



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

Councillor Mark Child
Cabinet Member, Well Being
Civic Centre
Oystermouth Road
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SA1 3SN

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

**Overview &
Scrutiny**

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*Date
Dyddiad:*

6 June 2014

Dear Councillor Child

Well Being Performance Panel on 2 June 2014

The Panel met on 2 June 2014 to consider the latest Child & Family Services performance monitoring report (April 2014).

The panel welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise performance. It was pleased to see:

- Overall performance had improved and was being maintained
- Practices to up-skill partners had resulted in stable rates of referrals and re-referrals
- The timeliness of decisions had been sustained at 100% for the last 11 months with just a small dip in performance in November.
- The Health & Social Care Bill provides for post-18 looked after children to remain with foster care family
- Although the number of statutory reviews were down, fewer reviews were due last month which explained the decrease.

The panel highlighted the following concerns:

- Low number of referrals to the regional Integrated Family Support Service. This worried the panel as this is a major resource which could provide additional support and benefits for families in Swansea. The panel agreed that use of this service by social work teams needed be encouraged and promoted. The panel agreed to invite representatives from the IFSS and the appropriate operational manager to a future panel meeting.
- An under-representation of black, minority and ethnic children among children in need, child protection cases and looked after children. The

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Service must ensure that these communities understand referral processes, support available and the role of social services.

- The panel remains concerned that there are more looked after children who are boys than girls. The panel would like to know how the Signs of Safety framework specifically addresses and considers boys, their behaviour, needs and issues.
- The number of care leavers who are NEET continues to concern the panel and this needs to be an area of focus for the department.
- As Looked After Children have transitioned into the Children in Need category this has increased the CIN population. This requires monitoring.

Key Performance Indicators

The panel highlighted the following as concerns:

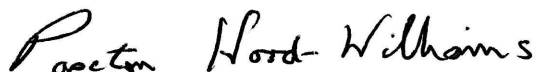
- The number of looked after children experiencing one or more changes of school. The panel agreed that greater understanding was needed for the reasons for school changes so that action could be taken to reduce the number of changes.

Officers agreed to provide the following to the panel for consideration at future panel meetings (dates to be determined):

- Analysis of CIN census data

I hope you find this letter useful and informative and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



COUNCILLOR PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS
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CC: **CABINET MEMBER**
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