



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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**Supporting children who
are looked after to reach
their goals in education
and raise their ambitions**



A consultation for young people



The Welsh Government wants all children and young people in Wales to have ambitions and the best opportunities so they can reach their goals.

This includes children who are looked after.



A child is **'looked after'** when a council takes on the responsibility of a parent so they're kept safe and get what they need.

We want to support children who are looked after as much as possible.

To do this we want to make sure social services and education services work together better.

Everyone needs help sometimes.



This booklet is about our new plan to support children and young people who are looked after and the changes we want to make.

We want to know what you think.



Our aims

We think these changes will:

- encourage children to have more ambitions and help them reach their goals
- help everyone who works with children who are looked after understand how important the part they play is
- make sure that education is put first in children's lives when decisions and changes are being made
- use information to help us plan better for the future
- share things that work well to help professionals learn from each other

Reasons for the new plan

No one's background should ever stop them from being able to reach their goals.

1

Changes we want to make

We want to have strong leadership that works well.

There are lots of professionals across different services that support children who are looked after and they all need to understand the part they play.

Leadership in the Welsh Government:

We want to make sure there are clear steps and a plan in place that sets out what everyone has to do to support children who are looked after.

Leadership in councils and regional consortia:

(In Wales, education departments from each council come together to make up four 'regional consortia'. Regional consortia look after the education of all the learners in their area.)

Councils are the main support for children who are looked after. We want them to check there aren't any gaps in the support they give.

We will:

- look at having a person from the council who is in charge of supporting children who are looked after in education. This person would be called a Virtual School Head (VSH)
- set out new rules for each school's Designated Lead Person (person in school who makes sure children are safe) and school governors
- work with the new Director of Social Services to see if there are ways to make things better for children who are looked after

We will:

- make sure there's one main person in each council who's in charge of the education needs of children who are looked after
- give more support to school governing boards
- look at the role of the Education Coordinator (person who works with children in school to make a learning plan and get them support) and the Designated Lead Person in schools so that they can work together and give better support for children who are looked after
- support foster carers so they think more about the education of the children they care for

Leadership in schools and colleges:



Schools work closely with children who are looked after and are really important in helping them reach their goals.

We will:

- make sure every school and college has a main governor who's in charge of support for children who are looked after
- make sure schools work in a way that helps children who are looked after reach their goals



Question

Do you think these changes will help make sure there is strong leadership and help everyone understand their roles and responsibilities?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment

2

We want to have better partnerships that work together.

Children who are looked after need services that work together so they're able to stay in school and college so they can reach their goals.

We want to:

- help services and organisations get together and talk about how they can work better
- work with Estyn (school inspectors) to see how we can support children who are looked after even better
- help voluntary organisations work together with all services
- help councils across Wales work together and share good ideas on how to work well
- look at local policies to make sure they're the best they can be
- provide information to help carers and foster parents understand they need to work with schools
- improve the way information is shared so that when young people are registering at college they don't have to tell them they are looked after



Question

Do you think these changes will help make sure we have better partnerships that work together better?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment

3

We want good, strong teaching and learning that works.

Teaching and education are a big part of making children's lives better. Many schools are already good at supporting children who are looked after and meeting their needs.

We want:

- schools to understand that sharing information is important
- training for teachers so they know how to support children who are looked after better
- schools to improve the way they work so that all plans for children who are looked after are checked on and changed if they need to be
- schools to involve children in setting targets and the goals they want to reach
- year 11 pupils to have away day visits to colleges so they can get more information on courses
- schools and colleges to share good ideas on how to work better and learn from each other



Question

Do you think these changes will help make sure there is good, strong teaching and learning that works?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment



School isn't just about getting good grades there are all kinds of goals that should be set and celebrated when they are reached.

4

We want to use information better.

Sharing information and having information that can be trusted is important because we want all children and young people get the support they need, when they need it.

We need information so we know where social services need more support, what councils need, and what children who are looked after need help with.

We will:

- work with other services to look at how information is collected and studied
- ask children who are looked after what their experiences are of education and other services
- put this information together so it can help our planning for the future and to help us improve



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Question

Do you think these changes will help us make better use of the information we have?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment

5

We want to make sure the money we spend to support the education of children who are looked after is used better.

We give money to schools to help children and young people who face poverty, problems or are looked after.

We will:

- give some of this money to the regional consortia so they can spend it on support where it's needed most
- make sure they can use this money to support children after they've been adopted

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Question

Do you think these changes will help us to support the education of children who are looked after?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment

6

We want to involve more children who are looked after in all our plans.

Having children and young people involved in decision making of services is really important and councils have to make sure this happens.

We will:

- involve children who are looked after and Voices from Care in our plans
- look at better ways for children and young people to get involved

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Question

Do you think these changes will help us involve more children who are looked after in all our plans?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment





Question

Do you think we've left anything important out of these plans for our new plan?

Yes

No

Don't know

Comment



Thanks for reading this.



Please send your answers to:

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If you have any queries please contact
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