

Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams
Convener, Child & Family Services
Scrutiny Panel

Please ask for: Councillor Elliott King
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Our Ref: EK/HS
Your Ref:
Date: 13 February 2020

Dear Cllr Hood-Williams

Thank you for your letter, dated January 20th, 2020 and your continued interest in the work of Child and Family Services.

Regional Adoption Service

As noted in your letter, performance within the regional adoption service is showing an improving picture, and further to your comment I would suggest that the WB annual report is presented to Panel around July time. This will enable the Panel to look at the regional report and make comparisons with previous year's performance, and the National Adoption Service (NAS) annual report, which enables benchmarking with other regions across Wales. If you are agreeable to this suggestion then perhaps these reports can be factored into Panel's work plan for 2020.

Corporate Parenting Board

The 2019 Corporate Parenting Report is being concluded, has been co-produced with young people and will be made available to Scrutiny following sign off at the CPB in February 2020.

Performance Monitoring

Whilst the service continues to be busy, good progress is being made in terms of KPI's, including the CP register and children experiencing care. The Safeguarding Hub will become operational in March 2020 and the impact on the CP register will be interesting to monitor. In addition Swansea, as you know, are participating in the Born into Care Research with Lancaster University, and there is a launch of this work on Friday 15th February at the Liberty Stadium. The particularly complex cases, mentioned at the last Panel have resolved well, due to the commitment and hard work of staff. The Workforce Wellbeing Strategy has been signed off by CMT and the process of implementation has started, alongside the staff retention policy. As requested caseload information has been added to the CFS monthly report and will be available to Scrutiny. Work is ongoing in terms of reporting on sickness, vacancies and maternity, and these figures will be added to March 2020 report. This will provide a full picture of Statutory Childrens Services,

against which we will be able to monitor the success of the wellbeing strategy and retention policy. County lines activity continues to be a priority and a multi-agency conference to launch Swansea's Adolescent Strategy will take place in March 2020. The Bays + service are working on developing their 'local offer' for care leavers. Again this will be co-produced with young people, and will involve a clear pledge to young people about expectations off the service. This review will be facilitated by a systems thinking approach, used when developing the domestic violence hub, some years ago. As you will be aware the DV Hub is considered to be an example of best practice nationally.

An additional meeting has been arranged to consider budget proposals for CFS on February 18th, 2020.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'EJ King', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Y Cyngorydd/Councillor Elliott J King

Aelod Y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Plant/ Cabinet Member for Children's Services

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Smp', written in a cursive style.

Y Cyngorydd/Councillor Sam Pritchard

Aelod Y Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Plant/Cabinet Member for Children's Services