes aimed at achieving a significant improvement to both the quality and accessibility of mental health services for all ages. The strategy recognises that the causes and effects of poor mental health are complex, challenging and multi faceted and therefore require an integrated, cross government and cross sector partnership approach if we are to achieve these outcomes. The six high level outcomes underpinning the 10 year strategy are:

- The mental health and wellbeing of the whole population is improved
- The impact of mental health problems and /or mental illness is better recognised and reduced
- Inequalities, stigma and discrimination are reduced
- Individuals have a better experience of the support and treatment they receive and feel in control of decisions
- Improved quality and access to preventative measures and early intervention to promote recovery
- Improved values, attitudes and skills of those supporting individuals of all ages with mental health problems

Whilst the delivery plan outlines a number of new priority areas for the next 3 years, these all contribute to achieving the high level outcomes set out originally in *Together for Mental Health*. Some of these actions represent a necessary continuation and investment in services, whilst in other areas the delivery plan is intended to drive a step change in service provision and/or additional government led activity to prevent poor mental health as it is now firmly recognised that mental health is not only the concern of the NHS - it is 'everybody's business'. Our schools, workplaces and communities play an important role in keeping us well and healthy. This is reflected in *Prosperity for All, the Welsh Government's national strategy* which highlighted wellbeing, prevention and tackling mental ill health as one of six priority areas which emerged as having the greatest potential contribution to long-term prosperity and well-being. Recognising that there must be a cross Government effort to improve the nation's mental health and that only a fully co-ordinated response from public services can effectively prevent rising demand and poorer outcomes. The high level outcomes of *Together for Mental Health* also mirror the themes which have come from the engagement with service users and carers, outlined in the diagram below.



In 2018, the Welsh Government published '*A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care*'. The plan sets out our long term future vision of a 'whole system approach to health and social care', which is focussed on health and wellbeing, and on preventing illness. Realising the ambitions of *A Healthier Wales* requires a further improvement in terms of integrating services, co-production and holistic approaches to treating physical and mental ill health. In order to realise this vision *A Healthier Wales* is shaped around four 'Quadruple Aims', which describes interlocking themes that help develop a shared understanding of how we want the whole system approach to develop and how we will prioritise change. The diagram below shows the interface between the Quadruple Aims and improved mental health. Further information how each of the themes relate to *A Healthier Wales* is also included within Annex 1.



The priorities that will be delivered through the delivery plan continue to support principles of prudent healthcare with its focus on integrated, person centred care delivered in a way that has been informed by service users and carers. For example, by routing some of the additional funding resources for mental health through Regional Partnership Boards and by setting expectations about the involvement of the third sector, as well strong partnerships with the police and local government, the plan should ensure that care is provided at the right level and at the right time. This approach also supports value based healthcare given the delivery plan's emphasis on improvements in areas such as access to psychological therapies and improvements to crisis care services which we know are important to service users.

### Scale of Challenge and Progress to Date

Since the publication of *Together for Mental Health* we have published a series of action plans at both an all Wales and health board level and provided additional funding to support improvements. As a result of this investment, we have made progress in a number of areas, including:

- Reduced stigma around mental health, including through supporting the Time to Change Campaign, with more people accessing support
- Greater service user and carer involvement in the development and planning of services at both a regional and national level,
- Significantly reducing the number of children and young people waiting longer than 4 weeks to access to treatment

- Reducing mental health hospital admissions through an emphasis on more support in the community
- Reducing the number of delayed transfers of patient with mental health issues
- Reducing the number of patients (both adults and children) that need to be sent outside of Wales for treatment
- Significantly reduced the number of people in mental health crisis detained in police cell as a place of safety.
- The implementation of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010, including the introduction of Local Primary Mental Health Support Services (LPMHSS) and a focus on care and treatment planning.
- Implementing new community perinatal mental health services providing support across all areas of Wales
- Establishing psychiatric liaison in hospitals;
- Establishing CAMHS and adults community crisis intervention teams.
- Development of both neurodevelopmental and early intervention in psychosis services
- Launching the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat with partners to improve the multiagency response to people in mental health crisis.
- Embedding mental health in preventative programmes, for instance Healthy Working Wales and the Wales Network of Health Schools.
- Establishing mental health social prescribing pilots to develop the evidence to improve access to non-clinical support
- The development of a separate Dementia Action Plan, itself supported by additional government investment.

It is important to note that these improvements have been made in the context of increasing demands for services. For instance, across Wales, there is on average an additional 1,000 referrals being received each month to LPMHSS when compared to 2013-14 and over 200,000 people have been seen by LPMHSS since their introduction, with 100,000 people receiving therapeutic interventions. In addition, Community Mental Health Services, established as part of our approach to provide more support in the community, received around 20,000 referrals for crisis assessments over a twelve month period.

## A Cross Government Approach

Since the publication of the cross-governmental '*Together for Mental Health*', the profile of mental health has grown considerably and as noted earlier there is an increasing recognition that mental health is 'everybody's business'. *Prosperity for All* challenges all Welsh Government Departments to consider the impact of their work on the mental health and well being of the population in Wales. Therefore, building on a rapid review of a number of areas where we know that additional focus across government departments could make an impact, this latest delivery plan places greater emphasis on the protective factors for good mental health, identifying those areas of cross-government working such as in education, employment and housing that can make a significant contribution to improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes in a way that is sustainable for the future.



Over the duration of the previous delivery plan there was a focus on embedding mental health across a range of Welsh Government plans. In particular, work with Education, Employability, Tackling Poverty and Crime and Justice has ensured that delivery plans in these areas carry explicit links to mental health and related actions. The intention is not to repeat all of these actions in this delivery plan, but to make reference where appropriate, and to strengthen links in other areas.

Therefore the plan continues to highlight the important contribution needed across government to protect and improve mental health through programmes and policies that tackle the wider determinants of good mental health. Whilst health services are designed to respond the needs of individuals who need a clinical response for mental health problem, most of the key levers to improve mental health and wellbeing sit outside of the health sector. Achieving the aspirations in the delivery plan is therefore underpinned by broader strategic aims, such as:

- Eliminating the gap in economic inactivity rates between Wales though an increased focus on employment for disabled people, including those with mental health conditions though the ***Employability Plan***
- Promoting inclusive growth and employer commitment to fair work, employee health and skill development through the ***Economic Contract***
- Ensuring every young person has an equal opportunity to reach the highest potential through ***Education Wales: our national mission***
- Provide housing-related support to help vulnerable people to live as independently as possible though the ***Supporting People Programme***
- Reducing rough sleeping and end the need for people to sleep rough through the ***Rough Sleeping Action Plan***.

There are also many initiatives in place - or planned - across Welsh Government that will support the mental health agenda with significant investment being made in terms of resources. One of the areas where this is demonstrated is through the investment being made to take forward a new ***whole school approach*** to mental health and wellbeing for children and young people in Wales. As part of the '***whole school approach***', all schools will support the broader mental health and wellbeing of learners, which in turn will help to prevent other issues from developing or escalating, including mental health issues. A Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group has been established to accelerate work on this approach and will augment the work already underway to develop a new schools curriculum in Wales.

The approach taken to develop this delivery plan has also reflected the requirements of the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* by emphasising the importance of preventative and integrated services whilst recognising the importance of

taking a longer term approach. We have also sought to embed the requirements of the *Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014* within the plan. The emphasis in the plan on early intervention so that longer-term harms are prevented before they occur includes preventing exposure to *Adverse Childhood Experiences* (ACEs). This recognises an increasing body of international evidence about the negative long-term impact on health and well-being outcomes, particularly mental health outcomes, which can result from exposure to childhood trauma before the age of 18.

### Key Priorities for 2019-2022

Within the context of the commitments already made and the additional resources to support them, this delivery plan prioritises effort to deliver meaningful improvements for individuals and their families. The priorities have also been shaped by a number of National Assembly Committee reports including Perinatal Mental Health Services, 'Mind over Matter' (emotional and mental health support for children and young people) and 'Everybody's Business' (suicide prevention). The Committee inquiries seek an increased focus and pace of improvement in mental health services, as well as a greater focus on prevention. We have accepted most of the Committee recommendations and believe that delivery of the key priorities we have set ourselves in this delivery plan will secure the improvements in prevention and in services that we all want to see.

The proposed priority areas for action, set out in this delivery plan, are:

- **Preventing poor mental health and maintaining mental wellbeing** – through targeted work on prevention and cross-Government action on the wider determinants of mental health and well-being.
- **Improving access to support for the emotional and mental health well-being of children and young people** - improving access and ensuring sustainable improvements to timeliness of interventions, as well as supporting the new curriculum and whole school approach, extending the reach of NHS services into schools and filling gaps in services within both primary and secondary care through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- Further improvements to **Crisis and Out of Hours provision for children and adults** – moving to a common, multi agency offer across Wales
- **Improving the access, quality and range of psychological therapies across all ages** - to deliver a significant reduction in waiting times by the end of this Government, increase the range of therapies offered and support the workforce to provide these interventions to improve service user experience;
- **Improving access and quality of perinatal mental health services** – further development of perinatal mental health services including in relation to quality standards and care pathways and the provision of in-patient provision
- Improving **quality and access to services whilst developing recovery orientated services** – including responding to

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales/Care Inspectorate Wales thematic reviews, reviews by NHS Delivery Unit and receiving assurance that recommendations have been delivered

- Supporting **vulnerable groups** – with a focus on improvements to services for eating disorders, offenders and co-occurring mental health and substance misuse issues.

These priority areas and the improvements we want to see are dependent on a number of overarching work streams which will also need to be prioritised but will continue beyond the life of this plan. These include:

- Implementing the **core data set** to improve consistency, robustness and the focus on outcomes across all-age mental health services.
- Developing a **workforce plan** in partnership with the NHS Mental Health Network and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) to support medium and longer-term services improvements and to ensure a stable and sustainable mental health workforce.
- Strengthening **service user and third sector engagement** across policy and service improvements.
- Improving access to **welsh language** mental health services.

Actions to improve dementia are being taken forward under the separate **Dementia Action Plan for Wales**, published in 2018. Similarly, although referenced within this plan, actions to prevent suicide and self harm are also being taken forward as part of our **Talk to Me 2 strategy**.

## Mental Health Funding

We continue to spend more on mental health services than any other part of the NHS and we have increased funding in the mental health ring fence budget to £679million in 2019-20.

Additional funding as part of our *A Healthier Wales* plan in 2019/20 will be targeted towards the agreed priority areas, including, enabling earlier intervention, better access to services and improved outcomes for service users and their carers and families. This additional funding has informed the proposed priorities within this delivery plan. The additional spend will be targeted on areas where we know that further service development is required or where there is evidenced demand.

## **Mental Health Legislation**

The current landscape of mental health and mental capacity legislation that operates in Wales reflects some of the societal and policy changes that have occurred in recent years. The three main legal frameworks of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010, the Mental Health Act 1983 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005, including the Deprivation of Liberty safeguards each have points of (sometimes complex) interface with each other and engage people's human rights. The three Acts also reflect a continuum from devolved and reserved policy areas but share a common feature in that people come into contact with the legislation largely through the delivery of health and social care. In Wales, mental health and mental capacity legislation also operates closely with the Social Services and (Well-Being) Act 2014, Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016, Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 and equality legislation.

The delivery plan sets out how it will support the changes needed to implement known legal reform to the Mental Capacity Act and reflects the need to develop a strategic position during 2019-20 of what changes to the Mental Health (Wales) Measure and the Mental Health Act are needed to deliver and drive our/the plan's policy intentions and outcomes.

## **NHS National Delivery Support Mechanism**

NHS Chief Executives have supported the development of an all-age mental health network and related board to assist in driving forward commitments made within *Together for Mental Health and A Healthier Wales*. Forward work plans are being developed that will need to take account of the actions set out in this new Delivery Plan. The Board is chaired by the lead Chief Executive for Mental Health who will be assisted by a National Programme Director for Mental Health when appointed. The network and Board will coordinate activities within the new NHS Executive in order to share learning and develop integrated approaches. The third sector and local authorities, police, ambulance, and many other partners also have an equal role to play and the existing local mental health partnership boards and National Mental Health Partnership Board (NMHPB) will remain in place to strengthen the way we all work together.

## **Developing the Draft Delivery Plan**

We have engaged with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders to agree the key priorities contained in this plan, as well as taking into account relevant reports, National Assembly Committee recommendations and feedback from those with lived experience of mental health issues. The plan itself has been developed through three phases:

1. Consolidation activity to review progress against the previous two delivery plans and progress against the 10 year *Together for Mental Health* Strategy, identifying areas that require more focus.
2. A rapid review to identify key areas to maximise the impact of cross-government working.
3. A series of workshops and engagement exercises to identify priority areas informed by evidence and personal experiences. These workshops were crucial in hearing what mattered most as we agreed our priorities areas and what we needed to ensure we focused on in the next stage of delivery. These themes have been considered as we have developed our actions underpinning our priority areas.

Building on this the draft plan will be subject to a six week public consultation from June 2019 with the aim of publishing the final plan as soon as possible afterwards.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Delivery of the overall strategy and its constituent delivery plans is monitored and assured through the NMHPB and local partnership boards. To assist, in each section below we have highlighted some key outcome indicators and performance measures from which to monitor progress and we will continue to work with our Knowledge and Analytical Services to strengthen this where the data is available. Through the lifetime of this delivery plan we will also be commissioning an evaluation of *Together for Mental Health*, which concludes in 2022 to inform the next mental health strategy.

## Priority 1: Preventing poor mental health and maintaining mental wellbeing

These actions will ensure that I have access to information to understand how I can improve my own mental health and well-being and create an environment that protects my mental health through considering my needs in all areas of life, for instance my education, housing and employment. They will also help services understand my needs through trauma informed approaches.

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
<b>Improving mental health and resilience</b>	<p>(1.1i) Public Health Wales to increase the visibility and priority of work to promote mental well-being through investment and co-ordinated cross-organisational programmes.</p> <p>(1.1ii) Public Health Wales to develop and disseminate best practice guidance and tools on whole school approaches to mental wellbeing and resilience, including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).</p> <p>(1.1iii) Public Health Wales and Welsh Government to work with NHS, police local authorities and other partners to develop trauma/ACE informed services.</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree with partners the key themes and goals for a national conversation about mental well-being and resilience(1.1i)</li> <li>• Pilot mental wellbeing context, criteria, guidance and independent reference source for schools as part of WNHSS (1.1ii)</li> <li>• Pilot feasibility of single integrated front door to services supporting vulnerability in and out of hours (1.1iii)</li> <li>• Monitor continued uptake of Reading Well scheme, in both English and Wales.</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and commence delivery of longer term plan to improve mental well-being/resilience (1.1ii)</li> <li>• Implement a plan for employer</li> </ul>	<p><i>Increase in mean mental wellbeing score based on Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (WEMWBS)</i> Source: National Survey for Wales</p> <p><i>Increased mental wellbeing in Children &amp; Young People. Source: Understanding Society.</i></p> <p><i>Formal Independent Evaluation of Reading Well Scheme.</i></p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>(1.1iv) Welsh Government (HSS) to continue to support the delivery of the Reading Well ('book prescription' for dementia, common mental health conditions (adults) and children's scheme.</p> <p>(1.1v) Welsh Government to work with Public Service Boards to encourage and support participation in cultural and sporting activity at a local level</p>	<p>support activity to improve mental health and wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bespoke training for criminal justice partners regarding trauma / ACE informed to be developed and commence implementation (1.1iii)</li> <li>Formal evaluation undertaken of the Reading Well scheme.</li> <li>Discuss the role of culture and sport in promoting mental health and well-being with each of the PSBs</li> </ul> <p>Work through the Fusion: Creating Opportunity through Culture programme to increase access to cultural activity</p>	
<b>Preventing suicide and self harm</b>	<p>(1.2i) <i>Talk to me 2</i> National Advisory Group (NAG), working with Welsh Government to support the development of a national suicide prevention website and training framework for Wales.</p> <p>(1.2ii) NAG to establish a postvention pathway in Wales,</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website established and routinely updated with evidence based information and support (1.2i and 1.2iii)</li> <li>Coordinators recruited, reporting structures agreed (1.2i and 1.2iv)</li> <li>Establish a farming Charities' Partnership Group specifically to</li> </ul>	<p><i>People will be able to access a range of information and support through one central website.</i></p> <p><i>Organisations will be able to review and select training opportunities from a range of providers to suit their needs</i></p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>including support to those bereaved by suicide.</p> <p>(1.2iii) NAG and Welsh Government (HSS) to Improve access to information and support, including educational settings, at risk occupational groups, rural areas and primary care. We will also highlight areas of good practice</p> <p>(1.2iv) Welsh Government (HSS), working with the NAG, to drive implementation of Talk to Me 2 Suicide and Self Harm Strategy (extended to 2022) through regional forums /plans and national coordinator posts.</p>	<p>share knowledge and expertise and identify ways to work collaboratively (1.2iii).</p> <p><b>Year 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training framework developed Post-vention pathway in place (1.2ii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Individuals and families will be supported appropriately following a death by suicide</i></p> <p><i>Rate of suicide reducing from an average over the 10 year (2005-2015) period. Source: Office of National Statistics (ONS)</i></p> <p><i>Rate of hospital admissions with any mention of intentional self-harm for children and young people (aged 10-24 years) per 1,000 population. Source Patient Episode Database for Wales (PEDW)</i></p>
<b>Strengthening protective factors</b>	<p>(1.3i) Welsh Government (HSS) to support people with mental health problems to remain in, or return to work through health led, European Social Funded (ESF) In-Work Support, Out of Work Support and the Individual Placement Scheme Pilot.</p>	<p><b>Year 1 and 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with employers to increase the number with specific programmes aimed at protecting and improving mental health and wellbeing receiving funding (1.3i and 1.3ii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of Loneliness and</li> </ul>	<p><i>Increased number of individuals with mental health problems will be able to retain work</i></p> <p><i>More people with mental health problems accessing employment opportunities.</i></p>



Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>(1.3ii) Welsh Government (HSS and ESNR) and Public Health Wales to support and encourage employers to promote good mental health and well-being in the workplace through Healthy Working Wales and the Economic Contract.</p> <p>(1.3iii) Welsh Government (HSS) to tackle loneliness and isolation through implementing a nationwide cross-government strategy, including increasing opportunities for 'meaningful day' activities within the community.</p> <p>(1.3iv) Welsh Government (Housing Policy and HSS) to support the delivery and evaluation of the Housing First Pilots to enable tailored mental health and substance misuse support for individuals to manage tenancies independently.</p>	<p>Isolation strategy which will include agreed priority areas (1.3iii).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial Advisory Group recommendations on homelessness / engage with Housing First Pilot areas to ensure principles of wraparound support (1.3iv)</li> <li>Take forward the recommendations and findings from Phase 1 of the Building Resilience in Rural Farming Communities Project (1.3vii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint working protocols for engaging mental health and substance misuse services with rough sleepers to be developed (1.3v)</li> <li>New Single Advice Fund to commence in 2020 with links into health services (1.3vi)</li> </ul>	<p><i>More employers providing workplaces that protect and promote the health and well-being of staff</i></p> <p><i>People at risk of homelessness accessing health services and maintain independence</i></p> <p><i>Reduction in the number/percentage people who feel lonely. Source: National Survey for Wales</i></p> <p><i>National Rough Sleeper Count. Source: Welsh Government.</i></p> <p><i>More people with mental health issues accessing money and debt advice/fewer people suffer mental ill health due to money issues. Source:</i></p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>(1.3v) Welsh Government (Housing Policy and HSS) to develop model joint working protocols for engaging mental health and substance misuse services with rough sleepers.</p> <p>(1.3vi) Welsh Government (Prosperous Futures) through its financial inclusion and advice services and working with key stakeholders (for instance the Money and Pensions Service) to help people to access debt and money advice to support improved mental health.</p> <p>(1.3vii) Welsh Government to consider the mental health impact of Brexit and ensure support is available, particularly for at-risk communities</p>		
<b>Tackling stigma</b>	(1.4i) Welsh Government (HSS and Economy and Transport) to continue to work with third sector delivery partners on Phase 3 of the Time to Change Wales (TTCW) campaign with a	<b>Year 1 and 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the number of employers to sign up to TTCW pledge and make relevant changes to HR policy and practice (1.4i)</li> <li>• Monitor the number of adult</li> </ul>	Percentage reduction in people with lived experience reporting stigma and discrimination in their relationships, workplaces and communities.

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>focus on supporting employers and middle aged men.</p> <p>(1.4ii) The Stigma and Discrimination working group of the MHNPB, supported by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), to advise NPB on proposed programme of work and Welsh Government and NPB to consider appropriate actions.</p>	<p>champions who are recruited and training, with a focus on men, those in rural areas and Welsh speaking (1.4ii)</p> <p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report submitted to NPB on proposed recommendations (1.4ii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government and NPB to respond to working group recommendations and agree actions (i.4ii)</li> </ul>	<p>Percentage of employers making changes to HR policy and practice</p> <p>Increased numbers of adult Champions, of whom 50% are men, 20% are fluent Welsh speaking and 30% live in rural areas. Source: Time to Change Wales</p>

## Priority 2: Improving access to support for the emotional and mental health well-being of children and young people

These actions will support me to develop my ability to cope better with everyday challenges. They will also help teachers and others recognise when I need more support and how to access it. If I do need to access specialist services, these actions will ensure I can get the help I need, when I need it.

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
<b>Improving access to mental health support in schools as part of whole system improvements</b>	<p>(2.1i) Welsh Government (Education and HSS) to develop and implement a multi-agency whole school approach to mental health and emotional well-being</p> <p>(2.1ii) Welsh Government (Education) and PHW to provide guidance and support for schools to embed a whole school approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing</p> <p>(2.1iii) Welsh Government (Education) Introduce professional learning for all levels of school staff on mental health and emotional wellbeing</p> <p>(2.1iv) Welsh Government working with NHS and PHW to</p>	<p><b>Year 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop standard pathways for joint working across agencies with clear roles and responsibilities (2.1i)</li> <li>• Publish guidance on suicide and self-harm prevention, accompanied by a suite of resources (2.1i)</li> <li>• Work with stakeholders to determine current good practice and areas for improvement (2.1ii)</li> <li>• Develop and consult on guidance that aligns with Estyn's self-evaluation framework (2.1ii)</li> <li>• Conduct scoping exercise to establish what is currently taught and what gaps there are that need to be filled (2.1iii)</li> <li>• Work with HEIs to develop bespoke training packages</li> </ul>	<p><i>Schools understand the factors which contribute to positive emotional wellbeing among students and staff, can identify and mitigate the barriers, putting in place effective strategies</i></p> <p><i>Teachers will be confident to provide early support and to identify children who need more specialist support sooner.</i></p> <p><i>Parents and children have clarity on pathways of support.</i></p> <p><i>Increased mental wellbeing in Children &amp; Young People. Source: Understanding Society.</i></p> <p><i>Gap in mental well-being between the most and least deprived among</i></p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	implement key learning from the CAMHS in-reach pilots	<p>targeting different school staff roles (2.1iii)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin initial evaluation and early learning from in-reach pilots (2.1iv)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement standardised pathways developed across Wales (2.1i)</li> <li>• Support Public Health Wales in refreshing the Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes and implementing changes. (2.1i)</li> <li>• Publish guidance on embedding a whole school approach (2.1ii)</li> <li>• Work with schools to implement guidance and begin self-evaluation process (2.1ii)</li> <li>• Continue development of training packages and roll out to school staff (2.1iii)</li> <li>• Work with National Academy for Educational Leadership (NAEL to receive accreditation for leadership training (2.1iii)</li> <li>• Introduce mental health and wellbeing training into ITT (2.1iii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>children and young people. Source: National Survey for Wales</i></p> <p><i>Number of young people accessing school-based counselling. Source: Welsh Government.</i></p> <p><i>Decreased percentage of children in need with mental health issues. Source: Census.</i></p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive formal evaluation of in-reach (2.1iv)</li> <li>• Scale up the in-reach pilots/ implement key elements nationally (2.1iv)</li> </ul>	
<b>Improving access to support in the community for children and young people as part of the whole system improvements</b>	<p>(2.2i) Welsh Government to provide funding to Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) to support the development of local approaches to improve access to community based services.</p> <p>(2.2ii) Welsh Government (Education) working with local authorities to embed mental health and wellbeing into the Youth Support Grant to improve support.</p> <p>(2.2iii) Health boards to work with local authorities to make specialist CAMHS more accessible for those children and young people on the edge of care who are assessed with a need but would not access secondary care through the usual routes. This will be</p>	<p><b>Year 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue funding to RPBs to pilot local approaches to improve access to community based services (2.2i).</li> <li>• Support grant recipients of the Youth Support Grant to deliver lower tier support (2.2ii)</li> <li>• Promote best practice and service development to deliver targeted support and interventions to those most at risk of developing emotional and mental health problems or showing early signs of mental disorders (2.2iii)</li> <li>• Consider findings of the pilot to develop implementation plan for the provision of online support for children and young people (2.2iv)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and review of funding to</li> </ul>	<p><i>More children and young people can access non-clinical support at an earlier stage</i></p> <p><i>More children and young people on the edge of care accessing appropriate support</i></p> <p><i>Children and young people who are ineligible for CAMHS services are able to access other suitable therapeutic or “lower level” support reducing the ‘missing middle’.</i></p> <p><i>Percentage of specialist CAMHS referral to first appointment (80% target). Source: Welsh Government</i></p> <p><i>Increased mental wellbeing in Children &amp; Young People. Source: Understanding Society.</i></p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>informed by the T4CYP Early Intervention and Resilience Work stream that has focused on children and young people on the edge of care.</p> <p>(2.2iv) Welsh Government (HSS) to explore the development of pilots in relation to on line support for children and young people</p>	<p>RPBs to pilot local approaches to improve access to lower tier , non-clinical community based services (2.1i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the administrators of the Youth Support Grant to develop ideas and share good practice with recipients of the grant to further support children and young people (2.2ii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Gap in mental well-being between the most and least deprived among children and young people. Source: National Survey for Wales</i></p> <p><i>Number of young people accessing school-based counselling. Source: Welsh Government</i></p> <p><i>Decreased percentage of children in need with mental health issues. Source: Census.</i></p>
<b>Improving children and young people mental health services as part of the whole system approach.</b>	<p>(2.3i) Welsh Government (HSS) investment to support health board improvement plans that take forward recommendations from the recent NHS Delivery Unit (DU) review of LPMHSS</p> <p>(2.3ii) NHS Collaborative to review the NHS Commissioning framework and model demand and capacity to ensure specialist inpatient services meet the needs of children and young people.</p>	<p><b>Year 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor implementation of health board improvement plans following review of LPMHSS (2.3i)</li> <li>Review the CAMHS framework for In Patient services (2.3ii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drive and measure improvements made following the DU review of LPMHSS. (2.3i)</li> <li>Implement the findings from the NHS commissioning framework</li> </ul>	<p>Percentage of mental health assessments undertaken by Local Primary Mental Health Support Services (LPMHSS) within (up to and including) 28 days from the date of receipt of referral (80% target).</p> <p>Source: Welsh Government</p> <p>Percentage of therapeutic interventions started within (up to and including) 28 days following an</p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
		review.	<p>assessment by LPMHSS (80% target).</p> <p>Source: Welsh Government.</p> <p>Children access appropriate support earlier.</p> <p>Fewer children will be placed outside of Wales.</p>



### Priority 3: Further improvements to crisis and out of hours for children and adults

These actions will help me access support when I'm in distress. Frontline staff who I may come in to contact with will know how to support me and will have access to services, at any time.

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
<b>Strengthening partnership working</b>	<p>(3.1i) Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat (MHCCC) and Regional Mental Health Criminal Justice Groups to implement the new National Crisis Concordat Delivery Plan across LHBs, Police Forces, Local Authorities, WAST and the third sectors</p> <p>(3.1ii) Welsh Government to commission the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit (NCCU) to complete a rapid urgent mental health access and conveyance review to make recommendations for improvement</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All partners signed and agreed to local implementation plans with formal reporting to the Concordat group (3.1i)</li> <li>Commission and complete urgent access review (3.1ii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement recommendations from urgent access review (3.1ii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>More people diverted from section 135/136 detentions and into community support</i></p> <p><i>Fewer people detained on 135/136 are released from hospital with no mental disorder. Source: Welsh Government</i></p> <p><i>We will understand how people access crisis/out of hours support; how they are moved between services; and, why they are accessing MH services (e.g. – intoxicated; social issues/distress/mental health.</i></p>
<b>Improving Services</b>	(3.2i) Welsh Government (HSS) investment to support health boards to extend and	<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide additional funding to health boards and agree</li> </ul>	<i>Access to mental health crisis support is consistent across Wales</i>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>standardise the delivery of crisis and out of hour services to provide 24/7 access, across all ages, including delivering on the priority areas in the National Crisis Care Concordat Delivery Plan</p> <p>(3.2ii) Welsh Government (HSS) to support a discrete range of pilots, including street triage, hub models etc to inform evidence based practice and MHCCC to identify the good practice and models for national roll out</p> <p>(3.2iii) Welsh Government (HSS), health boards, local authorities and police to improve data collection of section 135/136 dataset and improve transparency of this data.</p>	<p>improvement plans for crisis and out of hours services (3.2i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree and support pilot projects (3.2ii)</li> <li>• Commence publication of new section 135/136 data set (3.2iii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree national actions to improve crisis system based on access review and evaluation of pilot projects (3.2ii)</li> <li>• Provide first annual report on new dataset and assurance reports from Regional Partnership Boards (3.2iii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>and is available 24/7.</i></p> <p><i>We will understand what works to improve the outcomes for individuals accessing services in crisis.</i></p> <p><i>More people diverted from section 135/136 detentions and into community support</i></p> <p><i>Fewer people detained on 135/136 are released from hospital with no mental disorder. Source: Stats Wales</i></p>

#### Priority 4: Improving the access, quality and range of psychological therapies across all ages

These actions will ensure that I can access the most appropriate and evidenced based psychological therapies to support me, in a timely manner. I will also be involved in making decisions about my care

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
<b>Improving services</b>	<p>(4.1i) Welsh Government (HSS) investment to support health boards to improve access by consistently meet current targets for specialist psychological therapies, and increase the range of psychological therapies that are available.</p> <p>(4.1ii) Welsh Government (HSS) to commission a review of the Adults Matrics Cymru and the development of a Children and Young Peoples Version of Matrices Cymru</p> <p>(4.1iii) Welsh Government (HSS) working with Health Technology Wales to increase the use of online interventions where appropriate, for both adults and children and young people.</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26 week specialist psychological therapies waiting time standard will be published on Stats Wales and monitored (4.1i)</li> <li>Online interventions will be more widely available (4.1iii)</li> <li>Health boards to begin implementation of Traumatic Stress Initiative (4.1iv)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing monitoring of progress against 26 week waiting time standard, with a view to tightening them further (4.1i)</li> <li>CYP Matrics will be published and implemented (4.1ii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Percentage of patients waiting less than 26 weeks to start a psychological therapy in Specialist Adult Mental Health. Source: Welsh Government</i></p> <p><i>Outcomes focused practice pilots to improve use of experience information in health boards</i></p> <p><i>Training and support to staff will improve</i></p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	4.1(iv) Welsh Government (HSS) to commission the development of an evidence based All Wales <b>Traumatic Stress</b> Quality Improvement Initiative for adults, taking into account other specific population groups including perinatal mental health; refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable groups; victims of sexual assault and transition from child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).		

## Priority 5: Improving access and quality of perinatal mental health services

These actions will ensure that if I struggle with my mental health during, or after my pregnancy, I will be able to access appropriate support. If I need more specialist support, I will be able access this closer to my home and with my baby.

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
<b>Improving accessing and quality of services</b>	<p>(5.1i) Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) and lead health board to establish a specialist in-patient perinatal mother and baby unit in Wales</p> <p>(5.1ii) NHS Collaborative to establish a perinatal mental health network to assist health boards to further drive improvements to services, including the collection of core performance management data.</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commencement of build project to establish a mother and baby unit (5.1i)</li> <li>• Establishment of Perinatal Mental Health Network (5.1ii)</li> <li>• Achievement of All Wales Perinatal Mental Health Steering Groups standards, including relevant data collection (5.1ii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2/3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of mother and baby unit (5.1i)</li> <li>• Achievement of Royal College of Psychiatrists' quality standards(5.1ii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Improved quality and availability of perinatal community mental health services supporting better outcomes for mothers and their families</i></p> <p><i>Inpatient perinatal mother and baby unit provision in Wales, reducing the number out of Wales placements.</i></p> <p><i>Health boards reports on the achievement of All Wales Perinatal Mental Health Steering Groups standards</i></p> <p><i>Health board reports on the achievement of Royal College of Psychiatrists' quality standards.</i></p>

## Priority 6: Improving quality and developing recovery orientated services

These actions will assure me that the services that I need to access continually improve and are responsive to my individual needs.

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
<b>Improve the quality of care and treatment planning</b>	(6.1i) Health Boards to undertake an annual audit of Care and Treatment Planning (CTP), focusing on the importance of building in a recovery approach to service development, and ensuring the implementation of the NHS Delivery Unit recommendations on care and treatment planning.	<b>Year 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health board to undertake a follow up audit detailing progress, including ensuring appropriate service user input, and to report findings / areas for improvement</li> </ul> <b>Year 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health boards to demonstrate ongoing improvements</li> </ul>	<i>Care and treatment plans that focus on minimising the impact of their mental health problems whilst maximising independence, community integration and mental and physical health.</i>  <i>Outcome measure feedback from service users and carers.</i>
<b>Improve the quality of inpatient care</b>	(6.2i) Health boards to undertake an audit of current secure inpatient provision and to develop a secure inpatient strategy for mental health	<b>Year 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit of current secure inpatient provision</li> </ul> <b>Year 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a secure inpatient strategy</li> </ul>	<i>A clear secure care pathway at a national a local level will be developed</i>
<b>Embed quality improvement</b>	(6.3i) PHW 1000 Lives to undertake a quality improvement exercise through pilots with 7 teams across services in all	<b>Year 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with pilot teams to embed outcomes model and involve service users in the development</li> </ul>	<i>Teams will routinely use measures to capture wellbeing, individual goals and to measure experience of</i>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	regions to embed an outcomes focused model across Wales	<p>of principles to roll out</p> <p><b>Year 2/3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To roll out outcomes model across Wales supported by PHW 1000Lives</li> </ul>	<p>service</p> <p><i>Routine capture of the experiences of those with lived experience and evidence of improved use of outcome measures in practice</i></p>
<b>Further developing Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT)</b>	<p>(6.4i) Health boards to implement improvement plans from the joint Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) / Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) review of CMHT and report progress against these plans</p> <p>(6.4ii) Welsh Government (HSS) to work with partners to articulate what we want services to look like, by setting a common set of values, reviewing models and producing guidance for Wales</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health board to undertake follow up audit detailing progress and to report findings / areas for improvement (6.4i)</li> <li>Review / map service configurations and research models of care, workshops to define core functions in primary / secondary care (6.4ii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2/3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce guidance on the delivery of mental health services, using a systems / journey approach (6.4ii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Functions for mental health services will be defined in Wales, enabling partners to structure services to deliver more needs-based support</i></p> <p><i>For people with needs ranging from self help and staying well through to serious mental illness there will be clear guidance on pathways and processes that improve access to appropriate supports</i></p>

## Priority 7: Supporting vulnerable groups

These actions will support services to respond to my needs earlier, with better integration so I don't need to re-tell my story each time.

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
<b>Improving support for Eating Disorders</b>	(7.1i) Welsh Government (HSS) to work with service users, carers and health boards to develop a new model of service in response to the recent independent review.	<b>Year 1/2</b> Develop and begin implementation on local improvement plans	<i>Clear plans to deliver early intervention support across wales.</i>  <i>As the programme of work develops patient outcome measures will be built in.</i>
<b>Improving support for people with co-occurring mental health and substance misuse issues</b>	(7.2i) Welsh Government (HSS) continue to monitor the delivery of the Mental Health & Substance Misuse Co-occurring Substance Misuse Treatment Framework.  (7.2ii) Undertake a 'deep dive' analysis involving front line clinicians to look at the remaining barriers and good practice in this areas to drive change in service delivery	<b>Year 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake analysis of current pathways for an individual with a co-occurring problem, including looking at the barriers on accessing services and good practice on work in this area. (7.2i)</li> <li>Convene workshop involving clinicians, APB and LMHPs representatives (7.2ii)</li> </ul> <b>Year 1/ 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement findings from review within year 1 (7.2ii)</li> </ul>	<i>Improved joint working between substance misuse and mental health services and better support for those with co-occurring problems.</i>  <i>Number of hospital admissions due primary named illicit drugs Source: NWIS (PEDW)</i>  <i>Number of hospital admissions with primary and any mention alcohol specific disease Source: NWIS (PEDW)</i>



Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
			<i>Number of hospital admissions with alcohol attributable conditions (broad and narrow definition) Source: NWIS (PEDW)</i>
<b>Improving support for offenders</b>	<p>(7.3i) Welsh Government (HSS), working with health boards and HMPPS to develop consistent mental health, mental well-being and learning disability services across all prisons that are tailored to need though an agreed set of standards and indicators for mental health services in prison.</p> <p>(7.3ii) Welsh Government (HSS), working with health boards and HMPPS to develop approaches to improve mental health support to youth and female offenders.</p>	<p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish joint Prison Health Board (7.3i)</li> <li>Establish work streams to underpin the four priorities in the prison health partnership agreement. Fund prison health improvement plans (7.3i and 7.3ii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete and commence implementation of mental health standards and indicators (7.3i)</li> <li>Review progress on improvement plans (7.3ii)</li> </ul>	<i>Improved mental health, mental well-being and learning disability services in the prison setting.</i>

**Overarching actions: Key areas that underpin achieving the aspiration and outcomes in the delivery plan, but are longer term , running beyond the life of the plan**

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
These actions set out how we will improve the capability and consistency of data and outcomes collection in Wales. Common IT systems, better information sharing between health, social care and the third sector, and an outcomes-focused workforce are all key goals of the mental health and learning disability core dataset. We are also committing to improve transparency and reporting of information to the public.			
<b>Data and Outcomes:</b>	<p>(8.1i) Welsh Government (HSS) and NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) implement a nationally standardised mental health and learning disability core data set to cover mental health services for people of all ages and include the data on the Welsh Community Care Informatics Service (WCCIS) once it is live.</p> <p>(8.1ii) Welsh Government (HSS) and NWIS to work with health boards and local authorities to implement a common set of forms across health and social services for mental health.</p> <p>(8.1iii) Welsh Government (HSS) and Public Health Wales</p>	<p><b>Year 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assure data set through WISB process (8.1i)</li> <li>Commence publication of new section 135/136 dataset and psychological therapies 26 week target (8.1i)</li> <li>Quality improvement work undertaken to support outcome focused practice with pilot teams (8.1iii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence data collection on core data set (8.1ii)</li> <li>Commence roll out of outcome focused model across Wales (8.1iii)</li> </ul>	<p><i>Mental health data will be consistent, robust and outcome focused.</i></p> <p><i>Data sharing within health boards and between health boards and local authorities will be improved.</i></p> <p><i>The voice of those accessing support will be used routinely to inform the therapeutic relationship and planning / evaluation of care</i></p> <p><i>Outcomes focused model implemented across mental health services</i></p> <p><i>Regular reporting of data for individuals, practitioners, managers, Welsh Government and the public</i></p> <p><i>WCCIS in place across sectors by 2022</i></p> <p><i>Data sharing across the UK and</i></p>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>1000 Lives to work with health boards and local authorities to support outcomes-focused practice via quality improvement work with teams, working towards more consistent model for Wales that incorporates principles of compassionate care alongside routine monitoring.</p> <p>(8.1iv) Welsh Government will support the NCCU to undertake the annual NHS UK and International benchmarking project ensuring we learn from the best from within the UK and abroad and understand the landscape of current services</p>	<p><b>Year 3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embed core data set collection through WCCIS and delivery of outcome focused practice across Wales (8.1i-iii)</li> </ul> <p><b>Year 1 – 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHS benchmarking event</li> </ul>	<i>Internationally will be improved</i>
In the context of increasing demand for services and increasing investment, actions set out show how we will achieve a sustainable workforce.			
<b>Workforce</b>	(8.2i) Welsh Government (HSS) to work with HEIW to ensure the mental health workforce is prioritised in the 10 year workforce strategy	<p><b>Year 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HEIW / SCW workforce strategy developed (8.2i)</li> <li>Approve health board improvement plans (8.2ii)</li> </ul>	<i>Mental health workforce needs will be clear and plans will be in place to achieve a sustainable workforce</i>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	(8.2ii) Welsh Government (HSS) to require health boards to consider longer term workforce planning in improvement plans for additional mental health funding	<b>Year 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation plans in place and activities in progress to support workforce recruitment, retention, succession planning and wellbeing of staff (8.2i-ii)</li> </ul>	<i>Health and Social Care Workforce Strategy and implementation plans anticipated by 2020</i>
These actions set out how it will support the changes needed to implement known legal reform to the Mental Capacity Act and reflects the need to develop a strategic position during 2019-20 of what changes to the Mental Health (Wales) Measure and the Mental Health Act are needed to deliver and drive our/the plan's policy intentions and outcomes.			
<b>Legislation</b>	<p>(8.3i) Welsh Government (HSS) to review the Duty to Review recommendations arising from the evaluation of the delivery of the Mental Health 2010 (Wales) Measure.</p> <p>(8.3ii) Welsh Government (HSS) to consider the UK Government commissioned Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983 and subsequent response to determine what actions are required in Wales.</p>	<b>Year 1/2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To change regulations as recommended by the Final Report of the Duty to Review the MH (W) M 2010 with supporting policy implementation guidance and workforce training (8.3i and 8.3iv)</li> <li>Implementation of the MC(A) Bill / LPS with necessary guidance and training (8.3iii)</li> <li>Monitoring arrangements and data</li> </ul>	<i>The appropriate legal safeguards will be in place for each person who lacks mental capacity and whose care and treatment arrangements amount to a deprivation of his/her liberty.</i>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	<p>(8.3iii) Welsh Government (HSS) to prepare and support the implementation of the Mental Capacity Amendment Act 2019(MCCA 2019)</p> <p>(8.3iv) Welsh Government to consider amending the regulations to Part 1 of the Measure to facilitate a competency based approach to be used in establishing the workforce to undertake Part 1 assessment.</p>	<p>collection is established (8.3 i-iv)</p> <p><b>Year 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic position on the implications of any changes to the MHA for Wales is established (8.3ii)</li> <li>• Code of Practice to the MCA and Liberty Protection Safeguards accurately reflect the position for Wales (8.3iii)</li> <li>• Secondary legislation, guidance and workforce planning to implement the MCCA 2019I is prepared (8.3iii)</li> </ul>	
These actions set out how we will liaise with those with lived experience and the voluntary sector, through better links with local, regional and national networks.			

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
<b>Strengthening engagement</b>	(8.4i) Welsh Government (HSS), through contract arrangements with Practice Solutions to support the Mental Health Forum and development of national guidance to increase co-production and involvement. (8.4ii) Welsh Government (HSS) to review current arrangements for third sector engagement to ensure it reflects the increased number and breadth of third sector mental health organisations.	<b>Year 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forum recruitment drive and scoping of national guidance work, including a communications plan (8.4i)</li> </ul> <b>Year 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on involvement produced (8.4ii)</li> </ul>	<i>Diversity and membership of the forum will have increased, with wider outreach</i>  <i>The lived experience voice will be stronger in Wales</i>  <i>The voice of the voluntary sector will be stronger in Wales</i>  <i>There will be more consistency in terms of engagement and co-production across Wales</i>
Ongoing efforts to increase Welsh language provision are essential to deliver the vision articulated in More than Just Words. These actions support ongoing improvements but all actions should be taken in the context Welsh language.			
<b>Welsh Language</b>	(8.5i) Welsh Government (HSS) to work with health boards to develop their capacity and capability to improve Welsh Language provision in mental health services  (8.5ii) Health boards to deliver on the Active Offer – a key	<b>Year 1 /2</b> Health boards to report on how they are developing capacity and capability to improve Welsh language provision in mental health services including delivering on the ‘Active Offer’	<i>More people able to access mental health services and support in the Welsh language</i>

Key theme	What needs to be done	Key milestones	What will be different / How will we know? <i>[this section is still under development and will be revised prior to publication of final document]</i>
	principle of More than Just Words <sup>1</sup> .		

## Annex 1

Priority Area	Link to 'A Healthier Wales' quadruple aims
Priority 1: Preventing poor mental health and maintaining mental wellbeing	Quadruple Aim 1: Improve population health and wellbeing Quadruple Aim 2: Better quality and more accessible health and social care services Quadruple Aim 3: Higher value health and social care
Priority 2: Improving access to support for the emotional and mental health well-being of children and young people	Quadruple Aim 1: Improve population health and wellbeing Quadruple Aim 2: Better quality and more accessible health and social care services
Priority 3: Further improvements to crisis and out of hours for children and adults	Quadruple Aim 2: Better quality and more accessible health and social care services Quadruple Aim 3: Higher value health and social care
Priority 4: Improving the access, quality and range of psychological therapies across all ages	Quadruple Aim 2: Better quality and more accessible health and social care services Quadruple Aim 3: Higher value health and social care Quadruple Aim 4: A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce
Priority 5: Improving access and quality of perinatal mental health services	Quadruple Aim 2: Better quality and more accessible health and social care services Quadruple Aim 3: Higher value health and social care

<sup>1</sup> More than just words is the Welsh Government's strategic framework to strengthen Welsh language services in health and social care. People can feel vulnerable when accessing health and social care and lack confidence to ask for services in Welsh. The active offer therefore means offering a Welsh language choice without patients having to ask for it

Priority 6: Improving quality and developing recovery orientated services	<p>Quadruple Aim 1: Improve population health and wellbeing</p> <p>Quadruple Aim 3: Higher value health and social care</p>
Priority 7: Supporting vulnerable groups	<p>Quadruple Aim 2: Better quality and more accessible health and social care services</p> <p>Quadruple Aim 3: Higher value health and social care</p>
Overarching actions: Key areas that underpin achieving the aspiration and outcomes in the delivery plan, but are longer term , running beyond the life of the plan	<p>Quadruple Aim 1: Improve population health and wellbeing</p> <p>Quadruple Aim 2: Better quality and more accessible health and social care services</p> <p>Quadruple Aim 3: Higher value health and social care</p> <p>Quadruple Aim 4: A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce.</p>



# Agenda Item 3.2

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 2

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-VG 2712-19

Lynne Neagle AM

Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee

National Assembly to Wales

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1NA

19 July 2019

Dear Lynne,

Following my attendance at the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 20 June, please find below my response to the agreed action points. For clarity, I have included individual actions points in the letter.

- 1. A summary of the NHS Delivery Unit's review of primary care CAMHS, including individual reports for each health board, and the report that interim improvement plans will be based on.**

The NHS Delivery Unit (DU) has concluded all fieldwork and data analysis. Health boards have either received a full written report or verbal feedback with a summary of findings, ahead of receiving a full report. We expect to receive the DU's national overview report over the summer and will share this with the Committee, along with a summary of the service improvement proposals for primary care CAMHS, once these are agreed with health boards over the coming weeks.

In respect of the individual LHB reports, I am asking each health board to prepare a report for their Board or appropriate subcommittee which sets out the DU's findings for their area and their proposed response. I will be expecting these reports to be in the form of publicly available papers and will ensure these are shared with the Committee.

In terms of the report that has informed the criteria for health board improvement plans; the criteria were based on meetings with the DU to discuss emerging themes from the review process. The criteria were agreed with the DU to inform the funding letter, ahead of the completion of the national overview report. For ease, I've included the funding criteria included in the service improvement letter below:

*Proposals will need to take forward the recommendations made by the NHS Delivery Unit following the assurance review of primary care CAMHS in your health board and*

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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.

*aim to achieve waiting time targets for primary and secondary care CAMHS on a sustainable basis. We would expect bids to include actions/activity, to:*

- *strengthen compliance with all five functions of Part 1 of the Measure*
- *ensure that systems are in place to support a smooth pathway and flow through primary care CAMHS and where required into SCAMHS*
- *Support staff in primary care CAMHS to work more effectively through better use of mobile communications*
- *Focus on earlier intervention, including how services will link to the whole school approach to emotional wellbeing which is being led by the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish group.*
- *Improvements in access to crisis, out of hours and psychological services.*

Proposals from all health boards were received on 30 June and are now being assessed prior to funding decisions being made.

## **2. Management data for neurodevelopment services.**

I agreed to share with you the latest management data for neurodevelopment services (attached **Annex A**). We discussed the limitations and concerns about the quality of the data and I agreed to share it with the Committee on the understanding that conclusions are not drawn from the data, nor should comparisons be made between health boards based on the data. The Welsh Government and NWIS are working with health boards to resolve the quality and consistency of the data prior to publication

The data reflects the challenge in forecasting demand for a new and specialised service, and the demand for neurodevelopment services is significantly higher than anticipated. In response to these challenges, we are considering options for a review to look specifically at barriers to access and capacity issues in neurodevelopmental/autism services. We have also invited proposals from health boards for non-recurrent funding this year, to support pump priming activities which will include supporting waiting list initiatives for neurodevelopment.

## **3. An update on the broader work, including the role of other agencies, for children and young people with extremely complex needs who are being placed in hospitals in England.**

There is work already underway by WHSSC to consider how the space in the inpatient units within the NHS could be better utilised to meet the needs of a broader range of young people with complex needs. In addition, some regional partnership boards are already considering how the system can better meet the need of those young people with very complex needs with the support of the Integrated Care Fund (ICF). However, a meeting was held with key stakeholders recently to determine how this work can be better supported at an all-Wales level to deliver sustainable integrated planning and commissioning arrangements across health and social care at an all-Wales and regional level. Further details on how this work will be taken forward will be available by the end of August.

## **4. A note on the progress being made on the emotional and mental health of Looked after children (Recommendation 23 of Mind over Matter).**

Our written update included that we have invested £15m into the ICF to support prevention and early intervention services for care experienced children and young people. Regional Partnership Boards are working across, health boards, local authorities and third sector organisations to develop proposals which meet the need of their looked after children

populations. I understand that the Together for Children and Young People programme also included an update on this work in their written evidence.

In terms of recent activity, the Early Help and Enhanced Support event which took place in June included workshops on the mental health and wellbeing of looked after children. This was the third in a series of workshops which will inform the development of proposals for best practice and service development to enable targeted support and interventions to those most at risk of developing emotional and mental health problems or showing early signs of mental disorders. This work is linking with the Ministerial Advisory Group on Outcomes for Children and the Whole School Approach programme. The specific frameworks are planned to be developed and tested prior to the end of the Programme in October 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services

## Management Information:

## Percentage of children/young people waiting less than 26 weeks to start ADHD or ASD neurodevelopment assessment - Target 80%

Date	Target	All Wales	Aneurin Bevan	Betsi Cadwaladr	Cardiff and Vale	Cwm Taf Morgannwg	Hywel Dda	Powys	Swansea Bay
Apr-18	80%	58.1%	86.9%	38.6%	84.7%	91.5%	35.5%	100.0%	93.5%
May-18	80%	59.7%	83.0%	40.1%	88.4%	79.9%	35.5%	100.0%	94.6%
Jun-18	80%	62.4%	81.1%	44.2%	93.6%	78.2%	40.1%	100.0%	91.3%
Jul-18	80%	63.2%	81.0%	45.3%	96.6%	76.2%	41.2%	100.0%	91.1%
Aug-18	80%	60.0%	72.4%	44.0%	98.5%	64.5%	42.5%	90.8%	86.5%
Sep-18	80%	58.1%	67.4%	44.6%	96.5%	58.8%	43.5%	82.7%	80.6%
Oct-18	80%	56.7%	67.2%	41.8%	97.1%	62.8%	42.5%	74.3%	76.5%
Nov-18	80%	52.5%	80.6%	30.0%	94.7%	63.9%	43.2%	82.4%	67.6%
Dec-18	80%	50.8%	86.6%	27.9%	92.1%	61.7%	42.6%	87.6%	61.5%
Jan-19	80%	49.8%	84.8%	37.2%	88.8%	56.9%	42.0%	79.0%	47.1%
Feb-19	80%	51.1%	84.9%	37.6%	93.3%	59.7%	40.8%	89.1%	49.5%
Mar-19	80%	51.1%	82.9%	37.2%	87.5%	76.7%	35.8%	95.0%	46.7%
Apr-19	80%	44.6%	74.0%	35.5%	75.8%	68.3%	26.3%	91.8%	37.9%

# Agenda Item 3.3

## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 3

**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

**Kirsty Williams AM**

Minister for Education

8 August 2019

Dear Ministers,

### Follow-up work on the Committee's inquiry into the Emotional and Mental Health of Children and Young People in Wales – Mind over Matter

We are writing to you following the public scrutiny sessions held on [20 June 2019](#) and [26 June 2019](#) to monitor progress in relation to the implementation of the recommendations we made in our April 2018 [Mind over Matter](#) report. We are grateful to you, and to the Chair of the Together for Children and Young People Programme, for your cooperation in undertaking this important follow-up work one year on from the [Plenary debate](#) on our report.

We acknowledge that progress has been made in some areas but still believe the pace of improvement needs to increase. We welcome the developments made to date, and recognise that the setting up of the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group—which I attend as an observer on behalf of the Committee—has helped to move progress in the right direction in respect of the development of a whole-school approach. However, we believe that increased effort is needed to deliver the step change in emotional and mental health support for children and young people we have called for. The [evidence](#) which underpins the conclusions and recommendations outlined in this letter is all available on our webpages.



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## 1. Key recommendation

We are very concerned that the NHS-led service improvement programme, Together for Children and Young People, is coming to an end in October 2019 without adequate legacy arrangements being in place. We did not receive the assurances we sought—either from the Welsh Government, or the Together for Children and Young People Programme—that sufficient and robust arrangements are in place to deliver and sustain the improvements urgently needed in emotional and mental health support for children and young people across all areas of Wales.

**Recommendation A:** The key recommendation in our Mind over Matter report called for the emotional well-being and mental health of our children and young people should to be a national priority. Further to this, we recommend that the Together for Children and Young People Programme is extended to help ensure sustainable improvements in access to support services within both primary and secondary care through Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), as well as supporting the whole-system approach. It is our view that the Together for Children and Young People Programme should be extended to coincide with the end of *Together for Mental Health 2012–22*, the Welsh Government’s 10 year strategy to improve mental health and well-being.

We believe

- rolling the Together for Children and Young People Programme forward is the best option in terms of value for money and improved outcomes for children and their families;
- the Together for Children and Young People Programme needs to have a stronger focus on multi-agency working, to ensure the delivery of whole-system improvements;
- the Together for Children and Young People Programme needs to work closely with the Welsh Government, local authorities and Regional Partnership Boards to support the development of local approaches and embed mental health and emotional well-being across all areas of Wales.



## 2. Whole-school approach

We welcome the progress made, driven by the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group, on the whole-school approach.

We are pleased that funding has been made available to develop additional modules on how teachers should support pupils' mental health and emotional well-being, and welcome the commitment we were given to ensuring this is included in the next accreditation process for teacher education.

We are also pleased that the Welsh Government has now recognised the importance of ensuring everybody who works with children and young people is **appropriately trained in emotional well-being and mental health**. However, we believe that such training should be included on a mandatory basis in ITE as a matter of urgency, and that a programme of CPD is developed for existing teaching staff, **and this should be done at real pace**.

**Recommendation B:** To ensure that all school staff have a sufficient understanding of children and young people's emotional and mental health and well-being, the Welsh Government should develop—as a matter of priority—a programme of compulsory training for new and existing school staff.

We share the Minister for Education's view that the **new curriculum** is “a wonderful opportunity to really embed health and well-being, in its broadest sense, into the work of schools, giving it parity with all the other areas of learning and experience that are included within the curriculum”.<sup>1</sup> However, we are still not convinced that there is sufficient alignment between the curriculum and initiatives around emotional well-being and mental health. It is our intention to explore this issue further with the Minister for Education during our public scrutiny session on the draft curriculum in September 2019.

We want to be assured that one of the central tenets of our Mind over Matter report—that emotional well-being, resilience and good mental health are the key foundations for successful learning—can truly be delivered by the inclusion of

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<sup>1</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 42\], 20 June 2019](#).



emotional well-being and mental health as one of the six Areas of Learning Experience (AoLE) and the 'what matters' statements.

We also want to see momentum maintained, to ensure that the implementation **framework for schools**—which will provide guidance and support for schools to embed a whole-school approach to mental health and emotional well-being—is published as soon as possible. We are pleased that the Welsh Government is reviewing the numerous initiatives in order to inform a national approach for schools and we recognise that developing guidance is a work in progress. We would like to see this framework taken forward at pace.

Linked to this, we are pleased to hear that the implementation framework for schools will include a dedicated section on **suicide and self-harm**. The publication of the guidance for schools in September 2019 on talking about suicide and self-harm is a significant step forward. It is a step in the right direction, and the Welsh Government must now put plans in place to ensure that all schools and local education authorities implement this guidance.

**Recommendation C:** Further to Recommendation 3 in our Mind over Matter report, the Welsh Government must ensure the implementation framework for schools is published without delay, by December 2019. This is to ensure that all schools are working to a fundamental set of principles in relation to children and young people's emotional well-being and mental health and are supported to do this. We want the Welsh Government to be working with schools to implement the guidance and to begin the self-evaluation process.

**Recommendation D:** Further to Recommendation 16 in our Mind over Matter report, the Welsh Government must ensure that all schools and local education authorities implement fully the guidance on suicide and self-harm to be introduced in September 2019.

We also want to reiterate our firm view that improving access to mental health support in schools must be part of a **whole-system approach**. We look forward to receiving a copy of the interim evaluation report on the CAMHS schools in-reach pilots in December 2019.





### 3. Local Primary Mental Health Support Services

In line with the whole-school approach, we want to see the Welsh Government set out clearer expectations on how **school counselling services** should link with Local Primary Mental Health Support Services (LPMHSS) to ensure they are joined up. We understand that the Welsh Government is doing some work to map the adequacy and capacity of the school counselling service, but we want the Welsh Government to better articulate its vision for lower level support and early interventions.

We cannot overstate this Committee's commitment to ensuring children and young people who are ineligible for CAMHS services are able to access other suitable therapeutic or lower level support – the so-called '**missing middle**'. It is crucial that the Welsh Government gets to grips with this issue so that children are able access the support they need. This works is still in its infancy and that is not good enough.

**Recommendation E:** We want to see the Welsh Government implement Recommendation 12 in our Mind over Matter report as a matter of urgency, including publishing details of it how it intends to take forward the early help and enhanced support workstream to reduce the '**missing middle**'. We request an update from the Welsh Government on progress by the end of October 2019.

The delay in publishing the recent NHS Delivery Unit's **review of LPMHSS** is also not acceptable. As a Committee, we have made it clear that we expect the recommendations from the Delivery Unit's review to be published in full, as well as the Health Board improvement plans, in order to drive improvements and monitor implementation of the plans. We welcome the confirmation in the Minister for Health and Social Services' letter of 19 July 2019 that all fieldwork and data analysis has now been completed by the Delivery Unit and that health boards have either received a full written report or verbal feedback with a summary of findings, ahead of receiving a full report.

**Recommendation F:** Further to Recommendations 9 and 10 in our Mind over Matter report, we expect to receive a copy of the NHS Delivery Unit's review of Local Primary Mental Health Support Services, as well as the Health Board improvement plans, this summer (2019). Publication of this information will help to provide a better understanding of whether there is enough capacity in the primary care CAMHS



system. We also recommend that the Welsh Government publish data in relation to LPMHSS performance as soon as possible.

#### 4. Specialist CAMHS

In our Mind over Matter report, we highlighted the importance of ensuring that **consistent care pathways**, based on **national referral criteria**, are implemented across Wales. It is still our view that real progress in specialist CAMHS can only be judged when children and young people can access timely services consistently, across the country, in a sustained manner.

The Framework for Improvement was published in June 2016, setting out a clear definition and referral criteria for specialist CAMHS. We welcome the Welsh Government's honesty in explaining that the right level of progress has not been made yet; and note that the Welsh Government could not give us the assurance that Health Boards are consistently applying the referral criteria.<sup>2</sup> We further note your acknowledgement that while waiting times data has improved, sustainable performance has not yet been achieved.<sup>3</sup>

We accept that the Welsh Government is working with Health Boards to implement CAMHS improvement plans to address these issues. We further accept that more time is needed to ensure consistent pathways and consistent referral criteria are in place, and to sustain waiting time performance. Nevertheless, we expect the Welsh Government to demonstrate sustained improvements in specialist CAMHS, including commissioning a review of the framework within the next 6 to 12 months.

Related to this, we have specific concerns about **crisis and out of hours care**, particularly in relation to some Health Boards still not providing services 24/7. We understand that crisis care will be included in Health Board improvement plans, but given the vulnerabilities of children and young people who are 'in crisis', access to support 24/7 needs to be prioritised. It is not acceptable that more than one year after our report, the Welsh Government cannot give us an accurate picture of how 24/7 access looks across Wales.

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<sup>2</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 194\], 20 June 2019](#).

<sup>3</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 173\], 20 June 2019](#).



**Recommendation G:** Further to Recommendation 15 in our Mind over Matter report, we recommend that the Welsh Government undertake an urgent piece of work to better understand how and why children and young people access crisis/out of hours support. Further improvements to crisis and out of hours care for children are needed to help ensure children and young people can access immediate support when they are in distress, at any time. Access to mental health crisis support must be consistent across Wales, which may require Welsh Government investment to support those Health Boards currently unable to extend their services.

## 5. In-patient care

We have serious concerns in relation to **in-patient care for children and young people** in Wales, which have also been highlighted by Healthcare Inspectorate Wales inspectors and the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

The Welsh Government's response to our report in relation to in-patient care (Recommendations 17 and 18) has been inadequate.

There has been a longstanding issue in terms of being able to properly **staff** the unit at Abergele in North Wales which is still not resolved. We called on the Welsh Government to intervene to help ensure Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board could return the north Wales in-patient unit to its commissioned capacity of 12 beds by Summer 2018. A year later, the Minister for Health and Social Services told us that there is an extra bed open but the unit still is not fully staffed.

Further, since the publication of our 2018 report, **safety issues and quality concerns** have come to light in relation to the Regis healthcare facility in Ebbw Vale and Tŷ Llidiard in Bridgend.

We support the decision taken not to place children and young people at the Regis facility while there are ongoing concerns about the quality of care provided. We also agree that admissions to Tŷ Llidiard should be restricted until it is safe for children and young people deemed to be 'too high risk' to be placed there. However, this does mean that in-patient capacity in Wales is reduced and more children and young people could, as a result, be placed in units outside Wales, often a considerable distance from their homes and families.



**Recommendation H:** Further to Recommendations 17 and 18 in our Mind over Matter report, we want to see urgent action taken to address the demand pressures for in-patient care throughout Wales. We recommend the Welsh Government :

- ensure the capital works at Ty Llidiard are completed by the end of Summer 2019 and that the unit is in a position to accept children and young people at risk of suicide and self-harm;
- ensure the staffing issues at Abergele are resolved urgently so that the unit is in a position to accept children and young people at risk of suicide or self harm.
- explore with greater urgency options for creating extra in-patient capacity, specifically to cater for children and young people with complex needs who are currently placed outside of Wales;
- put in place more effective arrangements for ‘stepping up’ or ‘stepping down’ between different levels of intervention;
- provide capital investment to help progress at greater pace some of the opportunities for more integrated commissioning in relation to mental health, welfare and youth justice.

We understand that the NHS Collaborative is reviewing the **NHS Commissioning Framework** to ensure specialist in-patient services meet the needs of children and young people. However, we want to see further progress happening more quickly.

We welcome the confirmation in the Minister for Health and Social Services’ letter of 19 July 2019 that work is underway to look at how integrated planning and commissioning arrangements across health and social care can be taken forward. We ask the Minister to provide us with further details on this work by the end of the Summer 2019. We also look forward to receiving a copy of the **review of learning disabilities placements** following the Children’s Commissioner for England’s report in June 2019 as soon as possible.

### **Neurodevelopmental services**

We are pleased to see new neurodevelopmental services in place across all Health Boards in Wales but we believe improvements are still needed urgently in this area. Specifically, more work is required to address the long **waiting times for assessment**.

In its [written evidence](#), Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board told us there has been an increase in demand against last year, reporting a 56 per cent increase in referrals



for neurodevelopmental assessments in February 2019. The update also shows that, at the end of March 2019, there were 1,653 children and young people waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment, of which 1,024 had waited over 26 weeks.

There is a real challenge for neurodevelopmental services, and we are not assured that all Health Boards are on track to deliver the improvements needed in these services.

**Recommendation 1:** We recommend the Welsh Government fully implement Recommendation 13 in our Mind over Matter report in relation to neurodevelopmental services. Alongside this, the Welsh Government should:

- set out a clear plan of how it will support Health Boards, local authorities and third sector partners to meet the needs of the estimated 40–50 per cent of children and young people who do not meet the threshold for diagnosis but need some help, to ensure that families are not left feeling unsupported;
- routinely publish data on neurodevelopmental performance so that there is greater transparency and understanding of whether Health Boards are achieving the 26 weeks waiting time standard for assessment;
- provide further details of how the Welsh Government intends to monitor the performance of neurodevelopmental services, so that frontloading support into assessment to meet the 26 week waiting time standard for assessment is not done at the expense of providing interventions following assessment;
- publish the findings of the demand and capacity modelling work it is undertaking to ensure effective neurodevelopmental service models are in place across all areas of Wales.

## 6. Transitions

**Transition guidance** was published for the NHS in August 2017. This should ensure that all services are aware of the need to communicate and work flexibly with the young person in their care to deliver a planned flexible transition based on individual need. However, we are not satisfied that sufficient progress has been demonstrated in relation to the transition period. We were told that while the transition guidance is



very clear about what is expected, the Welsh Government could not evidence “genuine improvement” in how transitions are managed.<sup>4</sup>

**Recommendation J:** Further to Recommendation 19 in our Mind over Matter report, and given the heightened vulnerabilities of young people as they enter adulthood, we recommend that the Welsh Government consider all options for improving transitions, including exploring the extension of CAMHS up to the age of 25, to provide an extended period for young people to move into adult services, rather than immediately transferring to adult mental health services when they turn 18.

## 7. Psychological therapies

Like the Chair of the Together for Children and Young People Programme,<sup>5</sup> we are disappointed that more progress has not been made in relation to psychological therapies for children and young people, despite additional investment being provided. The Minister for Health and Social Services puts the lack of progress down to an inability to recruit enough staff into the service, saying: “we are fishing in a pond, but there aren’t lots of fish”.<sup>6</sup> We believe the Welsh Government needs to undertake more work in this area as a matter of priority.

**Recommendation K:** The Welsh Government should work proactively with the Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) to ensure the CAMHS workforce is prioritised in the 10 year workforce strategy. We would welcome further information about plans for developing and maintaining a stream of sufficiently trained therapeutic practitioners to deliver interventions to children and young people.

We also note the consensus that publication and implementation of the children and young people’s **Matrics Cymru** will help to drive forward improvements. The Welsh Government’s Director of Mental Health told us “It is something that’s badly needed”.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 264\], 20 June 2019](#).

<sup>5</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 6\], 26 June 2019](#).

<sup>6</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 270\], 20 June 2019](#).

<sup>7</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 274\], 20 June 2019](#).



**Recommendation L:** Further to Recommendation 20 in our Mind over Matter report, we recommend the Welsh Government publish the children and young people’s version of *Matrics Cymru* by December 2019, alongside details of how this will help to ensure a range of therapeutic services across the spectrum of need are delivered effectively to children and young people across Wales.

In relation to **medication and prescribing**, we recognise that an initial review was undertaken in response to concerns around a particular type of antidepressant. We acknowledge the assurances from your CAMHS advisor that Health Boards are adhering to National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines on prescribing and the use of antidepressant medication for children and young people in Wales.<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless, we remain concerned about prescribing trends as they relate to children and young people’s emotional well-being and mental health.

**Recommendation M:** Our view as expressed in Recommendation 20 of our Mind over Matter report, that a national review of prescribing trends for children and young people with emotional, behavioural and mental health problems is needed, remains unchanged. In the absence of such a review, we recommend the Welsh Government provide us with further assurances on this issue by December 2019.

## **8. Support for vulnerable groups, particularly care-experienced children**

In our Mind over Matter report we expressed our particular alarm at reports from children’s services, adoption services and local authorities describing services for looked after children being at “breaking point” and “in crisis”, with joint working arrangements between the NHS and local government on therapeutic services described as arguably falling “backwards”.

We note the Welsh Government’s investment of £15 million into the Integrated Care Fund “to support prevention and early intervention services for care experienced children and young people” and welcome the work underway between Regional Partnership Boards, health boards, local authorities and third sector organisations to develop proposals to meet the needs of [their] looked after children populations.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 281\], 20 June 2019](#).

<sup>9</sup> Correspondence, [Welsh Government to the CYPE Committee, 19 July 2019](#).





Nevertheless, given that care experienced children are some of the most vulnerable people in society, we are frustrated activity remains in the “proposals” stage only.

We note the Minister for Health and Social Services’ statement that work underway on Early Help and Enhanced Support is “linking with the Ministerial Advisory Group on Outcomes for Children and the Whole School Approach programme” and that “specific frameworks are planned to be developed and tested prior to the end of the [Together for Children and Young People] Programme in October 2019”.<sup>10</sup>

**Recommendation N:** The Welsh Government should provide more detail about—and evidence that—the workstreams of the Joint Ministerial Advisory Group on outcomes for children, the whole-school approach programme, and the Together for Children and Young People Programme are linked and working in tandem to ensure that the most vulnerable children and young people are having their emotional and mental health needs assessed and can access support promptly. The Welsh Government should provide a further detailed update to the committee on this, together with timescales for progressing this work. In the meantime, we remain deeply concerned about the provision of emotional well-being and mental health support for care-experienced children.

## 9. Youth work

The important role of youth work in supporting the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people was emphasised in our original inquiry and in the inquiry that the Committee undertook on youth work at the start of this Assembly. In that light, we welcome the inclusion of a youth work representative in the work of the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group’s Stakeholder Reference Group. We further welcome the additional resource given to youth work, which the Minister for Education explained is an attempt “to redress some of the challenging financial situations that youth work has faced in the past, because we value the impact of that work”.<sup>11</sup> We agree with the Minister for Education that “youth work can make a massive difference” in the area of children and young people’s emotional well-being and mental health.<sup>12</sup> We also agree with the Chair of the Together for

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<sup>10</sup> Correspondence, [Welsh Government to the CYPE Committee, 19 July 2019](#).

<sup>11</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 134\], 20 June 2019](#).

<sup>12</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 134\], 20 June 2019](#).





Children and Young People Programme that “youth work has perhaps not [had] the recognition that it’s needed”.<sup>13</sup>

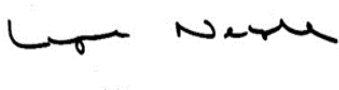
**Recommendation O:** The Welsh Government must ensure that within its Draft Budget for 2020–21, and in future financial years, sufficient funding is allocated to youth work in recognition of the vital role it has to play in supporting the emotional well-being and mental health of children and young people.

## 10.Funding

Finally, we want be clear that we welcome the £7.1 million investment [announced](#) earlier this year to implement the recommendations in our Mind over Matter report. It is a positive development. However, we are mindful that some of this money could be used to supplement existing workstreams, and some of the funding set aside for CAMHS improvement work for 2019–20 has not yet been released to Health Boards. It is therefore our intention this year (in line with Recommendation 27 in our Mind over Matter report), for the emotional and mental health for children and young people to be a focus for our oral evidence session on the **Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020–21**. Relevant information will be requested from the Welsh Government and Health Boards to inform this work.

We look forward to receiving your response to this letter and our recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
**Chair**

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<sup>13</sup> CYPE Committee, oral evidence, [RoP \[para 8\], 26 June 2019](#).



## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 4

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA(P)/KW/2664/19

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
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19 July 2019

Dear Lynne,

During your Committee's scrutiny of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill, a commitment was made to provide regular updates on the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) transformation programme. This letter is the seventh of these updates.

### 1. Legislation and statutory guidance

On 14 June I published a [written statement](#) on the consultation of the draft Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code and proposed related regulations alongside the summary of responses to the consultation, a summary of feedback from engagement events with children, young people and parents and a summary of feedback from regional stakeholder events. All of the summary reports can be found here: <https://gov.wales/draft-additional-learning-needs-code>

In total 644 written responses were received, including some in response to the children and young people and easy read consultation documents.

The main consultation document sought feedback on 65 questions covering the following five themes; the draft ALN Code; draft Education Tribunal for Wales regulations; draft ALN Co-ordinator regulations; looked after children; and the impact of proposals. Respondents raised a number of issues which all require detailed consideration to determine what changes may be needed. Analysing the responses is a huge task but I believe it is critical to ensure the range of views expressed by our stakeholders are used to develop and refine the draft ALN Code and proposed regulations. This work is key in

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[Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

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.

helping to ensure we create a Code which enables those working with learners with ALN to fully understand and embrace their roles and responsibilities in delivering the transformed system and improving educational outcomes for some of our most disadvantaged children and young people.

The rationale for changes will be set out in the explanatory memoranda which will be published when a revised draft of the ALN Code and various regulations are laid before the Assembly for its approval.

## **2. Implementation / transition support**

The ALN Transformation Leads submitted a suite of documents to summarise the transformation activity that had taken place in their respective regions during 2018-19. The documents were reviewed by officials who are content that good progress is being made in preparing the regions for implementation of the Act.

Building on the activity undertaken in 2018-19 the Transformation Leads have submitted their draft regional implementation plans for 2019-20. Officials will be meeting with the Transformation Leads individually over the coming months in order to finalise these plans.

The first round of meetings to review the progress made in relation to the ALN transformation programme have been held across Wales in each regional area. The meetings focussed on the elements of the transformation programme that the lead local authorities, regional consortia and Transformation Leads considered were working well and the areas that they were felt were more challenging.

The outcomes of the progress and review meetings will be discussed with the Transformation Leadership Group. This will enable regions to; reflect on the learning that has taken place since the progress and review meetings, discuss the ways in which the challenges are being addressed, and share good practice.

Going forward, the progress and review meetings will be held biannually with the next round planned for the autumn.

## **3. Workforce development**

We are investing in developing the skills of the education workforce to support the delivery of the new legislative framework for ALN and contribute to the overall objectives of the ALN reforms. Working with our five ALN Transformation Leads, we are delivering an extensive package of training, core skills development and ongoing professional development for all practitioners.


Part of this work includes the development of a specific professional learning offer for Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators (ALNCos) who will provide a strategic leadership role under the new system and will be the first port of call for professional advice and guidance. The development and implementation of this learning offer will be approached as a single project and work is underway to appoint a Project Manager to drive forward this high profile and critical work programme.

Students in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) Programmes will play a critical role in delivering the new ALN system. We are therefore working with universities to support their efforts to make ALN learning resources and opportunities available that enhance the main programmes of study in ITE. Working through the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers Cymru, we will develop materials which are voluntary and/or support enrichment. It is envisaged that these will be ready for use from September 2020. While the training will not be accredited initially, we will work to ensure that it forms part of accredited training as and when the existing syllabus is reviewed.

#### **4. Awareness raising**

The Welsh Government has commissioned Eliesha Cymru to develop ALN implementation training and awareness raising materials, which have been split into four “levels”, with each level targeting different practitioners. The first of the levels to be published will be a series of short animated awareness raising videos hosted on Hwb aimed at leaders with a corporate or statutory responsibility related to the Act such as Elected members, Chief Executives, directors, principals of Further Education Institutions, head teachers and governing bodies. The first of the videos is scheduled to be released this autumn, with a series of videos aimed at different sectors to be released during the subsequent months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education

# Agenda Item 3.5

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

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Kirsty Williams AM  
Minister for Education

24 July 2019

Dear Kirsty,

The Children, Young People and Education Committee has agreed to undertake a short piece of work to consider the current position of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Wales.

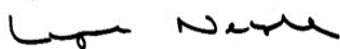
During our scrutiny of the Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill, the Welsh Government indicated that plans were underway to review the provision and structure of ECEC. As such, we are keen to consider developments in the area in more detail, and to follow-up on:

- the regulations and administrative scheme created by the Bill;
- our work in 2018 on Flying Start outreach services.

The Deputy Minister for Health has agreed to attend a meeting on 2 October to discuss ECEC further. As the education provision within ECEC falls within your ministerial responsibilities, we also wanted to provide an opportunity for you to participate in this work, to ensure that we have a full understanding of the Welsh Government's plans across cabinet portfolios. However, we are conscious that you will be attending committee on 18 and 26 September to contribute to other inquiries. As such, we would welcome a written update on the areas of ECEC for which you are responsible (or a joint paper from you and the Deputy Minister if that is preferable).

We would be grateful to receive this information by Wednesday 18 September.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
Chair



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## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 6

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**

Children, Young People and Education Committee

**Julie Morgan AM**

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

31 July 2019

Dear Julie,

The Children, Young People and Education Committee has agreed to undertake a short piece of work to consider the current position of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Wales.

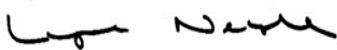
During our scrutiny of the Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill, the Welsh Government indicated that plans were underway to review the provision and structure of ECEC. As such, we are keen to consider developments in the area in more detail, and to follow-up on:

- the regulations and administrative scheme created by the Bill;
- our ongoing scrutiny of the Flying Start programme and also the outreach element, given their relevance to childcare.

We would like to invite you, as the Deputy Minister with lead responsibility in this area, to attend a public Committee meeting on 2 October to discuss ECEC further. To help inform our session, it would be helpful to receive a paper outlining developments in relation to ECEC and the integration of education and childcare, to include updates on the bullet points above. We would be grateful to receive this information by Wednesday 18 September

As the education provision within ECEC falls within the Minister for Education's responsibilities, we have also written to the Minister to provide an opportunity for her to participate in this work, to ensure that we have a full understanding of the Welsh Government's plans across cabinet portfolios. I attach that letter for your awareness.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**

**Chair**



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# Agenda Item 3.7

## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 7

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Julie Morgan, AM  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services  
Welsh Government

24 July 2019

Dear Julie

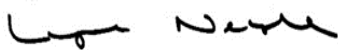
### **Children, Young People and Education Committee Inquiry on Children's Rights in Wales**

As you may be aware, the Committee has this week launched an inquiry into Children's Rights in Wales. The Terms of reference for that inquiry are set out in Annex A to this letter.

The Committee's consultation will be open until Friday 20 September, and oral evidence sessions will be scheduled for the Autumn term. We will, of course, be in touch with you in due course to arrange a date for you to provide evidence to the Committee.

At this time, and as we begin our consideration of this matter, the Committee would be grateful if you would provide an update on when the revised Children's Right's Scheme will be published for the Assembly's approval. In March 2018 the Welsh Government said that it was going to 'consider and consult on revisions to the Children's Rights Scheme, and propose a revised Scheme for the Assembly's approval'. It is unclear, however, what the current position is.

Yours sincerely



**Lynne Neagle AC / AM**  
**Cadeirydd / Chair**



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## Terms of Reference

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is undertaking a short inquiry on children's rights in Wales to review the impact of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. It will consider:

- the extent to which the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 has influenced the Welsh Government's decision making, including its financial allocations and whether it has fulfilled the Convention's 'general measures' of implementation;
- evidence of whether the Measure has led to improved outcomes for children and young people;
- whether the duties within the Measure have been embedded effectively across Welsh Government cabinet portfolios and policy;
- the extent to which the Welsh Government has sought to ensure that its duties within the Measure are translated into the work of the public bodies it provides funding to, including local authorities and NHS bodies;
- the extent to which the Welsh Government has implemented its duty to promote knowledge and understanding of the UNCRC amongst the public, including children and young people;
- how the duty to have 'due regard' to the Convention on the Rights of the Child is being implemented in practice and whether Child Rights Impact Assessments are being used as a meaningful tool;
- the effectiveness of the Children's Right's Scheme and the most recent Welsh Government compliance report, and the extent to which they evidence sufficient action on the part of Welsh Government to ensure full implementation of the Measure;
- how effectively the Welsh Government responds on a strategic basis to the Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.





# Agenda Item 3.8

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 8

Julie Morgan AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

Our ref MA-P/JM/2857/19

Lynne Neagle AM

Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

23 August 2019

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 24 July about the CYPE Committee's Inquiry on Children's Rights in Wales. I look forward to discussing the progress we have made on children's rights when I give evidence to the Committee in November.

Your letter requested an update on when the revised Children's Rights Scheme will be published for the National Assembly's approval.

My officials are currently working with the children's sector, including our expert stakeholder group, the Children's Rights Advisory Group (CRAG)<sup>1</sup>, on a refreshed document. We will discuss the latest draft of the Children's Rights Scheme at our next meeting with the CRAG on 11 September 2019. Following this meeting, we will move forward with a consultation process, including with children and young people with the aim of seeking agreement of the new Scheme in spring 2020.

I trust the Committee will find this information helpful. I look forward to discussing the draft Children's Rights Scheme, as part of our work to promoting and embed children's rights, with the Committee in November.

Yours sincerely,

**Julie Morgan AC/AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

<sup>1</sup> The Welsh Government work collaboratively with a number of organisations who are instrumental in providing expertise and advice on the implementation of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, and how children's human rights may be given better effect in Wales. The standing members of CRAG are Children and Families Division (Welsh Government), Children in Wales, Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Wales Observatory on Human Rights of Children and UNICEF.

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[Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.Morgan@gov.wales)

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.

# Agenda Item 3.9

## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 9

National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA



25 July 2019

Dear Lynne Neagle AM

I'm writing to give you a brief overview of the work being undertaken by Qualifications Wales as the independent regulator overseeing awarding bodies in relation to the summer exam series.

Our role is to protect learners by maintaining standards so that the Welsh qualification system operates on principles of fairness.

More than 50,000 learners across Wales have taken their GCSEs, AS and A level exams during the summer. Marking is now nearly complete and grade boundaries are currently being established so that grades can be awarded ahead of the release of the results next month.

This summer marks an important point in our GCSE and A level reform journey in Wales. The final phase of qualifications reformed following the Review of Qualifications have now been sat, seven new GCSEs and five new A levels.

As in previous years, we have seen changes in entries for many of the core GCSE subjects, these are most likely due to changes in school performance measures which have influenced schools' decisions.

These different entry patterns are likely to impact on the final overall results this summer and therefore care should be taken to make meaningful year-on-year comparisons. Attached to

### Qualifications Wales

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Newport  
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☎ 01633 373 222



YouTube  
Pack Page 71

[www.qualificationswales.org](http://www.qualificationswales.org)

### Cymwysterau Cymru

Adeilad Q2, Lôn Pencarn  
Parc Imperial,  
Casnewydd  
NP10 8AR  
☎ 01633 373 222

this letter is an article we have recently published focusing on some of the core GCSEs explaining the changes to entries and the implications for results.

We have a new section on our website – [Exams 360](#) – where you can find further information about this year's exams, including blogs written by senior staff and guest contributors and a series of articles taking a closer look at different aspects of the exam system. We will also send you our analysis of this year's GCSE and A level results after they have been published in August.

In early September, you will receive an invitation to a briefing where you will be able to discuss this year's exams with me and my senior colleagues. The briefing will be held in the autumn following your return from recess and on a date to be confirmed.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about this summer's GCSEs and A levels you are welcome to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



**Philip Blaker**

Chief Executive



## A closer look at some of this summer's **GCSEs**

**This summer, students in maintained schools in Wales sat the approved Wales GCSEs graded A\*-G. In some independent schools in Wales, students may have taken the England GCSEs graded 9-1. The figures below relate to the entry for approved Wales qualifications only.**

### **Who's taking GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy this summer?**

Total entries for both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy have increased this summer by 5,005 entries to 34,570 and 1,695 entries to 24,695 respectively compared to summer 2018. These increases mainly reflect the increase in the number of students taking these qualifications at the end of Year 11, rather than in earlier sittings.

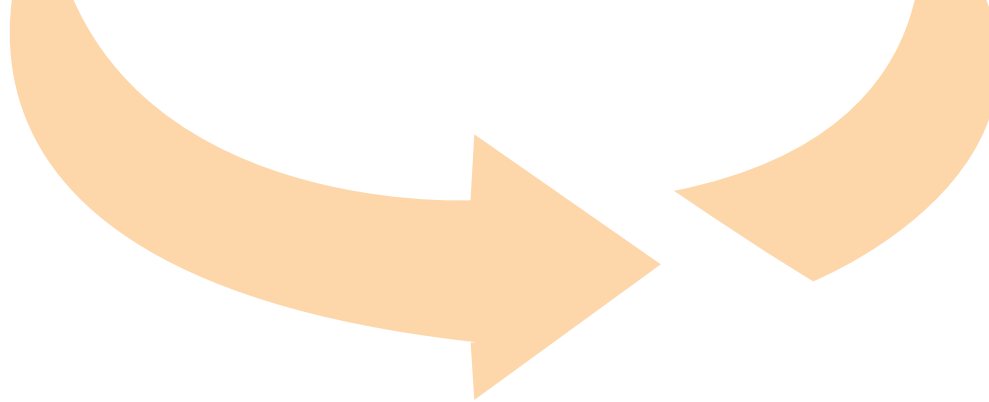
Year 11 entries for GCSE Mathematics is up 4,200 to 27,395 compared to 2018. For GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy, the Year 11 entries have increased by 1,725 to 21,285.

### **What does this mean for the GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Mathematics-Numeracy results this summer?**

These different entry patterns are likely to impact on the final overall Wales mathematics results this summer and therefore care should be taken to make meaningful year on year comparisons.

It is worth remembering that some students will have achieved their grades in Summer 2018 or November 2018 and won't be taking mathematics examinations this summer. These cohort changes mean that interpreting and comparing the overall summer results will need to be done carefully.

Our comparisons will be based on the best results achieved by students who are finishing year 11 this summer. This means that if a student got a better grade earlier in the course or sat in an earlier series and didn't return this summer, that's the grade we'll use for comparison with year 11 results from previous years. This ensures the comparison is as fair and valid as possible.



## **Who's taking GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature this summer?**

There is a marked change in this summer's entry pattern for these two qualifications when compared to summer 2018. Total entries for both have increased by 8,800 to 36,270 for GCSE English Language, and up 5,220 to 29,055 for GCSE English Literature. These increases are caused by Year 11 entries in GCSE English Language and Year 10 entries in GCSE English Literature. These changes are likely to have been in response to changes to school performance measures.

### **GCSE English Language**

In the first summer award of GCSE English Language in 2017, the total entry was 55,385 due to a large Year 10 entry. Many of those Year 10 students who sat the qualification in 2017 did not go on to sit it again in summer 2018.

In summer 2018, there was also a large drop in the number of students taking the qualification in Year 10, which resulted in a much smaller total entry of 27,475.

Total entries for GCSE English Language in summer 2019 are 36,270, an increase of 8,800 (32.0%). The Year 10 entry has further decreased, and the Year 11 entry is the majority of the Year 11 national cohort.

### **GCSE English Literature**

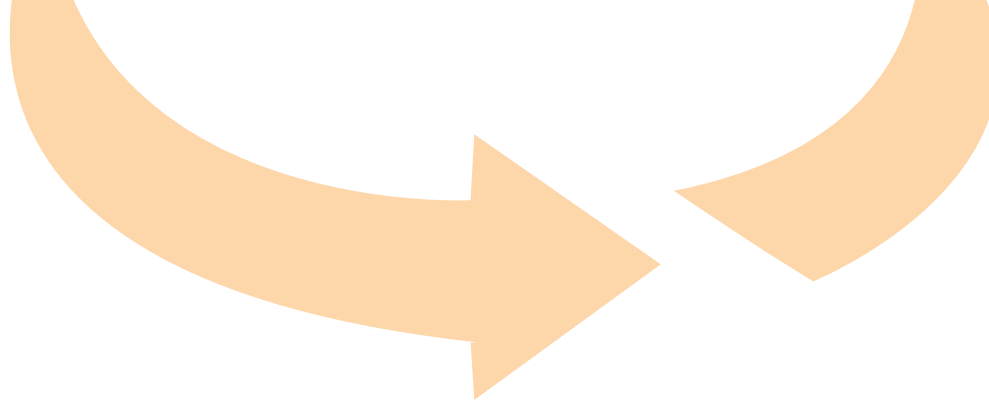
Total entries for GCSE English Literature this summer are 29,055 which is a 21.9% increase compared to summer 2018. All year groups except Year 13 or above saw an increase in entries in summer 2019 compared to summer 2018. The largest increase in entries was for Year 10, up by 4,165 to 9,355. These fluctuations are likely to have been in response to changes to school performance measures.

## **What does this mean for the GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature results this summer?**

These changes to entry patterns are likely to impact on the final overall Wales GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature results this summer.

To help explain how this year's GCSE English Language results compare to previous years, our overview of the summer results will focus on 16-year-olds, that is, year 11 students.

With all these changes, it will be difficult to make meaningful year-on-year comparisons this summer and schools are likely to see more variation in their year-on-year results.



In GCSE English Literature, many students will have achieved their grades in summer 2018 and haven't been entered this summer. The nature of the cohort has changed which may mean this summer's results are different compared to previous years. Again, interpreting and comparing the overall summer results will need to be done carefully.

Any comparisons we make will be based on the best results achieved by students who are finishing year 11 this summer. This means that if a student got a better grade earlier in the course, that's the grade we'll use for comparison with year 11 results from previous years. This ensures the comparison is as fair and valid as possible

### **Who's taking GCSE Welsh Language and GCSE Welsh Literature this summer?**

There are 5,220 entries for Welsh Language this summer, up by 355 compared to summer 2018. Year 11 entries for Welsh Literature also increased by 365 to 3,695 in summer 2019.

### **What does this mean for the GCSE Welsh Language and GCSE Welsh Literature results this summer?**

Although there has been a small increase in both GCSE Welsh Language and GCSE Welsh Literature entries, there has been little other change to entry patterns for these qualifications and we would expect to see similar results this summer compared to summer 2018.

### **Who's taking GCSE Welsh Second Language this summer?**

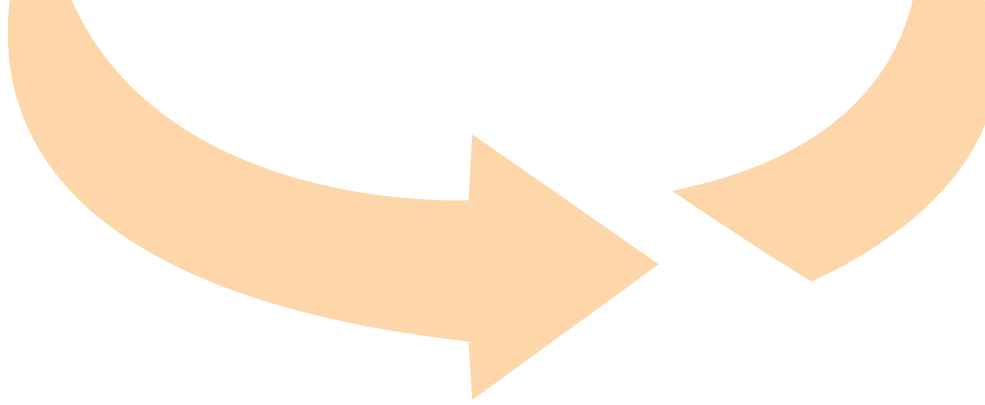
The new approved GCSE Welsh Second Language qualification will be awarded for the first time this summer and replaces the previous full and short course GCSE and Applied GCSE qualifications.

In summer 2018 there were 5,645 entries for the short course GCSE accounting for 26.8% of the total summer entries for GCSE in Welsh Second Language - including short course, full course and applied.

The new GCSE is the only qualification available to students studying Welsh Second Language in schools.

Students who may have previously been entered for the short-course or applied qualifications can now only be entered for the new, full course GCSE. As a result, there is a substantial change in the number of entries for the full GCSE this summer compared to 2018.

This summer there are 19,670 total entries for the new GCSE Welsh Second Language qualification compared to 12,115 who sat the legacy full course GCSE Welsh Second Language in Summer 2018.



## What differences are there between the old and new qualifications?

The new GCSE Welsh Second Language qualification, sat for the first time this summer, has a different design and focus compared to the legacy qualification.

The new qualification has two oracy units compared to one unit worth 25% in the old qualification. These new units have a greater focus on students' speaking and listening skills than in the old oracy unit, including their ability to respond spontaneously to conversation.

Additionally, there is no controlled assessment (coursework) in the new qualification whereas there was a controlled assessment unit worth 25% in the old qualification.

## What does this mean for the GCSE Welsh Second Language results this summer?

Given the change in the size and make-up of the cohort entering the qualification, coupled with changes to the assessments within the new GCSE, we would expect to see a change in the overall results this year compared to summer 2018. Centres may see more variation in their results this summer compared to previous years.

**Note:** The provisional entry data for this year's exams can be found [here](#).



## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 10

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education  
By email

24 July 2019

Dear Kirsty,

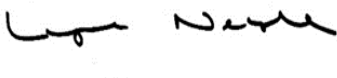
At our meeting on 18 July we considered our approach to consideration of UK-wide common policy frameworks.

To inform relevant scrutiny we may need to undertake, we would be grateful to receive details of the following from you:

- any frameworks being developed within your Cabinet portfolio;
- the evidence base to support decisions on frameworks;
- intergovernmental structures that have or are being established (Ministerial Forums etc.);
- what end output or outputs is/are anticipated (legislative and non-legislative);
- whether steps have already been taken (legislative or non-legislative) to establish frameworks within your remit;
- the state of progress against each of the frameworks within your remit;
- how they link with existing or proposed Welsh Government action (e.g. legislation, policy consultations etc.); and
- how each framework area will be managed in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal.

We would be grateful to receive this information by 2 September 2019. Given the overlapping nature of committee remits, and to avoid unnecessary duplication, we are happy to coordinate the sharing of this information with other committees who are likely to have an interest (e.g. the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee).

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
**Chair**

Cc Russell George, Chair, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee



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# Agenda Item 3.11

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 11

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/P/KW/02835-19

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

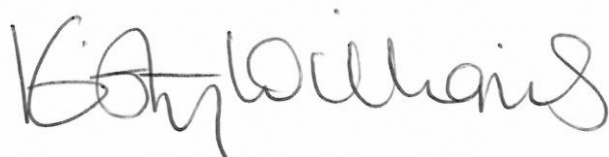
22 August 2019

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 24 July requesting information on UK-wide common policy frameworks emerging from the Brexit process.

Within the Education portfolio, there is one framework in development relevant to the Children, Young People and Education Committee remit. This is the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications Framework. I have set out the information you requested in the attached annex.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education

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[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

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.

**What steps have been taken to develop frameworks within your portfolio areas, and at what stage of development are those frameworks**

Policy officials have been engaged with their counterparts from the UK Government, Scottish Government and Northern Irish Civil Service since November 2017. Over this time all policy areas have been able to establish where Frameworks will be required and an initial position on the type of Framework required. The progress of this work was most recently reflected in the UK Government's Framework Revised Analysis on April 2019.

**The evidence base to support decisions on frameworks**

Decisions on whether a Framework would be necessary in an area were taken on the basis of discussions between policy officials. These discussions took into account the impact and likelihood of divergence in the area; the volume of work which the Framework would consider; and the benefits derived from formalised cooperation.

a) No Deal Legislative MRPQ Framework

*Legal and Policy Rationale*

The Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications (MRPQ) was identified in 2017 by UK Government as a policy area where a cross-UK framework (legislative or otherwise) could help to facilitate co-operation for post-Brexit business. MRPQ is a policy area where EU Law intersects with devolved competence in Wales (teachers; social workers; social care managers and farriers).

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations agreed that the principles guiding the development of the no deal approach would include "enabling the functioning of the UK internal market" and reducing uncertainty, and that a Framework would be in the best interest of the UK Government and Devolved Administrations.

Detailed discussions between the UK Government (BEIS) and the Devolved Administrations (policy and legal officials) resulted in consensus that MRPQ would be best served by a legislative framework (based on the current approach, which was felt to work well). Most notably, a common, UK-wide approach (viz. in the event of no deal, for the UK to continue to recognise EEA/Swiss professional qualifications), would ensure:

- the functioning of the UK internal market (through a level-playing field), and
- provide legal certainty and clarity to business and individuals in the short to medium term following EU exit.

It would also facilitate a continued supply of labour and provision of services to the UK. Whilst Wales is less reliant than England on European Economic Area (EEA) / Swiss teachers to meet its workforce needs, reliance on EEA/Swiss social workers and social care managers clearly justified the approach to continue to have a means of recognising EEA / Swiss qualifications. This applied to other professions where the

regulation is non-devolved but in which Wales has a vested interest to maintain a recognition route for incoming EEA / Swiss professionals (e.g. health professions and veterinary surgeons).

b) Future Economic Partnership (FEP) ('Deal') MRPQ Framework – under discussion

Welsh Government officials and the two Welsh regulators (Social Care Wales and Education Workforce Council) provided evidence (data, comments) which has fed into early research by BEIS to identify the desired 'building blocks' for a future MRPQ system. Support for a UK-wide legislative Framework (subject to detail). Gathering of evidence by Welsh Government on professions/industries where a new MRPQ would be most significant and identification of any divergence of policy intra-UK.

**Intergovernmental structures that have or are being established (Ministerial Forums etc.)**

The Joint Ministerial Committee (EN) was established in October 2017 and acts as the Ministerial oversight for the Frameworks Programme.

a) No Deal MRPQ Framework

BEIS / Devolved Administrations officials' meetings (ad hoc) have been running since December 2017;

b) FEP (Deal) MRPQ Framework

BEIS / Devolved Administrations officials' meetings (ad hoc and as part of monthly BEIS / Devolved Administrations Services Working Group).

**What end output or outputs is/are anticipated (legislative and non-legislative)**

Frameworks will develop an intergovernmental system for cooperation between the Welsh Government, counterparts in UK Government, Scottish Government and Northern Irish Civil Service. These systems will provide formalised procedures for decision-making and communication.

a) No Deal MRPQ Framework

Legislative: "The Recognition of Professional Qualifications (EU Exit) Regulations 2019" – passed UK Parliament 20 February 2019;

[A further SI "Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Miscellaneous Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019" is intended to close legal loopholes. This is due to be laid in mid-September]

b) FEP (Deal) MRPQ Framework

Under discussion. A possible UK-wide overarching legislative framework, potentially underpinned by non-legislative agreements.

**Whether steps have already been taken (legislative or non-legislative) to establish frameworks within the Minister's remit**

a) No Deal MRPQ Framework

No deal MRPQ Regulations passed which would come into force in event of No Deal.

b) FEP (Deal) MRPQ Framework

None. Early, high-level discussions between the UK Government and Devolved Administrations.

**The state of progress against each of the frameworks within the Minister's remit**

a) No Deal MRPQ Framework

No Deal legislative framework for MRPQ passed in February 2019.

b) FEP (Deal) MRPQ Framework

A UK Government / Devolved Administrations technical session held on MRPQ in August 2019.

**How they link with existing or proposed Welsh Government action (e.g. legislation, policy consultations etc.)**

Frameworks are being developed with ongoing policy developments in No-Deal preparation and Future Economic Partnership work in mind. The Frameworks and related bodies will be flexible to future decisions in relation to EU and international discussions and will provide a platform for these discussions in a way which provides for parity of participation and decision-making, protection of devolved competence.

a) No Deal MRPQ Framework

Consequential amendments made to The Teachers' Qualifications (Amendment) (Wales) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 to ensure operability, and to mitigate risk of indirect discrimination (via amendment to open up recognition routes in Wales for persons with EEA teacher qualifications from outside the EEA). These amendments are as a consequence of the changes made in the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (EU Exit) (Amendments) Regulations 2019. They do not represent the Welsh Government pursuing policy change.

b) FEP (Deal) MRPQ Framework

To link with wider Welsh Government Stakeholder Engagement on Services (Brexit), evidence gathering from stakeholders through the Council for Economic

Development EU Exit working Group to inform UK / EU negotiations on a future MRPQ system.

**How each framework area will be managed in the event of the UK leaving the EU without a deal**

Departments have undertaken no-deal approaches to governance, with a number including interim Working Level Arrangements (WLA). These set out intergovernmental approaches to imminent issues which might arise as a result of no-deal.

A Regulators' event was held in Cardiff in February 2019 and Guidance for Regulators was published by the UK Government in April 2019 to support preparations for No Deal and implementation of No Deal Regulations.

A BEIS led planned regulator engagement in September 2019, focussed on No Deal preparedness.

No changes to regulatory structure are anticipated.

## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 12

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref/Ein cyf: MA-P/KW/2475/19

Lynne Neagle, AM  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

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26 July 2019

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter of 28 June regarding the launch of the Children, Young People and Education Committee inquiry into Education Otherwise than at School.

Since publication of the Education Otherwise than at School (EOTAS) Framework for Action in December 2017, we have continued to work with stakeholders and the EOTAS Delivery Group to implement the actions within the framework. As requested, I am writing to provide an update.

### EOTAS Delivery Group

The EOTAS Task and Finish Group was disbanded in March 2017 and replaced by the EOTAS Delivery Group. The Group is chaired by Dr Brett Pugh, former Director of School Standards and Workforce, Welsh Government. The membership of the Group comprises of Welsh Government officials, some members of the previous EOTAS Task and Finish Group, Estyn, EOTAS providers and stakeholders working in local authorities and pupil referral units (PRUs).

The purpose of the Delivery Group is to contribute to policy development and implementation of the proposals set out in the Framework for Action, and to act as a 'critical friend' to the Welsh Government. Since its establishment the following actions have been completed:

- publication of A Handbook for Management Committees of Pupil Referral Units<sup>1</sup>
- research into EOTAS pupil registration practices<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-11/handbook-for-management-committees-of-pupil-referral-units.pdf>

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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.

- a review of EOTAS referral practices<sup>3</sup>.

We are reviewing the terms of reference of the Group in order to ensure we are utilising the expertise of its members to best effect. I can provide the Committee with a copy of the updated terms once finalised by the Group.

## **Implementation**

As you are aware, a phased approach is being taken to implement the Framework, with actions being implemented over the short, medium and long term. The short term actions focus on collecting evidence to inform policy development.

Research is currently being undertaken into local authority arrangements for commissioning EOTAS provision. A report of the findings is expected to be published in the autumn. In addition, Estyn is undertaking a short-term thematic review into the prevalence and impact of off-rolling, this report is expected to be published in September.

With the baseline work completed we are now in a position to move forward with the medium and long term actions set out in the Framework. Focus is currently being given to the following key areas:

1. increasing access to the curriculum for EOTAS pupils
2. improving the commissioning of EOTAS provision and establishing EOTAS referral panels
3. standardising EOTAS pupil registration practices.

### **1. Increasing access to the curriculum for EOTAS pupils**

Access to the curriculum is one of the factors which impacts on the outcomes of pupils who attend EOTAS. Children who receive EOTAS provision have poorer academic outcomes compared to their peers in mainstream education. In addition, lack of access to the curriculum makes it difficult for EOTAS learners to reintegrate into mainstream education and to make the transition into post-16 education.

The new curriculum has been designed to be inclusive and accessible to all learners to enable them to make progress in relation to the four purposes. This includes learners who receive EOTAS provision.

The legislation underpinning the new curriculum will be clear about the expectations for EOTAS pupils. To support PRUs in broadening the curriculum they offer to pupils, Welsh Government will build on existing work which encourages PRUs and schools to work together to meet the needs of pupils.

### **2. Standardising the commissioning of EOTAS services and establishing EOTAS referral panels**

In 2016, Estyn reported<sup>4</sup> that some schools and local authorities were commissioning EOTAS services from private providers, unaware they were operating unregistered, potentially illegal provision. The report also found that most local authorities do not monitor or oversee EOTAS or alternative provision robustly enough and very few know how many pupils are accessing full-time offsite alternative provision directly commissioned by schools. There is a concern, therefore, that existing commissioning arrangements need to be strengthened to ensure due diligence is undertaken regarding safeguarding, and the appropriateness and quality of the setting and education. In addition, as set out in the

<sup>2</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/an-analysis-of-local-authority-pupil-registration-practices-for-learners-accessing-pru-and-eotas-provision.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/an-analysis-of-local-authority-referral-panels-and-or-practices-for-learners-accessing-eotas-provision.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/26706/1/EOTAS%20Unit%20Report%20en.pdf>

Framework for Action, there is a commonly held concern across the EOTAS sector that the referral process for accessing EOTAS provision is not robust enough and inconsistent practice exists across Wales.

To prevent poor commissioning practices and to strengthen referral processes the Framework for Action proposes that local authorities establish commissioning frameworks and referral panels; and that Welsh Government develops guidance on establishing EOTAS panels as well as referral and reintegration procedures.

Welsh Government has commissioned and published a review of EOTAS referral practices and research is currently being undertaken to understand current approaches to commissioning EOTAS provision. The findings will be used to inform the development of guidance on establishing referral panels and commissioning EOTAS provision.

### **3. Standardising EOTAS pupil registration practices**

The current lack of standardised EOTAS registration practice, together with inaccurate reporting from current arrangements not being operated as intended in all cases, means that data relating to the attendance and achievement of pupils who attend both school and EOTAS is not reliable. It is, therefore, difficult to monitor the outcomes of pupils who attend EOTAS provision and to hold individual establishments to account for their outcomes.

In 2018, Welsh Government published the independent analysis of local authority approaches to registering EOTAS pupils. The findings will be used to inform guidance to ensure a standard approach to registering EOTAS pupils. We will expect EOTAS referral panels to refer to the guidance when advising local authorities on the registration status of specific EOTAS pupils.

#### **Supporting children and young people to remain in mainstream education**

In addition to implementing policy designed to improve outcomes for children and young people who access EOTAS, action is also being taken to support children and young people to remain in mainstream education. This includes:

- using the new approach to accountability to reduce incentives for schools and local authorities to off-roll pupils
- developing a framework as part of the whole school approach to mental health and well-being, which will provide schools with guidance on how to embed well-being throughout the school
- supporting schools to understand why children have difficulties in school that can result in behaviour which leads to exclusion
- the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act, which will ensure the needs of all learners with additional learning needs (ALN) are identified early and the right support is put in place.

#### **The new approach to accountability**

The Welsh Government is developing new evaluation and improvement arrangements to replace parts of the current accountability system. Whilst we see lots of good practice in using a range of data to inform evaluation, we recognise that in recent years there has been disproportionate emphasis on one or two narrowly focussed performance measures when holding schools to account. Through the new arrangements, we propose to remove this emphasis, which can drive unintended consequences, and to replace it with a wider range of indicators that better captures the whole learning experience, learner progress and our ambitions for the new curriculum.

In our reformed system, every child will count and schools will be evaluated according to the difference they make to the progress of every child. New interim performance measures introduced for 2019, remove the emphasis from a small number of narrow threshold



indicators and the unintended consequences they have driven, such as the focus on the C/D grade boundary, and shift it towards a set of measures that will promote raised aspirations for all learners. The key difference with the new measures is that they will be points based – a school average of individual learners' points scores, rather than a percentage attaining a minimum threshold level. The new Capped Points Score is a performance measure calculating the average of the scores for the best awards for all individual pupils in the cohort.

Moving forward, we will be undertaking a full review of performance indicators, what they will look like and how they will be used. Over the next six months, we will initiate an independent research project to review performance measures:

- the range of information
- the indicators and reports needed for both self-evaluation and accountability purposes
- how qualifications or other attainment information contribute towards any attainment indicators
- the mechanisms by which information is processed and delivered
- other associated aspects of the system.

Decisions on future indicators, and the associated systems that will supersede the interim arrangements, will be informed by this review in conjunction with the responses received to a full consultation with schools and key stakeholder groups. EOTAS, PRUs and other settings will be considered as part of this review.

In terms of EOTAS pupils specifically, we are currently exploring options for:

- capturing the impacts of EOTAS provision on pupil outcomes in terms of overall attainment measures to inform school improvement planning
- holding to account those schools/LAs which had EOTAS pupils on their roll, in a way that is consistent with ongoing reforms and development of the evaluation and improvement arrangements.

### **Whole school approach to mental health and well-being**

Every child's emotional, physical and mental well-being is at the heart of our education system in Wales. Children and young people in EOTAS are some of the most vulnerable learners. They often come from chaotic and challenging backgrounds and can frequently experience family breakdown and mental health issues. A whole school approach will ensure that mental health and wellbeing becomes central to the way schools work and will touch on many different aspects of school life. A key aspect of the programme of work is the development of a Framework to support schools in developing their own whole school approach. An important part of the Framework will be the support we give schools to implement evidence-based, universal and targeted interventions to build resilience and support those experiencing poor mental health. We hope that these interventions will have a positive impact for those pupils most at risk of going into EOTAS provision and decrease the possible need to be removed from mainstream school.

### **Supporting schools to understand why children have difficulties in school that can result in behaviour which leads to exclusion**

We are supporting schools to understand why children have difficulties in school that can result in behaviour which leads to exclusion, including our work to tackle adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). We have supported the creation of an ACE Support Hub for Wales, which has developed a programme of ACE awareness training for schools – the programme is currently being rolled out across Wales. By March 2020, all schools in Wales will have been able to access this training. The training will enable schools to understand behaviour and to put in place ACE informed practices to support children who are at risk of exclusion.

A significant proportion of the £20m ALN Transformation Programme funding is being used to support activity to upskill the workforce to better recognise and meet the needs of learners with ALN. In addition, we are continuing work to improve knowledge and awareness of autism amongst those working in education through the development of specialist training packages and guidance.


### **The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act**

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 establishes a new legislative framework to support children and young people with ALN. Under the new system, children and young people with ALN in receipt of EOTAS will receive an individual development plan that sets out their needs and the support needed to address those needs.

### **The education otherwise than at school conference**

The annual EOTAS conference is being held on 24 September. The agenda includes a presentation by Estyn on the findings of their review into off-rolling and a breakout session on the duties of schools and PRUs being introduced as part of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (Wales) 2018. In addition, delegates will have the opportunity to network with organisations represented in the 'marketplace'. This includes Careers Wales, Estyn, NHS Wales (Together for Children and Young People programme) and Welsh Government officials from the whole school approach to mental health and well-being.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

**Kirsty Williams AM**  
Minister for Education

Short term action (S.T)			
Key provision	Recommendation	Proposed action	Update
S.T.1 Access panels	The proposed action does not refer to any specific recommendation, but was agreed as part of the work of the EOTAS Task and Finish Group.	Welsh Government to commission analysis of LA access/referral panels.	Published in October 2018. <a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/an-analysis-of-local-authority-referral-panels-andor-practices-for-learners-accessing-eotas-provision.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-10/an-analysis-of-local-authority-referral-panels-andor-practices-for-learners-accessing-eotas-provision.pdf</a>
S.T.2 Access panels	Welsh Government to increase resources to promote effective consortium working at local authority level to share strategies for reintegration (Edinburgh:R12) Examples of effective strategies on reintegration should be gathered and disseminated (Edinburgh:R20)	Welsh Government to commission best practice analysis of referrals into EOTAS and reintegration procedures.	This will be developed alongside the referral and commissioning guidance.
S.T.3 Commissioning framework	Encourage LAs to develop clear aims and purposes for EOTAS provision (Edinburgh:R15) Publish new guidance on commissioning alternative provision (EOTAS review 2011:A9)	Welsh Government to undertake research into best practice for commissioning frameworks and quality assurance for EOTAS provision	Research into current approaches to commissioning EOTAS provision is being undertaken. Fieldwork is near completion and a report of the findings is expected to be published in the autumn.
S.T.4 Management committee support	Work with consortia to provide robust support and challenge for PRU managers and management committees (Estyn 2015:R7)	Welsh Government to commission WLGA led analysis of training needs for management committees	Published in August 2017 <a href="https://gov.wales/pupil-referral-unit-management-committees-analysis-training-and-development-needs">https://gov.wales/pupil-referral-unit-management-committees-analysis-training-and-development-needs</a>
S.T.5 Management committee support	Make management committees statutory and issue supporting guidance (EOTAS review 2011:A8)	Welsh Government to explore the feasibility of expanding the support available, via various stakeholders, to management committee members	The findings of the Estyn remit review into the effectiveness of PRU management committees will inform consideration of any additional support management committees require.
S.T.6 Management committee support	Work with consortia to provide robust support and challenge for PRU managers and management committees (Estyn 2015:R7)	Welsh Government to commission a review of the effectiveness of management committees.	Estyn will be undertaking a remit review of the effectiveness of PRU management committees.
S.T.7 Data and Information	Set out clearly the responsibilities of schools towards pupils who are registered with them (EOTAS review 2011:A15)	Welsh Government to undertake an analysis of pupil registration and exclusions data	This action will be undertaken following the introduction of standardised EOTAS pupil registration.
S.T.8 Data and Information	Set out clearly the responsibilities of schools towards pupils who are registered with them (EOTAS review 2011:A15)	Welsh Government to commission analysis of pupil registration practices across Wales to better enable data collection and establish best practice regarding accountability and outcomes.	Published October 2018 <a href="https://gov.wales/review-registration-process-learners-accessing-pupil-referral-units-pru-and-education-other-school">https://gov.wales/review-registration-process-learners-accessing-pupil-referral-units-pru-and-education-other-school</a>
S.T.9 Data and information	Gather and disseminate data on outcomes for EOTAS pupils (Edinburgh:R21) Strengthen guidance to LAs and schools regarding the requirement to maintain records of the numbers of pupils receiving EOTAS who go on to become NEET (Estyn 2016:R1)	Welsh Government will work with Careers Wales and LAs to explore the options for improving the collection of data from former EOTAS learners to identify effective interventions and inform future provision.	Initial discussions have taken place to explore options for improving data collected from former EOTAS pupils. Further meetings are planned with key stakeholders.
S.T.10 Other	Work with consortia to ensure needs of PRUs are reflected in consortia's operations (CCfW:R1) Work with consortia to provide robust support and challenge for PRU managers and management committees (Estyn 2015:R7)	Welsh Government to work with regional consortia to assess learning and development requirements for challenge advisors working with PRUs.	Since January 2018, strategic advisors for the pupil deprivation grant (PDG) have been appointed. Each advisor will champion a specific area. One of the four strategic advisors is the EOTAS champion.
S.T.11 Other	Amend funding formulae to include pupils solely registered at EOTAS (EOTAS review 2011:A4)	Welsh Government to continue to make PDG available to PRUs for single registered pupils and to consider amending PDG guidance.	The PDG has been extended to all those eligible pupils who are single registered at a PRU.

S.T.12 Other	The proposed action does not refer to any specific recommendation, but was agreed as part of the work of the EOTAS Task and Finish Group.	Welsh Government to review the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century School bidding and funding process to ensure that PRUs (and other EOTAS settings where appropriate) are considered in local authority bids.	This action has been completed.  21st Century Schools policy colleagues scrutinise business cases to ensure that PRUs and EOTAS provision are being considered effectively by local authorities. A number of local authorities have considered PRU and EOTAS facilities as part of their second wave, 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme. These projects are subject to the usual satisfactory completion of the business case process.
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Medium term action (M.T)			
Key provision	Recommendation	Proposed action	Update
M.T.1 Access panels	Welsh Government to increase resources to promote effective consortium working at local authority level to share strategies for reintegration (Edinburgh:R12) Examples of effective strategies on reintegration should be gathered and disseminated (Edinburgh:R20)	Welsh Government to develop non-statutory guidance on the establishment of local authority EOTAS panels as well as referral and reintegration procedures.	Drafting of referral and commissioning guidance will start in autumn 2019, following receipt of the research into current approaches to commission EOTAS provision. Consultation on the guidance will take place in 2020.
M.T.2 Commissioning framework	Publish new guidance on commissioning alternative provision (EOTAS review 2011:A9)	Welsh Government to develop non-statutory guidance on the development of commissioning frameworks and quality requirements for EOTAS provision which includes ongoing monitoring of placements.	Drafting of referral and commissioning guidance will start in autumn 2019, following receipt of the research into current approaches to commission EOTAS provision.
M.T.3 Commissioning framework	Publish new guidance on commissioning alternative provision (EOTAS review 2011:A9)	Welsh Government to commission an analysis of the effectiveness of commissioning frameworks including identifying unregistered independent schools.	Drafting of referral and commissioning guidance will start in autumn 2019, following receipt of the research into current approaches to commission EOTAS provision.
M.T.4 Management committee support	Work with consortia to provide robust support and challenge for PRU managers and management committees (Estyn 2015:R7) Make management committees statutory and issue supporting guidance (EOTAS review 2011:A8)	Welsh Government to explore the options for supporting the tailoring and delivery of specific PRU training modules in liaison with public sector stakeholders.	Estyn will be undertaking a remit review of the effectiveness of PRU management committees. The findings will be used to identify the training needs.
M.T.5 Management committee support	Make management committees statutory and issue supporting guidance (EOTAS review 2011:A8)	Welsh Government to consider arrangements for PRUs and LAs to make sustainable improvement to resources such as professional learning, MIS infrastructure, management committee training etc.	Regulations introduced in 2015 require all PRUs to have a management committee. Estyn will be undertaking a remit review into the effectiveness of management committees. Training will be considered as part of the review.
M.T.6 Data and Information	The proposed action does not refer to any specific recommendation, but was agreed as part of the work of the EOTAS Task and Finish Group.	Welsh Government and Estyn to develop a new information collection and sharing protocol and schedule.	Work will be taken forward in 2020.
M.T.7	Continue the registration and deregistration	Welsh Government to introduce	Drafting will commence in September 2019, with consultation taking

Data and Information	process for PRUs and reaffirm through regular audit of LAs' provision (EOTAS review 2011:A7)	non-statutory guidance on PRU opening and closing procedures.	place in 2020.
M.T.8 Data and Information	Offer clear guidance on the registration and monitoring of progress of EOTAS pupils (Edinburgh:R9)	Welsh Government to consider the introduction of standardised procedures, supported by changes to pupil registration regulations, for the registration of EOTAS learners.	Guidance on standard registration will be included in the referral and commissioning guidance. Drafting will start in autumn 2019, following receipt of the research into current approaches to commission EOTAS provision. Consultation is expected to take place in 2020.
M.T.9 Data and Information	Develop benchmarking framework for evaluating outcomes and vfm (Edinburgh:R15) (EOTAS review 2011:A13)	Welsh Government to explore the possibility of amending current legislation regarding the collection of data from EOTAS services in alignment with the introduction of standardised procedures.	This work is being taken forward as part of the development of the new evaluation and improvement arrangements. Options are currently being explored for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>capturing the impacts of EOTAS provision on pupil outcomes in terms of overall attainment measures to inform school improvement planning</li> <li>holding to account those schools/LAs which had EOTAS pupils on their roll.</li> </ul>
M.T.10 Successful futures	Ensure the role of PRUs is fully considered and included within the Donaldson recommendations (CCfW:R4)	Welsh Government to consult on potential options relating to the disapplication of the curriculum.	Access to the curriculum for EOTAS pupils is being taken forward as part of the development of the new approach to the curriculum. The legislation underpinning the new curriculum will be clear about the expectations for EOTAS pupils.
M.T.11 Successful futures	Ensure the role of PRUs is fully considered and included within the Donaldson recommendations (CCfW:R4)	Welsh Government to consider amending current primary legislation relating to the disapplication of the curriculum as part of the wider curriculum reform.	Access to the curriculum for EOTAS pupils is being taken forward as part of the development of the new approach to the curriculum. The legislation underpinning the new curriculum will be clear about the expectations for EOTAS pupils.
M.T.12 Collaboration	Provide framework guidance on role of PRUs as part of continuum of provision (Estyn 2015:R8)	Welsh Government should work with regional consortia to explore options for further strengthening partnership networks between PRUs and EOTAS providers and LAs and schools.	To support PRUs in broadening the curriculum they offer to pupils, Welsh Government will build on existing work which encourages PRUs and schools to work together to meet the needs of pupils.
M.T.13 Other	Set out clearly the responsibilities of schools towards pupils who are registered with them (EOTAS review 2011:A15)	Welsh Government to produce guidance on responsibilities and lines of accountability across provision and local authorities including those responsible for registration.	The referral and commissioning guidance will set out the responsibilities of schools when referring pupils to the LA for EOTAS provision and the responsibilities schools have when arranging alternative provision for pupils.
M.T.14 Other	Ensure PRU staff benefit from national strategies to improve teaching and leadership (Estyn 2015:R10) Ensure that those delivering EOTAS are included in development and implementation of new elements on behaviour and additional learning needs within CPD for practitioners (EOTAS review 2011:A2)	Welsh Government and Delivery Group to consider how PRU and EOTAS staff, including leaders, can be supported to undertake career development in line with proposals developed through the national approach to professional learning and leadership and in liaison with pioneers and partner schools.	Officials are currently working with local authorities and the regional consortia to identify PRU staffing numbers. This will inform revised arrangements for the allocation of the £15 million professional learning funding allocation for 2019-20, which will be distributed via local authorities.  To ensure learners in EOTAS, including PRUs, have access to the new curriculum framework driven by the four purposes, guidance will be developed to support practitioners to deliver the curriculum in EOTAS settings.

<b>Long term action (L.T)</b>			
<b>Key provision</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Proposed action</b>	<b>Update</b>
L.T.1 Access panels	The proposed action does not refer to any specific recommendation, but was agreed as part of the work of the EOTAS Task and Finish Group.	Welsh Government to consider the development of the statutory functions of EOTAS panels within primary legislation.	Research will be undertaken to evaluate the impact of introducing the referral and commissioning guidance. The findings will inform consideration into whether it is necessary to make EOTAS panels a statutory requirement.
L.T.2 Commissioning framework	Publish new guidance on commissioning alternative provision (EOTAS review 2011:A9)	Welsh Government to consider introducing a statutory requirement for local authorities to establish commissioning frameworks.	Research will be undertaken to evaluate the impact of introducing the referral and commissioning guidance. The findings will inform consideration into whether it is necessary to make it a statutory requirement to establish commissioning frameworks.
L.T.3 Data and Information	Develop benchmarking framework for evaluating outcomes and vfm (Edinburgh:R15) (EOTAS review 2011:A13)	Dependent upon the outcome of considerations regarding the amendment of data collection legislation, the Welsh Government will amend existing regulations as part of the wider legislative proposals.	This will be considered as part of the development of the new evaluation and improvement arrangements.
L.T.4 Successful futures	Develop benchmarking framework for evaluating outcomes and vfm (Edinburgh:R15) (EOTAS review 2011:A13)	Welsh Government to further consider how 'soft' outcomes can be measured and incorporated into a benchmarking framework for PRUs and how this will be appropriately aligned with work being undertaken as part of curriculum reform.	This will be considered as part of the development of the new evaluation and improvement arrangements.
L.T.5 Other	The proposed action does not refer to any specific recommendation, but was agreed as part of the work of the EOTAS Task and Finish Group.	Welsh Government to consider the development of primary legislation which includes the introduction of a new organisational structure for educational settings currently known as PRUs.	This will be considered when the effectiveness of the medium term actions have been implemented.
L.T.6 Other	The proposed action does not refer to any specific recommendation, but was agreed as part of the work of the EOTAS Task and Finish Group.	Dependent upon the drafting of the primary legislation, the Welsh Government will develop regulations to amend existing secondary legislation.	Action not currently being implemented.
L.T.7 Other	The proposed action does not refer to any specific recommendation, but was agreed as part of the work of the EOTAS Task and Finish Group.	Welsh Government to support the proposed primary and secondary legislation by the introduction of statutory guidance.	Action not currently being implemented.

## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 13

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Kirsty Williams, AM  
Minister for Education

31 July 2019

Dear Kirsty,

### 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 sessions we hold with you, whether they take place as normal (in autumn term 2019), or later (in spring term 2020).

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.


As in previous years, we will base our approach on the four principles of financial scrutiny: affordability, prioritisation, value for money and budget processes. We will also seek evidence from the Minister for Health and Social Services on matters of relevance to our remit. To avoid unnecessary duplication, we will also invite Members of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee to join us for our scrutiny of the Education MEG – I have copied the EIS Committee's Chair, Russell George AM, for awareness. I have also copied this letter to the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's Chair, Bethan Sayed AM, as I understand that she will be in touch to request information about areas of interest within its portfolio.



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Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
**Chair**

Cc Russell George AM, Chair, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

Bethan Sayed AM, Chair, Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee





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

We request information on the following cross-cutting areas, if they are not already covered in the budget narrative

### **1. Cross-cutting areas**

#### *1.1 Transparency of budget presentation*

Last year we emphasised the importance of presenting the Draft Budget transparently to enable full and thorough scrutiny. As such, we again request a transparent narrative explanation (and numeric depiction) of the following:

- reductions/removal or increases/additions relating to specific areas of the draft budget compared to previous financial years (e.g. grants being reduced or ceasing to exist altogether/being increased or introduced);
- what proportion any changes to the overall amount previously allocated represent (e.g. taking the School Uniform Grant as an example from 2018-19, being clear that this meant the whole grant was being removed); and
- where exactly this change is being made in the draft budget, and whether money will be returned to/taken from central reserves or allocated to/from other budget lines.

#### *1.2 Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations*

- We request commentary on each of the Actions within the Education Main Expenditure Group (MEG), including an analysis and explanation of significant changes since the 2019-20 First Supplementary Budget (June 2019).
- We also request a breakdown of the 2020-21 and indicative 2021-22 (if available) Education MEG by Spending Programme Area, Action, and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL), with 2019-20 First Supplementary Budget allocations, forecast 2019-20 outturns, and 2018-19 final outturns all included.
- If the Welsh Government is using a revised baseline budget for comparative purposes, we request that the actual 2019-20 First Supplementary Budget allocations are presented alongside these as well as an explanation of the reasons for the re-calculation of the baseline.



### *1.3 Education priorities*

- Information on how the Education MEG aligns with, and is prioritised according to, the Welsh Government's relevant priorities and key objectives, including:
  - Taking Wales Forward, Programme for Government 2016-2021;
  - Prosperity for All: the national strategy;
  - the ten education priorities agreed between the Minister for Education and the then First Minister Carwyn Jones in June 2016 (reaffirmed by Kirsty Williams and the new First Minister Mark Drakeford in December 2018);
  - the eighteen headline priorities listed in the agreement between the First Minister and the Minister for Education of December 2018;
  - Education in Wales: Our National Mission Action Plan.
- An updated assessment from the Minister on the extent to which she believes the Education MEG contains the resources necessary to deliver on the aforementioned priorities and key objectives, and information on any ongoing negotiations with the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd regarding the necessary level of resources.
- Details of whether any further prioritisation or differentiation has been made in terms of allocation of resources between the priorities and actions referred to above and whether the Minister intends to target resources at addressing any consistent themes that have emerged across the Education MEG as a whole
- Details of the assessment made of the value for money and affordability of each of the above calls on resources and how their cost-effectiveness will be monitored.
- Details of any opportunity cost exercises undertaken in respect of the above calls on resources.

### *1.4 Budget monitoring*

- Information on the processes in place for monitoring budgets throughout the year, identifying potential deficits and surpluses, and taking remedial action or allocating additional funds to cover any shortfalls.
- Details of any changes to the Education MEG that are already anticipated in the Second Supplementary Budget 2019-20.



### 1.5 Impact of Brexit

- Information on the implications of UK withdrawal from the European Union for the Education MEG and how the Department is planning to manage any negative impact on budgets within the portfolio and/or seeking to take advantages of any opportunities that may arise.
- Information on:
  - the amount of EU funding the 2019-20 Education MEG has drawn on and the amount it is forecast to rely on in 2020-21;
  - the amounts of EU funding which is secure in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit and EU funding which is not secure, as well as an explanation of what this funding is used for.
- Details of any contingency planning in relation to EU funding should there be a "no deal Brexit".

### 1.6 Costs of legislation

- Details of any allocations within the 2020-21 budget intended for the implementation of the PCET reforms, including any costs associated with primary legislation.
- Details of any allocations within the 2020-21 budget intended for the implementation of curriculum reform, including any costs associated with primary legislation.
- An update on any ongoing costs to the Education MEG of implementing legislation passed in the Fourth Assembly and the Fifth Assembly so far, and any financial implications for the 2020-21 budget.
- Budget provision for implementing the *Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018* and the wider ALN Transformation Programme.
- Information on the financial impact of any relevant UK Parliament legislation.
- Financial implications in 2020-21 of any relevant subordinate legislation.

### 1.7 Children's rights and other cross-cutting considerations

As stated in our report on the Draft Budget 2019-2020, we believe a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) should be undertaken for the draft budget as a whole. In terms of the Education MEG specifically, we request:



- Information on how children's rights, equalities (including gender equality), sustainability and the Welsh language have been considered in budget allocations.
- A copy of the CRIA undertaken by the Department for Education to inform the allocations in the draft Education MEG for 2020-21. If a specific CRIA has not been undertaken, the reasons for this and a copy of any alternative integrated impact assessment.
- Information on the account taken of the *Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* in making allocations to budget lines within the Education MEG.
- Details and/or examples of any changes made to initial allocations within the Education MEG following considerations of children's rights, equalities, sustainability, the Welsh language, or the *Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* as a result of impact assessments, or where these assessments have had a direct influence on the setting of budgets.

## 2. Specific areas

We request information on the following specific areas, if they are not already covered in the commentary on each Action.

### 2.1 Funding for school budgets

We have recently undertaken an inquiry into school funding and published our report in July 2019. In addition to the Welsh Government's response to that report, we would welcome – once the Draft Budget 2020-21 is available – an updated assessment of the sufficiency of provision for school budgets in 2020-21 and any other relevant information.

### 2.2 Funding for school improvement

- A detailed breakdown of how the annual element of the £100 million additional investment in schools standards is to be allocated and used in 2020-21.
- Confirmation of whether there was any change to the breakdown of the £25.5 million Raising School Standards funding in 2019-20 (provided in **Annex D of the Minister's paper in November 2018**).
- An update on how expenditure of the £100 million is being spent throughout this Assembly and what it is being used for.
- In line with Recommendation 31 of our *On the money? Targeted funding to improve educational outcomes* report, an update to **Annex E of the Minister's paper in**



November 2018 which listed BELs within the Education MEG which predominantly finance the raising of school standards (on both an individual and aggregate basis);

- Information on whether there were any changes to the breakdown of the 2019-20 Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG) provided in the Minister's letter dated 12 March 2019, and a projection, if available, of the 2020-21 breakdown.

### *2.3 Reducing the impact of deprivation and poverty*

- Information on how the Education MEG reflects the Welsh Government's long-term commitment to tackle the impact of deprivation and poverty and its impact on educational achievement.
- Detail about budget provision for the Pupil Development Grant (PDG), including:
  - how much extra funding the decision to fix schools' allocations in 2018-19 and 2019-20 according to eFSM numbers in Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) January 2016 has generated for the PDG compared to using PLASC 2017 or PLASC 2018.
  - how many schools had higher eFSM numbers in 2017 or 2018 compared to 2016, and therefore received less PDG than they would have if the latest data had been used?
- Detail about budget provision for the PDG Access fund, how it is being allocated and distributed, including how many families are benefitting.

### *2.4 Education workforce*

- Details of budget allocations to finance:
  - the Welsh Government's reforms of Initial Teacher Education (ITE); and
  - the development of a national professional learning offer for the education workforce.
- Information on any financial implications for the Education MEG in 2020-21 from the professional standards for teachers in effect since September 2017.
- Details of budget provision to meet the priority of reducing bureaucracy and unnecessary workload, including extended use of business managers.



- Information on any financial implications from the priority of attracting and retaining more high-quality applicants and high calibre mature graduates into teaching through new entry routes into the profession.
- Information on any funding provided by the Welsh Government to the Education Workforce Council.
- Details of budget provision for the National Academy for Educational Leadership.
- Information on any financial implications from the supply teaching cluster pilots and other ongoing consideration of relevant reforms.
- Information on any financial implications arising from the devolution of teachers' pay and conditions, including the latest plans to finance the teachers' pay award, and subsequent additional pension costs, from September 2019.

## 2.5 *Curriculum for Wales*

- An update on funding to support the finalising of the design of the new Curriculum for Wales and its implementation.
- An update on how the funding for teachers' professional learning to prepare for the new curriculum is being allocated and used.

## 2.6 *Education Improvement Grant (EIG)*

- Information on the level of the EIG in 2020-21 and comparison with previous years.
- A copy of the outcomes framework used by the Welsh Government for monitoring the impact of the EIG and any guidance issued to or by regional consortia.
- Detail of the allocations to each regional consortia for each year since 2015-16 and planned allocations for 2020-21.
- Confirmation of the purposes the Welsh Government expects the EIG to be used for and whether these have changed at all for 2020-21.
- Details of what the Foundation Phase element of the EIG is intended to be used for, (i.e. whether solely to work towards aspirational staff ratios or if it constitutes core funding for Foundation Phase provision and if so, at which age groups).

## 2.7 *Support for Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners*

- An update on the latest position for the method of funding support for Minority Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners – will the £8.7 million grant funding in



place in each of 2018-19 and 2019-20 be discontinued with an expectation that these services are provided by local authorities from their own budgets?

- Information about how the use and impact of this funding in 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been monitored and evaluated.
- Confirmation—if the £8.7 million transitional funding has been discontinued and services expected to be financed from local authorities' core budgets—of whether a CRIA has been undertaken (if so, please could a copy of the CRIA be provided).

#### *2.8 Emotional and mental health of children and young people*

- Information about the financial implications for the Education MEG in 2020-21 of the Welsh Government's response to our Mind over Matter report, and subsequent actions.
- Detail of how any funding from the Health and Social Services MEG is being used to complement work in schools on this area.

#### *2.9 Additional Learning Needs*

- The financial implications of the Additional Learning Needs and Education (Wales) Act 2018 in the draft budget 2020-21 and whether the estimated costs of implementation remain the same as documented in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying the Act in January 2018.
- Budget provision to support the ALN Transformation Programme and an updated profiling of the £20 million allocated during this Assembly.
- The latest position on the arrangements for funding the training of educational psychologists in Wales and whether the grant funding arrangement with Cardiff University is continuing into 2020-21.
- A breakdown of the Post-16 Specialist Placements BEL within the Well-being of Children and Young People Action.

#### *2.10 Infant Class sizes*

- Information about the budget provision for reducing infant class sizes in 2020-21, including;
  - how many schools, classes and pupils will have benefitted up to the end of 2019-20



- how many are expected to benefit in 2020-21 and the remainder of this Assembly.
- An update on allocations of the £16 million revenue and £20 million capital in this Assembly.
- An indication of how the value for money of the investment in reducing infant class sizes is being assessed, including details of the outcomes being sought to evidence its success.

#### *2.11 Surplus places and small/rural schools*

- An outline of the budget provision for the small and rural schools grant in 2020-21.
- An update on expenditure of the grant to date, and breakdown of how it has been allocated between local authorities.
- An indication of how the value for money of the small and rural schools grant is being assessed, including details of the outcomes being sought to evidence its success.

#### *2.12 Community Focused Schools Initiative*

- Details of budget provision for the Community Focused Schools Initiative to offer additional support to schools and colleges to help parents and children learn together.
- Details of the outcomes the Welsh Government intends to achieve from expenditure on this priority.

#### *2.13 Estyn*

- Details of Estyn's budget allocation for 2020-21 from the Housing and Local Government MEG, including what recent discussions have been held with the inspectorate on its required levels of funding and how this compares with previous years.
- Information about any implications for Estyn's budget or for Welsh Government budget lines from Professor Donaldson's report, A Learning Inspectorate, and subsequent actions.

#### *2.14 Qualifications*

- Details of the budget allocation to Qualifications Wales in 2020-21, including what recent discussions have been held with the regulator on its required levels of funding





and whether funding is sufficient to complete the task of sector qualification reviews in good time.

### *2.15 Welsh-medium education*

- Details of budget provision to support the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium education strategy and local authorities' Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs).
- An outline of how the Welsh in Education budget Action support the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy and its target of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- Confirmation of whether the funding for professional learning activity to support the teaching and learning of Welsh is continuing in 2020-21 and what the intended outcomes from this expenditure are.

### *2.16 Youth work*

Information on budget provision within the Education MEG to support Youth Work, including:

- A breakdown of the £10 million referred to in the [media release of 24 June 2019](#).
- Clarification of which budget lines the additional allocations have gone into, including a breakdown of what funding constituted the existing allocation and what is new.
- Whether the funding announced on 24 June 2019 will be recurring annually.
- Allocations for the following grants, and information about the longer-term intention for them:
  - The Youth Work Strategy Support Grant;
  - The Welsh Government's Annual Grant to the Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS);
  - The Welsh Government's Annual Grant to Education and Training Standards Wales (ETS Wales);
  - The National Voluntary Youth organisation (NVYO) Grant.
- An outline of how young people have been involved in informing the decisions about the allocations for youth work.



### *2.17 Childcare offer*

- An updated assessment of the revenue and capital implications for the Education MEG of the Welsh Government's childcare offer.

### *2.18 Early Years / Foundation Phase*

- Details of how the Welsh Government ensures it has an overview of the funding rates for the 10 hours early years Foundation Phase offer across Wales for the non-maintained sector and in comparison to the maintained sector.
- An update on the work being undertaken to review the relationship between funding rates for childcare for three and four year olds (under the Childcare offer) and early years education (the Foundation Phase) for three and four year olds and an update on the pilot in Flintshire.
- An explanation of how funding for the Foundation Phase in the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) relates to other funding for early years education, and whether their purposes are distinct from one another.

### *2.19 Capital funding for school and college infrastructure*

- Information on budget provision for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and progress of the programme to date, including expenditure and numbers of projects completed/approved to date, broken down by:
  - A summary of expenditure and number of projects undertaken / completed within Band A.
  - The latest position regarding Band B of the programme.
- An update regarding the use of the Mutual Investment Model for Band B and the impact this will have on the money available.

### *2.20 Further education, Sixth Forms and Adult Community Learning*

- Details of any funding to be provided to further education institutions to enable them to prepare for curriculum reform.
- Details of the call on the 2020-21 post-16 education action, to meet the 2019/20 academic year funding commitments for Sixth Forms and further education institutions.
- Details of any capital funding to further education institutions and any restrictions placed on the capital funding by Welsh Government.



- Details of any hypothecated or un-hypothecated allocations to further education institutions beyond their core-allocation, in particular details of any amounts intended to support mental health provision, additional learning needs, teaching pay, and pensions.
- Details regarding the post-16 specialist placements BEL, including its purpose.
- Expected amount of funding that further education institutions will receive from work-based learning and employability provision/contracts.
- Details of the complete 2019/20 allocations to further education colleges, to include the amounts of all eight components of the allocation (i.e. full-time, part-time, part-time allowance, deprivation, sparsity and welsh medium allowances, maintenance allowance and the Adult Learning Wales adjustment).
- A step-by-step explanation of how the full-time and part-time allocations for further education institutions are now calculated, including the demographic, curriculum and learner data the calculations are based on.
- A copy of the most recent Further Education Financial Forecast Planning Assumptions guidance issued to FEIs.

We understand that the final 2020/21 allocations for Sixth Forms, further education and adult community learning are not made until later in the financial year. Like our approach this year, we will follow up on these matters when the 2020/21 academic year allocations are decided.

#### *2.21 Higher education & post-16 learner support, including student loans resourcing*

- Details of the HEFCW allocation, including details of any hypothecated funding to be allocated to HEFCW, such as for Global Wales II, research, pensions (if any) etc. (degree apprenticeships are addressed below).
- Details of any capital funding to be made available to HEFCW, including any restrictions to be placed on it by Welsh Government.
- A table showing the 2019-20 outturn, and forecast expenditure over the following four years on:
  - Full-time undergraduate (FTUG) Tuition Fee Grant (broken down by students in Wales and elsewhere in the UK)



- FTUG Maintenance Grant (broken down by students in Wales and elsewhere in the UK)
- Part-time undergraduate (PTUG) Maintenance Grant (broken down by students in Wales and elsewhere in the UK)
- Masters Finance grant element (broken down by students in Wales and elsewhere in the UK)
- Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)
- Welsh Government Learning Grant (Further Education) (WGLG(FE))
- Targeted grants and allowances (by students in Wales and elsewhere in the UK)
- Any other funding items within the Post-16 learner support action (the student loan resource provision is addressed below).
- Student loans provision broken down by:
  - DEL and AME for both revenue and capital, all split by fiscal and non-fiscal amounts, including a commentary explaining any movements compared to the First Supplementary 2019-20 budget.
- Forecast student loans provision broken down by amounts for:
  - FTUG tuition fee and maintenance loan outlay and Resource Accounting and Budgeting (RAB) charge
  - PTUG tuition fee and maintenance loan outlay and RAB charge
  - Masters Finance loan element outlay and RAB charge
  - Doctoral loan outlay and RAB charge
- An outline of any impact the ONS December 2018 decision on the treatment of student loans in the public sector finances has had on Wales / Welsh Government policy.
- Details of any 2020-21 allocation intended for the delivery of degree apprenticeships; and details of the funding that would be required to teach-out degree apprentices should the pilot not continue beyond the initial £20 million commitment.

## 2.22 Other post-16 education & Welsh in education

- Details of post-16 specialist placements funding and its use, if not covered elsewhere.



- Details of Personal Learning Account pilot funding.
- Details regarding funding for offender learning, and details of the provision this funds.
- Details of the Welsh in Education budget including any allocation for the Coleg Cenedlaethol.
- The original Welsh in Education BEL in the 2019-20 Final Budget was £29.361 million. This BEL moved into the International Relations and Welsh Language (IRWL) MEG in January 2019. In June 2019 the First Supplementary Budget shows that the Action moved back to the Education MEG, but only £14.325 million transferred out of the IRWL MEG into the Welsh in Education BEL within the Education MEG – the balance moving as a transfer within the IRWL MEG into the Welsh Language BEL:
  - Which activities associated with the funding transfers have moved from the IRWL MEG into the Education MEG, and which have remained within the IRWL MEG?
  - What was the rationale for splitting the funding previously contained in the Welsh in Education BEL between two MEGs?

### *2.23 Science and business innovation*

- Details regarding the support for:
  - the Chief Scientific Advisor and their office, including any additional funding made available for strategic initiatives/implementing science policy
  - research and innovation activity, in particular businesses innovation activity
  - the Life sciences.



CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 14

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/KW/3002/19

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair of Children, Young People and  
Education Committee National Assembly for  
Wales Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

19 August 2019

Dear Lynne

Thank you for your letter of 31 July regarding the request for written information to inform your scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020-21. As you note, there has been an unprecedented level of uncertainty regarding the timing of this year's budget which has proved extremely challenging in the development of spending plans for the future.

On 9 August, the UK Government confirmed it would conduct a 'fast-tracked' one-year spending round to be completed in September, with a multi-year Spending Review to be carried out in 2020. On 15 August the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd issued a Written Statement in response. This confirmed some uncertainty remains about what a fast-tracked spending round in September means in terms of the UK Government's plans for the Autumn Budget, and that she will provide a further update on the implications for Wales once further details are available.

Once there is further clarity, I look forward to formalising dates for my oral evidence session at a mutually convenient time. In the meantime, I am grateful for the committee's continued understanding on this issue, and welcome the advance notice of the written information you require to inform budget scrutiny.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

# Agenda Item 3.15

## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 15

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

### Chair of Association of Directors of Social Services

6 August 2018

Dear Colleague,

#### Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21

Each year the National Assembly for Wales's Children, Young People and Education Committee scrutinises the Welsh Government on its Draft Budget.

As part of our scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2020-21, one of the areas on which we will focus on is funding for looked after children in Wales, including edge of care services.

To inform our scrutiny of the Welsh Government, we would be grateful to receive the views of Directors of Social Services in Wales on the following:

- Sufficiency of funding to provide services / support to looked after children and any funding gap if relevant
- The prioritization given by local authorities to funding provision and support for looked after children
- Any pressure points in the forthcoming years
- The variation in spend per child by local authority
- Funding for edge of care services to prevent children entering the care system, including family support services
- Changes, if any, you would like to see the Welsh Government make in terms of funding for looked after children and edge of care services.



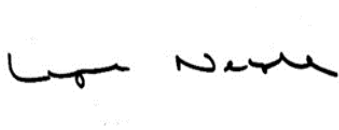
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Annexed to this letter is the Committee's request for information from the Welsh Government about looked after children, which you may wish to consider when responding to this request.

We request that this information is received by **Monday 7 October 2019**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Lynne Neagle AM**  
**Chair**





**Annex: request for information from the Welsh Government about looked after children, send in a letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services on 6 August 2019**

**1. 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.



# Agenda Item 3.16

## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 16

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**

Children, Young People and Education Committee

6 August 2018

### Director of Finance

Dear Colleague,

### Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21

Each year the National Assembly for Wales's Children, Young People and Education Committee scrutinises the Welsh Government on its Draft Budget.

As part of our scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2020-21, one of the areas on which we will focus will be funding for the emotional and mental health of children and young people in Wales.

To inform our scrutiny of the Welsh Government, we would be grateful to receive written information in relation to the points listed in the annex to this letter from your Health Board. We request that this information is received by **Monday 7 October 2019**.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
Chair



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## Annex

### Health Board spend/ allocations

To assist the Committee with its ongoing scrutiny of the Welsh Government in relation to children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being we would welcome the following:

- Information on individual Health Board spending on mental health services for children and young people in Wales for each of the last five years, including what percentage of the total LHB budget this represents, and in cash terms, how this compares to the level of spending on adult mental health services. Also, what the spend on mental health services for children and young people is per child for each individual Health Board.
- Information on individual Health Board spending in each of the following services in relation to mental health services for children and young people, including expenditure for each of the last five years (both out-turns and future predicted spend) on:
  - Neurodevelopmental services
  - CAMHS crisis and out of hours care
  - Psychological therapies
  - Local Primary Mental Health Support Services (LPMHSS)
  - Inpatient provision/ service development
- Information on individual Health Board spending and provision of low level children's mental health services; the funding challenges for Health Boards in terms of focusing on prevention and how these are being overcome through service innovation; and details of any transformation, and/or other additional funding, the Health Board has secured in relation to the provision of low level children mental health services.
- Any specific issues within individual Health Boards in relation to poor staff recruitment and retention that has an impact on spending on mental health services for children and young people, specifically, for each of the last five years, actual expenditure on agency staff (both the out-turns and predicted spend for 2020-21).
- Any specific comments individual Health Boards would like to make about how recurrent funding for mental health services for children and young people, as well as additional CAMHS improvement funding is allocated to Health Boards and how spend is tracked by Welsh Government, including details how Health Boards can evidence this funding is being used to drive forward improvements in mental health services for children and young people.
  - For individual Health Boards, details of the waiting times performance for first appointment and the start of treatment
  - For individual Health Boards, details of the demand for mental health services for children and young people, and the number and percentage of referrals accepted into treatment.



# Agenda Item 3.17

## 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.



# Agenda Item 3.18

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 18

Y Gwir Anrh/ Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AC/AM  
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister of Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/FM/2542/19

Lynne Neagle, AC/AM  
Chair of Children, Young People and Education  
Committee National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

5 August 2019

[SeneddCYPE@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddCYPE@assembly.wales)

Dear Lynne,

## Improving outcomes for children

I write in reply to your letter of 21 June.

Let me be clear at the outset: too many children are taken away from their families in Wales and that position has worsened inexorably, year after year, since the early 1990s. That is not a personal or idiosyncratic view of mine, it is the view of successive Presidents of the Family Court division.

In 2016 the then President, Sir James Munby concluded that the system faced a 'clear and imminent crisis', with no clear strategy through which that crisis could be addressed. I am not prepared for us to be without a strategy in Wales. Moreover, Sir James concluded that the inexorable rise in the number and proportion of children drawn into public care was associated with local authority behaviour which, he said, "must be playing a significant role" in the rise of cases brought before the Family Courts. He concluded that the wide variation in the scale of the increases in rates between local authorities justified a focus on the discharge of their responsibilities.

These views have been echoed by Sir James' successor, Sir Andrew McFarlane. His conclusion is exactly the one I have drawn myself, and which underpins my determination that we should take action to address this injustice here in Wales. Sir Andrew says:

*'We have reached a stage where the threshold for obtaining a public law court order is noticeably low, whereas the threshold for a family being able to access specialist support services in the community is conversely very high'.*

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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.

This, then, is a children's rights issue - the right to be supported to live with your own family, rather than to be removed from it.

Nor should we accept that nothing can be done to move the system in that direction. Near the start of this decade, Neath Port Talbot took a higher proportion of children into public care than any other local authority in Wales or England. Today, after concerted action, the pattern has been reversed. They reduced their rates of children looked after by a third between 2013 and 2018. Other local authorities, such as Newport, have succeeded over the long haul in providing a service which has bucked the trend which has otherwise run so strongly in Wales and England.

I recognise that shifting to prevention will be challenging for some. To help the process, last year we provided an additional £9m recurrent funding to support preventative activity and this year we have provided regional partnership boards with an extra £15 million for children looked after and prevention of the need for care. There are other funds available that local authorities could be applying for, such as Invest to Save and the Transformation Fund. Authorities can learn from each other's good practice. Welsh Government officials captured some of this work in the appreciative inquiry carried out as part of the Ministerial Advisory Group prevention workstream.

In my leadership manifesto I made only one single proposal for new targets in Welsh public services - and that was in pursuit of the already-established Welsh Government ambition to stabilise and then reduce the proportion of children in Wales removed from their families, placed out of county and placed out of country. I did so because five years, and more, of exhortation, advice, specialist reports, funding of professional leadership and other actions had failed to have the impact we need to see. The purpose of targets is never to undermine child safety but to concentrate the minds of local authorities on the common task. I welcome the agreement of 18 of our 22 local authorities to plans which will now help to make a practical difference. It is concerning that some of those authorities yet to agree plans are amongst those with the greatest need to take action and, in a minority of cases, they appear more interested in diverting debate away from their own responsibilities than in engaging with the fundamentally important issues at stake.

I look forward to the continuing support of your committee in the ambition I know we share of pursuing the best interests of children and their families in Wales.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark', with a stylized, cursive script.

**MARK DRAKEFORD**

# Agenda Item 3.19

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



**ADSS Cymru**

Yn arwain Gwasanaethau  
Cymdeithasol yng Nghymru  
Leading Social Services in Wales

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair of Children, Young People &  
Education Committee National Assembly for  
Wales Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

14<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Dear Lynne

### **RE: Improving outcomes for children**

Thank you for your letter in relation to expectations for reductions in the numbers of looked after children and I apologise for the delay in this response. I am pleased to relay that since your letter in June, good progress has been made developing the context and narrative of this issue between social care professionals both in local and national government.

Initially, while we fully understood the policy direction that came directly from the First Minister in wanting to safely reduce the numbers of children in need of care, ADSS Cymru as an organisation and our members, as individual Social Care Directors and Heads of Children's Services, did express concerns about setting specific targets for reducing care numbers and how this would be practically implemented and administered.

ADSS Cymru was extremely keen to have a dynamic and positive presence in any technical group that Welsh Government established to take this policy agenda forward and I am pleased we have achieved that in having four representative members – myself, as President, Andrew Jarrett (Director of Social Services at Neath Port-Talbot and ADSS Lead Director for Children), Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children's Services in Gwynedd and Chair of the All Wales Heads of Children's Services [AWHoCS], one of ADSS Cymru's lead executive policy groups) and Anthony Maynard (Head of Children's Services in Pembrokeshire).

Welsh Government and ADSS Cymru have both wanted to ensure that we worked closely together and therefore adopted a consensual approach. This has resulted in a reshaping of the language being used and also influencing the overall policy framework, with the aim of collectively securing support to allow Welsh Government to achieve its policy goal. The narrative now is very much about shared aspirations, outcomes and reduction strategies, something that the Minister set-out in her oral statement to the National Assembly on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019.

In that statement, the Minister also made reference to a national planned learning event, which will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> October and will be co-chaired by ADSS Cymru and Welsh Government. This will be followed up by two regional events, co-produced by Care Inspectorate Wales and Social Care Wales.

This national event will be drawing together the key themes that have come out of the visits to local authorities by Welsh Government and will also give examples of good practice across Wales.

As President, I would like to assure you that ADSS Cymru is well place to represent the thoughts and views of the leadership of social care within local government and in doing so, we will continue to make sure that we are doing the right thing for children and young people, make the right decisions to keep them safe and strive for positive outcomes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Cooper', written in a cursive style.

President, ADSS Cymru

# Agenda Item 3.20

## CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 20



By email

09/08/2019

### Re: Involvement in the first Future Generations Report

Dear Lynne,

Producing a Future Generations Report is one of my duties in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It must provide advice on improvements public bodies should make in order to set and meet well-being objectives which are the commitments they chose to make to improve the economy, society, environment and culture of their area. My report will also include information on the progress to date and on what should happen in the future. The Report will be published in May 2020.

This will be the first Future Generations report and will include the following main chapters: 'considering where we are and should go culturally (5 Ways of working and 7 core areas); where we are and should go in achieving the well-being goals (including objectives and steps); a particular consideration of our areas of focus (transport, planning, housing, ACEs, skills, alternative models for the health system, decarbonisation, budgeting and procurement); recommendations and ideas.

Using the five ways of working we intend to follow the involvement principle and in addition to our national conversation '[Our Future Wales](#)' and our online stories forum, '[The People's Platform](#)', I would like to give you an opportunity to help shape the content of my report and my recommendations. I also want to flag in the report, the resources which would be most useful to public bodies and would welcome suggestions as to reports, documentations and recommendations your committee would like to point out.

I would be grateful if you could send us any information or comments you would like me to consider by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2019. I am interested in particular in concerns, observations, opportunities or recommendations you think are most important, as well as a list of issues you think are of greatest importance to current generations and then to future generations to see if they differ.

I look forward to hearing the views of your committee.

If you wanted to talk in person, we could seek to organise a meeting with my colleagues who will also be visiting Ty Hywel's cafeteria in the autumn with Positif Politics and further information will be sent to you about this opportunity. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues.



My office will also contact every Assembly Member separately to ask for their personal opinions and we are also preparing tailored 'Assembly Members briefing packs' that provide further information on my work to date and the priorities for the year ahead. You will receive this separately and individually. It will also include some examples of how the Act is being delivered in your area.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Regards,



Sophie Howe  
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

# Agenda Item 3.21

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 21

Julie Morgan AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P-JM - 0436-19

Lynne Neagle AM,  
Chair Children, Young People and Education Committee

13 August 2019

Dear Lynne,

Following the passage of the Childcare Funding (Wales) Act 2019 through the Assembly earlier this year and the important role that the Children, Young People and Education (CYPE) Committee played in the scrutiny of the Bill, I wanted to write to you as Chair of the Committee to make you aware of a recent decision I have taken in respect of the Childcare Offer Wales Digital Solution.

## Use of HMRC

In line with the agreement of the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury and the former Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care, officials from Welsh Government and HMRC have been exploring options to integrate the Childcare Offer for Wales (the Offer) into existing Childcare Services, and for HMRC to conduct parent eligibility checks on Welsh Government's behalf.

Since January, Welsh Government and HMRC officials have been working closely with suppliers to explore and cost the options of integrating the Offer into existing Childcare Services and in May officials received the detailed outputs of the discovery work. As a result, a number of issues have come to light which have led us to consider whether now is the right time for us to proceed further with integrating our Offer into the existing Childcare Service. As well as some issues with the current Childcare Services delivery model, complexities were identified in relation to the compliance of any integrated system with Welsh Language standards.

Fundamentally, however, the First Minister's commitment to undertake a mid term review of the Childcare Offer means that there could potentially be significant changes in future to the eligibility criteria for the Offer. The review of the Offer will consider the feasibility of widening eligibility to include parents in training and education and those on the cusp of returning to work, with the high level findings expected in early 2020.

On balance, I have therefore concluded that we should suspend any further work between Welsh Government and HMRC on the Childcare Offer for the time being. I acknowledge

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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.

the significance of this decision and wanted to inform you as soon as possible, despite it being during Recess.

### Legislation

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that the work on the legislation is not wasted and that we hope to be able to continue to use the provisions with respect of data sharing in future. The Childcare Funding (Wales) Act 2019 could still make a significant contribution to a national digital solution because it enables the Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation for the purpose of securing access to real-time data and information held by HMRC, DWP and the Home Office which is key to eligibility checking (i.e. information relating to parents' earnings, benefit entitlements and immigration status). The existing draft regulations would need to be revisited and further and different conversations would be required with counterparts in UK Government departments if we decided to pursue this avenue.

### Costs to Date

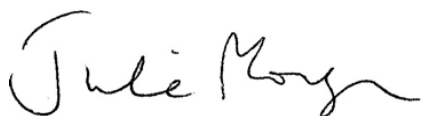
Though I have taken the decision to suspend work with HMRC rather than end the relationship completely, it is likely that a lengthy delay will render some of our work to date to be without benefit. The total cost of development and discovery with HMRC and its contractors to date is estimated at £1m. Without that development work we would not be able to make a sound and balanced judgement on the best way forward. The Welsh Revenue Authority went through a similar process in its systems development and came to the same conclusion to not proceed with HMRC. There is also the time and cost of WG staff and its own contractors to consider, though much of that work will be utilised as part of any alternative processes and systems to be developed in future.

### Next Steps

I have asked my officials to continue to work up the Outline Business Case over the summer, considering the other options for delivery. I aim to have a decision on the preferred way forward in September, the details of which I will announce in the Oral Statement I will be making later that month. My officials have been working closely with local authorities and they are content to continue with the present arrangements whilst the digital options are developed and implemented.

I understand this decision will be of great interest to the Committee and would welcome the opportunity to explain the rationale in more detail in the autumn.

Yours sincerely,



**Julie Morgan AC/AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

# Agenda Item 3.22

## CYPE(5)-24-19 – Paper to note 22

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru  
Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

National Assembly for Wales  
Petitions Committee

Lynne Neagle AM  
Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

21 August 2019

Dear Lynne

### Petition P-05-748 School Buses for School Children

The Petitions Committee has been considering the above petition since April 2017. During that time, the Committee has considered a range of information and issues relating to home-school transport and has corresponded with the Welsh and UK Governments, the Welsh Local Government Association and the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

However a number of the issues raised by the petitioner, including the provision of seatbelts on public buses and DBS checks for drivers, are reserved to the UK Parliament. Given that, at our meeting on 9 July 2019, the Committee decided to close the petition, as there seemed to be little further we could do to take the petition forward.

In closing the petition, Members also agreed to draw it to the attention of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, should you be considering looking at issues around school transport in the future.

Further information on the petition, including the full text and the correspondence received to date, is available on the website at:

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=18572>



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If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team at [SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales).

Yours sincerely



Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
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# Agenda Item 3.23

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 23

Comisiynydd  
Plant Cymru

Children's  
Commissioner  
for Wales

To: Ken Skates

Minister for Economy  
and Transport

Via email only

28 August 2019

Dear Ken Skates,

Thank you for your letter of 7<sup>th</sup> May in response to my letter in April regarding Petition P-05-748 School Buses for School Children.

Your letter refers to the current review of the Guidance supporting the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008, noting that this review follows a commitment by the Minister for Education during scrutiny of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill. Your letter also reiterates that despite Government's acceptance in principle of Recommendation 8 of my 2015/6 Annual Report, Government does not presently intend to review the Learner Travel Measure itself.

Subsequent conversations between my staff and with government officials has indicated that a review of the guidance will not be sufficient to alter the scope of the Measure, meaning that it will not apply to young people over the age of 19 and will remain discretionary for young people between 16 and 19. I am therefore greatly concerned that the review to the guidance may not be sufficient to enable local authorities to sufficiently fulfil their duties to enable young people to access Additional Learning Provision up to the age of 25, as laid out in the 2018 Act.

This is despite the ministerial commitment you note in your letter, a commitment made during Stage 2 scrutiny of the Bill in which Alun Davies, then Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, and the Member in Charge of the Bill, stated that the Welsh Government would revise the statutory Learner Travel Operational Guidance to address concerns about lack of consideration of children and young people with Additional Learning Needs in provision of transport. The Minister said if he could not achieve this through subordinate legislation (revising the Learner Travel guidance) he would table an amendment at Stage 3 to do it through the Bill.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.assembly.wales/research%20documents/17-032/17-032-web-english.pdf>



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Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg yn ogystal â'r Saesneg ac mewn amryw o fformatau  
We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh and English as well as alternative formats

The current Minister for Education subsequently wrote to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee in November 2017 stating,

*"There is already sufficient legal scope to enable revisions to be made to the Learner Travel guidance so that it properly reflects and takes account of the new statutory ALN system and I am happy to commit the Welsh Government to undertake that work. I am also reassured that the ALN Code will be able to provide an appropriate degree of guidance on the place of transport considerations within individual development plans and the process of producing them, including cross references to the Learner Travel Measure and guidance. On that basis, I do not think it necessary to bring forward a Stage 3 amendment to the Bill in relation to this matter."*<sup>2</sup>

These commitments have raised the legitimate expectation that the review of Learner Travel guidance properly accounts for the duties of the 2018 Act, an expectation reiterated in consultation on the draft Code for the 2018 Act this spring, which stated the following:

*1.62 The Cabinet Secretary for Education has committed the Welsh Government to revise the Guidance in light of the 2018 Act and this work is underway as part of a wider refresh of the Guidance, which will be consulted on formally in due course. The revised guidance will be published in advance of implementation of the 2018 Act.*<sup>3</sup>

If the review of guidance is not sufficient to mean that local authorities are fully able to meet their duties to provide Additional Learning Provision to young people up to the age of 25, then the assessment provided during the scrutiny of the Bill from Government has been inaccurate.

Should this be the case, Government must either review the Learner Travel Measure itself, or ensure that specific duties around transport are included in the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales as it is finalised before implementation. These duties should be sufficient to meet the transport needs of all children and young people to whom the 2018 Act applies.

This is an urgent and important issue. If it is not sufficiently addressed young people with Additional Learning Needs will continue to face discrimination in accessing their education: cases from my Investigation and Advice Service illustrate that transport for children and young people with Additional Learning Needs is a real barrier to enabling children and young people to access education. I have several cases in recent years illustrating the profound effect of insufficient transport for individuals, these include cases where there have

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<sup>2</sup>

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/documents/s68779/Letter%20from%20the%20Cabinet%20Secretary%20for%20Education%2017%20November%202017.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-12/consultation-document-draft-additional-learning-needs-code\\_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2018-12/consultation-document-draft-additional-learning-needs-code_0.pdf)

been concerns that a lack of arrangements will cause young people to miss education and have also raised concerns about the safety and wellbeing of young people with additional learning needs when they travel to education.

Prior to the release of the revised learner travel guidance for consultation it would be helpful to ascertain whether or not the revision will be sufficient to take account of and reflect the duties of the 2018 Act. I would also like to see the Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) or the Integrated Impact Assessment including the CRIA contained with it, to understand how the decisions on revisions to the guidance should be taken forward.

If Government assess the revision to be insufficient I would like to know how Government will meet the expectations that have been raised, and how this will be taken forward in time for the implementation of the 2018 Act. My office would be happy to work alongside officials to provide advice on revisions to the guidance, as part of a Task and Finish group, or directly as required.

I look forward to receiving your full response on this matter. I have copied this letter to the Minister for Education and to the Children, Young People and Education Committee, given their previous involvement.

Yours sincerely,



Sally

Sally Holland  
Comisiynydd Plant Cymru  
Children's Commissioner for Wales

cc. Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education

Lynne Neagle, Chair of CYPE Committee