

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

Sent by email

Please ask for: Councillor Elliott King
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Our Ref: EK/JW
Your Ref:
Date: 12 April 2022

Dear Councillor Hood-Williams

Thank you for your letter following the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel meeting held on 9th March 2022. This provides a very comprehensive overview of the main issues discussed by the panel, covering the ICCSA report into child sexual exploitation by organised networks, the Youth Justice Service inspection report and the verbal update on emergency staffing.

It is very helpful to read all of the points raised and discussed by the panel, particularly in relation to the IICSA report and the developments and improvements that have taken place since 2019 in Child and Family Services, Education and South Wales Police. Panel members provided a range of insights and observations which will assist the strategic and operational Child Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) groups in their work going forward.

The review of the panel's work over 2021-22 evidences the critical role that they play in supporting the work of Child and Family Services, alongside asking challenging questions when needed. It is clear to see the difference that panel not only strives to make but can also evidence it is making to achieving the best outcomes possible for children, young people and their families in Swansea.

In relation to the points raised by panel that require a response, please find attached to my letter a copy of the press statement from HMIP following the publication of the Swansea Youth Justice Service inspection report.

With regard to training on understanding the mind of the abuser, the most important training for all staff (Council and our partners) is to complete the safeguarding eLearning to give them the basics. Exploitation is covered within many of our training courses available internally, regionally and on a multiagency basis, including :

- Contextual safeguarding
- Online-harm
- Child protection and safeguarding (e-learning level 1 and face to face level 2/3/4)
- Working with perpetrators of domestic violence

We also commission the following specialist training:

- Barnardos - Identifying harmful sexual behaviour
- Stop it Now - Understanding sexual exploitation of children and young people
- Lucy Faithful - Promoting positive pathways for young people who exhibit harmful sexual behaviour

Learning from child and adult practice reviews is shared through learning events and should any team have specific needs these can be commissioned and arranged via the Social Services Training Team.

I hope the above information sufficiently addresses the responses requested by the Panel.

Yours sincerely



Y Cynghorydd/Councillor Elliott J King
Aelod Y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Plant/ Cabinet Member for Children's Services

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