



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

**Nodiadau'r Panel Perfformiad Craffu – Gwasanaethau  
Plant a Theuluoedd**

Ystafell Bwyllgor 5 - Neuadd y Ddinas, Abertawe

Dydd Llun, 18 Rhagfyr 2017 am 4.00 pm

**Yn Bresennol:** Y Cyngorydd P R Hood-Williams (Cadeirydd) oedd yn llywyddu

**Y Cyngorydd(wyr)**  
C Anderson  
I E Mann

**Y Cyngorydd(wyr)**  
M Durke  
D W W Thomas

**Y Cyngorydd(wyr)**  
K M Griffiths

**Swyddog(ion)**

Chris Francis  
Liz Jordan

Prif Arweinydd Datblygu a Chomisiynu Busnes  
Swyddog Craffu

**Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb**

Y Cyngorydd(wy): P Jones a A Pugh

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**4 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.**

Ni ddatganwyd unrhyw fuddiannau.

**5 Nodiadau cyfarfod 30 Hydref 2017**

Cytunodd y panel ar y nodiadau fel cofnod cywir o'r cyfarfod.

**6 Y diweddaraf am eiriolaeth**

Aeth Chris Francis, Prif Arweinydd Datblygu a Chomisiynu Busnes drwy'r adroddiad, gan dynnu sylw at y prif faterion a chan ateb cwestiynau.

Pwyntiau trafod:

- Mae'r Fframwaith Safonau a Chanlyniadau Cenedlaethol gan Lywodraeth Cymru mewn ffurf ddrafft o hyd er yr oedd yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol roi'r ymagwedd ar waith erbyn mis Mehefin 2017.
- Mae swyddogion adolygu annibynnol yn chwarae rôl bwysig i sicrhau bod plant yn defnyddio eiriolaeth. Maent hefyd yn eirioli ar ran plant mewn cyfarfodydd adolygu. Mae BAYS Plus yn darparu eiriolaeth ar gyfer plant 16 oed ac yn hŷn.

- Mae'r Ymagwedd Genedlaethol yn ogystal â'r hyn a wneir eisoes yn Abertawe. Mae'n comisiynu eiriolaeth annibynnol. Esbonnir bellach i unrhyw blentyn a ystyrir gan gynhadledd achos ei fod yn gallu cael eiriolwr i'w gynrychioli.
- Mae pob cyngor wedi cael cyfrifoldeb am ddarparu eiriolaeth annibynnol ers 2002. Mae'n debygol nad oedd y gwasanaeth hwn yn cael ei ddefnyddio'n ddigonol oherwydd nad oedd digon o weithgareddau hyrwyddol. Felly, dylai'r Ymagwedd Genedlaethol hon arwain at gynnydd o ran nifer y plant sydd am gael eiriolaeth.
- Mae'r panel yn cytuno â nodau ac egwyddorion yr Ymagwedd Genedlaethol, ond mae'n rhaid ei gwneud mewn ffordd sy'n addas i blant. Mae'n rhaid i'r ymagwedd ystyried yr hyn a wneir eisoes ar gyfer y plentyn yn lleol. Er enghraifft, mae ysgolion Abertawe yn diogelu hawliau ac mae'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol yn defnyddio Signs of Safety sy'n darparu cyfleoedd i blant fynegi eu barn.
- Mae'r Ymagwedd Genedlaethol yn rhanbarthol ar draws Bae'r Gorllewin. Contractiwyd sefydliad annibynnol i wneud yr eiriolaeth a bydd yn cyflogi staff yn uniongyrchol.
- Roedd y panel yn bryderus am y cyfrifiadau a ddefnyddir gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer y cyfarpar amrediad a lefel sy'n cyfrifo lefel yr angen am eiriolaeth a'r cyllid gofynnol. Ni chafwyd unrhyw broblemau difrifol yn Abertawe yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf, felly mae'n ymddangos bod cynnydd o 130% yn y cyllid yn llawer rhy uchel pan fo gwasanaeth eiriolaeth Abertawe yn gweithio'n weddol dda. Mae'r panel yn cefnogi cynllun yr adran i gyflwyno sylwadau i Lywodraeth Cymru i ddiwygio'r cyfarpar.
- Yn y gorffennol, cafwyd camddealltwriaeth ynglŷn â rôl eiriolwr. Mae'n debygol nad yw hyn yn dal i fod yn wir, felly ni ddylid gohirio atgyfeiriadau.
- Mae iaith yr ymagwedd newydd yn heriol ar gyfer pobl ifanc. Mae'n rhaid iddi fod mewn iaith y gall plant ei deall. Mae hyd yn oed y gair 'eiriolwr' yn anodd ei ddeall.

Camau Gweithredu:

- Anfon llythyr at Aelod y Cabinet gan gynnwys y prif bwyntiau a cheisio ymateb.

## 7 Amserlen Rhaglen Waith 2017-18

Derbyniwyd ac ystyriwyd y rhaglen waith gan y panel. Nid oes angen cyfarfod ychwanegol ym mis Ionawr 2018 ar gyfer craffu cyn penderfynu ar yr adolygiad comisiynu.

## 8 Llythyrau

Derbyniwyd ac ystyriwyd llythyrau gan y panel.

Roedd y panel yn falch gyda'r ymatebion cynhwysfawr gan Aelod y Cabinet, yn enwedig i lythyr y Cynullydd ar graffu cyn penderfynu ar Adolygiad Comisiynu'r Gwasanaethau Cymorth i Deuluoedd, sy'n canolbwyntio ar blant ag anghenion ychwanegol ac anabledau cyn iddo fynd gerbron y Cabinet.

Minutes of the Panel Perfformiad Craffu - Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd (Dydd Llun, 18  
Rhagfyr 2017)  
Cont'd

Camau Gweithredu:

- Dosbarthu gwybodaeth fanwl gan Aelod y Cabinet am sgorio i'r panel er gwybodaeth.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 4.50 pm



**To:**  
**Councillor Mark Child**  
**Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing**

*Please ask for:* Scrutiny  
*Gofynnwch am:*  
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*e-Bost:*  
*Date* 10 January 2018  
*Dyddiad:*

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing following the meeting of the Panel on 18 December 2017. It covers the update on Advocacy.

Dear Cllr Child

The Panel met on 18 December and received an update on Advocacy.

We would like to thank Chris Francis for attending to go through the report and answer our questions. We appreciate his 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:

### **Advocacy Update**

We heard that the National Standards and Outcomes Framework from Welsh Government is still in draft form even though local authorities had to have the Approach in place by June 2017.

In relation to Independent Reviewing Officers, we heard that they play an important role to ensure advocacy is taken up by children and that they also advocate on behalf of children at review meetings. We also heard that BAYS Plus provides advocacy for children aged 16 plus.

We were informed that the National Approach is in addition to what is already being done in Swansea, it commissions independent advocacy. Also any child being considered by a case conference will now have explained to them that they can have an advocate to represent them.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**

**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE**

**GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE**

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I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod  
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We heard that each Council has had responsibility for providing independent advocacy since 2002 but that it is probable that this service was underused as there was not enough promotional activity. The new National Approach should therefore lead to an increase in children wanting advocacy.

The Panel agrees with the aims and principles of the National Approach but it has to be done in a child friendly way. The Approach has to consider what is already being done for the child locally. For example, Swansea schools are rights protecting and Social Services use Signs of Safety which already provide opportunities for children to give their views.

We were informed that the National Approach is regional through Western Bay and that an independent organisation has been contracted to undertake the advocacy and they will employ staff directly.

The Panel was concerned about calculations used by Welsh Government for the range and level tool which calculates the level of need for advocacy and the funding required. There have been no serious issues in Swansea in recent years so a 130% increase in budget seems far too high, especially when the Swansea advocacy system is working reasonably well. We support the Department's plan to make representations to Welsh Government to amend the tool, and particularly the cost of providing the advocacy service, in light of Swansea advocacy service working reasonably well. In a situation where the Department's budget is being reduced, this seems to be adding another unnecessary department cost.

We heard that in the past there has been a misunderstanding about what the role of an advocate is, however this no longer appears to be the case so should not put off referrals.

We felt that the language of the new Approach is challenging for young people. It needs to be in a language children can understand. Even the word 'advocate' is difficult to understand.

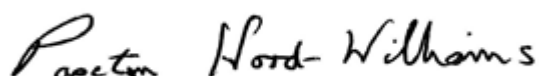
## **Letters**

We are pleased with the comprehensive responses we have received from you, particularly to the convener's letter on pre decision of the Family Support Services Commissioning Review focussing on Children with Additional Needs and Disabilities before it went to Cabinet and the detailed information you provided on scoring.

## **Your Response**

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your views and comments on any of the issues raised and please note that in this instance, a formal response is required. Could we have your reply by 31 January 2018.

Yours sincerely



**PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS**  
**CONVENER, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
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