



Response to:

Call for Evidence:

**An independent review into the role and functions of
the Children's Commissioner for Wales**

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**MAE POB PLENTYNDOD WERTH BRWYDRO DROS
EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

About us:

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is the UK's leading children's charity specialising in child protection. Our vision is to end cruelty to children in the UK and we make a difference for all children by standing up for their rights, listening to when they need us and by making them safe.

The NSPCC runs projects and services across the United Kingdom and Channel Islands to help vulnerable children. We also provide ChildLine, the UK's free, confidential 24-hour helpline and online service for children and young people and a helpline for adults who are worried about a child or want advice.

Introduction

NSPCC Cymru/Wales welcomes the opportunity to input into the review into the role and functions of the Children’s Commissioner for Wales. We are committed to helping to realise children’s rights in Wales and as such are a member of the UNCRC Monitoring Group. The Monitoring Group is a national alliance of non-governmental and academic agencies, co-ordinated and chaired by Save the Children’s Wales programme. The group monitors and promotes the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) within Wales.

In our response, we have drawn from international guidance relating to the powers and functions of national human rights institutions:

- The “Paris principles”, drawn up by the UN¹
- UN Committee on the Rights of the Child Comment n02²
- Standards set by the European Network of Ombudspersons for children (“ENOC Standards”)³

In August 2014, the NSPCC Cymru/Wales Participation Group, Cymru KidsZone, held a session on the Children’s Commissioner’s role and remit based on the children and young people’s version of the survey. We have drawn on some of their comments in our response. A copy of the notes from the session is attached to this response for information.

¹ *Principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights*. There were endorsed by the Commission on Human Rights in March 1992 (resolution 1992/54) and by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/48/134.

² *The role of independent national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child* (2002) CRC/GC/2002/2.

³ <http://www2.ombudsnet.org/documents/Standards.htm>

1. Role and functions. What do you think the Children's Commissioner does and should do?

In answering this question, we would like you to consider the following:

- Who does the Commissioner represent?
- What makes the CCfW unique and how does the CCfW relate to the work of other agencies?
- What do you think is the most important role that the CCfW undertakes (please visit www.childcomwales.org.uk for further detail on role and function)
- Is there anything you think a CCfW should also do?
- What do you think is the CCfW's relationship with the UNCRC and how important is it?
- From where does the CCfW get its authority?

The Children's Commissioner for Wales was set up to give greater visibility to children and young people's issues, and to give them a voice. This role is unique because it allows a review of the effect of legislation, policy and service delivery on children's rights.

NSPCC Cymru/Wales feels that the most important role of the Children's Commissioner involves safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and speaking up on behalf of children on issues that matter to them. This is especially important in the context of Wales' youth parliament disappearing. However, this does not replace direct engagement between children and young people and the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Government, and NSPCC Cymru/Wales remains extremely concerned that Wales will be the only UK nation without a youth parliament structure in place.

By carrying out reviews into particular areas of concern, the Commissioner is also raising awareness of children's rights and providing an evidence base on the implementation of the UNCRC in Wales, which is crucial as a mechanism for monitoring compliance with the due regard duty introduced by the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

However, NSPCC Cymru/Wales feels that the current functions of the Commissioner are limited, and that they should be extended as follows:

- The Commissioner's functions should be extended to include all issues which have an impact on children and young people in Wales, including non-devolved issues.

The Commissioner's current remit is very limited. His general functions apply to persons set out in Schedule 2A to the Care Standards Act 2000⁴, and his powers to undertake examinations and reviews into complaints, whistleblowing and advocacy arrangements apply to a narrower set of persons set out in Schedule 2B to the Act⁵. For issues relating to persons falling outside those two schedules, the Commissioner's only power is to make representations to the National Assembly for Wales. For example, this means that children and young people in the youth justice and asylum and immigration systems are excluded from the remit of the Children's Commissioner for Wales. The impact of changes to the benefit system also falls outside of the current remit of the Commissioner. This is unsatisfactory and **NSPCC Cymru/Wales strongly recommends that this limitation is addressed within the conclusions of this review of the Commissioner's powers.**

This would be in line with the Paris Principles relating to the functions of a national human rights institution, which state that "*a national institution shall be given as broad a mandate as possible*".⁶

- **The powers of the Commissioner should be clarified, as the current set up is complicated and confusing.**

For example, the Commissioner should have the power to request information from all persons falling within his mandate, for the purposes of undertaking any of his functions. At the moment, he can only request information when undertaking examinations and reviews into complaints, whistleblowing and advocacy arrangements.

The Commissioner's role in addressing individual cases should be clarified. In particular, the Commissioner should have the power to investigate the cases of individual children, and a separate function of undertaking inquiries. Consideration should be given as to whether the Commissioner should be able to issue binding decisions when investigating the cases of individual children.

Due to the importance of undertaking reviews into complaints, whistleblowing and advocacy arrangements, this should remain a distinct function.

- **The Commissioner should not be prevented from exercising any of his functions in relation to a particular matter where another person has the authority to act in relation to that matter.**

⁴ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/14/schedule/2A>

⁵ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/14/schedule/2B>

⁶ *supra*, n.1 Principle A.2.

Under section 77 of the Care Standards Act 2000, the Commissioner cannot currently exercise any function which by virtue of an enactment is also exercisable by a prescribed person. This conflicts with the Paris principles which state that “*within the framework of its operation, the national institutions shall freely consider any questions falling within its competence.*”⁷

NSPCC Cymru/Wales is of the view that any potential issues arising from several persons being involved in the same matter could be easily resolved through clear memoranda of understanding. For instance, inspections carried out by the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) only consider issues of practice, and the Children’s Commissioner for Wales could add value by providing a child’s rights perspective.

There should also be greater collaboration between the Children’s Commissioner for Wales and other national institutions. **For example, NSPCC Cymru/Wales recommends that the Children’s Commissioner for Wales sits on the National Safeguarding Board which is being established under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.** The Commissioner has a key role to play in informing the direction of national safeguarding policy across Wales, as part of his case load relates to child protection and safeguarding matters. In addition, there will be a need for children’s issues to be clearly championed within the National Safeguarding Board, as it will cover both adult and children’s issues.

- **Relationship with NGOs:** NGOs have a clear role to play in promoting children’s rights and speaking up on children’s behalf. In Wales, the relationship between the Commissioner and the children’s NG) is positive, with the Commissioner sitting as an observer on the NGO Policy Officers Group, and the UNCRC Monitoring Group. **However, we would like to see a duty placed on the Commissioner to collaborate with NGOs to ensure that this practice continues in the future.**
- **The Commissioner should have the power to bring, intervene in or assist in legal proceedings before any court or tribunal.**

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child views this as an essential function for National Human Rights Institutions. It is worth noting that the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People does have such a function and may bring or intervene in proceedings involving law or practice concerning the rights and welfare of children and young persons before any court or

⁷ *supra* n.1 Principle C1

tribunal. However, NSPCC Cymru/Wales understands that this power has not yet been used due to significant restrictions⁸. As the Commissioner lacks victim status, proceedings must be brought by a child or young person. In addition, the Commissioner cannot get involved in proceedings unless the child or young person can demonstrate that it has exhausted all other avenues. These two limitations make it extremely difficult for the Northern Ireland Commissioner to exercise his power in relation to legal proceedings. NSPCC Cymru/Wales would therefore wish these issues to be considered by the conclusions of this review.

If the Commissioner were to have the power to bring, intervene in or assist in legal proceedings, it would also be necessary to consider the need for him to have access to independent legal advice.

- **The Commissioner should be under an explicit duty to establish a complaints procedure in respect to his actions or omissions relating to the discharge of his functions.**

A complaints procedure is currently in place and is signposted on the Children's Commissioner for Wales' website. According to this procedure, the Commissioner's office management team discusses a summary of all complaints every six months, including details of any serious complaints. The office's audit committee also discusses responses to complaints at least twice a year. However, there is no formal requirement in the legislation to set up such a procedure. NSPCC Cymru/Wales views this as a clear gap and recommends that an explicit duty to establish a complaints procedure is created.

Relationship with the UNCRC

The Commissioner is currently under a duty to have regard to the provisions of the UNCRC when exercising his functions. In view of the introduction of the due regard duty by the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, NSPCC Cymru/Wales feels that this must be strengthened to allow the Commissioner to monitor the implementation of the due regard duty through the exercise of his functions. This would need a change in the Commissioner's appointment system, which we discuss in more detail in our response to question 4.

The functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales in relation to the UNCRC should be strengthened so that he plays a key part in monitoring

⁸ Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, Report to the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister under Article 24 of the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NI) Order 2003., 2011.

the due regard duty introduced by the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011.

The Children's Commissioner for Wales has already been given a role in relation to the Children's Rights Scheme. The 2011 Measure states that he must be involved in its preparation and be consulted before it is made, remade or revised. It would be good to see the UN Committee on the rights of the child's recommendations used more clearly as a basis of the Commissioner's annual report. As the report is debated in the National Assembly for Wales every year, it could therefore be used as an added tool for holding the Welsh Government to account for the delivery of the due regard duty.

2. Impact of the role. How do you judge the success of a Children's Commissioner?

In answering this question, we would like you to consider the following:

- The office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales has existed since 2001. During that time, what do you think have been the main achievements of the role? Why has the Children's Commissioner been successful in these areas?
- Are there areas/ things where you think the Commissioner has had less or no impact?
- Why do you think this is?
- Is the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales strong enough? What might strengthen it if necessary?
- Do you believe the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales' priorities have been the right ones? Please explain.
- Overall, do you think the introduction of the CCfW has been a good thing?

NSPCC Cymru/Wales considers that it is of course a good thing that Wales has a Children's Commissioner to champion issues which matter to children and young people, raise awareness of the UNCRC and monitor its implementation in Wales.

Without an in-depth evaluation of the Commissioner's role, which we hope this review will undertake, it is very difficult to reply comprehensively to the points around achievements and impact. However, NSPCC Cymru/Wales is keen to highlight the positive role of the Children's Commissioner for Wales in keeping child protection and safeguarding issues at the forefront of the agenda in Wales, for example through his annual report. Another good example of this role is the Commissioner's collaborative involvement in Operation Pallial with NSPCC Cymru/Wales. Both organisations sit on the Strategic Coordination Group and both have provided support to victims through a helpline (NSPCC Cymru/Wales) and Investigations and Advice Officers (Children's Commissioner).

NSPCC Cymru/Wales endorses the following statements made by the UNCRC Monitoring Group in their response to the review:

"The Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group believe that the introduction of the Children's Commissioner for Wales has been a critical development, through his functions of inquiry, scrutiny and calling others to account in ensuring the

promotion and safeguarding of children's human rights, social justice and service developments for children. The statutory powers and duties afforded to the Children's Commissioner give weight and authority when advocating with key duty bearers and decision makers regarding the importance of promoting and protecting children's human rights. Children are one of the most powerless social groups in our society, which makes them particularly at risk to human rights violations. This demonstrates a clear need for a specific body to promote and protect their human rights. There is always scope for improvement but we believe that the Children's Commissioner for Wales since its establishment in 2001 has helped to make children more visible has supported the protection and promotion of children's human rights and has also facilitated and supported children and other organisations to protect and promote children's human rights.

We are concerned that children have slipped down the political agenda in recent years, we no longer have a Minister for Children, a Welsh Government Cabinet sub-committee for children and young people and as of October 1st we will no longer have a children and young people's assembly, the only country not to have one in Europe. Additionally, the Welsh Government has made a commitment over the last decade to remove the defence of reasonable chastisement yet has still not taken the legislative opportunity to remove the defence. Now more than ever, the children of Wales require a strong Children's Commissioner who will advocate for their human rights and ensure that they do not become invisible in the corridors of power."

The office of the Children Commissioner for Wales could be strengthened by wider powers as described in our response to question 1 and by being more independent from Government as detailed in the response on governance and accountability.

Finally, it would be useful to have more clarity on how the Commissioner's priorities are set, and how the UN Committee's recommendations together with standards for human rights institutions inform these priorities. A useful way to achieve this close link between monitoring implementation of the UNCRC in Wales and the Commissioner's work plan would be to set part of this plan for his term of office rather than annually. This would allow for better evaluation of the long-term embedding of the UNCRC in Wales, while leaving room for issues which arise through casework.

3. Legislation. Is the legislation for the CCfW fit for purpose. If not, why not?

In answering this question, we would like you to consider the following:

- Is the legislation governing the CCfW suitable?
- In what ways could the legislation be improved?
- Is it clear to you what the CCfW must do, can do if he chooses and what he can't do?
- What sanctions do you believe the CCfW has, and do you think these are sufficient?
- What are the consequences for the CCfW of the devolution settlement?

NSPCC Cymru/Wales feels that the current legislation is not fit for purpose. It is fragmented and confusing. Legislation could be improved by bringing together existing powers into one Assembly Act. This review is of course an opportunity to extend the Commissioner's powers to bring them in line with the functions of an International Human Rights Institution, as the current powers of the Commissioner are quite limited.

Under his current powers and functions, the Children's Commissioner for Wales is unable to examine the cases of children and young people in receipt of non-devolved services. This includes the youth justice system, and asylum and immigration. This puts very vulnerable young people at a considerable disadvantage, particularly because the English Commissioner, who has powers to consider non-devolved matters as they apply for children in Wales, does not have adequate resources to address issues arising in Wales. This is why **we are recommending that the Children's Commissioner for Wales' remit is extended to all public and private bodies who provide services to children in Wales, including those based outside Wales and those who provide services under non-devolved powers.**

4. Governance and accountability. What would be the features of a wholly independent CCfW?

In answering this question, we would like you to consider the following:

- Who should appoint the CCfW?
- How long should the CCfW have in post? (currently a single 7 year term, unrenewable)
- Is it important that there is continuity between Commissioners?
- Should the Commissioner be held accountable, if so, to whom and who should scrutinise the CCfW
- Should the Commissioner be able to draw support and if so, from whom?
- Is there a duty of care towards the Commissioner and if so, from whom?

The current regulations state that the Children’s Commissioner is appointed by FM with advice of relevant committee and children and young people. NSPCC Cymru/Wales strongly recommends that the Commissioner should be independent from Welsh Government, and should therefore be appointed by the National Assembly for Wales and children and young people. Responsibility for funding of the office should also be transferred to the National Assembly for Wales. This would ensure that the Commissioner is able to properly scrutinise Government policy and legislation, and hold the Government to account for the delivery of the due regard duty.

NSPCC Cymru/Wales would also like to draw attention to the following extract from the response of the UNRCR Monitoring Group: *“The office of the Children’s Commissioner for Wales has no governing body, but is instead a Corporation Sole. The Children’s Commissioner should be indivisible from the office and should ultimately be responsible for its strategic direction and how it operates. We would not support a proposal for the Children’s Commissioner for Wales to have a legal requirement to establish a governing body such as an advisory board. We believe that an advisory board could compromise the Commissioner’s independence and ability to fulfil the role effectively. We would be anxious that the appointment of a statutory advisory board with a chair nominated by the National Assembly, could lead to leadership complications. The advisory board could become a substitute for effective engagement with a wide-range of stakeholders which crucially must include individuals and organisations with expertise on children’s human rights. Also we are concerned about valuable*

resources being spent on servicing and hosting an advisory board, which could be more effectively spent elsewhere.

We support the continuation of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee which provides advice and assurance in respect of corporate governance, risk management and control within the Commissioner's office and the adequacy of the internal and external audit arrangements. It meets at least bi-annually and is made-up of senior officials of the Commissioner's Office and Non-Executive members."

NSPCC Cymru/Wales feels that the Commissioner's term **should remain as a seven-year, unrenovable term**. We are aware of positions which favour a shorter, renewable term as this could lead to the institution being more dynamic in nature. However, we feel that this may compromise the perceived integrity and independence of the role as it could be argued that the Commissioner is working with the objective of securing re-appointment.

The National Assembly for Wales, and children and young people should hold the Commissioner to account for the delivery of his functions. However, an issue of serious concern is how children and young people can meaningfully become engaged in this process in the context of the disappearance of Funky Dragon.

5. Value for money. What sort of things would demonstrate a Children's Commissioner's value for money?

In answering this question, we would like you to consider the following:

- Do you believe the office is sufficiently resourced?
- Do you believe the office of the Children's Commissioner for Wales has made best use of the resources available and how would we know this?
- If the role / remit were changed, would the CCfW require additional resources?

NSPCC Cymru/Wales recommends that the Children's Commissioner continues to be a stand-alone, well-resourced body, in order to be able to champion issues which matter to children and young people and effectively monitor implementation of the UNCRC in Wales. **As such, we would be opposed to any reduction in funding for the office of the Commissioner.** This is particularly important in the context of the disappearance of Wales' youth parliament structure, Funky Dragon. It is important to bear in mind that even in a situation where funding remains at the same level, there will be an erosion in real term resources over time due to inflation.

We also endorse the following statement by the UNCRC Monitoring Group in their response: *"The Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group does not believe that the Children's Commissioner could carry out its crucial role effectively if it was merged with another human rights institution. A Children's Commissioner is for children and young people. It is essential therefore that it is seen by children and young people in Wales to be their Commissioner. A separate body clearly makes it easier for children and young people to identify that it works for them."*

It is also worth noting that the Commissioner's role promotes involvement and active citizenship for children and young people, which leads to positive outcomes. This is in itself cost effective.

6. Accessibility

Do you think that children and young People have sufficient opportunity to participate in the work, functions and design of the Children's Commissioner for Wales' services?

There could be opportunities in Wales to follow the example of the "right blether" which took place in Scotland in 2010. 74,000 school age children took part in a national conversation which influenced the Scottish Commissioner's work. This was followed up in 2011 with a similar exercise with the early years sector.

Are there groups of children and young people who may find it more difficult than others to access the Children's Commissioner for Wales? Which groups and why do you think this may be?

Vulnerable and harder to reach groups may find it more difficult to access the Children's Commissioner's office. It is important that participation does not always involve "the usual suspects" and children who are already engaged. The Commissioner's role is to enhance children and young people's confidence and promote a culture where their voices are valued. This role was evidenced through the Commissioner's, the NSPCC's and Cardiff University's joint support for research on children's views and experiences of gender stereotyping and bullying⁹. This research is the first snapshot of the views of children and young people on a subject which is dominated by adults' perceptions, and has been instrumental in influencing current policy and legislative developments.

How is the work of the Children's Commissioner promoted and is this sufficient?

NSPCC Cymru/Wales held a session with our participation group over the summer about the Children's Commissioner's powers in order to feed into this review. A copy of the notes from the session is attached for information.

The young people involved in the session did not know about the Commissioner, his role, the UNCRC, or how to get in touch with him. As most of the group members have had an experience of the care system, this shows that the work of the Children's Commissioner could be better promoted to vulnerable groups. Suggestions by the young people on how to do this included:

⁹ Renold, E. (2013) Boys and girls speak out: qualitative study of children's gender and sexual cultures (age 10-12): an exploratory research project to inform the National Assembly for Wales Cross-Party Group on Children, Sexualities, 'Sexualisation' and Equalities. (Cardiff)

- On local television adverts
- Internet
- In schools and colleges by visiting regularly
- Leaflets in shops, internet café's
- On social network sites such as You Tube, twitter, Facebook

The NSPCC Cymru/Wales participation group's conclusion of the workshop was: *"The young people said that they now know about the Children's Commissioner Keith Towler, and that he has a job for 7 years. However, they think that he doesn't do his job properly because they didn't know that there is a Children's Commissioner for Wales and so think that his job should be reviewed every 2 years."*

The current remit of the Children's Commissioner extends to children and young people up to the age of 18 and between the ages of 18-25 in certain circumstances – should this be formally recognised in the name by including 'young people' in the title?

NSPCC Cymru/Wales opposes a change in the Commissioner's name to include young people, as this could potentially cause confusion about his remit. There is a clear definition and understanding of "children", but no such clarity around what "young people" actually means. The remit of the Commissioner is clearly focussed on children and rights covered by the UNCRC and we see no need for change in the name.

Annex 1



Cymru Kids Zone Participation workshop on 27-8-14

Evaluation role of the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler
Facilitated by Roger Jenkins and Janet Abbott Children's Services Practitioners
Roger explained the purpose of the day and the programme, (please see workshop plan)

Janet shared the group rules for this morning's workshop.

Children's Commissioner

Have you heard of the Children's Commissioner for Wales?

Answer; - **No**

Who? Man or a woman.

Answer; - **Woman**

We explained that it is a man called Keith Towler whose role is to

- Stand up for Children's Rights.
- To help children with their experiences, and things that affect their lives
- To make sure that children are safe
- To be in charge of what we can do for children in organisations like the NSPCC
- Is a Children's Champion
- To raise awareness
- To promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child (UNCRC)

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

We placed the articles that are applicable to children in Wales around the room and asked the young people to look at them.

We explained that the articles apply to children all around the world.

One member said that she felt that Keith Towler needs to do a better job in places in Africa to help children out of poverty. Another member agreed saying that for some children they have no access to clean water.

We invited the young people to watch a clip from the children's Commissioner of Wales website explaining his role, and about one of the articles on the UNCRC. We read out all of the 42 rights, and a member said that she was pleased that Keith Towler has improved the conditions in school toilets but doesn't agree with unisex toilets in schools.

One member didn't know anything about the UNCRC, and the other one only knew because they had previously been informed by the NSPCC Cymru Kids Zone group.

Children's Commissioner

Being accountable

Using an exercise we thought about the role of the Children's Commissioner.

The members said that his most important job is to let children know who he is and what he does, as no-one in the group knew that he existed. They wondered how they were meant to let him know when things go wrong if they didn't know that he existed in the first place.

What does Keith Towler do?

Both young people were unaware as they didn't know that there is a Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Recapping from the website clips we thought about how the Children's Commissioner currently promotes his service:-

- School Ambassadors. Neither member knew that there were school ambassadors. They would like the Children's Commissioner to visit schools and colleges. One member said that when she returns to school she plans to ask who are the school ambassadors
- Funky dragon Young People's Forum. They were not aware that they exist, and would like to know more.

Both young people would like school counsellors in every school in Wales, so that they can help children to get over hard things in their lives.

The young people did exercises using islands on a continuum to think of the different ways the Children's Commissioner does his job. They reported in order of importance:-

- Champion and to make sure everyone knows about children's rights
- Influence plans and policies so that they meet the needs of children and young people across Wales
- Listen to the views and issues that children and young people have
- Support children, young people and organisations that work with them
- Advise and give information when there are issues that affect children and young people's lives

The areas which the young people think could make a difference with most important first:-

- Letting everyone know about the children's Commissioner for Wales and what they do
- Listening to children and young people

- Keeping children and young people safe
- Helping make sure the Welsh Government think about children and young people when making plans and decisions
- Advising people who need help
- Making sure everyone knows about children's rights
- Other things

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is given a job by the First Minister in the Welsh Government for 7 years. Do you think that he should have his job for 7 years?

Both of the young people said, 'No' as they think that the Children's Commissioner's job should be reviewed every 2 years to make sure that he is letting enough children know what he does.

Do enough people know about the Children's Commissioner for Wales?

The members said 'No.'

They thought that ways which this could be promoted could be:-

- On local television adverts
- Internet
- In schools and colleges by visiting regularly
- Leaflets in shops, internet café's
- On social network sites such as You Tube, twitter, Facebook

Recap

What have you learnt this morning?

The young people said that they now know about the Children's Commissioner Keith Towler, and that he has a job for 7 years. However, they think that he doesn't do his job properly because they didn't know that there is a Children's Commissioner for Wales and so think that his job should be reviewed every 2 years.

Participants:

There are usually about 6 young people who attend Swansea NSPCC's Cymru Kidz Zone Participation Group events but as it was the summer holidays, only two of the group were able to attend.

- Female, aged 12 or over, lives in Bridgend, attends school
- Female, aged 12 or over, lives in Swansea, attends college.

Annex 2

NSPCC Swansea Service Centre

Cymru Kidz Zone Participation Day 27/08/14

Morning Workshop: Evaluate role of the Children's Commissioner

Workshop Plan

- 10:00 Arrival at Ty Findlay
- 10:05 Refreshments & Contact numbers
- 10:15 'How can children & young people find out about the NSPCC (Amanda Perrins, Team Manager).
- 10:30 Workshop Start
- Housekeeping, Plan of the Day, Participation Group Info, Purpose of session & Permissions
10:30 – 10:35
- Children's Commissioner wants to know what children & young people know about what the role & what it involves etc.
- Been asked to have your views – are you happy to give your names, gender and age and what area you live in?
- Ice breaker – Names (Rog) 10:35 -10:40
- Group Rules (Jan) 10:40 – 10:45
- Children's Commissioner – What do you know? Brainstorm (Rog)
10:45 – 10:55

Who? Man or woman, anyone know their name?

What do they do?

Why do they do what they do?

Has anyone met the Children's Commissioner?

Stands up for children's rights
What are children's rights?
UNCRC -42 – children all over the world.

- **What does the Children's Commissioner do? (Jan)**
10:55 – 11:05
Statement & examples, including what he does & the different ways he does them (Show clips from CC website).
- **Thinking of the different ways the CC does his job, which is the most important? (Jan)**
11:05 – 11:20
Islands & Continuum

Islands Continuum – areas CC has made a difference & examples
- **Being Accountable (Rog)**
11:20 – 11:25
CC has role for 7 years, should he?
F/C, stand on cards – Yes/No/Don't know
- **Do enough people know?**
11:25 – 11:30
Yes/No/Don't know

How can CC make sure children & yp know about him? What ideas do you have? How did you find out about CC?
- **Recap**
11:30 – 11:35
- **What's next?**
- **Ending Icebreaker (Jan)**
11:35 – 11:45
Pepsi/Cola

11:45 END
Notes:

CC has 5 super powers:

- Listens to what you have to say
- Speaks up about things that are important to you
- Tells you about your rights
- Helps to make sure you get your rights
- Talks to you if you have a problem