

Wales: ROCK meeting, Edinburgh, 17 October 2012

Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group

Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011

Section 7: 18 -24 years Consultation

A formal consultation has been disseminated (October 8th - December 28th 2012) via the Welsh Government (WG) website where feedback has been requested on advantages and disadvantages of applying UNCRC and its Optional Protocols to the 18-24 age group and the provisions of the measure. WG are running a series of workshops for young people and using social media in a variety of ways to access views.

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/childrenandyoungpeople/rights/?lang=en>

Children's Rights Scheme

The Welsh Government Children's Rights Scheme progress report will be published 31st January. This report will potentially follow the framework of the Children's Rights Scheme. A WG Children's Rights Scheme Implementation Group has been established and the first meeting took place on October 2nd. Each WG department has representation on this group to monitor the implementation of the scheme.

6 Steps to Due Regard Impact Assessment

At the last Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group meeting (Sept 18th) WG reported that a lot of due regard activity is taking place within Government. Since 1st May 2012 when the Measure came into force, WG reported that there have been many enquiries regarding implementing the Measure from respective WG policy divisions as it has become increasingly a part of corporate social responsibility and Ministerial responsibility.

The Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group has requested that the 6 Step Impact Assessments conducted on policy and legislation be made public and documents made available on the WG website. WG Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure Implementation Team do not object to them going public but have stated that the decision for them to go public will have to be put to the WG Children's Rights Implementation Group.

Welsh Government National Plan of Action

WG have recently updated the framework of their National Plan of Action on Children's Rights. Policy officials across Welsh Government are currently in the process of reporting progress in their respective policy areas against the plan. The progress report will be published in January.

Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group

NGO monitoring and reporting

The Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group are a year into the process of carrying out rolling reporting sessions i.e. Hearings with expert witnesses on a range of children's rights thematic areas, using the Concluding Observations 2008 as the bench mark for monitoring progress.

This evidence is being included as part of the evidence gathering for an interim Wales NGO alternative report. Agencies represented on the monitoring group are currently working on writing draft chapters to be included in this interim report. We aim to have our interim report ready for publication by January 2013. We will then look to update this report in time for the "delayed" CRC reporting cycle.

In discussion with the Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group, the Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group want a strong and detailed NGO Alternative report for advocacy and dialogue in the Welsh context but are open to discussions with other UK NGO Alliances regarding submission to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child directly.

UK Bill of Rights Second Consultation

The Wales Observatory on Children's Human Rights together with Save the Children and BIHR and others held a successful young people's workshop in Swansea University on 22nd September, to raise awareness of children's human rights with young people as well as consult the young people on the UK Bill of Rights.

Training on Due regard

The Wales Observatory on Children's Human Rights held their first session on what "due regard" means in practice on 14th September to the voluntary sector. This was a really instructive session and brought the concept to life in relation to real policies and legislative proposals. The next training date is 26th October in Swansea.

The Wales Observatory and Wales UNCRC Monitoring Group are carrying out training on children's human rights, the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011 and the application of "due regard" - to the National Assembly for Wales Children and Young People's Committee on October 18th 2012.

The Wales Observatory would like to make people aware of the training/workshop sessions they are offering on what 'due regard' means in practice – as they could be useful to ROCK members and supporters beyond Wales in view of the adoption of the 'due regard' approach as part of the ROCK agenda for incorporation.