



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 29 October 2018 at 4.00 pm

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

**Councillor(s)**

C Anderson  
K M Griffiths  
S M Jones

**Councillor(s)**

M Durke  
P K Jones  
D W W Thomas

**Other Attendees**

Huw Fyfe  
William Evans  
Elliott King  
Carl Matthews  
Amanda Turner

Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service  
Cabinet Member - Children Services (Young People)  
Cabinet Member - Children Services (Early Years)  
Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service  
Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service

**Officer(s)**

Liz Jordan  
Julie Thomas

Scrutiny Officer  
Head of Child & Family Services

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): Y V Jardine

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**1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

No disclosures of interest were made.

**2 Notes of meeting on 28 August 2018**

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

**3 Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

**4 Update on Youth Offending Service**

Amanda Turner, Huw Fyfe and Carl Matthews of Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention service attended to brief the Panel on performance and answer questions.

Discussion points:

- Number of first time offenders of children and young people is falling substantially.
- Swansea was the first Authority to introduce the bureau system
- Youth Justice Service should be looking at case studies etc to identify and prove that intervention with young people is working.
- It would be useful to track young adults to check if this intervention continues to work once young people become 18.
- The number of custodial sentences imposed on young people in the region reduced to 9 in 2017/18. This is a real success story.
- The budget for Western Bay Youth Offending Service reduced from £4.2m in 2015/16 to £3.68m in 2017/18. There has been no negative impact on performance and no compulsory redundancies as a result of this. There are now 19 shared posts across the region compared to 11 in 2017/18. This is a good positive story for joint working.
- There are strong links between the regional Youth Offending Service and our Child and Family Services in the Authority and Info-nation so there is an integrated approach.
- Youth Offending Service does not have immediate access to the CAMHS service. They are making a case to the Health Board for having a defined route into CAMHS in a timely manner.
- Panel feels the CAMHS service is not working effectively. This issue is being raised in lots of forums including the Education Scrutiny Panel.
- Concern about what the effect will be of Bridgend leaving Western Bay. There are currently 19 shared posts in the region. Have to ensure none of the 3 areas are disadvantaged, particularly the children and young people in the areas.

## **5 Performance Monitoring (including BAYS +)**

Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services went through the Performance Report for September 2018 highlighting the main points and answering the Panel's questions.

Discussion points:

- Looked After Children (page 2) – the Department is undertaking an audit as there has been an upward trend in this figure. Plan to bring a briefing report to the December Panel meeting.
- Panel feels the Department is going in the right direction but there are a few issues they need to keep an eye on as a Panel.

Actions:

- Add 'Report on Looked After Children Audit' to Work Programme for December 2018

## **6 Feedback on Inspection Report**

Julie Thomas provided feedback to the Panel on the findings and areas for development from two inspections undertaken by Care Inspectorate Wales in July 2018 - a full inspection of Children's Services in the Authority and an inspection of Foster Swansea.

Discussion points:

- Foster Swansea has consistently received positive reports in inspections.
- Panel feels that overall the inspection report on Child and Family Services is excellent but there is always room for improvement. Panel expressed their gratitude to Julie and the rest of the team as the progress made has been through hard work and commitment and is excellent. Julie is pleased with the report but not complacent and that is why the improvement plan has been put in place.
- From a scrutiny point of view, the Panel will continue to scrutinise the Service and make suggestions and recommendations for improvement.

## **7 Work Programme Timetable 2018/19**

The Panel considered the Work Programme.

## **8 Letters**

Letters received and considered by the Panel.

The meeting ended at 6.05 pm.