

Lesley Griffiths AM
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

29 October 2015

Budget Scrutiny

Dear Minister

Thank you for agreeing to attend a meeting of the Children, Young People and Education Committee as part of the scrutiny process for the Welsh Government's budget.

In advance of that meeting, the Committee would be grateful if you could provide information on the following issues to assist it in its scrutiny work.

Detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) Allocations

The Committee requests:

- A breakdown of the 2016-17 C&TP MEG allocations (as relevant to children and young people) by Spending Programme Area, Action and BEL;
- A breakdown of 2015-16 allocations and projected outturns, and 2014-15 final outturns;
- Commentary on each of the Actions within the C&TP MEG as relevant to children and young people, including an analysis and explanation of changes since the final budget December 2014 and the first supplementary budget June 2015.

Children's rights and equalities

The Committee requests:

- A copy of the Child's Rights Impact Assessment which informed the total Draft Budget 2016-17;
- Details of what changes, if any, which were made to allocations within the Draft Budget 2016-17 as a result of the Child's Rights Impact Assessment;
- A copy of the Child's Rights Impact Assessment undertaken to inform the allocations in the C&TP MEG within the Draft Budget 2016-17;



- Details of what changes if any which were made to allocations within the C&TP MEG as a result of the Child's Rights Impact Assessment;
- Information on how equalities, sustainability, and the Welsh language have been considered in budget allocations and any examples where such considerations have directly influenced budget allocations or altered initial proposals.

Other information

The Committee also requests:

- Information on how the delivery of the child and young person commitments in the C&TP portfolio and their associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate **value for money**;
- Details of the costs associated with **Programme for Government commitments** within the C&TP portfolio as relevant to children and young people and whether they will be delivered within the available budget;
- Details of specific policies or programmes within the C&TP MEG (as relevant to children and young people) that are intended to be **preventative** and how the value for money and cost benefits of such programmes are evaluated;
- Information on allocations (and their location) in the C&TP portfolio to provide for **legislation which has the potential to impact in the financial year 2016-17** as relevant to children and young people.

Specific areas

Flying Start

- Allocations for 2016-17 disaggregated to the four Flying Start entitlements;
- Details of the how value for money in respect of the outcomes for children has been assessed for the Flying Start allocations for 2016-17;
- The projected cost per child of the childcare offer (and of each session per child) based on the allocations in the 2016-17 Draft Budget;
- Whether the take up of the language and play entitlement continues to be defined as the number of parents who attended the first session and therefore how value for money is assessed in respect of the allocations in the 2016-17 Draft Budget.

Other support for families

- Allocations and commentary in respect of the Families First Programme;
- Allocations and commentary in respect of the provision of Family Information Services.



Children and Families Delivery Grant

- Commentary on the allocations to the projects now funded under the five priority areas, including any increase or decreases in allocations for 2016-17 compared to the allocations specified in the original grant agreements.

Child Poverty

- What factors have influenced the child poverty allocations in the Draft Budget 2016-17?

Children's and young people's rights and entitlements

- What factors have influenced the children's rights allocations in the Draft Budget 2016-17?

Children's Commissioner for Wales

- Commentary on which issues informed the allocation of expenditure for the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales;
- How the allocation takes into account the potential impact of implementing the recommendations of the Review of the Office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, given that the Minister has not as yet outlined her full response to the recommendations.

Advocacy

- Comment on the changes in expenditure in 2016-17 as a result of the decision to end the MEIC contract earlier than expected;
- Commentary on the transfer out of £1.06 million from the C&TP Children, Young People and Families action to the Health and Social Services MEG in respect of the Advocacy Fund, as referred to in the first Supplementary Budget of June 2015;

Play Policy

- Commentary relating to any intention to further fund for the work for which Play Wales had been granted £400,000 for an 18 month period from 1 October 2014 (as referred to in the Minister's paper to the Committee for the scrutiny session on the 4 June 2015).

Childcare

- Information on the factors which have been taken into account in deciding the allocations for childcare policy and programmes;
- Whether any allocations have been made in the 2016-17 Draft Budget as a consequence of the £0.05m allocations in 2015-16 to undertake a feasibility study in 2015-16 to inform a pilot childcare scheme for Further Education students in 2016-17.

Whether any allocations have been made in the 2016-17 Draft Budget relating to the Parents, Childcare and Employment programme as referred to in the the



Minister's paper to the Committee for the scrutiny session on the 4 June 2015,
and commentary on these.

The Committee would be grateful to receive the information requested above by
Thursday 10 December.

With many thanks for assisting us in our scrutiny work.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann Jones'.

Ann Jones AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

