

Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-511
Ein cyf/Our ref JC/00823/13

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

18 December 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December and the petition you have received from Powys Youth Forum about the National Children and Young People's Participation Standards for Wales. I am aware of this petition and have looked into the matter previously.

The Participation Standards were developed by the Participation Unit hosted by Save the Children. The Welsh Government has consistently supported children and young people's participation and provided grant funding to the Participation Unit to promote and enable the participation of children and young people across Wales. While the Participation Unit led on the continuing development and embedding of the Participation Standards across Wales, we as a Government endorsed the Standards.

In 2012, the Participation Unit informed us that they would not be submitting a bid for core funding in 2012/13 as they had secured other funds to support the work of the Unit and the Participation Standards. The funding we provided to the Participation Unit was therefore reallocated to other services. Since then, Save the Children took the decision to cease the Participation Unit. I will ask my officials to see if there are other ways we could support the Participation Standards; however you will understand that there are increasing pressures on budgets within Government.

In terms of encouraging youth participation, we are one of only a few countries in the world and the only UK administration to have legislated for children and young people's participation. Section 12 of the *Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010* places a duty on Local Authorities, working with their partners, to promote and facilitate participation by children and young people in decisions that might affect them.

In addition, the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 places the UNCRC at the heart of the government's work. Article 12 of the UNCRC particularly recognises children and young people's participation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Cuthbert'.

Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM

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