

Response to the Coroner's Prevention  
of Future Deaths Report No.2 in  
respect of Benjamin Leonard

Children's Commissioner for Wales

17<sup>th</sup> April 2024



As Children’s Commissioner for Wales, I am in receipt of the Coroner’s Prevention of Future Deaths report dated 22.2.24, in respect of Benjamin Leonard, who tragically passed away on a trip in north Wales. I wish to first extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Ben.

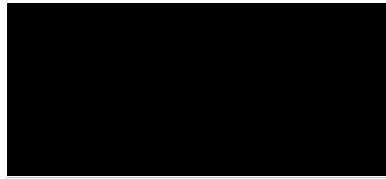
The Prevention of Future Deaths (PFD) report sets out a history of concerning events, leading up to Ben’s untimely death and since then throughout the inquest process.

My role and statutory powers do not include any regulatory or inspection functions. My remit relates to public bodies in Wales delivering statutory functions; a summary of those powers can be found [here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

I have had initial contact from the Scouts Association in respect of their actions to date but I will continue to seek updates on their actions to prevent future deaths or serious injuries in response to this report, alongside my counterpart the Children’s Commissioner for England.

In Wales, Estyn are currently expanding their inspections framework to include a bespoke approach for the youth work sector. Work is underway to develop a model that can be applied to youth work being delivered by local authorities and also voluntary sector organisations. This approach will be co-designed with the sector and through engagement with young people accessing youth work, including a pilot of the approach during this year<sup>2</sup>.

I meet regularly with Estyn and will ensure that a copy of the PFD report is shared with them for the purposes of developing and implementing their youth work inspection approach. I will also ensure that this is discussed at my next meeting with their Chief Executive.



Children’s Commissioner for Wales

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/about-us/legal-powers/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/inspection/inspecting-future-2024-2030>

