

Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM  
First Minister  
Welsh Government  
Ty Hywel, Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

23 November 2017

Dear First Minister

**Meeting on 27 October 2017**

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister held in Cwmbran on 27 October. I hope you agree, given the subject matter discussed, that it was beneficial to hold the meeting at a venue which supports young people to achieve their goals.

Following the meeting, Members agreed that I should write to you with some additional questions and to seek further clarity on several of the issues discussed.

**United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Monitoring**

You stated during the meeting that it was the responsibility of the UK Government to respond directly to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, following their examination of the UK and devolved governments' implementation of the UNCRC in June 2016.

The Committee would welcome clarification on the Welsh Government's responsibilities with regard to UNCRC monitoring, as well as how you intend to respond to the 'Concluding Observations' made by the UN Committee that relate to Wales and devolved responsibilities. Within this, we are interested in whether the Welsh Government has any plans to publish an action plan to address the



recommendations made, as called for by the UN Committee and the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

### **Awareness of the UNCRC and Children's Rights**

During earlier discussions that the Committee held with children and young people, it was apparent that there were differing levels of awareness of children's rights amongst the group, particularly with regards to the UNCRC and the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure. In light of this, we would be grateful if could you outline how the Welsh Government communicates with children and young people in Wales to raise awareness of their rights.

### **Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA)**

Members have concerns over the robustness of the Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) process in ensuring that the rights of children and young people are addressed in policy and budgetary decisions, and that integrated impact assessments alone may not prove sufficient.

We were also concerned that there appears to be few examples of instances where the CRIA process has had a concrete impact on Welsh Government decisions in a way that has made a difference to children and young people. We would welcome any examples of this that you can provide.

### **Children's Rights following Brexit**

Members welcomed your undertaking to give further consideration to establishing an advisory committee of young people to inform the Welsh Government's work on Brexit-related issues. The Committee would appreciate further information on any mechanisms you intend to put in place to ensure that the views of children and young people in Wales are listened to as part of the EU withdrawal process.

### **Ministerial Advisory Group on Looked After Children**

Members would appreciate further information on the leadership arrangements for this group and how it feeds into policy-making.



## Youth Work

The Committee raised concerns with you over the funding available for youth work and the implications for the sustainability of valued local provision, such as Cwmbran Centre for Young People. Whilst we recognise the importance of local authorities determining the required youth provision for their areas, we discussed with you the possibility of the Welsh Government developing an outcomes framework that ensures a sufficient level of provision. The Committee welcomes your agreement to give this issue further consideration and to write to the Committee with further information in due course.

## Work experience

The Committee heard several accounts from young people relating to difficulties they have experienced in obtaining appropriate and meaningful work experience placements. As agreed in the meeting, we will seek to provide you with examples which highlight the specific challenges expressed to us separately in due course.

Yours sincerely



**Ann Jones AM**  
**Deputy Presiding Officer**  
**Chair, Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister**

