

Carolyn Thomas MS and Buffy Williams MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

22nd October 2025

Dear Carolyn and Buffy,

On behalf of NYAS Cymru, I would like to thank you and members of both the Petitions and CYPE Committee for the work that has been completed over this past Senedd term to support care-experienced mothers and end intergenerational care cycles in Wales.

We are writing to you both, as Chairs of the Committees, regarding the recommendations on data collection made in the respective Committee inquiries into 'Support for Care-experienced parents' (March 2023) and 'If not now, then when? Radical reform for care-experienced children and young people' (June 2023).

In both inquiries, we were pleased to see recommendations made to Welsh Government about data collection on all aspects of the care system, and specifically data on the number of children born to care-experienced mothers in Wales and how many of these children remain with their parent/s, placed in foster care or with family members or placed for adoption. Unfortunately, it has now been over two years since these recommendations were made, and we are disappointed that it appears no further progress has been made by Welsh Government to work with local authorities to routinely collect and publish this data in Wales.

NYAS Cymru's Project Unity service provides one-to-one emotional and practical support to care-experienced girls and young women as they try to navigate care and child protection proceedings in relation to their baby, child or children. The service enables and empowers girls and young women to create and sustain a loving family for themselves and their babies and children. The service has been funded through the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant since 2020. From our service, and as highlighted in your inquiries, we know that care-experienced mothers are disproportionately more likely to face social services intervention and/or separation from their children than their non-care-experienced peers, and this can often be driven from assumptions of a mothers parenting ability because she herself spent time in care as a child.

With there being no national data on this issue, it becomes challenging to explore this issue further and ensure that the right policy and practice is in place to support both young mothers and local authorities working with them. At the start of this Senedd term, Welsh Government had made a commitment to improving services for care-experienced children and young people and set out of number of reform measures to achieve this. The previous First Minister, Mark Drakeford MS, also made a commitment to reducing the number of children entering the care system in Wales.

We believe having data on the number of children born to care-experienced mothers and their interactions with social services is a vital part of fulfilling these commitments and working to end intergenerational cycles of care and discrimination in Wales. We would therefore like to please ask you both, as Chairs of the Committees and in relation to the inquiries mentioned, if you are able to write to Welsh Government to get an update on their progress of this work and what steps have

been, and are going to be taken, to work with local authorities to routinely collect and publish this data before the 2026 Elections.

We would welcome any opportunity to meet with you both to discuss this further at a date and time of your convenience. Once again, we thank you for your and the Committee's continued support and for championing the rights and outcomes of care-experienced mothers and their babies. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,



Sharon Lovell MBE
Chief Executive
NYAS Cymru