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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date and Time
of Meeting** WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 2016, 5.00 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

11 **Correspondence following the Committee Meeting** *(Pages 1 - 16)*

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

11 July 2016

Councillor Peter Bradbury
Cabinet Member
c/o Room 520
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Peter

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee – 6 July 2016

Members have asked that I pass on their thanks to you and officers for attending the above Committee meeting to discuss the Communities First Annual Report 2015/16.

Members were interested to see the breadth of the work underway in Communities First areas in Cardiff and the results of these, as shown in the infographics and tables in the report. The work is obviously making a difference to those who participate in the events and, in a lot of cases, to their families and neighbourhoods. Members commend all of those involved in delivering Communities First, which we see as an essential tool in tackling generational poverty. Members recognise that evidencing the sustainable effectiveness of Communities First requires a longer term view, for example by looking at levels of social mobility and a reduction in the levels and types of poverty experienced in these areas.

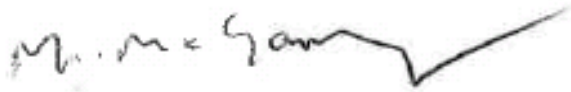
On this note, Members were delighted to hear that both you and Louise Bassett, Partnership Delivery Team Leader, feel that there has been an improvement in the linkages between clusters and schools within these areas, resulting in better parental involvement in education and more agencies providing services from school. These should assist in boosting pupils' attainment levels, which in turn should assist in increasing social mobility and reducing poverty.

Looking to the future, Members note that the Welsh Government is working to draw together their various anti-poverty programmes, to see if there can be a reduction in bureaucracy whilst continuing to maximise results. This is to be welcomed in principle, and we will wait to see the detail of this work and the funding allocated to future anti-poverty work by the Welsh Government in the forthcoming months. Members were pleased to hear that you are having regular conversations with relevant Welsh Government representatives to explain the lessons coming from Cardiff with regard to joining up anti-poverty work and clusters attracting non-governmental funding. Members also believe that there are lessons from Communities First clusters that could usefully be applied across the whole of the city; the discussion at Committee focused on time banking as an example of this but we

are sure that there are other initiatives and approaches that would be equally transferable.

Once again, thank you for attending the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McGarry', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Sarah McGill Jane Thomas Louise Bassett
Liz Patterson Heather Warren

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

08 July 2016

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member
c/o Room 520
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee – 6 July 2016

On behalf of the Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I would like to thank you and officers for attending for Agenda Item 5, the Cardiff Housing Strategy report.

Members have asked that I pass on their congratulations to officers for producing an evidence based, comprehensive, whole system approach strategy. It is obvious that a lot of hard work, thought, planning and organisation have gone into developing the vision, aims and actions contained in the document. This, coupled with the assurances given at Committee by Sarah McGill, Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services and Jane Thomas, Assistant Director of Communities and Housing, helps to give confidence that officers are able to deliver the many actions in the strategy, with the resources currently available.

It is also heartening to hear that the strategy has been developed in partnership with Registered Social Landlords, Health and Social Care colleagues and private sector landlords, as appropriate. Members recognise that the strategy will require extensive partnership working to deliver the actions and believe that involving partners at the start of the process can only aid this.

With regard to the content of the strategy, Members have the following recommendations, which were discussed at the meeting, aimed at further strengthening the strategy:

- That the strategy more fully references the Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Cardiff and the work that will be undertaken to ensure their specific housing needs are assessed and planned for.
- That reference be made in the Equalities section of the strategy to the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.
- That it be made clear that 4,220 affordable homes will be provided over the 5 years of the strategy, rather than the life of the LDP.
- That reference be made in the strategy to the fact that the design of housing and of estates is critical to ensuring high quality, sustainable affordable

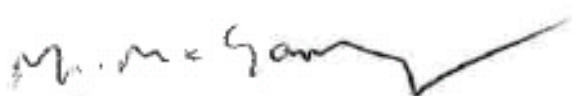
housing that residents wish to live in and that contribute to resilient communities.

Members note that the main risk to the Council, arising from the proposals in the Strategy, is a likely increase in void properties as under-occupation initiatives start to work, as these properties often require considerable work to bring them to a lettable standard. Members also note that the cost of these voids is small when compared with the cost of providing similar houses as new.

Finally, Members are currently finalising the Committee's work programme for the remainder of this municipal year and I am sure that various elements of work mentioned in the Housing Strategy will feature in this, thus enabling Members to carry out more in-depth scrutiny of particular elements of the Strategy.

To summarise, I look forward to hearing back from you on the recommendations contained in this letter, which I hope are of use to you.

Yours sincerely,



COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc:	Sarah McGill	Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services
	Jane Thomas	Assistant Director, Communities & Housing
	Liz Patterson	Personal Assistant
	Matt Swindell	Cabinet Support Officer

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**



Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM35160
Eich Cyf / Your ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/
Cllr McGarry

Dyddiad / Date: 16 August 2016

Councillor Mary McGarry
Chair, Community & Adult Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Services
Room 263
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Mary

**Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee 6 July 2016 - Cardiff
Housing Strategy Report**

Thank you for your letter dated 08th July 2016 on behalf of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, with regards the Cardiff Housing Strategy Report.

I am delighted that Scrutiny Members valued the effort that has gone into producing the draft Housing Strategy, and I have passed on your congratulations to Officers as requested.

I agree that the strategy can only be delivered with the help of our partners; we are currently consulting with a wide range of partners and will take their views on board before finalising the document.

In response to the Committee's specific recommendations,

- 1) *That the strategy more fully represents Black & Minority Ethnic communities in Cardiff, and the work that will be undertaken to ensure their specific housing needs are assessed and planned for.*

**ATEBWCH I /
PLEASE REPLY TO:**

Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office,
Ystafell / Room 514, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall,
Glanfa'r Iwerydd / Atlantic Wharf, Caerdydd / Cardiff,
CF10 4UW Ffon / Tel (029) 2087 2479

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn eich dewis iaith boed yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond i chi roi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in English and Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or bilingual as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Reference will be included to the findings contained in the Local Housing Market Assessment on the housing needs of BME Communities and links to actions in the strategy will be made clear.

- 2) *That reference be made in the Equalities section of the strategy to the Council's Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.*

This section will be updated to include such reference in the final draft.

- 3) *That it be made clear that 4,220 affordable homes will be provided over the 5 years of the strategy, rather than the life of the LDP.*

This will be clarified in the final draft.

- 4) *That reference be made in the strategy to the fact that the design of housing and of estates is critical to ensuring high quality, sustainable, affordable housing that residents wish to live in, and that contributes to resilient communities.*

I agree that quality of design is very important in new housing developments and the views of the Committee will be passed on to colleagues in Planning and those working on the Housing Partnership Programme sites. Officers will work with Planning colleagues to ensure this concern is reflected in the final draft document.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yn gwyir,
Yours sincerely,



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Susan Elsmore
Aelod Cabinet Dros Lechyd, Tai a Lles
Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Wellbeing

Cc: Members of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee
Sarah McGill Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services
Jane Thomas Assistant Director, Communities & Housing

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

08 July 2016

Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member
c/o Room 520
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Graham

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee – 6 July 2016

Members have asked that I pass on their thanks to you and Tony Young, Director of Social Services, for attending the above Committee meeting to discuss the draft Corporate Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2015/16.

Members appreciate that this is the first report from the Board, which was established in March 2015. Members appreciated the candid tone taken in responding to our questions, recognising the work still to be done to ensure corporate safeguarding is effective.

Members were pleased to hear that internal support for the Board has increased, with most Directorates now being represented on the Board and gaps due to be filled shortly. Members believe it is essential to have the right representatives on the Board, providing cross-Council coverage and support to the Director of Social Services. Having looked at the information regarding Board representation provided in the updated report circulated at the meeting, Members are concerned that there is a lack of clarity that the representatives are at the right level to effect changes in behaviours and practices across their Directorates. Members recommend that this is reflected on and appropriate action taken to ensure the right people are on the Board.

At the meeting Members expressed their concerns about the lack of pace evident in the report and were pleased to hear assurances that the pace will increase now that there is wider cross-Directorate support for the Board. Members note that the Action Plan needs to be updated to include appropriate references to adult safeguarding.

Members were keen to emphasise the need for public awareness of the work on safeguarding and on how the public can raise safeguarding concerns; at the moment the Council's website does not clearly signpost the public to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Local Safeguarding Adults Board. Members recommend that this be quickly rectified, with hyperlinks to appropriate websites for these Boards.

As discussed at the meeting, Members have the following recommendations aimed at strengthening the Annual Report:

- Provide more information to contextualise the report, including definitions and the scale and scope of the various types of safeguarding issues in Cardiff.
- Provide more information in the governance section to better detail the linkages between Cardiff Council's various safeguarding mechanisms, including the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and the regional safeguarding boards – both in terms of responsible officers and in terms of operational practice, so that a reader with no prior knowledge of the governance structure can clearly understand the role of each body and the linkages and relationships between them.
- Include details of how the Corporate Safeguarding Board will link with the National Safeguarding Board, which has a role in leading policy and practice developments as well as advising Welsh Government.
- Provide more information on how the quarterly reports from Directorates will be used by the Board to monitor performance and take action as required
- Amend the Action Plan to make it explicit that appropriate actions relate to adult safeguarding as well as children's safeguarding.
- Include an action in the Action Plan to prepare safeguarding training for the intake of new Members following the elections in May 2017.

Given the above, Members feel it is too early to be reassured about the effectiveness of corporate safeguarding. It is essential that the pace of change is increased and that officers across the Council become more proactive in engaging with the issues of corporate safeguarding rather than limiting their work to reacting to the Wales Audit Office's improvement proposals.

Members thank Tony Young, Director of Social Services, for his offer to explore the legal situation with regards to Members being DBS checked. Members would be in favour of the use of DBS checks on Members, if the law supports this, as we are aware that Members are often alone with vulnerable adults in the course of their ward work.

Members believe that safeguarding training should be mandatory for Members; the Cardiff Undertaking which they recently signed references Members' responsibilities regarding safeguarding and therefore training should, at the very least, be essential. Members recommend that you raise this with the new Monitoring Officer when she starts in September 2016.

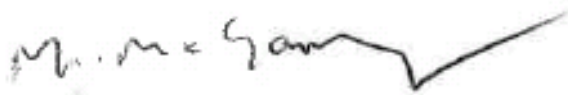
Members are happy to accept the offer to see the video prepared for use with staff to raise awareness of safeguarding issues. Members are aware that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Members also wish to view the video and so I suggest that the viewing be combined with the proposed performance workshop, which is due to be arranged.

This letter requires a response, please, as it contains several recommendations, as follows:

- Reflect on whether Board representatives are at the right level to effect changes in behaviours and practices across their Directorates, and take appropriate action to ensure the right people are on the Board.
- Amend the Council's website to clearly signpost the public to the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Local Safeguarding Adults Board, with hyperlinks to appropriate websites for these Boards.
- Provide more contextual information in the report, including definitions and the scale and scope of the various types of safeguarding issues in Cardiff.
- Provide more information in the governance section of the report to better detail the linkages between Cardiff Council's various safeguarding mechanisms, including the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and the regional safeguarding boards – both in terms of responsible officers and in terms of operational practice - so that a reader with no prior knowledge of the governance structure can clearly understand the role of each body and the linkages and relationships between them.
- Include details of how the Corporate Safeguarding Board will link with the National Safeguarding Board, which has a role in leading policy and practice developments as well as advising Welsh Government.
- Provide more information on how the quarterly reports from Directorates will be used by the Board to monitor performance and take action as required.
- Amend the Action Plan to make it explicit that appropriate actions relate to adult safeguarding as well as children's safeguarding.
- Include an action in the Action Plan to prepare safeguarding training for the intake of new Members' following the elections in May 2017.
- Raise with the new Monitoring Officer the need for safeguarding training to be rated as at least essential if not mandatory for all Members.

I hope the above are helpful in the ongoing work to strengthen corporate safeguarding across Cardiff Council.

Yours sincerely,



COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY
Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Tony Young
Matt Swindell Paula Angel

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**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM35159
Eich Cyf / Your ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry



Dyddiad / Date: 14 July 2016

Councillor Mary McGarry
Chair, Community & Adult Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Services
Room 263
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Councillor McGarry

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee 6 July 2016 - Corporate Safeguarding Report

Thank you for your letter of 8th July 2016 following our attendance at the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee on 6th July, to discuss the above draft report.

I welcome the committee's comments and observations which reflect the discussion in committee and the high degree of consensus between us all about areas where the report could be strengthened and about pace and impact. I am happy to accept your recommendations and will ensure both that appropriate changes to the report are made and that the Board addresses the substantive issues going forward.

Yn gwyir,
Yours sincerely,

**Y Cyngorydd / Councillor Graham Hinchey
Aelod Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Corfforaethol a Perfformiad
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance**

Cc Members of the Community & Adult Scrutiny Committee
Tony Young

**ATEBWCH I /
PLEASE REPLY TO:** Swyddfa Cymorth Y Cabinet / Cabinet Support Office,
Ystafell / Room 514, Neuadd y Sir / County Hall,
Glanfa'r Iwerydd / Atlantic Wharf, Caerdydd / Cardiff,
CF10 4UW Ffon / Tel (029) 2087 2479

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

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM35332

Eich Nghyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 7th September 2016

Cllr Mary McGarry
Cardiff County Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Butetown
Cardiff
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Mary

Joint CYP Scrutiny - 11 July 2016

Thank you for your letter following committee's consideration of the Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2015-16 and for the committee's comments.

In responding to the committee's comments and recommendations it is important to clarify the status of the Annual Report. Namely that it is not a Council Report as such but is the report of the Director of Social Services in his role as a statutory officer. As such it is a matter for the Director to determine any changes to the report or future format and content.

In relation to the committee's recommendations we have therefore consulted with the Director and can confirm that he has agreed the following in relation to the report itself:-

- 1. Governance and accountability** – this recommendation is agreed and future reports will reflect the broader governance structure
- 2. Balanced picture** – it is agreed that future reports should reflect strengths and weaknesses but we do not share the committee's view that the 2015-16 report demonstrates insufficient balance.
- 3. Demand and Supply issues** – this is highly complex question and we do not recall that a generalised assertion being made by officers to this effect. It is recalled that there was acknowledgement of the supply pressures associated with domiciliary care and residential care for older people and it is becoming something of a given that demand and complexity overall are growing. The Director has advised in relation to this recommendation, he can see the benefit of highlighting demand and supply issues more specifically, where relevant, in future.

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO:

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- 4. Benchmarking** – the Director advises that he is unable to accept this recommendation as written. Although keen to support better performance comparison this is likely to be unachievable in general terms at the 2016-17 outturn. This is because all Welsh authorities and the Welsh Government (WG) are currently in a transitional year in following the implementation of the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014 (SSWB) with effect from April of this year. In practical terms this means that local authorities are setting baselines for completely new measures (there are one or two exceptions) during 2016-17. Moreover, unless WG decides to release provisional quarterly data, no meaningful comparable data will be available by the time the 2016-17 report is finalised. In terms of Core City comparisons, this is going to be even more difficult for the 2016-17 year and for the same reasons associated with SSWB Act transition. The Director is a member of a Core Cities Directors network and is committed to utilising this relationship to consider how best performance comparisons can be developed but for the reasons cited, this is unlikely to bear fruit in the current financial year or in time for the 2016-17 report.
- 5. Additional Adult Focused Indicators** – in part for the reasons set out in 4 above, the Director is not prepared to agree this albeit he may reconsider at the end of the transitional year. Additionally however, he has emphasised the scope and scale of the work entailed in the introduction of the new statutory outcomes framework arising from the SSWB Act; performance management resources are fully committed to achieving this as a statutory requirement and must be prioritised accordingly.
- 6. NEETS** – this recommendation is agreed and future reports will take cite numbers in addition to percentages.
- 7. Joint Health Protocol (children)** – the Director will consider whether this merits a section or fuller expansion during the drafting of the 2016-17 report, albeit the importance of highlighting action to improve health and particularly mental health in children is acknowledged.
- 8. CAMHS** - the Director will consider whether this merits a section or fuller expansion during the drafting of the 2016-17 report.
- 9. Adult exploitation** – the Director will consider whether this merits a section or fuller expansion during the drafting of the 2016-17 report in consultation with the Safeguarding Adults Regional Board, taking account of its implications for adults who need care and support.
- 10. CSSIW Areas for Improvement** – these areas are always referenced in the Annual report and play a key role in determining priorities and the Director will consider whether any or all of these merit direct inclusion in the Key Challenges section during the drafting of the 2016-17 report.
- 11. Outcome 1 Safeguarding Graphs** – this recommendation is agreed.

12. Signposting – the recommendation that “careful consideration is given to queries before people are signposted...to ensure that crucial intervention is not delayed” is puzzling. The Director would wish to emphasise that Information, Advice and Assistance provided under the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014, is the statutory responsibility of the Director of Social Services so that even where partners deliver some front door services, it will remain a clear requirement that signposting enables timely assessment, care and support. It is for this reason that qualified social workers are embedded in the First Point of Contact.

In relation to the Joint Committee’s request for additional briefings we are able to respond as follows

1. **Statutory visits** – a briefing will be provided as requested
2. **Social Worker Turnover (children services)** - a briefing will be provided as requested
3. **Social Worker Degree Programme-** a briefing will be provided as requested as part of 2 above
4. **Gateway presentation** – a presentation will be arranged as requested
5. **Adult Safeguarding Action Plan** - a copy of this report will be provided as requested
6. **CSSIW Domiciliary Care Inspection Report** - a copy of this report will be provided as requested

We note the committees’ intention to monitor the Directorate’s progress as part of their work programme. It may be helpful in this regard to again remind committee that these are already incorporated in the Directorate’s annual Delivery/Business Plan and that the commitments in that plan are in turn the subject of the quarterly Cabinet Performance Monitoring Report which is scrutinised by both committees.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



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



Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Susan Elsmore
Aelod Cabinet Dros Lechyd, Tai a Lles
Cabinet Member for Health, Housing & Wellbeing

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