

Ministers accept Children's Commissioner annual report recommendations

The Children's Commissioner for Wales, Professor Sally Holland, published her 2017-18 Annual Report on 1 October. The Report sets out the work undertaken by her office during the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

In her report, the Commissioner highlighted some of the areas where the Welsh Government has made significant progress. This includes improving independent advocacy for children and young people and taking forward proposals to remove the defence of reasonable punishment.

The Commissioner's Annual Report includes 15 recommendations for the Welsh Government and cover a wide range of areas, including health, education, children's services and transport.

Ministers have either accepted or accepted in principle all of the recommendations put forward in the report.

First Minister of Wales, Carwyn Jones said:

"I welcome the Children's Commissioner's annual report for 2017-18. In a period of such momentous change, the Welsh Government remains committed to upholding the rights of children and young people and to listening to and taking account of their views about decisions that affect them.

"We share the Children's Commissioner's vision that children and young people should be at the heart of everything we do, whether that is policy, programmes or legislation.

"Throughout my time as First Minister, the Welsh Government has been fully committed to making a positive difference to the health, well-being, educational outcomes and future prospects for all children and young people in Wales. This approach will ensure children and young people in Wales have the best possible start in life and go on to fulfil their potential."

Minister for Children, Huw Irranca-Davies said:

"I am pleased that as a Government we were able to accept or accept in principle all of the Commissioner's recommendations. This demonstrates how seriously children's rights are being taken across the Welsh Government. We continue to share a common goal with the Commissioner of ensuring children are at the heart of all that we

do.

“We recognise the tireless work the Commissioner has undertaken throughout the year on behalf of the children and young people of Wales. The Commissioner’s work, in giving children and young people a voice and advocating on their behalf, is vital to safeguarding and promoting their rights and welfare.

“As a Government we have, and will continue to, work with the Commissioner and others for the benefit of children and young people in Wales.”