

CYPE(5)-24-19 - Paper to note 15

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

National Assembly for Wales
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Chair of Association of Directors of Social Services

6 August 2018

Dear Colleague,

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21

Each year the National Assembly for Wales's Children, Young People and Education Committee scrutinises the Welsh Government on its Draft Budget.

As part of our scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2020-21, one of the areas on which we will focus on is funding for looked after children in Wales, including edge of care services.

To inform our scrutiny of the Welsh Government, we would be grateful to receive the views of Directors of Social Services in Wales on the following:

- Sufficiency of funding to provide services / support to looked after children and any funding gap if relevant
- The prioritization given by local authorities to funding provision and support for looked after children
- Any pressure points in the forthcoming years
- The variation in spend per child by local authority
- Funding for edge of care services to prevent children entering the care system, including family support services
- Changes, if any, you would like to see the Welsh Government make in terms of funding for looked after children and edge of care services.



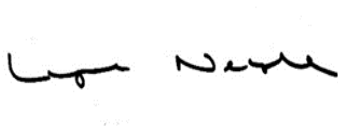
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Annexed to this letter is the Committee's request for information from the Welsh Government about looked after children, which you may wish to consider when responding to this request.

We request that this information is received by **Monday 7 October 2019**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle', written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair



Annex: request for information from the Welsh Government about looked after children, send in a letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services on 6 August 2019

1. Looked after children

We would welcome:

- Detailed commentary on the allocations in the Health and Social Services MEG in 2020-21 and where they can be found in the MEG (i.e. details of the relevant Spending Programme Areas, Actions and Budget Expenditure Lines (BEL) including an analysis and explanation of significant changes since the 2019-20 First Supplementary Budget (June 2019)) in respect of grants / services for:
 - Looked after children, including fostering services;
 - Edge of care services / services to prevent children becoming looked after;
 - Leaving care support.
- Details of discussions, and outcomes from discussions, with the Minister for Housing and Local Government about the resources local authorities need within the Revenue Support Grant to deliver the Welsh Government's ambitions for looked after children.
- Details of discussions with the Improving Outcomes for Children Ministerial Advisory Group and how those have influenced the allocations for looked after children in the Draft Budget 2020-21.

With regard to the overall Welsh Government allocations across the portfolios, we would be grateful for an update on the Welsh Government's 2016 response to a letter from the Public Accounts Committee in respect of looked after children.

With regard to local authorities, please can you set out how the Welsh Government monitors the outcomes for looked after children and any assessment as to whether this is linked to expenditure levels from both the Revenue Support Grant and Hypothecated Grants. We would also be grateful for your views on the variation in expenditure per looked after child by local authority.

We will also be asking local authorities about their views on the funding available to them to both prevent children entering the care system and also to support those children who become looked after.

