



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Mike Day
City & County of Swansea

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MC/SH
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Dear Councillor Day

Thank you for your letter of 21st August, following my appearance before your committee.

I hope that when considering the rising demand for services in my portfolio, and the Transformation of Adult Social Services agenda you will not just challenge on spend and financial management; I think there needs to be a challenge on what we do and how it is to be done too. You are right to stress the need for openness, it is vital for an understanding of the pressures and the ways to continue to ensure provision of services is needed. Please be assured, I aspire to being open. The Transformation of Adult Services will not only go to Cabinet, it will also go to Council as I agree with you that a wide understanding of what we are trying to achieve for the people of Swansea is important.

Again I echo your comments regarding Western Bays, it is important that we as councillors understand what is taking place with the management and delivery of many important services locally. Many more decisions like that made on Youth Offending Teams will be being made about integration of services and I feel it is important that those are scrutinised. Are they the right decisions and have they worked? This lies alongside the importance of the executive of councils effectively engaging in those decisions.

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A minor correction in your interpretation of what I said about LAC numbers. I am not sure they will continue to fall consistently and at the rate they did on May, however as you say, I have confidence in the strategies in place, particularly following a recent independent review of them, and so I do anticipate a downward trend over time. Bringing the numbers under control is key to bringing down the overspend in Child and Family Services, although other efforts such as collaboration and integration of services, changes in the Fostering service and the location of LAC are also means that will have an effect on the spend.

I am happy to discuss with yourself, your vice-chair and the chair of the Wellbeing Scrutiny Performance Panel any aspect of TASS and how best to scrutinise it. I also think that a start on Scrutinising the work of Western Bays would be welcome along with some consideration of how effective Scrutiny of this body, and other Partnership structures come to that, may be established to operate continuously.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR MARK CHILD
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