

OFFICIAL



To: Jay McCabe, Principal Officer Bays Plus and Youth Justice Service

28 April 2022

Dear Jay,

As you will be aware, as part of the Youth Justice Board's statutory responsibility to oversee the operation of the Youth Justice System, the YJB has been engaging with Swansea's Youth Justice Service as a priority YJ service since January 2018. This followed the outcome of the HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) inspection in the previous year. At the time Swansea was part of Western Bay Youth Justice Service, which was rated inadequate. Swansea has since become a separate service, following the disaggregation of Western Bay, and continued to address the performance issues raised in the inspection.

We previously wrote to you in April 2021 to advise you that having reviewed evidence of practice improvement that a decision was taken by the YJB's Performance Oversight Board to de-escalate Swansea Youth Justice Service from stage 2 to stage 1 of the YJB escalation process. Following this, we have maintained close contact with you in an advisory capacity and through attendance at the management board.

Swansea was re-inspected by HMIP and the findings published in February 2022. The service was found to be "requiring improvement". Despite the rating it is clear from the content of the report and discussions with the lead inspector that significant progress has been made given the challenges faced following disaggregation. You have produced an action plan to address the recommendations made, which HMIP has signed off, and from what we have also observed from our interactions with you have confidence there will be a continuing improvement journey. As a result, our most recent Performance Oversight Board agreed to de-escalate Swansea as a priority status service.

Sue Thomas and Mark Cox will continue to be available to support you and Mark will attend your management board where the improvement plan will be an agenda item.

We would like to congratulate you on the progress you have made, in overcoming the challenges you have faced and, as recognised in your most recent inspection, the encouraging direction of your improvement. Thank you for your commitment to this and to having a positive impact on the children, families and the communities you work with.

Yours Sincerely,

Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
Clive House, 70 Petty France, London, SW1H 9EX
T 020 3334 5300 E enquiries@yjb.gov.uk W www.justice.gov.uk/youth-justice

OFFICIAL



Cheryl de Freitas
Director of Innovation and Engagement
(England)



Dominic Daley
Cyfarwyddwraig Ymgysylltu ac Arloesi -
Director of Innovation and Engagement
(Wales)

Cc: Sue Thomas, Head of Innovation and Engagement (Wales)
Mark Cox, Youth Justice Effective Practice Adviser