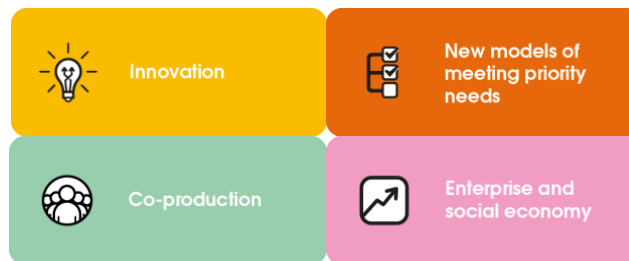




Co-operative Councils

Innovation Network

YOUNG PEOPLE



Anthony Collins working with Children's Commissioners in Wales

Children Services in Wales – A co-operative concept

We provided legal advice to support cooperative approaches to a sustainable way of looking after young people in Wales.

We supported the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (4Cs) in its bid to provide a new approach to how the public sector collectively addresses sufficiency duties, balances the functions of a statutory service, enabling service providers and commissioners, while mitigating risk and maximising outcomes for children looked after.

This was all within the context of the current national policy agenda to transform children's service delivery in Wales and specifically to eliminate private profit from children's looked after services.

The work involved an overview of the legal vehicles that could meet the Welsh Government's aspiration for "not for profit" (or "social purpose" as we would prefer to label it) and a response to the Welsh Government's consultation.

We advocated that there was the opportunity to create a co-operative in which councils and operators could be members and to create within it how councils and providers could work together to provide the most effective means by which commissioner and provider services could be delivered.

Although it seems that the Welsh Government may not include a co-operative in the list of legal entities that can provide children services in Wales. It is an approach that offers councils and providers the opportunity to work together for a common purpose, and within the governance of democratic decision-making that allows co-operation to be a driver for a different dynamic in service provision. The outcome of the review focuses on entities that will be entitled to provide children services. It does not address the possibility that a cooperative is the means by which services can be provided between commissioners and providers within a governance model rather than principally through contracts. We covered this opportunity in our advice to 4Cs.

We were able to support 4Cs response to the consultation and offer a sustainable way forward for maintaining high quality children services whilst also harnessing the skills of the many committed organisations and individuals that currently play their part in looking after children in Wales.

This approach we believe could truly transform this key statutory service and meet the priority needs of young people in need of care.

For further information contact:

Claire Ward
Partner - Anthony Collins
claireward@anthonycollins.com | 07858396294 | www.anthonycollins.com