**WRITTEN ASSEMBLY QUESTION
FOR ANSWER BY THE MINISTER FOR
COMMUNITIES AND TACKLING POVERTY
ON 03 MARCH 2014**

Mark Isherwood (North Wales): What indicators/criteria were applied in identifying the various types and levels of play deprivation among vulnerable families and what indicators/criteria were applied in determining the level of success of the Families First programme? (WAQ6500)

Vaughan Gething:

The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012 required local authorities to complete Play Sufficiency Assessments of the play opportunities for children in their areas by March 2013.

The Assessments considered the strengths and shortcomings of play opportunities in local authority areas. These included the sufficiency of play opportunities for children living in low income families, those living in areas of deprivation, those living in rural areas, disabled children and children with particular needs. They also took into account the cost of play provision.

Local authorities developed Play Action Plans to identify the strengths and address the weaknesses identified in their Assessments. We provided £1.25m during the 2013 – 2014 financial year to support local authorities in increasing play opportunities, with particular consideration to be given to projects that support children and families living in poverty and those living in rural areas.

In March 2014 a consultation will commence on the draft Statutory Guidance to local authorities on securing sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. The final guidance will issue in July 2014 at the same time as the commencement of the second part of section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 which will commence the duty on local authorities to secure sufficient play opportunities, so far as reasonably practical.

<u>Families First Monitoring</u>
Families First is an innovation programme that promotes the development by local authorities of effective multi-agency systems and support, with a clear emphasis on prevention and early intervention for families, particularly those living in poverty. We adopted the results based accountability approach to monitoring Families First, supplemented by a framework of assessing change of the impact of the programme since its introduction and a tool for measuring impact on families.

We have developed three monitoring tools for Families First:

1. <u>Population Outcomes and Population Indicators</u>
    The Population Outcomes for Families First are:
    - Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment;
    - Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential;
    - Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being; and
    - Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe.

    These are measured by 16 Population Indicators (PIs) which are publicly available statistics. The indicators are listed below:

    <u>Outcome 1 - Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment - Indicators</u>
    PI 1 The proportion of children living in families in receipt of out of work (means-tested) benefits or in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60% of median income.
    PI 2 Percentage of Year 11 leavers not in education, employment, or training
    PI 3 The proportion of 18 – 24 year olds claiming JSA

    <u>Outcome 2 - Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their potential - Indicators</u>
    PI 1 Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieve the Foundation Phase Indicator (in teacher assessments) compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals (FSM).
    PI 2 The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2 (KS2), compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.
    PI 3 The percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals who achieve the Level 2 threshold including a GCSE A*-C in English/Welsh and Maths, at the end of KS4 compared to pupils who are not eligible for free school meals.
    PI 4 Percentage of half day sessions (overall absence) missed by pupils of compulsory school age attending maintained primary schools and eligible for FSM compared to those pupils who are not eligible for FSM
    PI 5 Percentage of half day sessions (overall absence) missed by pupils of

compulsory school age attending maintained secondary schools and eligible for FSM compared to those pupils who are not eligible for FSM

<u>Outcome 3 - Children, young people and families are healthy and enjoy well-being - Indicators</u>
PI 1 Percentage of children fully immunised by their 4th birthday
PI 2 Percentage of live births with a birth-weight of less than 2500g
PI 3 Numbers of conceptions under age 16 years per 1000 female residents aged 13 to 15.
PI 4 The proportion of children in reception class who are overweight or obese.

<u>Outcome 4 - Families are confident, nurturing resilient and safe - Indicators</u>
PI 1 The number of households with dependent children accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need.
PI 2 The number of homeless households with dependent children in temporary accommodation at the end of the period.
PI 3 Children in need by parental capacity (domestic abuse)
PI 4 First time entrants into the criminal justice system

2. <u>Process Change Performance Measures Framework</u>
The Process Change Performance Measures Framework measures the extent to which processes and systems in the delivery of services have changed, and continue to change, since the introduction of Families First. The framework measures:

   o the extent to which local authorities are implementing their Joint Assessment Family Framework (JAFF) and Team Around the Family (TAF);

   o the extent to which they are basing strategic commissioning (including projects under the disability strand of Families First) on identified needs;

   o how they are involving other agencies in identifying those needs and in implementing the projects; and

   o the extent to which key learning, what works well, is being identified through learning sets (and other means) and how that learning is being used to further develop the implementation of Families First.

3. <u>Family Outcomes Tool</u>
   The Family Outcomes Tool will assess the impact of Families First on families themselves who have been through the programme, using data from the Distance Travelled Tools each local authority is using.