

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

8 March 2017



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

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

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member - Education and Skills
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Sarah

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you for attending the last meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2017 to provide an opening statement and answer questions on the agenda item **School Admissions Arrangements 2018/19 and Co-ordinated Secondary School, Admissions Arrangements 2018 - 2020 - Draft Cabinet report**. I would also like to thank Nick Batchelar and Michele Duddridge Hussain for their presentation of the report and answers to Members questions.

The Committee welcomed the report and agreed to commend the report to Cabinet. However, during the way forward section of the meeting the Members discussed at some length concerns expressed in the consultation exercise about the effectiveness of the present school admissions criteria, particularly in respect of catchment areas and residency. Members noted that there will be increasing numbers of pupils moving from Primary to Secondary Schools over the foreseeable future, resulting in few surplus Secondary places. The Committee therefore agreed to suggest to you that in respect of the second recommendation "the wider research into alternative options", it might be time for an assessment of the impact and effectiveness of different admissions criteria, together with a citywide review of catchment areas.

Yours sincerely

COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD COOK
Chair – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
Michele Duddridge Hussain, Operational Manager: Planning and Provision