

Annabel Lloyd
Chair of All Wales Heads of Children's Services Group
ADSS Cymru

14 December 2022

Care experienced birth parents

Dear Annabel,

As you may be aware, the Children, Young People and Education Committee is currently undertaking an [inquiry into radical reform for care experienced children](#).

Throughout the autumn my fellow Committee members and I have been going on visits throughout Wales to talk to care experienced children and young people and to the staff who work with them. We asked the young people and staff about their experiences and what they would like to change about the care system.

The view of some care experienced parents who have had, or are at risk of having, their child removed from their care is that they were pre-judged by social services to be unsuitable parents *because they had been in care*, rather than because of any robust evidence of harm, or potential of harm, to the child. We recognise that while the decision to remove a child is ultimately made by the family court, there is a perception among many of the young women that we spoke to that their status as a 'care leaver' has automatically led to a negative perception of their own capacity as parents.

We are still gathering evidence, and have not yet come to a collective view on any of the evidence we have heard so far. We have also noted the written evidence voluntarily provided by the ADSS to the Senedd Petition's Committee in respect of a snap shot data collection of care experienced young people in Swansea as of March 2022.

Based on the data provided by Swansea, and to help us consider this matter further, I would be very grateful if you could collate and provide us with data setting out for each local authority in Wales as

at 31 March 2022 in respect of the young people who are in or have left its care and for whom the local authority has a statutory duty to keep 'in touch with':

- The total number of care experienced young people the local authority to whom the local authority has duties towards up the age of 21 or 25 if applicable
- The total number of these care experienced young people who are themselves parents
- The total number of these care experienced young people who have had one or more child removed or are know to have a child on the child protection register.
- Any other information on the numbers / rates of care experienced parents in your area over the age of 21, and any information about children being removed from their care.

I would also welcome your views on why some care experienced parents feel that their suitability as parents is pre-judged because they themselves were in care, or on anything else that you think may be relevant to our consideration of this important issue.

We would appreciate this information no later than Wednesday 1 February 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.