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Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a Gweinidog y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder
Cymdeithasol a Chydraddoldeb
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Minister for Social Justice
and Equality



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ98994, WQ98995 & WQ98996

Sarah Cooper-Lesadd MS

24 June 2026

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for the following written questions

- What mechanism does the Welsh Government currently have, or plan to introduce, to assess whether the expansion of the childcare offer is improving children's development outcomes, and will this mechanism be in place before, or after, the next phase of the expansion?
- Will the Cabinet Minister confirm whether a consistent, national framework for measuring early years developmental outcomes exists across all twenty-two local authorities, and if not, when one will be established?
- What assessment has the Cabinet Minister made of the consistency and comparability of early years and developmental outcome data collected across the twenty-two local authorities in Wales?

This government is committed to ensuring that every child has the best possible start in life, regardless of their circumstances. Monitoring the take up and impact of our new childcare offer will be a key part of its rollout. The recently announced Expert Steering Group will be advising on the rollout of the new offer, including its monitoring and evaluation.

There are recognised gaps in the data landscape for early years around child development. Work is underway across policy areas and ministerial portfolios to explore a joined up national measure of child development for pre-school aged children in Wales.

Work is ongoing involving local authorities to make use of data-linking to identify outcomes across a range of domains, including those linked to child development. This will enable a much stronger evidence base on the medium- to long-term impacts of these programmes on individual beneficiaries. Exploring the further development of child development outcome data is part of the ongoing programme of work linked to the roll out of the new offer.

Yours sincerely,

Sioned Williams AS/MS

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.