

Question to the Minister

There are a number of different programmes which are looking to improve the way that early childhood education and care is delivered in Wales, and the Government has made it a cross-cutting priority within *Prosperity for All: the national strategy*. The new curriculum will change the way that the Foundation Phase is taught. Likewise, the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Care has launched a process to develop a single Quality Framework for the Childcare Sector.

This is also taking place while other Welsh Government programmes are trialling local improvements to early learning through pathfinder projects and Children First, and while local authorities are working through the implications of the merging of Flying Start funding into the Children and Communities Grant.

We are concerned that all of this positive activity is fragmented and is taking place outwit a single framework for reform. The OECD's 'Starting Strong' reports found that integrated ECEC services at governance level are better able to provide quality ECEC services.

Can the Minister outline what her department and other departments are doing to ensure that the wide array of early childhood education and care projects are i) co-ordinated and ii) primarily focussed on supporting the early learning of children?