



County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2000

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2000

CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 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

8 **Correspondence Following Committee Meeting** (Pages 3 - 6)

This page is intentionally left blank



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

11 October 2017

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills
County Hall
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 10 October 2017 to provide an opening statement and answering questions on **Developing the Education Estate in Cardiff – draft Cabinet Report**

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning and Janine Nightingale, Head of Schools Organisation, Access & Planning, for the report and answers to Members questions. Members really welcomed the opportunity to scrutinise this issue at such an early stage.

The Committee noted that the draft Cabinet report recommended that Cabinet receives further reports on the following areas:

- Proposed schemes for Cardiff under the Band B phase of the C21 schools programme in light of budget allocations from Welsh Government.
- Proposals for the adaptation and enhancement of Additional Learning Needs provision in Cardiff.

The Committee agreed to commend the report to Cabinet, and also requested that the Committee be fully involved in the development and drafting of all future reports on the Education Estate in Cardiff.

Following the question and answer session the Committee raise a number of issues which they felt should be considered during the development of the future reports on the Education Estate, namely:

- That the Band B proposals be shared with the Committee members at an early stage, to enable the members to understand and reflect on the criteria and prioritisation of schools within the proposals;

- That the Committee is provided with the pupil data modelling used to predict demand up to and beyond 2026 when proposals are being proposed;
- That the maintenance of the Education Estate is appropriately featured in the development and funding proposals;
- That the proposals provide appropriate capacity for future Welsh Language demand and sufficient ALN demand to minimise the number of pupils being placed out of county.
- That an additional report should be presented to this Committee and Cabinet should the Mutual Investment Model be used to fund any proposals for the development of the Education Estate.

I hope that these comments will be of use and support in the future development of the Education Estate in Cardiff, and the Committee looks forward to working with the Directorate and Cabinet in the development of the School Estate to ensure that it provides a 21st Century learning environment for all Pupils. As such this letter does not require an immediate response.

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: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger
Janine Nightingale - Head of Schools Organisation, Access & Planning

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

13 October 2017

Rachel Evans
Head of Service
Director's Office - Social Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock's Office
Barry



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

Dear Rachel

The Members of Cardiff Council's Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee would like to thank you for providing them with a copy of the Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Adoption Service's Annual Report, as hosts for the collaborative, and answering the Members questions.

The Committee also wished to thank, Angela Harris, Regional Adoption Manager Vale of Glamorgan Council, together with Councillor Graham Hinchey, Cabinet Member for Children & Families, Tony Young, Director of Social Services and Irfan Alam Assistant Director Children's Services, for their attendance and the honest and open answers to the Members questions.

The Committee welcomed the report and agreed to commend it to the Management Board and Joint Committee for their approval. During the way forward the Members identified a number of points which they felt I should write to you about.

The Members were pleased to be updated on the actions identified in the previous annual report, but wished to receive a further update on the following actions which still required more work to be undertaken, namely:

- To develop opportunities for engagement and obtaining feedback from service users;
- To improve efficiency and reduce administrative costs of the Adoption Panel by implementing a paperless Panel system.

The Committee was however concerned to hear of the poor uptake of Birth Parents Counselling, the Members understood the sensitivities in engaging with Birth Parents, but considered that this area needs more focus.

The Committee was also concerned at the resource issues which had effected five social worker posts during the second half of last year. The Members requested that and update on the recruitment and organisation of these posts be provided as part of the response to this letter.

The Committee noted that a best value review was being undertaken which covered, demand, shortfall in staffing and adoption support. The Committee requested that a

copy of the best value review report be presented to Members, when it has been completed, along with the Collaborative's Business plan.

Finally the Committee discussed at some length the Link Matching service and Activities Days which helped potential adopters in identifying children for adoption. The Members wondered how effective these were in helping people to adopt and requested that an impact assessment of the Link Matching and Activities Days be undertaken and included in this year's annual report.

I hope that the comments, advice and requests for information, detailed above, will be of use and support in the adoption of children across the region and in particular in Cardiff, and I look forward to a positive response to this letter within a month.

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 Angela Harris, Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Service Manager
CC Councillor Graham Hinchey, Board Member
CC Tony Young, Board Member