

COUNCIL:

24 MARCH 2016

Item 9 – LEADER & CABINET MEMBER STATEMENTS

1. Leader Statement (Economic Development & Partnerships);
2. Environment Statement
3. Health, Housing and Wellbeing Statement
4. Corporate Services and Performance Statement
5. Deputy Leader Statement, (Early Years, Children and Families)
6. Education Statement

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STATEMENT OF THE LEADER

City Deal

Last week saw the signing of a City Deal heads of terms agreement for the Cardiff Capital Region. I joined with the Leaders of the other nine local authorities in the region, as well as the First Minister of Wales, Welsh Minister for Finance and Government Business, Secretary of State for Wales and Chief Secretary to the Treasury, for the signing at Admiral's city centre headquarters. The £1.229 billion deal is expected to bring up to 25,000 new jobs and encourage large-scale private sector investment. One of the main priorities will be delivering the South East Wales Metro, ensuring a sustainable transport infrastructure for the region.

Great Western Cities

Following our initial prospectus on Great Western Cities early last year, Metro Dynamics was commissioned to produce a more detailed analysis of the region, developing the case for a Western Powerhouse. In their recently published report, they make a number of recommendations on how progress could be accelerated. The report recognises that, unlike the Northern Powerhouse, the Great Western Cities are already net contributors to the UK economy and have the potential for even higher growth and value. Metro Dynamics' recommendations include City Devolution Deals, better connectivity and a strategy aiming for Government funding and support similar to that of the Northern Powerhouse and Midlands Engine.

New Ice Arena

On 12 March 2016, I attended the first Cardiff Devils match at the new Ice Arena Wales at the International Sports Village in Cardiff Bay. I was very impressed with the new £16m twin ice rink arena and it was great to see a sold-out crowd cheering on the home side to a win over Belfast Giants. The new rink has been described as of world-class standard and gives the Devils a permanent home in Cardiff, as well as offering excellent facilities for public skating.

Yr Hen Lyfrgell

I spoke at the recent official opening of the Welsh Language Centre – Yr Hen Lyfrgell – on 25 February 2016. This is an excellent example of partnership working between the Council, Cardiff University, Clwb Ifor Bach, Mela Media, Menter Caerdydd and Mudiad Meithrin. The centre was funded through Welsh Government capital investment and, significantly, has created more than 40 bilingual jobs. This unique centre will host a variety of events and activities for Welsh speakers and learners. It also complements the provision for visitors in

the neighbouring Cardiff Story Museum, which pleasingly had around 600 visitors on Yr Hen Lyfrgell's opening day.

UpRising

UpRising is a UK-wide organisation which hopes to open pathways to power for talented young people from diverse and under-represented backgrounds. One of the ways it does this is through schemes such as their core leadership programme. As an Ambassador for UpRising, I've been supporting such a programme for 16-25 year olds that was launched in October 2015. I attended an UpRising Cymru discussion at City Hall on 2 February 2016 to talk about my own leadership journey and I was highly impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the young people who attended the session. Those that I spoke to were very passionate about local issues and I am sure many will become future leaders in whatever career they choose to pursue.

3rd most Liveable European Capital

In the most recent European Commission "Quality of Life in European Cities" survey, Cardiff was voted joint third capital city, along with Copenhagen and Stockholm. This is based on citizens' satisfaction with their city and it is great to be in such company. This result is a significant step towards realising the vision of being Europe's most liveable capital city.

Councillor Phil Bale
Leader of the City Council
23 March 2016

ENVIRONMENT STATEMENT

Rent Smart Wales

Since Rent Smart Wales (RSW) launched on the 23 November 2015, until 1 March 2016, 5880 landlords have registered and 1435 people have booked onto classroom training. Training is generally very well received with 98% of delegates stating that they would recommend the course to others and 98% stating that they found the course useful to them.

Key recent achievements are that:

- a) We have published the revised fee structure for Agents. This change follows consultation with the Letting and Management Agent professional bodies. We have been able to accommodate some of their proposals. Specifically, we have introduced a fee structure which is:
 - i. Graduated based on the size of the organisation, specifically the number of properties they manage;
 - ii. A reduced fee is applied to those who are a member of a specified professional body;
 - iii. Payment options are available to smaller companies.This new fee structure will be effective from the 25 April 2016.
- b) We have now launched the functionality within the RSW website to complete a licence application on line. This means that a landlord / agent can now:
 - a) Complete and pay for a registration on line;
 - b) Book and pay for training for himself and his employees;
 - c) Complete and pay for a licence, including uploading training records (required where the applicant has attended training not delivered by RSW)
- c) We have now approved 11 courses that meet the requirements of the Act and 9 training providers. One of our latest approvals is Carmarthenshire Council. They have recently achieved course approval and training authorisation status and will soon be advertising courses to meet RSW Licensing requirements. We are encouraging as many training providers to apply as possible, as it will help us to make sure that there is sufficient capacity to meet the expected demand from landlords and agents, over the coming months.

Waste Management

i) Recycling

As we enter the final month of the year, I am pleased to see the key actions from this years' recycling strategy are all falling into place. The restricting changes have now been completed and the recycling figures are all showing positive increases towards our target of 58%. An additional 2200t have been collected since the changes began last August, which is as predicted. Seasonal opening of the Household Waste Recycling Centres and ID checks are now in place and residents are becoming familiar with the changes. We have delivered on the savings promised and doubled our support for the hygiene service.

We still face challenging financial times as the income from the global recycling markets continue to decline on all fronts, but we are working on high quality processing.

As we turn to next year we are already securing contracts for mattress and carpet recycling, paint reuse and also a community focused reuse partner to support us across the city.

ii) Restricting Update

The city wide waste restriction programme has now been concluded to schedule.

The savings of £267k for 2015/16 have been achieved.

Since mid-October when the main changes began with significant coverage, to date we have seen an increase of over an extra 1000 tonnes of recycling. This is a 19% increase on food recycling and an 8% increase in green bag recycling. As was anticipated the demand for the hygiene services has doubled and the Council continue to provide even more families with this support while encouraging the additional recycling by slimming the bins and restricting residual bag provision in line with our Strategy and improved recycling performance.

C2C stood down their extra support at the end of January as the call volumes have reduced back to expected business as usual levels.

iii) Green Bag Controls

Since moving to council buildings, online and the sticker system, we have saved £300k on green bag and food liners purchases. This means that only local Cardiff residents can access the bags/liners. By just allowing one roll per visit this means more bags are available to more when people they need them.

In the past people, businesses and non-Cardiff residents would just help themselves to rolls, meaning there would be not bags/liners available when people needed them and the bags were abused

RHS Show

The Royal Horticultural Society will be commencing set up for the 2016 RHS Show, on Coopers Field, Bute Park shortly after the Easter break. This year's show will run from 15th -18th April and pre ticket sales are 72% up from this point last year. Exhibitor and trader pitches are at full capacity and this year's show will, for the first time since 2005 benefit from a main show sponsor, Riviera Travel, a Torbay based travel agency who have committed to a one year deal initially. The show is now firmly established in the RHS and Cardiff's event calendar and it is hoped that visitor numbers will surpass last year's record breaking figure, subject, of course to weather conditions over the 3 days which has a significant impact on 'walk up' numbers.

WW1 Memorial Hendre Lake

On 23 February 2016 staff at Bereavement Services organised the inaugural planting of trees at Hendre Park as part of the World War 1 Memorial Woodland being created which forms part of the centenary commemorations of the conflict. The event was attended by myself, local Ward Members and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, High Sherriff, Lord Mayor, Friends of Cath Cobb and children from local schools.

The area will become a lasting memorial to those from the Cardiff area who died during the Great War. A bigger opening event for the area is currently being organised for July 2016 to link in with the 100 year anniversary of the battle of Mametz Wood and will see the unveiling of a new memorial and interpretation boards.

Councillor Bob Derbyshire
Cabinet Member (Environment)
23 March 2016

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HEALTH, HOUSING & WELLBEING STATEMENT

Syrian Resettlement Programme

Significant progress has been made on our participation in the Home Office Syrian Resettlement Programme since I last updated full Council.

Preparation is key to ensuring that these individuals are best able to integrate into the life of the City. Recently an invitation to tender was issued for the provision of a comprehensive Support and Integration Service. This will ensure the successful resettlement of 60 Syrian refugees in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Home Office will provide financial support to the Council to meet the needs of those assisted by this programme.

The contract will be awarded in mid-April with refugees likely to arrive in the region in May. We are continuing to work with the Vale of Glamorgan and the Regional Leadership Group of which I am the Chair continues to provide strategic direction as we move forward. During the interim period while the contract is being commissioned the Operational Group will continue to prepare and plan and I am grateful to the Vale of Glamorgan for establishing and hosting the role of Regional Resettlement Co-ordinator.

Advice Year End Update

Our Money Advice Team helped over 6,000 customers and helped gain nearly £9 million in additional weekly benefits for customers over the year. Since the move of the service from Marland House to the Central Library Hub in July, which was carried out with minimal disruption to service users, customer numbers have almost doubled. Customers on average had to wait less than 15 minutes to be seen by an advisor. The co-location and close working of a number of agencies including Citizens Advice, Speakeasy Advice and Cardiff and Vale Credit Union and many other partner organisations make the Central Library Hub a true one-stop shop for those needing help and advice.

Welfare Reform Changes

I am pleased to advise that the number of social housing tenants affected by the under occupation charge (bedroom tax) has reduced to 2,650, from the original number of 4,194 in October 2012, a 37% decrease to date. During this time we have made 2,562 offers of social housing. To date 713 tenants have chosen to move and we are also helping those who wish to stay with budgeting advice and help to maximise their income. Support remains available to those who wish to move or who need an additional bedroom due to disability or caring

responsibility. No tenant is evicted if they are genuinely working with officers to resolve the issue.

The Benefit Cap is currently affecting 144 tenants of all tenure types, which is a 36% decrease since November 2013. Assistance to get back to work is available at Hubs across the city, with Into Work Advice Services offering support including training and assistance with CVs. 118 of those initially affected have returned to work and claimed Tax Credits. Discretionary housing payments are being made available for those affected by the Benefit Cap while they engage with Into Work Services.

Universal Credit was introduced to Cardiff on the 30th of November 2015 as part of a phased introduction and affects single people who are fit to work. The claim must be made online and is paid monthly, in arrears, directly to the claimant. Face to face advice and support is provided by Hub staff, on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions, with Budgeting advice available in Central Library Hub and Digital Inclusion and Into Work Services across the city.

The year ahead will be challenging with many more Welfare Reform changes being introduced. Of particular concern is the further reduction in the Benefit Cap and the restrictions to be placed on social housing rents. However there are a range of other changes. I will keep colleagues updated of these changes and how we are planning to help those affected.

Independent Living Services

The Independent Living Service aims to help older people and people with physical disabilities to stay safe and independent at home. The service launched the "First Point of Contact" in October 2015 with a dedicated telephone line on 0292034234 to provide advice and assistance about a wide range of support that is available to promote independence. Since its launch the First Point of Contact has helped to reduce the demand on Social Services. Prior to its launch 31% of calls were dealt by the contact officers with 69% being transferred to Social Care. Since the start of the new service 44% of calls on average have been dealt with at First Point of Contact without going to Social Care, allowing our care services to focus their resources on those who need them most.

The Independent Living staff have received a significant amount of training to enable them to provide a holistic service. Recently the Independent Living Officers achieved Trusted Assessor Status, which allows them to prescribe basic equipment to help people live more independently, while telephony staff are being trained in delivering better customer-focussed outcomes by the Social Services Improvement Agency. This training aligns well with the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

Other Achievements of Independent Living Services so far this year include:

- 881 new clients have been referred to the Independent Living Officer Visiting Service, of these just 64 (7%) needed to be referred to social care as their complex needs could not be met by Independent Living Services.
- 375 people have had their income maximised, identifying additional unclaimed benefit income of £1.2 Million.

- 231 people have received a timely intervention for low level adaptations avoiding slips, trip and falls. This is estimated to save £2.43 for every £1.00 invested, equalling indicative cost avoidance to Health care of £162,688.
- 151 people have been moved out of Social Isolation, whether taking part in community activities or volunteer support.
- 210 people have been provided with assistive technology such as community alarm to help them live in a safer environment with increased independence.

Customer outcomes have been good with 97% of service users stating that Independent Living has helped improve their quality of life, while 85% state that as a result of services provided they felt more independent in their own home.

The aim for 2016/17 will be to build on this service and to create a Holistic Prevention Service by connecting services and developing a multi-disciplinary team. This will include the Occupational Therapy Service, Equipment service, delivery of disabled adaptations, as well as the new Day Opportunities team to prevent social isolation. To achieve this we will work closely with our Health colleagues and with third sector organisations to provide a comprehensive approach to supporting independence.

Other plans include developing a new approach to delivering services on a locality basis and providing more efficient services tailored to the local community, with improved management and coordination of both care and housing provision to meet local needs. A pilot will be initiated to identify gaps in services for older people whether provided by the local authority, the private sector, or 3rd sector within the community.

We also aim to make Cardiff a Dementia-Friendly City, undertaking a gap analysis of dementia services within localities and developing dementia-friendly programmes with the aim of making daily living and activities easier and more accessible for people with dementia and their carers.

Adult Social Care

I am pleased with the way that Adult Social Care has progressed over the last 12 months. It is a vital service for some of the most vulnerable people in Cardiff and is therefore so important that we as a council get this right. It is particularly pleasing to see all staff and partners beginning to come together to deliver real change in this area. Over the coming 12 months this will be progressed as we look to provide a more integrated Health and Social Care Service. We now have a better understanding of needs, can predict future demands and importantly it has enabled better decision making.

Over the past 12 months improvements include:

- Increase in the number of completed carer assessments has increased by 19% compared to the same period in 2014-15.
- The percentage of known carers who have had an assessment offer has increased to 62% at end of Quarter 3 2015-16 compared to 51% for the same period in 2014-15.
- The total number of adults using the direct payments scheme is 610, with 46 Adults working towards Direct Payments.

- The percentage of people helped back to independence without ongoing care services through short term intervention has shown improvement during 2015-16 – 80% as at Quarter 3 compared with 75% for Quarter 3 2014-15.

As we look to modernise the service to meet the growing demands we need to look at utilising the latest technology to increase our efficiency. **The Agile Working project** has been rolled out to 275 members of staff based at Global Link. These officers have been provided with the resources to mobile work, enabling them to spend more time out with clients and less time at a desk.

I have been very impressed with not only the delivery of this project from management and project staff, but all officers who this affects. It has been a significant change to the way they have worked for many years and it pleasing to see them embrace this change. This successful project means that we will no longer need Global Link, saving the authority £689,000 in annual building costs alone.

Additionally, the Community Resource Teams have gone live with mobile scheduling in the South and East Teams. North and West teams will go live in April. Again through the use of the latest technology these staff will no longer be required to come into a central base and can access key information anywhere. The scheduling software will also enable better allocation of care workers to support the client's needs and/or preference.

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member (Health, Housing & Wellbeing)
23 March 2016

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CORPORATE SERVICES & PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

Performance & Improvement

WAO

The WAO follow-on report published in February recognises the progress that we have made in the past two years, specifically noting better, more cohesive leadership and management; improved engagement with our Members and staff; and a clear strategic direction for the Council moving forward. The WAO report has also identified improved arrangements in financial planning, HR management, performance management, asset management, IT, scrutiny, and governance.

As such the WAO have set out a number of proposals for improvement in the areas of: Leadership and Management; Governance; Performance Reporting; and the ways in which our Corporate Enabler services work together. We have responded with a statement of action that clearly sets out how we will meet these improvement areas by building on the progress we have already made.

Estyn

I am pleased to say that Estyn have concluded that the Council is no longer in need of significant improvement and that we have made satisfactory progress against each of the six recommendations from their original 2014 findings. Cardiff schools are being challenged more rigorously, and we are working more effectively with our partners to provide services for children and young people. This approach has produced tangible results that Estyn have recognised: Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 performance is improving faster than any other area in Wales and our Key Stage 4 performance including English or Welsh and maths exceeded the Welsh Government benchmark in 2014-15.

CCSIW

CCSIW's report into our children's social services identifies many areas of strength. It notes that there is a clear strategic direction and strong corporate support for our children's services, with the needs of the child kept at the forefront of assessments. CCSIW report that both timeliness for managing contacts and referrals and the timeliness of initial assessments had improved in the first two quarters of 2015/16.

CCSIW found that our staff's morale was generally positive, workloads are manageable and both managers and social workers were optimistic about the plans for improving early preventative services. It was also noted that investment in workforce planning has resulted in improvement in the ability to

recruit suitably qualified and experienced staff, which will be essential to ensuring the success of planned improvements to the service and continued achievement of outcomes for our city's children.

Property (Operational) Assets

Strategic Estates are in the process of finalising year end property completions. An ambitious target was set in terms of rationalising the estate and delivering important capital receipts for the capitalisation target.

Pleased to report £3.6m is set to be delivered for the capitalisation programme. Statistics on the targets set out in the 2015/2016 Corporate Asset Management Plan will be finalised at year end next week and new targets will be set for 2016/2017.

The relinquishment of Global Link to the Health Board is progressing and the structure of this deal is being finalised. The office rationalisation project continues to make excellent progress vacating the building and moving staff into County Hall.

There are a number of Community Asset Transfers on going and the Estates Department are working on new processes to be implemented that will work to expedite CATs next year.

Finance

The final budget gap was £33 million and was bridged through a combination of savings totalling £28.835 million and a 3.7% Council Tax increase.

Whilst this is still a very significant gap, it is an improved position to that which was faced, following three post-consultation updates:

- A better than expected settlement from Welsh Government (funding reduction of 0.1% rather than the 3% reduction the Council had anticipated);
- Generation of additional council tax income as a result of additional properties and an improved collection rate, based on the Council Tax Base Report taken to cabinet in December 2015; and,
- Indicative energy price reductions for 2016/17.

This allowed the Council to review financial pressures and budget planning assumptions in order to reduce risk and to support corporate priorities. Consultation savings proposals were also reviewed in order to improve their achievability and take account of consultation feedback and financial resilience has been improved through the introduction of a new mechanism enabling one off investment and development in priority areas.

For 2016/17, this mechanism provides one off investment of £4 million, including:

- £1.9 million for Disabled Adaptations Grants, enabling more people to remain in their own homes for longer and reduce waiting times for adaptations.
- £500,000 to establish a fund for NEETS, Looked After Children, Apprenticeships and Youth Guarantee. This sum is in addition to growth of £11.185 million (5.45%) on delegated schools' budgets, which far exceeds the 1.85% protection requirement.

- £320,000 for targeted repair of potholes, allowing nearly 3,000 more repairs to be undertaken.
- 100,000 for City Centre and Neighbourhood Street Cleansing, increasing the ongoing funding already allocated of £220,000 to £320,000.
- £700,000 to support our workforce as the Council is reshaped, through additional training and development.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan identifies a budget gap of £73 million over the three year period 2017/18 – 2019/20. Closing this gap will be extremely challenging given that the Council has made savings of £190 million over the 10 year period 2006/07 – 2015/16 and that over half of these were between 2013/14 and 2015/16, but planning work is already ongoing to ensure that this gap can be bridged.

With regard to the current financial year the overall position as reported to Cabinet in February showed a potential surplus of £988,000. This is confirmed by the latest monitoring which continues to indicate of potential surplus of circa £1 million. This is despite the impact of increasing demographic and other financial pressures particularly in Social Services and has been achieved through sound financial management and an effective challenge process which has been in place throughout the year.

Significant support has also been provided in relation to the City Deal for the Cardiff Capital Region. This was recently confirmed including a £1.2 billion investment in the city region's infrastructure which is expected to deliver up to 25,000 new jobs and leverage an additional £4 billion of private sector investment across the region over the next 20 years.

Health & Safety

Donna Jones has taken over as our lead Health & Safety Manager in a collaborative working arrangement with Caerphilly County Council

HR People Services

Following Cabinet approval in January 2016, a revised and streamlined Disciplinary Policy, 6 new additional guidance documents and a new resolution policy will go live from 1 April. The revised arrangements represent a major cultural shift in how disciplinary/conduct issues will be addressed within the Council in the future. Preparation for go live is well underway with over 150 managers attending briefings on the revised arrangements throughout March at a number of Council locations and more are scheduled for early April. An e-learning module for completion by all managers will be available in April and compliance will be required by July as part of cascaded PP&DR objectives for 2016/17.

Specific and mandatory training to support those required to fulfil roles of Investigating Officers and Hearing Chairs is being piloted at the end of March with programmes to be made available from April onwards.

The new arrangements will be subject to on-going monitoring, with an interim review at 6 months and a full review after 12 months operational experience.

The Council successfully gained Living Wage accreditation in November 2015 during the annual Living Wage Week. Cardiff became the first Council in Wales to pay its entire workforce the Living Wage in September 2012 and since April

2015, all agency staff employed by the Council have also been paid the Living Wage. The current Living Wage in the UK outside London is £8.25 per hour, £1.75 more than the national minimum wage and the Council will pay this from April 2016. The Leader was presented with the plaque at County Hall on Tuesday, March 1st 2016 from Citizens UK. In gaining the accreditation, the Council has committed to work closely with its contractors and other organisations that provide services on Council property to encourage them also to pay the Living Wage.

Connect 2 Cardiff - Wales Contact Centre Awards

I had the pleasure of accompanying the Connect 2 Cardiff Team at the 2016 Welsh Annual Contact Centre Awards. I was extremely proud of the team who won the People Engagement Award ahead of organisations including Admiral, Virgin Media and HSBC. The award was a testament to the hard work and collaborative approach from the management and staff working at C2C. Regular 121 sessions, staff forums, an online staff suggestion form, and on site team building exercises put staff right at the heart of C2C and create a positive working culture. I have visited Willcox House on numerous occasions and I am always impressed by how well a key front facing service is operating. It links to the Welsh Audit Office report that recognised the improvements that have been made across the council in relation to staff engagement and our task now is to

Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member (Corporate Services & Performance)
23 March 2016

COUNCIL: 24 MARCH 2016

EARLY YEARS, CHILDREN & FAMILIES STATEMENT

CSSIW

I want to take this opportunity to provide a brief update to members in relation to Children's Services inspection which took place over two weeks in January.

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) undertook an inspection of children's services in the City of Cardiff Council in January 2016. Inspectors looked at the access arrangements for children and young people and their families who were either referred for care and support or where information was received about children's well-being. This inspection included reviewing the effectiveness of the interface between preventative and statutory provision; there was no focus on services for disabled children. Inspectors considered the quality of outcomes achieved for children and families who received a service. Inspectors read case files and interviewed staff, managers and professionals from partner agencies. An electronic staff survey was carried out across children's services. Wherever possible, they talked to children, young people and their families. In addition, inspectors evaluated what the local authority knew about how well it was performing and what difference it was making for the people who it was trying to help, protect and look after

The inspectors assessed 60 cases within the following cohort:

- Child in Need
- Child Protection
- Looked After Children
- Cases closed within the last two years
- Contacts which did not progress to a referral
- Referrals which did not progress to an assessment

The City of Cardiff Council has welcomed the findings of the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) inspection of Children's Services published on 23rd March 2016.

The inspectorate has found significant improvement since its last inspection in 2014 and the report makes recommendations to ensure this improvement continues. It has reported finding evidence of a clear strategic direction, led effectively by the Director of Social Services. Staff morale is seen as generally positive and the number of vacancies has fallen since 2014/15, when 31 per cent of posts were unfilled.

CSSIW inspectors confirm that the needs of the child are kept at the forefront of assessments, work is appropriately undertaken to help keep them safe, families supported to keep children safe and child protection procedures are well

understood by staff. As a result of social work intervention, outcomes for children and young people are found to be improving.

The published report confirms that the council is committed to prioritising services that support those who are most vulnerable, but had to deliver this against a backdrop of a declining budget and increasing demand. There is strong corporate support for children's services which had a high profile across the council. Elected members and the corporate management team demonstrated a common understanding of the direction and drive needed to ensure the service effectively supported improved outcomes for children and young people in Cardiff. There is a clear strategic direction articulated for children's services which was effectively led by the director of social services. There was a high level of confidence expressed in the leadership arrangements, particularly considering the relatively short time these had been in place.

Most importantly, the inspectors found that children and young people who were, or were likely to be at risk of harm, were identified, and work was appropriately undertaken to help keep them safe. The arrangements for child protection enquiries and investigations (including those which were outside working hours) were timely and effective.

This was a major test for the Council, coming two years after the last Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales visit, when Children's Services was in a much less robust position. I welcome the findings of the report which reflect the positive effects of our two year strategic journey and confirm the areas we are focussing on to ensure this significant improvement continues.

The full inspection report can be found at <http://cssiw.org.uk/news/160323-cardiff-childrens-report/?lang=en> .

Councillor Sue Lent
Cabinet Member (Early Years, Children & Families)
23 March 2016

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EDUCATION & SKILLS STATEMENT

Creative Education Partnership

Cabinet agreed a report on the new Creative Education Partnership for Cardiff. This will forge close working links between the city's education provision and its successful creative sector. The brand new secondary school in the west of the city would act as a "pathfinder" school to promote these links. The eight "Founding Partners" are National Museum of Wales, BBC Wales, Cardiff Council, Cardiff and Vale College, Creative and Cultural Skills, University of South Wales, Wales Millennium Centre and Welsh National Opera and I would like to thank the Founding Partners for having the vision and ambition to take part in the partnership which will strengthen education through putting creativity at the heart of learning.

The partnership will have a strong focus on ensuring that children and young people have the right skills by developing team working, flexibility, adaptability, communication & entrepreneurial skills. It is part of improving outcomes for all our city's children. We want to ensure that no one is left behind and that a child's social background is not a determining factor in their education outcomes and lift aspirations.

School Governors

A further 16 governors were appointed or reappointed at the last Panel meeting. The deadline for the next round of applications is 19th^t April and vacancies/up coming vacancies can be checked here:

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/School-Governors/becoming-a-governor/Documents/vacancies.pdf>

Schools Organisation Planning

There has been progress on a number of fronts including:

Eastern High – Demolition work has commenced on the Trowbridge site.

New school in the West – the latest legal stage was completed and Cabinet have agreed to proceed with the project that will deliver a new high school in the west at a cost of £36.4m with the help of the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools Programme. In August 2017 the Glyn Derw/Michaelston Federation will formally close with a new school established from September 2017. The new school will then transfer to a newly built school on the current Glyn Derw site from September 2018.

Four Wards – the Cabinet have agreed to build a new 2FE Welsh medium school on the Hamadryad site (initially 1FE on former Tan yr Eos site) and increase Ninian Primary School from 2 FE to 3FE from September 2017. This, along with a planned expansion of St Mary the Virgin, is to address the shortfall of primary school places in the area and represents a £14.8m investment jointly with the Welsh Government.

Llandaff North – from September 2017 Gabalfa Primary will be consolidated at 1FE and Glan Ceubal will be permanently established from September 2016 with an extended age range 3-11. £6.83m investment

Adamsdown/Splott – Cabinet agreed the outcome of the statutory notice to increase the capacity of Ysgol Glan Morfa from 1FE to 2FE from September 2017 transferring to a new school building on land at the Maltings from September 2018 and to increase the capacity of Moorland Primary School to 3FE from September 2017. £6.86m investment

Youth Innovation Grants

The final awards for Youth Innovation Grants have been made following a robust application process that involved young people in the evaluation process. We will be working with a wide range of partners to deliver youth provision, these organisations will also be in the position to seek external funding to supplement council funding.

The latest grants to be awarded are as follows:

Neighbourhood Partnership Area	Area	Youth Work Delivery Partner
East (Trowbridge, Llanrumney, Rumney & Trowbridge)	Llanrumney	Full Circle Education
	Rumney	Cardiff City FC Foundation
West (St Fagans, Pentyrch, Radyr & Morganstown, Whitchurch & Tongwynlais, Llandaff North, Llandaff, Fairwater)	Fairwater	ACE
	Whitchurch	YMCA
	Radyr	YMCA

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member (Education & Skills)
 23 March 2016

Addition to Education Statement March 2016

Estyn

I am pleased to inform members that we have now received the findings of Estyn's January monitoring visit and that its judgement is that the Authority is no longer in need of significant improvement.

The inspectorate found improved performance across the key stages over the past three years; notably at Key Stage 4, where Estyn saw significant improvement in the number of pupils gaining 5 or more A* to C grade GCSEs, including mathematics and English or Welsh.

This is an important step forward for schools and the local authority. I would like to acknowledge the positive response to raised expectations from leaders and teachers in our schools. While I welcome Estyn's recognition of the progress we have made so far, we are in no doubt that the hard work must continue to deliver the best possible education for the children and young people of Cardiff.

Since 2012 we have seen a 10 percent improvement in the number of pupils achieving at least five A* to C grades, including mathematics and English or Welsh. Standards in primary schools have strengthened further at a time when we have seen significant growth and change in the primary age population in the city.

The report identified the strong working relationship which exists between the local authority and the regional consortium, noting that schools were challenged more rigorously and that better support was put in place to help them improve. The inspector said that by refining its processes, the council is now able to tackle underperformance in schools earlier and more systematically.

The report highlighted how:

- Cardiff is seen to be taking strong action to reduce exclusion rates. Fixed-term exclusions in secondary schools continue to fall, while many primary schools have none or very few.
- Schools are becoming more resilient, demonstrating a greater capacity for improvement.
- The council is working well to engage school leaders, developing a change in culture where they are more aware of their responsibility for improvement.
- The City Council is working well with partners and its capacity to offer locally-delivered and more efficient, multi-agency services has been enhanced.
- The Education Development Board and the Vulnerable Children and Families Programme Board have developed clear strategies.

There is room for further improvement and challenges remain, particularly around some of the key stage 4 indicators and further work is needed with young people who do not progress into education, employment and training on leaving school. We continue our efforts to ensure that we continue to raise standards across the board and provide better education and training for all.