

Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams  
Convener, Child and Family Services  
Scrutiny Panel

**BY EMAIL**

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Dear Councillor Hood-Williams

**ADVOCACY UPDATE FOR CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY  
PERFORMANCE PANEL ON 18 DECEMBER 2017**

Thank you for your letter of 10 January 2018 and the positive feedback to staff on performance within Child and Family Service's. Previous comments about certain aspects of performance, particularly around assessment activity, are noted as an area requiring improvement.

Swansea are the lead Authority for Advocacy for the Western Bay region and despite the very tight timescales, the contract was awarded early in the financial year 2017/18 and the service put in place in August 2017.

Whilst concerns remain with regard to the accuracy of the range and level tool and the subsequent impact on budget, there will be opportunities to review the service and current levels of demand and make the necessary adjustments going forward. Undoubtedly, the National approach has raised the profile and importance of advocacy, particularly for the very vulnerable children who receive support from the department. It is important that the service continues to be actively promoted. The focus over the next year will be to ensure there is flexibility within the service and that children and young people have choice in who they want to advocate for them and that these individuals are confident in fulfilling their role.

The first annual report of the Advocacy Service will be made available to both Scrutiny Panel and the Corporate Parenting Board early in the new financial year.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



**COUNCILLOR MARK CHILD  
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING**