
CABINET RESPONSE – OUT OF COUNTY PLACEMENTS

Background

1. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed as part of their work programme to undertake an inquiry into Out of County Placements. As a result, the Committee agreed to set up Task and Finish Group Inquiry. The terms of reference were agreed as follows:
 - a) To review the provision of out of county placements, the types of provision, cost and impact on resources
 - b) To identify gaps in local provision, social services, and education that result in the need to place children out of county.
 - c) To identify the barriers to providing additional support in Cardiff and the impact on looked after children in being placed outside Cardiff.
 - d) To consider plans and proposals to provide improved provision and determine the effectiveness of these improvement in addressing Cardiff high levels of out of county provision.
 - e) To report the findings of the Committee to the Cabinet.

2. The task group Inquiry was informed by evidence and advice from the following:
 - The Cabinet Member for Children and Families,
 - Children’s Services Senior Officers and Social Workers.
 - Voices from Care,
 - Fostering Network

- The Children’s Commissioning Consortium Cymru (4C’s),
 - The Chairman of the Welsh Government “Outcome for Children Ministerial Advisory Group”
 - .Members also reviewed a number of documents which had been identified as relevant to the work of this Inquiry.
3. The report was presented to Cabinet on 5 July 2018, copy attached at **Appendix A** and a full response was agreed by Cabinet on 15 November 2018, copy attached at **Appendix B & C**.

Cabinet Response to Recommendations

4. The scrutiny report included 19 recommendations for the Cabinet to respond to. The Cabinet response stated that six recommendations were partially accepted and 13 fully accepted.

Way Forward

5. The Director of Social Services, will introduce the response report and be available to answer any questions Members may have.
6. Members may also wish to consider the response contained in the attached **Appendix B & C** and the Director of Social Services, and provide any comments, advice or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Director to help in supporting further improvements in the work of the Department.

Legal Implications

7. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations

for decision that goes to the Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

8. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not making policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to consider the Cabinet response report, attached at **Appendix B & C**, together with the information presented at the meeting, and provide the Cabinet Member and the Director of Social Service with any comments, concerns or recommendations.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

6 December 2018