

Dawn Bowden MS

Minister for Children and Social Care  
03 April 2025

## **National Practice Framework & the Family Drug & Alcohol Courts**

Dear Dawn,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 January about the National Practice Framework and your statement on 18 March about the transformation of children's social services. As you know, we have taken a strong interest in children's social services and the support offered to care experienced children throughout the Sixth Senedd.

I would like to seek your clarification on two issues raised in your letter and during your oral statement.

1. In your letter, you state that "Our original intention had been to publish the Framework by the end of 2024". However, as annex A to this letter sets out, previous information from the Welsh Government indicates that the original intention was to publish the Framework by late 2023. Please can you clarify the original intended publication date?
2. I note that your statement of 18 March did not reference the Family Drug & Alcohol Court (FDAC). As you will know, the Welsh Government has repeatedly expressed its support for the FDAC. It accepted the Committee's recommendation to roll-out an FDAC model across Wales, subject to a successful evaluation of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan pilot. It reiterated that acceptance in a letter to us dated 15 February 2024. The evaluation of the pilot was published in July 2024 (dated March 2024), which demonstrated positive outcomes for families involved in the pilot. Please can you set out:
  - the Welsh Government's response to the evaluation;
  - your assessment of whether the FDAC pilot delivered value for money;
  - your plans in relation to the FDAC pilot for the rest of the Senedd term; and



- if the Welsh Government is no longer minded to roll-out FDAC across Wales, the reasons for this decision.

Your responses to the above questions will inform our ongoing discussions about the Committee's follow-up work in this area. I would therefore be very grateful if you could respond to the questions above no later than Thursday 8 May.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS  
Chair

# Annex A: evidence submitted to the Children, Young People and Education Committee in August 2023

Source: [Letter from the Deputy Minister for Social Services to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee](#), 10 August 2023, page 6

