

Agenda – Children, Young People, and Education Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference via Zoom	Naomi Stocks
Meeting date: 13 January 2022	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.15	0300 200 6565
	SeneddChildren@senedd.wales

In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from attending the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

Private pre-meeting

(08.45 – 09.15)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.15)

2 Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill – evidence session 11

(09.15 – 11.15)

(Pages 1 – 27)

Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Zenny Saunders, Deputy Director PCET Reform – Welsh Government

David Morris, Policy team – Welsh Government

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for items 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10

(11.15)



4 Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill – consideration of the evidence and key issues

(11.15 – 12.00)

Lunch

(12.00 – 12.50)

Private pre-meeting

(12.50 – 13.00)

5 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022 – 2023 – evidence session 1

(13.00 – 14.30)

(Pages 28 – 68)

Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services

Julie Morgan MS, Deputy Minister for Social Services

Lynne Neagle MS, Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Judith Paget, Director General Health & Social Services/Chief Executive NHS Wales – Welsh Government

Steve Elliot, Director, Finance – Welsh Government

Albert Heaney, Chief Social Care Officer for Wales – Welsh Government

Claire Bennett, Director, Communities & Tackling Poverty – Welsh Government

Tracey Breheny, Deputy Director of Mental Health, Substance Misuse & Vulnerable Groups – Welsh Government

Irfon Rees, Director of Population Health – Welsh Government

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper 1

6 Papers to note

(14.30)

6.1 Scrutiny of Accounts – Senedd Commission

(Pages 69 – 70)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee to the Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd Commission – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 1

6.2 Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill

(Pages 71 – 75)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 2

6.3 Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Skills and Post–16 Education Bill

(Pages 76 – 77)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language to the Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP Secretary of State for Education – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 3

6.4 Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill

(Pages 78 – 86)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 4

6.5 Estyn Annual Report

(Pages 87 – 88)

Attached Documents:

Additional information from Estyn following the scrutiny session on 13 December – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 5

6.6 Forward Work programme

(Pages 89 – 90)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee to the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 6

6.7 Forward Work Programme

(Pages 91 – 92)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee to the Chief Executive of all Local Health Boards – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 7

6.8 Forward Work Programme

(Pages 93 – 95)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee to the Deputy Minister for Social Services – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 8

6.9 Forward Work Programme

(Pages 96 – 97)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee to the Chief Executives of Welsh Principal Councils – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 9

6.10 Inter–Institutional Relations Agreement

(Pages 98 – 99)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 10

6.11 Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill

(Pages 100 – 104)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Education to the Chair of the Finance Committee
– CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note 11

6.12 Organisation of Business

(Pages 105 – 112)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Llywydd and Chair of Business Committee – CYPE(6)–01–22 –
Paper to note 12

6.13 Legislative Consent: The Nationality and Borders Bill

(Pages 113 – 114)

Attached Documents:

Joint letter from the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education
Committee and the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee to the
Llywydd and Chair of Business Committee – CYPE(6)–01–22 – Paper to note
13

7 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022 – 2023 – consideration of the evidence

(14.30 – 14.40)

8 Peer to peer sexual harassment among learners – consideration of the inquiry's draft terms of reference

(14.40 – 14.50)

(Pages 115 – 118)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(2)–01–22 – Private paper

9 Consideration of the Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Nationality and Border Bill

(14.50 – 15.05)

(Pages 119 – 139)

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

Legal advice note

10 Consideration of the approach to training on Children's Rights

(15.05 – 15.15)

(Pages 140 – 141)

Attached Documents:

CYPE(6)-01-22 – Private Paper

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 5

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper 1

Paper from the Welsh Government to the CYPE Committee

Date: 13th January 2022

Title: Scrutiny of Health and Social Services Draft Budget 2022-23

1. Purpose

The Minister for Health and Social Services, the Deputy Minister for Social Services and the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing have agreed to attend the Children, Young People and Education Committee on the 13 January 2022 to give evidence on their Draft Budget proposals.

2. Introduction

This paper provides information for the Children, Young People and Education Committee on the Health and Social Services (HSS) Main Expenditure Group (MEG) future budget proposals for 2022-23 and also provides an update on specific areas of interest to the Committee as outlined in a letter from the Chair of the Committee dated 8th November.

3. Budget Overview

	2022-23
Revenue	£m
Revenue Baseline as @ Final Budget 2021-22	9,227.959
Baseline Adjustments	(445.000)
MEG allocation	1,018.819
Revised DEL as @ Draft Budget 2022-23	9,801.778
Capital	
Capital Baseline as@ Final Budget 2021-22	387.600
Baseline Adjustment	(52.600)
Revised DEL as @ Draft Budget 2022-23	335.000
Overall Total HSS MEG Draft Budget 2022-23	10,136.778

The table above does not include Annual Managed Expenditure (AME), which is outside the Welsh Government's Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL).

Details of all transfers are shown in Annex A to this paper.

Transparency of budget presentation

- 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);

There have been no baseline reductions across the HSS MEG. Relevant budget changes at BEL level are detailed in the annex attached. These may include movements of 'one off' Covid response funding that was allocated during 21-22.

- what proportion any changes to the overall amount previously allocated represent;

As above, there have been no baseline budget reductions.

- 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; and

As above, there have been no baseline budget reductions

- information on the impact Covid-19 has had on allocations.

We will continue to maintain our direct COVID response for as long as is necessary. We are setting aside funding to continue our national responses to the ongoing pandemic including the Test, Trace and Protect programme, the ongoing vaccination programmes, and the provision of free PPE to health and social care for as long as is required. This funding will be kept under review as we work through the current challenges of the pandemic.

We have provided a significant uplift to the NHS which will provide them with financial stability as they continue to respond. There is also a significant recurrent investment in recovery to enable the NHS to refocus on treating backlog when the impact of the pandemic allows.

Commentary on Action and BEL allocations in the H&SS MEG

The tables below illustrates the budget moves from the First Supplementary budget in 2021-22 to the Draft Budget for 2022-23 and 2023-24 and captures the increase in funding for Childcare & Early Years of £28m in 22-23 and further increase of £2m in 23-24.

ACTIONS	Delivery of Targeted NHS Services & Supporting Children					
	BEL	2021-22 First Sup. Budget	Change	2022-23	Change	2023-24
		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
A Healthier Wales - Bel 060 (Early Years)		7.000	11.500	18.500	-7.9	10.600
Support for Childcare & Play - BEL 310		83.901	11.850	95.751	10.000	105.751
Support for Children's Rights – BEL 311		0.991	0.029	1.020	0	1.020
Supporting Children BEL - 410		3.865	0	3.865	0	3.865
Support for Families & Children - BEL 1085		6.004	1.971	7.975	-0.100	7.875
Total		94.761	25.350	108.611	2.000	129.111

BEL 60 in the Delivery of Targeted NHS Services Action contains the original funding allocation made to support A Healthier Wales (AHW). As part of this budget provision there was baseline of £7m to support the Early Years (as at 1st sup budget 2021). This funding supports Speech, Language & Communication for Early Years, including specialist SLT Services, Early Years Transformation and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

The bulk of funding in the Supporting Children Action supports the childcare offer (which is subject to scrutiny by the CYP&E Committee). This action also contains funding for the Looked after Children Transition Grant (LACTG) which provides funding for a number of initiatives which improve outcomes for looked after children so that all children in care have the same life chances as other children. It also contains the Vulnerable Children budget which supports children who have been adopted to ensure they and their family have the necessary access to support services to begin their family life.

Changes included with the Health and Social Care MEG in relation to the:

- Delivery of Targeted NHS Services Action - BEL 060 A Healthier Wales (Early Years)
- Supporting Children Action

2022-23 - Increase of £28m, offset by other budgets adjustments, relative to the 1st Supplementary budget position in 21-22.

- (£4.550m) reduction on Support for Childcare & Play - BEL 310, due to an in-year Covid19 allocation and adjustment.
- £11.5m increase (from new funding) in BEL 60 for A Healthier Wales Early Years funding
- £15.500m increase (from new funding) for Support for Childcare and Play in respect of Childcare Offer and Baby Bundles.
- £0.029m – increase (from new funding) to the Support for Children’s Rights BEL for funding consultations within CiW.
- £0.971m increase (from new funding) to the Support for Children & Families BEL
- £1.9m reversal of a MEG to MEG transfer (in 21-22) in relation to Education MEG for Foundation Phase Alignment and £1m Playworks funding also moving between the Support for Families & Children and the Support for Childcare and Play BEL.

2023-24 £2m overall increase

- £2.000m – increase (from new funding) for Support for Childcare and Play BEL, including the Offer, Baby Bundles and Workforce training
- Transfers between BELs of £7.9m and £0.100m, into the Support for Childcare BEL.

ACTION	Cafcass Cymru				
	BEL	2021-22 First Sup. Budget	Change	2022-23	Indicative Change
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Cafcass Running Costs	13.378	1.073	14.356	0	14.356
Child Contact Services	0.205	0	0.205	0	0.205
Child Arrangement Activities	0.069	0	00.69	0	00.69
Total Cafcass	13.652	1.073	14.725	0	14.725

Cafcass Cymru is a demand-led operational service delivers a statutory service to the Family Court in Wales on behalf of Welsh Ministers. Cafcass Cymru practitioners work with nearly 9,000 of the most vulnerable children and young people in the family justice system, ensuring our interventions promote the voice of the child, is centred on their rights, welfare and best interests to achieve better outcomes for the child involved in the Family Justice System in Wales.

The organisation seeks to influence the family justice system and services for children in Wales, providing high quality advice to Ministers and ensuring the needs of Welsh families and children are reflected in process and policy developments.

Aside from staffing and running costs for the organisation, the budget provides grant funding to support separated parents, when directed by the Family Court, to have contact with their children. The budget also funds the provision of the Working Together for Children programme which supports parents who have separated, or are separating, to better manage their own behaviour to ensure the emotional, practical and physical needs and best interest of their children are paramount.

Changes included with the Health and Social Care MEG in relation to CAFCASS Cymru Action:

2022-23

- £1.073m – Increase is in budget to ensure the service is sufficiently resourced in fulfilling their statutory obligations. The increase represents funding for expected staff costs and court-ordered contact services in 2022-23.

2023-24 (indicative)

- No changes.

Other changes included within the Health and Social Services MEG are:

Action – Public Health & Prevention

- £0.443 increase in BEL Health Weight: Healthy Wales to realign all preventative measures for Obesity into one budget line.

Allocation of the ‘the maximum available resources’ for children and young people

Impact Assessment

We have over recent years taken an integrated approach to impact assessments, which includes consideration of children’s rights, reflecting their protected characteristics under the Equality Act, as well as taking into account the impact of decisions and policies on social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being, as set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, as well as sustainability and the Welsh Language. These continue to be an important drivers guiding our Budget considerations. We have continued to embed the WFG Act’s five ways of working in our approach and the processes that support it.

We believe that an integrated approach enables us to understand more clearly the overall impact of decisions on children and young people.

Under the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, we have given balanced consideration and due regard to the rights set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Our previous 2021-22 Draft Budget, published on 21 December 2020, sets out the impacts of our spending decisions as part of the main narratives in chapters four and six, including highlighting spending decisions that directly impact on children and young people. This is complemented by the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment at Annex C, outlining the contextual evidence that has supported our spending decisions, including the impact of the pandemic on children and young people. Annex C also includes more-detailed case studies on the impacts of specific spending decisions, including one on our support for children and young people's mental health.

Detailed impact assessments, including Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) are undertaken as part of our ongoing policy development and review. These assessments will continue to be used to inform budget decisions and the wider impact assessment of the budget. This approach, in the context of the budget allocations, ensures that evidence and understanding of impacts are considered from the outset and throughout the course of our budget preparations.

Further details on the approach to assessing impacts will be published in conjunction with the 2022-23 Draft Budget on 20th December.

▪ Information about how the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has influenced allocations to budget lines within the MEG.

The Health and Social Services (HSS) portfolio supports our ambitions to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. In line with our Programme for Government, we are committed to delivering a more prosperous, more equal and greener Wales in line with the sustainable development principle. Our Well-being objectives are designed to support the wellbeing goals established under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, addressing the extraordinary challenges we face.

The Health and Social Services MEG contains the core revenue and capital funding for NHS Wales, as well as funding to support centrally managed programmed activities in relation to public health, social care and supporting children. We have taken a long term approach in developing our spending plans under this budget, with an emphasis on delivering our vision of integrated health and social care services for the future as set out in A Healthier Wales, our Plan for Health and Social Care. We remain committed to ensuring all children in Wales have the best start in life, and are supported to achieve their full potential, and this is reflected in our allocations. This has never been more important than now as we seek to address the impacts of the pandemic on the social, emotional and cognitive development of children and young people.

The vision we have established in A Healthier Wales is to place a greater focus on prevention and early intervention which we continue to support through universal, as well as more targeted support. This includes information, advice and support for parents through Parenting. Give it

Time which has been expanded to support parents of children aged 0-18; ongoing support for speech, language and communication (SLC) through the Talk with me SLC plan and campaign; and further investment to reduce or mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

As well as significant investment in the NHS we are allocating an additional £28m for early years support for childcare and the early years in 2022-23 and a further £2m in 23-24. This includes £13.5m for the Childcare Offer, £2m to take forward our work on Baby Bundles, £3m to expand the Early Years Transformation programme building on what we know works from Flying Start and Families First and SLC support and £7m to continue the important work of the Child Development Fund for a further year.

Our support for childcare, play and the early years contributes to all of the well-being goals, and specifically to those relating to a prosperous and healthier Wales. Investment in quality childcare and play can help young children develop into healthy, active adults. It develops their cognitive and social and emotional wellbeing and mitigates the harmful effects of adverse childhood experiences. Childcare can also enable parents to work and train and lifts families out of poverty.

Our Childcare Offer specifically supports the Welsh Government's well-being objectives, in particular to:

- Support people and businesses to drive prosperity
- Promote good health and well-being for everyone
- Support young people to make the most of their potential
- Build ambition and encourage learning for life

We will continue to frame our budget allocations in line with preventative activities, making positive interventions that protect and build on existing foundations, including our commitment to children's rights.

Policy and legislation allocations Draft Budget 2022-23

Allocations to deliver all Programme for Government commitments relevant to children and young people and the CYPE Committee portfolio.

Details of the assessment made of the value for money and affordability of delivering these priorities and objectives and how their cost-effectiveness will be monitored.

Our four main PfG commitments supporting children and Young People are as follows:

- Fund childcare for more families where parents are in education and training.

- Continue to support our flagship Flying Start programmes.
- Roll out baby bundles to more families.
- Prioritise investment in mental health.

All of these commitments are highlighted as part of the wider narrative in this paper and all are benefitting from increased funding allocations as part of this Draft Budget. Either from the additional £50m for Mental Health services in the HSS MEG, the £5.5m for young people's mental health in the Education MEG or the additional £50m for Childcare, Early Years, Flying Start and Families which forms part of the Draft budget settlements for the HSS MEG and Housing and Local Government MEG.

These PfG commitments will all have extensive monitoring and evaluation arrangements in place, many in line with existing Welsh Government Grant monitoring arrangements. Childcare and Flying start especially, are well established programmes with embedded monitoring and reporting mechanisms already in place. Each PfG commitment has a Deputy Director allocated to lead on its implementation and delivery. There will also regular reporting requirements against the full PfG programme.

Costs of legislation: Implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill in the run up to March 2022 and in its first year in force.

In the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) for the legislation, it was estimated that direct costs relating to implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act (Children Wales Act) would amount to £985,000, comprising costs of the awareness-raising campaign, research to track awareness levels and attitudes towards physical punishment of children, and preparation for a diversion scheme.

The amount set aside in the budget for implementation costs in 2021-22 is £1,585,000. The reasons for this increase in budgeted amount, compared to the RIA estimate, are:

- Due to the pandemic our planned awareness raising campaign for 2020-21 changed. This had important impacts including spending less than originally planned; a likely drop in public awareness levels; and engagement work continuing but at a reduced level.
- We have therefore allocated an additional £225,000 for the awareness raising campaign in 2021-22 financial year – increasing the total budget for that aspect of implementation from £800,000 to £1,025,000 - to enhance the public awareness raising work and increase engagement with specific groups and communities where there may be barriers to accessing information.
- In addition, the estimated cost during 2021-22 of development of a possible diversion scheme alongside an out of court disposal was up to £143,000. Welsh Ministers have confirmed that up to £500,000 has been allocated in 2021-22 to allow local authorities to prepare for the parenting support which will be available alongside an out of court disposal, following the law change. While £500,000 has been budgeted for this activity, on the basis of likely costs of preparing for introduction of the scheme, it is possible that

actual expenditure will be less than £500,000 depending on timescales for recruitment of additional skills parenting practitioners and the scale of training undertaken.

The costs of delivering parenting support are not reflected in the implementation costs outlined above. However, parenting support delivered through local authorities and their partners is a key element of the implementation of the Children Wales Act. Welsh Government contributes funding for parenting support through its Families First and Flying Start programmes (discussed later in this paper). The availability of parenting programmes and support has been reviewed through an implementation task and finish group (Parenting Expert Action Group), and further work is being carried out to raise the profile of the parenting workforce and consider implementation of national standards for the parenting workforce.

The *Parenting. Give it Time* campaign continues to provide parenting information, advice and support using a dedicated website, digital advertising and social media channels. To support the implementation of the Children Wales Act, the website has been reviewed and updated to support parents with children 0 – 18 years (previously, it covered the 0 – 7 age group). Resources to support managing children's behaviour have also been added or updated. Digital and TV and radio campaigns will run before commencement of Children Wales Act, to signpost information and advice on positive ways to manage children's behaviour, alongside the ending physical punishment awareness raising campaign. £200,000 has been allocated to *Parenting. Give it Time* in 2021-22, and we expect full spend of this.

The Children Wales Act will be in force from 21 March 2022.

The RIA anticipated expenditure of £300,000 on the ending physical punishment campaign in 2022-23. We recognise that sustained awareness raising is important, alongside the law change, to help deliver the policy objective of reduced incidence of physical punishment of children, and an increase in support for the principle that all physical punishment of children is unacceptable. The budget allocation for the ending physical punishment campaign in 2022-23 has therefore increased to £400,000. In addition, £400,000 has been allocated to the *Parenting. Give it Time* campaign to increase the capacity to communicate messages about positive parenting and positive alternatives to physical punishment.

The RIA also anticipated that Welsh Government would work with partners to set up a diversion scheme, at a cost of between £162,000 and £473,000 per annum. As discussed during scrutiny of the Bill in the Senedd, from 21 March 2022 the physical punishment of children is prohibited in Wales, and a small number of individuals may be charged or prosecuted in circumstances where that would not happen now. The police may decide an out of court disposal, where the focus is on rehabilitation and conditions are attached, is the right approach. Putting in place a diversion scheme would allow the police, in cases which they consider appropriate, to offer an out of court disposal and refer into the scheme.

We have worked closely with the police, local authorities and other key stakeholders to work up proposals for a scheme which would enable the police to refer individuals to local authorities to offer tailored parenting support, as a condition of an out of court disposal. Up to £810,000 has been allocated to fund the parenting support which will be delivered by local authorities as part of the *Out of Court Parenting Support* diversion scheme.

We will also continue to fund research to track awareness levels and attitudes to physical punishment during 2022-23.

Allocations across the Ministerial Portfolio as listed below and as relevant to children and young people and the CYPE Committee portfolio:

Children's Health

NHS Delivery and Performance

Delivery and performance of children's services tends to be undertaken through specific policy leads where it is relevant to specific actions. Examples being: eye and hearing screening, childhood immunisation, children adolescent mental health (CAMHs). Welsh Health Specialist Service commissioners (WHSSC) commission and monitor specific specialist children's services. Routine elective care for children's is not specifically captured and reported nationally and tends to be reported within the total national data. Following a deep dive into children's service during COVID-19, we agreed the need to change the national data flow into Welsh Government to allow breakdown of waiting lists by age groups 0-16, 16-18 and 18 over. This will allow national data to monitor planned care recovery for children's as a sub set. Data from December 2021 will allow this additional breakdown at a national level. Welsh Government has been clear with each HB around their internal responsibility to monitor and report their local children's performance across each of their delivery areas.

The new data sub-set to be used to monitor health board performance to track backlog removal in children's elective care this will be supported by the specialist data reported through WHSSC.

Research and development in health and social care as relevant to children and young People

Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) – the external brand of the collective programmes and initiatives funded and managed by HSS Research and Development Division (RDD)– has a remit to stimulate research excellence, build capacity and capability and support research delivery in translational and applied research health and care research in Wales. We have a particular focus on:

- the prevention, detection and diagnosis of disease and ill health;
- the development and evaluation of interventions; and
- the provision of health and social care services.

Supporting Welsh researchers to develop new research

As part of the Health and Care Research Wales research development infrastructure, RDD has made increased investments in children's research through research centres such as the CASCADE Partnership, DECIPHer and NCPHWR.

- The Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre Partnership (CASCADE-Partnership) undertakes research related to looked after children and issues affecting children in social care. It currently receives annual funding from RDD of £0.515m.
- The Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for public health improvement (DECIPHer) undertakes research into healthy behaviours and the prevention of ill-health in children and young people, and runs the School Health Research Network (SHRN), an all-Wales. DECIPHer currently receives annual funding from RDD of £0.526m.
- The National Centre for Population Health and Wellbeing Research (NCPHWR) has a specific work stream dedicated to early years research and supports the HAPPEN primary school network. It currently receives annual funding from RDD of £0.651m, though this is split between work on children and early years and workforce related activity.

RDD also administers a range of Health and Care Research Wales-branded open and competitive funding schemes (offering PhDs, Fellowships, project based funding and research time). The schemes, most of which have both health and social care arms, are aligned with Welsh Government policy priorities, with applications initially assessed on the basis of policy, practice and public need.

All funding schemes are open to child health and care researchers. Our most recent assessment shows that since 2014/15, Health and Care Research Wales has invested £3.7 million across 18 projects specifically related to children and young people's research (though these figures have almost certainly increased).

In order to stimulate paediatric research in Wales, Health and Care Research Wales fund Dr. Phillip Connor as a Wales-wide Research Specialty Lead for Children. Dr Connor's role is to champion paediatric research across the NHS, stimulating interest in uptake of research and bringing paediatric research studies to Wales.

Support for delivering research across Wales

On an annual basis, Health and Care Research Wales provides funding (approx. total £15m) to NHS organisations to enable them to resource a research infrastructure (research nurses, pharmacists, radiologists, clinical research facilities etc.) to undertake clinical trials and other high quality research studies. A new funding model is in place to promote better collaboration between NHS organisations, maximising the value from resources and address challenges from undertaking 'small number' studies in areas such as paediatrics and novel therapies. Health and Care Research Wales recognise the challenges with undertaking research on children within clinical trials in complex NHS treatment setting to - within sensitive social care environments and have worked with the research community to ensure equality and diversity as well as noting children's rights are at the forefront of our policy development. Health and Care Research Wales has recently published the 'Discover your role in health and care research' document that outlines plans for further development of public involvement and engagement in health and

social care research, and the implementation programme includes a focus on children and young people.

Public health: Covid 19 response, screening and vaccination

The costs of the regular Covid-19 lateral flow testing programme for schools and childcare are covered under the arrangements in place for the UK testing programme delivered by the UK health Security Agency (UKHSA) across all four nations. Implementation has only been made possible by the hard work and flexibility of education and childcare workforces both within the settings and in the Local Authorities.

The costs of providing symptomatic PCR testing for children and young people via our Regional and Local Testing Sites are also provided under the UK Testing programme. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Welsh Ministers and the Secretary of State for Health sets out the arrangements and services delivered under the UK testing programme.

NHS Wales laboratories process some diagnostic tests required in secondary care and during outbreaks and these costs are included under the TTP budget and funding to PHW.

The costs of the Covid-19 vaccine implementation programme are covered from the Covid response funding. The budget for 21-22 was set at £100m. Successful delivery of the next phase of the programme will continue to require a flexible approach to respond to the increasing complexity of the vaccination cohorts. The NHS will need to respond promptly and effectively, as it has done throughout the pandemic, proving it has the agility and flexibility, as well as the highly skilled and experienced workforce necessary to continue to successfully deliver our vaccination programme. This will only be possible by continuing to work with our key stakeholders – local government, other public services, businesses, the voluntary sector and volunteers. This multi-agency effort is continuing and our scale of delivery is growing all the time so that we can protect more of our population every day.

Whilst the future of the coronavirus pandemic is still very uncertain, we have set aside funding in this budget for ongoing Covid interventions, specifically contact tracing, testing, mass vaccination and provision of PPE to the NHS and social care. This funding will be kept under review as we work through the current challenges of the pandemic.

We also anticipate that further consequential funding will flow to Welsh Government in respect of additional testing funding for 2022/23.

Immunisation programmes

The national flu programme continues to be provided through health boards via core funding. Currently this includes a large set of cohorts of those prioritised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation (JCVI). For 2021-22 extra cohorts were included to aid the response to the pandemic. Secondary schools were included for 2021-22 and currently have an uptake of over 57%. The cost of including the extra group was £4m for 2021-22. There is an

intention to continue vaccinating the expanded school age group in future years as a measure to reduce the transmission of flu.

Funding for other childhood vaccinations (such as MMR and HPV) is located within health board core budgets. Childhood immunisation programmes continued as essential services during the coronavirus pandemic, with appropriate assurance to parents and infection control measures put in place by practices. Monthly enhanced immunisation reports developed by the Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme in Public Health Wales were used to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on uptake of routine childhood immunisations across Wales. Data suggests that vaccination uptake in young children and infants has remained stable throughout the pandemic. Vaccination uptake rates on programmes given in secondary school (such as HPV and MenACWY) have been most affected during the pandemic; priority will be given to catch-up programmes in 2022-23.

Public Health: Health improvement and wellbeing services

Healthy Weight : Healthy Wales

A budget of £6.63m will be allocated in 2022-23 to support the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales strategy which is the Welsh Government's long term plan to prevent and reduce obesity across Wales. It sets out a 10 year plan to prioritise early intervention and behaviour change at all levels to change our habits and promote healthy activity. The strategy is a key commitment towards a cross-government approach to reducing obesity in Wales on a population scale. The strategy has been developed from evidence of what works. This has indicated the need for a new approach which combines individual behaviour change with environmental and system change. It will utilise a combination of funding, policies and legislation to develop approaches through our environment, settings and leadership to place a strong focus upon prevention. It will also deploy targeted approaches in areas of deprivation and will assist those who are already overweight or obese through a range of prevention, early intervention and specialised services. A 2022-2024 Delivery Plan will be published in early 2022 which will set out a cross-government approach.

Funding within the programme supports broader engagement across children and families, examples include:

- A Children and Families Pilot has been funded through the delivery plan and is taking place in three areas Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil and Anglesey. These pilot programmes will adopt a whole systems approach, which is drawing together practice and best evidence. A core part of this approach is the implementation of a secondary prevention Home Based Intervention for families of children in the early years from 3 – 7 years of age in line with the foundation phase.
- £2.9 million per annum until 2023-2024 in funding has been made available for health boards to develop their local adaptations of the All Wales Weight Management Pathway which will support the development and delivery of weight management services in Wales. For the first time there will be children and families specialist level 3 services delivered across Wales and the development of services and approaches based upon

early intervention at level 2, including specific approaches through maternity. The revised pathway will provide compassionate support in helping people on their weight management journey and will run alongside our Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales strategy to encourage people to make healthier choices and lead more active lives.

- Ministers have agreed to the development of a new Welsh Daily Active offer for schools. The offer will adopt an age specific whole school approach, underpinned by behaviour change and range of adaptable approaches, to complement the new curriculum. This will be responsive to evidence, provide flexibility and build in evaluation to assess health outcomes. This will also link with proposals to extend the school day.
- We have established roles for Healthy Weight Ambassadors across Wales. They are working with us to be a champion for the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales strategy and inspire the delivery of its aims and objectives with partners across Wales, to listen, engage and promote the ethos and positive lifestyle messages of the strategy. This includes a youth Ambassador and a Family Ambassador who are broadening our engagement across the strategy.

Healthy Start Scheme

The Healthy Start Scheme's funding provides a nutritional safety net for our most vulnerable young families. The funding of £6.9m in 2022-23 includes Healthy Start Vouchers for pregnant women, new mothers and children under four from low income households to purchase fruit and vegetables, milk and infant formula plus free multi-vitamin supplement. The funding also includes supporting the Nursery Milk Scheme which provides a free drink of milk/infant formula for children under five in two or more hours of childcare.

The Healthy and Active Fund

The Healthy and Activity Fund (HAF) is a 4 year programme with funding of £1.00m in 2022-23. HAF supports projects with the aim of improving mental and physical health by enabling healthy and active lifestyles. Several of the projects specifically seek to reduce inequalities in outcomes for children and young people. The coronavirus outbreak has compounded existing health inequalities in Wales, and those groups particularly affected are the same key demographics targeted by the HAF. For example, research commissioned by Sport Wales during the national lockdown suggested that:

- 26% of children were doing more physical activity
- 35% of children were doing less physical activity
- 9% of children doing no physical activity at all
- Children from lower socio-economic backgrounds appeared to be experiencing the greatest reductions, with those doing no physical activity at 14%.

The HAF programme has funded projects supporting children and young people in intergenerational activities to improve mental and physical health, access to green-space physical activities, and a programme of play activity for children which strengthens the importance of play as central to a child's physical, mental, social and emotional health and wellbeing.

Smoke-free Wales

Smoking impacts on the lives of children and young people throughout their childhood, from pregnancy to adolescence. Supporting children and young people to have a smoke-free childhood is key part of our vision for a smoke-free Wales. We are currently consulting on our new Tobacco Control Strategy for Wales and the first Delivery Plan which sets out the specific targeted actions that will help us to reduce the harms from tobacco in Wales. The draft strategy establishes our ambition for Wales to be smoke-free Wales by 2030 which means achieving a smoking prevalence rate in adults of 5% or less over the next eight years. We will be undertaking engagement activities to support the consultation and we will be working closely with key stakeholders to ensure children and young people in Wales have an opportunity to contribute to our consultation.

Our experience in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the costs of tolerating health inequalities in our communities in the disproportionate impact we have seen of the pandemic on the less well off in Wales. This experience has highlighted the importance of tackling the causes of these inequalities with renewed urgency and heightened ambition. As such, we are continuing our focus on prevention and early intervention. We have maintained the £7.20m allocated for Prevention and Early Years funding and will be shifting its focus to ensure it is targeted towards the two leading causes of avoidable death in Wales: obesity and smoking. Using this funding, we will support projects across Local Health Boards which supports the rollout of inpatient smoking cessation support in all Local Health Boards and support a reduction in the number of people smoking in pregnancy and support cessation.

Mental health services including perinatal mental health

Prioritising mental health and well-being in 2022-23 remains a priority and we are providing an additional £50m to support this. Whilst this provision will primarily support front line mental health services and also make a contribution towards the prevention of mental ill health in areas of primary public health prevention, substance misuse and employability related support, there are a much wider range of cross- government budgets needed to support our Programme for Government commitment to support the mental health and wellbeing of the nation. The impact of Covid has increased the challenges faced by mental health services to meet waiting time targets on a sustainable basis, with particular pressures on CAMHS services, eating disorder services and all-age psychological therapies. The evidence suggests that an increase in referrals and / or complexity will remain for some time to come as we emerge from the pandemic. This will require increased investment and additional funding in future years to support mental health service improvements and the implementation of the Mental Health Workforce Plan currently being developed by HEIW and Social Care Wales (SCW).

We will also continue to support the development of perinatal mental health community services to enable compliance of the Royal College of Psychiatrists perinatal community standards. We will also continue to work towards our commitment to ensure that mother and baby unit provision is made available for mothers who live in North Wales. Funding will also be used to provide additional support to improve prevention and promotion of a 'no wrong door' approach to mental health support.

Suicide prevention

Within the context of the total spending on Mental Health, we invest annually in mental health services and, in mental health service improvement, we will continue to specifically support the prevention of suicide and self-harm. We will continue to fund our National lead and regional coordinators along with other nationally supported projects (circa £0.5m). The new allocation earmarked for mental health funding will support the continued development of crisis services including provision for children and young people. It will also support a number of new areas of spend that will focus on issues on suicide and self-harm, for example increasing support to voluntary organisations and crisis and out of hours services. It will also include implementing the recommendations from the NHS Delivery Unit's review of crisis and psychiatric liaison services and developing alternatives to admission for children and young people, for instance through extending sanctuary type provision.

Autism and Neurodevelopmental conditions

The introduction of a Statutory Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services is a Welsh Government Programme for Government Commitment. A demand and capacity of all neurodevelopmental services is currently underway and will be completed by March 2022, this review will include recommendations for improvement including workforce development. £5.73m is currently delivering the implementation of the statutory code, through supporting the National Autism Team, the Integrated Autism Service, and a demand and capacity review. Further investment of £5.185m will support future policy development and improvement in neurodevelopmental services, to include actions to address assessment and diagnostic waiting times and support and will seek to expand services to include conditions such as ADHD.

Substance misuse as relevant to children and young people

Support for children and families is a priority within our Substance Misuse Delivery Plan 2019-22. In particular, we know through the work on ACEs that children who are raised in homes where substance misuse is an issue are, potentially, more likely to have adverse outcomes in later life. The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that our services provide early intervention and prevention so that longer-term harms are prevented, before they occur.

Children of those affected by ACEs are at increased risk of exposing their own children to ACEs, creating a cycle of harm, which early intervention needs to focus on breaking. We have set clear actions to ensuring services are joined up and effective for families, in particular those who are "on the edge of care". The NSPCC have published data which shows a significant increase (72%) of referrals from their helpline in relation to parental substance misuse. New data by the children's charity reveals it made 572 referrals about this issue in the last 10 months to agencies in Wales – a monthly average of 58 referrals, which is 72% higher than pre-lockdown last year (6 January – 22 March 2020).

At an early stage in the pandemic we sought assurance from all Substance Misuse Area Planning Boards (APBs) that services and support for children and families remained in place, and significant work is being undertaken across government to alleviate the impact of Covid-19 on children and young people.

Through the APB Substance Misuse Action Fund the Welsh Government invests £2.75m ring fenced money for children and young people. Recognising the rise in demand for support, an additional £1m has been earmarked within the Draft Budget to increase this allocation to £3.75m in 2022-23. In addition, there are plans to increase this amount to £5.25m and £6.25m in 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively.

The Welsh Government also invests £1.98m per annum in the Wales Police Schools Programme and match funding is provided by the four Welsh Police Forces. The programme delivers education on substance misuse and wider community and personal safety issues at all key stages of the curriculum amongst a range of other lessons.

Childhood obesity

One of the Welsh Government's key priorities in Prosperity for All is to promote good health and well-being for everyone. We will support people to adopt healthy lifestyles, breaking down the barriers that ill-health place on employment and opportunity, and tackling the generational cycle of poor health and inactivity.

Funding is being used through the Children and families' pilot programmes, the All Wales Weight Management Pathway and the Whole Systems Approach. These programmes focus on providing preventative measures in increasing physical activities and improving nutrition for children, young people and families.

One initiative is the 2022 Eat Them to Defeat Them campaign in Wales. This advertising campaign aims to encourage children to perceive vegetables as fun to increase consumption. In 2022-23 the aim is to increase the initiative to target all 1225 primary schools to reach an estimated 276,954 pupils. Further evaluation will be considered in 2022-23 to determine opportunities for further outreach across children and young people. (See section above on Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales Pages 13 & 14)

Children's Social Care

Safeguarding services

Funding for Safeguarding primarily supports the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and promotes a preventative agenda to improve well-being outcomes for children and adults at risk, reflecting the need to adopt a child-centred approach built on collaboration to meet the care and support needs of children, support them to stay with their families where it is safe to do so and to protect children from abuse and neglect. In order to promote these aims funding supports Safeguarding Policy Development and Implementation across a range of areas including child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse, Reducing

Restrictive Practices, and continued work to support Covid-19 recovery through information, advice and support for children and young people, parents/carers, practitioners and the public.

Safeguarding funding also supports the work of the National Independent Safeguarding Board, which provides support to the Regional Safeguarding Boards and advice to Ministers about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Wales. Together, the operation of the regional and National boards secures that measures are in place to support consistent evidence-based practice to safeguard children across agencies and across Wales.

Advocacy services

The National Approach to Statutory Advocacy (NASA) is a standardised approach to statutory advocacy services being delivered by the six Regional Social Services Collaboratives, reinforcing and securing a consistent offer and experience for children and practitioners. It has been in place since June 2017. The implementation of NASA is monitored by Regional Fora which follows the footprint of the Regional Safeguarding Boards, overseen by a National Forum chaired by Welsh Government and a Local Authority Head of Children's Services. The funding element from Welsh Government will continue (up to £550k each year).

MEIC is the national information, advice and advocacy helpline providing children and young people with a single point of contact via Freephone, instant messaging and text. The Welsh Government does not deliver this activity directly but contracts with Pro-Mo Cymru. MEIC is currently funded until March 2022 and a tendering process is underway for its replacement.

Adoption services

Investment will be directed towards local authorities and third sector organisations to continue to strengthen the provision of adoption services in Wales. Providing effective and tailored adoption support to adoptive families is paramount in supporting the prevention of adoption disruptions and breakdowns, thus reducing the possibility of children re-entering the care system, as far as possible. Investment will also be directed at enhancing matching and placement processes to ensure children who cannot return to live with birth families, are placed as soon as possible, with suitable 'permanent families' that meet their specific needs.

Fostering services

Funding will continue to be directed at supporting the fostering sector to deliver a programme of work which will empower the fostering community to improve well-being outcomes for looked after children and young people within the national well-being framework. Investment will also be directed to support the Programme for Government commitment to support the national fostering scheme in Wales - Foster Wales. Funding will be utilised to implement a number of recruitment campaigns which will be targeted to meet service needs, as well as further embedding the programme of work undertaken during 2021. The recruitment of foster carers is key to the success and development of local authority fostering and the brand will help local authorities in their drive to rebalance service provision and to improve on the quality of placement of choice for children in care.

Cafcass Cymru

Cafcass Cymru is a demand-led operational service which delivers a statutory service to the Family Court in Wales on behalf of Welsh Ministers. The 2022-23 budget allocation for Cafcass Cymru has increased to £14.725m and covers staffing and running costs for the organisation but also grant funding to support separated parents, when directed by the Family Court, to have contact with their children.

The budget also funds the provision of the court ordered Working Together for Children programme which supports parents who have separated, or are separating, to better manage their own behaviour to ensure the emotional, practical and physical needs and best interest of their children are paramount.

Policy and oversight of the provision of all social service activities of Local Authorities in Wales

Local Authority service provision continues to be monitored on a fortnightly basis via the Social Service Checkpoint. This provides data around the number of contacts, the number related to safeguarding, children receiving care and support, children looked after and care leavers facing hardship and accommodation issues.

In addition to this, the Performance and Improvement Framework for social services data was published on 2nd December. This data provides an annual summary of the provision of services by Local Authorities.

Young carers and young adult carers

Both young carers and young adult carers will be able to benefit from the £1.245m of funding annually, which we are committing to support unpaid carers of all ages in 2022-23. This will support delivery of actions in the Unpaid Carers Strategy for Wales and its associated Delivery Plan, which was launched on 25th November. This will be alongside funds in the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector grant scheme (2020-23), and support via Regional Partnership boards and their funding streams.

Using up to £0.2m of the carers funding, we are working in coproduction with local authorities and Carers Trust Wales to roll out the national Young Carers ID card project. The voluntary ID card for young people up to age 18, is intended to provide a tool helping local authorities and their commissioned third sector providers support young carers in accessing their rights, including a carers' needs assessment, where appropriate.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child / Children's and young people's rights and entitlements

The funding in 2022-23 of £1.020m supports Welsh Ministers' duties under the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, which include:

- the duty to have due regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) when exercising their functions; and
- to promote public understanding of the UNCRC.

This funding enables us to fund Children in Wales to support article 12 of the UNCRC which provides children the right to have their say in matters that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account. As set out in the Children's Rights Scheme 2021 all Ministers will meet with young people every year – highlighting the value we place on hearing the voice of children and young people.

This funding will also enable Ministers to deliver the Raising Awareness of Children's Rights Plan. This supports Article 42 of the UNCRC states that Governments must actively work to make sure children and adults know about the Convention.

Early years, childcare and play, including the Childcare offer and workforce

The **Childcare Offer for Wales** revenue budget in 2022-23 has an additional £10m added to the baseline figure to reach £85m, based on the very latest projections for estimated take-up rates, and a rate rise indicate the Offer. In addition, the funding for the expansion to Parents in Education and Training will cost £9m by 2024-25. This commitment recognises the value of education and training in supporting parents to improve their employment prospects. Initial findings from the latest evaluation report indicate that the Offer continues to have a positive impact, helping parents financially and enabling them to balance the demands of work and family life.

ESF funding will come to an end in 2023 but the need to support the **workforce** to upskill will continue, particularly given the expansion of government funded childcare to all 2 year olds planned for this Assembly Term. A replacement scheme will need to be developed to provide the same level of support to the sector during this period of growth. The indicative allocation of £2m for 2023-24 and for 2024-25 reflect this continuing need and the end of ESF funds.

The **CWLWM** consortium comprises five organisations representing different parts of the childcare and play sector in Wales. Along with **Play Wales**, they are key partners in terms of delivery of Welsh Government priorities and provide invaluable support to their members and non-members in the form of guidance, training and information on all matters relating to play, national standards for regulated childcare, registration and regulation and sustainability/setting management. Both have budgetary increases to reflect their continuing importance and that core funding has not increased in five years.

Following a successful pilot, the Programme for Government includes a commitment to roll out of the **baby bundle** to more families in Wales. This project aims to provide a universal gift from the Welsh Government to expectant parents living in Wales of a bundle of key items for their new born baby. The new budget is £2m in 2022-23, and £6m annually thereafter.

Early Years Integration Transformation Programme

The Early Years Integration Transformation Programme is focussed on developing a more joined-up, responsive early years system that puts the unique needs of each child at its heart, which covers the period of life from pre-birth to the end of the Foundation Phase (0-7).

We have been working with PSBs across Wales to explore how to deliver early years services in a more systematic way, applying the lessons from our existing programmes such as Flying Start and Families First.

The majority of the PSBs are now engaged in the programme as pathfinders. We are investing £6m in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to support PSBs across all Health Board regions in Wales, as they test the core components for an early years system and pilot different multi-agency delivery models and approaches, building on what works well in existing programmes such as Flying Start and Families First.

Early Childhood Education and Care

Our **Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)** vision for Wales means removing the artificial divide between education and care settings, ensuring all settings which deliver ECEC contribute to a child's wellbeing and development on an equal basis – one single system with the child at the heart. This means looking at the quality of the provision, how we can ensure as many children as possible can access high quality provision and what we need to do to support our workforce. The Welsh Government is embarking upon a ten year journey to adopt an Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) approach in Wales for children aged 0-5.

Child Development Fund

The Child Development Fund was established in response to the impact of the covid pandemic on some of our youngest children. Funding of £7m will be allocated in 2022-23 to LAs in Wales to provide additional support to children and families impacted by the pandemic to address concerns around developmental delay, in areas such as speech, language and communication, fine and gross motor skills and personal and social development.

Early Help

The funding of £7m for Early Help is incorporated within the Children and Communities Grant. It is provided to enable local authorities to continue to drive down waiting lists for early help and support services and provide support as early as possible, to help address the adverse effects of the pandemic on children and young people aged 0-25, including those who are newly vulnerable.

We have provided an additional £40m revenue up to 2024-25 via the Children and Communities Grant (CCG) for early help and support including for Families First and Flying Start, recognising the importance of supporting more children and families across Wales.

Flying Start for children 0-3

Flying Start is a Programme for Government (PfG) Commitment. The Flying Start programme was developed based on evidence of 'what works' in providing children with the best start in life. There are four core components including funded, part-time, high quality childcare, enhanced health visiting, parenting support and speech, language and communication support. It is this combination of integrated support which is critical to its positive impact.

We are continuing to invest in our flagship Flying Start programme which reaches around 36,000 children under four living in some of the most deprived areas across Wales. The evidence shows it is making a difference to those children who access the programme. Funding for Flying Start forms part of the Children and Communities Grant (CCG). We have provided an additional £40m revenue up to 2024-25 for early help and support including for Flying Start, recognising the importance of supporting more children and families across Wales and to ensure we support our youngest children to have the best start in life.

Families First

Families First provides early intervention and prevention services to families across Wales that need additional support, often through advice or more intensive support on parenting. The programme supports some of our most vulnerable children and families. It works to improve outcomes so that every child gets the best possible start in life.

Families First provides coherent, multi-agency packages of support which can have a transformative effect on families' lives. The evidence shows that it is building stronger, more resilient families, providing families with effective support which can have a transformative effect on families' lives. The support helps to prevent families needing far more intensive and expensive support and needing to be taken into care.

Funding for Families First forms part of the Children and Communities Grant (CCG). We have provided an additional £40m revenue up to 2024-25 for early help and support including for Families First recognising the importance of supporting more children and families across Wales.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Wales is a world-leader in its approach to preventing and mitigating ACEs with the research from Public Health Wales instrumental in guiding the direction of policy and delivery in this area. The work to raise ACE awareness is already demonstrating an impact across a range of public services. These include: improved attendance rates in schools, reduced number of pupils

expelled, reduced calls to emergency services and a reduction in tenants evicted in housing services.

The impact of this work has been recognised by Estyn and incorporated into its inspection framework. Preventing and mitigating the impact of ACEs is also key to reducing the number of children becoming looked after.

The £1m budget on ACEs is split between:

- the ACE Support Hub who provide expert advice, information and support to a range of public services to help them become more ACE aware and trauma-informed; and
- programme delivery on the ground, including community based provision to prevent and mitigate the impact of ACEs.

Funding of £1m p.a. for this Spending period will continue to support work that prevents and mitigates ACEs, including work led by the ACE Support Hub. Important projects in this area include the development and implementation of the new Welsh Government ACEs plan and trauma informed knowledge and skills framework.

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Draft Budget 2022-23 allocations

▪ Information on the impact of the pandemic on the Health and Social Services MEG in both 2021-22 and 2022-23, including movements in and out of budget lines, the gross contribution to -and receipt from - the Welsh Government's COVID-19 budgetary response, as well as the net effect of this.

This budget covers a three period from 22-23 to 24-25. The settlement is front loaded with a much larger increase in 2022-23 and lower relative uplifts in the second and third years. There are no specific Covid allocations but MEG settlements have been assessed through the budget setting process with agreement to prioritise delivery of the Programme for Government, funding for health, social care and local authorities; and to undertake a zero based review of capital to align capital budgets to the new Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy (WIIS).

The HSS MEG will increase from a revenue baseline of £8.597 billion up to £10.05 billion by 2024-25.

The HSS MEG settlement for provides for an increase in baseline NHS revenue budgets in 2022-23 of £824m, with further increases of £250m and £200m in 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively.

In addition to the £824m NHS funding uplift allocated for 22-23, the HSS MEG settlement also includes specific allocations for:

- Mental health £50m, increasing to £90m by 24-25
- Social care £45m, increasing to £60m by 24-25 and;
- **Childcare and early years £28m, increasing to £30m by 24-25.**

The core investment in the NHS will increase by an additional £1.274bn in this budget, taking our total baseline investment in 2024-25 to £9.683bn. This significant increase will provide the foundation for the NHS in its ongoing response to the pandemic and to support addressing the legacy on health and wellbeing.

Recurrent revenue funding of £190m for NHS recovery has been committed, including £20m a year to support the implementation of a value-based approach to recovery over the medium term, with a focus on improving outcomes that matter to patients.

We will also allocate £180m recurrently from 2022-23 onwards to help the NHS manage the financial impact of the pandemic on their underlying financial position, including recognising the impact the pandemic has had on productivity and efficiency. We expect the NHS to return to pre-pandemic efficiency levels as the impact of COVID on core services eases.

Whilst the future of the coronavirus pandemic is still very uncertain, we have set aside funding in this budget for ongoing Covid interventions, specifically contact tracing, testing, mass vaccination and provision of PPE to the NHS and social care. This funding will be kept under review as we work through the current challenges of the pandemic.

In 21-22, the HSS MEG was allocated £1.157 billion of additional Covid response and recovery funding. This covered a range of areas from direct NHS and social care response to NHS recovery and additional support for Children and Families.

- Information on the availability and use of the COVID Local Government Hardship Fund for children and young people

The local government hardship fund has been used to support the full range of services during the Covid pandemic. The children's social services area was supported in 2020-21 with £16.3m for additional costs and £2.3m for loss of income. In 2021-22 the area has been supported to date with £8.4m for additional costs and £0.6m for loss of income.

Children, Young People & Education Committee - Date: 13th January 2022

Commentary on each of the Children's budgets Actions within the Health and Social Services MEG, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2022-23 and the First Supplementary Budget (June 2021).

Action: Delivery of Targeted NHS Services BEL 060 – AHW Early Years allocation		
2020-21 First Supplementary Budget June 2021 £m	Draft Budget 2022-23 £m	Change £m
7.000	11.500	18.500

BEL 60 in the Delivery of Targeted NHS Services Action contains the original funding allocation made to support A Healthier Wales. As part of this budget provision there was baseline of £7m to support the Early Years (as at 1st sup budget 2021).

As part of the £28m uplift in Draft budget for Childcare & Early Years, £11.5m has been allocated to BEL 60, resulting in a revised budget for Early Years of £18.5m for 22-23.

Action: Supporting Children		
2020-21 First Supplementary Budget June 2021 £m	Draft Budget 2022-23 £m	Change £m
94.761	108.611	13.850

The bulk of funding in this action supports the childcare offer (which is subject to scrutiny by the CYP&E Committee). This action also contains his action funding for the Looked after Children Transition Grant (LACTG) which provides funding for a number of initiatives which improve outcomes for looked after children so that all children in care have the same life chances as other children. It also contains the Vulnerable Children budget which supports children who have been adopted to ensure they and their family have the necessary access to support services to begin their family life.

Explanation of Changes to the Supporting Children Action

Remove 21-22 in-year Covid Allocations & Adjustments

- £(4.550)m - in year COVID allocations (2nd Supp)

New allocations for 22-23

- **£16.500** - New allocations as part of Draft Budget Childcare

Allocations within MEG for 22-23

- **£1.900m** – Technical adjustments, MEG to MEG allocation made in 21-22 not in starting position for Draft Budget 22-23.

Action: CAF/CASS Cymru		
2020-21 First Supplementary Budget June 2021 £m	Draft Budget 2022-23 £m	Change £m
13.652	14.725	1.073

Cafcass Cymru is a demand-led operational service delivers a statutory service to the Family Court in Wales on behalf of Welsh Ministers. Cafcass Cymru practitioners work with nearly 9,000 of the most vulnerable children and young people in the family justice system, ensuring our interventions promote the voice of the child, is centred on their rights, welfare and best interests to achieve better outcomes for the child involved in the Family Justice System in Wales.

The organisation seeks to influence the family justice system and services for children in Wales, providing high quality advice to Ministers and ensuring the needs of Welsh families and children are reflected in process and policy developments. Aside from staffing and running costs for the organisation, the budget provides grant funding to support separated parents, when directed by the Family Court, to have contact with their children. The budget also funds the provision of the Working Together for Children programme which supports parents who have separated, or are separating, to better manage their own behaviour to ensure the emotional, practical and physical needs and best interest of their children are paramount.

Explanation of Changes to the CAF/CASS Cymru Action

Allocations within MEG for 22-23

- **£1.073m** – Technical adjustments Action to Action within HSS MEG

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

RESOURCE BUDGET			£'000							
Action	BEL No.	BEL Description	2021-22 Final Budget	Baseline Adjustments	2021-22 Revised Baseline	2022-23 MEG to MEG Transfers	2022-23 Transfers Within MEG	2022-23 Other Allocations from / Transfer to Reserves	2022-23 Draft Budget	COMMENTS
Delivery of Core NHS Services	0020	Core NHS Allocations	8,129,759	-440,000	7,689,759		-47,616	786,971	8,499,783	Agreed technical transfers Draft Budget: additional NHS funding
	0030	Other Direct NHS Allocations	269,744	0	269,744		-39,279	70,669	230,465	Draft Budget: Provisional Additional Non Fiscal Resource requirement Agreed technical transfers
	0035	Digital Health and Care Wales	0	0	0		55,732	1,119	56,851	Agreed technical transfers Draft Budget: Provisional Additional Non Fiscal Resource requirement DHCW
	0050	Health Education Improvement Wales	261,478	0	261,478		11,610	29,365	302,484	Agreed technical transfers Draft Budget: additional funding (HEIW commissioning numbers)
	0250	Public Health Wales	116,320	0	116,320		6,309	31	128,982	Draft Budget: Provisional Additional Non Fiscal Resource requirement HEIW Agreed technical transfers
								6,353		
Total Delivery of Core NHS Services			8,777,301	-440,000	8,337,301	0	-13,244	894,508	9,218,565	
Delivery of Targeted NHS Services	0186	Workforce (NHS)	34,528	0	34,528		-452		34,076	Agreed technical transfers
	0060	A Healthier Wales	133,826	-5,000	128,826		-52,780	11,500	87,546	Agreed technical transfers Draft Budget: Early Years services funding
	0682	Other NHS Budgets (Expenditure)	21,070	0	21,070		12,362		33,432	Agreed technical transfers
	0682	Other NHS Budgets (Income)	-53,000	0	-53,000				-53,000	
Total Delivery of Targeted NHS Services			136,424	-5,000	131,424	0	-40,870	11,500	102,054	
Support Education & Training of the NHS Workforce	0140	Education and Training	25,680	0	25,680		-1,201	1,311	25,790	Agreed technical transfers Draft Budget: additional Education & training commissioning funding
	0185	Workforce Development Central Budgets	2,225	0	2,225		-720		1,505	Agreed technical transfers
Total Delivery of Targeted NHS Services			27,905	0	27,905	0	-1,921	1,311	27,295	
Support Mental Health Policies and Legislation	0270	Mental Health	36,260	0	36,260		1,952	50,000	88,212	Agreed technical transfers Draft Budget: additional mental health funding
	Total Support Mental Health Policies and Legislation			36,260	0	36,260	0	1,952	50,000	88,212
Deliver the Substance Misuse Strategy Implementation	1682	Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund	28,725	0	28,725		-140		28,585	Agreed technical transfers
	Total Deliver the Substance Misuse Strategy Implementation			28,725	0	28,725	0	-140	0	28,585
Food Standards Agency	0380	Food Standards Agency	3,610	0	3,610		1,500		5,110	Agreed technical transfers
	Total Food Standards Agency			3,610	0	3,610	0	1,500	0	5,110
Public Health Programmes	0233	Health Promotion	9,071	0	9,071		3,133		12,204	Agreed technical transfers
	0232	Targeted Health Protection & Immunisation	5,870	0	5,870		722		6,592	Agreed technical transfers
	Total Public Health Programmes			14,941	0	14,941	0	3,855	0	18,796
Health Improvement	0231	Health Improvement & Healthy Working	8,514	0	8,514		870		9,384	Agreed technical transfers
	Total Health Improvement			8,514	0	8,514	0	870	0	9,384
Effective Health Emergency Preparedness Arrangements	0230	Health Emergency Planning	6,025	0	6,025		-18		6,007	Agreed technical transfers
	Total Effective Health Emergency Preparedness Arrangements			6,025	0	6,025	0	-18	0	6,007
Develop & Implement R&D for Patient & Public Benefit	0260	Research and Development	42,075	0	42,075		470		42,545	Agreed technical transfers
	Total Develop & Implement R&D for Patient & Public Benefit			42,075	0	42,075	0	470	0	42,545
Social Care and Support	0460	Safeguarding & Advocacy	2,365	0	2,365				2,365	
	0661	Older People Carers & People with Disabilities	2,197	0	2,197		1,473		3,670	Agreed technical transfers
Total Social Care and Support			4,562	0	4,562	0	1,473	0	6,035	
Partnership & Integration	0620	Partnership & Integration	227	0	227				227	
	0700	Care Sector	299	0	299				299	
Total Partnership & Integration			526	0	526	0	0	0	526	
Sustainable Social Services	0920	Sustainable Social Services	12,715	0	12,715		45,000		99,715	Agreed technical transfers Draft Budget: additional Social Services funding
	Total Sustainable Social Services			12,715	0	12,715	0	45,000	42,000	99,715
Social Care Wales	0582	Social Care Wales	22,613	0	22,613			3,000	25,613	Draft Budget: additional Social Services (Social Care Wales) funding
	Total Social Care Wales			22,613	0	22,613	0	3,000	3,000	25,613
Supporting Children	0310	Support for Childcare and Play	80,251	0	80,251			15,500	95,751	Draft Budget: Allocation of funding Childcare Offer.
	0311	Support for Children's Rights	991	0	991			29	1,020	Draft Budget: Allocation of £0.29m in 2022-23 in respect of children's rights and funding towards Children in Wales.
	0410	Supporting Children	3,865	0	3,865				3,865	
	1085	Support for Families and Children	7,004	0	7,004			971	7,975	Draft Budget: Allocation of £0.971m in 2022-23 supporting a range of programmes aimed at helping children and parents.
Total Supporting Children			92,111	0	92,111	0	0	16,500	108,611	
CAFCASS Cymru	1268	CAFCASS Cymru	13,652	0	13,652		1,073		14,725	Agreed technical transfers
	Total CAFCASS Cymru			13,652	0	13,652	0	1,073	0	14,725
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES - TOTAL RESOURCE BUDGET			9,227,959	-445,000	8,782,959	0	0	1,018,819	9,801,778	

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 1

Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus a Gweinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus

Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Manon Antoniazzi
Chief Executive and Clerk
Senedd Commission

10 December 2021

Dear Manon

Use of the term BAME

During the Committee's consideration of its draft report, Scrutiny of Accounts: Senedd Commission 2020-21, there were a number of references to the acronym BAME. One Member asked that this not be used as citizens who represent this community, feel it is offensive. The Committee Members were in full agreement and where the term had been used in the narrative rather than a direct quote from a publication or the Record of Proceedings, it was amended to read 'ethnic minority communities'. I am sure you will have seen this phrase in our recently published report.

The Committee asked that I write to you requesting that the Senedd Commission stops using the term BAME. The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities produced an independent Report in April 2021 for the UK Government to investigate race and ethnic disparities in the UK. One of the areas considered, was the use of the terms BAME and BME, and in March 2021, the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities recommended that the UK government stop using the term BAME. The UK government is currently considering its response to the Commission's Report.

The Committee would welcome the Senedd Commission's views on this request once it has been fully considered.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

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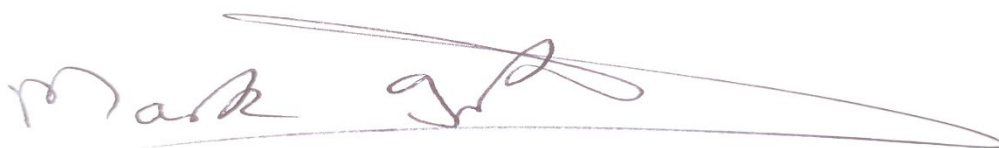
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I am copying this letter to all Committee chairs requesting that consideration be given to not using the term BAME in any committee correspondence and publications.

Thank you

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Isherwood', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Mark Isherwood MS
Committee Chair

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 2

**Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth,
Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad**

**Legislation, Justice and
Constitution Committee**

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Jeremy Miles MS
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

10 December 2021

Dear Jeremy

Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill: Further questions

Thank you for joining our meeting on Monday 6 December to give evidence on the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill.

As mentioned during the session, we have a number of additional questions in relation to the Bill, which are set out in the Annex.

We would be grateful to receive your response by 19 January 2022.

I am copying this letter to Jayne Bryant, Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Yours sincerely



Huw Irranca-Davies
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

ANNEX

General

1. Can you confirm what assessments have been undertaken in relation to the human rights impact of the Bill and what the outcome of these assessments has been? In particular, are you satisfied that the rights of entry and inspection provided for in sections 62 and 72 of the Bill are compliant with the *Human Rights Act 1998*?
2. The Statement of Policy Intent for this Bill sets out a list of 20 regulation-making powers largely inherited from existing legislation, referred to as the inherited powers. Are each of the inherited powers subject to the same Senedd scrutiny procedure as they are in the existing legislation? Can you also confirm that where powers in the Bill previously existed in a different form, for example previously a regulation making power but now a power to make directions, the same or a higher procedure is applied? It would be helpful to have a comprehensive list setting out the position in relation to each of the powers.
3. Why isn't the Welsh Ministers' power to issue directions under paragraph 1 of Schedule 15 dealt with in the Statement of Policy Intent?

Part 1

4. Section 11 of the Bill requires the Welsh Ministers to publish a statement of strategic priorities in relation to tertiary education and research and innovation. Can you clarify why there is no duty on the face of the Bill on the Welsh Ministers to consult any other party when preparing the statement?
5. Section 13(4) of the Bill requires the Commission to publish its approved strategic plan but provides no timescale for doing so. Why is this?
6. Section 22 of the Bill introduces Schedule 2, which provides the Welsh Ministers with the power to make schemes to transfer staff, property, rights and liabilities from HEFCW and the Welsh Ministers to the Commission. There is no provision for the Senedd to scrutinise this scheme. Can you explain why this is the case?

Part 2

7. Section 23 provides for various regulation-making powers in relation to the registration of providers by the Commission. The Statement of Policy Intent explains that:

"the funding structure (and hence appropriate regulation) of tertiary education (particularly higher education) across the UK has changed frequently in recent years, with changes in other UK administrations often having an effect on funding policy in Wales. These changes have occurred at a rate faster than is appropriate or practicable for the Welsh Government to respond with primary legislation regarding the details of regulation in each and every instance. The Bill enables details of the regulatory framework to be changed in response to any future changes in the structure or funding of the tertiary sector in Wales."

Can you provide further information on this and confirm whether discussions are taking place with the other UK administrations to ensure that the law is able to keep pace with the changes?

8. There are several sections in the Bill where "examples" are given for matters that regulations may cover, for example, sections 25(4) and section 59(2). Does the Minister consider that this may lead some readers to think that the regulations in question can only cover the matters listed?
9. Section 30(2)(b) provides for the Welsh Ministers to make regulations to specify what constitutes a "fee limit category". This power is subject to the affirmative procedure, but the three other regulation-making powers in section 30 which also deal with fee limits are subject to the negative procedure. Can you explain why all of the powers in this section are not subject to the affirmative procedure when they deal with the same subject matter?
10. With regard to the intervention powers of the Welsh Ministers under the Bill, section 68 gives the Welsh Ministers the power to give a direction directly to a provider's governing body. The Statement of Policy Intent confirms that this is intended to be used when the Commission has exhausted its intervention functions or when the matter is so serious that urgent action is required. Why are these conditions not reflected on the face of the Bill?
11. In relation to section 77(4) of the Bill, the Statement of Policy Intent indicates that any regulations made under this provision would be "broadly similar" to the current arrangements in the Higher Education (Fee and Access Plans) (Notices and Directions) (Wales) Regulations 2015. Can you confirm what is meant by the phrase "broadly similar"?

Part 3

12. Section 86(6) of the Bill contains regulation-making powers which the Statement of Policy Intent says are not currently intended to be used. Why are they included in this Bill? Would they not be better addressed in the future if and when the need arises?
13. In relation to section 91, the Statement of Policy Intent says that "The use of secondary legislation to determine the scope of relevant education and eligibility for the purpose of the

funding duty is intended to enable a progressive expansion of the funded adult further education and training offer over time to address evolving patterns of need." Similarly, the Statement of Policy Intent uses wording such as "not current government policy" and "should the need arise" in the context of regulation making powers under sections 95 and 101. Can you expand on this and explain why you consider it to be appropriate to put these powers in place now, rather than when the need actually arises?

14. Part 3 of the Bill deals with the funding of tertiary education and research. Virtually all of the powers in this Part for the Welsh Ministers to make regulations are subject to the affirmative procedure. However, section 106 of the Bill enables the Welsh Ministers to issue directions to the Commission in the event that funds are being mismanaged by a provider and these directions are subject to no procedure other than being laid before the Senedd. These are broadly modelled on the existing section 57 of the *Further and Higher Education Act 1992* relating to HEFCW, where such directions can only be given by order of the Welsh Ministers which is subject to the negative procedure. Can you confirm why such directions are not subject to a scrutiny procedure before the Senedd?

Part 4

15. The Statement of Policy Intent notes that a number of the powers in Part 4 "build upon, or re-enact, existing regulation making powers in the *Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009*". Can you confirm that, where this is the case, the scrutiny procedure which was applicable under the 2009 Act remains applicable under the Bill?

Part 5

16. Section 130(6) imposes a duty on the Welsh Ministers to publish guidance regarding factors they will take into account when deciding whether to approve a body or individual to receive application to acceptance information and to carry out and publish research in relation to such information. There is no requirement for this guidance to be laid before the Senedd. Can you explain why this is the case?

Part 7

17. Section 135 preserves a wide-ranging power to dissolve higher education corporations with no justification for the retention of this power other than that it is a "desirable position". Do you consider this to be sufficient justification and can you expand on the reasons for the retention of this power?

Agenda Item 6.3

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 3

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/4120/21

Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP
Secretary of State for Education
Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3B



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

13 December 2021

Dear Nadhim

Thank you for your letter of 2 December in connection with the UK Government's amendments tabled to the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill at House of Commons Committee stage and your updated devolution analysis of the Bill.

Local Skills Improvement Plans

The UK Government's amendments tabled on 23 November and subsequently agreed at Commons Committee stage on 2 December remove Welsh further and higher education institutions from the scope of the local skills improvement plans duties under clause 1 of the Bill. I am pleased to confirm that the amendments address my concerns about the imposition of statutory duties on Welsh institutions.

I welcome the constructive engagement that has taken place between our officials and your recognition of the devolved matters affected by the local skills improvement plans proposals. In light of the amendments made to the Bill I consider that **clauses 1 and 4** no longer require the consent of the Senedd.

Devolution analysis of the Bill

Thank you for providing your updated devolution analysis of the Bill.

I consider **clause 15** (clause 14 in the Bill as introduced) engages section 107(6) of the Government of Wales Act 2006. The Legislative Consent Memorandum which I laid before the Senedd in July indicates that I am content to recommend that the Senedd gives its consent in respect of this clause.

I agree with your conclusions regarding **clauses 27, 28 and 35** concerning insolvency and designation arrangements. It is my view that these clauses do not require the legislative consent of the Senedd.

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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.

Clause 17 concerning Universal Credit conditionality does not, in my view, require the legislative consent of the Senedd.

Finally, in respect of **clauses 18 and 25** my view is that these clauses would require the consent of the Senedd if they remained in the Bill. It is important that any legislation affecting further and higher education in Wales takes into consideration the specific Welsh context. It appears that these clauses have not taken either the devolution settlement or the Welsh context into account. I am therefore pleased to note that the UK Government has tabled amendments which seek to remove them from the Bill.

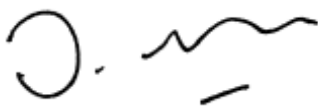
I have laid a further supplementary [Legislative Consent Memorandum \(Memorandum No. 3\)](#) in respect of amendments to the Bill.

Prohibition of essay mills

I would also like to note the amendments accepted at House of Lords Report stage on essay mills. I consider a UK-wide approach is needed to tackle this issue. I am encouraged to note Baroness Barran, in her letter to peers on 6 October, stated that the UK Government does want to continue discussions on a UK-wide approach to this issue with the devolved governments. I discussed this matter with your colleague Michelle Donelan MP, Minister of State for Higher and Further Education, on 8 December and I am pleased that she is supportive of joint working. I am grateful for the continued engagement of your officials with my officials during the passage of the Bill. This is something I support and encourage. I hope that discussions at official level to consider how a UK-wide approach to tackling essay mills might be achieved can commence as soon as possible.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales, to my colleague Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy and to Jayne Bryant MS, Chair of the Children, Young People, and Education Committee, Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and Paul Davies MS, Chair of the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Agenda Item 6.4

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 4

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Jayne Bryant MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
Senedd Cymru
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

14 December 2021

Dear Jayne

Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill

Thank you for your letter of 24 November following my attendance at Committee to give evidence on the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill ('the Bill'). Your letter raised a number of questions to which I have responded in the Annex to this letter.

In establishing a single body with responsibility across the tertiary education sector, the Bill will enable the Commission to develop more effective and meaningful relationships across the sector. In your letter you queried how the relationship between employers, awarding bodies, the Commission and Qualifications Wales could improve through the Bill.

Whilst the statutory role and functions of Qualifications Wales won't change as a direct result of the introduction of the Bill and the establishment of the Commission, the Bill does enable the sharing of information between both bodies for the purposes of each being able to exercise their statutory functions effectively. Qualifications Wales will continue to regulate qualifications awarded in Wales by recognised awarding bodies below degree level. Qualifications Wales regulate apprenticeship qualification in Wales and therefore have an important role to play in improving the quality of the apprenticeship programme, ensuring that qualifications contained in apprenticeships meet employer and apprentice needs.

It is my intention that the Commission will work closely with employers, awarding bodies and Qualification Wales in the development and review of apprenticeship frameworks to ensure those frameworks remain relevant to employer needs, sector standards and changing technology.

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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.

I anticipate that the Wales Apprenticeship Advisory Board will also continue to play a significant role. As an independent enterprise-led Board, with representatives from business, trade unions, further education bodies, this Board serves to provide advice and recommendations on matters relating to the content of apprenticeship frameworks and priorities in relation to their development in Wales. Informed by input from Regional Skills Partnerships, it contributes to improvements in the scope and impact of the apprenticeship offer in Wales.

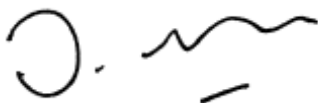
In the meantime, stakeholders from across the sector are represented on the PCET Strategy and Implementation Board, and I will continue working with all parts of the sector collegiately to bring about the changes we want to see.

Turning to implementation, as I mentioned during Committee, there is a significant programme of work to be completed in order to successfully establish a Commission that is fit for purpose and commands the confidence of the tertiary education sector. It remains my intention to establish the Commission in 2023, with a phased approach to implementation continuing across 2024 and into 2025, and I am considering how best to approach this so as to ensure continuity of provision during the transition to the Commission.

In respect of when an implementation plan may be available for the Committee's consideration, my officials continue to scope and develop this work. I wish to ensure that we provide key stakeholders with appropriate opportunity to inform this work so anticipate that it will probably be February when I am in a position to provide this to the Committee.

This letter has been copied to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Finance Committee.

I look forward to attending on 13 January to give further evidence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark on the left and a series of wavy lines extending to the right, ending in a short horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

1. What is Welsh Government's evidence base for believing the Bill will realise Welsh Government's intent?

Your cost-benefit analysis by Alma Economics identified gaps in the evidence-base and appears to have had some misunderstandings about the nature of the proposed reforms.

For example it indicates that the Commission will bring together the sector under one regulatory umbrella, and cites that this will eliminate confusion around overlapping roles of a number of organisations, it then lists a number of organisations which are outside devolved competence, such as the UK Government Department for Education and Skills; and the QAA

- 1.1 In 2015, Professor Ellen Hazelkorn undertook a review of the oversight of post-compulsory education and training in Wales. The review examined the effectiveness of the current arrangements, in particular in relation to funding, governance, quality assurance, standards and the management of risk.
 - 1.2 Professor Hazelkorn's report was published on 10 March 2016 and made two primary recommendations. The first, that the Welsh Government should develop an overarching vision for the PCET system, with stronger links between education/training policy, providers and social and economic goals. The second was that a new, arm's length body should be established to be the sole regulatory, coordinating and oversight authority for the post-compulsory system.
 - 1.3 Subsequently the Welsh Government undertook a White Paper consultation and a technical consultation and engaged extensively with stakeholders to develop the necessary legislative provision so as to deliver on the recommendations made by Professor Hazelkorn.
 - 1.4 The cost-benefit analysis by Alma Economic highlighted difficulties in identifying the causal link between policy changes and the potential savings for the future (in relation to education reforms generally rather than this set of reforms in particular), however it also identified potential benefits and opportunities that these changes could bring.
 - 1.5 We know that our tertiary education sector has a number of barriers created by the institutional and sector divide. Removing these barriers, utilising resources collectively and making the learner the focus has clear potential to enable a more appropriate allocation of resources to learners needs, including the flexibility to address both gaps and duplication of provision. It also provides the opportunity to bring the learner voice into shaping provision for the future, ensuring that career pathways are more clearly articulated and accessible, and parity of esteem is progressed.
- 2. No clear rationale is present in the Explanatory Memorandum on why some options were dropped early on in the process. This makes it very difficult to understanding Welsh Government's decision-making process for this new Bill. Can you explain why there isn't more information on this available to us?**
- 2.1 In developing the Bill, a robust and detailed options identification and appraisal process was undertaken. Chapter 7 of the Explanatory Memorandum sets out the

approach taken, and details the long list of six options (plus sub-options) considered, and the scoring and appraisal which resulted in their being discounted.

- 2.2 As set out in the Explanatory Memorandum, the long list options were subject to two options appraisal processes where they were assessed against five high level goals, consistent with the Welsh Government's priorities for tertiary education as articulated in the Welsh Government's Strategic Vision, and eleven high level objectives.
- 2.3 Each option was evaluated and scored in accordance with a set scoring scale and upon completion of the appraisal / scoring process each option was classified as either Discounted, Preferred, or Possible
 - The discounted options were identified due to a variety of factors alone or in combination, including scoring low against the high level objectives or not providing benefits across the whole tertiary education sector or
 - being undeliverable due to insufficient political and/or stakeholder support
- 2.4 The Explanatory Memorandum subsequently sets out the detailed analysis of the preferred option, the possible option (the second highest scoring option) and the do nothing option, this is in line with common practice.

3. How will the regulatory and funding transition be managed considering providers will need to apply for registration and prepare those applications?

- 3.1 Work relating to the implementation of the Bill has been progressing in the background for a while, for example through workshops with stakeholders regarding the identification of the strategic requirements for the Commission, and consideration of the necessary arrangements, both legal and operational, to ensure a smooth transition from the current arrangements to the new arrangements.
- 3.2 My officials are currently scoping the work necessary to further develop a high level implementation plan, supported by a programme of legislation for implementation. Our key focus will be understanding the lead times for the main pillars within the Bill which are the registration system, quality framework and extended FE provision. My officials have started to engage with key stakeholders regarding the development of this plan and this engagement will continue over the coming months.
- 3.3 The full implementation of the Commission's functions, as provided for in the Bill, will span into 2025. This will enable robust engagement with stakeholders during the implementation and ensure that the Commission is able to lead in key areas.

4. What is the rationale for not giving the Commission powers to establish its own coherent funding framework, but to instead set eligibility for funding based on Welsh Minister's regulations?

- 4.1 I believe that the Bill enables the Commission to establish a coherent funding framework. Legislating for a new body requires striking the right balance by ensuring there are clear limits governing that new body's power, whilst ensuring flexibility to ensure such a body can work effectively over the long-term.

- 4.2 Section 85 of the Bill enables the Commission to provide financial support to specified providers in respect of the provision of higher education and the carrying on of other activities. “Specified providers” are those registered in certain categories which are specified in regulations made by the Welsh Ministers. The intention is that providers registered in those categories will be eligible for direct funding from the Commission. Regulations must be made by the Welsh Ministers in order for funding to be provided pursuant to section 85.
- 4.3 The same principles apply in respect of the funding of research and innovation pursuant to section 102 of the Bill which makes provision for the Commission to provide funding to specified providers for the purposes of, or in connection with, research or innovation. The Welsh Ministers also have the option to provide, by way of regulations, that funding in respect of the provision of approved Welsh apprenticeships and further education and training may only be provided by the Commission to registered providers in certain categories (sections 101(3) and 95(2) refer, respectively). Separately, it is intended that higher education courses provided by registered providers will be designated for certain amounts of student support, depending on the category in which the provider is registered. Courses would be designated for student support through regulations made under the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998.
- 4.4 Taken together, these regulations will ensure the benefits that providers receive are aligned with the regulatory requirements placed on them. Setting out the relevant categories of registration ensures transparency and allows for scrutiny by Senedd members.
- 4.5 The Bill enables the Commission to fund the full range of tertiary education including school sixth form provision, further education, adult community based learning and higher education. The funding powers reflect the different operating environments of local authorities, providers of further education and training and providers of higher education. The Commission will determine funding allocations to eligible providers.
- 5. The legislation enables Government to fund research around the Commission through retaining powers under the Science and Technology Act 1965 and the Higher Education Act 2004. Can you set out the logic for this?**
- 5.1 Welsh Ministers have held powers to fund research and innovation since the beginning of devolution. Welsh Government funds a large number of research and innovation programmes directly across a range of areas including health research, business innovation, and programmes such as Ser Cymru, with many of these programmes having been reliant on EU funding. It is not Welsh Government policy to remove Welsh Ministers’ powers to fund these areas. .
- 5.2 The Commission will inherit HEFCW’s responsibilities for funding research and innovation, including QR research funding, postgraduate research funding, research capital funding, and the higher education innovation funding recently re-introduced.
- 5.3 Registered further education institutions within a specified category (currently expected to be the higher education – core category) will be eligible to receive funding from the Commission for research and innovation. Unregistered FE institutions can also receive research and innovation funding from the Commission via another registered institution with whom they are collaborating.

6. What is the rationale for not expecting all providers to meet the equality of opportunity on-going condition for registration? Which providers will be expected to meet this condition?

- 6.1 Following consideration of responses to the consultation on the Draft Bill, proposals in respect of institutional Access and Opportunity Plans have been removed from the Bill, and replaced by a more general registration condition for registered providers for access to and other aspects of the provision of tertiary education fairer and more just.
- 6.2 Initially, it is intended to provide for two categories of registration (higher education - core and higher education - alternative) and for both of these categories to be subject to the equality of opportunity registration condition. This would therefore include all providers seeking to be designated for Welsh Government student support.
- 6.3 The Commission will also have a clear strategic duty to promote widening participation, improved retention, reduced attainment gaps, and support for students in tertiary education from under-represented groups and disadvantaged demographics.
- 6.4 It will be for the Commission to determine the precise requirements of the equality of opportunity registration condition, as well as any equality of opportunity requirements it might require of funded providers via Outcome Agreements and terms and conditions of funding. We expect that the Commission will develop its policy in this area in consultation with providers, staff and student representatives.
- 6.5 It is worth noting that many tertiary education providers in Wales, such as schools, colleges and universities, are already under a number of duties related to equality under the Equality Act 2010.
- 6.6 I am however giving further consideration to whether to include provision on the face of the Bill, to subject all registered providers to the equality of opportunity on-going condition for registration. This would result in any future categories of registration automatically being subject to the equality of opportunity condition rather than being dependant on the making of regulations. I will keep the Committee informed as this work progresses.

7. To what extent have you addressed HEFCW's concerns regarding the consideration of quality arrangements for transnational education, validation arrangements and degree apprenticeships?

- 7.1 The duty of the Commission to assess the quality of higher education extends to higher education provided:
- by a registered provider;
 - on behalf of each registered provider (whether by another registered provider or by an external provider)
- 7.2 Those providers who are providing higher education on behalf of a registered provider are captured by this duty whether they are in or outside of Wales.

- 7.3 The higher education elements of degree apprenticeships are “higher education” for the purposes of quality assessment provisions of the Bill, and therefore the duty to assess quality in the higher education elements of degree apprenticeships will be held by the Commission, and is due to be conducted by the designated body (or by the Commission itself if the Commission so chooses).
- 7.4 It is understood that HEFCW, QAA and Estyn have been in discussions about the ways in which Estyn’s experience of inspecting apprenticeships could support the assessment of quality in respect of the higher education elements of degree apprenticeships. It will be for the Commission, the designated quality body and Estyn to agree what role Estyn might have here in the future.
- 7.5 In addition, section 55 of the Bill enables the Welsh Ministers to specify, in regulations, education and training that falls within Estyn’s remit, and this could include higher education elements of degree apprenticeships where considered necessary or desirable.
- 8. Post legislative scrutiny of the HE Act found that the quality assurance system for further education providers that delivered higher education meant subjecting institutions to both QAA and Estyn requirements. The Bill appears to continue this situation – can you set out the rationale for this.**
- 8.1 The Bill delineates the responsibilities of Estyn and the designated quality body (or the Commission if it chooses not to designate a body) by type of provision rather than by provider. This is necessary to ensure that there is consistency in how further education provision is assessed across schools and colleges, and how higher education is assessed across colleges and universities.
- 8.2 The Bill requires Estyn to agree its plan of inspections for provision within the Commission’s remit with the Commission, and for the designated quality body to conduct its higher education quality assessments in accordance with any arrangements made with the Commission. This will enable much better coordination and join-up of assessments and inspections in providers which might be subject to both. Additionally, Estyn and the designated body will be expected to align their processes with the Commission’s overall priorities and frameworks for quality, which we hope will create additional coherence and alignment.
- 9. During the session, you agreed to respond in writing to this question: Do main apprenticeship contractors currently need consent from Welsh Government to pass on funding to sub-contractors, and if not, what's the rationale for changing this in the Bill to require consent?**
- 9.1 Current apprenticeship providers are enabled, through the terms and conditions set out in their contracts with the Welsh Government, to appoint sub-contractors without the written consent of the Welsh Ministers. Those terms and conditions also require apprenticeship providers to satisfy themselves, on a continuing basis, as to the financial standing of any sub-contractor they engage and its ability to perform whatever tasks the sub-contractor is retained to perform.

- 9.2 The Bill makes provision for the Commission to provide consent for the passage of funds from directly funded providers to collaborating bodies for or in connection with the provision of an approved Welsh apprenticeship.
- 9.3 In relation to the provision of financial support by the Commission for approved Welsh apprenticeships, collaborating bodies are providers who are:
- providing, or have provided, an approved Welsh apprenticeship on behalf of the directly funded provider or
 - are working, or have worked, in collaboration with the provider for the purpose for which the financial support was provided by the Commission.
- 9.4 As the Commission may not have a direct regulatory or funding relationship with the collaborating body, this framework of controls will allow it to take appropriate action, for example the withholding or withdrawal of consent or the giving of consent subject to conditions. The rationale being to better enable the Commission to take steps to protect the interests of learners, ensure the proper use of public money and protect the reputation of the Welsh tertiary education and research sector.

10. How do you envisage Learner Protection Plans will support students who wish to transfer courses when there are often systemic barriers to doing so, such as recognising advanced standing and credit transfer?

- 10.1 The learner protection plan provisions are intended to support the implementation of consistent arrangements across the tertiary education sector to protect the interests of a learner in the event of a course or campus closure, a provider failure or a learner choosing to transfer to another course or provider. The main focus of the provision is to minimise the impact of these events on the learning of individuals and reduce the risk of that individual dropping out of learning.
- 10.2 Whilst there are pockets of good practice across the tertiary education sector, in respect of protecting the interests of learners if the progress of their learning is disrupted by an event such as a course or campus closure or a provider failure, there is a need for a consistent and comprehensive approach across the sector and providing for statutory arrangements in respect of learner protection plans will help ensure such an approach.
- 10.3 It is anticipated that the plans will build on existing good practice, providing a renewed focus to overcoming barriers standing in the way of learners transferring courses to enable them to continue successfully in their learning. It is intended that this will offer learners greater flexibility in the way they study, and aid progression from one level to the next and between different types of learning, for example between further education and higher education.
- 10.4 The Commission will be required to develop guidance, in consultation with stakeholders, on the detail of how the learner protection plans will be developed, including how students can be supported to transfer from one course to another.

10.5 It is vital that prospective and existing learners and staff working for tertiary education providers are aware of these arrangements. The Commission will be able to issue guidance to providers, under of para 22(1)(a) or (b) of Schedule 1, in respect of matters such as how the plans should be communicated appropriately to prospective, and existing learners and staff.

11. To what extent will there be consistency of expectation across all tertiary education providers regarding the level of commitment and content of their Learner Protection Plan?

- 11.1 The Commission is under a duty to issue guidance on the preparation and revision of learner protection plans pursuant to section 122(6) of the Bill. It is envisaged that learner protection plans will be underpinned by a common set of principles based on that guidance, to ensure consistency for learners across the PCET sector.
- 11.2 Draft principles were shared with stakeholders in the Welsh Government's technical consultation "Public Good and a Prosperous Wales – the next steps". These principles included that the plans should be learner centred, be supportive of learners' well-being, be communicated effectively to prospective and existing learners and staff and be underpinned by timely and effective arrangements. It is envisaged that the common set of principles will be finalised by the Commission following consultation with stakeholders as the Commission is under a statutory duty to consult such persons as it considers appropriate before issuing guidance under section 122(6) (as per section 122(7)).
- 11.3 Subject to notice being given, having a Learner Protection Plan approved by the Commission and to give effect to that plan, will be an ongoing registration condition or funding condition, depending on the relationship of a provider with the Commission. Also the Commission will be required to monitor the effectiveness of learner protection plans and include its findings in its annual report.
- 11.4 Although learner protection plans should align with these common principles it is recognised that the detail of these arrangements will differ across the PCET sector. It is intended that a proportionate approach is adopted in the development of learner protection plans, which does not result in additional unnecessary burden for providers but meets the needs of its learners.

Agenda Item 6.5

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 5

At the meeting on Monday 13 December Estyn agreed to provide a note on the numbers of schools that are in the two statutory categories requiring significant improvement and requiring special measures for Estyn monitoring.

The following information about schools and PRUs removed from category this term.

Category	Sector	School number	School name	LA	Date report published
SM	PRI	6692120	Bryn CP School	Carmarthenshire	29/10/21
SM	SEC	6654033	Ysgol Bryn Alyn	Wrexham	04/11/21
SM	SEC	6664011	Newtown High School	Powys	01/11/21
SM	PRI	6722232	Plasnewydd PS	Bridgend	11/11/21
SM	PRI	6722369	Ogmore Vale PS	Bridgend	25/11/21
SM	SEC	6784051	Croesyceiliog School	Torfaen	25/11/21
SM	PRI	6692192	Ysgol Y Castell	Carmarthenshire	26/11/21
SM	SEC	6804003	St Julian's School	Newport	01/12/21
SM	PRU	6741106	Ty Gwyn Education Centre	RCT	06/12/21
SI	SEC	6684063	Milford Haven School	Pembrokeshire	08/11/21
SI	SEC	6744106	Aberdare Community School	RCT	10/11/21
SI	PRI	6813321	St Alban's RC PS	Cardiff	15/12/21
SI	PRI	6742247	Cefn Primary School FED	RCT	13/12/21
SI	PRI	6742225	Craig-yr-Hesg Primary FED	RCT	13/12/21
SI	PRI	6692135	Ysgol Gymraeg Ffwrnes	Carmarthenshire	07/12/21

The list below notes those schools and PRUs still in follow up.

Into category	Category	Sector	WG no.	Provider name	LA
Moved from SI 19/11/18	SM	SEC	6784076	Cwmbran High School	Torfaen
Moved from SI 25/11/19	SM	SEC	6684035	The Greenhill Sch	Pembrokeshire
Moved from SI 26/06/18	SM	SEC	6634026	Denbigh High School	Denbighshire
20/11/17	SM	SEC	6804025	Newport High School	Newport
12/03/18	SM	PRU	6801103	Bridge Achievement Centre	Newport
03/12/18	SM	SEC	6614034	Ysgol Ardudwy	Gwynedd
11/03/19	SM	PRI	6693321	Pentip VA CIW PS	Carmarthenshire
08/04/19	SM	SEC	6784075	Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw	Torfaen
07/10/19	SM	SEC	6654049	Ysgol Clywedog	Wrexham
07/10/19	SM	SEC	6775401	Brynmawr Foundation School	Blaenau Gwent
04/11/19	SM	PRI	6803002	Malpas CIW Primary	Newport
25/11/19	SM	PRI	6642084	Abermorddu CP School	Flintshire
09/12/19	SM	PRI	6622274	Ysgol Awel Y Mynydd	Conwy
05/02/18	SI	AA	6775501	Abertillery Learning Community	Blaenau Gwent
19/11/18	SI	SEC	6684038	Ysgol Harri Tudur	Pembrokeshire
26/11/18	SI	SEC	6664022	Brecon High School	Powys
26/11/18	SI	SEC	6654048	Ysgol Rhosnesni	Wrexham
23/09/19	SI	SEC	6614002	Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen	Gwynedd
07/10/19	SI	PRI	6762388	Ysgol Bro Sannan	Caerphilly
21/10/19	SI	PRI	6762285	Ysgol Gymraeg Gilfach Fargod	Caerphilly
25/11/19	SI	AA	6745501	Porth Community School	RCT
09/03/20	SI	SEC	6664023	Gwernyfed High School	Powys

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 6

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

Children, Young People and Education Committee

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Lynne Neagle MS
Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Date: 17 December 2021

Subject: Perinatal mental health

Dear Lynne,

As you are aware mental health remains one of the leading causes of maternal death during pregnancy and the first postnatal year. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on new and expectant mothers, with parents facing unprecedented pressures, heightened anxieties, stress and social isolation.

Perinatal mental health is a priority for the Committee. We very much welcomed the update you provided in November on the specialist perinatal mental health inpatient service. The Committee would appreciate regular six-monthly updates on the following:

- this service and more broadly on how the Welsh Government is improving access and quality of perinatal mental health services; and
- on the progress in implementing the previous Children, Young People and Education Committee's report recommendations on PMH to ensure that all women and their families in Wales get consistent, accessible and quality care and support for their mental health during pregnancy and postnatally.

We look forward to receiving the first update in the New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Agenda Item 6.7

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 7

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

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17 December 2021

Health Visitor visits

The Children, Young People and Education Committee are seeking information on the proportion of standard contact Health Visitor visits that have been carried out. If you also hold information on why standard visits have not been made, this would also be useful.

We are aware of the data that is made available via the [Healthy Child Wales Programme](#), but as the latest publicly available data refers to 2020, we are seeking some more up to date figures.

If you have any questions or would like clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee clerks (SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales).

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 8

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

—
**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

Deputy Minister for Social Services

Julie Morgan MS

17 December 2021

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Support for children leaving care

Dear Julie,

We have spent time over recent weeks considering which areas of work should be the subject of our first policy inquiries in the new year. One potential area of work relates to the support provided to children and young people who have left, or in the process of leaving, local authority care. This is one of a range of important issues raised by stakeholders in our recent consultation on Committee priorities.

To help us with our forward work and strategic planning, we would be grateful if you could provide us with the following.

1. Information about what support is currently being provided to children and young people who are transitioning from living in care to living independently and those who have left care, and how the impact of that support is monitored and evaluated. This should include the duties **in the Social Services and Well-Being (Act) 2014** and the delivery of corporate parenting across the wide range of statutory services including education, health and housing. The latest data on outcomes for children leaving care in terms of education, employment, housing and health and any plans to collect / publish additional data on outcomes.
2. A detailed update on the **Programme for Government** commitments to:
 - 'explore radical reform of current services for looked after children and care leavers' which includes a timeframe for any announcements; and
 - Strengthen public bodies in their role as 'corporate parent'.

3. An update (which includes the Welsh Government's progress to date, current view of timescales, and how/with whom policy is being developed) on the following, as set out in its **response to the Children Commissioner for Wales' 2020-21 Annual Report**:

"While we intend to bring forward the proposals suggested by the Children's Commissioner as a package of support for care leavers, the statutory elements are not applicable in all cases.

The Welsh Government is committed to working with our partners to develop and implement policies to support care leavers successfully transition to independence. To take forward this commitment we will:

- *Legislate in this Senedd Term to ensure all care leavers have an entitlement to a Personal Advisor up to the age of 25;*
- *Observe and learn from England's experience of banning the use of unregulated placements for under 16s. To use that learning to explore safe and realistic options for use in Wales;*
- *With our partners, continue our work to develop a range of good quality accommodation options for care leavers;*
- *Continue to offer additional support for care leavers to successfully transition towards independent living and this includes continuing the support offered through the St. David's Day Fund."*

4. An update on the development of an alternative approach to the 'When I am Ready' scheme to support young people in children's residential care.
5. Clarification on the future role of the Ministerial Advisory Group for Vulnerable Children which focussed on care experienced children and those leaving care during the Fifth Senedd.
6. Any other information that may be relevant to the Committee's consideration of this important policy area.

I would be very grateful if we could have this information no later than Thursday 13 January 2022 to inform our discussion that will take place in Committee the following week.

If you have concerns about meeting this deadline, or if you or your officials would like clarification of any of the above, please contact the Committee clerks (SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales).

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Bryant

Jayne Bryant MS

Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 6.9

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 9

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

Chief Executives

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17 December 2021

Pupil attendance & training for school governors

Dear Chief Executive,

We scrutinised Estyn's 2020-21 annual report on **13 December 2021**. During that evidence session Estyn raised two important issues with us that we would like to follow up with you.

Pupil attendance

The Welsh Government publishes **weekly attendance statistics**, but some groups of children whose attendance has been particularly badly affected by the pandemic are not included in the data.

Please can you provide us with:

- information about how you are you working with schools to monitor and improve the attendance of pupils who have not returned to school since the two periods of general school closures, have done so on a very limited basis, or have been regularly/persistently absent; and
- any data you hold on the numbers and absence rates of these pupils?

Training for school governors

We heard from Estyn about the support they provide to school governors, including their lay inspector programme, which enables school governors to train as lay inspectors to gain insight into how Estyn carries out its evaluations of schools.

Please can you provide us with information about the support you provide to school governors, including how you are encouraging school governors to take up Estyn's lay inspector training programme?

We would appreciate a response no later than Thursday 20 January 2022, to enable us to consider it at our meeting the following week.

If you have any questions or would like clarification of any of the above points, please don't hesitate to contact the Committee clerks (SeneddChildren@Senedd.Wales).

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant

Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 6.10

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 10

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**Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth,
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Chair, Children, Young People, and Education Committee
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee
Chair, Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations
Committee
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Chair, Finance Committee
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee
Chair, Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

21 December 2021

Dear Chair

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

Last week our report on the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement between Senedd Cymru and the Welsh Government was noted by the Senedd.

I would like to draw your attention to this report, which includes the Agreement.

The Agreement represents the agreed position of the Senedd and the Welsh Government on the information that the Welsh Government will, where appropriate, provide to the Senedd with regard to its participation in formal, ministerial-level inter-governmental meetings, agreements, concordats, and memorandums of understanding.

The Agreement is intended to support the Senedd's capacity to scrutinise Welsh Government activity

and to hold the Welsh Ministers to account in the intergovernmental arena. It therefore may be of interest to you in any future scrutiny work that you undertake.

Yours sincerely

Huw Irranca-Davies

Huw Irranca-Davies

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 6.11

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 11

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peredur Owen Griffiths
MS Chair, Finance
Committee Senedd Cymru
Ty Hywel
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22 December 2021

Dear Peredur,

Thank you for your letter of 26 November following my attendance at Committee to give evidence on the Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill ('the Bill'). Your letter raised a number of questions and I'm pleased to set out answers and further information.

Q. Costs attributed to the new Commission - the Regulatory Impact Assessment notes that the Commission will manage a budget of around £500 million per annum. Can you provide details of what other financial risks the Welsh Government associates with the Bill, by area of cost, along with a breakdown on how each area of cost was calculated?

As implementation of the Commission gathers pace, decisions will be taken that impact on the assumptions made to estimate the overall costs of the Commission both in terms of setting up the Commission and ongoing costs. The three largest financial risks areas associated with the Bill are staffing, IT and location. These areas are subject to potential significant volatility as decisions are made. The costs are broken down as follows

	Transitional costs	Ongoing
	Total £m	
Staff Costs	0.5	13.0
IT Costs - capital	4.9	5.2
Location costs - capital	1.8	0.3

Key risks that could impact these costs are:

- COVID, which has upended assumptions in relation to the kind of office space organisations need. The decisions around location will need to take as much of the impact of COVID and wider societal changes into account or risk burdening

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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 Commission with expensive and/or unsuitable office space. COVID is also driving an increased demand for both IT hardware and specialist skills increasing staffing and IT costs.

- Location, which must take into account the current location of HEFCW and Welsh Government workforce. A relocation from south east Wales (while perhaps saving money initially) could potentially impact the number of staff who transfer into the organisation, increasing staff recruitment and training costs significantly.
- IT strategy Key decisions have not yet been taken so it is likely that some initial cost assumptions may change as choices over systems and processes are finalised.

Further breakdown for ongoing staff and IT costs is covered in the following questions. In addition more details around how estimates were calculated are set out in detail in the original Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA).

As outlined at Committee, when the RIA is revised, in line with standard procedure, after Stage 2, I will ensure that all cost estimates are reviewed against the latest implementation decisions so as to give the most up-to date estimates of cost.

There are two other broad areas of financial risk associated with the Bill that I wanted to mention, as at the present time it has not been able to quantify them. These are the costs of the new powers the Bill confers on the Commission and, if there will be additional costs to bodies in the Tertiary Education Sector as a result of the Bill or the actions of the Commission. In both cases the financial risk is that the Bill would place additional or excessive additional costs on either the Commission or providers in the sector. While it is not possible yet to quantify these risks as they will depend upon decisions taken by the Commission once it is established, we continue to monitor and engage closely with stakeholders to ensure any additional costs incurred due to the bill are absolutely necessary and kept to a minimum.

All the areas of financial risk noted above will be impacted by the decisions taken during the transition phase and I want to reiterate, as I said at Committee, that these costs will be closely managed. In terms of that ensuring that risks are both identified and managed effectively, a post compulsory education and training (PCET) programme team has been established within the Welsh Government. The programme team will manage the delivery of the Bill and oversee the necessary legislative, operational, HR etc. related activity necessary to establish the Commission. The programme team will also be the front line for managing broader risks. In addition there are a number of other controls in place to manage the risks of the project:

- Internally and in line with the requirements of Managing Welsh Public Money the programme to establish the new Commission will be reviewed monthly as part of the normal management accounting and financial management arrangements within Welsh Government. Progress against plan is then considered within the Skills, Higher Education and Lifelong Learning directorate and reviewed periodically by the Economy, Skills and Natural Resources' Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) and if necessary at a higher level by the Welsh Government ARAC. This process may be the focus of subsequent review by Audit Wales and the Public Accounts Committee.
- As mentioned at Committee I have also established a Strategy and Implementation Board, which I chair and whose membership is drawn from key stakeholders from across the tertiary education sector. This Board will work

collectively, providing expert advice to inform and support the delivery of the reforms, transition and implementation of the Bill and the establishment of Commission.

Q. Staff costs are the biggest expense for the new Commission, totalling just under £13 million per annum from 2023-24. During evidence, you stated that “only £3.3 million of those costs are new; the £9.7 million balance relates to existing HEFCW and Welsh Government staffing”. You agreed to provide a breakdown of the £13 million for both the Welsh Government and the Commission staff.

The high level target operating model assumes a staff maximum of 169 for the Commission, including 53 from HEFCW. The staff costs incorporate all current HEFCW staff and a count of WG staff currently working on the functions included in the Bill. It is important to note that no decisions have been made regarding staffing and roles, so these assumptions were taken to estimate costs. The figure of 169 represents the maximum staff needed to run the Commission based on current assumptions. The breakdown of the £13m staff costs is:

	Staff		Cost (£M)	No. of staff
CTER	Existing	HEFCW staff:	£3.2	53
	Existing	Welsh Government transferred in:	£6.5	110
	New	Additional staff for IT, HR and Finance:	£0.4	6
WG	New	New WG Sponsorship Team staff:	£2.9	45
Total			£13.0	214

Q. On-going IT costs for the new Commission are in excess of £5 million per annum anticipated from 2023-34. You provided a breakdown of the estimated IT costs in four main categories: software development (£0.15 million); annual security and recertification (£0.03 million); user costs (£4.28 million); and consultancy costs (£0.69 million) (total £5.15 million). You indicated that some of the costs included in the breakdown would be incurred regardless of the reform, due to upgrading existing systems. Can you provide a breakdown of what the ‘business as usual’ costs would be and the additional costs of the reform; and what risks may impact these costs?

The breakdown of the ongoing ‘business as usual’ costs and their comparison with the ‘ongoing costs’ for the Commission are set out below. The establishment of the Commission offers an opportunity to ensure that the IT system in place is high performing, secure and reliable. Simply maintaining existing legacy systems incurs ‘hidden opportunity costs’ in terms of maintaining inefficient processes. In addition, in time, the systems will not be able to cope with the ambition of the reform and the demands that need to be placed upon them. At this stage costs have been included for upgrading and maintaining existing systems only as opposed to replacement, as it is unclear at this stage exactly when this would have to happen.

	Ongoing IT costs for CTER (£M)	Business as usual costs (£M)	Difference (£M)
IT Running Cost - development software	£0.15	-	£0.15
IT Running cost - annual security recertification	£0.03	-	£0.03

IT Running Costs - user costs	£4.28	£3.13	£1.15
IT Running costs - IT Consultants	£0.69	-	£0.69
Cost of upgrading/maintaining legacy systems	-	£0.25	-£0.25
Total	£5.15	£3.38	£1.77

These forecast costs are driven by assumptions based on the best estimates of need and cost for the new Commission. As noted above decisions are taken through the implementation phase, and indeed beyond, it is likely that some initial assumptions will prove to be wide of the mark. Given that IT running costs for users makes up by far the biggest amount of ongoing costs it is here that the biggest risks of a mismatch occurs. We have mitigated that risk by:

- Being prudent in our cost estimates, for example including using Welsh Government costs for hardware/software at the high end of the scale of cost.
- Testing the assumptions with members of Welsh Government digital profession.
- Including the maximum number of staff in our assumptions.

Q. Data collection - the Bill confers a series of new powers on the Commission, including introducing an improved, compliant and effective data collection, analysis and dissemination system with the aim of ensuring timely, accessible and relevant information about tertiary education in Wales is available for all who need it. You agreed to provide examples of what this data collection might entail.

There are a number of data sources in the tertiary education sector. At this stage no decisions have been made on what data the Commission will collect, and therefore no decision has been taken on additional data, if any is to be collected. However by using an example of data that is already collected by the Welsh Government we can demonstrate what data collection might entail and what improvements we hope to make. The data collection and utilisation systems will play a vital role supporting the Commission in achieving the aims of the reform. The systems will contribute to the evidence base underpinning the important decisions that the Commission will take every day.

A large set of data that the Commission may either need to collect, or have access to, is data currently collected via the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR). Operational data is collected on a monthly basis from approximately 48 providers, comprised of Further Education Colleges, Work-Based Learning providers (including apprenticeships and traineeships), and Adult Community Learning providers. The LLWR is used widely throughout Welsh Government for funding calculations and to allocate funding to the providers, analysis, and for reporting and information purposes.

LLWR is not a single system or piece of software. It is better described as a collection of ways of doing things along with the use of standard cross-functional software. It is widely recognised among those using LLWR that there are currently many challenges resulting from LLWR being a legacy environment which has not been modernised for many years. For example data is transferred from each provider to the Welsh Government in XML format via a web portal, and then undergoes extensive validation before being loaded into a Welsh Government database if valid. Any records which fail validation are not loaded, and are reported back to the provider through the website for re-submission. Currently there is a high level of validation failures for incoming data (caused by a large amount of duplicated

data). It is clear that in the case of LLWR data it could not be a case of 'lift and shift' without also importing these challenges and deficiencies.

The new data collection system might entail having web APIs (Application Programme Interfaces) as a solution to collect data. An important principle for designing the data collection system will be to reduce unnecessary burden on the data providers and a web API based system would deliver this by enabling data providers to simply log on to and submit data, with automated validation built in before accepting the data.

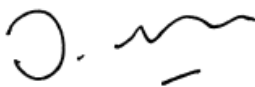
In the case of data currently collected through the LLWR improvements in data collection would lead to:

- Providers no longer have to produce data in a complex and increasingly out-of-date format at odds with the way that most of us submit data in the digital age.
- A reduction in validation failures for incoming data, improving processing efficiency and reducing work for providers.
- Increased flexibility as the current extended timescales relating to any changes to the data collection format could be greatly reduced.
- An improvement in overall data quality and streamlined sharing of data with the other organisations that are allowed to utilise it (e.g. Welsh Government).

Regardless of whether CTER becomes responsible for collecting LLWR or not, there is a need to update and improve it. Importantly if all or parts of LLWR were replaced with more efficient processes and up to date software then future changes to the system could be much easier and quicker to make to the data collection process, reducing pressure on resources and costs, and reducing the burden on providers. It would also give the data users the ability to integrate additional data in the future leading to more insightful analysis.

I have copied this letter to the Chairs of the Children, Young People, and Education Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular initial followed by a stylized, wavy line.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

To: Chairs of Senedd committees, via email

7 January 2022

Review of the committee timetable and committee remits

You will recall that, on 16 December 2021, the Chairs' Forum considered, and endorsed, the Business Committee's suggested approach to conducting a review of the committee timetable and committee remits.

Chairs expressed a range of different views at the 21 December meeting, with some Chairs finding the current timetable challenging, whilst others expressed concerns about changing the current approach. There were no concerns raised about committee remits, although it is proposed that remits will continue to fall within the scope of this review.

To build on this, I invite you to discuss the review with your committees and to provide a written response to the review. The focus of this aspect of the review is to gather the agreed view of each committee.

In doing so, I would be grateful if you would consider the terms of reference for the review, and a number of specific questions. Whilst addressing the questions will be helpful, they are not intended to be prescriptive.

The terms of reference, and questions, are enclosed with this letter.

I also enclose a copy of the paper considered by the Business Committee and the Chairs' Forum.

Whilst you might wish to refer to feedback you have received from external stakeholders in your response, the Business Committee does not expect committees to consult with stakeholders in the time available for this review.

The timescale for this review is tight, as the Business Committee is aiming to implement any changes arising from the review at the start of the summer term 2022.

Consequently, as agreed at the Chairs' Forum meeting on 16 December 2021, the review will need to be completed in early March in order to provide committees with sufficient time to plan for any changes made.


To enable this, please submit your written response by 12pm on Friday 4 February 2022. This is a week later than the original deadline proposed in the suggested approach.

Alongside this consultation with committees, Business Managers will be discussing the review with their Groups, and individual committee members will be surveyed too.

Draft proposals, based on the evidence gathered, will be discussed at the Chairs' Forum meeting on 17 February 2022. The Business Committee will then make decisions about the future timetable and committee remits in the light of that discussion.

If you require any further information, please contact the Clerk to the Chairs' Forum, Alun Davidson, who is supporting the Business Committee with this review.

Yours sincerely,



Elin Jones MS

Llywydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



[Enclosure 1]

Business Committee: Review of the committee timetable and committee remits

Terms of reference and consultation questions

Terms of reference

To review the current approach to the committee timetable, and committee remits, with a view to identifying any changes to the approach that could improve committee effectiveness, whilst maintaining an appropriate balance between the time committee members spend on committee work (in and outside committee meetings) and their wider responsibilities.

Consultation questions

Timetable – status quo

To what extent does the current approach to the committee timetable provide:

sufficient time for committees to undertake their work effectively?

sufficient flexibility to meet peaks in committee workloads and/or future business requirements for additional committee capacity?

an appropriate balance between the time Members spend on committee work (in and outside committee meetings) and their wider responsibilities?

Timetable – alternatives to the status quo

What changes could be made to the committee timetable to improve committee effectiveness, whilst maintaining flexibility to accommodate additional committee business, and an appropriate balance between the time Members spend on committee work (in and outside committee meetings) and their wider responsibilities?

If changes are to be made to the timetable, when should these changes be implemented?

Remits

Do you believe there is a need to adjust the remit of your committee? For example, to balance work across committees, and/or to improve lines of accountability.

Has your committee established a means of assessing the effectiveness of its work?

This question is posed in order to determine whether any changes made as a consequence of this review can be monitored in this context.

[Enclosure 2 – Business Committee paper]

Review of the committee timetable, and committee remits: Draft approach

Purpose

1. To provide a draft approach to the review of the committee timetable, and committee remits, for consideration by the Business Committee.

Background

2. The Business Committee agreed a fortnightly committee timetable at the start of the Sixth Senedd, on the basis that it would provide:
 - sufficient meeting time for committees to perform their roles;
 - a fair balance between the time members are expected to spend on committee work and their wider responsibilities;
 - flexibility for committees to hold additional meetings when there is a need to complete time-limited work, and/or address peaks in workload; and
 - sufficient flexibility to accommodate an additional committee in the system, if needed (currently the Special Purpose Committee).
3. In addition to a fortnightly timetable, the Business Committee increased the amount of time available during the week within which committees could meet – this includes Monday mornings and the occasional use of Fridays for Stage 2 consideration of Bills.
4. Protected weeks were retained, to provide dedicated time for the Chairs’ Forum, Scrutiny of the First Minister Committee, and further additional meeting time for committees to request if needed.
5. A secondary objective, expressed at the time the timetable was agreed, was to encourage committees to make efficient use of their meeting time. For example, to hold one-off stakeholder roundtables to gather a range of evidence at once, rather than deploying the more traditional “panel after panel” approach to evidence gathering over a number of weeks.
6. The Business Committee previously agreed to review the committee timetable, and the remits of committees, at Easter 2022 i.e. after two terms of operation.
7. However, the volume of requests from committees for additional meetings, and the concerns expressed by some committees with the current timetable, have led to this review being brought forward.
8. The Llywydd has also indicated that the Chairs’ Forum would be consulted on the review at its 17 February meeting.

9. Most concerns raised to date have been in relation to timetabling, rather than remits, though concerns have been raised about the breadth of the remit set for the Legislation, Justice, and Constitution Committee.
10. The proposals in this paper suggest reviewing both timetabling and remits at the same time, due to the possible interdependency between the two i.e. if a review of remits resulted in the creation of a new committee, the timetable would need to take account of this.
11. It would be possible to separate these reviews, should that be the Business Committee's preference, though a review of remits that took place at a later date might necessitate further changes to the timetable.

Draft terms of reference

12. Draft terms of reference are suggested in the box below:

Draft terms of reference

To review the current approach to the committee timetable, and committee remits, with a view to identifying any changes to the approach that could improve committee effectiveness, whilst maintaining an appropriate balance between the time committee members spend on committee work (in and outside committee meetings) and their wider responsibilities.

13. The review will consider the status quo and options for the future operation of the timetable.
14. Under the headings below are questions that expand on the terms of reference, and could be addressed during the course of the review:

Timetable – status quo

Does the current approach to the committee timetable provide:

- sufficient time for committees to undertake their work effectively?
- sufficient flexibility to meet peaks in committee workloads and/or future business requirements for additional committee capacity?
- an appropriate balance between the time Members spend on committee work (in and outside committee meetings) and their wider responsibilities?

Timetable – alternatives to the status quo

- What changes could be made to the committee timetable to improve committee effectiveness, whilst maintaining flexibility to accommodate additional committee business,

and an appropriate balance between the time Members spend on committee work (in and outside committee meetings) and their wider responsibilities?

- If changes are to be made to the timetable, when should these changes be implemented?

Remits

- To consider whether committee remits should be adjusted. For example, to balance work across committees, and/or to improve lines of accountability.

Interdependencies

15.The review will need to consider:

- the resourcing and/or technological constraints on timetabling, and how this should be managed in the future e.g. the number (and type) of committee meetings that can be held concurrently; and
- the impact on Senedd Commission resources, including staffing, of any changes proposed as a consequence of this review (or maintaining the status quo, should that be the preferred option).

Committee effectiveness

16.The review could consider the extent to which Committees have established means of assessing the effectiveness of their work, so that any changes made as a consequence of this review can be monitored in this context.

17.This could be extended to capture any committee innovation that has arisen in response to a fortnightly (and more flexible) timetable e.g. alternative approaches to evidence gathering, work conducted outside meetings etc.

Evidence gathering

18.The following approach to evidence gathering is proposed:

- **Committees** – the Business Committee invites each committee to provide a written response to the questions posed by the review.
- **Committee members** – committee members will be invited to complete a survey to obtain their views on the time currently allocated for committee work, their view on what the correct balance should be between time spent on committee work and their wider responsibilities, and the level of priority they are able to dedicate to committee work.
- **Chairs** – the Chairs' Forum is consulted on any proposals for change that arise from the review, prior to proposals being finalised.

- **Party Groups** – Business Managers invite a view from their party groups.
- **Data** – data on the usage of allocated time, additional meeting time, and types of committee activity, can be provided.

Timescales

December 2021

- Consult the Chairs' Forum on the terms of reference and approach to the review (16 December).

January 2022

- Three-week period of evidence gathering (10 – 28 January).

February 2022

- The Business Committee considers draft proposals, based on the evidence received (8 February)
- The Chairs' Forum considers the draft proposals and the timing of the introduction of any changes to the timetable (17 February)).

March 2022

- The Business Committee confirms proposals (1 March).
The Business Committee publishes a report and tables any motions needed to give effect to remit changes (should there be a need for any) (to be made in Plenary on 9 March).

April 2022

- Timetable changes to be implemented at the start of the summer term.

Consulting the Chairs' Forum

- 19.** Whilst there is an appetite to resolve perceived issues with the timetable quickly, there is a tension between this and the lead-in time needed for committees to plan their work.
- 20.** The Business Committee might wish to consult the Chairs' Forum, at its meeting on 16 December, on the scope and timescale for the review before taking a final decision.

CYPE(6)-01-22 - Paper to note 13

Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Llywydd

Chair, Business Committee

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06 January 2022

Dear Llywydd



Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Nationality and Borders Bill: request to extend the reporting deadline

On 7 December 2021 the Business Committee referred the Legislative Consent Memorandum ("LCM") for the UK Government's Nationality and Borders Bill to the Health and Social Care ("HSC") and Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committees with a reporting deadline of Thursday 10 February 2022. At its meeting on 14 December, Business Committee also referred the LCM to the Children, Young People and Education ("CYPE") Committee. We are writing to seek an extension of the reporting deadline to Thursday 17 February 2022.


The HSC and CYPE Committees will discuss our approaches to considering the LCM at our first meeting in the new year (13 January). It is anticipated that we will wish to seek further evidence to inform our conclusions and recommendations. There would be insufficient time for evidence to be available for consideration at our next scheduled meeting on 27 January. Therefore, the first opportunity that either committee will have to consider the evidence at a scheduled meeting will be Thursday 10 February, which is the reporting deadline.



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We would be grateful if the Business Committee would agree, therefore, to extend the reporting deadline by one week to Thursday 17 February. This will enable both committees to consider these important matters at our meetings on 10 February before finalising our reports by email the following week.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair, Children, Young People and
Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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Agenda Item 10

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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