



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA
DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams
Member of the Well Being Performance
Panel

Please ask for:
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Councillor Christine Richards
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Cyf:
Date / Dyddiad: 11 November 2014

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Dear Councillor Hood-Williams

Re: Child & Family Services Performance Panel – 29 September 2014

Thank you for your letter dated 21st October 2014.

I agree that good performance within Child & Family Services is generally being sustained and that LAC allocation rates are a particular highlight.

The Panel's continued robust scrutiny of areas of performance which have declined slightly is helpful and I am aware that officers utilise the performance report to address performance issues on an ongoing basis.

I would highlight 4 areas for additional comment:

- 1) The Regional IFSS Service is currently subject to review and I would expect evidence of increased use of the Service to be a key expected outcome.
- 2) Two of the points in your letter refer to LAC numbers. I am pleased that more recent performance information highlights a further decrease in the LAC numbers. Our course this needs to be achieved safely, but there is a real chance that the LAC population will fall below 500 before the end of this calendar year. I believe that this is clear testament to the quality of social work practice being undertaken by Swansea's social workers.

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- 3) There is a concern that core assessment performance has declined against last year's best performance ever. Plans are in place to address this decline whilst further embedding improvements to social work practice through utilising the Signs of Safety methodology. I am aware that these improvements may not impact on the performance data until next year.
- 4) Sickness rates are being closely monitored and there is a proper focus on ensuring sickness absence procedures are being fully utilised to ensure support to staff is in place to reduce higher than expected absence.

I have asked officers to provide additional performance data in the areas you have requested.

I am pleased that scrutiny has retained a focus on monitoring improvements to the service being provided to care leavers. This is the current and main priority improvement area for Child & Family Services as part of the ongoing implementation of the Safe LAC Reduction Strategy.

Yours sincerely



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DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR
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