




## Annual report recommendations — REVIEWED June 2019, published July 2019

### Quarterly Updates for website

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.

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 and change from last updates	Comments
<b>Adoption support</b>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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>	No change	<p>Work is ongoing in relation to adoption support but it is welcome that positive steps are being made to address what is still a gap in support for too many children and their families.</p> <p>The NAS is prioritising adoption support and keeping my office informed of progress.</p> <p>Supported by £2.3 million in additional funding from the Welsh Government, the National Adoption Service, along with Adoption UK, have announced the development of a range of adoption support services. Families in Wales will be able to access Therapeutic Education Support Services for Adopters (TESSA) and children will be able to access child-specific support services. These support services are due to be rolled out across Wales.</p>
<b>Advocacy</b>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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</p>	No change	<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 my 2016-17 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</p>

	<p>are supported to express their views on the care and support they receive.</p> <p><b>2016/17</b> 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><b>2017/18</b> 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>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><b>Mental health</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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><b>2016/17</b> The Welsh Government should ensure that the T4CYP programme is continued</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>Funding for T4CYP was extended until October 2019. The final year work plan has commenced.</p> <p>I welcome T4CYP's engagement with stakeholders in their final year work plan. I am pleased to note some promising figures in the updated benchmarking data from T4CYP that was published alongside the Welsh Government's update on progress since the <i>Mind over Matter</i> report, and which compares Wales to the rest of the UK.</p>

	<p>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><b>2017/18</b>  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>Welsh Government updated the committee on their response to <i>Mind over Matter</i> in May. I was pleased to see that in some areas progress has been made in terms of planning structures and mechanisms for addressing these issues. However, these updates do not yet demonstrate tangible change on the ground for children and young people in Wales in many areas of mental health support and care.</p> <p>Welsh Government and T4CYP are working towards ensuring that Regional Partnership Boards are key agencies for delivery after T4CYP ends.</p> <p>I welcome the Transformation funding, which was announced alongside the launch of <i>A Healthier Wales</i>.</p> <p>I am pleased to see that some RPBs have included multi-agency children and young people's services in their bids to the Welsh Government's Transformation Fund, and that some of these have been approved.</p> <p>There has been no action so far from Welsh Government on <i>requiring</i> the setting up of specific multi agency planning structures.</p> <p>This autumn I will be visiting each RPB and challenging them to demonstrate their commitment to children and young people with complex needs, and the measures they are taking to ensure that they receive the care and support they need.</p>
--	---	--

<p><b>Mental health and well-being in schools</b></p>	<p>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>No change</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, which has met three times.</p> <p>I am pleased that a National Youth Stakeholder Group has been established to support the Whole-School Approach work. 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 also believe that the Whole-School Approach work has been shaped since its inception and believe there is a better understanding that the whole-school approach must involve every agency and actor involved in children's lives at school, at home, and in the community — notably, there have been signs of a recognition of the importance of the new curriculum, the role of youth work, and the new Welsh Government guidance on bullying.</p> <p>In my view, this work is now going in the right direction and I look forward to the implementation of a whole-school approach.</p>
<p><b>Transport</b></p>	<p>2015/16 Welsh Government should review the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>Operational guidance supporting the Learner Travel Measure is currently being reviewed and will be available for public consultation this summer.</p>

	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.		There is no current intention to review the Measure but the consultation responses to the draft Additional Learning Needs Code relating to the Learner Travel Measure are currently under consideration.
<b>Additional Learning Needs</b>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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><b>2016/17</b> 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>	No change	<p>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>The draft Code of Practice and Regulations was recently subject to consultation. The draft Code contained a powerful explanation of the importance of meaningful participation and a clear reflection of the due regard duty in the planning of provision at a local level.</p> <p>I have submitted a full response to the consultation on the Code outlining how the due regard duty can be further strengthened by mainstreaming children's rights into everyday practice, for example through the inclusion of rights in the IDP template.</p> <p>This will help ensure that decisions made relating to individual children are clearly informed by the human rights of the child.</p>
<b>Additional Learning Needs</b>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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</p>	No change	The Educational Tribunal will now have powers over health bodies under the Act, including the ability to request evidence and reports for appeals.

	<p>LHBs and NHS trusts to provide support and to strengthen the powers of the Education Tribunal for Wales.</p> <p><b>2016/17</b> The Welsh Government should also strengthen the powers of the Education Tribunal for Wales by extending its remit over health bodies.</p>		
<p><b>Child poverty</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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>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><b>2016/2017</b> The Welsh Government should use all available levers to alleviate child poverty including use of new tax raising powers. It</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>At the beginning of March 2019, I published my Report on Child Poverty, <i>A Charter for Change</i>. The key recommendation in this 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>The Minister for Housing and Local Government, with responsibility for the coordination of measures to mitigate child poverty, has provided a formal response to the recommendations in my <i>Charter for Change</i> report. Despite the fact that the Minister did not mention developing a child poverty delivery plan in her letter, the First Minister signalled Government's intention to focus on a Child Poverty Delivery Plan, as outlined in my report, during Plenary on 9 July.</p> <p>In respect of specific levers; I acknowledge that funding has been provided to enhance and extend PDG access and introduced free sanitary products in schools and FEIs. I am also pleased to learn auto enrolment is being explored in respect of free school meals.</p> <p>However I remain concerned that there are no short-term plans to review the eligibility criteria for free school meals here in Wales.</p>

	<p>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>I am also keen to see the outcome of the First Minister's review of Welsh Government funding programmes to ensure they have maximum impact in tackling child poverty, in which I have been assured my recommendations will be taken into consideration.</p>
<p><b>Curriculum and UNCRC</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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><b>2016/17</b> 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><b>2017/18</b> I recommend that they Welsh Government ensures that the long-term needs and welfare of children are safeguarded by ensuring that the new</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>I am disappointed that despite Government's acceptance of my 2017/8 recommendation the White Paper does not propose 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 have responded in full to the White Paper consultation.</p> <p>I am however pleased to see that the UNCRC and a children's rights approach is included in the overarching principles guiding curriculum delivery. Children's rights and the UNCRC are also included in the Humanities and Health and Well-being AoLE so that all children will learn about their human rights.</p> <p>I will continue to push for the inclusion of a due regard duty on the Bill, and for the human rights of children to have a more prominent role in children's experience of the curriculum.</p>



	<p>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><b>Young people's participation in curriculum reform</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b> The 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><b>2017/18</b> 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>No change</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>The only publically available consultation mechanism for children in the development process between the publication of Successful Futures until April 2019 has been a young person's version of the White Paper.</p> <p>The consultation process around curriculum content began in April 2019. Consultation materials for young people were not released until mid-June, allowing just over a month for young people to engage. It is disappointing that a plan was not in place at the start of the consultation period. I will closely scrutinise the summary of responses to the young person's consultation and assess whether the consultation methods and questions have enabled an authentic opportunity for young people to take part in a meaningful way.</p>

<p><b>Elective Home Education</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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><b>2016/17</b> 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><b>2017/18</b> 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"> <li>• Firstly that all children in Wales can be accounted for and that none</li> </ul>	<p><b>No change</b></p>	<p>The Welsh Government response to my annual report for 2017-18 was published on 30<sup>th</sup> 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.</p> <p>Government have been responsive to my suggestions and the latest draft seen by my office has been significantly strengthened.</p> <p>This draft is still subject to change prior to public consultation, which is now due in July.</p> <p>I retain the option to use my formal powers of review at any point should I have concerns that Government are not exercising their functions to ensure appropriate policy aims will be met.</p>
---------------------------------------	--	-------------------------	--

	<p>slip under the radar of universal services, and society in general.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondly that every children receives a suitable education and their other human rights including health, care and safety.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Equal protection</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b> A bill should be introduced to the Welsh assembly as soon as possible to remove the 'reasonable punishment' defence.</p> <p><b>2016/17</b> 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><b>2017/18</b> 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>No change</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.</p> <p>During Stage 1 of the Bill I provided written evidence and was pleased to be offered an opportunity to give oral evidence to <a href="#">Committee at their first evidence session on this important issue (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019)</a>.</p>

<p><b>Youth Parliament</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b>          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>No change</p>	<p>The Senedd leuenctid / Youth Parliament sat for the first time in February 2019 and has commenced its annual cycle of meetings. 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 leuenctid can scrutinise my work, and so we can align our priorities where possible to ensure maximum scrutiny of the Government’s work.</p>
<p><b>Young people leaving care</b>   <b>“Hidden Ambitions” report</b></p>	<p><b>2016/17</b>          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 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><b>2017/18</b></p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>I welcome the Welsh Government’s investment in support for care leavers, in response to my Hidden Ambitions report.</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.</p> <p>The parts that have not yet been progressed are 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>

	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.		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 Group's Implementation Plan is due to be published in June 2019, with the hope that actions in this area will be clear.
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.	No change	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.
Adoption and sibling contact	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.	No change	I note that the Welsh Government and National Adoption Service (NAS) have enthusiastically welcomed this recommendation. Practitioners clearly recognise the issues that were highlighted in this annual report.  The NAS are committed to working with WG in response to this recommendation and have taken a number of actions, including commissioning new information about sibling contact rights for young people and considering how practitioners and adopters can be supported to make active consideration of sibling contact when adoption decisions are made.

			<p>There has also been additional funding for the Wales Adoption Cohort Study to include looking at sibling links, with findings to be published shortly (After June 2019).</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 is still rated Amber.</p>
<p><b>Residential Care</b></p>	<p><b>2016/17</b> 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>No change</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>The Group's implementation plan is due to be published at the end of June 2019 which I hope will show tangible progress in areas such as developing care for those at the highest continuum of need and extending the "When I am Ready" principles to those leaving residential care.</p>
<p><b>British Sign Language (BSL)</b></p>	<p><b>2016/17</b> 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</p>	<p>No change</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</p>

	<p>range of levels and the employment of staff in schools who are fluent communicators of BSL, to meet individuals' needs.</p>	<p>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> <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>. Last quarter I welcomed the news that a review of BSL provision for adults in Wales was to take place. I am aware that the review is progressing and I am keen to see the findings.</p> <p>I am pleased to see that the new curriculum suggests that BSL can be learnt by children and young people as an international language. However I am currently seeking clarification about whether the Language, Literacy and Communications Area of</p>
--	--	--

			Learning and Experience is inclusive of children that communicate with BSL as their primary language.
<b>Health Advocacy</b>	<p><b>2016/17</b> The Welsh Government should ensure that health related advocacy for under 18s is available and accessible to all who need it.</p> <p><b>2017/18</b> 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 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>	No change	<p>My office met with Welsh Government officials in March, and I was pleased to hear that the Chief Medical Officer wrote to all health boards in March to ask for information about their complaints and advocacy services. I am currently awaiting a Welsh Government response to a call for a plan following information which suggests there is a mixed picture of provision. I understand and appreciate that Welsh Government officials are looking at this issue currently, but we are yet to see evidence of any active change for children and young people.</p> <p>I would expect Welsh Government to take the lead on ensuring that all health boards meet the same standard across Wales.</p>
<b>Transport subsidies</b>	<p><b>2016/17</b> 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><b>2017/18</b> I recommend that the new scheme should as a minimum ensure that the child fare is extended to the age of 18.</p>	No change	<p>I am pleased that the MyTravelPass scheme has been relaunched and now covers an extended age range.</p> <p>There have been 2,300 applications for concessionary travel from the launch date of February 14 to May 12 of 2019.</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 the discounts reach all eligible young people. I understand that officials envisage putting advice to Ministers towards the end of the year.</p>


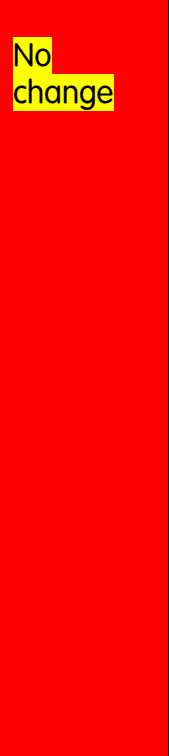


	<p>I also recommend that a CRIA is undertake on proposals for revisions to the MyTravelPass scheme to identify any potentially excluded groups such as young parents and carers, care leavers undertaking work place training or apprenticeships, and those engaging in voluntary work.</p>		<p>My office is meeting with officials to discuss my support for this plan, which I anticipate would boost take up of this scheme.</p>
<p><b>Childcare</b></p>	<p><b>2016/17</b> 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>No change</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 <a href="#">here</a>.</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 for 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><b>Bullying</b></p>	<p><b>2016/17</b> 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><b>2017/18</b> 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>No change</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><b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b></p>	<p><b>2016/17</b> 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>No change</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.</p>

			<p>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>I acknowledge that the draft Measuring social services performance: code of practice, which is currently open for consultation, includes national data collection in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation. I am currently considering a response to the consultation as a whole which will include this aspect.</p>
<p><b>Sexual abuse and exploitation</b></p>	<p><b>2017/18</b>  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>No change</p>	<p>Cardiff and the Vale local health board 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>I continue to monitor the current provision available here in Wales. This includes the development of a future model in relation to South, mid and West Wales. I am aware an interim service is now in place in respect of these areas. This should have a positive impact on the experiences of children under 14 years of age, compared to previous arrangements. I am pleased to hear that an evaluation of the arrangement will include sensitively seeking the views of children, young people and their families. Whilst training and</p>

			<p>experience of relevant professionals is not something that can be addressed overnight I will be continuing to press those concerned about the safest but also most timely route to ensure those age 14 and over have access to paediatric support.</p>
<p><b>Healthy Relationships</b></p>	<p>2017/18</p> <p>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>	<p>No change</p>	<p>The Welsh Government Curriculum and Assessment White Paper included Relationships and Sexuality Education within the proposed primary legislation for the new curriculum. I welcome this inclusion and I also welcome the emphasis on healthy relationships within the Health and Wellbeing AoLE.</p> <p>However, the draft Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidance that was consulted on in spring was disappointing and this is why I have not yet been able to rate progress in this area as 'green'. Whilst the principles and vision were encouraging, this guidance did not include the necessary detail to turn principles into teaching and learning. There is also a lack of detail developing this vision within the Health and Wellbeing AoLE.</p> <p>I urge Government to re-visit the RSE guidance in detail, and emphasise the need to work with the specialists in the field of RSE, the teaching profession and young people to develop a document that gives more clarity and granularity to teaching professionals about the knowledge, skills and experiences appropriate for children and young people at different stages of development.</p> <p>Without this there is a danger that children and young people will miss out on an area of learning that is urgently needed.</p>
<p><b>All Wales Schools</b></p>	<p>2017/18</p> <p>I recommend that the Welsh Government takes action to agree a funding model with the four police forces to ensure that</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>Following a proposal to reduce the funding for this programme, the Government and Police forces have agreed to reinstate this money. There is also a forthcoming report of a review recently undertaken to</p>

<p><b>Liaison Programme</b></p>	<p>all schools in Wales continue to have the benefits of a positive relationship with a 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>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 have been gathered as part of that review in order to inform future developments.</p>
<p><b>Mental Health/complex needs residential provision</b></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>No change</p> 	<p>I convened a meeting of senior officials in October 2018 due to my concern at lack of progress and join up between Government departments on this issue and have arranged for this meeting to be reconvened in July</p> <p>As far as we are aware there have been no bids to the Transformation Fund that include this element.</p> <p>I remain frustrated by a lack of any progress on this agenda. I continue to receive cases which demonstrate the desperate and potentially dangerous situation for those children and young people affected by this lack of provision.</p> <p>I wrote in June to both the Minister and Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, expressing my deep frustration at this lack of progress, and suggesting potential ways forward that could be taken by Government to bring about this vital provision.</p>

<p><b>Profit in care</b></p>	<p>The Welsh Government should ensure that local authorities deliver their duties under Section 16 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 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.</p>	<p><b>No change</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <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><b>Care Inspectorate Wales are due to publish their thematic review of Care Homes for Children in June 2019, which will provide welcome information on the number of local authority owned homes and private homes.</b></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>
------------------------------	---	-------------------------	---