

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru	National Assembly for Wales
Pwyllgor yr Economi, Seilwaith a Sgiliau	Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer Pwyllgor yr Economi, Seilwaith a Sgiliau	Priorities for the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
EIS 23 Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs	EIS 23 Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs

31 August 2016

Clerk  
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee  
Third Floor  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1 NA

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on work to be carried out and issues for the Fifth Assembly (2016-2021) to consider in their work programme planning. Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs would like the Committee to consider the following:-

### **Continuation of the Out of School Childcare Grant post April 2017**

The provision of funding through the Out of School Childcare Grant has seen the sector develop and grow over the last seven years enabling parents and carers to return to work, extend working hours or return to training knowing their children are cared for in quality Out of School Childcare Clubs. The provision of the grant has also enabled the support of the childcare sector in what has been both a difficult financial period and a period of change. Ideally continued support via this grant should be on a **three year cycle** to enable a structured plan to be developed to maximise the use of this grant fund and enable it to maintain the sustainability of the current childcare settings and enable development where gaps have been identified in the Childcare Sufficiency Audits. Providing parents and carers with choice and flexibility in quality Out of School childcare settings.

### **Continued availability of Playwork training for staff in childcare settings (both registered and unregistered)**

The provision of work-based learning in the sector is fundamental to ensuring that quality and standards are not purely maintained but also improve. Changes in childcare legislation and Registration of childcare settings mean that childcare settings will need to access Playwork Training in order to obtain and keep their registration with Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW). Currently there is limited Playwork training available for unregistered settings, so unless childcare settings can fund training themselves out of school childcare settings have limited or no access to training. Childcare settings are able to access Welsh government training through programmes such as WBL Apprenticeships and Progress for Success. These programmes of learning have eligibility requirements which mean a lot of Out of School Childcare settings can not access these programmes. Apprentices must be 16-24 year olds and some restrictions apply as to how long they have been in post. Progress for Success is for 25+ but learners have to be working

16 hours and be in a registered setting. This means that the nature of Out of School Childcare Clubs puts Playworkers at a disadvantage and unable to access these schemes leaving them with no access to the qualifications they need in order to register their setting. The new government Tax Free Childcare scheme is only accessible to settings registered with CSSIW therefore putting the sustainability of unregistered settings at risk if they are unable to access these schemes. Post Brexit we are uncertain of the impact on the work based learning.

### **Continuation of the Children and Families Delivery Grant**

The work of the CWLWM project which brings together the 5 leading childcare Organisations, with Mudiad Meithrin as Lead partner, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids' Clubs, National Day Nurseries, PACEY (Cymru) and Wales Pre-School Providers Association to deliver a strategic, bilingual integrated service that ensures the best possible outcomes for children and families across Wales.

The 3 year grant awarded to the CWLWM Project completes on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017, consideration should be taken early to continue this funding and build on the work done by the project and further its work in partnership with the Welsh Government and delivery of its targets.

### **Transport**

Continued support to ensure that inadequate transport services do not create barriers to those in or seeking work or training are integral to supporting a thriving economy. In Wales, with its extensive rural areas, the provision of effective transport links are essential to ensuring access to work, training and support such as Out of School Childcare can be secured.

### **Skills**

The importance of an effective and high quality offer to all seeking training, to both those in work and not in work, is integral to developing and sustaining a vibrant and growing economy. Similarly, for those in work, the opportunity to gain skills and qualifications for career development must be supported.

### **Infrastructure**

In order to provide Out of School Childcare for the children of working families it is essential that an adequate infrastructure is in place. This may take the form of suitable community resources within which Out of School Childcare can be provided or where training can be delivered within the communities at most need. This must be supported by high quality, stable and sustainable communications such as high speed broadband or mobile telecommunications.

Yours faithfully



**Jane O'Toole**  
**Chief Executive Officer**