



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQs 91622 & 91623

Sioned Williams
Senedd Regional Member for South Wales West

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27 March 2024

Dear Sioned

Thank you for your recent written question asking what progress has been made to fulfil the Ministerial Advisory Group for Looked After Children's legacy commitment to develop practice guidance on out-of-area and cross-border placements for children and young people in residential care and what timescales are in place to fulfil the Ministerial Advisory Group for Looked After Children's legacy commitment to develop practice guidance on out-of-area and cross-border placements for children and young people in residential care.

An Improving Outcomes for Children programme was established in 2016 to develop a national approach to improving outcomes for care experienced children and identify what early intervention and preventative action could be taken to help reduce the numbers of children taken into care. The programme was in place during the previous Assembly Term (2016-2021) and was supported by a cross-government and cross-sector Ministerial Advisory Group, chaired by David Melding MS.

The programme came to a close in 2021 with the publication of a Legacy Report. That report set out the achievements that had been made and the impact these had had upon care experienced children, the services in place to support them and the workforce. The report also set out a number of 'legacy' items the Group considered required continued focus in the new Assembly (now Senedd) Term.

The Welsh Government's commitment to improving outcomes for care experienced children has not wavered. However, these 'legacy' items have needed to be considered alongside a new vision and set of priorities for care experienced children which were set out by the Welsh Government at the start of the current Senedd Term.

Our Programme for Government contains a number of key commitments relating to a new vision for Children's Social Care. At its heart, we want to see more children and young

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

people enabled to live with their families, and in their home neighbourhoods, with many fewer needing to enter the care system. For those young people looked after by their local authority, we want to establish a system-wide approach so they remain close to home, can continue to be part of their community and for any stay in care to be as short as possible; consistent with meeting their needs and supporting better outcomes.

I understand that draft guidance has been prepared and alongside this, officials are currently working across the four UK nations to establish a formal notifications process for cross border placements of children in residential care. The outcome of this work will need to be reflected in the draft guidance and officials will work with stakeholders to consider what else may be required to enable it to be finalised and published within the current Senedd term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden', written in a cursive style.

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Care