

**Councillor Mary Jones**  
**Convener – Public Services Board**  
**Scrutiny Performance Panel**

**BY EMAIL**

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*Date:* 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Dear Councillor Jones

Thank you for your letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> April relating to the Scrutiny of the Early Years Workstream of the Public Service Board's Programme.

I am pleased that the Panel has acknowledged the progress made to date in relation to early years and early intervention. The comments made about the continued importance of developing these areas are also very welcome as they support the priorities in the Draft Local Well-Being Plan. In terms of further reassurance, it's important to recognise that the Plan evidences a multi-agency commitment to further progression and development of the Early Years priority over the short, medium and longer term.

Whilst mental health and well-being may not be an explicit priority within the Draft Local Well-Being Plan, it is clear that it is an important cross cutting theme across all the priorities in particular the Early Years and Live Well Age Well. Since the Scrutiny Board's Inquiry into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services I am aware that a great deal of progress has already been made in relation to the recommendations. I do however acknowledge that there is still more to be done.

As a positive example of action, I can confirm that over the coming months the Council will be demonstrating its commitment through the re-commissioning of a Counselling Service for school aged children and young people. Whilst the statutory requirement is in relation to children and young people between 10 and 18 years old, the Service will be funded to ensure that all primary school aged children can also benefit.

In addition, regional working with our partners continues to progress in relation to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and approaches. The PSB as part of its 12 month work plan will seek re-assurance either directly or via the Children and Young People Board that improvements are on track and at an acceptable pace.

Whilst I cite progress and a positive future vision, on behalf of the PSB I can wholeheartedly confirm that Members are realistic about the challenges ahead, keen to find collaborative solutions and therefore certainly not complacent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART  
LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMY & STRATEGY**