# **Children, Young People and Education Committee**

# **Sixth Senedd Priorities Consultation**

## July 2021

In order to help inform our strategic planning and forward work programme, we are asking for your views on what you think, at this stage, our **main priorities should be during the Sixth Senedd (2021-2026)**. Where overlaps between committee remits exist, we will ensure that relevant issues are shared with other committees.

We are keen to start this work as soon as possible, to make sure our plans take account of your views. We know people take a well-earned break over the summer, and many education institutions also pause for a holiday, so we will run this consultation until **Friday 17 September 2021** to make sure everyone has the opportunity to contribute when they return to work. Please be aware that it may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

A key priority for us is to ensure that children and young people’s voices are heard in our work. To do this in a meaningful way, we know that we need tailored and appropriate ways of engaging. In light of that, **this consultation is not aimed at children and young people**. **Instead, we will run activities with children and young people in the autumn to help us understand their priorities for the Sixth Senedd**. We will share the findings of this work with all Senedd committees. If you are – or your child is – under 16 and interested in being involved in this activity, please email us on SeneddChildren@senedd.wales to let us know. You can also use this mail address to send us your ideas on how you would like to see us engaging with children and young people – we have lots of ideas ourselves, but we’re also interested in yours!

Information about consultations, which you should consider carefully before submitting a response, is available in our [privacy notice.](https://senedd.wales/en/help/privacy/Pages/help-inquiry-privacy.aspx) Please answer questions 6-8 at the end of this proforma to enable us to process your response appropriately.

The Senedd has two official languages, Welsh and English. In line with the [Senedd’s Official Languages Scheme](https://senedd.wales/Laid%20Documents/GEN-LD11101/GEN-LD11101-e.pdf), we request that you submit your response in both languages if you are able to do so. If your response is not submitted bilingually, we will publish in the language submitted, stating that it has been received in that language only. We expect other organisations to implement their own standards or schemes and to comply with their statutory obligation.

If you have any queries about this consultation, please contact the Committee team on SeneddChildren@senedd.wales.

**5. What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.**

Please answer in relation to as many of the themes below as you are able.

Please keep your response to no more than 2000 words in total.

**Theme 1: School-age education**

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| **Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal**This Autumn will see the roll out of the ambitious new legislation for children and young people with additional learning needs. We believe strongly that the committee has a key role to play in scrutinising the implementation of the legislation and ensuring the best possible outcomes for children and young people with additional learning needs. We feel a review of implementation of the legislation would be timely at a halfway point within the Senedd term.**This should cover;****?** |

**Theme 2: Further and higher education**

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**Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)**

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| **Neurodevelopmental Services****MSs will be well aware from their post bags of the high demand for neurodevelopmental services and long waiting lists exarcerbated by the pandemic.** Members working in these services have fed back to us concerns about sustainability of services and ability to meet need. This also fetured strongly within scrutiny of the proposed Autism bill duing the last Senedd term. We would welcome scrutiny of the demand and capacity review currently taking place to support the development of long-term solutions. We believe such an inquiry should include feedback from professional bodies representing the range of health care professionals working in ND teams and service user organisations. We work closely with other professional bodies working in this area and would be very keen to discuss and support further.**The terms of reference should include;** **??** |

**Theme 4: Children and young people**

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| **Young People within the Youth Justice Estate**We would strongly welcome a short inquiry into the speech, language and communication needs of young people in the youth justice estate. As the facts below highlight, this is a significant issue which could benefit from a timely, focused review. **Key facts*** Up to **60%** of young people in the youth justice estate have speech, language & communication needs (Bryan et al, 2007).
* **66%-90%** of young offenders have low language skills.  46-67% of these are in the poor or very poor range (Bryan et al, 2007).
* Around **40%** of young offenders find it difficult or are unable to access and benefit from rehabilitation programmes that are delivered verbally, such as drug rehabilitation courses (Bryan et al, 2004).

To our knowledge, this issue was last reviewed by the Senedd over ten years ago when the then Communities and Culture Committee report ‘Youth justice: the experience of Welsh children in the secure estate’ (2010) highlighted a lack of provision in Wales for young and adult offenders who have speech language and communication needs and recommended the Welsh Government enable pilot work to be done in Wales on the potential benefits of speech and language therapy for juvenile offenders both in custody and on release.  Despite evidence from the pilots, provision remains extremely patchy over a decade later.  This was briefly touched upon by the recent Health Committee inquiry on the provision of health and social care in the adult prison estate in Wales in which the governor of HMP Parc acknowledged that there was unmet need for speech and language therapy among the prison population. We believe a potential short inquiry by the committee could be extremely helpful in shining a light on this key area and would be happy to provide further information to the committee should you wish to explore this possibility further. |

**USE OF YOUR INFORMATION**

In order to enable us to handle your information in accordance with our [privacy notice](https://senedd.wales/en/help/privacy/Pages/help-inquiry-privacy.aspx), please complete the questions below. We will be unable to process your response if these questions are not completed.

**6. We have stated our intention to engage meaningfully with children and young people, in tailored and appropriate ways, in the autumn. However, if you are responding using this proforma and are under 13 years old, we will only be able to accept your response if your parent or guardian has confirmed that you can participate.** They can do this by sending us an email to SeneddChildren@senedd.wales.

**Are you under 13 years old?**

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| I am under 13 years old | [ ]  |
| I am 13 or over | [ ]  |

**7. Please choose one of the following options to confirm whether you would prefer that your name is not published alongside your evidence.**

We will not publish the names of people under the age of 18.

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| I am aged 18 or over and I am content for you to publish my name alongside my evidence | [ ]  |
| I am aged 18 or over and I would prefer that you did not publish my name alongside my evidence. | [ ]  |
| I am under the age of 18 | [ ]  |

**8. Please choose one of the following options to confirm whether you have agreement from any third parties referred to in your evidence that you can share information that may be used to identify them and that they understand that it may be published.**

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| I confirm that any third party I have referred to in my evidence has agreed that I can share information that may be used to identify them, and that they understand that it may be published. | [ ]  |
| I do not have the agreement of one or more of the third parties I have referred to in my evidence. | [ ]  |
| I have not referred to any third parties in my evidence. | [ ]  |