



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Nodiadau'r Panel Perfformiad Craffu - Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd

Ystafell Bwyllgor 5 - Neuadd y Ddinas, Abertawe

Dydd Mawrth, 28 Awst 2018 am 4.00 pm

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

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

C Anderson
P K Jones
D W W Thomas

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

M Durke
S M Jones

Y Cyngorydd(wyr)

Y V Jardine
I E Mann

Swyddog(ion)

Val Jones

Liz Jordan

Julie Thomas

Rheolwr Mabwysiadu Rhanbarthol, Gwasanaeth
Mabwysiadu Bae'r Gorllewin

Swyddog Craffu

Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd

Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb

Y Cyngorydd(wy): K M Griffiths

1 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.

Ni chafwyd unrhyw ddatganiadau o gysylltiadau.

2 Nodiadau cyfarfod 25 Mehefin 2018

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

3 Cwestiynau'r Cyhoedd

Nid oedd unrhyw aelodau o'r cyhoedd yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod.

4 Y diweddaraf am y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu

Daeth Val Jones, y Rheolwr Mabwysiadu Rhanbarthol, i hysbysu'r panel o'r ddau archwiliad diweddar ar Wasanaeth Mabwysiadu Rhanbarthol Bae'r Gorllewin gan gynnwys crynodeb o'r canfyddiadau a'r cynllun gweithredu rhanbarthol dilynol. Derbyniodd y panel hefyd ddiweddariad ar gynnydd a pherfformiad y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Rhanbarthol yn ystod 2017 / 2018.

Pwyntiau i'w trafod:

- Gwneir ymgais i safoni'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu ar draws yr awdurdodau lleol.
- Mae pob mabwysiadwr ar gofrestr genedlaethol ond mae gan bob rhanbarth/sefydliad trydydd sector ei broses a'i baneli mabwysiadu ei hun ar gyfer cymeradwyo mabwysiadwyr.
- Mae Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Bae'r Gorllewin yn cysylltu â rhanbarthau eraill er mwyn canfod mabwysiadwyr os nad yw'n bosib dod o hyd i fabwysiadwr addas yn lleol, er enghraifft, ar gyfer grwpiau o frodyr a chworydd a phlant ag anghenion arbennig.
- Tudalen 37 - mae'n nodi bod 38% o geisiadau mabwysiadu a wnaed yn rhanbarthol yn 2017 a 2018 wedi'u herio. Fodd bynnag o ran y ceisiadau a heriwyd, ni lwyddodd un o'r ceisiadau mabwysiadu. Y peth pwysig yw i'r plentyn gael sefydlogrwydd.
- Tudalen 51 - Holodd y panel pam bod gan Abertawe niferoedd mor uchel o bobl yn tynnu'n ôl o ran cyfeiriadau mewn blwyddyn. Hysbyswyd y panel bod angen cyflawni darn o waith er mwyn canfod y rheswm dros hyn. Mae'n bosib am fod gan Fae'r Gorllewin system atgyfeirio gynnar.
- Tudalen 57 - teimlwyd y dylai'r ffocws fod ar 'orchymyn lleol' ar gyfer monitro perfformiad y gwasanaeth mabwysiadu.
- Cadarnhawyd y bydd Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn parhau i fod yn rhan o Wasanaeth Mabwysiadu Bae'r Gorllewin pan na fydd yn rhan o Fwrdd Iechyd Abertawe Bro Morgannwg.
- Gwnaeth y panel longyfarch y Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu ar ganlyniad ei archwiliadau diweddar a'r cynllun gweithredu a roddwyd ar waith yn sgîl hyn.

5 Y diweddaraf am eiriolaeth

Daeth Julie Thomas, Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd i roi'r diweddaraf i'r panel a roi'r ymagwedd genedlaethol at Eiriolaeth Statudol ar waith, gan gynnwys rhai o'r materion ynghylch rhoi ar waith a materion ar gyfer y gwasanaeth wrth symud ymlaen.

Pwyntiau i'w trafod:

- Mae Dave Howes, Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol bellach yn cadeirio'r bwrdd cenedlaethol
- Mae cost ac ariannu yn y dyfodol yn broblem o hyd ac mae'r panel yn bryderus ynglŷn â hyn.
- Mae'r panel wedi cynnig helpu, os yn bosib, er mwyn mynd i'r afael â'r mater.

6 Arolwg Bright Spots

Darparodd Julie Thomas drosolwg o'r arolwg a'r ymatebion iddo i'r panel ac yna eu diweddarau ar y camau nesaf sy'n cynnwys cynllun gweithredu integredig ac ateb cwestiynau'r panel.

Pwyntiau i'w trafod:

- Gofynnwyd i'r Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd yn Abertawe fod yn rhan o'r ymchwil y cymerodd chwech awdurdod ran ynddi.
- Cynhaliwyd yr arolwg gyda Phlant sy'n Derbyn Gofal (PDG) a gofynnwyd iddynt roi eu barn ar amrywiaeth o wahanol faterion.
- Ni ellir datgelu'r plant a gwblhaodd yr arolwg ond gellir trafod rhai materion yr amlygwyd ganddynt mewn cyfarfodydd adolygu PDG.
- Mae angen i weithwyr cymdeithasol edrych yn fwy manwl ar les cyffredinol plant a sylweddoli pa mor hanfodol yw sefydlu perthnasoedd â phlant a rhieni. Bydd hyfforddiant yn cael ei gyflwyno ar gyfer gweithwyr cymdeithasol i geisio gwella hyn.
- Mae'r gwasanaeth yn trafod rhai o'r canlyniadau gyda'r Adran Addysg a'r hyn y gellir ei wneud i helpu, er enghraifft, cynyddu nifer y grwpiau cyfeillgarwch.
- Mae llawer gan y gwasanaeth i'w ddysgu o'r arolwg.
- Bydd Abertawe yn cymryd rhan yn yr arolwg eto y flwyddyn nesaf.
- Amlygwyd rhai meysydd amlwg i Abertawe a lle mae angen gwneud gwelliannau. Bydd hyn yn cael ei gynnwys yn y Cynllun Bwrdd Magu Plant Corfforaethol
- Roedd y panel yn falch bod Abertawe wedi cymryd rhan yn yr arolwg ac yn mynd i'r afael â materion.

7 **Amserlen Rhaglen Waith 2018/19**

Bu'r panel yn ystyried y rhaglen waith.

8 **Lythyrau**

Llythyrau a dderbyniwyd ac a ystyriwyd gan y panel.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 5.45 pm



To:
Councillor Elliott King, Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Early Years) / Councillor Will Evans, Cabinet Member for Children's Services (Young People)

Please ask for: Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:
Scrutiny Office Line: 01792 637314
Llinell Uniongyrchol:
e-Mail e-Bost: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
Date Dyddiad: 20 September 2018

Summary: This is a letter from the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Members for Children's Services following the meeting of the Panel on 28 August 2018. It covers Update on Regional Adoption Service, Advocacy Update and the Bright Spots Survey.

Dear Cllr King and Cllr Evans,

The Panel met on 28 August and discussed the Regional Adoption Service including the recent inspections, Advocacy and the Bright Spots Survey.

We would like to thank Val Jones and Julie Thomas for attending to go through the reports 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:

Update on Regional Adoption Service

We received a presentation from Val Jones on the two recent inspections of the Western Bay Regional Adoption Service including a summary of the findings and the subsequent regional action plan. We also received an update on progress and performance of the Regional Adoption Service during 2017/18.

We heard that there is an attempt being made to standardise the adoption service across local authorities. We also heard that all adopters are on a national register but each region/third sector organisation has its own process and adoption panels for approving adopters.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU
SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE
www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

We were informed that Western Bay Adoption Service makes contact with other regions to try and identify adopters if it cannot find an appropriate adopter locally, for example, for sibling groups and children with special needs.

Page 37 - it states that 38% of adoption applications made in the region were contested in 2017/18. We were told however that none of the contested applications were successfully achieved and that the important thing is for the child to have permanence.

Page 51 - we queried why Swansea had such a high dropout figure for referrals during the year. We were informed that a piece of work needs to be undertaken to try and identify the reason for this. It could be because Western Bay has an early referral system.

Page 57 – we heard that it was felt that the focus should be on ‘placement order’ for monitoring of performance of the adoption service.

We were given confirmation that Bridgend will continue to be part of the Western Bay Adoption Service when it is no longer part of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

The Panel congratulated the Adoption Service on the outcome of its recent inspections and the action plan which it has put in place as a result.

Advocacy Update

Julie Thomas updated the Panel on the implementation of the national approach to Statutory Advocacy, including some of the issues concerning the implementation and issues for the Service going forward.

We heard that Dave Howes now chairs the national board. We were concerned to hear that there is still an issue over costs and future funding. We offered to help, if we can, to progress the issue.

Bright Spots Survey

We were given an overview of the Survey and the responses and were updated on the next steps, including an integrated action plan.

We were told that Child and Family Services in Swansea was asked to be involved in the research which 6 authorities took part in.

We heard that the survey was undertaken with Looked After Children (LAC) who were asked to give their views on a range of different issues. We also heard that the children who completed the survey cannot be identified but some of the issues that were raised can be discussed in LAC review meetings.

We heard that social workers need to be looking more broadly at children’s wellbeing and to realise how essential it is to form relationships with children and parents. We

were pleased to hear that training for social workers is going to be introduced to try and improve this.

The Panel was pleased to hear that the Service is talking to Education about some of the results and what they can do to help, for example, increasing friendship groups.

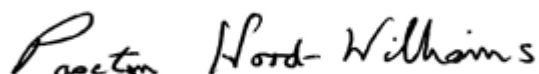
We heard that the survey highlighted some bright spots for Swansea and where improvements need to be made and that this will be included in the Corporate Parenting Board Plan.

The Panel was pleased that Swansea had taken part in the survey and that issues are being addressed. We feel that there is a lot of learning for the Service from the survey and were pleased to hear that Swansea will be taking part in the survey again next year.

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 style with a large initial 'P'.

PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS
CONVENER, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
CLLR.PAXTON.HOOD-WILLIAMS@SWANSEA.GOV.UK