

**Equality and Social Justice  
Committee**Elinor Puzey  
NSPCC

April 13 2023.

Dear Elinor,

**Suggested Committee inquiry into link between poverty and social care involvement**

Thank you for your letter to the Equality and Social Justice Committee regarding a potential inquiry into the relationship between poverty and children's social care involvement in Wales. This was noted at our meeting on 27 March 2023. Thank you for flagging up the research by Paul Bywaters and colleagues on the need for social care to address the underlying economic distress caused by the cost-of-living crisis, against a backdrop of austerity and the aftermath of the pandemic, which is driving up rates of referrals to social services for child neglect and abuse.

Senedd committees typically schedule their work many months in advance. At present we do not have a specific plan of work on child poverty, however it is one of the potential priority areas we will be discussing as part of our future work.

Updates on our forward work programme are available on our website and if the Committee's future timetable allows for a focussed inquiry on this important topic or a similar topic, we will write to invite you to submit evidence. Given the relevance to their remits, we have also shared your letter with the Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Health and Social Care Committee for information. I am sure they will similarly inform you of any relevant work they may be carrying out.

Yours sincerely,



**Jenny Rathbone MS**  
Equality and Social Justice Committee

cc Children, Young People and Education Committee  
Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.