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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol  
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Dawn Bowden AS/MS  
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Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Buffy Williams MS  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
Senedd Cymru



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

3 February 2025

Dear Buffy

Following the Children, Young People and Education Committee's Draft Budget scrutiny session on 9 January, we are writing to provide you with further information and the papers requested during the session.

Officials are currently developing the *Quality Statement on Children's Health*, which will set out our clear expectations about the high-quality services health boards are expected to deliver.

- The Welsh Government is working with the Children's Health Network to draft the quality statement
- Engagement with stakeholders will take place over the summer
- It is anticipated the quality statement will be published by the end of 2025.

The National Strategic Clinical Network for Child Health has been established in the NHS Executive and a National Clinical Lead has been appointed to bring specific focus to these areas. The Children's Health Clinical Lead will:

- Drive improvements in clinical outcomes and service quality.
- Collaborate with stakeholders, including health boards and other clinical networks, to develop and implement best practices and standards across Wales.
- Help to ensure children's health services in Wales are effective, equitable, and aligned with national priorities and standards.
- Work with the Welsh Government to produce the *Quality Statement for Children's Health*.

Funding for the vaccination of children and young people is part of health boards' core allocations. NHS organisations are responsible for managing funding and ensuring it is appropriately used to provide an equitable vaccination offer to all those eligible, in line with the principles set out in the *National Immunisation Framework*.

Public Health Wales (PHW) publishes an annual report which reports on the uptake of routine childhood immunisations (up to age 15) and summarises trends in socioeconomic inequalities and geographic variations. Although long-term trends in uptake remain stable in some areas, there has been a widening of socioeconomic inequalities in uptake in most age groups in Wales during 2023-24.

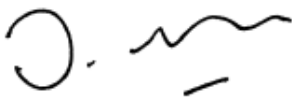
PHW has been tasked with putting in place measures to improve the quality and frequency of reporting in response to this to provide the NHS with intelligence to identify actions to address inequalities. This will support Vaccination Programme Wales (NHS Executive) working with a Clinical Leadership fellow to review the health boards' vaccine equity plans to identify national actions and support local delivery and actions to improve vaccine equity.

Welsh Government officials will work with PHW and the NHS Executive on opportunities to undertake targeted work building on the approach taken to increase MMR uptake during 2024 and changes to the childhood vaccination schedule in 2025-26.

While the paediatric training programme is being reviewed, Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW) has not undertaken a specific review of the paediatric workforce. HEIW is developing a *Perinatal Workforce Plan* for NHS Wales and anticipate this will be launched in March 2025. The plan is multi-professional and will include the paediatric medical, nursing, and allied health professions pipeline to support neonatology services.

On 1 July 2024, we published a call for evidence in relation to the consumption of energy drinks in children. This followed a consultation in 2022 about proposals to end the sale of energy drinks to under 16s and asked for additional evidence in relation to several key areas of interest, including the health and wider societal impacts associated with energy drink consumption by children and the operability of current voluntary sales bans adopted by some retailers. A summary of responses to the call for evidence was published on 23 December and is available [HERE](#). We are considering these as part of the next steps going forward. We will keep the committee updated as this work develops.

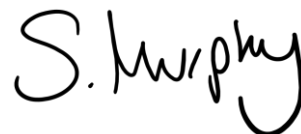
Yours sincerely,



**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
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