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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2018, 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

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County Hall
Cardiff,
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Neuadd y Sir
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Date 17 September 2018

My Ref SS/CYP/MJH

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

Dear Graham

The Committee noted that you were unable to attend Committee on 11 September. I am however writing to you to provide the Committee views and concerns following it's consideration of the performance information. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank Claire Marchant, Director of Social Services and Irfan Alam Assistant Director for Children's Services for attending the Committee on 11 September 2018 to present the **Children's Service Quarter 1 performance report**.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review a different style of reporting and considered the slides to be a good starting point for the review of performance reporting by Children's services. To that end the Committee reaffirmed its desire to hold a panel meeting with officers from Children's services to agree a new format for future reporting.

The Committee also wished to provide you with the some comments and concerns around the data included in the presentation and answers to member's questions.

The Members expressed some concern about the difficulties managers were having with case management, in particular the three team, three weeks case management system. The Members agreed to request officers to undertake a review of this three week process to ensure that Social Workers do not have cases carried over from the three week timescale, and report back to committee early next year.

Members also wished to reiterate their concern on the high vacancy rates, particularly in Intake and Assessment, The Committee has provided some recommendations in its recent Inquiry report on Out of County Placements, however in response to some of the points raise, Members wish to suggest that pay grades are reassessed and reviewed, particularly for intake and assessment, Exit interviews are reviewed to identify any particular issues and managers review the support they provide to staff.

Members also wish to receive a paper, early in the new year, on the challenges facing the Council and Police in managing referrals to MASH, they also requested that when this paper is presented to Committee, the appropriate representatives from South Wales Police also attends.

Child Mental Health and Wellbeing

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Committee agreed to undertake the development of a Child Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan for Education.

This group will be chaired by Councillor Michael Phillips together with a number of members, an assistant Cabinet Member, representatives from the Youth Council, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, and Education. I would therefore be pleased if you could nominate an officer to sit on the group as the Children's services representative.

Finally I would like to thank the Officers in Children's services for all their hard work and dedication in ensuring that positive outcomes for children and young people.

Yours sincerely

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

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

CC:

Claire Marchant, Director of Social Services
Irfan Alam – Assistant Director Children's Services

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

17 September 2018



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Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member – Education, Employment 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 11 September 2018, to provide an opening statements and answering questions on the **Provisional School Results, Cardiff 2020 revision and the Curriculum and Skills Convention reports**

I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, Suzanne Scarlett and Natalie Stork for the reports and answers to Members questions. Members appreciated this opportunity to be appraised of the three issues at such an early stage.

Following the Members consideration of the report and answers to questions, the Committee during the way forward identified a number of concerns, requests for further information and recommendations to help improve the outcomes for Cardiff's pupils.

Provisional School Results

The Committee welcomed the report and wished to express their thanks for all the hard work that has been undertaken to achieve yet another improvement in the School results.

Examining the results in more detail the Committee identified a few area which were not performing to the level that they wishes, namely, Children who are looked after (LAC) and Children Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS). Members noted that these were also a concern of yours and the Director's, but wished to inform you that the Committee will be monitoring these areas throughout the year.

To this end the Committee agreed, that initially, they wished to receive a further briefing paper, including:

- breaking down the results across LAC and EOTAS,
- the number of hours of tuition that EOTAS pupils were receiving;
- Details of the number of pupils moving school analysed across LAC, SEN and any other characteristics.

Cardiff 2020 refresh

The Committee was pleased to hear that the Director was already planning the refresh and that it was designed to continue to take forward the key goals set out in Cardiff 2020.

The Members however wished to highlight that the views of Parents should be crucial in helping to develop the plan and therefore the Committee recommended that the Directorate make every effort to ensure that the views of Parents are sought. The Committee also suggested that all Local Business Groups should be contacted to ensure that as many local businesses are involved.

Curriculum and Skills Convention

The Committee welcomed the inclusion of the Youth Council in the Convention, and was pleased to hear that Chloe Burrage, our newly invited Youth Council attendee was actively involved in the Convention. The members requested invitations to the event so that they could make every effort to attend.

Child Mental Health and Wellbeing

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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark 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
Suzanne Scarlett, Performance Manager
Natalie Stork, Performance Officer