

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i'r ymgynghoriad mewn ymateb i destun ymgynghori sydd wedi'i ddiwygio ers hynny. Gweler tudalennau'r ymchwiliad a'r ymgynghoriad i gael rhagor o wybodaeth. | This consultation response was submitted in response to consultation text that has since been amended. See the inquiry and consultation web pages for this inquiry for more information.

CYPM9 Unigolyn

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg | Children, Young People and Education Committee

Plant a phobl ifanc sydd ar yr ymylon | Children and Young People on the margins

Ymateb gan Unigolyn | Evidence from Individual

Please set out any views on missing children below.

You may wish to consider:

- **Nature and scale of the issue and regional variations.**
- **At risk groups: including the impact of care experience and out of area placements.**
- **Practice: issues such as information sharing and data collection.**
- **Policy: the effectiveness of devolved policy and practice responses, including Welsh Government oversight. Whether there is effective read across to relevant Welsh Government strategies.**
- **Devolved and UK powers: how joined up is the interface between devolved and non-devolved policy such as criminal and youth justice.**

Home educated children - who inevitably come under the category of "children not on school roll" are not at increased risk of harm, neither are they "on the margins". It is both insulting and unlawful to presume that parents are incapable of raising their own children (which includes fulfilling their lawful duty of ensuring they are educated) without state intervention or oversight. Likewise there are no grounds for concern about how home educators "practice". Yet you give your definition of "children on the margin" as "groups of children in circumstances that require a specific response from children's services or other statutory providers and for which there are concerns about the current policy or practice."

School children are at far greater risk both of abuse within their learning environment than home educated children. Likewise, school children are more likely to not be receiving a bespoke individualised suitable education, as some 30% of school children do not achieve the state's own aim and standard of 5 GCSEs, and similar figures of primary school children do not meet the state's rather artificial and inappropriate expectations of literacy and numeracy for their age. Each home educated child is instead allowed to develop along their own particular learning path and developmental stage.

The data of home educated children **MUST** be kept confidential, with parents only expected to share data with the authorities on a purely voluntary basis. Furthermore it is absolutely essential that healthcare is not tied to the school environment to ensure open access for all - not only for home educated children but also for school children where there can often be breakdowns in communications and opinions between parents and staff.

Most especially, the plans for using health care services to provide data, without consent of parent or child, to LAs so that home ed families can be "inspected" **MUST** be abandoned. These proposals are highly unethical and would be likely to place barriers in place for home educators accessing health care. Indeed, previous attempts to share data from health care sources to help track illegal immigrants had to be abandoned by Westminster in 2018, as these proposals were found to create obstacles to people accessing health care. If such plans had to be abandoned for those who may have been in some way acting illegally, how much more for parents who are acting lawfully in home educating their children.

Please set out any views on children and young people who are victims of criminal exploitation below.

You may wish to consider:

- **Nature and scale across Wales and regional variations (e.g. traditional, drug related, sexual, financial).**
 - **At risk groups: including care experience, children experiencing trauma in the home and children not enrolled in mainstream education.**
 - **Policy: The effectiveness of devolved policy including Welsh Government oversight. Whether there effective read across to relevant WG strategies such as Child Sexual Exploitation.**
 - **Practice: Approaches to prevention, community resilience, early intervention, support provided and exit strategies for victims. Practice issues such as information sharing and data collection.**
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- **Devolved and UK powers: How joined up is the interface between devolved and non-devolved policy such as criminal and youth justice? Are there any points of tension between criminal law and safeguarding?**

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Please set out any views on other groups of children on the margins.

You may wish to identify other groups of children "on the margins". These would be groups of children in circumstances that require a specific response

from children's services or other statutory providers and for which there are concerns about the current policy or practice.

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If you have anything else you wish to share with us, please do so below.

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