



City and County of Swansea

Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

Scrutiny Performance Panel – Child & Family Services

At: Committee Room 3A - Guildhall, Swansea

On: Tuesday, 18 December 2018

Time: 4.00 pm

NOTE: First 10 minutes is a closed meeting for Panel Members only

Convenor: Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams

Membership:

Councillors: C Anderson, M Durke, K M Griffiths, Y V Jardine, P K Jones, S M Jones and D W W Thomas

Agenda

Page No.

- 1 Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**
www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests
- 3 Notes of meeting on 29 October 2018** **1 - 3**
To receive the notes of the previous meeting and agree as an accurate record.
- 4 Public Question Time**
Questions must relate to matters on the Agenda and will be dealt with in a 10 minute period.
- 5 Corporate Parenting Board update**
Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services

Paper to follow
- 6 Audit on child protection registration of emotional abuse**
Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services

Paper to follow
- 7 Work Programme Timetable 2018-19** **4 - 5**

8 Letters

6 - 8

a) Convener's letter to Cabinet Member (29 October 2018 meeting)

Next Meeting: Monday, 25 February 2019 at 4.00 pm



Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday, 11 December 2018
Contact: Liz Jordan 01792 637314

Agenda Item 3



City and County of Swansea

Notes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Child & Family Services**

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 29 October 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P R Hood-Williams (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

C Anderson
K M Griffiths
S M Jones

Councillor(s)

M Durke
P K Jones
D W W Thomas

Other Attendees

Huw Fyfe
William Evans
Elliott King
Carl Matthews
Amanda Turner

Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service
Cabinet Member - Children Services (Young People)
Cabinet Member - Children Services (Early Years)
Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service
Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service

Officer(s)

Liz Jordan
Julie Thomas

Scrutiny Officer
Head of Child & Family Services

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): Y V Jardine

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

No disclosures of interest were made.

2 Notes of meeting on 28 August 2018

The Panel agreed the notes as an accurate record of the meeting.

3 Public Question Time

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

4 Update on Youth Offending Service

Amanda Turner, Huw Fyfe and Carl Matthews of Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention service attended to brief the Panel on performance and answer questions.

Discussion points:

- Number of first time offenders of children and young people is falling substantially.
- Swansea was the first Authority to introduce the bureau system
- Youth Justice Service should be looking at case studies etc to identify and prove that intervention with young people is working.
- It would be useful to track young adults to check if this intervention continues to work once young people become 18.
- The number of custodial sentences imposed on young people in the region reduced to 9 in 2017/18. This is a real success story.
- The budget for Western Bay Youth Offending Service reduced from £4.2m in 2015/16 to £3.68m in 2017/18. There has been no negative impact on performance and no compulsory redundancies as a result of this. There are now 19 shared posts across the region compared to 11 in 2017/18. This is a good positive story for joint working.
- There are strong links between the regional Youth Offending Service and our Child and Family Services in the Authority and Info-nation so there is an integrated approach.
- Youth Offending Service does not have immediate access to the CAMHS service. They are making a case to the Health Board for having a defined route into CAMHS in a timely manner.
- Panel feels the CAMHS service is not working effectively. This issue is being raised in lots of forums including the Education Scrutiny Panel.
- Concern about what the effect will be of Bridgend leaving Western Bay. There are currently 19 shared posts in the region. Have to ensure none of the 3 areas are disadvantaged, particularly the children and young people in the areas.

5 Performance Monitoring (including BAYS +)

Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services went through the Performance Report for September 2018 highlighting the main points and answering the Panel's questions.

Discussion points:

- Looked After Children (page 2) – the Department is undertaking an audit as there has been an upward trend in this figure. Plan to bring a briefing report to the December Panel meeting.
- Panel feels the Department is going in the right direction but there are a few issues they need to keep an eye on as a Panel.

Actions:

- Add 'Report on Looked After Children Audit' to Work Programme for December 2018

6 Feedback on Inspection Report

Julie Thomas provided feedback to the Panel on the findings and areas for development from two inspections undertaken by Care Inspectorate Wales in July 2018 - a full inspection of Children's Services in the Authority and an inspection of Foster Swansea.

Discussion points:

- Foster Swansea has consistently received positive reports in inspections.
- Panel feels that overall the inspection report on Child and Family Services is excellent but there is always room for improvement. Panel expressed their gratitude to Julie and the rest of the team as the progress made has been through hard work and commitment and is excellent. Julie is pleased with the report but not complacent and that is why the improvement plan has been put in place.
- From a scrutiny point of view, the Panel will continue to scrutinise the Service and make suggestions and recommendations for improvement.

7 Work Programme Timetable 2018/19

The Panel considered the Work Programme.

8 Letters

Letters received and considered by the Panel.

The meeting ended at 6.05 pm.

Agenda Item 7

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19

Meeting 1 Monday 25 June 2018 4pm	Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on CFS (under 11 and over 11 services) Review of the year 2017/18 Work Programme 2018/19
Meeting 2 Tuesday 28 August 2018 4pm	Adoption update including report on Inspection of the Adoption Service Advocacy Update Bright Spots Survey
Meeting 3 Monday 29 October 2018 4pm	Report on Youth Offending Services Performance Monitoring (including BAYS +) Feedback on Inspection Report
Meeting 4 Tuesday 18 December 2018 4pm	Corporate Parenting Board update (5 leads invited) <i>Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services</i> Performance Monitoring Audit on Child Protection registration of emotional abuse
Additional meeting 11 February 2019 2pm	Draft budget proposals for Child and Family Services Cabinet Member presentation and Q and A session
Meeting 5 Monday 25 February 2019 4pm	Update on Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services (TBC) <i>Rachel Moxey, Head of Poverty and Prevention</i> Safeguarding – Child Sexual Exploitation (is there a problem in Swansea? What is happening to prevent it?) Child Disability update
Meeting 6 Monday 29 April	Performance Monitoring

2019	Report on Looked After Children Audit (TBC)
4pm	End of year review

Future work programme items:

- Presentation from Western Bay Justice Board – invite representative to attend once end of year figures are available (date tbc)
- Wales Audit Office reports (dates to be confirmed) –
 - First Point of Contact Assessments under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Joint Adult Services and CFS)
 - Integrated Care Fund (Joint Adult Services and CFS)
 - Care Experienced Children & Young People
- CFS Complaints Annual Report 2017-18 (June 2019)

Agenda Item 8



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 **01792 637314**
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e-Bost:
Date **19 November 2018**
Dyddiad:

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 29 October 2018. It covers update on Youth Offending Service, Performance Monitoring and feedback on Inspection Reports.

Dear Cllr King and Cllr Evans,

The Panel met on 29 October and discussed Western Bay Youth Offending Service, Performance Monitoring for September 2018 and the recent inspection reports on Foster Swansea and Child and Family Services.

We would like to thank Amanda Turner, Huw Fyfe and Carl Matthews of the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service and Julie Thomas and yourselves for attending to go through the reports and answer our questions. We appreciate your 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 Youth Offending Service

We received an update on performance of the Western Bay Youth Justice Service and some of the challenges faced by the Service in the future.

We were pleased to hear that the number of first time offenders of children and young people in the region is falling substantially.

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

We also heard that Swansea was the first Authority to introduce the bureau system which has successfully helped to divert a large number of children and young people away from having any criminal record.

We felt that the Youth Justice Service should be using case studies to identify and prove that intervention with young people is working. We also felt it would be useful to track young adults to check if this intervention continues to work once young people become 18.

We were informed that the number of custodial sentences imposed on young people in the region reduced to 9 in 2017/18 and that this is a real success story for the Service.

We were pleased to hear that despite the budget for Western Bay Youth Offending Service reducing from £4.2m in 2015/16 to £3.68m in 2017/18, there has been no negative impact on performance and no compulsory redundancies as a result of this. There are now 19 shared posts across the region compared to 11 in 2017/18. This is a good positive story for joint working.

It was good to hear that there are strong links between the regional Youth Offending Service and our Child and Family Services in the Authority and Info-nation so there is an integrated approach.

We were concerned to hear that Western Bay Youth Offending Service does not have immediate access to the CAMHS service and that they are making a case to the Health Board for having a defined route into CAMHS in a timely manner. The Panel feels strongly that the CAMHS service is not working effectively. This issue is being raised in lots of forums including the Education Scrutiny Panel. This is a serious ongoing issue which needs to be resolved.

We expressed our concern about what the effect will be of Bridgend leaving Western Bay. There are currently 19 shared posts in the region. There is a need to ensure none of the 3 areas are disadvantaged, particularly the children and young people in the areas.

Performance Monitoring

Julie Thomas went through the Performance Report for September 2018 highlighting the main points and answering the Panel's questions.

We heard that in respect of Looked After Children, the Department is undertaking an audit as there has been an upward trend in this figure and that it is hoped to bring a briefing report on this to the December Panel meeting.

We as a Panel feel that the Department is going in the right direction but there are a few issues we need to keep an eye on.

Feedback on Inspection Reports

Julie Thomas provided feedback to the Panel on the findings and areas for development from the two inspections undertaken by Care Inspectorate Wales in July

2018 - a full inspection of Children's Services in the Authority and an inspection of Foster Swansea.

We heard that Foster Swansea has consistently received positive reports in inspections.

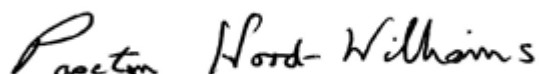
We feel that overall the inspection report on Child and Family Services is excellent but there is always room for improvement. We expressed our gratitude to Julie and the rest of the team as the progress that has been made has been through hard work and commitment and is excellent. Julie commented that she was pleased with the report but is not complacent and that is why the improvement plan has been put in place.

From a scrutiny point of view, the Panel will continue to scrutinise the Service and make suggestions and recommendations for improvement.

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



PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS
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