



City and County of Swansea

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

Committee Room 5, Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 18 February 2020 at 12.00 pm

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

**Councillor(s)**  
C Anderson  
W G Lewis

**Councillor(s)**  
P K Jones

**Councillor(s)**  
S M Jones

### **Other Attendees**

Elliott King  
Sam Pritchard

Cabinet Member - Children Services  
Cabinet Member - Children Services

### **Officer(s)**

David Howes  
Liz Jordan  
Julie Thomas

Director of Social Services  
Scrutiny Officer  
Head of Child & Family Services

### **Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): K M Griffiths and D W W Thomas

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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 Child and Family Services Draft Budget Proposals**

Councillors Elliott King and Sam Pritchard, Cabinet Members for Children Services, Dave Howes, Director of Social Services and Julie Thomas, Head of Child and Family Services went through the proposed budget proposals in relation to Child and Family Services highlighting the main issues and answering questions.

#### **4 Summarising Views and Making Recommendations**

The panel agreed the following views and recommendations on the budget proposals in relation to Child and Family Services it would like to make to Cabinet:

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- Panel expressed concern about the risks associated with grants, in particular the increased risk as the Council relies more and more on grant funding.
- Panel was happy with the overall focus in the budget on the priorities of this Council.
- Panel noted the effective reduction of £1.35m of core funding for Poverty and Prevention next financial year (the majority of which is in Children's Services), and an increase of £1.6m in Child and Family Services, which will basically result in an increase of just £0.25m in an overall budget of £42m. This is a very small increase compared to Adult Services and a very small increase relative to the increase in the RSG.

Following on from this meeting:

The convener will feed in the views of this Panel, along with the conveners of the other panels to the Service Improvement and Finance Panel which meets on 19 February. The convener of the Service Improvement and Finance panel will then attend Cabinet on 20 February to feed in the collective views of the scrutiny performance panels and write a letter to the Cabinet member.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm.