



ADSS Cymru

Yn arwain Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol yng Nghymru
Leading Social Services in Wales

Media Release

Tuesday 13 November 2018 – **FOR IMMEDIATE ISSUE**

ADSS Cymru response to announcement of £15 million investment in children's services by the Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care

Responding to today's announcement by the Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care of £15 million pounds of investment funding to tackle a rise in children being taken away from their families and into care in Wales, the Chair of the All Wales Heads of Children's Services group for ADSS Cymru, Sally Jenkins said:

"We welcome the fact that the Welsh Government have listened to our concerns about the need for more investment funding into early intervention and prevention services.

"However, our call for a local government Early Prevention Fund must be established over more than a period of one financial year. In that light, we would welcome clarity from the Government on how this fund will be allocated regionally and if there are any conditions attached to how it can be spent.

"As the leadership organisation for social services in Wales, ADSS Cymru is incredibly proud of the commitment and continued quality of work within Children's Services across Wales, which despite the increasing demand on our services, has led to very good outcomes for so many children who become safely looked after.

"Nonetheless, we must reiterate the importance of the Care Crisis Review of children's services in Wales and England, published earlier this year, and look to Welsh Government to support the Options for Change put forward by the review.

"In particular, if we are to work towards reducing the overall number of children being looked after by local authorities, there is a need for clearer statutory guidance and good practice to better inform families and professionals about the nature of 'voluntary' care, improved understanding as to why and how placements with relatives and friends might be supported, and planning and supporting children returning home.

"It is crucial that the Ministerial Advisory Group places greater focus on facilitating and improving joint working between agencies, and involves children and families in the design, review and auditing of services.

"The bottom line, however, is that money and resources for families and services matter greatly. We recognise the challenges of the wider funding environment, so while this initial funding is welcome, we call on the Government to urgently address in its Draft Budget the funding shortfall in children's services within the final funding settlement for Local Government, as many local authorities across Wales struggle to cope with the pressures put on them."



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Notes to Editors:

For further comment, please contact Sally Jenkins (Chair of All Wales Heads of Children's Services, ADSS Cymru) on 01633 656656 or sally.jenkins@newport.gov.uk

1. The Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS Cymru) is the professional and strategic leadership organisation for social services in Wales. ADSS Cymru came into being in April 2007, to reflect the specific political and legislative landscape in Wales in regard to social care.
2. As the national leadership organisation for social services in Wales, the role of ADSS Cymru is to represent the collective, authoritative voice of Directors of Social Services, Heads of Adult Services, Children's Services and Business Services, together with professionals who support vulnerable children and adults, their families and communities, on a range of national and regional issues of social care policy, practice and resourcing. It is the only national body that can articulate the view of those professionals who lead our social care services.
3. As a member-led organisation, it is uniquely placed as the professional and strategic leadership organisation for social services in Wales, to lead on national service development initiatives to ensure a consistent efficient and high standard of delivery for people who access care services across Wales.
4. ADSS Cymru is committed to using the wealth of its members' experience and expertise, working in partnership with other agencies, to influence important decisions around social care to the benefit of the people it supports and the people who work within care services.
5. To read the Care Crisis Review: Options for Change, published in June 2018 by the Family Rights Group and Nuffield Foundation, go to https://www.frg.org.uk/images/Care_Crisis/CCR-FINAL.pdf