



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

Councillor Christine Richards
Cabinet Member, Services for Children
& Young People
Civic Centre
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**Overview &
Scrutiny**

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CFS/01

21 October 2014

Dear Councillor Richards

Child & Family Services Performance Panel, 29 September 2014

The Panel met on 29 September 2014 to consider the latest child & family services performance report and a follow-up report for the Care Leavers review.

Child & Family Services Performance Report, July 2014

Broadly the panel was satisfied with the Child & Family Services performance report and felt that performance across the service had generally been sustained. The panel was pleased to see that all looked after children were allocated to a social worker and praised this achievement. It highlighted some areas where dips in performance had occurred and agreed to bring these to your attention.

- Referral rates had trended upwards although the panel noted that the number requiring further action remained consistent.
- Regional Integrated Family Support Service – the panel felt that referral rates from Swansea were low and questioned whether the service was being used properly or that the authority was achieving value for money.
- Decrease in the number of Initial & Core Assessments completed within the statutory time limit of 7 and 35 days respectively. The panel understood from officers that the drop in performance was attributed to piloting new working practices; it appreciated the need to continuously improve work practices but performance in this area must improve.
- Slight upward trend in the number of looked after children. Although the panel was informed that the latest figures showed a reduction. The panel

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agreed that this needed to be monitored if the LAC reduction strategy was to continue to be effective and successful.

- Increased levels of sickness across the department with a high end of year forecast of 14.79 days, compared to 9.76 days last year and a corporate sickness target of 8 days
- The monthly supervision rates in a number of teams had fallen but the panel was informed that supervision was sometimes not held on time. If this persists the panel would expect improvement action to be taken.
- The total number of children becoming looked after in the year to date was up slightly from the same time last year from 59 to 61.

There were a number of areas that the panel felt it needed further information and these are detailed below:

- The extent to which parents of children on the Child Protection Register have learning disabilities
- The development of the regional adoption service which will be based in Bridgend.

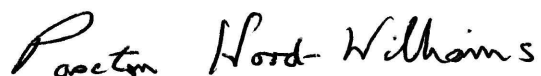
Care Leavers Review – follow-up report

The panel had asked that this 3rd follow-up report be brought to the panel because it had concerns over the effectiveness of the Barnardo's contract partnership to provide leaving care services.

The panel remained concerned about the effectiveness of the Barnardo's contract/partnership to provide leaving care services. It was pleased to hear that the authority had set out some key needs to be met by Barnardos (integration, co-location, accessibility for young people). As negotiations were taking place at the time the panel felt unable to sign off the review as completed and it requested that a further report be brought back to the panel in 3 months.

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

Yours sincerely



CLLR PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS

MEMBER OF THE WELL BEING PERFORMANCE PANEL

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