

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)

CYPE SP 89

Ymateb gan: Stephanie Hoffman, Pennaeth Gweithredu Cymdeithasol, ProMo-Cymru

Response from: Stephanie Hoffman, Head Social Action, ProMo-Cymru

Beth yn eich barn chi yw'r prif flaenoriaethau neu'r materion y dylai'r Pwyllgor eu hystyried yn ystod y Chweched Senedd? Os oes modd, nodwch eich barn o ran sut y gallai'r Pwyllgor fynd i'r afael â hyn.

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.

As Head of Social Action at ProMo-Cymru, I have direct responsibility for the development, delivery and management of the Meic service; this includes informing and influencing strategy and policy on children's and young people's advocacy and right to be heard.

This service reaches and engages with a high volume of mostly seldom heard children and young people across Wales up to the age of 25, dealing with an average of 5000 helpline contacts per year; it is their stories reflected in the calls, instant message and text transcripts that informs the bulk of the response to this consultation.

As the Lead for the Meic service, I also represent Meic on the Children's Advocacy Providers Group, the Independent Advice Providers Forum, CWWYS forums, and have been an active participant and contributor to the task and Finish group for the Whole Schools / Systems Approach (WSA). We also work collaboratively with Swansea University's Observatory on the Human Rights of Children and the Children's Legal centre.

I also support ProMo-Cymru's active engagement with strategic partnerships and forums including the Wales Internet Safety Partnership (WISP), and groups established to inform the review of Youth Work provision in Wales.

I am also an active member of the Our Minds our Future Wales partnership with Hafal and Youth Access, aimed at coproducing improvements to young people's mental health and emotional well-being services and pathways.



As part of Promo-Cymru's senior management team, I am also actively engaged in developing and informing strategy and policy on digital inclusion, online / digital youth information and youth services, the service design approach aimed at coproducing solutions to challenges and concerns experienced by public / third sector organisations and professionals.

We have submitted written and oral evidence to the Committee's enquiries on various themes and issues, including suicide prevention, and the impact of Covid. We have contributed to the State of Children's Rights in Wales. We have contributed to Time to Deliver for Young People in Wales. We have contributed to the development of NASA, NEST, WSA, and more...

Thema 1: Addysg oedran ysgol | Theme 1: School-age education

1. **Promote and embed Meic** Wales' universal all issues, one stop information, advice and advocacy support service for all CYP in Wales
2. Ensure understanding, awareness and **application of children's and human rights**; there is a substantial disconnect during and after the transition from primary to secondary school and beyond –
3. Linked to this an understanding, awareness and application of the full spectrum of **advocacy** as the vehicle for CYP to project their individual and collective voice in order to influence, challenge and inform (better) decision-making
4. Development of **online information - seeking skills** to find, access and navigate tools and services to support and help CYP across all issues including the facilitation of self care and self –advocacy
5. Understanding, awareness and **application of emotional intelligence** and regulatory skills and tools to promote resilience, including how to conduct or deal with difficult conversations, disagreements, conflict - within the context of power, control, safety

Thema 2: Addysg bellach ac addysg uwch | Theme 2: Further and higher education

As above.

In addition: Extend the children's rights approach to include 16 – 25 year olds



Thema 3: Iechyd a lles, gan gynnwys gofal cymdeithasol (i'r graddau y maent yn ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc) | Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)

As above.

In addition:

1. Review and streamline legislation and policy in order to make more coherent in their cross-cutting application to CYP
2. Ensure CRIA (IAA) is embedded and applied with a view to ensure coherence and minimise the risk of fragmentation of service design, procurement and funding, delivery
3. Ensure resource allocation, commissioning and procurement arrangements and guidance are transparent, fair, longer term, and equitable
4. Ensure lessons from Covid are understood and applied
5. Ensure and promote understanding and application of online information, tools, resources and services as legitimate and essential parts of the landscape for the prevention, early, crisis, and other interventions for children and young people.
6. Review CYP advocacy legislation, policy and provision, including the National Approach to Statutory Independent Professional Advocacy (NASA)
7. Ensure residential visiting advocacy in children's homes and that this be a requirement of Registration with the Care Inspectorate

Thema 4: Plant a phobl Ifanc | Theme 4: Children and young people

As above.

In addition:

1. A comprehensive, cross - cutting resourced national strategy for children and young people, with achievable and measureable actions subject to robust monitoring, evaluation and scrutiny arrangements
2. Promoting cross cutting coherence and streamlining across all devolved areas of Ministerial responsibility, and the mechanisms in place to support this, which have an impact on children and young people's journey into independent adulthood
3. A Minister with the specific portfolio and purpose to champion, promote and join up CYP rights and interests across all devolved responsibilities

