

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Assembly for Wales  
Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus / Public Accounts Committee  
Ymchwiliad i blant a phobl ifanc sydd wedi bod mewn gofal / Inquiry into care  
experienced children and young people  
PAC(5) CECYP - 09  
Ymateb gan Arolygiaeth Gofal a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol Cymru / Evidence  
from Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales

CSSIW will be inspecting five local authority children services departments in 2017/18. The focus is on children with complex needs who are placed out of area; placement decision making, commissioning arrangements and multi agency working. The remaining local authorities will be completing a self assessment which will contribute to a national report on these issues. This will be published around July 2018.

In 2018/19, CSSIW will undertake a thematic review of children's homes across Wales. This will look at outcomes for children and young people.

In late 2018/19 or early the following year, we will be in a position to review information from both pieces of work and the messages and recommendations arising. We anticipate this work will be of direct relevance to your inquiry.

We are aware from our dialogue with directors that monies spent on out of area placements are frequently in excess of any amount budgeted; the spend being viewed as unavoidable due to the needs of individual children. However, this money is not available to spend on increasing the resource for preventative work to try to reduce the need for high cost residential placements. While local authorities are investing more in prevention and early intervention services, this has not generally been partnered with reduced numbers of children looked after. This is a complex area where strict cause and effect interpretation is not appropriate.

CSSIW are represented on the Ministerial Advisory Group on improving outcomes for children looked after and the sub groups relating to residential care, secure accommodation, physical interventions/restraint and missing children.