



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Child & Family Services**

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 25 June 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P R Hood-Williams (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

M Durke
D W W Thomas

Councillor(s)

Y V Jardine

Councillor(s)

P K Jones

Officer(s)

Owen Davies
Gavin Evans

Liz Jordan
Rachel Moxey
Julie Thomas

Performance Manager, Social Services
Young People Services Manager, Poverty and
Prevention
Scrutiny Officer
Head of Poverty & Prevention
Head of Child & Family Services

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): C Anderson, K M Griffiths, S M Jones and I E Mann

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

No disclosures of interest were made.

2 To confirm Convener of the Panel

Paxton Hood-Williams was confirmed as Convener of the Panel.

3 Notes of meeting on 30 April 2018

The Panel agreed the notes as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 Public Question Time

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

5 Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services (under 11 and over 11 services)

Rachel Moxey, Head of Poverty and Prevention and Gavin Evans from the Poverty and Prevention team, attended the meeting to present the Family Support

Continuum Performance Report for Quarter 4 2018, highlighting the context for this work and progress to date and answering questions.

It was emphasised that this is very much a work in progress. It is currently raw data and a group has been established and will begin to meet shortly to analyse and discuss trends and determine the way forward. The plan is that in the future the report will only include key indicators.

Discussion points:

- The Panel asked how families can be made aware that this help is available. They were informed that it is a very complex issue. Services are trying to pre-empt where there may be problems in families. All services need to work together to inform families that this help is available. Networking with colleagues and other public services is very important. Key to this is health staff. They need to be aware how important it is to identify problems in families early.
- Issues with children often show up in the school situation. It is hard to identify issues earlier when children are withdrawn from mainstream education.
- The Panel feels that this work is too high level and there is a need to talk to the people affected.
- The Panel emphasised that this work has to be about getting the best outcomes for children. That is the priority. Informed that the needs of individuals are the main driver but have to be aware of costs.
- Logic model pre-16 – the hope is that this work with families will stop them becoming involved with Child and Family Services. 80% of what comes to social services 'front door' should not be coming there. Social Services should be focussing on complex cases only. We can get better outcomes for children if we intervene early with specialist services so investment in early help services is vital.
- Panel concerned about the amount of staff time taken up in producing this data and whether they will be able to analyse and understand it in order to get the best outcomes for children. Panel was informed that this data is being collected anyway.

Actions:

- Report on progress to be brought to the Panel in 6 months' time. This should be a more fit for purpose highlight report, including the outcomes of the work by Vanguard and what is being done at social services 'front door'.

6 Review of the year 2017/18

Panel had insufficient time to undertake the review of the year.

7 Work Programme Timetable 2018/19

The Panel considered the work programme.

8 Letters

Letters received and considered by the Panel.

9 For Information Item

The Panel noted the Terms of Reference.

The meeting ended at 5.45 pm



To:
Councillor Elliott King
Cabinet Member for Children's Services
(Early Years)

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Date 12 July 2018
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Early Years) following the meeting of the Panel on 25 June 2018. It covers the Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services.

Dear Cllr King

The Panel met on 25 June and discussed the Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services (under 11 and over 11 services).

We would like to thank Rachel Moxey, Gavin Evans, Julie Thomas and Owen Davies for attending to go through the report and answer our questions. We appreciate their engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response. The main issues discussed are summarised below:

Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services

We received a presentation on the Family Support Continuum Performance Report for Quarter 4 2018, giving the context for this work, progress to date and the barriers.

It was emphasised that this is very much a work in progress. It is currently raw data and a group has been established and will begin to meet shortly to analyse and discuss the trends and determine the way forward. The plan is that in the future the data will be narrowed down and the report will only include key indicators.

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The Panel asked how families can be made aware that this help is available and we were informed that it is a very complex issue and that services are trying to pre-empt where there may be problems in families. We heard that all services need to work together to inform families that this help is available. Networking with colleagues and other public services is very important and key to this is health staff, they need to be aware how important it is to identify problems in families early.

The Panel felt that issues with children often show up in the school situation and that the increase in home schooling would make it more difficult to identify these issues. The officers agreed that it is hard to identify issues earlier when children are withdrawn from mainstream education and this is an issue they would need to consider.

We felt that this work on the Family Support Continuum is too high level and that there is a need to talk to the people who are affected in order to work out the best way to try and solve issues.

We emphasised that this work has to be about getting the best outcomes for children, that is the priority. We were informed that the needs of individuals are the main driver but that the Council has to be aware of costs.

We heard about the Logic Model pre-16, and the hope that this work with families will stop them becoming involved with Child and Family Services as currently 80% of what comes to Social Services 'front door' should not be coming there and Social Services should be focussing on complex cases only. We also heard that we can get better outcomes for children, if we intervene early with specialist services, so investment in early help services is vital.

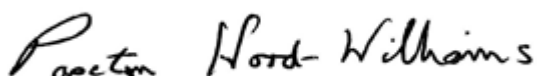
The Panel was concerned about the amount of staff time taken up in producing this data and whether they will be able to analyse and understand it in order to get the best outcomes for children. The Panel was informed that this data is being collected anyway as part of other reporting requirements.

The Panel will want to monitor progress on this work and have therefore requested that a report on progress be brought to the Panel in 6 months' time. This should be a more fit for purpose highlight report, including the outcomes of the work by Vanguard and what is being done at Social Services 'front door'.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your views and comments on any of the issues raised but please note that in this instance, a formal response is not required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paxton Hood-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS

CONVENER, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
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