

Julie Morgan AM

Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services

18 October 2019

Dear Julie,

Early Childhood Education and Care

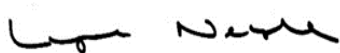
We are writing to you following the public scrutiny session held on **2 October 2019** to discuss the Welsh Government's work on Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). We are grateful to you, and to the Minister for Education, for your ongoing engagement with the Committee's work in this important area, and for your letter of **16 October** providing further information on detailed matters that arose during our session.

During this Assembly, matters relating to ECEC have arisen frequently as part of scrutiny work, most notably as part of our **inquiry into outreach elements of Flying Start**, and our scrutiny of the **Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill and childcare offer**. We recognise that a number of relevant pilots are underway at the moment, and that responsibility for this area straddles both yours and the Minister for Education's portfolio. We further recognise the complexity of the current ECEC landscape in Wales to which you referred during our most recent session.

In light of the above – most particularly the very complex nature of the ECEC policy area – we believe that a clearer statement of the Welsh Government's overarching vision for ECEC is required as a matter of priority. This will enable us to measure progress against your vision, and will provide a clearer framework within which we hold the Welsh Government to account for its policy, legislation and expenditure in this crucial area.

We would be grateful to receive a response in advance of our session on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020-21 (4 December 2019) to inform our scrutiny.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AM

Chair

Cc Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education

