



County Hall  
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CF10 4UW  
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## CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

**Committee** CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time of Meeting** TUESDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2017, 4.30 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact [scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk)

10 **Correspondence Following Committee Meeting** (Pages 3 - 12)

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Date 18 September 2017

My Ref SS/CYP/MJH

Councillor Graham Hinchey  
Cabinet Member for Children and Families  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
CARDIFF  
CF10 4UW

Dear Graham

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you, Irfan Alam, Assistant Director Children's Services and Officers for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2017 to present the **Briefing Report on "Signs of Safety" and the Quarter one performance report.**

### **Signs of Safety**

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to be briefed on the new Signs of Safety model for Social Workers. The Members acknowledged that this model required a considerable change in the working practices of Social Workers and requested further information on the procedures in place to support staff, together with the feedback managers were receiving, on how staff were coping with their current workload and the new model.

The Members were also concerned that the Directorate was introducing this new model when the service was operating with a 26% vacancy rate, and Members expect this to be taken into account, by managers, when trying to introduce the model, so that the change in practices does not impact on absenteeism.

### **Quarter one Performance**

The Committee wished to thank the officers for the training they provided on the new performance measures prior to the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to review and assess the Quarter one Corporate and Directorate performance reports. The Members noted that as there were significant new performance measures, it was difficult to identify trends in performance

Members did however express its continued concern, at the level of social worker vacancies and the number of agency staff, in addition the Members hoped that a more ethnically diverse social workforce could be achieved as a result of future recruitment.

The Committee also expressed concern at the departmental overspend, which had already accrued. The Committee wished to inform you that it would be setting up Budget

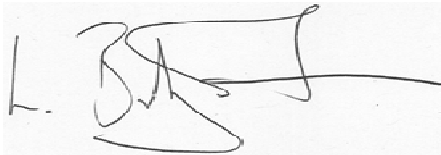
Monitoring Panel in the near future to monitor and challenge the department budget savings and expenditure.

I hope that these comments, advice and requests for information will be of use and support in improving outcomes for children. The Committee looks forward to receiving a response to this letter within the next month.

To recap, this letter requests several actions, requests for information and recommendations, as follows and requires:

- Information on the procedures in place to support staff and what feedback managers were having on how staff were coping with their current workload and the new model.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN**  
**Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

CC: Tony Young, Director of Children's Services  
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger  
Irfan Alam – Assistant Director for Children's Services  
Jo-Anne Phillips – Project Manager  
Marisa Moon – Team Manager, Intake and Assessment

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Councillor Sarah Merry  
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
CARDIFF  
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2017 to provide an opening statement and answer questions on the **Provisional School results and Corporate Performance report for Quarter one**.

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar and Jackie Turner for their presentation of the report, provisional school results update, together with the answers to Members questions. Members welcomed the report and acknowledged that more detailed information and analysis would be presented to Committee in January 2018, however Members agreed to highlight a few issues, in this letter.

The Committee firstly reviewed the provisional school results, and during the way forward, expressed concern at the continued gap in performance between FSM and non FSM pupils. The Committee requested that further analysis of the FSM data, by group (LAC, SEN, ALN, ESL), be included in the January report, to help identify any specific groups causing concern.

The Committee also inquired about the performance of pupils who had moved out of FSM. The Committee noted a reference to "Ever 5 Services funding" and requested further information on this funding. The Committee also requested a briefing paper on the monitoring and assessment process, by schools, of the Pupils Deprivation grant.

When reviewing the quarter one performance report, the Committee expressed concern at the difficulty in recruiting senior leaders to Catholic Schools and experienced Teachers for Welsh Medium Schools. Whilst the Committee understood the difficulties, the Members requested further information on the strategies and plans that the Council has implemented or supported to help address these difficulties.

I hope that these comments, advice and requests for information detailed above will be of use and support in improving outcomes for Cardiff's pupils. The Committee looks forward to receiving further briefings, requests for information, and as such the Members require a formal response to this letter within the next month.

To recap, this letter requests several actions, requests for information and recommendations, as follows and requires:

- Analysis of the FSM data by group (LAC, SEN, ALN, ESL), to be included in the January report;
- Information on “Ever 5 Services funding”
- A briefing paper on the monitoring and assessment process for the use by schools of the Pupils Deprivation grant.
- Information on the strategies and plans that the Council has implemented to help address the difficulty in recruiting senior leaders for Catholic Schools and experienced teachers for Welsh Medium Schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', written over a light grey rectangular background.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN**  
**Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning  
Jackie Turner – Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong learning  
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger

**SWYDDFA'R DIRPRWY ARWEINYDD  
DEPUTY LEADER'S OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM38423

Eich Nghyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 11th October 2017

Cllr Lee Bridgeman  
Chair of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
C/O Scrutiny Services  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
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Annwyl / Dear Lee

**Provisional Schools Results & Corporate Performance For Qtr 1**

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent Scrutiny meeting on 12 September. As discussed during the meeting, a comprehensive report on the performance of schools in Cardiff will be presented to Scrutiny in January 2018. This will cover the analysis of FSM and the use of the Pupil Deprivation Grant by schools.

As you will be aware the Central South Consortium acts on behalf of Cardiff Council to develop future school leaders, including those in Catholic and Welsh-Medium Schools. I will provide you with a briefing note on this once it has been prepared by officers in the Consortium.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely

**Councillor / Cynghorydd Sarah Merry  
Deputy Leader / Dirprwy Arweinydd  
Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families  
Aelod Cabinet Dros Y Blynyddoedd Cynnar, Plant a Theuluoedd**

**ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO:**

Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Arweinydd, Ystafell 525, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, Caerdydd, CF10 4UW  
Ffôn (029) 2087 2501  
Deputy Leader's Office, Room 525, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4UW  
Tel (029) 2087 2501



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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

18 September 2017

Councillor Sarah Merry  
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills  
County Hall  
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Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2017 to provide an opening statement and answer questions on the **School Holiday Enrichment Programme**

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar, Katie Palmer (Food Cardiff), Emma Hill (Sport Cardiff) and Judith Gregory, (Education Catering) for their presentation of the programme together with the answers to Members questions. Members really welcomed the report and considered it an excellent example of partnership working providing healthy meals, nutrition skills, sport and other physical activities.

The Committee firstly noted that the programme was only provided through 13 schools and Members suggested that since the programme was so successful, every effort should be made to expand the programme across more schools in 2018.

The Committee was surprised that the programme was only available to KS2 pupils, and noted that this had caused some problems for parents who had younger or older siblings. The Members suggested that the programmes admission criteria should be reviewed to try to address this issue.

The Committee also wished to highlight the problems from obesity amongst children and young people and suggested that this be incorporated into any future programme.

I hope that these comments will be of use and support in the future operation of the very successful multi-agency programme. The Members would be pleased to receive a positive response to the points made in this letter within the next month.

Yours sincerely

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN**  
**Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee**

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning  
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger  
Katie Palmer - Food Cardiff  
Emma Hill – Sport Cardiff  
Judith Gregory – Education Catering

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**SWYDDFA'R DIRPRWY ARWEINYDD  
DEPUTY LEADER'S OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM38425

Eich Nghyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 11th October 2017

Cllr Lee Bridgeman  
Chair of Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
C/O Scrutiny Services  
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Annwyl / Dear Lee

**School Holiday Enrichment Programme**

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on the School Holiday Enrichment Programme.

The number of schools taking part in the programme has increased each year since its introduction in 2015. We hope that this increase will continue in subsequent years; however, this will be determined by the availability of funding from Welsh Government.

The Welsh Local Government Association is reviewing the availability of the programme for KS1, as additional funding will be required for developing resources and increased staff/pupil ratios.

The most recent child measurement programme for Wales, indicates that 26.2% of children are overweight or obese, 21.5 % in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and overweight and obesity in children continues to be an area where more support is needed. As part of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme six sessions were held on nutrition and healthy eating that were delivered by staff trained in the Nutrition Skills for Life Programme, an all Wales training programme written by and delivered by dietitians. Following on from the programme two schools are now supporting the delivery of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's bespoke weight management programme FitFun, which is currently funded by Families First (Funded until March 2018).

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely

**Councillor / Cynghorydd Sarah Merry**  
**Deputy Leader / Dirprwy Arweinydd**  
**Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families**  
**Aelod Cabinet Dros Y Blynnyddoedd Cynnar, Plant a Phlant, a Heuluoeedd**

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