

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

BY EMAIL

Please ask for: Councillor Mark Child
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Our Ref: MC/HS
Your Ref: ref
Date: 24 May 2018

Dear Cllr Hood-Williams

Child & Family Service Scrutiny Panel 26 February 2018

Thank you for your comments, the positive feedback provided in relation to the reports presented, and the acknowledgement that there is generally a healthy picture of performance within the service.

It will be important going forward for performance in early help to be monitored not only with regard to the impact on CFS front door arrangements and the volume of work held within the service, but on the ability to report on the difference services are making to outcomes for children. Stabilising the re-referral rate will be an expected performance outcome.

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken, as part of the Supported Care Planning (SCP) Service redesign, to embed the SOS practice framework and this is beginning to show an impact. The ability to provide additional performance information around SOS will become available through 2018. In addition guidance is being developed around assessment activity and workshops will be delivered for staff. The Performance Hub is now operational and the focus there will be around improving timeliness of assessments, ensuring statutory visits are recorded on the Paris data base, and that general performance around CP and LAC activity is sustained and improved.

The Safe LAC Reduction Strategy has been reviewed and the panel arrangements to support this work, diverting children from care, and supporting them to achieve permanence in alternative arrangements are now in place.

Plans have been developed to address the concerns noted:

- An audit of children placed on the CPR, under the category emotional abuse, will be completed to ensure the appropriate category is being used and the CP plan reflects the category of risk. This will be completed in June 2018.
- The weekly operational and monthly strategic Permanence meetings track all residential placements to ensure the needs of the child are being met and to plan moves back into Swansea where consistent with the Care Plan.

- As part of the Workforce Wellbeing Strategy work is being undertaken in relation to improving the quality and timeliness of supervision.
- An audit of re-referrals is being undertaken to understand the volatility in the re-referral rate via the weekly referral meeting.
- Homelessness in young people will be raised at the next Bays SMG meeting and a plan developed to improve reporting in this area, so the needs of this cohort of young people are better understood.

The information requested relating to sickness rates within CFS will be presented to the next Scrutiny Board and an update provided on the Workforce Wellbeing Strategy. In addition, the more detailed information about our looked after population will be made available.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Child', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Mark Child
Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing