

Dawn Bowden MS  
Minister for Children and Social Care

17<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Dawn,

**Childcare funding**

Thank you for your letter of 4 March regarding childcare funding in Wales which was considered at our meeting on 24 March.

Members welcome the additional funding agreed in the final 2025-26 budget as a step in the right direction. However, we were concerned by your reference to childcare being available for the *majority* of two-year-olds (our emphasis). The commitment made as part of the Budget agreement was for an extra £30 million for childcare, to “ensure funding for the Flying Start programme to deliver childcare to two-year-olds across Wales.”<sup>1</sup> This is in addition to your existing commitment in the Programme for Government to “deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all 2 year olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh medium provision”. We would appreciate clarification on this matter, and for confirmation on what proportion of two- year-olds you expect will be waiting for childcare places at the end of March 2026.

I would be grateful for a response by the 6 May.

Yours sincerely,



**Jenny Rathbone MS**

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

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<sup>1</sup> Welsh Government, [Budget agreement secures extra £100m for public services](#), 20 February 2025