



County Hall
Cardiff
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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting TUESDAY, 11 DECEMBER 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

Correspondence following Committee Meeting (*Pages 3 - 10*)

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

12 December 2018

Angela Harris
Regional Adoption Manger
Vale, Valley and Cardiff Adoption Collaborative
Dock Office
Subway Road
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4RT



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Dear Angela

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, and answering the Members questions.

The Committee also wished to thank, Councillor Graham Hinchey, Cabinet Member for Children & Families, Claire Marchant, Director of Social Services and Deborah Driffield Interim Assistant Director Children's Services, for their attendance and the answers to the Members questions.

The Committee wished to be kept informed on the impact on service provision resulting from the changes to the service, particularly the move of the service to the Vale of Glamorgan.

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 Committee requested some additional information following some of their questions, namely:

- The reason for the footprint of the Vale, Valleys and Cardiff region
- The profile of adopter inquiries, to help identify hard to reach groups
- Further details of the work that the Marketing Co-ordinator will be undertaking, together with the future plans after the end of the fixed term appointment.

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

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

CC Councillor Graham Hinchey, Board Member
CC Clair Marchant, Board Member



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Date 12 December 2018

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, Claire Marchant, Director of Social Services and Deborah Driffield, interim Assistant Director Children's Services for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 11 December 2018 to present the **Children's Services Quarter Two Performance report and Out of County Inquiry report Cabinet response.**

Children's Services Quarter Two Performance report

The Committee welcomed the new format and content of the performance report and considered it much easier to read and understand and provide a more open and honest approach. The Members wished to thank the Officers and Members for their work in helping to develop this new format.

During the way forward section of the meeting the Members considered the information in the report, and expressed some concern that the Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy was being delayed, as a working group was looking at the wider implications of Children and Adult Exploitation. Members understood the reason for the delay and requested that the draft strategy should be presented to Committee early in the New Year.

The Committee also welcomed the plans being put in place to improve recruitment and retention of social workers, Members suggested that the Directorate consider seeking to extend the range of occupations covered by Cardiff Works to include social worker staff.

Out of County Inquiry report - Cabinet response

The Committee welcomed the Cabinet response to the Out of County Inquiry report, which was presented to Cabinet in July 2018. In particular that the majority of the recommendations were either full or partially accepted. The Committee agreed to seek a progress report on the implementation of the accepted recommendations in six months' time.

The Members also noted that the Directorate was developing a commissioning strategy for Children's Services, the Committee considered that an update commissioning strategy was crucial and welcomed the Directorates commitment to present the draft strategy to Committee in March 2019.

I hope that these comments, advice and requests for future reports, 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.

Yours sincerely

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

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

CC: Claire Marchant, Director of Children's Services
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger
Deborah Driffield – Interim Assistant Director for Children's Services

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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 11 December 2018, to provide an opening statement and answering questions on the **School Organisation Proposals: The Provision of English-Medium Primary Education in the Llanrumney area – draft Cabinet Report**

I would also like to thank Janine Nightingale, Head of Schools Organisation, Access & Planning, and Michele Duddridge-Hossain, Operational Manager Planning and provision, for the report and answers to Members questions.

Following the Members consideration of the report and answers to questions **the Committee agreed to commend the report to Cabinet**. Members noted that a further report would be drafted for February 2019 Cabinet, and requested that this reports is also presented to this Committee, prior to their consideration by Cabinet.

The Committee, did however have some reservation around the methodology used to assess future demand for school places, particularly as a result of the new housing developments within the area. The Members requested that the potential demand for school place be regularly reviewed to ensure that appropriate capacity is available within the area.

The Committee understood that Glan-yr-Afon school had accrued a deficit of £130,000 and that the reduction to a one form entry would require a restructure of

the school staff. The Committee requested that additional financial monitoring and advice is provided to the school during this transition period.

The Committee also wished to thank you for answering the questions and wanted to inform you that this letter does not require a formal response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan De'ATH', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a yellow highlight behind it.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN De'ATH
Temporary Elected 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
Michele Duddridge-Hossain, Operational Manager Planning and provision

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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 11 December 2018 to provide an opening statement and answering questions on **SOP 21st Century (Band B) – Redevelopment of Cantonian, Woodlands and Riverbank Schools – draft Cabinet Report**

I would also like to thank Janine Nightingale, Head of Schools Organisation, Access & Planning, and Michele Duddridge-Hossain, Operational Manager Planning and provision for the presentation of the report and answers to Members questions.

The Committee noted that the draft Cabinet report recommended that Cabinet receives a further report, on the outcome of the consultation to a future meeting to seek authorisation as to whether to proceed to publish proposals in accordance with section 48 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013. Members welcomed the commitment to present the report to scrutiny prior to its consideration at Cabinet.

The Committee highlighted the need for a detailed transport plan for the site, which will eventually include three separate schools, to be included in the post consultation report. Following further discussion **the Committee agreed to commend the report to Cabinet,**

As the Committee agreed to commend the report to Cabinet, this letter does not require a formal response.

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
Janine Nightingale - Head of Schools Organisation, Access & Planning
Michele Duddridge-Hossain, Operational Manager Planning and provision

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