

National Assembly for Wales
Children, Young People and Education
Committee

Follow-up Inquiry into Adoption Services in Wales

March 2016

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



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Children, Young People and Education Committee

The Committee was established on 22 June 2011 with a remit to examine legislation and hold the Welsh Government to account by scrutinising expenditure, administration and policy matters encompassing: the education, health and wellbeing of the children and young people of Wales, including their social care.

On 22 January 2014, the Assembly agreed to alter the remit of the Committee to include Higher Education. This subject will continue to be included in the remit of the Enterprise and Business Committee, with both committees looking at Higher Education from their particular perspectives. The Committee was previously known as the Children and Young People Committee.

Current Committee membership:



Ann Jones (Chair)
Welsh Labour
Vale of Clwyd



Angela Burns
Welsh Conservatives
Carmarthen West and South
Pembrokeshire



Keith Davies
Welsh Labour
Llanelli



Suzy Davies
Welsh Conservatives
South Wales West



John Griffiths
Welsh Labour
Newport East



Rhodri Glyn Thomas
Plaid Cymru
Carmarthen East and Dinefwr



Lynne Neagle
Welsh Labour
Torfaen



David Rees
Welsh Labour
Aberavon



Aled Roberts
Liberal Democrats
North Wales



Simon Thomas
Plaid Cymru
Mid and West Wales

Recommendations

Recommendation 1. Children, Young People and Education Committee's successor Committee should keep under review the NAS's progress of fulfilling its stated priority of ensuring that, where appropriate, services are consistent and of a high standard. Page 4

Recommendation 2. Welsh Government / NAS must ensure that it is satisfied, at the earliest opportunity, that data on adoption is robust and collected and interpreted consistently. Page 5

Recommendation 3. Welsh Government should undertake a timely review into post-adoption support and, if needed, transfer the responsibility and resources for assessing needs which occur post-adoption to the National Adoption Service. Page 8

Recommendation 4. Children, Young People and Education Committee's successor Committee should keep under review the use of the funding for post-adoption support to ensure it delivers value for money and addresses the needs of adopters and their adopted children. Page 8

Recommendation 5. Children, Young People and Education Committee's successor Committee should seek further information on the outcomes of the rapid review of the PDG process and the implications of the findings for adopted children. Page 10

Recommendation 6. The rapid review of the PDG process should consider how well Regional Consortia are working with schools to maximise the impact of the PDG. The review should also consider attendance levels by teachers and school governors at the training events relevant to adoption that the PDG is being used to fund. Page 10

Recommendation 7. Minister for Education and Skills should provide further information on the amounts allocated for bursary support for specific children and the outcomes he expects to see as a result of that investment. Page 10

Recommendation 8. Minister for Health and Social Services should ensure that the new Together for Children and Young People three year programme of change in CAMHS delivers the changes needed for adopted children, and that consideration of their needs is a key consideration in the

development of the new dedicated neuro-developmental services and the funding for psychological therapies. Page 10

Recommendation 9. Welsh Government / NAS should work with representatives at a regional and local authority level to take forward an ‘agreed national specification’ for life story work. Local authorities must ensure that staff have the capacity and skills to deliver this work. Page 11

Recommendation 10. Children, Young People and Education Committee’s successor Committee should keep under review the Foster to Adopt scheme, to ensure it is fit for purpose and deliver improved outcomes for children and prospective adopters. Page 12

Recommendation 11. Children, Young People and Education Committee’s successor Committee should consider workforce capacity and skills in any future work it undertakes relating to adoption services. Page 13

Introduction

1. In February 2016, the Children, Young People and Education Committee undertook a follow-up inquiry into adoption services. A report of its initial inquiry was published in November 2012.
2. During the course of this follow-up inquiry, the Committee met with prospective adopters or parents who had adopted. The meetings took place in Colwyn Bay and Cardiff and notes of the meetings are included at Annex A. The Committee is very grateful to the families who took part and for taking the time to share their experiences with Members.
3. The Committee took oral evidence from:
 - Adoption UK Cymru;
 - Wales Adoption Cohort Study;
 - The Children's Commissioner for Wales; and
 - The Minister for Health and Social Services.
4. The Committee received a factual update on progress from the National Adoption Service.
5. Responses to the Committee's consultation can be found on the Committee's [website](#).

What progress has been made since the Committee's inquiry in 2012?

6. The responses to the Committee's follow-up consultation were generally very positive about the National Adoption Service (NAS) and the progress it has made. Contributors referred to the speed with which it had established an appropriate infrastructure; its engagement with key stakeholders and the establishment of systems to gather data on adoption. Some positive responses were also received about the recruitment, assessment and preparation of adopter parents.
7. The Committee heard that some good progress has been made with regard to the 'early' stages of the adoption process such as recruitment and training.
8. However, contributors raised concerns about the lack of progress in some of the more 'challenging' policy and practice areas to improve. In

particular there were still serious concerns about the provision of post-adoption support (specifically CAMHS, social services and education services). We also heard worrying evidence that only relatively few children are being provided with quality life-story work.

The Committee's primary concerns are:

- **The regional variation across Wales.**
- **The continued lack of post-adoption support and the significant and very serious impact this can potentially have on children and their families.**
- **That the majority of adopted children are still not being provided with quality life-story work.**

Regional variation

9. It is clear from the available data that there is considerable regional variation in the provision of services. However, it is probably too early to be able to use the data to identify the reasons for that variation.

10. The Committee believes that ensuring greater consistency in the provision of services is vital and is one of the main purposes of having a national service. This, however, should not prevent services being tailored to meet the needs of local populations. The Committee welcomes the Minister's commitment that "consistency will be one of the top priorities for the adoption service during the second year of its operation" and believes progress should be kept under review.

Recommendation: Children, Young People and Education Committee's successor Committee should keep under review the NAS's progress of fulfilling its stated priority of ensuring that, where appropriate, services are consistent and of a high standard.

Data collection

11. In relation to the collection and interpretation of data, the Committee notes the Minister's comments that it is too early to say whether the data demonstrates trends. The Committee also recognises the important role the NAS has taken to enable baseline data to be published for the first time.

12. The Committee believes that robust data is necessary to identify where services need to improve and is concerned that data is not being collected in

a consistent way across regions. This will seriously undermine the value of the data and must be addressed.

13. The Committee agrees with the Minister that more work needs to be done to ensure that the data is interpreted correctly. Welsh Government must ensure that the National Adoption Service has access to the expertise that will enable it to interpret the data and design services in response.

Recommendation: Welsh Government / NAS must ensure that it is satisfied, at the earliest opportunity, that data on adoption is robust and collected and interpreted consistently.

Targets

14. The National Adoption Service has set a target of increasing the number of approved adopters by 25%. The Committee believes that such targets can be useful in providing a challenge and motivation for the service. However, the Committee is not persuaded this target is appropriate.

15. Sir James Munby's judgement relating to adoption orders has resulted in fewer children being brought forward for adoption. In addition, some regions are using a more targeted approach to identify appropriate parents for the types of children which have been brought forward e.g. siblings. The Committee believes that, as a result of these and other factors, the Service should give further consideration to the appropriateness of this target.

16. Indeed, if the regions are taking different approaches such as that outlined above, it will be challenging for the Service to set meaningful targets. Nevertheless, the Committee believes that any such targets should be based on increasing the number of successful adoptions.

Input from relevant service areas

17. The Committee notes the Minister's comments in relation to the establishment of the National Adoption Service's Governance Arrangements, saying they have "settled very well". However, the Committee is concerned that these national arrangements are not being replicated on a regional level. The Committee heard, for example, that some regional boards have had difficulties in ensuring that representatives from the education sector attend

meetings. The Committee also heard concerns that there were no ‘tangible partnership arrangements at an operational level with the third sector’.¹

18. The Committee welcomes the Minister’s reassurances that further work will be undertaken to ensure that relevant service areas are participating in regional work.

Recruitment, assessment and preparation of adopters

19. A number of contributors to the Committee’s follow-up work referred to the pre-adoption preparation process, with specific reference to prospective adopters developing a full understanding of the commitment they are making and the potential challenges.

20. Enabling parents to fully understand what they are committing to is important. Understanding more about their adopted children’s backgrounds may also enable parents to identify early signs of problems and provide better support for their adopted children.

21. The Committee notes the Minister’s comments that Social Workers face challenges when providing the full facts of any case to prospective adoptive parents. Nevertheless, adopter parents must be told the truth about the commitment they are going to make. Furthermore, no adopter parents should feel they have not been given information that could have helped their child.

Post-adoption support

22. Responses to the follow-up inquiry suggest there has been very limited, if any, progress in improving post-adoption support. The Children’s Commissioner identified post-adoption support as the one area where “focus and investment is needed”. The National Adoption Service recognised that developing adoption support services is probably its greatest challenge. This was echoed by St. David’s Children Society.

Delivery of post-adoption support

23. Given the lack of progress, the Committee returned to the question of whether it would be appropriate for the National Adoption Service to take on the role of assessing support needs which arise post-adoption. The Minister confirmed that he was still open to such an approach, but that there were

¹ St David’s written evidence

arguments for and against it. He said there are a number of benefits arising from the delivery of support at a local level. Providing support at a national level risked weakening “the level of responsibility that ought to be there by those people who have been involved in the process from the beginning to see it through to a conclusion”.

Funding of post-adoption support

“We are aware that adopters are watching the levels of investment that are happening in other parts of the UK, particularly just across the border in England and asking why the same isn’t happening in Wales. It is difficult to provide a justification for this.”

National Adoption Service

24. The Committee notes that in England, since 2013, Local Authorities have been able to apply to a specific Adoption Support Fund, which is intended to fund essential therapy services for adoptive families. Several stakeholders and parents queried why such a fund is not available in Wales given the scale of needs and the lack of progress which has been identified. The Minister said that, while the fund in England had proved successful in some ways, he had some concerns that a system based on individual applications could mean that the funding did not reach those in most need. In his written evidence he referred to being ‘mindful of the need to move away from spot purchasing and short term, local commissioning’.

25. The Minister said that over £1.2 million was being made available to third sector organisations (After Adoption, Adoption UK and the St David’s Children Society) over the next three years to provide post-adoption support across Wales. This approach would mean all adopters can benefit from the support that is available. However, this funding will not be used to support individual children and families.

26. The Minister said the Welsh Government will also be providing funding so that new adopters in Wales would automatically become members of Adoption UK. This will give access, via email and post, to signposting materials and information about the services available in Wales.

27. The Committee shares the concerns of stakeholders and adopters relating to the availability of post-adoption support. We have serious concerns that very limited progress has been made on this aspect of adoption services and that some of the most vulnerable children and young people in Wales and their families are still not getting the help they need.

The Committee also notes parents' frustrations that funding for essential therapeutic interventions on an individual basis is not accessible in the same way in Wales as it is in England.

28. The Committee welcomes the funding allocated for post-adoption support. It will be important to monitor the effectiveness of the Welsh Government's chosen approach; whether the funding is sufficient; and whether there needs to be an element of the funding that can be used for individual packages of support.

Recommendation: Welsh Government should undertake a timely review into post-adoption support and, if needed, transfer the responsibility and resources for assessing needs which occur post-adoption to the National Adoption Service.

Recommendation: Children, Young People and Education Committee's successor Committee should keep under review the use of the funding for post-adoption support to ensure it delivers value for money and addresses the needs of adopters and their adopted children.

Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG)

29. The Committee welcomes the extension of the Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to include support for adopted children. However, the Committee notes that the extension of the PDG to adopted children has occurred without a commensurate increase in funding. The Committee has concerns about this approach and the potential impact that spreading the available funds more thinly will have on both Looked After and adopted children.

30. Whereas PDG funding for children in receipt of free-school meals is allocated to schools, PDG funding for adopted children is allocated to regional consortia based on an estimate of the number of adopted children in their region. The consortia spending plans for this element of the PDG includes:

- Funding for bespoke training such as emotional, behavioural and awareness training packages for schools including foster carers, adoptive parents and school governors.
- Funding for the sharing of good practice through school to school collaboration; and
- A proportion of funding has been earmarked as bursary support for specific children – this includes individual and group support

packages such as services designed to increase learners' emotional and social skills.²

31. The Committee recognises that it is administratively difficult to allocate PDG on a per-pupil basis, largely because local authorities and schools may not necessarily be aware that a child is adopted. It is also possible that, given the numbers of adopted children, value for money and impact may be maximised by allocating PDG funding to consortia to administer on a regional basis.

32. The Committee recognises the PDG should be used to improve the educational attainment of pupils; in this case, pupils who are adopted. Training and awareness raising of the needs of adopted children is to be welcomed, but the Committee is concerned that such interventions will have less of an impact than more targeted interventions to address the specific needs of a child.

33. Furthermore, the Committee has some concerns about the appropriateness of using the PDG to fund professional development for teachers and school governors. If the Minister has identified that such training is necessary, its costs should be met by existing training budgets.

34. It is unclear what proportion of the funding will be targeted directly at adopted children and whether that proportion is appropriate.

35. The Committee welcomes the Minister for Education and Skill's commitment that "From April 2016, the Welsh Government will introduce a rapid review process to evaluate the effectiveness of the first year of the new funding arrangements." This process will be vital in monitoring the impact of the use of the PDG and whether the chosen interventions are delivering value for money.

36. The Committee notes that, in England, parents are asked to inform the school about adoption. Given the difficulties involved in identifying adopted children in Wales and, consequently, targeting support, Welsh Government should consider the potential benefits of introducing a mechanism to enable parents to inform schools. This information could then be used as a basis for the allocation of support.

² [Minister for Education and Skills, letter - 13 January 2016](#)

Recommendation: Children, Young People and Education Committee's successor Committee should seek further information on the outcomes of the rapid review of the PDG process and the implications of the findings for adopted children.

Recommendation: The rapid review of the PDG process should consider how well Regional Consortia are working with schools to maximise the impact of the PDG. The review should also consider attendance levels by teachers and school governors at the training events relevant to adoption that the PDG is being used to fund.

Recommendation: Minister for Education and Skills should provide further information on the amounts allocated for bursary support for specific children and the outcomes he expects to see as a result of that investment.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) support for adopted children

37. Contributors to the inquiry raised serious concerns about access to CAMHS services and support for mental health and behavioural issues. The Committee notes that the Minister for Health and Social Services has outlined a new strategy for providing mental health support for children and young people, including CAMHS, and which will be available to adopted children. The Minister stated that "there is some further work to do to ensure that adopted children benefit fully" from the review.

38. As part of its legacy report, the Committee has recommended that this new approach to the provision of mental health support should be kept under review by its successor Committee, to ensure that it is delivering the improvements that are necessary. The impact of the review on outcomes for adopted children should be given particular emphasis in this work.

Recommendation: Minister for Health and Social Services should ensure that the new Together for Children and Young People three year programme of change in CAMHS delivers the changes needed for adopted children, and that consideration of their needs is a key consideration in the development of the new dedicated neuro-developmental services and the funding for psychological therapies.

Life-story work

39. Contributors to the follow-up inquiry raised serious concerns about the lack of life-story work and raised numerous issues about its quality, mirroring the evidence heard in the 2012 inquiry.

40. Life-story work is an important process, commonly used with adopted children to help them understand their past, present and future. Life-story books are often used to provide a visual aid and reminder of important events or feelings. A child's social worker is responsible for undertaking this work.

41. The Committee is concerned that in 2015 only 38% of children had life journey materials before their second adoption review³. Whilst not directly responsible for this work, the National Adoption Service recognised that progress is needed in this area and is undertaking further analysis of the issues.

42. The Minister told the Committee that life-story work is a priority that the National Adoption Service should be focussing on as it moves forward. However, the challenges of life-story should not be underestimated. For example, in some cases, social workers preparing life-story work may be dealing with birth parents who do not wish to cooperate. The Minister emphasised that research conducted by Cardiff University suggested that, where life-story work was being undertaken, it was of a good quality.

43. The Committee remains concerned about the low number of adopted children with life-story work and the lack of progress. While it is, perhaps, too early to draw conclusions from the data that is available, many adopters have raised concerns with the Committee about the absence of such work. It was suggested that a 'good practice model' would help. The Committee welcomes the Minister's commitment that life-story work should be a priority and that the National Adoption Service will be developing, in the next 12 months, a national specification for life-story work which can then be used at a regional level.

Recommendation: Welsh Government / NAS should work with representatives at a regional and local authority level to take forward an 'agreed national specification' for life story work. Local authorities must ensure that staff have the capacity and skills to deliver this work.

³ NAS Annual Report

Other issues

44. Respondents to the consultation raised a number of other areas of concern.

Concurrent planning

45. In the report of its initial inquiry, the Committee recommended that Welsh Government should establish a review into barriers to implementing concurrent planning in Wales. However, Welsh Government did not undertake the review and subsequently chose a different approach called Fostering to Adopt.

46. In fostering for adoption, a child is placed with approved foster/adopter parents after the local authority decides that the child should be placed for adoption, which can be some time after care proceedings have begun. The child will have been in another foster placement(s) until that decision is made. AFA Cymru told the Committee that Fostering for Adoption “provides little advantage to the child, both in respect of experiencing disruption from their foster career, but critically in being placed as early as possible with a potential forever family”⁴. St David’s Children Society and AFA Cymru say that Wales is the only part of the UK without concurrent planning in place.

47. The Minister told the Committee that there were arguments for and against the different approaches but he was satisfied that, on balance, Welsh Government’s course of action was correct. He said that a small number of children would be affected by this process and that there were risks for children and prospective adopters from placing a child prematurely, particularly in the light of the ongoing implications of the ‘Mumby Judgement’.

Recommendation: Children, Young People and Education Committee’s successor Committee should keep under review the Foster to Adopt scheme, to ensure it is fit for purpose and deliver improved outcomes for children and prospective adopters.

Workforce training and upskilling

48. Several respondents highlighted the need for increasing the skills of the workforce and for it to be more aware of issues relating to adoption. The Minister told the Committee that he was confident that there is a plan in place in relation to training workers in the social care sector, but that there

⁴ See [response 12](#)

is more to be done in relation to training relevant staff in education and primary care. The Minister added that there is a leadership role at a national level for the National Adoption Service area, and part of its work will be to identify skills gaps and report that information to Welsh Government, so that it can provide assistance.

Recommendation: Children, Young People and Education Committee's successor Committee should consider workforce capacity and skills in any future work it undertakes relating to adoption services.

Annex A – Summary of discussions with adoptive parents

In February 2016, Members of the Committee met in private with adoptive parents and approved adopters both in North Wales and Cardiff. The purpose was to hear about what changes, if any, had taken place since the Committee's report into adoption services was published in 2012. Some of the main points, which were relevant to the Committee's initial recommendations, are set out below. The points below **paraphrase what Committee Members were told**. They have informed the focus of the Committee's report and recommendations.

Initial inquiries and assessment:

- We had a reasonably straightforward experience, though we've had to deal with 5 different authorities.
- Our assessment took 19 months with big gaps in between meetings. Would it be better to have a much shorter assessment period done more intensively?
- The assessment was repetitive – we kept getting asked the same thing and things didn't move forward.
- Experiences of clerical errors and misplaced forms.
- One authority told us they couldn't do the matching and approval on the same day – but didn't give a real reason why. This delayed our child coming to live with us for a few months – which was a significant time period of our child's life.
- A lot of it comes down to the skills of individual social workers. This means there are problems when there is a turnover of staff.
- Barnardo's were brilliant. The whole process took less than 6 months.
- St David's were brilliant – very timely, very forthcoming with information and training.

Matching and early days

- Matching is complex.
- There is a reduction in the number of children being adopted and this affects the matching options. Across the board there is

a need to anticipate changes in the adoption landscape and to recruit adopters and plan services accordingly.

- I would like better communication and support from the National Adoption Service and to know if we are completely wasting our time waiting for a sibling, or is there anything proactive we can do? We are struggling to comprehend (in two years) how things have changed so dramatically, and feel somewhat bewildered by this sudden change of direction when it felt that much of the political momentum was that adoption was a good option.
- Adoptive parents need as much accurate up to date information as possible from the wide range of people involved with the child, including up to date medical information. Crucially they need help to make sense of the information and its implications for the child's long term future needs and support. When babies are placed then they are often easy to place because their needs are not apparent.
- It is good to get all the background on the birth family history and any genetic issues – though this often isn't possible.
- Adoptive parents sometimes get 'drip-fed information' by social services – though this is not always deliberate.
- Sometimes when you ask more questions about children there isn't enough up-to-date medical information, and assessment documents relating to the child have not been updated.
- Sometimes foster parents may not feel they can say what the child is really like for fear of 'putting off' the adoptive parents.
- Children could be failed because the collective assessments don't present a 'positive picture'. This needs to be balanced with presenting accurate information.
- Because the nature of adoption has changed then the chances are that the child may have medical / health issues.
- The responsibility shouldn't be on the adoptive parents to seek out information
- Getting a 'good' social worker is crucial. They have very limited capacity.
- The system is not people focused – it's about balancing the books.

- When children are in foster placements its sometimes like 'suspended animation' - that they don't get the interventions they need as everyone is waiting for the adoption to take place.
- Given the range of people involved at transition, would it be an idea to have a co-ordinator role for matching and post-adoption support? Someone who could oversee the links between the child social worker and the adoption social worker. What support is there for approved adopters who can't find a match? This is more common now that the number of children being placed for adoption has reduced.
- As far as matching goes then adoptive parents are 'at the bottom of the pile'. They have no control over the process. Whilst understanding that birth parents need support, the needs of the child should come first and the system should be tailored to timescales which meet their needs.
- At transition it is really important to get the details right so that the process can be fulfilling. When we went to meet our children, the full certification had not been signed by social services. Although this was an administrative issue, it undermined an important event.
- There needs to be much more help for foster carers who need support themselves during the transition period. Foster carers form attachments with children and on some occasions can be seen to be creating difficulties during the transition. Adoptive parents sometimes end up supporting the foster parents through transition and their feelings of 'grief' - as well as managing their own feelings and those of their children.
- The Welsh Adoption Register must be given power and authority.
- As a potential adopter you are dealing with a very one sided and totally dysfunctional system which is not even regulated through the national register.
- One participant had a negative experience about Adoption Link / Link Maker.
- Concerns about interagency fees and the position in England.

Life Story Information

- The local authority produced a brilliant life story book and Barnardo's have provided us with Life-story training.
- Another person had experienced a child's life story work being done by a student social worker rather than the child's social worker.
- A good example of how life-story work can be supported is through 'life appreciation days' - where the adoptive parents meet all adults involved with a child.
- The child's 'later-life letter' was inappropriate as it painted a very different story to the reality. It was a very 'rosy picture' which could lead to the child wondering why they were ever removed from the birth family.
- The 'later life letter' had the wrong name for my son. It was 6 pages of A4 taken from my child's assessment - rather than tailored information.
- How do we know what a good life-story process looks like? There must be some a good practice model.

Post adoption support

- After the adoption - you are on your own.
- Adopted children should have the same status and access to services as looked after children.
- There should be an assumption that support is needed for every child regardless of the age at placement. It is a constant battle and fight for services.
- We need a right to have children's needs met - not just for local authorities to only have a duty to assess needs.
- Many parents had given up work because it was not possible to provide the extent of support the child needed. It was acknowledged that this is not possible for everybody because of financial pressures.
- We need a cohesive and joined up approach between all services: health / education / children's services. Someone should be responsible for making sure children's needs are met.

- Those who had received contact with Team Around the Family services said this had not helped as they were not able to provide the level of support needed.
- Child to parent violence was a feature in at least two of the families present.
- There is a strong case for investment in post-adoption support – think about the savings this would make local authorities in the longer term.

Post adoption support from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

- Many concerns expressed about the lack of support for adopted children from CAMHS – children cannot get the help they need, sometimes being told ‘their needs are too complex for specialist CAMHS’.
- Comparisons were made between support in Wales and the financial support in England for therapeutic interventions via the Adoption Support Fund.
- Despite being told their children’s needs are too complex for specialist CAMHS - parents have been told that Local Health Boards will not fund therapeutic services from external providers.
- Children with complex medical, mental and emotional health needs are not accepted as the responsibility of either health or social services.
- Parents understood the dangers of labelling children but equally, they wanted a diagnosis so that children could get the help that was needed.
- Not all adopted children have an attachment disorder and we should be careful about making a presumption about this.
- Adopted children would get the inputs they needed if they had remained in foster care.
- One example of a good therapeutic provider was given – the Family Place in Hay on Wye, however it had taken extreme lengths to get funding for this.
- There should be a ‘virtual centre of excellence for CAMHS’ so people can be signposted to the help they need.

Post adoption support for education

- There were mixed experiences with schools. Some parents had received very good support.
- Comparisons were made between the Pupil Premium Plus in England and the Pupil Deprivation Grant in Wales, in particular the funding for individual support.
- The Pupil Deprivation Grant for looked after / adopted children is paid to regional consortia in Wales and not paid to individual schools, as it is in England.
- There should be close monitoring of attendance levels when regional consortia put on training on adoption for head teachers and teachers. We need to make sure that the Pupil Deprivation Grant is providing value for money.
- Comparisons were also made about the hours available for early years education entitlement.
- There is a need for nurture classes at secondary school level in all Welsh local authorities.