

**Y Pwyllgor Plant a Phobl Ifanc
Children and Young People Committee**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Lesley Griffiths AM
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19 October 2012

Dear Lesley

We wish to thank you and the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services for attending the Children and Young People Committee meeting on 10 October as part of our scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget Proposals 2013-14.

The Committee would like to make a number of comments for your consideration. We are also writing to the Minister for Education and Skills and the contents of both these letters are being copied to the Finance Committee to inform its overarching strategic scrutiny of the Draft Budget and will appear on the Committee's website.

Transparency

The Committee felt that the presentation of the budget had improved, although Members were still concerned about the lack of transparency around budgetary expenditure for children, particularly within the health budget.

Members were also concerned that, despite our comments last year about ring fencing, there still appeared to be no clear principles about when and why ring fencing was used, and the approach seemed to vary from Minister to Minister.

National Adoption Service

The Committee expressed concern that there was no additional funding for the delivery of the proposed National Adoption Service. We had hoped that the recommendations from our inquiry into adoption services might influence policy thinking in this area and are disappointed that there is no flexibility within the budget to accommodate any substantive changes to the proposed model.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

The Committee was concerned that bringing together children and young people's and adult and older people's mental health services into an all-ages strategy and the subsequent removal of ring fence funding would further impact on the quality of CAMHS and make it more difficult to monitor spend in this area in future years.

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CAFCASS Cymru

Further to the evidence session, Members were still unclear as to what specifically the additional £527,000 that has been allocated in 2013-14 for CAFCASS Cymru running costs is for and what specific outcomes will be achieved by the allocation of this additional funding.

Additional Information

You agreed to provide the following additional information:

- Whether there are any resources available through Together for Mental Health for the development of age-appropriate training programmes for frontline staff for the diagnosis and management of ADHD.
- Whether any additional resources have been allocated for the implementation of the National Oral Health Plan for Wales specifically with regard to children and young people.

Thank you for assisting the Committee in its work, and we look forward to receiving your response to the points raised in this letter as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Christine Chapman AM
Committee Chair