

## **Children and Young People Committee**

### **Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc**

To consultees on the attached list

Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

23 January 2009

Dear Colleague

#### **Children and Young People Committee**

The National Assembly for Wales' Children and Young People Committee is calling for evidence for its short inquiry into children's budgeting in Wales.

#### **What is children's budgeting?**

- Children's budgeting is about examining the resources national and local government allocates to polices, programmes and services that benefit children, and about whether these adequately reflect the needs of children and young people.
- Children's budgeting makes budgetary decisions affecting children and young people more visible and transparent and make government more accountable.
- Children's budgeting helps decision-makers to be aware of the impact of policies on children and young people.

## **Why is children's budgeting important?**

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has consistently recommended that budget analyses be conducted across the UK Government and devolved administrations to show spending on children, to identify priorities and to allocate resources to the 'maximum extent available'. This would ensure that Article 4 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is complied with.

The UN Committee has said that "the lack of consistent budgetary analysis and child rights impact assessment makes it difficult to identify how much expenditure is allocated to children across the State party (i.e. the UK) and whether this serves to effectively implement policies and legislation affecting them."

In Wales, the Assembly Government has done work on children's budgeting and acknowledges that achieving full transparency across national and local government in Wales will only be achieved incrementally over a number of years. An Assembly Government paper on children's budgeting submitted to the Committee showed that 28% of the Assembly Government's expenditure in 2006-07 was allocated to children, compared to 29% for 2005-06. You can access the paper here:

[http://www.assemblywales.org/cyp\\_3\\_child\\_budgeting\\_submission\\_from\\_welsh\\_assembly\\_government\\_e.pdf](http://www.assemblywales.org/cyp_3_child_budgeting_submission_from_welsh_assembly_government_e.pdf)

## **Why have the Committee chosen to look at children's budgeting?**

The way in which budgets are constructed in Wales makes it difficult to identify what is spent on children and young people. The Committee are keen to look at this because they believe that greater transparency and a better understanding of how public expenditure is set and allocated is crucial to monitoring the ways in which national and local government are promoting the rights and well-being of children and young people in Wales.

The Committee acknowledges that this is a complex area and is interested at a strategic level in examining the processes and systems we have in place and identifying ways they could be improved, and not in analysing complex departmental budgets.

## **The Committee's Terms of Reference**

1. To examine current arrangements for allocating and monitoring public expenditure on children and young people in Wales at national and local level.
2. To identify overall Assembly Government spending on children and young people.

## What we'd like from you - consultation questions

1. To what extent do you think that budget setting and allocating resources for children and young people is transparent at national and/or local level?
2. To what extent do you think children and young people taken into account in budget setting and allocation decisions in policy areas not obviously related to them, e.g. transport, housing, planning?
3. To what extent do you think that departments within national and local government are joined-up in terms of what they spend on children and young people? Do you have examples where this is or isn't happening?
4. Do you think there is enough forward planning about how funding is allocated to deliver policies and programmes for children and young people? Please give examples.
5. Do you have any examples of cost benefit analysis being undertaken on policies affecting children and young people (i.e. assessing the costs and benefits of the impacts of an intervention or policy)? Is this something you would like to see done more routinely and made more transparent?
6. Tackling child poverty is seen as a high political priority in Wales. To what extent do you think budget allocations reflect this high priority? To what extent is budget allocation and actual spend in Wales 'pro-poor'?
7. To what extent do you think children and young people are enabled to participate in budget setting and allocation decisions at a national and/or local level, and do you have any examples of this happening?
8. What would you like to see change to make it easier to monitor spend on children and young people?
9. Are there any further comments you'd like to make about children's budgeting?

## Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

Interested parties are invited to submit written evidence to the Clerk of the Committee, at the above address, by **6 March 2009**.

If possible, please supply an electronic version in MS Word or Rich Text format, either by e mail to [equality.comm@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:equality.comm@wales.gsi.gov.uk) or on a disk.

Please begin your submission by providing some information about your organisation before setting out your views and experiences in relation to some or all of the following areas.

The Committee has invited submissions from those on the attached distribution list (Annex 1). However, **we would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the letter to any individuals or organisations that are not included but might like to contribute to the review.** A copy of this letter has been placed on the National Assembly's website with an open invitation to submit views.

## **Disclosure of Information**

*Witnesses should be aware that once written evidence has been submitted to the Committee it is treated as the property of the Committee. It is the Committee's intention to place written papers on its website, and may subsequently be printed with the report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.*

*In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.*

*If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published, and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.*

Further information about the Committee and its inquiry can be found at:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-cyp-home.htm>

Yours sincerely

**Helen Mary Jones**  
**Chair, Children and Young People Committee**

## Children and Young People Committee Inquiry into Children's Budgeting

### Consultees

ABCD - Access for Black and Minority Ethnic Children and Young People with Disabilities

Action for Children

Adele Baumgardt Consulting
All Wales Ethnic Minority Association
All Wales Forum of Parents and Carers
Anti Poverty Network Cymru
Assistant Police Liaison Officer
Association of Directors of Education
Association of Directors of Social Services
Association of Teachers and Lecturers Cymru
Autism Cymru
BAAF
Bangladeshi Welfare Association
Bangladeshi Women's Group
Barnardos Cymru
Bevan Foundation
Black Association of Women Stepping Out
Black Environment Network
Black Voluntary Sector Network Wales
Blaenau Gwent County Council
Bridgend County Borough Council
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cardiff Council
Carers Wales
Carmarthenshire County Council
Centre on budget and policy priorities
Ceredigion County Council
Children in Wales
Children's Commissioner for Wales
Community Agency for Social Enquiry
Conwy County Borough Council
Council for Wales Voluntary Youth Services
Cymru Yfory
Denbighshire County Council
Disability Wales
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Flintshire County Council
Funky Dragon
Gwynedd County Council
Home-Start
Human Sciences Research Council
Idasa

Institute of Welsh Affairs  
Isle of Anglesey County Council  
MENCAP Cymru  
Mental Health Wales  
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council  
MEWN Cymru

Monmouthshire County Council  
Mother's Union in Wales  
Muslim Council of Wales  
NASUWT

National Autistic Society in Wales  
National Council of YMCA's of Wales  
National Union of Journalists  
National Union of Students in Wales

National Youth Advocacy Service  
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Newport City Council  
NSPCC Cymru  
National Union of Teachers UT Cymru  
Pakistan Association of Newport & Gwent Welsh Asian Council  
Pembrokeshire County Council  
Play Wales  
Plymouth University  
Polish Welsh Mutual Association  
Powys County Council  
Refugee Voice Wales  
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council  
RNIB Cymru  
RNID Cymru  
Save the Children Cymru  
SCOPE Cymru  
Shelter Cymru  
SNAP Cymru  
South East Wales Racial Equality Council  
Stonewall Cymru  
Swansea County Council  
The Children's Society  
The National Deaf Children's Society  
The Prince's Trust – Cymru  
Torfaen County Borough Council  
Tros Gynnal  
UK Disabled People's Council  
UNICEF UK  
UNISON Cymru  
UNITE  
University of Pacifico  
Vale of Glamorgan County Council

Voices from Care (Cymru)  
Wales Carers Alliance  
Wales Council for the Blind  
Wales Council for the Deaf  
Wales TUC Cymru  
WCVA  
Welsh Local Government Association  
Women's Budget Group  
Wrexham County Borough Council  
YMCA Welsh Council  
Ynys Mon - Isle of Anglesey County Council  
Youth Cymru  
Youthlink Wales  
YWCA