

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Committee Priorities for the Fifth Assembly : Consultation

Your contact details

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Would you like to be added to W K H & R P P L W W H H · V F F database for future inquiries?	Yes

Submitting evidence

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission form to

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safeguarding, looked after children, child and adolescent mental
health services, school nursing, community settings wh ich include
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small group within the wider fields of nursing and often it is assumed
that any registered nurse is sufficiently prepared to care for children
and young people.

We also provid e below reasons why we consider **Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services** and **Sexual health services** to be priority areas
for investigation by the Committee.

Question 2

sexual health services

Good sexual health is part of a healthy and fulfilling life. Sexual health services provide information and advice related to healthy sexuality, contraception, treatment of sexually transmitted infection and termination of pregnancy. Nurses and other healthcare professionals based in these services help prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections, as well as work to safeguard against and identify issues of sexual exploitation. These services are essential in ensuring good sexual health for the children and young people but too often receive a low priority when Government considers public health.

Accessing sexual health services is not only about the geographical availability, it includes ensuring young people can access the right type of service at the right time.

Young people may be particularly likely to need a location accessible by public transport for example or confidentiality may be a concern. Some health professionals can be mobile, working in a school for example whilst others may need a well - equipped clinic. Access to long - term contraception methods can be variable particularly in primary care. Equitable access to abortion services, particularly in North Wales, is also needed.

The RCN believes that education in relation to making safe and informed choices about health and wellbeing should be improved for the young. Sexual health is part of a broad curriculum to enable young people to develop personal responsibility for their own health. This forms part of the prudent healthcare agenda. There should be a statutory requirement for schools to deliver sexual health education via professionals specifically educated and trained to do so.