

Children and Young People Committee: Inquiry into Children's Budgeting in Wales

**A response by National Deaf Children's
Society Cymru**

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A response from the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) Cymru

The National Deaf Children's Society is a national charity dedicated to creating a world without barriers for deaf children and young people. We represent the interests and campaign for the rights of all deaf children and young people from birth until they reach independence.

NDCS Cymru welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

Please Note: By deaf, we mean anyone with a permanent or temporary hearing loss. This could be a mild, moderate, severe or profound or temporary hearing loss. The term deaf does not presuppose the use of any one communication method and could refer to children who communicate orally or through sign language. We also include children who have a hearing loss in one ear.

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?

NDCS Cymru is concerned that WAG's three-year funding initiative for training Teachers of the Deaf at Newport University is coming to an end this year. NDCS is not aware of any impact survey to assess the outcome of this initiative. The Teacher of the Deaf workforce in Wales has an ageing profile and estimates by RNID Cymru suggest that Wales could lose 60% of this workforce in the next ten years as staff reach retirement. NDCS Cymru is urging WAG to conduct a mandatory survey of Teachers of the Deaf in Wales. This survey needs to be mapped against the numbers of deaf children being identified through the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme in order to determine whether, as this funding initiative comes to a close, more needs to be done to secure adequate numbers of Teachers of the Deaf across Wales for the future.

6. Tackling child poverty is seen as a high 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'?

The Welsh Assembly's definition of poverty clearly encompasses poverty of opportunity as well as poverty of a financial nature.

NDCS Cymru receives many reports from families with deaf children who do not feel that their child is being given the appropriate level of support they need at educational institutions.

In addition, our UK-wide *Change Your World: Youth Consultation* revealed that many deaf children find it difficult to access activities due to communication difficulties. That is why NDCS has launched our Me2 campaign to encourage organisations/clubs to become more deaf friendly.

NDCS Cymru would welcome more budget allocations to reflect these access difficulties. For example, we would welcome funding initiatives to improve levels of deaf awareness in schools and leisure facilities.

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?

NDCS Cymru would be happy to assist WAG in consulting with deaf children and young people in Wales.

9. Are there any further comments you'd like to make about children's budgeting?

NDCS Cymru would like to take this opportunity to express our disappointment over the low budget allocated for expenditure to improve the lives of disabled children last October.