



To:
Councillor Elliott King
Cabinet Member for Children's Services
(Early Years)

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Date 12 July 2018
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Summary: This is a letter from the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Early Years) following the meeting of the Panel on 25 June 2018. It covers the Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services.

Dear Cllr King

The Panel met on 25 June and discussed the Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services (under 11 and over 11 services).

We would like to thank Rachel Moxey, Gavin Evans, Julie Thomas and Owen Davies for attending to go through the report and answer our questions. We appreciate their engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response. The main issues discussed are summarised below:

Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services

We received a presentation on the Family Support Continuum Performance Report for Quarter 4 2018, giving the context for this work, progress to date and the barriers.

It was emphasised that this is very much a work in progress. It is currently raw data and a group has been established and will begin to meet shortly to analyse and discuss the trends and determine the way forward. The plan is that in the future the data will be narrowed down and the report will only include key indicators.

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The Panel asked how families can be made aware that this help is available and we were informed that it is a very complex issue and that services are trying to pre-empt where there may be problems in families. We heard that all services need to work together to inform families that this help is available. Networking with colleagues and other public services is very important and key to this is health staff, they need to be aware how important it is to identify problems in families early.

The Panel felt that issues with children often show up in the school situation and that the increase in home schooling would make it more difficult to identify these issues. The officers agreed that it is hard to identify issues earlier when children are withdrawn from mainstream education and this is an issue they would need to consider.

We felt that this work on the Family Support Continuum is too high level and that there is a need to talk to the people who are affected in order to work out the best way to try and solve issues.

We emphasised that this work has to be about getting the best outcomes for children, that is the priority. We were informed that the needs of individuals are the main driver but that the Council has to be aware of costs.

We heard about the Logic Model pre-16, and the hope that this work with families will stop them becoming involved with Child and Family Services as currently 80% of what comes to Social Services 'front door' should not be coming there and Social Services should be focussing on complex cases only. We also heard that we can get better outcomes for children, if we intervene early with specialist services, so investment in early help services is vital.

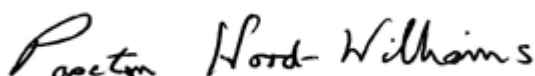
The Panel was concerned about the amount of staff time taken up in producing this data and whether they will be able to analyse and understand it in order to get the best outcomes for children. The Panel was informed that this data is being collected anyway as part of other reporting requirements.

The Panel will want to monitor progress on this work and have therefore requested that a report on progress be brought to the Panel in 6 months' time. This should be a more fit for purpose highlight report, including the outcomes of the work by Vanguard and what is being done at Social Services 'front door'.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your views and comments on any of the issues raised but please note that in this instance, a formal response is not required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paxton Hood-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS

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