

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Sixth Senedd Priorities Consultation

July 2021

In order to help inform our strategic planning and forward work programme, we are asking for your views on what you think, at this stage, our **main priorities should be during the Sixth Senedd (2021-2026)**. Where overlaps between committee remits exist, we will ensure that relevant issues are shared with other committees.

We are keen to start this work as soon as possible, to make sure our plans take account of your views. We know people take a well-earned break over the summer, and many education institutions also pause for a holiday, so we will run this consultation until **Friday 17 September 2021** to make sure everyone has the opportunity to contribute when they return to work. Please be aware that it may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

A key priority for us is to ensure that children and young people's voices are heard in our work. To do this in a meaningful way, we know that we need tailored and appropriate ways of engaging. In light of that, **this consultation is not aimed at children and young people. Instead, we will run activities with children and young people in the autumn to help us understand their priorities for the Sixth Senedd.** We will share the findings of this work with all Senedd committees. If you are – or your child is – under 16 and interested in being involved in this activity, please email us on SeneddChildren@senedd.wales to let us know. You can also use this mail address to send us your ideas on how you would like to see us engaging with children and young people – we have lots of ideas ourselves, but we're also interested in yours!

Information about consultations, which you should consider carefully before submitting a response, is available in our [privacy notice](#). Please answer questions 6-8 at the end of this proforma to enable us to process your response appropriately.

The Senedd has two official languages, Welsh and English. In line with the [Senedd's Official Languages Scheme](#), we request that you submit your response in both languages if you are able to do so. If your response is not submitted bilingually, we will publish in the language submitted, stating that it has been received in that language only. We expect other organisations to implement their own standards or schemes and to comply with their statutory obligation.

If you have any queries about this consultation, please contact the Committee team on SeneddChildren@senedd.wales.



1. Name:

Daniel Roberts

2. Email address:

Dan.roberts@wales.coop

3. Please tell us in what capacity you are responding to this consultation (Please select one answer only.):

Individual responding in a personal capacity (go straight to question 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual responding in a professional capacity (go straight to question 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual responding on behalf of an organisation (please answer question 3.1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3.1. If you are an individual responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the name of the organisation you are representing and your job title:

Wales Co-operative Centre – Policy and Research Officer

The Wales Co-operative Centre is a not-for-profit co-operative organisation that supports people in Wales to improve their lives and livelihoods. We are working for a fairer economy. We help to create and retain wealth within our communities through the growth of co-operatives and social businesses and by providing people with the skills to take more control of their own lives and strengthen their communities.

4. Would you like to be added to the Children, Young People and Education Committee’s contacts list in order to receive updates about our work? (Please select one answer only.)

Please note that you can unsubscribe by emailing SeneddChildren@senedd.wales

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>



5. What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.

Please answer in relation to as many of the themes below as you are able.

Please keep your response to no more than 2000 words in total.

Theme 1: School-age education

Social Enterprise

'Transforming Wales through Social Enterprise' is a ten-year vision and action plan for the social enterprise sector in Wales that was launched in July 2020. It was co-produced by social enterprises and social enterprise support agencies in Wales and has the support of Welsh Government. Outcome Two of the document is that "More people will choose a social enterprise model to start a new business". We of course recognise that this an ambitious aim and in order to achieve this outcome, we need to have social enterprise education embedded in our curricula.

Enterprise education starts at a young age in Wales through the Enterprise Troopers; the National Primary Schools competition supported by Big Ideas Wales. Many of the business ideas that have been generated through the programme have had a social and community focus, and this year there will be a specific category for social enterprise. Our Social Enterprise Stakeholder Group is sponsoring the award, and we will also be taking part in training events and developing resources for primary teachers to aid them in the teaching of social enterprise.

A number of activities have taken place to promote social enterprise education within secondary schools. Work has been done by Social Business Wales and Big Ideas Wales to develop a Social Enterprise Challenge for the Welsh Baccalaureate. Awareness-raising sessions have also been provided for Careers Wales advisors and business engagement teams to look at the potential of social enterprise ideas and work placement opportunities. Big Ideas Wales also have social enterprise role models that visit schools to talk about the work that they have been doing and the potential of social enterprise. It is hoped that by raising awareness and through continued promotion, young people can engage and be inspired by social businesses in their local communities through their studies, such as the Welsh Baccalaureate or through work placements or volunteering opportunities.

There is good practice to build on to meet this objective. We urge the committee to consider how social enterprise can be embedded in the learning experience for young people in Wales in its work. Social enterprises already make a significant contribution to local communities across the country through their focus on



resilience and well-being, and ensuring that pupils are able to access these benefits, learn about the social enterprise model and become the next generation of social entrepreneurs would be a considerable benefit across Wales.

Digital Inclusion and Skills

Covid-19 has also had a huge impact on the children and young people of Wales and their education. The cost of devices and connectivity has put extra pressures on families, and on schools, creating new barriers for pupils from poorer backgrounds. As the school system works to recover from the lost time caused by the pandemic, young people who had to overcome more barriers to access education online must be paramount. In addition, while the acceleration of the digitisation of learning has considerable benefits, we must learn the lessons of the pandemic and ensure that this is accessible for every student as we move on from Covid-19.

Theme 2: Further and higher education

Social Enterprise

Martin Downes, Social Enterprise Officer at the Wales Co-operative Centre, has undertaken a number of Hackathon events with students across Wales. These events allow students to come together, to identify social problems, and to develop potential solutions through social business ideas. There have been 6 social enterprise hackathon events so far, with 414 FE and HE student participants across Wales, with these events supported by 31 partner organisations. Hazel Israel, Education and Skills Adviser at Bantani Education and chief architect of the Essential Skills and Welsh Baccalaureate qualification suites, said that:

"The students were engaged, energised and enthusiastic. The structured focus on solutions and building practical proposals was courage in action. In this experimental environment, students bubbled and fizzed with reflective understanding, compassionate involvement and a sense of ethical, civic and social responsibility."

We are passionate about embedding this model within our FE and HE education systems, and are working with institutions across Wales to do this. We would urge the committee to explore how this can be done in a consistent way to ensure that everyone in Wales is able to access the opportunities it presents.

We are also working with academics to look at how we can promote the role and the resilience of the social enterprise sector in Wales, and this will include research relating to the role of social enterprise education. Training events have taken place with the Enterprise Champions within Further and Higher Education Institutions in Wales.



Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)

Theme 4: Children and young people



USE OF YOUR INFORMATION

In order to enable us to handle your information in accordance with our [privacy notice](#), please complete the questions below. We will be unable to process your response if these questions are not completed.

6. We have stated our intention to engage meaningfully with children and young people, in tailored and appropriate ways, in the autumn. However, if you are responding using this proforma and are under 13 years old, we will only be able to accept your response if your parent or guardian has confirmed that you can participate. They can do this by sending us an email to SeneddChildren@senedd.wales.

Are you under 13 years old?

I am under 13 years old	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am 13 or over	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

7. Please choose one of the following options to confirm whether you would prefer that your name is not published alongside your evidence.

We will not publish the names of people under the age of 18.

I am aged 18 or over and I am content for you to publish my name alongside my evidence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I am aged 18 or over and I would prefer that you did not publish my name alongside my evidence.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am under the age of 18	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Please choose one of the following options to confirm whether you have agreement from any third parties referred to in your evidence that you can share information that may be used to identify them and that they understand that it may be published.

I confirm that any third party I have referred to in my evidence has agreed that I can share information that may be used to identify them, and that they understand that it may be published.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I do not have the agreement of one or more of the third parties I have referred to in my evidence.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have not referred to any third parties in my evidence.	<input type="checkbox"/>

