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Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MB/LG/2333/15

Ann Jones AM
Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

16 June 2015

Dear Ann,

During my attendance at the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 4 June, I agreed to write to set out further information on two particular points.

The Committee asked for details of initial plans for Children in Wales' participation project, and if any specific targets had been set. This information is set out in the Children in Wales Children and Families Delivery Grant delivery plan which I have enclosed at Annex 1 to this letter.

You asked whether the 'families with disabled children' element of the Families First budget is being used to provide play facilities for children with disabilities. I can confirm all Local Authorities in Wales have made use of these funds to enable children with disabilities to access play facilities. Details of the services offered by each Local Authority are included in the table enclosed at Annex 2. In many Local Authorities, children with disabilities may also access play facilities which have been commissioned through mainstream Families First funding.

You wrote to me on 12 June asking me to provide a written response to a number of questions suggested to the Committee by stakeholders, but which were not raised during the session due to time constraints. I will write to you on those points in due course.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

Children in Wales Children and Families Delivery Grant

April 2015 to March 2016 (Yr 1)

The aim of the project is to improve the well-being of children, young people and families living in poverty or deprivation in Wales by:

- ***informing and enabling children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers***
 - developing a UNCRC and Participation Communication and Information Strategy
 - national events twice yearly at a minimum
 - engagement of diverse groups of children and young people.
 - meetings with Ministers and officials

Direct Engagement Targets per annum		
Children and Young People from Youth Forums – 500 minimum	Children and Young People from disadvantaged/marginalised groups – 1000 minimum	Children and Young People via social media – 5000 minimum

- ***ensuring that the children and young people's workforce is informed of children's right to participate and for structures to be in place that facilitate the sharing of effective methods of participation***
 - learning /development events
 - information and knowledge hub
 - practice exchange
 - e media
- ***supporting a better informed and engaged multi agency cross sector workforce including policy makers and practitioners to deliver Welsh Government Policy***
 - information production/dissemination
 - learning/training events
 - practice exchange
- ***effectively influencing and contributing to policy and practice development with an emphasis on early intervention, prevention and mitigation of poverty, underpinned by Welsh Government strategic priorities***
 - consultation and representing views of the children and families workforce
 - informing stakeholders of policy developments - their views will inform policy development

Children and Families Delivery Grant – Delivery Plan April 2015 to March 2016

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>1. To inform and enable children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers</p> <p>‘ Young Wales’ ‘Cymru Ifanc’</p>	<p>Output 1.A</p> <p>6 direct national engagement opportunities to gather the views of children and young people (including those in or at risk of poverty) including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 national meetings per year of the Local Authority Youth Forums to enable a national platform and shape the work programme of Young Wales <p>3 Workshops in primary school settings and 3 Workshops in secondary school settings delivered in each of the 4 regions to complement the national engagement - balance across all parts of Wales (Education footprint) & targeted at areas of deprivation (Community First footprint)</p>	<p>Review existing contacts with schools and identify further schools to engage with across the four education consortia regions.</p>	<p>Process outcome: Children & young people are effectively included in policymaking</p> <p>Participant outcome: Children and young people’s voices are heard by Ministers and policymakers</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>1.To inform and enable children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers</p> <p>‘ Young Wales’ ‘Cymru Ifanc’</p>	<p>Output 1.B</p> <p>6 consultation and engagement opportunities to gather the views of groups of children and young people who <i>are ‘in poverty or at risk of living in poverty and deprivation’</i> (‘at risk’) through Children in Wales activities e.g. <i>Young Carers Network and Together4Rights (T4R) - Disability Network</i> and those of our delivery partners and member organisations (including those at risk of poverty)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Voices From Care National Reference Group of ‘Looked After Children’ and Care Leavers</i> • <i>Tros Gynnal – Looked After Children, Care Leavers, Children in Need/Poverty)</i> • Youth Friendly and Promo Cymru – e media • <i>Members – work with Children in Wales 250 member organisations to get the issues from the children and young people they work with (including younger children) heard by Ministers and policy makers</i> • <i>County Youth Forums</i> 	<p>Further workshops planned with groups of disabled children to develop work on coping with bullying, and issues identified by them as a key concern</p> <p>T4R accredited training for disabled young people delivered</p> <p>Planning meetings with partners-April 2015</p> <p>Further workshops planned with groups of young parents in 3 Flying Start areas to discuss their key issues –April 2015 onwards</p>	<p>Process outcome:</p> <p>Children & young people are effectively included in policymaking</p> <p>Participant outcome:</p> <p>Children and young people’s voices are heard by Ministers and policymakers</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
1. To inform and enable children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers ‘ Young Wales’ ‘Cymru Ifanc’	Output 1.C 8 meetings with Ministers, lead officials and policy makers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and deliver regular meetings with Minister and Deputy Minister, lead officials and policy makers within Communities and Tackling Poverty portfolio area. Plan and deliver meetings with other Ministers, lead officials and policy makers on matters outside the Lead minister’s portfolio area. 	Agree series of 8 meetings with officials/ministers - April 2015	Process outcome: Children & young people are effectively included in policymaking Participant outcome: Children and young people’s voices are heard by Ministers and policymakers
	Output 1.D 8 awareness and learning sessions around putting participation rights, methods of participation and the UNCRC into practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and deliver training sessions for children and young people in a range of settings (primary and secondary schools, with our delivery partners and members) 	8 awareness and learning sessions in schools planned-delivery April 2015 onwards	Process outcome: Children and young people are better informed about participation and the UNCRC Participant outcome: C&YP are better informed about participation and the UNCRC
Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
1. To inform and enable children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and	Output 1.E A ‘Young Wales’/‘Cymru Ifanc’ online hub (by online we are including a range of electronic and social media that are used by children and young people) Activities would include ‘young friendly’ editorial content relating to policy and	Ongoing gathering and electronic circulation of information including populating pages from various youth forums and organisations across Wales <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of 	Process outcome: Effective & targeted methods to engage & inform children and young people Participant outcome: Children and

<p>policy makers</p> <p>‘ Young Wales’ ‘Cymru Ifanc’</p>	<p>consultations to enable young people to actively participate in discussion and debate and be able to comment directly. News, videos and developments across the project would be available in a range of 'young people friendly' participatory formats including dissemination through the Cymru Ifanc – Young Wales website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development, maintenance and promotion of a Cymru Ifanc –Young Wales website • Active marketing of the Cymru Ifanc /Young Wales brand 	<p>information from youth forums, schools, peer led organisations and young people of interest to children and young people about current issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing child/young person friendly material • Maintaining and updating the Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales website • Deliver activities as per the Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales Communication Strategy 	<p>young people are better informed and involved.</p>
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Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>1. To inform and enable children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers</p> <p>' Young Wales' 'Cymru Ifanc'</p>	<p>Output 1.F A 'Young Wales' reference group to incorporate children and young people's views in to the project's structure over 3 years drawn from the wider membership of groups, forums and individuals from across Wales</p>	<p>Regular meetings of 'Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales' reference group with partners and development of future plans</p>	<p>Process outcome: Children and young people are engaged in the organisation's structure</p> <p>Participant outcome: Children and young people are informed and involved in the organisation</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>1. To inform and enable children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers</p> <p>‘ Young Wales’ ‘Cymru Ifanc’</p>	<p>Output 1.G Support children and young people from across Wales to effectively participate in the UKYP activity including participation in the annual debate in the House of Commons</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with UKYP and joint preparation • 2 full day events (N & S Wales) to enable young people to develop skills and confidence for participation in the House of Commons event • One half day briefing session from the UK Youth Parliament • Attendance of young people from all local authorities in Wales at the UKYP debate in the House of Commons 	<p>Process outcome: Children and young people are engaged in the UKYP</p> <p>Participant outcome: Children and young people are prepared, informed and feel they have contributed to the debate in the House of Commons</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>1. To inform and enable children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers</p> <p>‘ Young Wales’ ‘Cymru Ifanc’</p>	<p>Output 1.H Involve children and young people in the UK State Party discussions and process surrounding reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children and young people through Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales in preparation of a report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child by 1st September 2015 • Attendance of 3-4 young people from across Wales as part of the UK delegation at a meeting with members of the UN Committee in advance of the UNCRC pre sessional meeting 	<p>Process outcome: Children and young people are engaged in the process of producing a report for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child</p> <p>Participant outcome: Children and young people have felt involved in producing their report to the UN and those who go to Geneva are prepared, informed and feel they have made a contribution.</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>1. To inform and enable children and young people to participate effectively and have their views heard by Ministers and policy makers</p> <p>‘ Young Wales’ ‘Cymru Ifanc’</p>	<p>Output 1. I Involve children and young people in refreshing of the participation standards and sharing the experience of young inspectors in development of the kite-marking process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people to participate in sessions and activities with participation workers to refresh the participation standards • Young people (young inspectors) advise on the kite-marking process 	<p>Process outcome: Children and young people are engaged in the process of refreshing the participation standards and kite-marking process</p> <p>Participant outcome: Young people have felt involved in refreshing the participation standards and kite-marking process</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>2. To ensure that the children and young people's workforce are informed of children's right to participate and for structures to be in place that facilitate the sharing of effective methods of participation</p>	<p>Output 2.A - 8 awareness and learning sessions for professionals who work with children and young people around participation rights, methods of participation and the UNCRC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and deliver training sessions in a range of settings on a regional basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree the next steps of a collaborative participation model which will continue to incorporate the promotion and use of the National Participation Standards. Plan 8+ awareness and learning sessions across Wales for around 100+ professionals who work with children and young people around participation rights, methods of participation and the UNCRC –April 2015 to March 2016 	<p>Process outcomes: Effective mechanisms in place to promote and develop the use of the National Participation Standards.</p> <p>Effective structures are in place to facilitate sharing of knowledge & best practice with professionals</p> <p>Participant outcome: Professionals are skilled in supporting children and young people to participate.</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>2. To ensure that the children and young people’s workforce are informed of children’s right to participate and for structures to be in place that facilitate the sharing of effective methods of participation</p>	<p>Output 2B. Enhance the dedicated section of Cymru Ifanc and Children in Wales websites to ‘Participation and the UNCRC’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include methods of participation, resources, good practice, ways to engage the workforce, advertise training etc. 	<p>Continue to develop the Cymru Ifanc/Young Wales web site and the Children in Wales website, focusing on tools for participation and the National Participation Standards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sessions with workers and young people together to refresh the Participation Standards and develop a kite-marking process 	<p>Process outcomes:</p> <p>Effective mechanisms to promote and develop the use of the National Participation Standards</p> <p>Effective structures are in place to facilitate sharing of knowledge & best practice with professionals</p> <p>Participant outcome:</p> <p>Professionals are skilled in supporting children and young people to participate</p>
	<p>Output 2.C</p> <p>4 Shared Learning and Knowledge Transfer Seminars and National conference on participation and the UNCRC including examples from research and international practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivered in 3 regions across North, Mid and West, South, targeted at areas of deprivation (Community First footprint); 	<p>4 Shared Learning and Knowledge Transfer Seminars and National conference on participation and the UNCRC April 2015 to March 2016</p>	<p>Professionals are skilled in supporting children and young people to participate</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>3 To support a better informed and engaged multi agency cross sector workforce including policy makers and practitioners to deliver Welsh Government Policy</p>	<p>Output 3.A Sharing information with the workforce, to include conferences, seminars and speaker/ expert led workshops; training events, briefings, highlight papers, website, e- briefings, both general and topic specific, magazines, publications, conference reports, and social media. Disseminate information to and from regional, Wales wide, UK wide and European work.</p>	<p>Further Early Years and Disability Conference to be planned Anti-bullying Workshops repeated 2 Seminars on disability issues. 3 Further publications planned April 2015- March 2016</p>	<p>Process outcome: A system is developed for capturing, collating and sharing information</p> <p>Participant outcome: Effective multi agency working and ability by the workforce to implement policy effectively</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>3. To support a better informed and engaged multi agency cross sector workforce including policy makers and practitioners to deliver Welsh Government Policy</p>	<p>Output 3.B Collating information from the workforce, including issues, concerns and areas for development to include: networks, forums, consultation events, Policy Council, members Directors and policy officers meetings and task and finish groups; including live or online and web based activity</p>	<p>Model further developed and refined to collate issues and concerns raised from engagement with the workforce.</p> <p>Pan Wales disability managers network meeting- October 2015</p> <p>TSANA (Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance meeting) - October 2015</p> <p>Young Carers Network - October 2015</p> <p>Forum for integrated Service delivery- November 2015</p> <p>Flying Start network range of joint events -December 2015</p> <p>Anti - bullying workshops</p>	<p>Process outcome: A system is developed for capturing, collating and sharing information</p> <p>Participant outcome: Effective multi agency working and ability by the workforce to implement policy effectively</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>3. To support a better informed and engaged multi agency cross sector workforce including policy makers and practitioners to deliver Welsh Government Policy</p>	<p>Output 3.C Processing and transferring the knowledge gathered, nationally and regionally amongst organisations through co-production with member organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 events: conferences, seminars and speaker/ expert led workshops. • 4 training events 12 Briefings, highlight papers, both general and topic specific and output on social media • 6 magazines, publications and conference reports 	<p>Information production and dissemination achieved through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 conferences in partnership • The policy section of the website • The members e-briefing • Subject specific e-briefings (poverty/accident prevention) • Articles in the magazine • Briefings on legislation • 2 training events in partnership 	<p>Process outcome: A system is developed for capturing, collating and sharing information</p> <p>Participant outcome: Effective multi agency working and ability by the workforce to implement policy effectively</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>4. To effectively influence and contribute to policy and practice development with an emphasis on early intervention, prevention and mitigation of poverty, underpinned by Welsh Government strategic priorities.</p>	<p>Output 4.A Policy development Networks/Forums both face to face and virtual (linked to Tackling Poverty Action Plan priorities)</p> <p>20 Strategic Policy Networks e.g. End Child Poverty Network, Early years & Childcare Policy Network Looked After' Health Exchange Children in Wales Policy Council Policy Officers Group National Parenting Co-ordinators Network Disability Poverty Group</p>	<p>Ongoing facilitation of many forums/networks including the All Wales Advocacy Providers Group- April 2015 to March 2016 and onwards</p> <p>End Child Poverty Network- 3 monthly meetings Early years & Childcare Policy Network ongoing Looked After' Health Exchange</p> <p>Children in Wales Policy Council- 3 per year Policy Officers Group- 6 per year National Parenting Co-ordinators Network- 4 per year Disability Poverty Group - 4 per year. Young Carers network- 4 per year. Linc3 network x3</p> <p>Preventing Bullying Behaviour Group x 4</p>	<p>Process outcome: Effective representative systems are in place for engagement in policy development</p> <p>Participant outcome: Effective mechanisms for engaging, consulting and representing the views of professionals</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>4. To effectively influence and contribute to policy and practice development with an emphasis on early intervention, prevention and mitigation of poverty, underpinned by Welsh Government strategic priorities.</p>	<p>Output 4.B Events/activities/surveys on Welsh Government consultations and policy/practice issues from the workforce</p> <p>10 consultation and representation opportunities with the children and families workforce</p>	<p>10 events and survey monkey consultations on range of current issues including Early years Workforce plan, review of CSA.</p> <p>Information production and dissemination achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy section of the website • The members e-briefing • Subject specific e-briefings (poverty/accident prevention) • Articles in the magazine • Briefings on legislation • Survey monkey consultations • Information for the Policy Council 	<p>Process outcome: Effective representative systems are in place for engagement in policy development</p> <p>Participant outcome: Effective mechanisms for engaging, consulting and representing the views of professionals</p>

Objective	Outputs	Delivery Activities	Outcomes
<p>4 To effectively influence and contribute to policy and practice development with an emphasis on early intervention, prevention and mitigation of poverty, underpinned by Welsh Government strategic priorities.</p>	<p>Output 4.C Representation and involvement in Welsh Government Policy and Strategic Working Groups 80 representation opportunities to work in Welsh Government groups per annum/present views to Ministers, lead officials and policy makers where Children in Wales and partners are represented with corresponding workloads according to the task (heavy, medium, light) *Please note that the numbers cited above are based on the actual figures from 2013-2014</p> <p>Output 4.D Representation to influence policy and Strategic Working through engagement in non-Welsh Government led groups e.g. evidence to Assembly Committees, Cross Party/All Party Groups, Social Mobility Child Poverty Commission, UNCRC Monitoring Group, Eurochild, International Forum for Child Welfare</p>	<p>Children in Wales will continue to represent their members and partners at a wide range of Welsh Government working groups List includes eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Anti Bullying meetings • Third Sector Partnership Council and associated Ministerial meetings • Social Services Leadership Group • Social Services Partnership Council • Tackling Hate Crime Framework Group • CAF/CASS Cymru Stakeholder Group <p>Evidence to NAFW Committees</p>	<p>Process outcome: Effective representative systems are in place for engagement in policy development</p> <p>Participant outcome: Effective mechanisms for engaging, consulting and representing the views of professionals</p>

Local Authority Provision: Disability Element of the Families First Programme

Local Authority	Provision
Anglesey	Summer play scheme project
Blaenau Gwent	Access to play facilities is included in the services provided for disabled children.
Bridgend	After-school clubs, holiday play schemes and a Saturday club.
Caerphilly	Access to play facilities is included in the services provided for disabled children.
Cardiff	A two-week summer play and respite scheme for children and young people with multiple and profound physical and learning disabilities.
Carmarthenshire	Play schemes to provide short breaks for disabled children and their families in after school or play scheme settings.
Ceredigion	Access to specialised and mainstream play and recreation for disabled children. There is also a pre-school referral scheme for disabled children giving access to mainstream pre-school activities, which include play.
Conwy	Improved access to play and leisure for children with disabilities.
Denbighshire	Home and community based play development for disabled children.
Flintshire	Provision for family inclusion in mainstream activities for families with a disabled child.
Gwynedd	Provision of one to one individual support for children with disabilities to access play opportunities. Loan of POD play equipment to families.
Merthyr Tydfil	Provision of one to one support to children and young people who have disabilities and developmental delays to enable to access play activities after school and during holidays.
Monmouthshire	Provision to enable children with support needs to access local authority pre-school play provision and also play facilities in the summer holidays.

Neath Port Talbot	Early years play group and integrated play and recreational activities to enable disabled children to play alongside their peers
Newport	Serennu Children's Centre – providing a play and youth club for children and young people with disability or developmental difficulties aged 0 to 18 years.
Pembrokeshire	The Special Needs Assessment Playgroup provides playgroups for children with special needs, in an environment where their specific needs can be assessed by a multi-disciplinary team. Children are assessed through play, their needs identified, therapy and treatment provided and then integration into their own local playgroup assured.
Powys	Referral scheme to provide extra support to children with disabilities to access universal services such as out of school activities and holiday schemes.
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Services focus on young people who are disabled, vulnerable or at risk and aims to improve the health and well being of young people through the delivery of programmes which supports their access into physical activity and sport.
Swansea	Play facilities are provided for children with disabilities.
Torfaen	Play and short breaks service.
Vale of Glamorgan	Access to play facilities is included in the services provided for disabled children.
Wrexham	Access to play facilities is included in the services provided for disabled children.

