

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc  
ac Addysg**

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**Children, Young People  
and Education Committee**

**Senedd Cymru**

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**Welsh Parliament**

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Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services

Cc. Russell George MS, Chair of the Health and Social Care  
Committee

Date: 9 November 2021

Subject: Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022-23

Dear Eluned,

We would like written information to support our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2022-23. The annex to this letter sets out in detail the information that we would like to receive.

As you will know, my clerk has arranged with your officials for you and your Deputy Ministers to attend a meeting of the Committee on 13 January 2022 to give oral evidence on the Draft Budget. I would be grateful to receive the written information no later than 20 December 2021.

I note that the Welsh Government intends to publish the Draft Budget on 20 December. Please contact my clerk if you are concerned about meeting our proposed deadline in light of the budget timetable.

Given the shared interest across committees in some of the areas listed in the annex to this letter, I have copied in the chair of the Health and Social Care Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



# Annex: Request to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding CYPE Draft Budget scrutiny 2022-23

## **Our approach to scrutiny of the Draft Budget**

Our financial scrutiny aims to ensure accountability, promote better decision making and improve value for money. It will follow four key principles, as recommended by the Finance Committee:

- **Affordability:** to look at the big picture of total revenue and expenditure, and whether these are appropriately balanced.
- **Prioritisation:** whether the division of allocations between different sectors/programmes is justifiable and coherent.
- **Value for money:** essentially, are public bodies spending their allocations well – economy, efficiency and effectiveness (i.e.) outcomes.
- **Budget processes:** are they effective and accessible and whether there is integration between corporate and service planning and performance and financial management.

## **Transparency of budget presentation**

Throughout the previous Senedd, our predecessor committee emphasised the importance of presenting the Draft Budget transparently to enable full and thorough scrutiny. To continue this approach, we request a transparent narrative explanation (and numeric depiction) of the following in respect of the Health and Social Services MEG:

- reductions/removal or increases/additions relating to specific areas of the draft budget compared to previous financial years (e.g. grants being reduced or ceasing to exist altogether/being increased or introduced);
- what proportion any changes to the overall amount previously allocated represent;
- where exactly this change is being made in the draft budget, and whether money will be returned to/taken from central reserves or allocated to/from other budget lines; and
- information on the impact Covid-19 has had on allocations.

## **Allocation of the ‘the maximum available resources’ for children and young people**

In line with assessing the whether ‘due regard’ has been given to article 4 of the UNCRC and the Welsh Government’s duties under the Rights of the Child and Young Persons (Wales) Measure, the

Committee requests:

- a copy of the overall Child's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) undertaken by the Welsh Government to inform the allocations in the draft Budget 2022-23 across all its portfolios,
- If a specific CRIA has not been undertaken, the reasons for this and a copy of any alternative integrated impact assessment.
- details of what discussions have taken place with other relevant Ministers in respect of allocations which have a significant impact on children's health and social care, for example the Minister for Social Justice in terms of child poverty.

In respect of the Health and Social Services MEG, the Committee requests:

- A copy of the CRIA undertaken by the Welsh Government to inform the allocations within the MEG in the Draft Budget 2022-23.
- Information about how the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has influenced allocations to budget lines within the MEG.
- Details and/or examples of any changes made to allocations within the Health and Social Services MEG following considerations of children's rights, equalities, sustainability, the Welsh language, or the Wellbeing of Future Generations.

## **Commentary on Action and BEL allocations in the H&SS MEG**

- A breakdown of the 2022-23 Health and Social Services MEG allocations as relevant to children and young people by Spending Programme Area (where applicable), Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) to include:
- Commentary on each of the Actions and BELs as relevant to children and young people, including an analysis and explanation of changes between the Draft Budget 2022-23 and the First Supplementary Budget in June 2021.
- Indicative 2023-24 Health and Social Services MEG allocations as relevant to children and young people.

## **Policy and legislation allocations Draft Budget 2022-23**

An update on allocations within the Health and Social Service MEG in the following areas of interest to the Committee including:

- Allocations to deliver all Programme for Government commitments relevant to children and young people and the CYPE Committee portfolio
- Details of the assessment made of the value for money and affordability of delivering

these priorities and objectives and how their cost-effectiveness will be monitored.

- Costs of legislation: Implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill in the run up to March 2022 and in its first year in force.

Allocations across the Ministerial Portfolio as listed below and as relevant to children and young people and the CYPE Committee portfolio:

#### Children's Health

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- NHS delivery and performance as relevant to children and young people
- Research and development in health and social care as relevant to children and young people
- Public health: Covid 19 response, screening and vaccination
- Public Health: Health improvement and wellbeing services
- Mental health services including perinatal mental health
- Suicide prevention
- Autism
- Substance misuse as relevant to children and young people
- Childhood obesity

#### Children's Social Care

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- Safeguarding
- Adoption and fostering services
- Children and young people's advocacy
- Cafcass Cymru
- Policy and oversight of the provision of all social service activities of Local Authorities in Wales
- Children's and young people's rights and entitlements, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Early years, childcare and play, including the Childcare offer and workforce
- Early childhood education and care

- Flying Start for children 0-3
- Families First and play policies

## **Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Draft Budget 2022-23 allocations**

- Information on the impact of the pandemic on the Health and Social Services MEG in both 2021-22 and 2022-23, including movements in and out of budget lines, the gross contribution to -and receipt from - the Welsh Government's COVID-19 budgetary response, as well as the net effect of this.
- Information on the availability and use of the COVID Local Government Hardship Fund for children and young people.