

Children Young People & Education Committee

From: Welsh Government

Date: 21st January 2021

Venue: Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Title: Scrutiny of CYP&E Draft Budget 2021-22

1. Purpose

The Committee's Chair wrote to the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services and the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language on 18 November 2020, inviting them to give evidence on their Draft Budget proposals and asking them to provide a paper in relation to the Draft Budget.

2. Introduction

This paper provides information for the Children Young People & Education Committee (CYP&E) on the children and young people future budget proposals for 2021-22 and also provides an update on specific areas of interest to the Committee.

Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

The detailed Draft budget published on 21st December set out our spending plans for the HSS MEG by BEL.

Figures for 2022-23 are not available at this time as the draft budget covers one year only.

The tables below illustrate the budget moves from first Supplementary budget 2020-21 to Draft Budget 2021-22.

Allocations within the Health and Social Services MEG

SPA			
ACTION	Delivery of Targeted NHS Services		
BEL	2020-21 First Supplementary Budget	Change	2021-22
	£m	£m	£m
A Healthier Wales – Early Years	6.3	0.7	7.0

SPA	Supporting Children		
ACTION	Supporting Children		
BEL	2020-21 First Supplementary Budget	Change	2021-22
	£m	£m	£m
Support for Childcare and Play	63.351	17.900	81.251
Support for Children's Rights	0.991	0	0.991
Supporting Children	3.289	0.576	3.865
Children's Commissioner	1.580	0	1.580
Support for Families and Children	3.604	2.400	6.004
Total Supporting Children	72.815	20.876	93.691

Changes included within the Health and Social Services MEG relate to:

Action - Delivery of Targeted NHS Services in BEL - A Healthier Wales

- £0.7m increase support for Speech, Language & Communication for Early Years. This will take forward the 'Talk with me' plan and funding to support the new pathfinders with systems transformation.

Action – Supporting Children (various BELs)

- £17.9m increase for Support for Children and Play in respect of £15m increase in Childcare Offer, £1.9m increase harmonising rate with the foundation phase and £1m budget transfer for Holiday Hunger from the Education MEG.
- £0.576m increase for Supporting Children in respect of National Fostering Framework.
- £2.4m increase for Support for Families and Children including inter-parental conflict support; parenting support in relation to the Children (Wales) Act, adverse childhood experiences and additional programme costs.

SPA	CAFCASS		
ACTION	CAFCASS		
BEL	2020-21 First Supplementary Budget	Change	2021-22 Draft Budget
	£m	£m	£m
CAFCASS Cymru	12.152	1.470	13.622

Changes to the **CAFCASS Action** are reflective of the planned increase agreed in 2020 due to demand within the service in fulfilling their statutory obligations. The increase represents funding for expected staff costs and court-ordered contact services in 21-22.

BEL 0030 – Other Direct NHS Allocations

- £17m included within the Integrated Care Fund for programme activity for ‘Children on the Edge of Care’ (£15m) and a new allocation for safe accommodation for children with complex, high end emotional and behavioural needs (£2m).

New allocations within the Mental Health, Well-being and Welsh Language MEG relevant to children and young people

BEL 0270 –Mental Health

- £4m additional support the Whole Systems Approach (previously Whole Schools Approach) to improve access to support the emotional and mental health well-being of children and young people.
- £5.4m additional funding to support young people with diagnosed mental health condition through community or specialist in-patient services

3. Impact of expenditure on progressing children’s rights under the Rights of the Child and Young Persons (Wales) Measure

Under the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, we have given balanced consideration to the rights set out in the UNCRC. The draft Budget 2021-22, published on 21 December, sets out the impacts of our spending decisions as part of the main narratives in chapters four and six, including highlighting spending decisions that directly impact on children and young people. This is complemented by the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment at Annex C, outlining the contextual evidence that has supported our spending decisions, including the impact of the pandemic on children and young people. Annex C also includes more-detailed case studies on the impacts of specific spending decisions, including one on our support for children and young people’s mental health.

The evidence contained in this paper also sets out further information as to how Children’s Rights have shaped budget priorities in the HSS MEG and the MHWWL MEG.

In line with evidence we have provided during the scrutiny of previous budgets, an integrated approach enables us to understand more clearly the overall impact of decisions on children and young people. Detailed impact assessments, including Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA), must be undertaken as part of our ongoing policy development and review. These assessments will continue to be used to inform budget decisions and the wider impact assessment of the budget.

This approach, in the context of the budget allocations, ensures that evidence and understanding of impacts are considered from the outset and throughout the course of our budget preparations.

Our integrated impact assessment tool still requires children's rights to be considered, and where necessary, a full CRIA is completed. The CRIA process puts children's rights centre stage when we are developing legislation, new policies and programmes.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act

The Health and Social Services (HSS) portfolio supports our ambitions to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. This will be achieved through delivering the three objectives set out in Prosperity for All: quality health and care services fit for the future, promoting good health and wellbeing for everyone and building healthier communities and better environments. We have taken a long term approach in developing our spending plans for 2021-22, with an emphasis on delivering our vision of integrated health and social care services for the future as set out in A Healthier Wales, our Plan for Health and Social Care.

The Health and Social Services MEG contains the core revenue and capital funding for NHS Wales, as well as funding to support centrally managed programmed activities in relation to public health, social care and supporting children.

A Healthier Wales meets our commitment in 'Prosperity for All' to publish a long term plan for health and social care in Wales in response to the report of the Parliamentary Review of the Long Term Future of Health and Social Care. The Plan builds on the philosophy of Prudent Healthcare to make an impact on health and wellbeing throughout life. There is an emphasis on preventing measures to support people to manage their own health and wellbeing, enabling people to live independently for as long as they can.

Our aim is to take significant steps to shift our approach from treatment to prevention. The vision we have established in A Healthier Wales is to place a greater focus on prevention and early intervention which we continue to support through universal, as well as more targeted support. This includes information, advice and support for parents through Parenting. Give it Time; support for speech, language and communication (SLC) through the Talk with me SLC plan; and the ongoing work to reduce or mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

As well as significant investment in the NHS in 2021-22 we are allocating an additional £20m for early years support for children, young people and families. There will be an additional £16.9m in the Childcare offer and a further £3.1m to expand the Early Years Transformation programme building on what we know works from Flying Start and Families First and SLC support.

Our support for childcare and play provision contributes to all of the well-being goals, and specifically to those relating to a prosperous and healthier Wales. Investment in quality childcare and play can help young children develop into healthy, active

adults. It develops their cognitive and social and emotional wellbeing and mitigates the harmful effects of adverse childhood experiences. Childcare can also enable parents to work and train and lifts families out of poverty.

Our Childcare Offer specifically supports the Welsh Government's well-being objectives, in particular to:

- Support people and businesses to drive prosperity
- Promote good health and well-being for everyone
- Support young people to make the most of their potential
- Build ambition and encourage learning for life

We will continue to frame our budget allocations in line with preventative activities, making positive interventions that protect and build on existing foundations, including our commitment to children's rights.

Preventative Approach

Whole Systems approach

- An additional £4m will be allocated to extending the rollout of the whole systems approach from the MHWWL MEG. This will increase the allocation in 2021-22 to £7m from the MHWWL MEG. The investments will support the extension of schools counselling and further extend the existing in-reach pilots for the Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service into 2021-22. These services are helping to prevent the escalation of more serious mental health and well-being issues within school aged children and ensure sustainable improvements to timeliness of interventions. There is also £2m in the Education MEG that supports this programme, giving a total commitment of £9m.

National Fostering

- An additional £0.6m to support the existing programme work of the National Fostering Framework and enhancing Foster Wales. The programme work centers around rebalancing service provision addressing demands and improve quality of placements. Support also extends to other key areas of work around residential care including such as the provision of safe accommodation for children with complex needs and exploring ways to increase the use of special guardianship arrangements.

Early help

- An additional £3.1m, which also includes £0.7m funding from the A Healthier Wales Early Prevention funding from the HSS MEG. This funding will provide a range of interventions across a range of programmes which support children and families including Speech, Language and Communication to support the implementation of the delivery plan; inter-parental conflict support; parenting support in relation to the Children (Wales) Act, adverse childhood experiences and additional programme costs.

Childcare Offer

- An additional £16.9m, with £15m increase in the core baseline budget for the Childcare Offer and £1.6m to harmonise the rate for the early education element of the Offer with the childcare element.

Integrated Care Fund

- Maintain the total investment in the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) for Children on the Edge of Care (£15m) and prioritising a new allocation of £2m to support the high-need looked after children currently being sent outside of Wales.

CAFCASS Cymru

- Planned increase of £1.470m, agreed in 2020-21, due to demand within the service in fulfilling their statutory obligations. The increase represents expected staff costs and court-ordered contact services.

NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for Tier 4 and Community Intensive Teams

- An additional investment of £5.4m for those vulnerable children and young people who need more significant support. Such support is offered at a community level whenever possible, but in some cases requires specialist Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) intervention which may lead to inpatient treatment.

4. Policy and legislation allocations

The Committee requests an update on allocations within the Draft Budget 2021-22 Health and Social Service MEG in the following areas of interest:

Costs of legislation : *Planned expenditure on implementing the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act in the run up to it coming into force.*

A [regulatory impact assessment](#) was published alongside the Bill at introduction in March 2019, setting out the estimated costs and benefits of the proposed legislation. Some costs to organisations are unknown, because relevant data is not collected by those organisations to provide a baseline, and there is a lack of comparable data to provide the basis of an estimate of the potential increase in workload. However, we have worked through a Data Collection and Monitoring task and finish group to agree data collection and monitoring arrangements with the police and social services which will allow us to collect and monitor data both before and after commencement of the legislation, to help assess the impact of the legislation. We also are continuing to work with other stakeholders such as the Crown Prosecution Service Cymru and HM Courts and Tribunals Service to collect additional data after commencement.

We have awarded a contract to support the awareness raising campaign for the Act, and to support our *Parenting. Give it Time* campaign. In 2021-22, we have allocated up to £0.800m to specifically raise awareness of the change to the legislation. This is a comprehensive engagement and communications campaign, comprising; targeted work with partners, stakeholders and professionals; engagement with BAME and targeted audiences; a children and young people strategy; a multi-media public facing awareness campaign including TV, radio, outdoor and social media advertising. £0.2m has been allocated to the *Parenting. Give it Time* campaign, which supports our policy of encouraging positive alternatives to physical punishment and provides information and advice on positive parenting techniques. We will also allocate up to £0.030m for social research to track levels of awareness and opinions on the legislation, and up to £0.043m to support engagement with young people through Children in Wales.

Child Poverty

An allocation of £23.27m has been made to the Housing and Local Government MEG through the Local Government Hardship Fund for provision in lieu of free school meals to eligible learners during school holidays in 2021-22.

An allocation of £15m has been made to the Childcare Offer which supports eligible working parents of 3 and 4 years old with their childcare costs. A typical parent whose child is benefitting from 20 hours of childcare per week is getting the equivalent of an extra £90 per week in their pockets – money they would not otherwise have had.

The Offer has been independently evaluated since the first year of implementation. The latest evaluation results are based on year 2 of the Offer and show that:

- **84% of parents** reported having more disposable income
- **57% of parents** felt work related decisions were more flexible
- **56% of parents** had more opportunity to increase earnings
- **45% of parents** reported having more opportunities for training, learning and development

The median salary level of parents supported by the Offer is approximately £21,000 per annum which is lower than the national average annual salary level of £25,896 per annum (as recorded by the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings).

The latest evaluation of year 3 of the Offer is currently underway and results are expected in early 2021. During 2021-22 we will also be reviewing the rate of the offer and considering rolling out the Offer to parents of children in education and training.

The programmes within the Children and Communities Grant in the Housing and Local Government MEG are both early intervention and prevention programmes. These include Flying Start and Families First that support families in poverty. No new allocations have been made to the Children and Communities Grant at Draft Budget, but budgets have been maintained at 2020-21 levels.

Flying Start

The Flying Start revenue grant is part of the Children and Communities Grant (CCG). The CCG consists of 7 programmes (Childcare and Play, Communities for Work Plus, Families First, Flying Start, Legacy Fund, Promoting Positive Engagement for young people at risk of offending (PPE), St David's Day Fund), of which - Flying Start and Families First are tackling poverty programmes, enabling Local Authorities (LA's) to be more flexible in their approach in order to improve and integrate service delivery for early intervention. LAs have 100% flexibility to direct their CCG funding across these 7 programmes enabling them to ensure services are delivered in a more efficient and effective way.

In recognition of the new flexibility in budgets allowed for by the CCG, local authorities now have the flexibility to allocate any of their overall CCG budget for outreach i.e. it is for local determination of need, and as requested by our stakeholders we have removed the barriers to this.

The Flying Start programme straddles both primary and secondary preventative spend and is a tackling poverty and early intervention programme.

We want to build on the considerable achievements of the Flying Start programme and learn from what works well, not least in how we can deepen partnership, collaboration and multi-agency working arrangements across sectors in support of young children and their families. We want to progress the work of the nine PSB Early Years Transformation Pathfinders who are exploring what it would take to create a more integrated and responsive early years system, both locally and

nationally, by extending the number of PSBs on the programme to test the core components of an integrated early years' service.

We will **provide an extra £3.1m** across a range of programmes supporting Children and Families including Speech, Language and Communication to support the implementation of the delivery plan; inter-parental conflict support; parenting support in relation to the Children (Wales) Act, adverse childhood experiences and additional programme costs.

Since its inception, Flying Start has invested more than £68m capital developing the infrastructure needed across Wales to deliver this tackling poverty programme. This includes creating new childcare settings to provide high quality, part time places needed for 2-3 year olds and a significant investment in developing accommodation for the multi-agency teams who deliver the programme. The **capital budget for 2021-22 is £5.529m** and local authorities will continue to be encouraged to take a strategic approach to capital programme planning including 21st Century Schools, Welsh Language and the Childcare Offer to enable key priorities to be delivered in a more joined-up way.

Families First Programme

The Families First revenue grant is part of the CCG. Local authorities can be flexible with how they use this funding within the grant conditions to provide early help to children and families that need it. This continuing investment is an important part of our commitment to helping children fulfil their potential and reduce incidence of adverse childhood experiences which impact on longer-term outcomes.

Childcare

In 2020-21 we developed the Coronavirus-Childcare Assistance Scheme to support parents through the pandemic. An allocation of £20m was also made from reserves to meet the rising costs of the Childcare Offer and to meet demand.

We have allocated an **additional £16.9m** to the Childcare BEL in 2021-22, which has increased funding available to the Offer in 2021-22 to **£76.9m**. Given the demand led nature of the Offer we cannot rule out the possibility that costs will exceed the allocated budget. If this happens then as in previous years this will be managed as an in-year pressure with the support of Welsh Government reserves.

In addition to an increase of £15m to reflect likely demand for the Offer, we are allocating £1.9m towards the costs of harmonising the rates for early education and childcare within the Offer. This follows a pilot of a single rate for both elements of the Offer in 2019. A number of settings are concerned about the disparity in the rate between the education and childcare elements of the Offer.

The total cost of harmonising the rates is expected to be around £3.8m with £1.9m coming from the Health and Social Services budget and a further £1.9m from the Education budget.

We have also committed to review the rate paid for the Offer. We are aware of concerns within the sector that the current rate does not reflect changes within the market including recent changes in the National Minimum Wage for example. Harmonising the rates is the first stage in addressing these concerns.

We have also committed to exploring the implications of extending the Offer to parents in education and training and on the cusp of work.

We are making good progress on both these fronts and expect the reviews to be completed February 2021.

The development of a single all-Wales digital system for administering the Offer has started, with a capital budget of £4.5m for 2020-21 and £4m forecast for 2021-22.

We will maintain the same level of continued support to CWLWM (Childcare Wales Learning and Working Mutually) of £1.4m. This is the umbrella consortium representing childcare providers in Wales. CWLWM plays a key role in maintaining a link between Government and providers on the ground and acts as a valuable sounding board as we develop and implement our policies.

This relationship has been invaluable during 2020 and in seeing us through the Covid-19 crisis an additional in-year allocation of £0.800 was provided to bolster activity relating to Covid-19 guidance and support for childcare providers through our CWLWM partners.

In 2020-21 we have continued to fund local authorities through the Childcare and Play element of the Children and Communities Grant in order that local authorities can help with the sustainability of childcare and play providers in their areas and address any gaps in provision in their local areas.

In 2020-21 we were able to allocate an additional £2.3m to local authorities as part of the Welsh Government's reconstruction package, on top of their usual annual allocation of £2.3m. This additional money was a one-off allocation to support settings which have felt the impact of Covid-19 and to try and ensure that we are able to sustain a strong and viable childcare sector into the future.

In 2021-22 we will continue to support local authorities in their work of securing childcare sufficiency. This funding sits within the Children and Communities Grant in the Housing and Local Government MEG.

Funding for the childcare and play services within Care Inspectorate Wales fell this year as a result of the closure of childcare services due to Covid-19 and the impact on inspection activity. We are expecting funding for CIW to resume to typical levels in 2021-22, which will be in the region of £0.4m. This will support joint inspection activity with Estyn for settings where childcare and early years are provided, will support ICT costs and administration of the nanny scheme.

We are also planning to maintain our funding for Social Care Wales (SCW) in respect of the work they do for the childcare workforce. Childcare forms a part of the wider social care workforce and SCW are supporting the implementation of the 10

year childcare, playwork and early years workforce plan we published in 2017.

In 2020-21 we allocated £0.315m to SCW, though changes to their work plan in light of Covid-19 meant they only required £0.3m. We expect funding to return to at least £0.315m in 2021-22 and are working with them to determine how best to re-profile and restart a range of planned activity to support the wider childcare workforce, including work on qualifications and registration.

We are supporting a range of programmes to upskill the childcare and playwork workforce through Progress for Success, which is funded from European Social Funds. In 2020-21 we expect to spend £0.715m in match funding to meet our commitments in respect of the programme. It is likely our commitments will be slightly reduced in 2021-22, though discussions around the rate of draw-down of European funding are ongoing.

We have continued to support other programmes aimed at supporting the childcare workforce. This includes Childcare Works, which is administered by the National Day Nursery Association, specific work on apprenticeships being taken forward by Mudiad Meithrin, and business support grants administered by Business Wales. While not all of these programmes will continue, with some scheduled to end this year, we will continue to invest in support programmes for the workforce through 2021-22.

Parents Childcare and Employment (PaCE)

The Parents Childcare and Employment (PaCE) is a £21.5m programme jointly funded by the European Social Fund and Welsh Government, working in partnership with Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Currently the programme is funded up to March 2023.

PaCE targets economically inactive parents aged 25 and over, and parents aged 16-24 who are Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET). All parents enrolled onto PaCE have childcare as their main barrier preventing them accessing education, employment or training opportunities. PaCE builds upon services offered via Flying Start and Families First and operates outside the former Communities First areas, to complement other projects such as Communities for Work.

PaCE aims to work with 9,000 parents over the life of the project, and help at least 1,800 of those parents into work. As at October 2020, PaCE has supported 5605 people. The programme has delivered consistently and is expected to continue to do so despite the impact of Covid-19 restrictions.

Family Information Services

Funding for the Family Information Services (FIS) is delivered via the Local Authority Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

Parenting support

In 2021-22, we have allocated up to £0.2m to support our Parenting - Give it Time campaign. The campaign supports our policy of encouraging positive alternatives to physical punishment as well as providing information and advice to parents and families on wider positive parenting techniques. We intend to extend the age range of the campaign during 2020-21 from 0 – 7 to parents of 0 – 18 year olds.

A mapping exercise was completed to assess the current availability of parenting support across Wales, and in the light of the pandemic, we have also worked with parenting practitioners to collate and share their innovative work to deliver parenting support virtually. We are considering with our Parenting Expert Action Group the extent to which additional parenting support and resources may need to be made available.

Safeguarding & Advocacy £2.365m, in BEL 0460

Safeguarding services

Funding for Safeguarding primarily supports the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (The 2014 Act) and promotes a preventative agenda to improve well-being outcomes for children and adults at risk. Safeguarding priorities fall under *Taking Wales Forward* which sets out that the Welsh Government will “work with and support the most vulnerable children and families in Wales.” *Prosperity for All* includes social care as a top 5 priority and recognises that there is a need to adopt a child-centred approach built on collaboration to meet the care and support needs of children, support them to stay with their families where it is safe to do so and to protect children from abuse and neglect.

In order to promote these aims funding supports Safeguarding Policy Development and Implementation. These aims include:

- Work to support the implementation of forthcoming statutory guidance on safeguarding children from child sexual exploitation.
- National Action Plan on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse and implementation of actions from that plan which fall within the financial period;
- Publication and work to support the implementation of a Reducing Restrictive Practices Framework for childcare, social care, education and health settings;
- Work to develop advice on safeguarding in the early years.
- Work to promote safeguarding in adolescence multi-agency training package commissioned for development in this financial year.
- Continued work to support Covid-19 recovery through information, advice and support for children and young people, parents/carers, practitioners and the public.

Funding of £103,000 will support the development and implementation of policy to safeguard children as set out above. £53,000 of this is for delivery of actions under the National Action Plan on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse.

Safeguarding funding supports the work of the National Independent Safeguarding Board and the regional Safeguarding Boards so that measures are in place to support consistent evidence-based practice to safeguard children across agencies and across Wales. Funding of £180,000 is provided to the National Independent Safeguarding Board.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures and aligned practice guides were issued in November 2019 on a digital platform and further promote consistent evidence based safeguarding practice across agencies and across Wales. On-going work led by the Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board will ensure the procedures and guides are reviewed and amended as emerging evidence of effective practice is identified and to sustain the digital offer. This will require £25,000 funding.

Funding for Safeguarding activity will remain at 2020-21 levels and 2021-22 priorities will include continuation of support to Regional Safeguarding Boards to ensure the robust adoption into day-to-day practice of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and accompanying practice guides across relevant workforces as well as funding for the National Independent Safeguarding Board which provides support to regional boards and advice to Ministers about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Wales. Funding for Safeguarding week will continue to be a priority and this will contribute to both prevention and the protection of children at risk.

Funding will be available to support the implementation of the National Action Plan on preventing and responding to child sexual abuse set out for the financial period within the plan; training development and delivery to support the implementation of new statutory guidance on safeguarding children from child sexual exploitation and a new Reducing Restrictive Practices Framework. Policy development will include a Voluntary Code of Practice for bodies who are not currently relevant safeguarding partners, guidance on emerging safeguarding issues for children and practice advice on safeguarding in the early years and the to support stronger corporate safeguarding policy and practice across Wales.

Advocacy services

The NASA is a standardised approach to statutory advocacy services being delivered by the six Regional Social Services Collaboratives. It has been in place since June 2017, with Welsh Government providing up to £550k each year to support the implementation of this approach. The implementation of NASA is monitored by a Task and Finish Group established under the Ministerial Advisory Group.

The Task and Finish Group was drawn to a close in November 2020 with a new approach being taken of Regional Fora which follows the footprint of the Regional Safeguarding Boards. This will be overseen by a National Forum chaired by Welsh Government and a Local Authority Head of Children's Services. The NASA will continue to be managed and monitored via the Regional and National Fora. The funding element from Welsh Government will continue (up to £550k each year).

The NASA sets out shared national expectations on access and availability of independent professional advocacy. Underpinned by the National Standards and Outcomes Framework, common components of a service specification and reporting template, the NASA reinforces and secures a consistent offer and experience for children and practitioners. The NASA further evidences and informs future delivery and improvement through quantitative and qualitative reporting at local, regional and national levels.

An active offer of advocacy forms part of the NASA and is provided in the following circumstances: 'Children and young people are entitled to an active offer of advocacy from a statutory Independent Professional Advocate (IPA) when they become looked after or become subject of child protection enquiries leading to an Initial Child Protection Conference.'

MEIC is the national information, advice and advocacy helpline providing children and young people with a single point of contact via Freephone, instant messaging and text.

The Welsh Government does not deliver this activity directly but carries out regular monitoring contract meetings with Pro-Mo Cymru who were awarded a two year contract (plus option for additional 2 years) in April 2016 following public tender exercise in 2015.

Welsh Government, as per the terms of the contract, has with Ministerial authority utilised the option to extend the contract for an additional 2 years on an annually renewable basis.

MEIC is currently funded until March 2021 by the Welsh Government at the sum of £535,980 per annum. As a result of the pandemic, an additional funding amount of £33,000 was provided to Pro-Mo Cymru to assist with the additional resources required (both staff and materials) to enable the MEIC service to appropriately respond to the increase in calls to the helpline and to produce Covid-19 specific resources to enable the maintenance of the provision during a period of great change and uncertainty for young people in Wales (e.g. responding to calls concerning uncertainty regarding education, specifically regarding exam results and preparation for university during the pandemic).

The pandemic has presented challenges regarding the procurement exercise to maintain the MEIC service beyond March 2021. Work is ongoing to enable the continuation of the service for a further year until March 2022. During this time, it is intended to continue to explore the provision of a Youth Information Service for Wales (Young Wales) of which, it is intended that MEIC would be one component. This extension will enable the service to avoid interruption whilst the larger proposed service is developed which will be flexible to enable and ensure alignment with current and future Ministerial priorities.

Looked after children

In 2021-22 the programme budget for Looked After Children (LACTG) and the Vulnerable Children budget will be respectively £0.660m and £3.156m.

The LACTG budget will enable the continuation and progression of an extensive programme of work as set out in the Improving Outcomes for Children programme. The key features of the programme are:

Safely reducing the numbers of children in need of care

Working with local authorities, the judiciary and other key stakeholders to continue to develop services which help keep families safely together. This includes using evidence based approaches such as family group decision making approaches to de-escalate family crises and support reunification, delivering peer learning across sectors. It also includes work to support the reform of the family justice system so that preventative measures are a key feature to avoid the need for families to become involved in care proceedings.

Providing and commissioning a flexible, affordable and sufficient range of high quality placements

To progress the work of the National Fostering Framework and the development of the marketing campaign. Recruitment of foster carers is key to the success and development of local authority fostering. It was identified that a requirement to achieve this goal would be the development of an “all Wales brand for Local Authority fostering”, a consistent national brand for Local Authority fostering that reflects the strengths and personalities of the 22 Local Authorities - ‘Foster Wales’ is this brand. Foster Wales presents an opportunity to rebalance service provision, address demands, and improve quality of placement choice for children. The programme also supports other key areas of work around residential care including such as the provision of safe accommodation for children with complex needs and exploring ways to increase the use of special guardianship arrangements.

Supporting Children who are Looked After to have the Best Possible Journeys through Care and Into Adulthood

To continue to provide support to care leavers to help them transition successfully into adulthood. There is also a range of cross government work which is focused on improving educational outcomes for looked after children, developing a range of accommodation options which provide positive experiences for children and young people who are leaving care and a programme of work around corporate parenting.

Vulnerable Children (£3.156m) – Activities include:

Independent Review Mechanism

The IRM manages the process by which prospective or approved adopters, and prospective or approved foster parents, can seek a review of a ‘qualifying determination’ made by an adoption or fostering provider. This includes local authorities and independent providers.

Adoption Services including post-Adoption support

Adopted children are amongst the most vulnerable children in Wales; children for whom other alternatives have been exhausted and who would most likely remain ‘looked after’ for their entire childhoods if they were not adopted. Improving support will ensure the investment already made in safeguarding these children leads to best outcomes and will encourage more families to consider adopting.

Wales Adoption Register

The Welsh Government continues to work closely with the National Adoption Service to ensure the continuous delivery of the Wales Adoption Register. The Register provides a tailor-made database for adoption agencies (including voluntary adoption agencies) in Wales. It provides data to better evidence and drive improvement in adoption activity across Wales, particularly in respect of those children who are more difficult to place with prospective parents. During 21-22 the new Adoption Register for Wales will continue to be embedded to speed up matching of children through quicker notification of children and adopters in line with revised regulations.

Adoption Support

National Adoption Service Framework:

Investment will continue to support the implementation of the National Adoption Service Framework for Adoption Support which provides the improvement strategy for adoption support across Wales.

Life Journey work

Life Journey Work is designed to help a child make sense of their past and understand their current situation in order to help them move into the future. Funding will enable the continued improvement of this service to ensure that all adopted children have access to their life journey work. Funding will be directed at supporting champion co-ordinator posts in each of the NAS regions along with supportive posts to help further develop this area of work,

TESSA

Investment to fund for the recently established Therapeutic Education Support Service for Adoptive families (TESSA).

Best Practice Approaches

Implementation of best practice guides developed by the National Adoption Service.

Adoption UK Cymru

During 21-22 funding will be directed to Adoption UK Cymru to continue providing a wide range of services which include maintaining and growing volunteers, delivery of post approval training, provision of an Adoption Support Helpline in Wales, delivery of a bespoke service for adopted children age 7- 10, young people age 11 – 25 years old, and an 18-25 year old group.

Adopting Together

Adopting Together is a bespoke programme which finds adoptive families for the most vulnerable children who have been waiting the longest within Wales.

Adopting Together families support needs are at a higher level, and require direct psychological and therapeutic support that are specific rather than generic, to ensure placement stability.

Cohort Study – Cardiff University

So far the study has yielded invaluable information direct from families and children which from a practice point of view, has enabled us to develop responses that will help to preserve adoptions ever more effectively; and to recruit greater numbers of suitable adopters because we can understand more fully the pressures on, and successes of, adoptive families and the best ways to support them in their role. In 2021-22 the funds will build on new areas of research, based on the recommendations stemming from the 5th wave data.

Association for Adoption and Fostering (AFA) Cymru

The Association for Fostering and Adoption (AFA) Cymru is a subsidiary of the St David's Children's Society, which undertakes a variety training work for fostering and adoption agencies as well as legal/ consultancy activities. This investment enables AFA Cymru to deliver its core services so that it can continue to strengthen arrangements within the fostering and adoption sector, and promote good practice and support around permanency and stable placements for looked after children.

Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service Cafcass Cymru

Planned recurrent increase of £1.470m agreed in 2021 due to demand within the service in fulfilling their statutory obligations. This increase represents expected staff costs and court-ordered contact services.

The current budget covers staffing and running costs for the organisation but also grant funding to support separated parents, when directed by the Family Court, to have contact with their children. The budget also funds the provision of the court ordered Working Together for Children programme which supports parents who have separated, or are separating, to better manage their own behaviour to ensure the emotional, practical and physical needs and best interest of their children are paramount.

Children and young people's rights and entitlements

Funding of up to £0.991m in 2021-22 will support the implementation of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011. Part of this funding supports Children in Wales to deliver against their agreed plan in supporting the children rights agenda in Wales.

It also includes the development:

- and implementation of a participation strategy to enable Children and Young people to influence policy (article 12 UNCRC)
- and implementation of a raising awareness strategy to both internal and external stakeholders (article 42 UNCRC)
- of a comprehensive training offer for Ministers, Officials, Deputy Directors and external stakeholders
- of a research strategy focussed on Children's Rights

This funding will ensure that Welsh Government can deliver on the CYPE Committee recommendations into Children Rights in Wales and revised Children Rights Scheme.

The Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is an independent children's rights institution established in 2001. The Commissioner's principal aim, under the Care Standards Act 2000, is to safeguard and promote the rights and welfare of children. The Care Standards Act 2000 makes provision for the Welsh Ministers to fund the Children's Commissioner and her office. The budget allocation of £1.580m covers the running costs of the Commissioner's office for 2021-22 and the resources required in discharging her statutory functions.

Play policy and services

In 2019 we piloted the use of playwork settings to tackle holiday hunger, and the success of these schemes resulted in the allocation of £1m to support this approach in 2021-22, located within the Education budget. It was always intended that this funding should sit alongside that allocated through the School Holiday Enrichment Programme.

We do not think any child should be hungry in the holidays. We funded free school meal provision during the 2020 school Easter holidays, spring half term and summer holidays as part of our Covid-19 response. In addition to that a further £11m was allocated for free school meals from the October half term up to and including the school Easter holidays 2021. This is something we are committed to continuing, increasing opportunities for children to play and addressing issues of hunger.

As a consequence of that provision, we redirected the £1m originally allocated to support playwork settings to tackle holiday hunger into the £1.6m used to provide play and childcare support to school aged vulnerable children over the school summer holidays. This sat alongside the support available to pre-school children via the Coronavirus Childcare Assistance Scheme, the funding in lieu of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme and the continuation of free school meals.

We have retained the £1m allocation for playwork settings to tackle holiday hunger in the budget for 2021-22. It will move from the Education budget into the Health and Social Services budget. We are considering how best to target that funding now that an allocation of £23.27m has been made to continue with free school meals for all eligible learners during school holidays during the 2021-22 financial year. Healthy snacks and drinks will remain available at playwork provision.

Next year, as in previous years, we will be continue to support Play Wales, the charity which supports children's play. Play Wales has worked with local authorities to improve their response to the Play Sufficiency Duty and to provide specialist advice and guidance to the playwork sector. Play Wales has a key role in maintaining a link between Government and the playwork sector. It acts as a valuable sounding board as we develop and implement our policies.

This relationship has been invaluable during 2020. From the Covid-19 reconstruction fund we were able to allocate an additional £0.200m in-year funding to enable Play Wales funding to support local authorities in accessing playwork provision.

The annual grant for Play Wales is to be maintained at the level it has been in recent years, which is £0.360m so that we can continue to capitalise on this key partnership. Play Wales is also supporting the Ministerial Review of Play which will report later in the year.

They will also assist local authorities by supporting the playwork network and third sector to ensure that they understand and comply with the Open Access Playwork protective measures guidance. Play Wales will use their expertise on workplace risk assessments and how to vary play opportunities to ensure that children and young people get the best benefit.

This financial year, a one-off allocation of £0.500m revenue and £3m capital funding from the Covid-19 reconstruction fund was allocated via the All Wales Play Opportunities grant to local authorities to help them meet their Play Sufficiency duty. The £0.500m revenue funding will help local authorities improve play opportunities, such as play schemes and other playwork activities, for children and young people during the holiday periods up to and including Easter 2021. This will help vulnerable communities and support parents by enabling them to work.

The £3m capital funding will enable local authorities to further support play opportunities for children as they will be able to open play areas which have remained closed as the equipment either needs replenishing or repairs. The funding will also be used to enhance children's outdoor play experiences by removing some of the barriers to accessing play space faced by disabled children and their families. Healthy snacks and drinks will be made available at playwork provision.

Disabled children's services

Core funding for local authorities to deliver services for disabled children is through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG).

Funding has been maintained as part of the Healthier Wales funding for the clinical pathway for augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) equipment. £0.6m has been allocated to fund extra speech and language therapists and support workers in health boards (and Velindre) and a small equipment budget, in order to provide a low technology services closer to home for both adults and children who need speech and language assessment, treatment and AAC equipment.

Funding of £0.572m has also been allocated from the budget for A Healthier Wales, in part for the provision of activity prostheses for children and young people up to 25 years (this is so it fits with our policy ages for supporting young people in education under the ALNET Act and Care leavers). An allocation has also been included to support the scaling up of the Health Disability Sport Partnership. This is an award winning pilot which increases children and young peoples (and adults) engagement in disability sport. It is run in partnership with disability sport wales.

Through the Sustainable Social Services Third Sector Grant, in 2021-22, £9.8m will be provided to third sector organisations supporting the principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and A Healthier Wales. Around 30% of this grant will be supporting schemes involving children and young people. Specific support for disabled children is being provided through grant assistance to a number

of third sector organisations including Down's Syndrome Associations; Learning Disability Wales and Whizz Kidz.

Childhood obesity

There will be £5.5m invested to deliver the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales strategy in 21-22. The delivery plan, published early 2020 set out commitments as part of the 10 year Healthy Weight Healthy Wales strategy but has been significantly impacted due to Covid-19 which has meant delays in achieving 2020 deliverables. However, the proposals set out in 2020-21 remain our focus and we will publish a revised timeframe for delivery in 2021-22. The funding will focus on:

- Support for a Clinical Obesity Pathway, which will be develop children and families services and develop support for families in the early years. This will include support for a Weight Management in Pregnancy programme which will take forward a national delivery model to roll out best practice, with expertise and support provided for each Local Health Board.
- A Children and Families Intervention which will aim to support our most disadvantaged communities, targeted towards the highest proportion of children who are obese, based on the Child Measurement Programme. This will link with infrastructure through Flying Start and with social prescribing approaches and will place a particular focus on sedentary behaviour and health inequalities in order to develop pilots to test new ways of working.
- Development of systems work through Local Health Boards and partners, to deliver bespoke engagement with children and families, in order to empower decision making and developing local solutions.
- Development of research and behavioural insight which will develop evidence informed actions through the delivery plan.

Neonatal Services

Allocations to deliver the All Wales Neonatal Standards

The All-Wales Maternity and Neonatal Network, formed in 2019 from an amalgamation of two previous networks, provides evidence-based timely advice to Health Boards, Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) and Welsh Government in relation to both maternity and neonatal services. This merger established opportunities to foster closer links across the clinical pathway for mother and baby and provide new areas for joint working.

The Network uses an All-Wales Neonatal dashboard that provides oversight on activity and performance; provide assurance on the quality of neonatal services in Wales; provide a platform for monitoring the NNAP measures on an all Wales basis; support WHSSC and Welsh Government business requests for information on the provision of neonatal services.

The Network ensures regular monitoring of progress to full compliance with the Neonatal Standards, which were last revised by the Neonatal Network Steering Group in September in 2017. The standards were based upon the most up to date evidence and best practice guidelines available at that time to make them clinically and operationally relevant. They were influenced by neonatal developments across the United Kingdom and took into account recommendations by the British

Association of Perinatal Medicine (BAPM), the National Neonatal Audit Programme (NNAP), the Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health (RCPCH), Bliss and other standards published in England and Scotland.

The 3rd Edition standards aimed to continue to build on previous standards to improve services for babies and their families across Wales, incorporating the increasingly important role of the Neonatal Network and Welsh Neonatal Units working collaboratively in order to share the knowledge and skills required, to promote continuous service improvement.

The Maternity and Neonatal Network has developed a set of quality indicators for peer review that are more relevant, but will still need to be refreshed following the current round of reviews (due to complete in April 2021). In light of the ongoing peer review process and the impacts of Covid, the Maternity and Neonatal Network did not ask Health Boards to complete a self-assessment against the standards in 2020. These self-assessments also provide an estimation of the cost implication to meet standards. This baseline assessment identifies any gaps in service provision across units and also areas of non-compliance at unit level.

Priorities for Neonatal services over the next 12 months include ongoing work to introduce a 24 hour transport, 7 day a week neonatal transport service across South Wales, and ensure that the correct critical care capacity with the appropriate workforce is in place across South Wales. An interim 24 hour neonatal transport model has been agreed and will be put in place from January 2021, pending the provision of a permanent model later next year.

We also expect health boards to continue to work with the Maternity and Neonatal Network to ensure their neonatal service plans are sufficiently robust to achieve the all Wales Neonatal Standards and improvements across the service.

Going forward, the Neonatal Peer Review Programme, introduced in April 2019 will continue to review compliance with the Standards as well as agreed performance measures, clinical guidelines and policies relevant at the time of review.

The NHS England Transformational Review was launched this year and the Network has agreed to benchmark the Welsh service against this programme and present to the next Board meeting in March. This will include Welsh data, peer review themes, medical and nursing workforce, therapy support and the availability of transitional care.

Demand and capacity work for both Maternity and Neonatal services features on the Network and Collaborative work programme. A timeframe for this work is yet to be agreed. It will however require collaboration from WHSSC and Delivery Unit.

How budget allocation for 2020-21 will help to drive change / deliver performance improvement

Health board neonatal services are funded through the annual discretionary revenue allocation and health boards will set out their local priorities with regards to neonatal services in their Integrated Medium Term Plans (IMTP). WHSSC manages the majority of the health boards' budget for commissioning Neonatal Intensive Care

(Level 4) and Neonatal High Dependency (Level 3) services. The Special Care Baby Unit budget is managed by individual health boards.

Neonatal services are considered Essential Services that need to be maintained during the Covid-19 pandemic. Health boards have been instructed that they need to reflect plans to maintain such services as part of their ongoing planning and they are reporting against this to the Network and Welsh Government.

Since 2015, the Welsh Government has invested approximately £116m in neonatal developments across Wales. The investment has been made across a number of key acute sites in Wales with the aim of reducing the number of transfers of mothers and babies through the provision of a specialist, space compliant environment to ensure that care for babies is safe and effective. The funding across this period comprises:-

- £19m invested at the Sub Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Centre (SuRNICC) at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd which was opened by the First Minister in September 2018;
- £44.5m allocated for the Phase II developments at the University Hospital in Cardiff which completed in 2019;
- £25m allocated for Phase II of the Women and Children's scheme at Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen which is due to complete in 2021;
- £10m allocated for Neonatal and Post-Natal Capacity on the Singleton Hospital site which was completed in October 2020;
- £6m allocated for works on the neonatal unit at Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr which were completed in 2018;
- £2m invested in works on the neonatal unit at the Royal Gwent Hospital site, Newport which was opened in spring 2017
- £10m invested in phase I neonatal works at both the University Hospital of Wales and Glangwili to enable further investment to be made.

Perinatal Mental Health

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have ensured that perinatal services are amongst those 'essential' mental health services we have been clear must be maintained. Through the reporting mechanism we put in place on a regular basis with health board leads we receive assurance that community perinatal mental health services are still operational and available.

The original investment for perinatal mental health services to health boards was made in 2015-16 and was £1.435m. Future rounds of mental health transformation funding (commenced in 2018/19) and service improvement funding (in both 2019/20 and 2020/21) outlined a number of priority areas where health boards had flexibility to determine where their funding was allocated. This resulted in some, but not all, health boards allocating additional funding to perinatal mental health community services.

The following table shows the cumulative funding allocations which will form part of the Mental Health ring-fence within the main Health Board Allocation for 21-22.

	Total
Health Board	£m
Betsi Cadwaladr University HB	807,426
Powys Teaching HB	223,309
Hywel Dda HB	327,109
Swansea Bay University HB	361,213
Cardiff and Vale University HB	301,149
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University HB	336,030
Aneurin Bevan University HB	472,237
	2,828,473

The Welsh Government remains committed to improving services, with perinatal mental health services remaining a priority area in 2021/22.

Proposals were developed by health boards based on the needs of their area and with the understanding that Welsh Government had confirmed to all health boards that they are expected to meet the Royal College of Psychiatrists Perinatal Community Standards. The Perinatal Clinical Lead has an important role in supporting health boards to work towards these standards. The impact of the mental health service improvement funding for perinatal improvements will be monitored through the agreed arrangements for the Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022.

Although there have been impacts on perinatal mental health work plans as a result of COVID-19, work is continuing to establish inpatient provision at the Tonna site within Swansea Bay University Health Board (UHB). We are on course for completing this build which is scheduled to open from April 2021. The costs for this build currently stand at £1.6m.

Children and Young People’s Mental Health and Emotional Well-being

As a key focus of the Committee’s scrutiny during this Fifth Senedd, we would welcome:

- ***Detailed commentary in relation to children and young people’s mental health and emotional well-being***

In the draft budget, we are dedicating additional funding to support both the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Whole Systems Approach to mental health. This responds to the expected increase demand for these services and the need to shift to a preventative, integrated provision to support children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing.

Support for young people with a diagnosed mental health condition is offered at a community level whenever possible but in some cases this specialist CAMHS intervention for the most vulnerable children may need inpatient treatment. The additional funding (£5.4m) will be directed towards bolstering the NHS CAMHS services plans against Tier 4 (specialist, including inpatient care) but also Community Intensive Teams.

As part of our Whole Systems Approach we will expand provision of school counselling and emotional support alongside scaling up the provision of CAMHS in-reach by extending the pilot sites on an all Wales basis, increasing funding by £4m in this budget, up to a total of £9m. We will also continue to support implementation of our whole systems approach framework, by funding implementation leads to work locally with schools, local authorities and other partners to develop local whole system approaches to learner wellbeing; and build on earlier activity by developing further universal and targeted interventions; professional learning opportunities; and supporting school staff wellbeing.

▪ ***Information on allocations for children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being in 2021-22 and where they can be found in the Health and Social Services MEG.***

Centrally held mental health budgets have transferred into the new Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language MEG. NHS based funding for Mental Health services remains part of the main NHS allocation within the Health & Social Services MEG. The NHS ring fenced funding, for all mental health, has risen to over £726m for 21-22.

**Within the Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language MEG
BEL 0270 –Mental Health**

- £7.1m, announced in 2019-20, in relation over Mind Over Matter.
- £7m additional support the Whole Systems Approach to improve access to support the emotional and mental health well-being of children and young people*.
- £5.4m additional funding to support young people with diagnosed mental health condition through community or specialist in-patient services

*Continued investment of £2m in the whole systems approach from the Education MEG in 2021-22. This makes up £9m in total funding.

The mental health service improvement funding of £7m, in place in 20-21, will be allocated to health boards as part of their main allocation. There will be an increase in the Mental Health service improvement funding for 2021-22, as part of the additional £20m announced for supporting mental health.

We would further welcome details of:

- *Funding for delivery of priorities for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing as set out in the revised Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan.*

A number of the actions within the revised Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan are children and young people focused and will be delivered through the funding outlined above.

- *Details of funding to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, including how this will address the disproportionate impact on certain groups (including, for example, those with pre-existing mental ill health, looked after and vulnerable children, and low income groups).*

In response to Covid-19, we have revised our Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022 to support the changing mental health need. The revised plan reaffirms our commitment to prioritise the mental health and well-being of children and young people and we have accelerated a number of actions, including expanding tier 0 and schools counselling to help do this.

In addition, throughout 2020, we have issued £9.9m additional mental health funding to the NHS, third sector and Local Authorities.

- £5m for the whole systems approach to mental well-being – this include extending schools counselling.
- £2.7 m in tier 0 support to help reduce the demand on primary care NHS mental health services. This includes support for children and young people – for instance through the Youth Mental Health Toolkit and the CALL helpline.
- £2.2m for surge capacity in respect to inpatient provision across Wales.

This is in addition to the planned £7m additional investment in mental health services through the service improvement funding (detailed below).

The joint Education and MHWWL MEG whole systems approach budget of £5m in the previous year and £9.4m in 2021-22 supports the Welsh Government response to Covid19. This recognises that the emotional and wellbeing impacts of the pandemic on children and young people will outlast the physical impact. In the previous year we have targeted funding at specifically supporting Covid-19 related activity, such as supporting school counselling providers to move provision online and developing specific Covid-19 related professional learning modules.

- *How this Draft Budget will support a 'whole-system', cross-Government and cross-sector approach to children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, including a focus on prevention/early intervention and building resilience.*

The Welsh Government has already agreed to review the membership and expand the scope of the Joint Ministerial Task and Finish Group on a Whole School Approach to Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health (JMT&FG) which will become a 'Whole System' Ministerial Task & Finish Group to drive progress for the remainder of this Senedd term.

Whilst the focus will remain around school age children, the whole system approach will better reflect the current work of the group and enable it to provide leadership and expand across the additional relevant areas.

In particular, it will ensure the health and social services led actions are integrated with, and benefit from, the structured administrative and programme support that has been focussed around the Whole System Approach to date.

The first meeting of the refocussed group took place on 14 December which will meet more frequently in the New Year to ensure that we keep momentum on the pace of delivery.

We intend to publish the final version of the WSA framework early in 2021 and are also considering what further work and support is needed to help schools, local authorities and other partners to effectively implement the framework. This includes how best to ensure monitoring and evaluation of our work locally by schools.

- *Funding to support the development and sustainability of the children and young people's healthcare workforce, including specific reference to the children and young people's mental health workforce.*

Within the Together for Mental Health 2019-2022 there is a priority action to develop a workforce plan for mental health. The workforce plan is being developed jointly by Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and Social Care Wales (SCW).

HEIW and SCW carried out a mapping exercise with Health Boards throughout November to identify staff and posts and this will inform the Workforce plan for Mental Health scheduled for consultation in late 2021. Throughout October, HEIW and SCW led a joint, month long virtual conference to engage a wider range of stakeholders to inform the future mental health workforce in Wales. This work will inform future expenditure on the children and young people's mental health workforce, however in the meantime elements of the service improvement funding is allocated to support the training and development needs identified by health boards.

- *Information on the £7 million mental health service improvement fund, to include (in relation to children and young people) details of how this funding is being utilised by health boards in 2020-21, and the objectives/priorities for this funding for 2021-22.*

Early on Welsh Government recognised the importance of providing as much flexibility as possible for health boards in responding to the pressures associated with the current pandemic situation in mental health and therefore released the first six months of funding (£3.5m) allocated to each health board to ensure the continuity and flexibility that was required at this time. Health boards were asked to retrospectively provide a high-level overview on how the funding was utilised to respond to the pressures associated with the current pandemic situation in mental health. Returns confirmed this funding had been utilised in a number of ways including: additional staffing from agency and redeployment, supporting extra care due to day care service closures, additional in-patient care capacity commissioned and reconfiguration of service models to provide them digitally.

The second £3.5m allocation was allocated to a number of priority areas. There will be elements of proposals targeted at young people included within most priority categories. The split across the priority areas for 2020-21 are detailed in the table below.

Priority area	Amount requested 20/21
CAMHS	£330,495
Eating Disorders	£501,385
Perinatal	£222,488
Psych Therapies – all age provision (with £51,000 specifically focused on CYP)	£446,446
Crisis / Out of Hours – all age provision (with £253,000 specifically focused on CYP).	£991,217
Early Intervention in Psychosis	£92,166
Other (i.e. pharmacy, prison health, recovery services)	£300,011
Covid response	£367,848
Non-specific Covid/ Delivery Plan priorities	£247,944
Total	£3,500,000

The impact of this funding will be monitored through the agreed arrangements for the Together for Mental Health Delivery Plan 2019-2022.