

Dear Colleagues,

RE: Reducing speed limit to 20mph on restricted roads

As Officer for Wales at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), I welcome this consultation on the proposal to introduce a default 20mph speed limit on restricted roads in Wales.

Our [State of Child Health \(SOCH\)](#) report tells us that accident prevention requires different interventions for different age groups. For older age groups, risky behaviours such as driving and involvement in violent activity each contribute to serious and fatal injuries.¹

Globally, road traffic accidents are a leading cause of death among young people, but rates in the UK are lower than comparable high-income countries. We welcome Welsh Government's target to reduce 40% of the number of young people killed or seriously injured on Welsh roads, as outlined within The Road Safety Framework.

Our [State of Child Health \(SOCH\)](#) for Wales also included the following policy recommendations.²

"We welcome Welsh Government's commitments within 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales' to expand 20mph zones and increase the number of pedestrian and cycle routes, which will provide safer environments for children and young people to walk, play and travel. Welsh Government should implement these changes within the first two-year phase, as outlined in the delivery plan."

"We welcome the Active Travel Act (Wales),³ but in order for the Act to be successful in increasing the number of school pupils walking or cycling to school, Welsh Government should meet the recommendations outlined by the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee 2018 report on the Act."

Implementing 20mph limits in built up areas is something that the RCPCH have called for as a measure to reduce accidents and as one component of the Healthy Weight Healthy Wales package of measures to tackle childhood obesity through promoting physical activity. It will have an immediate beneficial impact on the health of children and young people, creating safer places to walk, cycle and play, and reducing fatal and non-fatal injuries.

Should you wish to discuss these issues directly with paediatricians, please contact our Head of Devolved Nations Gethin Matthews-Jones – gethin.matthews-jones@rcpch.ac.uk

With kind regards,



Dr David Tuthill
RCPCH Officer for Wales

¹ <https://stateofchildhealth.rcpch.ac.uk/evidence/nations/wales/>

² <https://stateofchildhealth.rcpch.ac.uk/evidence/nations/wales/>

³ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2017-09/statutory-guidance-for-the-delivery-of-the-active-travel-wales-act-2013.pdf>