



Dinas a Sir Abertawe

Hysbysiad o Gyfarfod

Fe'ch gwahoddir i gyfarfod

Panel Perfformiad Craffu - Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd

Lleoliad: Ystafell Bwyllgor 5, Neuadd y Ddinas, Abertawe

Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 24 Chwefror 2020

Amser: 4.00 pm

Cynullydd: Y Cynghorydd Paxton Hood-Williams

Aelodaeth:

Cynghorwyr: C Anderson, M Durke, K M Griffiths, Y V Jardine, P K Jones, S M Jones, E T Kirchner, W G Lewis a/ac D W W Thomas

Agenda

Rhif y Dudalen.

- 1 Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.**
- 2 Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.**
www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau
- 3 Gwahardd pleidleisiau Chwip a Datgan Chwipiau'r Pleidiau**
- 4 Cofnodion y Cyfarfod(ydd) Blaenorol** **1 - 8**
Derbyn nodiadau'r cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol a chytuno eu bod yn gofnod cywir.
- 5 Cwestiynau gan y cyhoedd**
Rhaid i gwestiynau fod yn berthnasol i faterion ar yr agenda ac ymdrinnirâ nhw o fewn cyfnod o 10 munud.
- 6 Cyflwyniad - Y cynnydd ar Raglen Gwella Plant a Theuluoedd** **9**
Gemma Whyley, Rheolwr Prosiect y Gwasanaethau Plant a Theuluoedd
- 7 Diogelu (Llinellau Cyffuriau a Chamfanteisio'n Rhywiol ar Blant)** **10 - 13**
Damian Rees – Prif Swyddog dros Ddiogelu
- 8 Amserlen y Rhaglen Waith ar gyfer 2019-20** **14 - 15**
- 9 Llythyrau** **16 - 21**
 - a) Llythyr at Aelod y Cabinet (cyfarfod 18 Rhagfyr 2019)

b) Ymateb gan Aelod y Cabinet (cyfarfod 18 Rhagfyr 2019)

Cyfarfod nesaf: Dydd Llun, 27 Ebrill 2020 ar 4.00 pm

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Dydd Mawrth, 18 Chwefror 2020
Cyswllt: Liz Jordan 01792 637314

Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5, Guildhall, Swansea

Wednesday, 18 December 2019 at 10.00 am

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)

Y V Jardine
W G Lewis

Other Attendees

Elliott King Cabinet Member - Children Services

Officer(s)

Liz Jordan Scrutiny Officer
Nichola Rogers Regional Adoption Manager, Western Bay Adoption Service
Julie Thomas Head of Child & Family Services
Gemma Whyley Project Manager, Child and Family Services

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): K M Griffiths and E T Kirchner

1 Disclosures 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 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Panel agreed the minutes of the meeting on 18 December 2019 as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 Public Question Time

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

5 Update on Regional Adoption Service

Nichola Rogers, Regional Adoption Manager for Western Bay Adoption Service attended, to update the Panel on the work of the service, improvements in performance and plans to address areas for development.

Discussion points:

- Independent review report expected in January 2020 on whether Bridgend remains as part of Western Bay Adoption Service.
- Improvements in performance in many areas over last year since new adoption manager has been in post. She should be congratulated.
- Panel noted mostly women in the structure and children need a male role model. Informed not a significant issue in adoption as staff don't work directly with children.
- Currently no white children placed with BME adopters. Adoption is driven by the adopters. Culture is taken into account but care and wellbeing of children comes first.
- Update on Life Journey Data – New framework introduced. Framework worker recently appointed to work with Authorities to improve quality of work and to work with social workers to help children understand about Life Journey data.
- Work been done on Western Bay's 'offer' and how it will support children and adopters going forward.
- There were issues with 'letterbox' but been resolved.
- All areas meet regularly to share practice. Some of the good practice by Western Bay has been shared.
- There was concern about shortage of adopters in this region but the gap has got smaller and the project manager thinks it will continue to reduce.
- Adoption manager will bring this year's performance results back to the Panel early in next municipal year.

Actions:

- Schedule item on 'Western Bay Adoption Service Performance Results' on work programme early in next municipal year.

6 Corporate Parenting Board Update

Gemma Whyley, Child and Family Services Project Manager attended to update the Panel on activity undertaken this year including timeline, work plan, projects and next steps.

Discussion Points:

- There have been 6 opportunities for corporate parents to engage with children this year.
- Best Start Book Project, undertaken this year, has been praised by Children's Commissioner. Hope to expand on this next year.
- Bays+ is currently working well. New bespoke performance report for Bays+ is being developed in new year. This will be added to Performance Monitoring item in future.
- Participation Task and Finish Group has been nominated for an award.

- Joint Corporate Parenting Board workshop held. This will feed into annual Corporate Parenting Board Plan.
- Welsh Government Ministry Advisory Group discussing changes to legislation. This could be very positive.
- Big Conversation very successful at linking in with schools.
- No performance data provided in this report. Panel was concerned about educational attainment for Looked After Children in previous report. Annual Report, including performance data, will come to this Panel in next municipal year.
- Panel queried if partners are participating as they should. Informed Housing and Culture and Leisure are now taking corporate parenting role seriously and are participating well.
- Cabinet Member keen to improve attendance and engagement at Board meetings and believes changing from objectives to themes will help with this.
- There has been a push to involve children in Board meetings but structure of the meetings needs to change. Panel suggested Cabinet Member speak to Head of Democratic Services about changing format to more workshop style.

Actions:

- PDF copy of Book project to be circulated to Panel by email.
- CFS Performance Monitoring Report item to include Bays+ performance in future.
- Schedule item 'Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report' in Work Programme for next municipal year.

7 Performance Monitoring

Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services updated the Panel.

- Discussion Points:
- Extremely busy 3 months with lots of activity around Looked After Children population including some serious issues and some really complex issues.
- Workforce Wellbeing Strategy is being developed. Really important to keep experienced staff especially senior practitioners.
- Vacancy monitoring policy is not being applied in CFS as it delays recruitment of staff.
- Retention policy approved to enable progression of staff through to senior social workers.
- Big drive towards targeted early work and early help hubs are in place.
- Head of Service will bring caseload information to each Panel meeting in future to reassure Panel.
- Child protection activity has increased. Undertaking work to slow this down. Police will be working with us on this and should see a reduction in figures.
- More activity around county lines recently. Police asked to up their disruption activity.
- Department doing piece of work with Lancaster University on 'Born into Care' project.
- Working with Housing on providing housing for care leavers with complex needs who still need this support.

Actions:

- CFS caseload information to come to each panel meeting. Verbal update from Head of Service.

8 Work Programme Timetable 2019/20

The Panel considered the Work Programme.

Actions:

- Confirm if draft budget proposals will be an additional item at 24 February Panel meeting or if extra meeting needs to be arranged.

9 Letters

Letters received and considered by the Panel.

The meeting ended at 11.45 am.



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
e-Bost:
Date 20 January 2020
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 18 December 2019. It covers Regional Adoption Service, Corporate Parenting Board and Performance Monitoring

Dear Cllr King and Cllr Pritchard,

The Panel met on 18 December to receive updates on the Western Bay Regional Adoption Service and the Corporate Parenting Board and to discuss the Child and Family Services Performance Monitoring Report for October 2019.

We would like to thank Cllr King, Julie Thomas, Nichola Rogers and Gemma Whyley for attending and answering 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 Regional Adoption Service

Nichola Rogers, Regional Adoption Manager for Western Bay Adoption Service updated the Panel on the work of the service, improvements in performance and plans to address areas for development.

We were informed that an independent review report is expected in January 2020 on whether Bridgend remains as part of Western Bay Adoption Service.

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We heard that there have been improvements in performance in many areas over the last year since the new adoption manager has been in post and that Nichola should be congratulated. We were very pleased to hear this.

We noted that there are mostly women in the structure and mentioned that we felt children need a male role model. We were informed that this is not a significant issue in the adoption service, as staff don't work directly with children.

We were informed that there are currently no white children placed with BME adopters and that adoption is driven by the adopters. We heard that culture is taken into account but care and wellbeing of children comes first.

We heard that a new framework has been introduced for Life Journey Data. Also, a framework worker has recently been appointed to work with Authorities to improve quality of work, and to work with social workers to help children understand about Life Journey data. We were pleased to hear this.

We heard that work has been done on Western Bay's 'offer' and how it will support children and adopters going forward. We also heard that there were issues with 'letterbox' but that these have been resolved.

We were informed that all areas meet regularly to share practice and that some of the good practice by Western Bay has been shared in this forum.

We discussed that there was concern about the shortage of adopters in this region but heard that the gap has got smaller and the project manager thinks it will continue to reduce.

We agreed that the adoption manager would bring this year's performance results to a panel meeting early in the next municipal year.

Corporate Parenting Board Update

Gemma Whyley, Child and Family Services Project Manager updated the Panel on activity undertaken this year including timeline, work plan, projects and next steps.

We heard that there have been six opportunities for corporate parents to engage with children this year.

We were informed that the Best Start Book Project, undertaken this year, has been praised by the Children's Commissioner. We heard that you hope to expand on this next year. It was agreed that a PDF copy of the book will be circulated to the Panel by email.

We heard that Bays+ is currently working well. We also heard that a new bespoke performance report for Bays+ is being developed in the new year and that this will be added to the CFS Performance Monitoring item in future.

We were pleased to hear that the Participation Task and Finish Group has been nominated for an award.

We heard that a Joint Corporate Parenting Board workshop was held and that this will feed into the annual Corporate Parenting Board Plan.

We were informed that the Welsh Government Ministry Advisory Group is discussing changes to legislation and that this could be very positive.

We heard that the Big Conversation was very successful at linking in with schools.

We raised the issue that there was no performance data provided in the report and that in the previous report we had been concerned about educational attainment for Looked After Children. We heard that the Annual Report, including performance data, will come to this Panel in the next municipal year.

We queried if partners are participating as they should and we were informed that Housing and Culture and Leisure are now taking their corporate parenting role seriously and are participating well.

You told us that you are keen to improve attendance and engagement at Board meetings and believe changing from objectives to themes will help with this.

You also informed us that there has been a push to involve children in Board meetings but that the structure of meetings needs to change. We suggested you speak to the Head of Democratic Services about changing the format to a more workshop style.

Performance Monitoring

Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services updated the Panel.

We heard that it was an extremely busy 3 months with lots of activity around the Looked After Children population including some serious issues and some really complex issues.

We were informed that the Workforce Wellbeing Strategy is being developed and that it is really important to keep experienced staff especially senior practitioners.

We heard that the vacancy monitoring policy is no longer being applied in CFS as it delays recruitment of staff. We were pleased to hear this. We also heard that the retention policy has been approved to enable progression of staff through to senior social workers. The Panel heard that there has been a big drive towards targeted early work and early help hubs are in place. The Head of Service agreed to bring caseload information to each Panel meeting in future to reassure us.

We noted that child protection activity has increased. We heard that work is being undertaken to slow this down and that the police will be working with us on this and we should see a reduction in figures.

We heard that there has been more activity around county lines recently and that the police have been asked to up their disruption activity.

We were informed that the Department is doing a piece of work with Lancaster University on the 'Born into Care' project.

We heard that the Department is working with Housing on providing housing for care leavers with complex needs who still need this support.

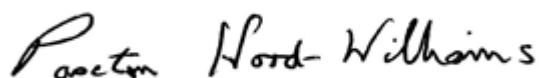
Work Programme

We discussed the possibility of adding the budget proposals for Child and Family Services to the February Panel Meeting for discussion. However, the budget proposals are due to go to Cabinet on 20 February 2020 so an additional CFS panel meeting has had to be arranged on 18 February at 12pm. Relevant Cabinet Members and officers are invited to attend this meeting.

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 in this instance please provide a formal response by 10 February 2020.

Yours sincerely



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

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 24 February 2020

Child and Family Improvement Programme Update

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide an update on progress for the Child and Family Services Improvement Programme
Content	Presentation that outlines key progress made, case study examples of recent work and priorities moving forward.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give their views
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Elliot King
Lead Officer(s)	Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services
Report Author	Gemma Whyley – gemma.whyley@swansea.gov.uk

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 24 February 2020

Safeguarding (County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation)

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide a briefing requested by the Board about Safeguarding (County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation)
Content	This report includes a summary of <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Current Context of County Lines and CSE2. The current CSE numbers.3. An overview of the main trends and themes since April 2019.4. Interventions and Outcomes5. Progress of a contextual safeguarding approach
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Give their views
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Elliot King
Lead Officer(s)	Julie Thomas – Head of Child and Families Services
Report Author	Damian Rees – Principal Officer for Safeguarding.

The Tarian Report (police intelligence) from January 2020 has identified that the majority of County Lines Operations across Wales are within Swansea and that the number is significantly more than in any other place in Wales. This will include both children coming into the local area from other regions across the UK as well as the potential recruitment of local young people to distribute drugs within Swansea.

We currently have identified 25 young people (under 18) at risk of CSE since April 2019, and 20 of those identified have required oversight and intervention via the CSE protocol that is coordinated by the Practice Lead for the Disruption of Child Exploitation.

At the end of January 2020 there are 5 young people currently on CSE protocol. The average age currently is 15 years 5 months all female and all from Swansea. The average time they have been on protocol is 97 days

An overview from April 2019 -

- a) There have been two young people on Protocol for more than 6 months.
- b) The average age of young people on Protocols is 14 years.
- c) Currently there is an under representation of males as males.
- d) A high proportion of the young people on protocol are placed in residential provisions within Swansea from other Local Authorities.
- e) $\frac{3}{4}$ of young people on protocol have substance misuse worries.
- f) $\frac{1}{2}$ have experienced parental substance misuse.
- g) $\frac{1}{2}$ have experienced parental mental health
- h) $\frac{1}{2}$ have experienced Domestic abuse within the home.
- i) On average around 90% have experienced family breakdown.
- j) Over half are not in full time mainstream education.

In respect of disruption there have been:

- a) a number of Child Abduction Warning Notice's requested by the local authority.
- b) There has been regular communication between social services and housing when there have been worries around CSE young people visiting properties of worry and a multi-agency response has proved effective.
- c) Increase in the knowledge and understanding on the National Referral Mechanism which has been achieved through training to staff. This means that trafficking legislation is now being considered more frequently with CSE cases.
- d) Use of passport markers prevented young people being taken out of the country by someone believed to be exploiting them.
- e) We ensure that when looked after children from other local authorities are placed in Swansea, that we involve the home authority but

coordinate the safeguarding through the Practice Lead for the Disruption of Exploitation.

There are strong links with our local youth offending service who attend every initial strategy meeting regardless of whether they are open or not to them where there are concerns that a young person is at risk of CSE.

There are direct links between children services and the safer Swansea partnership over exploitation and a representative from the partnership attends CSE strategy meetings.

To support our safeguarding work we have accessed the St Giles Trust who offer support around diversion away from gang culture and the preventative CSE. In addition we also link closely with other third sector organisations and their specific support, such as, Roots foundation, NSPCC and Barnardos. Each of these organisations regularly attend CSE meetings.

We are also working with the University of Bedfordshire, following a success bid for them to work with us, in creating a contextual safeguarding approach in Swansea.

Contextual safeguarding sets out the relationships between the environments that children spend their lives and the decisions they make in their life are central to how they influence their decision-making. That is because environments impact on decisions that young people make as they try to obtain status within their environments within that environments set of social rules. Then the understanding of these field rules influence their behaviours.

We are currently in the first year of developing a contextual safeguarding approach to CSE and County Lines.

- Focus of the work is for 11 to 17year olds (as the most at risk group).
- Three Year Approach (2019-21)
- First Year (2019-20) to complete a systems review and develop multi agency framework/ tools and practice to support Contextual Safeguarding. To identify pilot area (site) for second year. Benchmark data to support reviewing impact when approach is implemented.
- Second Year (2020-21) Implement a contextual safeguarding approach in a pilot area and review the systems to develop practice and the systems to support this approach. Review the impact of the approach against bench marked data
- Third Year (2021) Implement a Contextual Safeguarding Approach across Swansea and review impact of approach, leading to embedding approach in “business as usual”

- To prevent, protect and support Children and Young People at risk of Child Exploitation (as defined in the West Glamorgan Exploitation Policy).
- Robust coordinated early intervention and identified of young people at risk of exploitation and reduce need for statutory service intervention.
- To oversee and ensure that all young people identified as at risk of exploitation have access to specific targeted support at the right time.
- To ensure there is an effective multi-agency strategic and operational response to the identification, disruption and safeguarding of vulnerable children and young people, and that the cases and children identified are deemed a priority are able to access the right support.
- The sharing of relevant and proportionate information, both within the Council and between the Council and other agencies to safeguarding children and young people from exploitation.
- To create a peer/ location mapping approach to consider contextual circumstances for young people/ groups of young people. Which will include, places, peer networks, adult networks and any other relevant factors in order to ensure effective safeguarding of young people at risk of Child Exploitation (CE).
- Create electronic recording of information about a young person's peer relationships and networks to promote effective safeguarding from exploitation.
- To review the impact and effectiveness of operational interventions and develop and review strategic solutions where required.

In January 2020, the University Of Bedfordshire completed a systems review of how we identify, respond and protect children and young people who are at risk of CSE and County Lines.

This identified that we are identifying extra familial harm within current practice better than the other sites that they looked at across the UK, and responding to this in a coordinated manner.

To conclude, there is considerable work ongoing and being developed in regards to CSE and safeguarding young people. Swansea is an area that has been identified as having a large number of County Lines gangs within it, and therefore the risks to young people and the impact of these criminal operatives is significant locally.

Agenda Item 8

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

<p>Meeting 1 Wednesday 26 June 2019</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p>Cabinet Member presentation and Q and A session <i>Elliott King and Sam Pritchard, Cabinet Members</i> <i>Children's Services</i></p> <p>Review of the year 2018/19 and draft Work Programme 2019/20</p>
<p>Meeting 2 Wednesday 28 August 2019</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring</p> <p>Feedback on CIW Inspection Report – update on action plan</p> <p>CIW Performance Review and Letter</p>
<p>Meeting 3 Monday 28 October 2019</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p>Briefing on Youth Offending Service</p> <p>Update on progress with CAMHS (referred from CAMHS Inquiry Panel)</p> <p>Update on report to WG on Safe LAC Reduction Strategy</p>
<p>Meeting 4 Wednesday 18 December 2019</p> <p>10am</p>	<p>Update on Regional Adoption Service</p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Update</p> <p>Performance Monitoring</p>
<p>Additional Meeting Tuesday 18 February 2020</p> <p>12pm</p>	<p>Draft budget proposals for Child and Family Services</p>
<p>Meeting 5 Monday 24 February 2020</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p>Progress on Child and Family Improvement Programme</p> <p>Safeguarding (County Lines and Child Sexual Exploitation)</p>
<p>Meeting 6 Monday 27 April 2020</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring</p> <p>Child Disability Update</p> <p>Case studies on Swansea Youth Offending Service</p>

	<p>WAO report on Tackling Violence Against Women, Domestic (includes fieldwork in Swansea amongst others) <i>Simon Jones</i></p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report Gemma Whyley</p> <p>Briefing on Carer Assessments (including young carers)</p>
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Future work programme items:

- CFS Complaints Annual Report 2018-19 (June 2020)
- Western Bay Adoption Service Performance Results (date TBC early in new municipal year)
- Update on progress with CAMHS (October 2020)
- Update on Youth Offending Service (October 2020)
- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report (date TBC)
- Wales Audit Office Reports (dates to be confirmed) –
 - 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
e-Bost:
Date 20 January 2020
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 18 December 2019. It covers Regional Adoption Service, Corporate Parenting Board and Performance Monitoring

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Corporate Parenting Board Update

Gemma Whyley, Child and Family Services Project Manager updated the Panel on activity undertaken this year including timeline, work plan, projects and next steps.

We heard that there have been six opportunities for corporate parents to engage with children this year.

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We were informed that the Department is doing a piece of work with Lancaster University on the 'Born into Care' project.

We heard that the Department is working with Housing on providing housing for care leavers with complex needs who still need this support.

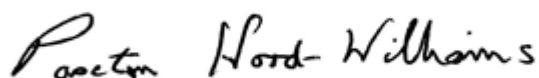
Work Programme

We discussed the possibility of adding the budget proposals for Child and Family Services to the February Panel Meeting for discussion. However, the budget proposals are due to go to Cabinet on 20 February 2020 so an additional CFS panel meeting has had to be arranged on 18 February at 12pm. Relevant Cabinet Members and officers are invited to attend this meeting.

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 in this instance please provide a formal response by 10 February 2020.

Yours sincerely



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

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

Please ask for: Councillor Elliott King
Direct Line: 01792 63 7438
E-Mail: cllr.elliott.king@swansea.gov.uk
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 black ink, appearing to be 'EJ King', written in a cursive style.

Y Cyngorydd/Councillor Elliott J King

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

A handwritten signature in black 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