
Comisiynydd Plant Cymru Children's Commissioner for Wales

Sally Holland

Press Release

For immediate release – 30 November 2017

Responding to the Welsh Government's written statement in response to her latest annual report, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Sally Holland, said:

"Whilst I am pleased that the majority of my recommendations from my Annual Report to the Welsh Government have been accepted or partially accepted, their response in relation to home education leaves me with no option but to consider using my statutory powers to review the Government's actions.

"For the last two years I have called on Welsh Government to require parents or carers to register their intention to educate their children at home and for children to be seen and listened to by a professional. In this way local authorities can plan to give sufficient and appropriate support to all children and their families in their locality and to make it less likely that a child may fall 'under the radar' of statutory services.

"Wales' National Independent Safeguarding Board and professionals, including the Associations of Directors of Education and Social Services in Wales all support my call. Despite this wealth of evidence, the Welsh Government apparently still "... need to be assured that legislative proposals would be proportionate and necessary.

"It is proportionate and necessary for all children in Wales to be listened to and heard; it is proportionate and necessary for all children in Wales to have a decent level of education; and it is proportionate and necessary the Welsh Government to protect all children in Wales.

"I will release further details about my next course of action in the new year."

ENDS