

## Annual report recommendations — REVIEWED December 2019, published January 2020

### 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 Ministers and Deputy 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	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>	<b>No change</b>	<p>Positive steps are being made to address the support needs of many children and their families. In July 2019, Adoption UK published their "<a href="#">Adoption Barometer</a>" survey, which explored adopters' experiences of support, access to services and outcomes for young people in each UK Nation.</p> <p>The National Adoption Service, along with Adoption UK, announced the development of a range of adoption support services, supported by £2.3 million in additional funding from the Welsh Government. This will enable families in Wales to access Therapeutic Education Support Services for Adopters (TESSA) and children will be able to access child-specific support services. These support services are being rolled out across Wales and we will continue to monitor this through our position on the National Adoption Service Governance Board.</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</p>	<b>No change</b>	<p>I am pleased to note that the National Approach is now live across all of the regions and children and young people are being actively offered the support of an advocate.</p>

	<p>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><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>Welsh Government have now published <a href="#">the National Standards and Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People in Wales</a>, which sets out what young people can expect from their independent advocacy service. Through the role of the task and finish group that my office was part of, the framework expressly recognises the UNCRC and its application to advocacy.</p> <p>Renewed <a href="#">Code of Practice</a> relating to advocacy has now been published, setting out young peoples' entitlements to advocacy, including those who come into contact with child protection procedures, care proceedings or require care and support from Social Services.</p> <p>We continue to monitor the roll out of the active offer, through our I&amp;A case work and position on the Advocacy Providers Group. We are aware that children in residential homes have faced challenges in accessing their statutory entitlement to advocacy. This has been raised in the recent <a href="#">thematic review of children's homes</a> by Care Inspectorate Wales, with further work being underway by TGP Cymru to determine consistent access to provision.</p>
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<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 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>Changed from Red</p>	<p>I am pleased that the T4CYP Programme has been extended until at least March 2021. It will be a refocussed Programme, with 3 work streams of Early help and enhanced support, adopting a whole system approach through Regional Partnership Boards, and a whole-system approach to neurodevelopmental services. While I am pleased that the Programme has been continued, some concerns have been expressed over the now more fragmented structure where work streams which previously would have sat under T4CYP are accountable to different bodies. I will be seeking reassurances from Welsh Government that a robust accountability mechanism is established to ensure that there is a single body with oversight of the children and young people’s mental health landscape. Of particular concern to me is that the specialist CAMHS work stream will be led by the All Age mental health network, and not by T4CYP. I will be monitoring this situation to make sure that the separation of specialist CAMHS from primary CAMHS and the early help and enhanced support work does not mean that the focus is lost on moving to a more seamless ‘step-up/step-down’ to or from specialist CAMHS.</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>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. I am pleased that the draft Part 9 Code of Practice for RPBs includes a requirement for RPBs to set up sub-groups to discuss issues for children and young people with complex needs. I look forward to this new Code being published.</p> <p>Welsh Government is undertaking a review of strategic partnerships in Wales, which includes RPBs.</p> <p>Over autumn 2019 and winter 2019/20 I visited every RPB in Wales, and challenged 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. I will be reporting on my findings in March.</p>
<p><b>Mental health and well-being in schools</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b> The curriculum review programme ‘Successful Futures’ should work closely with the NHS’s Together for Children and Young People</p>	<p><b>No change</b></p>	<p>I believe that the Whole-School Approach work has been shaped since its inception through the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group, and believe there is a better understanding that the whole-school approach must involve every agency and actor involved in children’s lives</p>

	<p>programme to promote evidence-based, whole school approaches to healthy relationships, mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>at school, at home, and in the community. Notably, in the draft framework, 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>However, I continue to have concerns about several elements of the draft framework, including the need for the guidance to be applicable to further education institutions, and for children and young people educated other than in school; the need for clarity on how schools' performance on this agenda will be monitored; clearer links between the framework and other guidance for school staff, including the new curriculum; and whether accountability lies at a local or regional level for providing the localised 'menu of options' of interventions / programmes for schools.</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. I would like to see more evidence of the role of the Stakeholder Reference Group's sub-groups, and their input to the draft framework guidance. This was the case in my last quarterly update, and it is unclear to me how these sub-groups have progressed since then.</p> <p>I would like to see this guidance become statutory guidance, with clearer mechanisms of accountability.</p>
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<p><b>Transport</b></p>	<p><b>2015/16</b>          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>Changed from Amber</p>	<p>Operational guidance supporting the Learner Travel Measure is currently being reviewed and publication of this has been delayed to account for an additional review into post-16 learner travel, announced in autumn 2019.</p> <p>Government has indicated that the review to the guidance will be insufficient to meet the needs of young people to travel safely to their place of education.</p> <p>Further, Government has rejected the specific call in my 2018/9 Annual Report to re-visit this recommendation in light of my ongoing concerns around post-16 learner travel. However, alongside this rejection, Government has simultaneously committed to a review of post-16 travel.</p> <p>This has left me unclear as to the aims of this review. A programme for this work is currently being developed by Government and I will closely monitor expectations and potential outcomes in order to assess whether it will be able to resolve the issues faced by young people in travelling to their place of education.</p> <p>If the scope of this review is insufficient then I reiterate my call that the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 is not fit</p>

			for purpose and does not support young people to realise the ambitions that we have for them in Wales.
<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>	<b>No change</b>	<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 subject to consultation in spring of 2019. In September 2019 Government announced a delay to the implementation of the Act. I am continuing to engage with Government to emphasise how the new Code can more fully embed children’s rights across their educational experience.</p> <p>I also welcome Government’s plans to give some financial boost to the current system next year. This investment is essential so that children and young people can be supported immediately and it will also help to increase capacity across Wales before the new law is implemented. I hope this additional investment is not a one-off, and will be continued as the new system develops.</p>



<p><b>Additional Learning Needs</b></p>	<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 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>No change</b></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><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</p>	<p><b>No change</b></p>	<p>At the beginning of March 2019, I published my Report on Child Poverty, <i><a href="#">A Charter for Change</a></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>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></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>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.</p> <p>I acknowledge that in 2019 funding was provided to enhance and extend PDG access, introduced free sanitary products in schools and FEIs and launch a holiday hunger playworks pilot. I note that Welsh Government's draft budget indicates that additional funding for these programmes is to be made available in 2020/2021, along with the pilot of a school breakfast scheme in secondary schools. It will be important that their reach and impact is monitored during this period.</p> <p>I am encouraged that Government is now taking forward a child poverty focused review of funding programmes and that my recommendations will be taken into account as part of this and the First Minister's wider funding review. I have met with the officials concerned to emphasise the importance of analysing the impact of their programmes and taking a children's rights approach to this work including involving children and young people. They have also assured me that it will be child focused. I will be contributing evidence from my work to the review and will be reiterating my call for a child poverty delivery plan.</p>
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<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</p>	<p>Changed from Amber</p>	<p>I am profoundly disappointed that Government have rejected my call for a due regard duty to the UNCRC on the Curriculum and Assessment Bill. In this rejection, Government made the erroneous assertion that such a duty is unnecessary because of the Children’s Rights Measure (Wales) 2011.</p> <p>The claim does not hold: the new curriculum proposes a subsidiarity model in which decision-making about curriculum design and assessment processes will take place at a school level. The Measure does not ensure that individual school settings take account of children’s rights in their curriculum and assessment planning now, and it certainly will not do so in the future when settings will have increased autonomy.</p> <p>Largely due to the commitment of individual professionals, some schools in Wales have led excellent work embedding the human rights of children into decision-making. But this is certainly not the experience of every child. This is shown by instances that include off-rolling, isolation of children, discrimination, and a lack of participation opportunities. Children’s human rights should not be left to chance in this way.</p> <p>Although the UNCRC and a children’s rights approach was included in draft curriculum guidance, this will be subject</p>
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	<p>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>to change and without legislation that includes children's rights there is nothing that guarantees that children and young people's experience of the new curriculum will be informed by their human rights.</p> <p>Government claim that, "Children's rights are at the forefront of our ambitions for the new Curriculum for Wales". If this is true, I see no reason why Government are not taking the opportunity to include this in law and I will continue to push for this important safeguard for children's human rights.</p>
<p>Young people's participation in curriculum reform</p>	<p><b>2015/16</b> 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</p>	<p><b>No change</b></p>	<p>Although it was late in the consultation period, Welsh Government did respond to calls from myself and others to ensure young people had meaningful opportunities to participate.</p> <p>I was particularly pleased to see that Government ensured children and young people with protected characteristics were involved in this consultation and that there was an opportunity for young people to participate in different ways, including through a survey and face to face workshops. I was also pleased to see that young people were asked a range of broad and specific questions.</p> <p>It is important that Government ensures that children and young people can continue to take part in planning their</p>

	<p>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>curriculum. The developed guidance should clearly inform schools of how young people can participate in curriculum planning at a local level. I am pleased to learn that Government are considering including a specific section on participation in the overview to the curriculum. This should be included in the guidance that is due for publication later this month.</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</p>	<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>Draft Statutory Guidance and a Home Educators Handbook are currently available for public consultation, and I will be responding comprehensively to this.</p> <p>Future consultation on draft Regulations around information sharing to identify home educated children and young people was planned for late autumn 2019 but has been delayed and is anticipated in January 2020.</p> <p>I retain the option to use my formal powers of review at any point should I have concerns that Government are not</p>

	<p>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 slip under the radar of universal services, and society in general.</li><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</li></ul>		<p>exercising their functions to ensure appropriate policy aims will be met.</p>
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	<p>every children should have the opportunity to be seen and their views, including their views about their education, and experiences listened to.</p>		
<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><b>No change</b></p>	<p>I am delighted that the Assembly has now passed the Children (abolition of the defence of reasonable punishment) (Wales) Bill. This change in the law will provide clarity to professionals and parents, and provides a clear message that, in Wales, it is not acceptable to use physical punishment. This law change has been called for by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for many years, and brings Wales into line with over 50 other countries worldwide, as well as the Republic of Ireland and Scotland, in making this change.</p> <p>I will continue to work with the Government through the implementation period to ensure that clear information and support are available to all in relation to this change.</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><b>No change</b></p>	<p>The Senedd leuenticid / 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 leuenticid can scrutinise my work, and so we can align our priorities where possible to ensure maximum scrutiny of the Government’s work.</p> <p>In October 2019 I had my first discussion session with the Senedd leuenticid, focusing around the topic of mental health and hope members continue to scrutinise and inform my work in this way.</p>
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<p>Young people leaving care</p> <p>“Hidden Ambitions” report</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> 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</p>	<p>No change</p>	<p>These recommendations have been achieved, in part.</p> <p>I welcome the Welsh Government’s investment in support for care leavers, in response to my Hidden Ambitions report. 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. I am pleased that a high number of young people have already accessed these measures of advice and support. We further welcome the commitment from Welsh Government to place Personal Advisor support on a statutory footing.</p> <p>My Office will be working closely with the Care Leavers Forum in January 2020, to undertake a more robust analysis of the implementation of the report’s recommendations, such as access to financial advice, education and employment support and pathways to safe and appropriate housing.</p> <p>The part of this recommendation which has not progressed is the extension of equivalent support to young people leaving care who are not in a “When I’m Ready” placement. This is a particular concern for young people leaving residential care homes. Whilst the Welsh Government has established the Joint Housing and Social Services Group (which my Officers attend) to explore how this can be achieved, we have not seen a shift in improved</p>
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	advisers access the range of grants, benefits and entitlements that are available when leaving care.		provision for young people. Too often are care leavers placed in inappropriate, or short-term accommodation after care. It is important that young people's wellbeing is promoted and they are supported to progress successfully to independence after care.
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 am pleased that this recommendation has been achieved. All Care Leavers are now exempt from paying Council Tax until the age of 25.
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 am pleased that <a href="#">guidance</a> has been published by the National Adoption Service and others on sibling contact which makes clear reference to children's rights.  The Adoption Barometer survey revealed that 60% of recent adopters in Wales had indirect contact agreements in place with siblings living elsewhere. However, it is unclear if arrangements are in place for all adopted children and children who may be in care and have siblings that have been adopted.

			<p>Children and young people raise this issue with me regularly when I meet them. Improving contact arrangements between siblings is also a key priority for Voices from Care Cymru. Many children may have not 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><b>No change</b></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.</p> <p>The Group published its implementation plan for 2019-20, which has led to the creation of a number of specific groups to take forward elements of the work plan, such as Extending the Principles of “When I’m Ready”, Secure Accommodation, the reinstated Task Finish Group on Corporate Parenting and provision of Remand and PACE placements, all of which are attended by representatives of my policy team.</p> <p>Despite there being a number of positive research publications arising from the work of the Group which is helping inform this complex area of work, it remains a</p>

			<p>concern that little has been achieved in regards to delivering improvements in provision or policies for this particular group of young people who still do not have equivalent access to continued support schemes like “When I’m Ready”.</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 range of levels and the employment of staff in schools who are fluent communicators of BSL, to meet individuals’ needs.</p>	<p><b>No change</b></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> <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 but I am yet to see the findings. I now believe this will be available in early January 2020.</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 will continue to seek clarification about whether the Language, Literacy and Communications Area of Learning and Experience is</p>
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			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>	<b>No change</b>	<p>In August 2019 I responded to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee’s consultation on the NHS and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) Bill, where I noted that the Bill demonstrated a missed opportunity to clarify and formalise an advocacy offer for children and young people across health and social care.</p> <p>However, I am pleased that the Welsh Government has now hosted the first meeting of a Health Advocacy group, which includes representatives from all health boards in Wales, and other important stakeholders. I hope that, moving forward, this group can agree a way in which health-related advocacy, based on a set of core principles, can have a statutory footing.</p>
<b>Transport subsidies</b>	<p><b>2016/17</b> I urge Welsh Government to ensure that public transport subsidies for</p>	<b>No change</b>	I am pleased that the MyTravelPass scheme has been relaunched and now covers an extended age range.

	<p>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> <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>There were 2,300 applications for concessionary travel from the launch date of 14<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> May 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. My office has met with officials to discuss my support for this plan, which I anticipate would boost take up of this scheme, and I understand that officials had planned to put advice to Ministers towards the end of the year.</p> <p>Transport is an area that is continually raised with my by young people and I will continue to monitor the development of this policy area, which has such impact on young people's lives.</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</p>	<p><b>No change</b></p>	<p>The Childcare Funding (Wales) Bill does not apply to children of non-working parents and parents whose work arrangements do not meet the prescribed criteria.</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>increased childcare being offered to children of working parents.</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.</p> <p>I will continue to monitor the impact that this legislation will have on all concerned and the Welsh Government published their 2<sup>nd</sup> year evaluation of the childcare offer at the end of December.</p> <p>I cautiously welcome that Welsh Government has committed to exploring whether the offer could be extended to children whose parents are in training or in the process of returning to work. However, this falls short of ensuring that every 3 and 4 year old in Wales has an equal opportunity to access the offer, particularly those who may benefit from it most.</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</p>	<p><b>Change from amber</b></p>	<p>I am delighted that the recently launched anti-bullying guidance for schools, Rights, Respect and Equity, is statutory for Governing Bodies and Local Authorities.</p> <p>At consultation stage, this guidance did not have statutory status and my response called clearly for Government to re-think this in order for the guidance to have the</p>



	<p>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>necessary impact on the experiences of children and young people.</p> <p>I congratulate Government for taking this step and for introducing new statutory requirements for schools to develop robust anti-bullying policies informed by children and young people, which set out how bullying will be recorded and monitored, and how anti-bullying will be embedded into the curriculum.</p> <p>In addition, the guidance as a whole advocates a whole school approach to anti-bullying informed by children's rights and in which participation is a central element. It is informed by the perspectives of children and young people throughout, in particular drawing on my Sam's Story report.</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><b>No change</b></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.</p> <p>A consultation on Measuring social services performance: code of practice, which included proposals for national data collection in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation has now closed. Having provided a response to the consultation I am now awaiting to see whether the arrangements in the final version will assist in addressing the issues identified in this recommendation.</p>
Sexual abuse and exploitation	<p><b>2017/18</b></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</p>	No change	<p>Provision is still variable across Wales which is affecting children's experiences.</p> <p>However I acknowledge that positive progress has been made, led on by Cardiff and the Vale LHB, in respect of securing an interim service for these areas. Initial evaluation data suggests this is likely to have had a positive impact on the experiences of children under 14 years of age, compared to previous arrangements. I am pleased to hear that following a discussion with myself</p>

	<p>recovery services for victims are available throughout Wales.</p>	<p>that children and young people's views have been sought as part of the evaluation. Whilst training and 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 and have access to appropriately trained health professionals including the option of paediatric support.</p> <p>I will continue to monitor the current provision available here in Wales particularly this year where I understand further work will be taken forward in terms of the future delivery of therapeutic provision and other elements of the SARCS service. There are also commitments made related to the delivery of therapeutic provision in year 3 of the Government's National Action plan: Preventing and responding to Child Sexual Abuse. With this in mind I will be engaging with those concerned to ensure work programmes are coordinated and focuses on the best use of resources to deliver the best possible outcomes for children. This should include exploring learning from the child house model. In November I visited a pilot project in London which has adapted the child house model to use here the UK .</p>
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<p><b>Healthy Relationships</b></p>	<p><b>2017/18</b>  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><b>No change</b></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 draft Health and Wellbeing AoLE.</p> <p>It is also encouraging that the recent consultation on Ensuring Access to the Full Curriculum shows Government's intention to remove the parental right to withdraw children and young people from RSE. I strongly support this as an essential step to safeguarding children and ensuring all children and young people get age-appropriate information in order to make healthy choices and stay safe.</p> <p>I was pleased to see Government has also facilitated consultation with children and young people in considering this proposal. Young people's needs must be central to this decision making and I hope sincerely that Government takes forward this proposal in the Curriculum and Assessment Bill.</p>
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<p><b>All Wales Schools Liaison Programme</b></p>	<p><b>2017/18</b> 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 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><b>No change</b></p>	<p>Following a proposal to reduce the funding for this programme, the Government and Police forces have agreed to reinstate this money for 2019/2020. The Welsh Government's draft budget indicates that funding for the programme will be maintained for 2020/2021. Whilst this is positive, I await sight of the report undertaken in 2019 to look at the content, reach and impact of the Schools Liaison Core Programme and I will continue to have an oversight of the programme through my Child Sexual Abuse roundtable.</p>
<p><b>Mental Health/ complex needs residential provision</b></p>	<p><b>2017/18</b> 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</p>	<p><b>No change</b></p>	<p>In July 2019, I met with Welsh Government and representatives of organisations including WHSSC, HIW and the Association of Directors of Social Services. At this meeting it was agreed that Welsh Government would explore a potential programme of work to establish such provision. This is a positive step, and I hope that this could</p>

	<p>emotional difficulties, for whom there is currently very little suitable residential provision in Wales.</p>		<p>mean real change for children and young people in the future.</p> <p>This is encouraging, but there have been delays in the setting up the safe accommodation task and finish group, and there is currently a lack of clarity on the direction that this work will take.</p> <p>The new draft Part 9 Code of practice includes an expectation for RPBs to have a regional commissioning strategy for residential care for children and young people with complex needs, which is welcome. I look forward to this new guidance being published.</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</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>improving outcomes for children rather than providing returns for shareholders.</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>The First Minister has stated his intention to “rebalance” the sector and to support local authorities to bring social care services back under their direct control in his leadership manifesto. I am aware that the Welsh Government has been gathering information on different models of care and pilots that have taken place in England and Scotland but this is as far as this work has gone to date.</p> <p>Some Local Authorities are bringing some elements of their provision in house but this is taking place individually in the absence of a national directive. CIW’s thematic review of Care Homes for Children revealed that just 19% of homes are managed voluntary or by the Local Authority .</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>
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