

CYPE(6)-25-22 - Paper to note 11

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Jayne Bryant AS/MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

1 December 2022

Dear Jayne,

Thank you for your letter of 11 October regarding the evaluation of the basic income pilot for care leavers.

You specifically requested some information on our work gathering baseline data and the procurement of the evaluation of the pilot.

Robust evaluation of the pilot is essential and is a priority for the Welsh Government. An essential element of the evaluation work is understanding changes in the wellbeing of participants throughout the pilot period (baseline data). This will contribute to our understanding of how well the pilot has worked for care leavers by understanding the changes in participant wellbeing from at four points throughout pilot.

We are working with Coram Voice to gather this data using their *Your Life Beyond Care* survey. Coram Voice is a leading children's rights organisation. They champion the rights of children and get young voices heard in decisions that matter to them. They also work to improve the lives of children in care and care leavers. The *Your Life Beyond Care* surveys have been developed to measure the subjective well-being of care experienced children and young people, as part of the Bright Spots programme. The Bright Spots programme is a partnership between Coram Voice and the Rees Centre at the University of Oxford.

The *Your Life Beyond Care* survey was co-produced with care leavers to reflect the important components of wellbeing from their own experiences. Work is underway to further develop the survey to reflect the pilot outcomes including, co-designing additional questions with care experienced young people and the appointed evaluator.

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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.

Eligible care experienced young people will be asked to complete the survey one month after enrolment then at 6, 12 and 24 months after enrolment. This will include care leavers who have decided not to enrol on the pilot.

We have worked closely with local authorities to develop an approach to administering the survey. The first tranche of Basic Income Pilot 'Your Life Beyond Care' surveys were issued on 17 October 2022. This is an exciting step towards measuring the impact of the pilot.

We have recently completed the procurement process to let a four-year contract for the implementation, impact and value for money evaluation. The contract has been let to Cardiff University (Principal Investigators, Professor Sally Holland and David Westlake) and started on 10 November 2022. Now that the contract has been let, we will begin the evaluation inception phase to confirm the methodological approach and begin research activity.

Welsh Government officials are currently considering how the in-depth qualitative ethnography research compliments the approach of the recently appointed evaluator and the data provided by the *Your Life Beyond Care Survey*.

The pilot will be evaluated robustly over the next four years to consider how a basic income affects individuals' wellbeing, financial security and life chances.

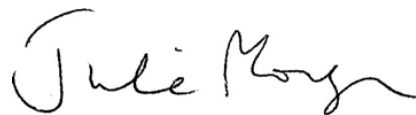
However, the objectives extend well beyond the initial lifespan of the pilot. The impact of receiving a basic income is expected to echo through a person's life, long after the payments stop. It is hoped it will extend opportunities or provide new opportunities for young people leaving care, which otherwise may not have been available. The appointed evaluator will be working to provide a framework for future evaluation (including linked administrative data) so we can continue to understand this impact into the future.

In terms of updates on the implementation of the pilot and any early signs of its impact, we would be happy to share updates from the programme of monitoring, evaluation and research when they become available.

Yours sincerely,



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