

CONSULTATION

VULNERABLE CHILDREN LCO COMMITTEE

Prepared by Chris Walsh, Nurse Director Caerphilly Local Health Board

General Observations

Firstly, we welcome the Vulnerable Children LCO Committee consideration of this report on the National Assembly for Wales (legislative Competence) (No.3) Order 2007.

This establishes some checks and balances into the system to ensure all part of government make connection with relevant policies, which can and will impact on children, either through vulnerability or poverty.

The order was very legally focused, and this provided challenges to understanding and its impact. The explanatory notes were very helpful, along with the attached proposal. The document recognises the immense efforts that the Assembly has made to ensure child poverty and vulnerability is reduced through effective policy promises. For example, Right to Action (2005); and Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities. Along with the aspiration to eradicate child poverty in Wales by 2020. Therefore this acknowledges that Wales needs are different and new legislation is required to support vulnerable children and prevent child poverty.

Finally under General Observations, the timescale for consultation was tight and hasn't been discussed at the Children and Young People Framework Partnership.

Comments on Questions

1. The measures proposed focus upon these children to whom may face heightened exposure to vulnerability, therefore the measures expressed support giving priority to those in greatest need, recognising that children, particularly those who are in the care system can be disadvantaged.

The order will provide the legal framework for the implementation of key policies affecting children who are vulnerable.

2. The terms within the order are welcomed as it provides the scope over and above those classed as Looked After or Children in need. The measures appear appropriate and have the potential to have less strings when used . The focus is welcomed.

Additionally, it was important to see, as described in note 25, page 6 (proposal for a Legislative Competence Orders relating to Social Welfare), that children in temporary accommodation through youth justice arrangements were covered; along with the need for education and training, particularly for children who are in transition to other services.

3. The two definitions appear appropriate as stated in the order for Wellbeing and Social Care. Although when children's needs are assessed, for example within a continuing health care the child's physical, mental health / and emotional needs are separated out. Therefore it may be helpful to do this in relation to the order.
4. Do the exceptions enable the Assembly to eradicate child poverty by 2020?

Consultees:

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