

Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc

Children and Young People Committee



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Val Lloyd
Chair, Legislation Committee 2
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

9 June 2009

Dear Val,

The Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure and the Children and Young People Committee Report “Child Poverty in Wales: Eradication through Education?”

As you will recall, I copied you into my correspondence of 28 April 2009 to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, regarding the impact of the Proposed Children and Families (Wales) Measure, on the Welsh Government’s response to the Children and Young People Committee Report “Child Poverty in Wales: Eradication through Education?”

I attach a copy of the Minister’s reply to my correspondence, dated 22 May 2009.

I welcome much of the detail in the Minister’s letter and annex. I was, initially, disappointed at the limited explanation as to why the Proposed Measure would only require Welsh Ministers to report once every three years on the extent to which the objectives, outlined in their strategy for contributing to the eradication of child poverty, have or have not been achieved. In the Children and Young People Committee’s report, we had recommended that such reports should be made on an annual basis and accompanied by an annual plenary debate during Government time.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc / Children and Young People Committee
Gwasanaeth y Pwyllgorau / Committee Service

Ffôn / Tel : 029 2089 8597

E-bost / E-mail : children&youngpeoplecommittee@wales.gsi.gov.uk



However, I have also noted the following exchange at the Legislation Committee 2 meeting of 21 May 2009:

“Jenny Randerson: We have heard evidence from a number of organisations questioning the rationale behind the three-year reporting cycle. It has been suggested that it is at odds with the proposed requirement in the Westminster legislation to report to Parliament annually. Concerns have also been raised that a three-year interval could mean that problems are not identified quickly enough. Save the Children suggested a full report on a three-year cycle be made to the National Assembly as a whole, while interim annual reports could be presented to the Assembly’s Children and Young People Committee. What are your views on that?”

“Brian Gibbons: That is largely possible at the moment. We have published the child wellbeing monitor, which is a fairly substantial overall view of how children are getting on in Wales. We have also published the 31 targets of ‘Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales— Measuring Success’, and perhaps Jeff or Gareth can say something about that. That happened only last October or November. So, effectively, that is what we will have. We will have the child wellbeing monitor, which, if you remember, is not just a collection of statistics, as it also includes a commentary on what those statistics mean. We already have the big three-yearly report and the more quantitative specific targets in relation to measuring progress. If the Children and Young People Committee wants us to go before it so that Members can ask about either of those datasets, we would be more than pleased to do so. I think that we have the essential tools in place as we speak.”

The Children and Young People Committee would be content with this arrangement, which goes some way to allaying our concerns over the Welsh Government’s reporting arrangements.

I would be grateful if your Committee would take this correspondence into account in your consideration of the Proposed Measure.

Yours sincerely

Helen Mary Jones AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair
helen-mary.jones@wales.gov.uk

