



Title of report (e.g. Report of the Education Committee on National Teacher Training Programme)

Date (e.g. 18 May 2022)

Committee members:

-

Introduction by Committee Chairperson

[This section should be an introduction to the committee's work by the Chairperson, including a general summary of:

- Why the committee decided to look at the issue
- The terms of reference/scope of the work
- How the committee approached the work
- Who the committee took evidence from
- The general findings of the evidence gathering (written submissions and/or public hearings)
- The key conclusions or recommendations the committee
- The next steps the committee will take to follow up on the report
- The signature and/or photo of the Chairperson]

Summary of recommendations

[This page should be a summary of any recommendations made by the report, e.g.:

Recommendation 1: We recommend that the Welsh Government should undertake a largescale, comprehensive benefits take up campaign to ensure people are accessing the benefits they are entitled to.

Recommendation 2: We recommendation that the Government rebrand the Discretionary Assistance Fund and run an awareness campaign (separate to the take up campaign), on TV and radio, social media, and in print.]

1. First chapter

[Each chapter should cover a topic explored by the committee. The evidence should be summarised and quoted, the committee's observations expressed, along with any recommendations. For example:

The Committee heard evidence from various civil society organisations about the lack of awareness of the Discretionary Assistance Fund among low income groups.

Oxfam told the Committee:

“if I was in financial crisis today, I would not put the phrase 'discretionary assistance fund' into Google. There is a real issue with the accessibility of the fund—not enough people know about it, not enough people are able to apply for it”.¹

EYST similarly said that:

“Problems with awareness of the [Fund] are more acute for groups that may need it the most during this period, for example people who do not speak English or Welsh as a first language or have problems navigating the benefits system because of a disability.”²

Issues with awareness of the [Fund] are long term. Our predecessor Committee highlighted in 2015 that awareness of the Fund was low, as did a subsequent Government evaluation of its effectiveness. Issues around public awareness were also raised by our 2019 report into benefits delivery.

1.1. Committee's observations

The Committee are very concerned about the low awareness of the Fund and consider that the Government should take urgent action to address it.

1.2. Recommendations

Recommendation 1: We recommend that the Welsh Government should undertake a largescale, comprehensive benefits take up campaign to ensure people are accessing the benefits they are entitled to.

Recommendation 2: We recommendation that the Government rebrand the Discretionary Assistance Fund and run an awareness campaign (separate to the take up campaign), on TV and radio, social media, and in print.

¹ Evidence provided in public hearing, 2 February 2022 – [if possible, provide a link to a transcript or video of the hearing]

² Evidence provided in public hearing, 16 February 2022 – [if possible, provide a link to a transcript or video of the hearing]

2. Second chapter

[Repeat chapters for each issue explored by the committee.]

Annex A: List of public hearings

[It's important to recognise all the witnesses who provided evidence the public hearings. For example:

Public hearing on 2 February 2022 - witnesses:

- Helen Grant, Chief Executive – Oxfam
- Tony Gull., Policy Officer, Disability Together

Public hearing on 16 February 2022 - witnesses:

- Sian Parrod, Chair of EYST
- David Tombs, Director of Carers Trust.

If possible, provide a link to a transcript or video of the hearings so the public can read/see the evidence themselves]

Annex B: List of written evidence

[If the committee gathered written evidence, it can be listed here. too If possible, include a link to the written evidence for full transparency].