

Julie Morgan

Deputy Minister for Social Services

3 January 2024

Dear Julie,

Follow-up inquiry into childcare and parental employment

The Equality and Social Justice Committee plans to hold a follow-up inquiry into childcare and parental employment in February/March 2024. As part of this work we hope to look at progress with implementation of the Committee's 2022 report: 'Minding the future: the childcare barrier facing working parents'. See the full terms of reference below in the Annex.

We plan to broaden our new inquiry to the extent to which childcare meets the varying needs of families; and how inequalities in accessing childcare faced by particular demographic groups could be addressed.

We would welcome an update from the Welsh Government regarding the current situation and outlook for childcare policy and. If possible we would be grateful if you could provide us with a paper setting out your views by 5 February 2024.

We would also like to invite you to give oral evidence to the Committee in the afternoon of 11 March 2024. Given the clear links between childcare provision and equality and social justice matters, I am copying this letter to the Minister for Social Justice.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Annex A

- What progress has been made in implementing the recommendations in the Committee's report from early 2022 - **Minding the future – the childcare barrier facing working parents**.
- The extent to which childcare provision in Wales provides high-quality provision which supports child development, tackles child poverty and supports parental employment. What changes might be needed to deliver these outcomes.
- What progress is being made towards achieving the Co-Operation Agreement commitment to expand 12.5 hours free childcare per week to all two-year-olds, with an emphasis on strengthening Welsh-medium provision.
- To what extent there is sufficient childcare available to meet the varying needs of families across Wales, and how inequalities in access to childcare faced by particular demographic groups and across different parts of Wales can be addressed.
- What approaches exist to integrate delivery of childcare provision in Wales, and how can best practice be spread widely.
- How childcare providers and the workforce have been impacted by cost-of-living pressures, and what effects these have had on the sector.
- What lessons can be learnt from other parts of the UK and international best practice to improve childcare policy in Wales.
- How financial and practical barriers need to be considered in developing future childcare policy.

Annex B

Guidance

Submissions should be no longer than five sides of A4, with numbered paragraphs, and should focus on the terms of reference.

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief description of the role of your organisation.

Please see the [**guidance for those providing evidence for committees**](#).

Bilingual Policy

The Committee welcomes contributions in both or either of our official languages, English and Welsh. Information not submitted bilingually will not be translated and will be published in the language of submission only. We expect organisations to implement their own standards and schemes and to comply with their statutory obligations.

How we use your information

We will usually publish correspondence or written evidence on our website. If you have responded in a personal capacity, your name will be published along with your contribution, unless you have asked for your contribution to be anonymised. If you have responded in a professional capacity, the published version of your response will include your name, your job title/role, if relevant, and the name of your organisation.

Contact details

If you wish to speak to someone regarding this consultation, please use the following contact details:

Email: [**SeneddEquality@Senedd.Wales**](mailto:SeneddEquality@Senedd.Wales)

Telephone: 0300 200 6565

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.