

Quarterly Update on Annual Report recommendations

Reviewed March 2019, published April 2019

Each year through my annual report I make recommendations to the Welsh Government, on the key policy issues that I would like to see action on in the following twelve months. During the year I follow these recommendations up through meetings with Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers, lead officials, and other stakeholders including children and young people.

In this quarter I have introduced the recommendations from my 2017/18 annual report as well as the reports from 2015/16 and 2016/17. The order and presentation has been changed slightly so that the recommendations now appear in date order, oldest first. Where recommendations have featured on the same topic in successive years, these are each listed under the same heading, in date order.

I have given each recommendation a Red / Amber / Green rating to measure the progress against the call that I have made. The colour rating is my own assessment based on the engagement with all key stakeholders. It is important to note that the rating is not an assessment of whether or not the Welsh Government agrees with the recommendation. The colour rating reflects whether or not there have been any policy and practice changes that improve children's lives in Wales and give further protection to their enjoyment of their rights under the UNCRC.

Red



No evidence of policy or practice changes since the recommendation was made. No improvement in children's experiences.

Amber

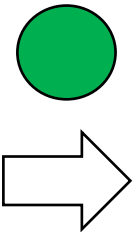
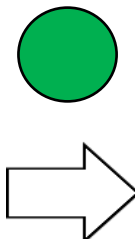


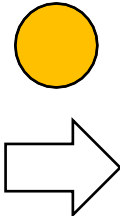
Some evidence of policy or practice change but the recommendation has not yet been successfully achieved in full.

Green

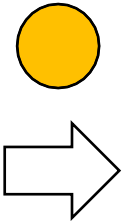


Recommendation implemented and notable differences for children and young people in receipt of a service or support.

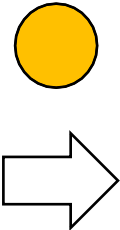
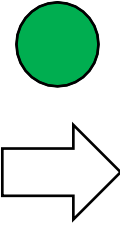
	Recommendations	Current RAG rating (arrows denote change from last updates)	Comments
Adoption support	<p>2015/16 Welsh Government should work with the National Adoption Service and regional collaboratives to ensure increased provision of adoption support, providing extra resources where required.</p>		<p>The National Adoption Service continues to develop their approach to support services, and the Welsh Government provided £90,000 for the 'Framework for Adoption Support' to be developed by the NAS.</p> <p>Work is ongoing in relation to this but it is welcome that positive steps are being made to address what is still a gap for too many children and their families.</p> <p>The NAS is prioritising adoption support and keeping my office informed of progress.</p>
Advocacy	<p>2015/16 The Government should work with ADSS and the WLGA to implement a national approach to statutory advocacy as a matter of priority, to ensure that all eligible children and young people across Wales receive an 'active offer' of advocacy and are supported to express their views on the care and support they receive.</p> <p>2016/17</p>		<p>Implementation of the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy was a recommendation in my 2015-16 annual report, following years of work with relevant stakeholders towards achieving a consistent offer of provision for all children across Wales. This was rated as Amber in last year's report, as almost everything was</p>

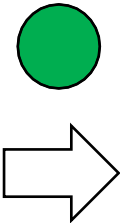
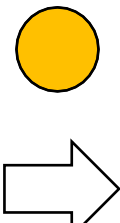
	<p>I recommend that the Welsh Government monitors the implementation of the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy to ensure that the intended services reach all those who are entitled to receive it, increasing the prospect of positive outcomes for children and young people.</p> <p>2017/18 I recommend that the Part 10 Code of Practice is amended to give statutory force to the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy including all of the associated documents.</p>		<p>in place by March 2017 but it had not quite been achieved.</p> <p>I am pleased to note that the National Approach is now live across all of the regions.</p> <p>I am also pleased that, following this recommendation in last year's report, the Welsh Government has maintained a working group to monitor implementation. That group has reviewed the data returns and made small changes to the delivery of the Active Offer of advocacy, to ensure that it works in a way that best suits children and young people and helps them to access this important service. This in turn helps them achieve their rights.</p> <p>We continue to work alongside the Welsh Government to ensure that the National Approach to Statutory Advocacy and the Active Offer are clearly reflected in the Part 10 Code of Practice.</p>
<p>Mental health</p>	<p>2015/16 The NHS Together for Children and Young People Programme should continue to receive adequate funding levels to fulfil its ambitions and should monitor whether children's experiences of mental health care are improving.</p> <p>2016/17</p>		<p>Funding for T4CYP continues until October 2019, which I am pleased to note. The final year work plan has commenced - full details have been finalised and communicated to stakeholders.</p>

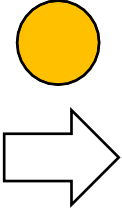
	<p>The Welsh Government should ensure that the T4CYP programme is continued beyond this financial year, until the programme has delivered on its ambitions. Before the national programme ends, the programme’s improvements need to be sufficiently and consistently embedded at a local level so that the regional planning boards can then maintain progress and quality of provision for all children across Wales.</p> <p>2017/18 I recommend that the Welsh Government takes action to require Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) to set up specific multi agency planning structures for children and young people that will report to the RPB. They should also require RPBs to take steps to integrate children’s social care and mental health services into multi-disciplinary teams, that will respond to the needs of their local populations of children and young people who require emotional, behavioural or mental health support and treatment.</p>	<p>I have rated this as Amber as I would not yet be confident that the programme has been embedded at a local level and that regions would be able to take this work forward. The Programme consists of a number of workstreams, some of which are more progressed than others so it is a mixed picture.</p> <p>I have also considered the Children, Young People and Education Committee’s report <i>Mind over Matter</i> in rating this recommendation. The Welsh Government’s response to that report did not address the step change in provision that was being recommended. However, the recent establishment of a Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group is encouraging, and I hope provides an opportunity to better respond to the recommendations in the <i>Mind over Matter</i> report.</p> <p>An update from Welsh Government on progress against the recommendation is due in March and I will be updating this section following that announcement. We also expect to hear updates on the impact that T4CYP has made this summer, and more detail towards the end of the Programme in October.</p>
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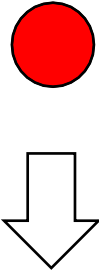
			<p>Welsh Government and T4CYP are working towards ensuring that Regional Partnership Boards are key agencies for delivery.</p> <p>I welcome the Transformation funding, which was announced alongside the launch of <i>A Healthier Wales</i>. However, I believe that there should be a specific instruction from the Minister on the requirement of a multi-agency planning structure (such as a sub-group) for children and young people in all Regional Partnership Boards. I am still waiting for this specific instruction to be made. Although a number of Regional Partnership Boards are moving towards a more multi-disciplinary response to children’s mental health needs, without direction from government this will be likely to remain a varied picture across Wales.</p>
<p>Mental health and well-being</p>	<p>2015/16 The curriculum review programme ‘Successful Futures’ should work closely with the NHS’s Together for Children and Young People programme to promote evidence-based, whole school approaches to healthy relationships, mental health and wellbeing.</p>		<p>I am pleased to see the establishment of a Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on a Whole-School Approach to Mental Health and well-being. The work of this group and the cross department officials supporting it will need to ensure that there is sufficient focus on preventative services, meeting needs when and where best for children and young people, and ensuring that</p>

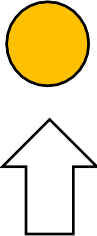
		<p>children are supported to feel and stay well. The first meeting of the Task and Finish Group took place in October 2018.</p> <p>The Stakeholder Reference Group which sits alongside this group met for the first time in January 2019. Although there has only been one meeting, I am pleased to see a recognition of the need for a wider whole-system approach; and that there will be links made with the curriculum, professional learning and advocacy.</p> <p>I am pleased that a National Youth Stakeholder Group is being established to support the Whole-School Approach work. When this group is established, I hope that children and young people will be active participants in this work, both co-producing products and providing advice and guidance to those working on the whole-school approach.</p> <p>It is pleasing to see that Mind over Matter recommendations have been mapped against the work plan of the Task and Finish Group. I am also pleased that a logic model with clear outputs and outcomes is being developed</p> <p>I welcome the recent investment of £7.1 million in the mental health and well-being</p>
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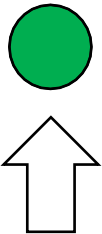
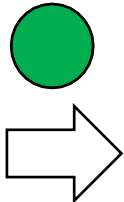

			of children and young people. I understand that a large amount of this will be used towards implementing the findings of the <i>Mind Over Matter</i> report, and I look forward to hearing an update on this in March.
Transport	<p>2015/16 Welsh Government should review the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and associated statutory provision and operational guidance, to ensure that all journeys to and from school are safe and that local authorities are quite clear about their responsibilities for ensuring that this happens.</p>		<p>The Learner Travel Measure has not been reviewed or revised to date but work to address this is referred to in the current consultation around the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act.</p>
Additional Learning Needs	<p>2015/16 Welsh Government should introduce new legislation and a robust Code of Practice that delivers on its commitment to children and young people with additional learning needs.</p> <p>2016/17 The Welsh Government should introduce a duty upon all relevant bodies under the Act to pay due regard to the UNCRC and UNCRPD and to place this duty on the face of the Bill.</p>		<p>I am pleased that the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 passed with due regard to the UNCRC and UNCRPD on the face of the Bill.</p> <p>I will be submitting a full response to the consultation on the Code of Practice and Regulations to ensure that it reflects this due regard duty, so that it becomes a reality and a part of the thinking when decisions are being made about provision under the Act.</p> <p>I also want to ensure that the template for the Individual Development Plan reflects this so that children's rights filter through to the practical aspects of the plan for each individual learner.</p>

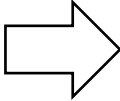
<p>Additional Learning Needs</p>	<p>2015/16 Welsh Government should strengthen the coordination, provision and support provided to children and young people with additional learning needs, including the introduction of statutory duties on LHBs and NHS trusts to provide support and to strengthen the powers of the Education Tribunal for Wales.</p> <p>2016/17 The Welsh Government should also strengthen the powers of the Education Tribunal for Wales by extending its remit over health bodies.</p>		<p>The Educational Tribunal will now have powers over health bodies under the Act, including the ability to request evidence and reports for appeals.</p>
<p>Child poverty</p>	<p>2015/16 The Welsh Government should demonstrate clear and strong leadership to eradicate child poverty, by engaging positively and collaboratively with the UK Government, and public and private bodies across all sectors, including employers.</p> <p>2016/17 To tackle child poverty, Welsh Government should put in place and monitor a specific child poverty delivery plan, with clear targets and milestones, to drive the implementation of national strategy to ensure that no child is disadvantaged in realising their rights under the UNCRC.</p> <p>The Welsh Government should use all available levers to alleviate child poverty including use of new tax raising powers. It should support local authorities to offer further relief in specific areas known to cause pressure on the poorest families, including holiday hunger, school uniform costs and high domestic fuel bills.</p>		<p>It is welcome that the PDG access fund will be doubled to £3.5M. As yet no further detail has been provided.</p> <p>It is referred to in the draft budget as “part of a package of measures to help prevent child poverty” but it is unclear what the overall strategy around this is based upon.</p> <p>In November 2018 the UN Special Rapporteur for Extreme Poverty published a concerning statement following his visit to the UK, which included a visit to Wales. His full report is expected in summer 2019.</p> <p>At the beginning of March 2019, I published my Report on Child Poverty, A Charter for Change. The key recommendation in this</p>

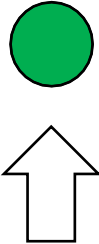
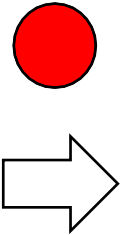
			<p>Report called for a Child Poverty Delivery Plan, to be based around the other recommendations within the report around costs to families of meeting basic needs; the costs of school; and the lack of opportunities and exclusion in the community.</p> <p>I understand that there will be work undertaken by Welsh Government around the costs of the school day being announced soon, and these are to be welcomed. However, children and young people living in poverty need help with exclusionary costs in the here and now, and I urge the Welsh Government to establish a Delivery Plan to deliver these practical changes.</p>
<p>Curriculum and UNCRC</p>	<p>2015/16 Human rights education, including knowledge about children’s rights should have a firm footing in the new ‘Curriculum for Wales – a Curriculum for life’.</p> <p>2016/17 The Welsh Government should make children’s human rights education a compulsory aspect of the curriculum. The Curriculum Reform programme should embed learning about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child across all parts of the new curriculum. This should include linking the Digital Competency Framework to children’s rights and support children and young people to understand they have the same rights online as they do offline.</p>		<p>I am disappointed that despite Government’s acceptance of my 2017/8 recommendation the White Paper does not include a due regard duty to the UNCRC on the Curriculum and Assessment Bill. In response, I have published a statement for this provision to be made and will be responding in full to the White Paper consultation.</p> <p>It is also concerning that there is only minimal reference to the UNCRC in a recent suite of public-facing documentation about</p>

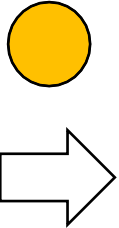
	<p>2017/18 I recommend that the Welsh Government ensures that the long-term needs and welfare of children are safeguarded by ensuring that the new curriculum is overtly underpinned by a Children's Rights Approach and that learning outcomes support all children to know their rights under the UNCRC.</p>		<p>the curriculum principles. This is despite reassurance from Government that the UNCRC will be prominent in the overarching principles guiding curriculum delivery.</p> <p>On Universal Children's Day 2018 I published some resources related to this call https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/our-work/sallys-blog/universal-childrens-day-2018/</p>
<p>Young people's participation in curriculum reform</p>	<p>2015/16 Welsh Government should ensure that arrangements are in place to support children and young people's participation in decision making processes relating to education reform.</p> <p>2017/18 I recommend that the achievement outcomes of the new curriculum ensure that all children and young people learn about their rights and that a children's rights approach underpins the guiding principles of curriculum delivery. The participation of children and young people should be systematically built into the next stage of curriculum development.</p>		<p>I have made a concerted effort to support the Welsh Government in engaging with children and young people including directly facilitating sessions with officials and young people. But government has missed the chance to implement this systematically as part of the development process and now the opportunity for meaningful co-production with children and young people has passed.</p> <p>A young person's version of the White Paper has been published but beyond this I have no evidence that a plan has yet been developed to ensure children and young people have an active part in the consultation process of curriculum content from April 2019.</p>

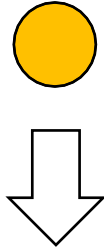
<p>Elective Home Education</p>	<p>2015/16 The Government should strengthen requirements for parents to register as electively home educating their children and for every child who is electively home educated to be seen by a professional at least annually so that they can express a view about their educational experiences.</p> <p>2016/17 It remains my view that the Welsh Government needs to amend the current guidance to give it statutory force and include a compulsory register for all home educated children to ensure they do not end up “off the radar” from even universal services. It is also important that the revision of the guidance includes clear powers for local authorities to ensure that they are seeing children and speaking to them directly about their own education.</p> <p>2017/18 I recommend that the Welsh Government brings their updated policy forward to consultation this year, with the aims of meeting the following three tests in full:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firstly that all children in Wales can be accounted for and that none slip under the radar of universal services, and society in general. • Secondly that every children receives a suitable education and their other human rights including health, care and safety. • This cannot be achieved without the third aim, that every children should have the opportunity to be seen and their views, including their views about their education, and experiences listened to. 		<p>Since this recommendation was made, the Cabinet Secretary made a statement in the Senedd in January 2018 outlining the intention to consult on changes to secondary legislation to strengthen the existing powers of local authorities.</p> <p>The Welsh Government response to my annual report for 2017-18 was published on 30th November, accepting my three tests for this policy.</p> <p>Since November I have been assessing the development of statutory guidance to ascertain whether it is able to meet my three tests. This guidance is due for public consultation in late spring.</p> <p>I retain the option to review at any point should I have concerns that Government are not exercising their functions to ensure appropriate policy aims will be met.</p>
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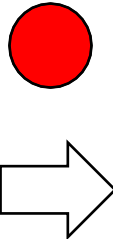
<p>Equal protection</p>	<p>2015/16 A bill should be introduced to the Welsh assembly as soon as possible to remove the ‘reasonable punishment’ defence.</p> <p>2016/17 No new recommendation was made on this topic in this year; however it formed a large part of our core policy and influencing work during the year.</p> <p>2017/18 I recommend that a Bill should be introduced as soon as possible to make sure that the Government’s commitment is followed through.</p>		<p>I am pleased that the Welsh Government has now introduced a Bill to remove the defence of reasonable punishment in Wales. I am supportive of this Bill and will respond to the call for evidence.</p>
<p>Youth Parliament</p>	<p>2015/16 Whilst I have no legislative remit to make recommendations to the national assembly for Wales, I want to reaffirm my intention to press for a reinstated national democratic space for young people, in the form of a youth assembly. I am fully committed to working with young people and the national assembly to realise this ambition.</p>		<p>The Senedd Ieuenctid / Youth Parliament sat for the first time in February 2019. This is a hugely positive development to ensure young people’s participation and representation at a national level.</p> <p>My team continues to engage with the Assembly team that supports this work, to explore the best means through which the Senedd Ieuenctid can scrutinise my work, and so we can align our priorities where possible to ensure maximum scrutiny of the Government’s work.</p>
<p>Young people leaving care</p>	<p>2016/17 The Welsh Government should fulfil all of their commitments set out in the Hidden Ambitions report, including equal support for all care leavers whether they have come from foster care or residential care, funding for personal advisors to support for all care leavers up to the</p>		<p>I welcome the Welsh Government’s investment in support for care leavers, in response to my Hidden Ambitions report.</p>

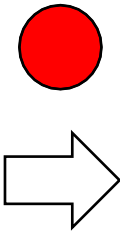
<p>“Hidden Ambitions” report</p>	<p>age of 25, publishing clear information for care leavers on finances and guaranteeing financial support for care leavers entering higher education. The Welsh Government should actively report on their progress against these commitments to local authorities and directly to children and young people themselves.</p> <p>2017/18 I recommend that the Welsh Government works with care leavers and local authorities to produce clear financial information that is available nationally, to help young people and their personal advisers access the range of grants, benefits and entitlements that are available when leaving care.</p>		<p>In particular the creation of the St David’s Day fund and allocating additional funding to Local Authorities to provide personal advisors to all eligible young people up to the age of 25 are positive benefits already being enjoyed by young people leaving care. Young people we spoke to in 2018 weren’t all aware of the developments around personal adviser support, although we note the high numbers of young people who have already accessed the St David’s Day fund.</p> <p>The recommendation contains four parts. The parts that have not yet been progressed would be equal support for all care leavers including those from residential care, and clear published information on finances for care leavers.</p> <p>I have written to the Director of Social Services in Welsh Government to reiterate the importance of progress in these areas.</p> <p>My office continues to work closely with the Welsh Government on these points, including acting as an observer to the Task and Finish Group on residential care. The task and finish group is focusing on the recommendation about equal support for all care leavers, as well as the other recommendations from my Residential care report, and I am pleased to see this focus.</p>
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
			I understand that the Welsh Government is collating data and case studies that will demonstrate the direct benefit of the changes that have already been put in place.
Young people leaving care Council Tax	2016/17 The Welsh Government should progress their work to exempt young people leaving care from paying council tax up to the age of 21 to assist with alleviating poverty amongst care leavers.		I warmly welcome the regulations that have been laid to introduce a full council tax exemption for care leavers up to the age of 25, following the recent consultation.
Profit in Care services	2016/17 The Welsh Government should ensure that local authorities deliver their duties under Section 16 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to involve children and young people in the design and delivery of services and increase the range of not for profit services so that money invested in social care services can be spent on improving outcomes for children rather than providing returns for shareholders.		To date I am not aware that the Welsh Government has consulted with children and young people to hear their views on this topic. In the meantime however I have been approached by young people who have themselves expressed concern that their providers are receiving a lot of money and they are unsure where this is going. I have given evidence to the Public Accounts Committee during the last year on this subject, as have others including a group of care experienced young people. In November 2018 the PAC supported this recommendation in their report on Care Experienced Children and Young People.

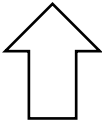
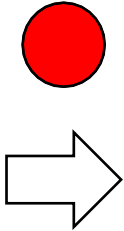
			<p>I am aware that the Welsh Government has been gathering information on different models of care and pilots that have taken place in England. This is as far as this work has gone to date. There has been no stated intention to move towards not for profit services.</p> <p>While I recognise that the stability of the sector must be not be undermined by any sudden changes, I believe that work towards a longer-term policy goal of eliminating profit would be warmly welcomed by young people and those commissioning services alike.</p>
<p>Adoption and sibling contact</p>	<p>2016/17 The Welsh Government should work with the National Adoption Service (NAS) to ensure that siblings' rights to contact are fully considered during adoption care planning.</p>		<p>I note that the Welsh Government and National Adoption Service have enthusiastically welcomed this recommendation. Practitioners clearly recognise the issues that were highlighted in this annual report.</p> <p>A multi-agency meeting took place in July 2018 where attendees agreed with the points raised.</p> <p>The NAS are committed to working with WG in response to this recommendation.</p> <p>This has led to a focus group being undertaken by the Welsh Government to</p>

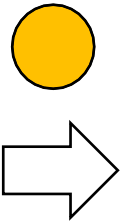
			<p>understand why sibling contact may not be promoted in many cases. This work will feed in to the Family Justice Network and there is consideration of new guidance.</p> <p>There has also been additional funding for the Wales Adoption Cohort Study to include looking at sibling links.</p> <p>Contact is the priority for 2018-19 service user engagement. Guidance for adopters has also been published this year which includes a section on contact.</p> <p>The young people who raised this with me, and many others like them, may not have seen any shift in policy or practice yet, which is why this has been rated Amber.</p>
<p>Residential Care</p>	<p>2016/17 The Welsh Government should deliver against the work plan of their Task and Finish group, set up in response to my recommendations in The Right Care report.</p>		<p>This recommendation had previously been rated as Green because the work of the Welsh Government was on track. However I have become increasingly concerned at the lack of tangible progress and change for children and young people. I have raised with the Welsh Government my frustrations around this and asked them to create a clear action plan that shows how they will move forward with this work in the coming year.</p>


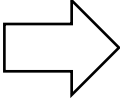

<p>British Sign Language (BSL)</p>	<p>2016/17 The Welsh Government and local authorities should ensure appropriate state support for the communication needs for Deaf and hearing impaired children and young people and their families, including accessible and affordable BSL learning opportunities at a range of levels and the employment of staff in schools who are fluent communicators of BSL, to meet individuals' needs.</p>		<p>The urgent need for progress on this issue, underlined in the July 2018 Welsh Government analysis of the local authority special educational needs workforce, has been reiterated by the recent Petitions Committee Report to improve access to education and services in BSL.</p> <p>I am cautiously pleased to see Government accept three of the four recommendations made by this report but note that further clarity and detail is needed about how these might be achieved. A clear and costed action plan is needed to ensure the needs of individuals are met. I note that currently the impact of accepting the committee's recommendations are cost neutral.</p> <p>This action plan needs to include a specific strategy for workforce planning and professional learning for teachers and learning assistants working with Deaf and hearing impaired children and young people.</p> <p>This is needed immediately as currently a third of SEN specialist services do not feel they are meeting the current demands for children and young people with a hearing impairment. More than half of SEN services feel they cannot meet current demand through the medium of Welsh.</p>
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
			<p>The plan should also be able to demonstrate how it will assist in supporting other aspects of a child's life including early years, communication with their parents and friends and participating in recreational activities and community life.</p> <p>I am pleased that a Debate was held on the Petitions Committee Report on Petition P-04-628 <i>To Improve Access to Education and Services in British Sign Language</i>. I also welcome that steps appear to be underway to tender for review of BSL provision for adults in Wales and that a report will be published in June. However as recognised in the debate this issue is multi-faceted and over this next quarter I will be monitoring progress including the reality of delivering the new curriculum and additional learning need provision.</p>
<p>Health Advocacy</p>	<p>2016/17 The Welsh Government should ensure that health related advocacy for under 18s is available and accessible to all who need it.</p> <p>2017/18 I recommend that the Welsh Government undertakes an audit of the provision of advocacy in health settings for under 18s and takes forward measures to ensure that any gaps identified are filled.</p>		<p>I am not aware of any changes to provision of advocacy in health settings for under 18s, nor has the patient information been updated.</p> <p>Feedback at my annual child health seminar in June 2018 was that this remains ad hoc and it is not clear where the responsibility sits with this or what it includes.</p>


	<p>I also recommend that the Putting Things Right patient information is updated to direct young people and their families as to how they can access face to face advocacy in health settings across Wales.</p>		<p>My officials met with Welsh Government officials again in December 2018, a year on since the original meeting to discuss this issue, and also in March 2019 I also met with the Minister for Health and Social Services and discussed the provision of health advocacy.</p> <p>I am aware that the Deputy Chief Medical officer has written to all health boards regarding their advocacy provision, and that responses will be shared with my office. I am still seeking assurance that provision is in place and that patient information for families is clear and easily available..</p> <p>The Welsh Government has accepted our Annual Report 2017/18 recommendation to undertake an audit of the provision of advocacy services. Following receipt of the letters from health boards I will consider any further steps required to make sure advocacy services can best be advertised through the <i>Putting Things Right</i> literature.</p>
<p>Transport subsidies</p>	<p>2016/17 I urge Welsh Government to ensure that public transport subsidies for children are available up to age 18 with no change in eligibility at age 16.</p> <p>2017/18</p>		<p>I am pleased that the MyTravelPass scheme now covers an extended age range.</p> <p>I note that the First Minister indicated his wish to enrol all 16-18 year olds into a youth concessionary travel scheme to ensure that</p>

	<p>I recommend that the new scheme should as a minimum ensure that the child fare is extended to the age of 18.</p> <p>I also recommend that a CRIA is undertake on proposals for revisions to the MyTravelPass scheme to identify any potentially excluded groups such as young parents and carers, care leavers undertaking work place training or apprenticeships, and those engaging in voluntary work.</p>		<p>the discounts reach all eligible young people. I would support this given the current low take up rate of this scheme.</p>
<p>Childcare</p>	<p>2016/17</p> <p>The Welsh Government should ensure through the childcare offer pilot and any subsequent scheme that the children of non-working parents do not miss out on the increased childcare being offered to children of working parents.</p>		<p>The Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill has now been passed.</p> <p>I supported the Children, Young People and Education Committee's recommendations to broaden the wording of the Bill, to allow for changes to be made to ensure that children of non-working parents can also access the benefits of childcare.</p> <p>I gave evidence to the Committee during stage 1 and have also published a position paper on this, which can be found on my website here</p> <p>I am disappointed that despite the representations of myself and others that some of those children who I believe would benefit significantly from the childcare offer will be unable to access it based solely on their parents' circumstances. I will continue to monitor the impact that this legislation will have on all concerned.</p>

			<p>The Wales Centre of Public Policy has published the Integrated early years systems evidence review and given its relevance to this issue I will wait with interest in terms of Welsh Government's next steps regarding this area of work including the result of a new pilot that has been launched in Flintshire.</p>
<p>Bullying</p>	<p>2016/17 The Welsh Government's review of the 'Respecting Others' Guidance should pay attention to the direct experiences and perspectives of children and young people on the impact of bullying and the effectiveness of current policies and practices. It should clearly set out how it intends to prevent and tackle bullying nationally and outline how this work will influence curriculum reform and teacher training.</p> <p>2017/18 I recommend that the Welsh Government's 'Respecting Others' guidance should require schools to integrate robust anti-bullying strategies informed by children and young people into a whole school approach to wellbeing.</p>		<p>I responded in full to the consultation on the refreshed guidance, noting that I was pleased to see it was informed by the perspectives of children and young people.</p> <p>However, the guidance was developed separately from curriculum reform, the self-evaluation for improvement framework, the whole school approach to health and wellbeing and the online safety action plan.</p> <p>I have not been informed of a plan to incorporate this guidance into these wider changes, or to support schools to use it through professional learning.</p> <p>The guidance suggests schools actively monitor incidents of bullying but this is not a statutory requirement. I am therefore concerned the guidance may have minimal impact on the experiences of children and young people in education.</p>

<p>Child Sexual Exploitation</p>	<p>2016/17 The Welsh Government should ensure consistent collection of data in relation to CSE across Wales to provide a national picture of our challenges in relation to CSE. It should thoroughly analyse and act on challenges and gaps identified by the national data.</p>	 	<p>I recognise that active steps have been taken by Welsh Government, with the cooperation of Local Authorities and other public bodies, to address this recommendation. There has been the pilot of data gathering and an attempt to standardise information that is collected.</p> <p>However despite these efforts I understand that there remains inconsistency in recording, which requires addressing. The review of Child Sexual Exploitation guidance provides opportunities and challenges to meeting this recommendation in full.</p> <p>I continue to monitor progress of this work through my chairing role of The Child Sexual Exploitation Roundtable and understand that since my last update steps have started to be taken to secure specific data is gathered in respect of child sexual exploitation as part of new/revised social services data collection arrangements.</p>
<p>Sexual abuse and exploitation</p>	<p>I recommend that the Welsh Government ensures that Sexual Assault Referral Centre provision for each health board area should include 24/7 access to a rota of suitably trained paediatricians and forensic medical examiners, so that no child has to wait for many hours or even days for an examination, and that sufficient counselling and recovery services for victims are available throughout Wales.</p>	 <p>NEW</p>	<p>Cardiff and the Vale LHB take the lead in this work. They have secured some new consultant appointments and other works to provide additional support, while discussions to shape the future model are undertaken.</p>

			<p>Provision is still variable across Wales which is affecting children's experiences.</p> <p>At present the work announced in relation to SARCs in response to this recommendation being made relates to adults only.</p> <p>I have recently responded to a letter from the Petitions Committee regarding Child Houses. Subject to the outcome of pilots, I would like to see this type of model explored in Wales.</p>
<p>Healthy Relationships</p>	<p>2017/18 I recommend that the Welsh Government takes forward the recommendations of their expert Panel's report, and makes healthy relationships education a statutory part of the new curriculum. Healthy relationships education should be rights-based and informed by learner involvement in the design.</p>	 NEW	<p>The Welsh Government white paper for a Transformational Curriculum includes Relationships and Sexuality Education within the proposed primary legislation for the new curriculum. This would cement it as a core part of the new curriculum and I welcome this. However, the white paper does not include much detail on how this will link with and be underpinned by a rights based approach.</p> <p>I will be responding to the White Paper consultation.</p>
<p>All Wales Schools Liaison Programme</p>	<p>2017/18 I recommend that the Welsh Government takes action to agree a funding model with the four police forces to ensure that all schools in Wales continue to have the benefits of a positive relationship with a</p>		<p>Following a proposal to reduce the funding for this programme, the Government and Police forces have agreed to reinstate this</p>

	<p>police liaison officer, and that the programme's role in contributing to the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience in the new curriculum is coherent and future-fit. An assessment on the impact on children's rights of any decision on the future of the Programme should be carried out.</p>	<p>NEW</p>	<p>money. A review is also being undertaken to look at the content, reach and impact of the Schools Liaison Core Programme to ensure that it develops in line with emerging issues and priorities such as knife crime.</p> <p>I understand that children and young people's views are being gathered as part of that review in order to inform any future developments.</p>
<p>Mental Health/complex needs residential provision</p>	<p>2017/18 I recommend that Welsh Government takes concrete steps towards commissioning new provision that can meet the care and mental health needs of the small number of young people with very challenging behavioural and emotional difficulties, for whom there is currently very little suitable residential provision in Wales.</p>	<p> NEW</p>	<p>I convened meeting of senior officials in October 2018 due to my concern at lack of progress and join up between Government departments on this issue.</p> <p>I have raised this with the Minister and Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services on a number of occasions, most recently March 2019. Work done by the Government to look at different options and models of care now needs to progress urgently towards new provision and commissioning arrangements in Wales.</p>