



**CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA**  
**DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE**

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

Please ask for:  
Gofynnwch am:  
Direct Line:  
Llinell  
Unifongyrochol:

Councillor Christine Richards  
(01792) 637443

**BY EMAIL**

E-Mail / E-Bost: [cllr.christine.richards@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.christine.richards@swansea.gov.uk)  
Our Ref / Ein Cyf: CR/SH  
Your Ref / Eich: CFS/04  
Cyf:  
Date / Dyddiad: 21 January 2015

**If you require this or any other information in another format e.g. Braille, audio tape or a different language, please contact me**

Dear Councillor Hood-Williams

**Re: Child & Family Services Performance Panel – 15 December 2014**

Thank you for your convenors letter dated 22 December 2014.

Thank you for your scrutiny of the budget proposals for child and family services which you rightly acknowledge are wholly aligned with the continued delivery of the safe LAC reduction strategy. The safeguarding of children remains my top priority in taking forward these budget proposals and the continued implementation of the safe LAC reduction strategy.

In relation to the prevention fund I will ask the Corporate Director for People to provide further detail of the bids to the panel.

In relation to the regional commissioning of residential placements, I would like to clarify that the commissioning arrangements are wider than Western Bay and include all South Wales Local Authorities. These arrangements have been in place for three years now and have driven down the costs of independent placements significantly whilst driving up standards utilising an agreed outcomes framework. The number of residential placements utilised by child and family services is currently at a four year low.

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD**  
**CHRISTINE RICHARDS**  
**DEPUTY LEADER / DIRPRWY ARWEINYDD**

CABINET OFFICE, CIVIC CENTRE, OYSTERMOUTH ROAD, SWANSEA SA1 3SN  
SWYDDFA'R CABINET, CANOLFAN DDINESIG, HEOL YSTUMLLWYNARTH, ABERTAWE SA1 3SN

☎ (01792) 637443 ☎ (01792) 636196  
✉ [cllr.christine.richards@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.christine.richards@swansea.gov.uk) [www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk)

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- 2 -

I note panel's concern about the proposed reduction in in house emergency residential beds. This proposal is based on reduced demand, again associated with progress in the safe LAC reduction strategy. Panel's concern about circumstances in which siblings require emergency placements is well made but Foster Swansea have proved themselves adept at placing siblings together in foster placements when such circumstances arise.

Thank you for your support of the proposed additional investment in consultant Social workers as part of the embedding of the Signs of Safety social work practice model in child and family services.

I am grateful for the Panel's continued scrutiny of the permanence review and proposed development of a 16+ service. I welcome panel's plans to scrutinise the proposed development and impact of a domestic violence MASH.

Thank you again for you continued robust scrutiny of performance in child and family services.

Yours sincerely



**COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE RICHARDS**  
**DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR**  
**SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

**COUNCILLOR/Y CYNGHORYDD**  
**CHRISTINE RICHARDS**  
**DEPUTY LEADER / DIRPRWY ARWEINYDD**

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☎ (01792) 637443 📠 (01792) 636196

✉ [cllr.christine.richards@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.christine.richards@swansea.gov.uk) [www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk)