



## 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:** Wednesday, 26 June 2019

**Time:** 4.00 pm

**Convenor:** Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams

#### Membership:

Councillors: C Anderson, M Durke, K M Griffiths, Y V Jardine, P K Jones, S M Jones, E T Kirchner, W G Lewis and D W W Thomas

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### Agenda

### Page No.

- 1 **Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 **Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**  
[www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests)
- 3 **Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**
- 4 **Appoint/Confirm Convener of the Panel and Confirm Co-optees**
- 5 **Notes of previous meeting** 1 - 6  
To receive the notes of the previous meeting and agree as an accurate record.
- 6 **Public Question Time**  
Questions must relate to matters on the Agenda and will be dealt with in a 10 minute period.
- 7 **Cabinet Member Presentation and Question and Answer Session**  
*Elliott King, Cabinet Member for Children Services (Early Years)*  
*Sam Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Children Services (Young People)*
- 8 **Panel Review of the Year 2018/19 and draft Work Programme 2019/20** 7 - 11
- 9 **Letters** 12 - 14
  - a) Letter to Cabinet Member (29 April 2019 meeting)

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 28 August 2019 at 4.00 pm

*Huw Evans*

**Huw Evans**  
**Head of Democratic Services**  
**Wednesday, 19 June 2019**  
**Contact: Liz Jordan 01792 637314**

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# Agenda Item 5



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5 - Guildhall, Swansea

Monday, 29 April 2019 at 4.00 pm

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

**Councillor(s)**

C Anderson  
S M Jones

**Councillor(s)**

M Durke  
D W W Thomas

**Councillor(s)**

K M Griffiths

**Officer(s)**

Chris Francis

Principal Business Development and Commissioning  
Lead

Liz Jordan

Scrutiny Officer

Julie Thomas

Head of Child & Family Services

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): Y V Jardine and P K Jones

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**1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

No disclosures of interest were made.

**2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**

No declarations were made.

**3 Notes of meeting on 25 February 2019**

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

**4 Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

**5 Performance Monitoring**

Chris Francis, Principal Business Development and Commissioning Lead attended to take the Panel through the performance report for March 2019, identifying areas of improved performance and areas where improvement is required, and answering the Panel's questions.

Discussion Points:

- Page 10 – Wellbeing – The number of repeat referrals in the month has increased. It was identified that a family of 7 was re-referred to the department which accounted for this increase.
- Page 11 – Supported Care Planning – Assessments – Progress is being made in increasing the percentage of 42 day assessments carried out within timescales. This is positive.
- Page 16 – Safeguarding – Reviews and Allocations – Panel concerned that percentage of children on Child Protection Register that have been registered previously, is increasing. The 'emotional abuse' category is increasing and we need to understand why. Panel interested to see how 'Emotional Abuse' is categorised. It is very subjective.
- Page 17 – Safeguarding – Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Missing Children and Professional Abuse – There has been a big increase in number of children managed under the CSE Protocol and the number of children going missing/absent without authority. A new officer has been appointed to look into these areas, so increase may be due to better identification and recording. This is a concern to the Panel and they will want to monitor this closely going forward.
- There is going to be an increase in number of independent children's homes in the area. Panel concerned there could be a child protection threat if the Authority and police cannot deal with the number of LAC as a result. There is no regulation on number of children's homes. The issue has been flagged with Welsh Government.
- Page 23 – Permanence – Leaving Care – Glossary of classifications would be useful for Panel.

Actions:

- Add item to Work Programme on 'Why children become looked after'.
- Glossary of classifications to be provided with next Performance Monitoring report.

## **6 Update on Welsh Government's Local Authority Looked After Children Reduction Expectation**

Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services attended to present this item and answer the Panel's questions.

Discussion Points:

- Welsh Government (WG) representatives have visited the Authority and been briefed on plans to safely reduce the number of Looked After Children (LACs).
- Panel emphasized how important schools are in driving this forward. There is concern that more and more children are being home schooled. This issue has been raised with WG
- WG were really impressed with examples provided of Service development
- Panel would like to see some examples of tools and techniques employed by frontline staff in family engagement to encourage parents and children to discuss issues, feelings, relationships and to plan a way forward to improve their situations.

- Panel congratulated Julie Thomas and her team for all their hard work in managing the business. WG acknowledged how good this is.

Actions:

- Add item to work programme 'Examples of tools and techniques employed by front line staff in family engagement'.

## **7 Work Programme Timetable 2018-19**

The Panel considered the Work Programme.

Actions:

- Add to work programme 2019-20, 'Briefing on Youth Offending Service'.
- Panel Members to inform Scrutiny Officer of any items to be considered for work programme 2019-20.

## **8 Letters**

Letter received and considered by the Panel.

The meeting ended at 6.00 pm.



**To:**  
**Councillor Elliott King, Cabinet Member for Children Services (Early Years) / Councillor Sam Pritchard, Cabinet Member for Children Services (Young People)**

Please ask for: Scrutiny  
Gofynnwch am:  
Scrutiny Office 01792 637314  
Line:  
Llinell  
Uniongyrchol:  
e-Mail [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk)  
e-Bost:  
Date 14 May 2019  
Dyddiad:

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Child & Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Members for Children Services following the meeting of the Panel on 29 April 2019. It covers Performance Monitoring and Welsh Government's Looked After Children Reduction Expectation.

Dear Cllr King and Cllr Pritchard,

The Panel met on 29 April to discuss the Performance Monitoring report for March 2019 and to receive an update on the Welsh Government's Local Authority Looked After Children Reduction Expectation.

We would like to thank Julie Thomas and Chris Francis for attending to discuss 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:

### **Performance Monitoring**

Chris Francis took the Panel through the performance report for March 2019, identifying areas of improved performance and areas where improvement is required.

Page 10 – Wellbeing. We heard that the number of repeat referrals in the month has increased. It was identified that a family of 7 was re-referred to the department which accounted for this increase.

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Page 11 – Supported Care Planning – Assessments. We heard that progress is being made in increasing the percentage of 42-day assessments carried out within timescales. We were pleased to hear this.

Page 16 – Safeguarding – Reviews and Allocations. The Panel was concerned that the percentage of children on the Child Protection Register that have been registered previously, is increasing. We noted that the ‘emotional abuse’ category is increasing and we need to understand why. We are interested to see how ‘Emotional Abuse’ is categorised. We feel it is very subjective. The Panel will therefore be adding an item to its work programme for 2019-20 on ‘Why children become looked after’.

Page 17 – Safeguarding – Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Missing Children and Professional Abuse. We heard that there has been a big increase in the number of children managed under the CSE Protocol and the number of children going missing/absent without authority. We also heard that a new officer has been appointed to look into these areas, so the increase may be due to better identification and recording. This is a concern to the Panel and they will want to monitor this closely going forward.

The Panel is concerned that there is going to be an increase in the number of independent children’s homes in the area and that there could be a child protection threat if the Authority and police cannot deal with the number of LAC as a result. We were informed that there is no regulation on the number of children’s homes and that the issue has been flagged with Welsh Government.

Page 23 – Permanence – Leaving Care. We feel it would be useful for the Panel to have a Glossary of classifications with the next Performance Monitoring report.

### **Update on Welsh Government's Local Authority Looked After Children Reduction Expectation**

Julie Thomas presented an update and answered the Panel’s questions.

We heard that Welsh Government representatives have visited the Authority and been briefed on plans to safely reduce the number of Looked After Children.

The Panel emphasized how important schools are in driving this forward. We expressed our concern that more and more children are being home schooled. We were informed that this issue has been raised with WG.

We heard that WG was very impressed with the examples provided of Service development.

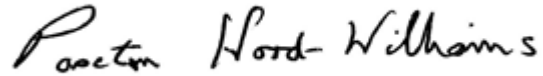
The Panel would like to see some examples of tools and techniques employed by frontline staff in family engagement to encourage parents and children to discuss issues, feelings, relationships and to plan a way forward to improve their situations. This will be added to the work programme for 2019-20.

The Panel congratulated Julie Thomas and her team for all their hard work in managing the business. The Convener informed the Panel that WG representatives had acknowledged how good this is when they visited the Authority.

## 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](mailto:CLLR.PAXTON.HOOD-WILLIAMS@SWANSEA.GOV.UK)**



# Agenda Item 8

## Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel Summary of the Year 2018/19

Could Panel members have a think about the following questions in relation to their year on the CFS Scrutiny Performance Panel in readiness for the discussion at the Panel?

<b>1. What has gone well?</b>	
<b>2. What has not gone so well?</b>	
<b>3. Has the Panels work programme been focused on the right things?</b>	
<b>4. What have we learned that will help us with future CFS scrutiny?</b>	

## Summary of the Year 2018 – 2019

*See below a summary of the year of activity carried out by the CFS Scrutiny Performance Panel*

### **1. Work of the Panel this year**

Topics suggested for scrutiny by Councillors, the public and officers for the year 2018/19 and whether they were completed by the panel are detailed as follows

- ✓ Impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on CFS (under 11 and over 11 services)
- ✓ Review of the year 2017/18 and Work Programme 2018/19
- ✓ Adoption Update
- ✓ Advocacy Update
- ✓ Bright Spots Survey
- ✓ Report on Youth Offending Services
- ✓ Performance Monitoring including 16 plus (BAYS)
- ✓ Feedback on Inspection Report
- ✓ Corporate Parenting Board update (5 leads to be invited)
- ✓ Draft budget proposals for Child and Family Services
- ✓ Update on impact of Prevention and Early Intervention on Child and Family Services

- ✓ Safeguarding – Child Sexual Exploitation
- X Cabinet Member presentation and Q and A session
- X CFS Complaints Annual Report 2017-18
- ✓ Child Disability update
- ✓ Update on WG's LA LAC Reduction Expectation

## **2. Data monitoring in 2018/19**

Item monitored over the year:

- ✓ Monthly performance report September 2018
- ✓ Performance and progress of Western Bay Regional Adoption Service
- ✓ Performance and progress of Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service
- ✓ Monthly performance report November 2018
- ✓ Monthly performance report March 2019

## **Planning for the year ahead 2019/20**

*See below some items that can be scheduled for the coming year:*

### **1. Some issues the panel identified but did not get a chance to look at or require ongoing monitoring at present. These can be referred onto the new municipal year**

- Cabinet Member Presentation and Q&A
- Corporate Parenting Board update
- Update on progress with CAMHS (referred from CAMHS Inquiry Panel) (date to be agreed)
- Western Bay Justice Board presentation – invite representative to attend once end of year figures are available (date to be agreed)
- Audit on child protection registration of emotional abuse (date to be agreed)
- Report on Looked After Children Audit (date to be agreed)
- 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.

### **2. Annual items to be scheduled for the new municipal year**

1. Monthly performance reports for CFS
2. Quarterly performance reports for CFS
3. Corporate Complaints Annual Report for CFS 2018-19 (Feb 20)
4. Scrutiny of annual budget as it relates to CFS matters (Feb 20)

### **3. Topic suggestions from Panel Members**

- Why children become looked after
- Examples of tools and techniques employed by front line staff in family engagement
- Briefing on Youth Offending Service.

**4. The Scrutiny Work Planning Conference is being held on 10 June. There may be some suggestions of items for this Panel for the new municipal year.**

***Other background information***

- Number of times the CFS Scrutiny Performance Panel has met = 8
- Number of CFS related Conveners letters = 7
- Councillor attendance across the Panel on average = 76%

**CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL  
WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

<p><b>Meeting 1</b> Wednesday 26 June 2019</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p><b>Cabinet Member presentation and Q and A session</b> <i>Elliott King and Sam Pritchard, Cabinet Members</i> <i>Children Services</i></p> <p><b>Review of the year 2018/19 and draft Work Programme 2019/20</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting 2</b> August 2019</p>	<p><b>Performance Monitoring and Update on Regional Adoption Service</b></p> <p><b>Feedback on CIW Inspection Report – update on action plan</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting 3</b> October 2019</p>	<p><b>Briefing on Youth Offending Service</b></p> <p><b>Update on progress with CAMHS (referred from CAMHS Inquiry Panel)</b></p> <p><b>Update on report to WG on Safe LAC Reduction Strategy (TBC)</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting 4</b> December 2019</p>	<p><b>Performance Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Corporate Parenting Board Update</b></p>
<p><b>Additional meeting</b> February 2020</p>	<p><b>Draft budget proposals for Child and Family Services</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting 5</b> February 2020</p>	<p><b>CFS Complaints Annual Report 2018-19 (tbc)</b> <i>Julie Nicholas-Humphries, Corporate Complaints Manager</i></p> <p><b>Safeguarding (County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation)</b></p>
<p><b>Meeting 6</b> April 2020</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p><b>Performance Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Child Disability Update (TBC)</b></p>

**Future work programme items:**

- 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 and Young People
- Why children become looked after (TBC)
- Examples of tools and techniques employed by front line staff in family engagement (TBC)

# Agenda Item 9



**To:**  
**Councillor Elliott King, Cabinet Member for  
Children Services (Early Years) / Councillor  
Sam Pritchard, Cabinet Member for  
Children Services (Young People)**

*Please ask for:* Scrutiny  
*Gofynnwch am:*  
*Scrutiny Office* 01792 637314  
*Line:*  
*Llinell*  
*Uniongyrchol:*  
*e-Mail* [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk)  
*e-Bost:*  
*Date* 14 May 2019  
*Dyddiad:*

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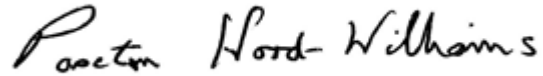
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