



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

Councillor Christine Richards
Cabinet Member, Services for Children
& Young People
Civic Centre
Oystermouth Road
SWANSEA
SA1 3SN

*Please ask for:
Gofynnwch am:*

*Direct Line:
Linell Uniogyrochol:*

*e-Mail
e-Bost:*

*Our Ref
Ein Cyf:*

*Your Ref
Eich Cyf:*

*Date
Dyddiad:*

**Overview &
Scrutiny**

01792 637491

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

CFS/02

6 November 2014

Dear Councillor Richards

Child & Family Services Performance Panel, 27 October 2014

The Panel met on 27 October to consider a progress report on the review and development of the Permanence Services within Child and Family Services.

I would like to thank the officers for presenting the report to the panel.

The panel made the following comments, observations and concerns:

- The panel supported the review and development of the Permanence Service
- The panel understood that Barnardos was the preferred provider of the leaving care service but was concerned about whether the authority had a responsibility to tender the service so that other providers could bid for the contract
- The panel was concerned about whether Barnardos would be able to re-shape their services to meet local authority expectations
- The panel commented that although the leaving care service was not a local authority provided service, the authority still needed to exercise some control over outcomes.
- The panel agreed with officers that the service needed to be located in an accessible and welcoming place
- The panel was interested in understanding more about the implementation of the permanence service after the review is completed. It agreed that it would like to examine the implementation plan once completed (see recommendation 1 below).

Overview & Scrutiny / Trosolwg a chraffu

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- The panel welcomed and supported the work being undertaken as part of the review to minimise the number of changes in social workers that looked after children experience.
- Whilst the panel welcomed these and other changes that Child & Family Services had experienced and the positive outcomes they had brought, it remained concerned that too many changes could in themselves present challenges to the service.
- The panel welcomed the negotiations with Swansea University to evaluate the impact of the Signs of Safety work within the authority.

The panel requested the following additional information:

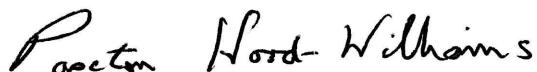
- An organisational structure of Child & Family Services
- Signs of Safety information

The panel agreed the following recommendations:

1. That the Permanence Service implementation plan is presented to the panel for comment at its meeting on 16th March 2015.

I hope you find this letter useful and informative. I look forward to your response and would be grateful if you could address the panel's concerns and the panel's recommendations.

Yours sincerely



CLLR PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS
MEMBER OF THE WELL BEING PERFORMANCE PANEL
✉ PAXTON.HOOD-WILLIAMS@SWANSEA.GOV.UK