

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 JULY 2015

Present: Councillor Richard Cook (Chairperson), Councillors Boyle, Chaundy, Murphy, Dianne Rees and Lynda Thorne

: Co-opted Members: Carol Cobert (Church in Wales representative)

13 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Morgan and Mrs P. Arlotte (Roman Catholic Representative), Hayley Smith (Parent Governor Representative) and Catrin Lewis (Parent Governor Representative)

14 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson reminded Members of their responsibility under Part III of the Members' Code of Conduct to declare any interest in general terms and to complete personal interest forms at the start of the meeting and then, prior to the commencement of the discussion of the item in question, specify whether it is a personal or prejudicial interest. If the interest is prejudicial Members would be asked to leave the meeting and if the interest is personal, Members would be invited to stay, speak and vote. The following declaration was made:

Councillor Boyle	Item 4 Children's Services Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales)	Prejudicial Interest - Councillor Boyle is a trustee of the Halcyon Training Foundation referred to in report for/the discussion of Item 4
Councillor Boyle	Item 7 Education Performance update - Estyn Recommendations 2 and 4	Personal Interest – Councillor Boyle is Chair of Governors at Springwood Primary School, referenced in the report on exclusions.
Councillor Chaundy	Item 7 – as above	Prejudicial Interest – Councillor Chaundy is an LEA school governor of St David's Church-in-Wales Primary School and St Philip Evans Roman Catholic Primary School.
Carol Cobert	Item 7 – as above	Carol Cobert is a governor of Bishop of

15 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of 9 June 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

16 : CHILDREN'S SERVICES SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL BEING ACT
(WALES) 2014 - PROGRESS REPORT

The Chairperson welcomed Sue Lent (Cabinet Member, Early Years, Children & Families and Deputy Leader), Tony Young (Director of Children's Services) and Nichola Poole (Regional Lead – Sustainable Social Services).

This report provided an update on the progress being made to prepare for the implementation of the Act in April 2016.

The Director presented the report. The Committee was advised that until recently there was a lack of detail on the Act and this has caused difficulty in assessing its implications. The Act is massive in scope and aspiration. The Welsh Government (WG) requested that local authorities assess their readiness for the implementation of the Act using use a self-assessment tool kit and completing the assessment in this way has helped staff to delve into the detail of the Act. The Act seeks to transform the 'ownership' of social care, so that social services departments are no longer solely responsible for providing services. The local authority's partners and the wider community need to embrace what this means. The introduction of the Act is likely to raise a lot of expectations from the public.

Nichola Poole gave a presentation following which the Chairperson invited questions from the Committee.

The Committee was concerned that the self-assessment document indicated that in some areas, such as the duty to assess needs for care and support, there was insufficient evidence to say whether or not the Council was ready for implementation. The Committee was advised that it should be borne in mind the self-assessment was a regional submission, including responses from the Council, the Vale of Glamorgan local authority, the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board Health and the Third Sector. When the self-assessment was being prepared not all the guidance and requirements were available and so this made it difficult to assess what would be required to be able to say that there was sufficient or good evidence of readiness. Where it is felt that services may need to be strengthened in order to better meet the requirements this will be built into the Action Plan for Implementation. WG would prefer the Council to press ahead with its preparations to implement the Act, rather than re-doing the self-assessment.

The Committee asked when it could expect to see the outcomes of implementation and was advised that there tends to be a significant delay between the introduction of new measures and the outcomes that arise from them.

The Committee enquired about attendance at meetings, such as those of the Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership Governance Board, by the relevant groups and suggested that one of the challenges is to allow more understanding between clinical workers and social workers, which is key to the integration of Social Care and Health. Each side has to understand the priorities of the other. The speed with which the Act is being implemented is of some concern. The Committee was advised that there has been dialogue between partners on creating a new, integrated model. There is now a big emphasis on integration and prevention. It will be important to remove the barriers that currently prevent people from working together. The Council has been given a list of areas of care and need on which it must integrate. Regarding attendance at meetings, the Director advised the Committee that he has no particular fears about non-attendance. The Group will have to publish an annual report and it will be made public.

The Committee noted that the Draft Action Plan for Implementation refers to the creation of a single point of access and asked whether the intention is that this would be used by someone who has housing needs. The Committee was advised that the Council is already doing much to integrate services, including managing its accommodation to support children and families. By having a single point of access contacts can be fast-tracked to the right directorate.

The Committee noted that there is no mention of scrutiny in the self-assessment tool kit. The Committee was advised that in 2016 the focus will be very much on the implementation of the Act and that there will be plenty of opportunities for the Committee to scrutinise that. It is thought that the local authority is already doing many of the things required by the Act. There is a need for the local authority to be more imaginative about the ways it works with communities and with the other organisations that are already doing good work.

The Chairperson thanked the Cabinet Member and officers for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering questions from Members.

AGREED: That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member highlighting the issues raised during the Way Forward discussion.

17 : CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISOR COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sue Lent (Cabinet Member, Early Years, Children & Families and Deputy Leader) and Tony Young (Director of Children's Services).

The Council's Constitution Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2014 recommended to Council the establishment of an advisory committee for Corporate Parenting. The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with an opportunity to review and comment on the annual report of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) 2014-15 and on its work during that time.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement. Councillor Lent informed the Committee that as CPAC has not been operating for very long it has been decided that a formal report should not go to the Full Council. CPAC has made a good start. The National Youth Advisory Service (NYAS) regularly attends and advises CPAC. A lot of work has been done to give Members who are new to

corporate parenting the opportunity to familiarise themselves with it. There is a good relationship between CPAC and the Operational Manager for Safeguarding.

The Chairperson invited questions from the Committee

The Committee asked how many of CPAC's terms of reference have been met, how many meetings have been held and asked whether the Council is taking CPAC seriously. The Committee was advised that meetings are held every other month. The annual report covers the period from October 2014 to April 2015. At the first meeting the terms of reference and a programme of work were agreed. As there is not a full year's work to report on it is too early to say whether or not CPAC is delivering on its terms of reference. Also, there have been some changes in officer support. CPAC does not have its own support officer, in the way that each scrutiny committee has a scrutiny officer with responsibility for it. This is something the Director plans to raise with the Director of Governance & Legal Services.

The Committee was concerned that there have only been two proper meetings and that CPAC appears to have achieved little since it was set up. The Committee was advised that there have been some teething problems and these have affected what CPAC has been able to do. Also, some Members who are on CPAC are new to corporate parenting and have required some induction into what is a complicated area. In terms of transparency, CPAC has already made a significant contribution in establishing a disciplined approach to the presentation to members of key qualitative reports and data that was previously invisible except to officers; the Director listed a number. It is recognised that attention now needs to be turned to developing the proactive championing role of CPAC..

The Committee asked what the situation is regarding having a young person representative at CPAC meetings. The Committee was advised that some interest was expressed following a listening event. CPAC is constantly looking at ways in which it can get the views of young people. It may be that participation in committee meetings is not the best way to get young people involved. Young people have indicated that that they want more of a voice in influencing the Council.

The Committee asked what CPAC has achieved that its predecessor, the Corporate Parenting Panel, did not. The Committee was advised that CPAC reports provide a good quality insight into the lives of young people, into their plans, their education etc. This is qualitative information that has never been routinely provided for Members before the advent of the committee.

The Committee asked what young people might see as a result of CPAC, what has or what will improve for them. The Committee was advised that CPAC can not transform lives but has important work to do in building up knowledge and expertise and championing children and young people in need of social services support or who are Looked After.

The Committee was concerned that the report does not provide enough detail on what is being done to make sure that the Council fulfils its responsibilities as a corporate parent. Members were advised that as well as reporting to the Committee CPAC would also report to the Cabinet. The Corporate Parenting Panel did good work but information on it was not yet widely disseminated.

The Committee's view was that it would have been better if CPAC had submitted a report to Full Council, even if that report was only a brief one.

The Chairperson thanked the Cabinet Member and the Director for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering questions from Members.

AGREED: That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member highlighting the issues raised during the Way Forward discussion.

18 : EDUCATION - YOUTH GUARANTEE - IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education), Carol Jones (Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), Angela Kent (Head of Achievement and Inclusion) and John Fabes (Achievement Leader – young people age 14 to 19 years).

The purpose of this report was to provide the Committee with a progress report on the implementation of the Youth Guarantee (which is part of the Welsh Government's Strategy as set out in the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework) in line with Welsh Government briefings.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement. Councillor Merry informed the Committee that the aim is to make sure that all Year 11 young people make a successful transition to post-16 education and training. This is central to the approach taken to tackle the problem of young people being in neither education, employment nor training (NEET). The number of those who are NEET is going down but it is important to track young people beyond the start of any learning or training courses that they begin when they leave school. It is important that they finish the courses they start and not leave soon after starting them. It is important to make sure that they have the right support once they have started their post-16 courses.

John Fabes gave a presentation, following which the Chairperson invited questions from the Committee.

The Committee enquired whether Careers Wales is responsible for giving young people careers advice or whether teachers, whose time is limited, have that responsibility. The Committee was advised that the funding for Careers Wales has reduced and it can not provide one-to-one guidance. Providing careers guidance is now the responsibility of teachers, although Estyn has noted that schools are not really ready to take it on. Careers Wales will focus on the most vulnerable young people and will provide generic training to school staff who it is hoped will cascade what they have learned to their colleagues. There is a new Careers Wales project aimed at supporting the transition of young people from school into further education or training and it is hoped that this will attract European funding.

The Committee was concerned that what had been described was quite a complicated process and that the responsibility for giving careers guidance is to fall on schools. The Committee asked what the financial implications of this would be for schools and colleges. The Committee was advised that the complexity lies within the collective responsibility that exists around this age group. 'A' Levels are not suitable for all and foundation apprenticeships are important. There is a tension in the system

in that if young people do not progress on to sixth form, then schools lose funding. On the financial implications, the Committee was advised that there is no additional money to resource the provision of careers advice to young people by schools.

The Committee noted that one thing that will be offered to young people by the Welsh Government Youth Engagement and Progression Framework is the development of a proactive and positive Youth Guarantee that will help to ensure that every young person has access to a suitable place in learning post-16. The Committee asked whether this would include support with living costs, as some of the young people that will need to take up this offer are vulnerable and will not have access to the same resources as others may have. The Committee was advised that there is a small salary of between £30 and £50 per week for attendance on some schemes.

The Committee asked when will it become clear whether or not this approach, the Youth Guarantee, is working, and how will it be monitored. The Committee also pointed out that there are a number of sixth form colleges in Cardiff and asked whether there will come a time when the local authority will need to re-think its further education strategy. The Committee was advised that it is the case that there are some sixth form colleges in Cardiff that are barely viable but the most important thing is that young people get the widest choice that they can. Partnership working will be important. The Post-16 task group is tasked with developing future policy. The local authority is expecting significant budget cuts from WG and colleges are expecting an overall budget cut of approximately 10%. Some sixth form colleges have been combining their programmes to make efficiencies.

The Committee asked whether this strategy covers those young people who have significant learning difficulties, some of whom, it is reported, are reluctant to leave school because they have no post-16 destination. A lot of NEETs may have significant learning difficulties. The Committee also asked for more information on the current situation regarding the tracking of young people once they have left secondary education. The Committee was advised that initial guidance on the Youth Guarantee made little reference to those young people who may have special educational needs. The local authority will be running an audit at the start of next term to identify the cohorts that will be leaving and asking schools if they have the capacity to give good guidance to those groups. Also, lead workers have been introduced to give guidance to young people who are in their first year of sixth form, to help them through that year, and this has been a success.

The Committee asked whether the work experience that young people get in Year 10 is linked to the careers guidance that they get. The Committee was advised that WG has removed the funding that allowed Careers Wales to maintain a database of employers that can offer work experience placements. Careers Wales also carried out the required vetting of those employers. Now the employers are expected to do their own vetting and it is left to the schools to make sure that this has been done. The majority of work experience in Wales is to stop. WG recognises its value but has said that it can not afford to fund it.

The Chairperson thanked the Cabinet Member and officers for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering questions from Members.

AGREED: That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member highlighting the issues raised during the Way Forward discussion.

19 : EDUCATION PERFORMANCE UPDATE - ESTYN RECOMMENDATIONS 2 AND 4

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education), Carol Jones (Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), Angela Kent (Head of Achievement and Inclusion) and Phil Norton (Achievement Leader - Targeted Support).

The Committee agreed that as part of its work programme it would receive regular monitoring reports from the Education Directorate on the Estyn monitoring visit's six recommendations. This report provided the Committee with an opportunity to receive an update on the progress being made in addressing the Estyn monitoring recommendation 2 (that exclusions should be reduced) and recommendation 4 (that the effectiveness of joint planning across the range of partnership working should be improved).

Recommendation 2 – Reducing Exclusions

Phil Norton gave a presentation, following which the Chairperson invited questions from the Committee.

The Committee noted that the report seems very positive but suggested that the accompanying data does not seem to support what it says. The Committee noted that the report refers to 'extraordinarily high rates of exclusions in 3 schools'. The Committee was advised that a lot of support has been given to those schools; on-site exclusion is being used, leadership teams have been changed and pastoral care in schools has been strengthened. The Committee was advised that good leadership puts a clear behaviour policy in place, which teachers then apply consistently across the school. There is no evidence that exclusions for eight or ten days are any more effective in improving behaviour than exclusions for only six days.

The Committee asked whether all three of those schools referred to in the report are in a position to improve and was advised that there is a lot of confidence that there will be improvement in one of them. The situation at one of the other schools is relatively new but if it follows the same pattern then there should be improvement at that school as well.

The Committee asked if there is any specific training that could be targeted at the governing bodies of those schools where there are problems. The Committee was advised that problem schools have a plan of support and part of that involves training for governors. Executive officers take governor training three times a year. Part of the problem is that across the city there is no consistent tariff on exclusions. It is important that consideration is given to the alternatives to exclusion.

The Committee asked whether it is thought that the Challenge Advisers have the necessary skills to address the problem of exclusions and whether sufficient progress is being made. The Committee was advised that it is important that there is partnership working between the Achievements – Targeted Support team and the

Central South Consortium Joint Education Service, so that there is a balance between the expertise of the Achievements team and the knowledge and skills that the Challenge Advisers have to challenge the school. Not enough progress has been made this year but it is thought that there will be an acceleration in improvement. The local authority now has a clearer picture on exclusions and will be able to give more targeted support. It will be able to demonstrate to Estyn the impact of what has been done this year and further work will build on that.

The Committee was concerned about the high number of short, fixed-term exclusions in the city's schools and about the extent of behaviour problems in schools. The Committee asked about the A 'Hard to Place/Managed Admissions Protocol' and about how, when it is used, decisions are made about placing difficult children. The Committee also asked if schools with a high level of exclusions are being paired with schools with fewer exclusions, so that each can learn from the other. The Committee was advised that there is some official pairing around a number of things, including behaviour. The protocol is there to recognise that some children will need a fresh start in another school. The Step 3 and Step 4 programmes offer alternatives to exclusion, some of which will be work-based and some school-based.

Recommendation 4 – Improving Joint Planning

The Committee asked how partnership working is being evidenced and was advised that this would depend on the type of partnership. On NEETs the partnership between Education and Families First is very strong. The Committee suggested that sometimes schools enter into partnerships as a result of the professional relationships that exist between headteachers, and that this may be another way for the local authority to evidence partnership working.

The Committee requested more information on the Prevent Strategy, an initiative involving a number of partners and aimed at reducing vulnerability around extremism. The Committee noted that there have been some concerns about young people in relation to three particular Islamic Centres in the city and asked whether these centres are receiving public money. The Committee was advised that local authority officers are working with the centres to address these concerns. Initially it was difficult to get the centres to engage.

The Chairperson thanked the Cabinet Member and officers for attending the meeting, for their presentation and for answering questions from Members.

AGREED: That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member highlighting the issues raised during the Way Forward discussion.

20 : CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

This report was presented by Martyn Hutchings (Principal Scrutiny Officer).

Following most Committee meetings the Chair writes a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member or officer, summing up the Committee's comments and recommendations regarding the issues considered during that meeting. This report provided the Committee with the latest update on correspondence. The Committee received copies of correspondence sent and received in relation to matters previously scrutinised by this Committee.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

21 : WAY FORWARD

During the Way Forward discussion the Committee agreed the content of the letter that the Chairperson would send to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee, highlighting the issues raised and comments made in relation to the agenda items that had been discussed during the meeting.

22 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 15 September 2015 at 2.30pm in Committee Room 4, County Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

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

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

Date 17 July 2015

My Ref SS/CYP/MJH
Your Ref:

Councillor Sue Lent
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Families, Children and Early Years
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Sue

Thank you for attending Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 14 July 2015 to help introduce the **Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales) 2014 progress report** and **Corporate Parenting Advisor Committee report**. I would also like to thank Tony Young and Nichola Poole for their full and honest answers that were provided at the meeting. During the consideration of the reports and answers to Members' questions, the Committee identified a number of comments concerns and recommendations which they asked me to write to you.

Social Services and Well Being Act – Progress Report

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to be briefed on the work being undertaken in implementing the regulations and guidance issued by the Welsh Government. Members fully appreciated the vast amount of work that has been undertaken to complete the self assessment tool kit across Cardiff Council, the Vale of Glamorgan, and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board. Members were also pleased to note that it has become apparent that the Welsh Government was allowing some flexibility in the timescales included in the Guidance.

The Members did however question, why, in the completed form, there was some insufficient or poor evidence available to make an assessment. Members noted that these were composite assessment; however the Committee requested that, for Children's Services data, the data should be disaggregated across the three organisations, so that the Committee can assess Cardiff Council's input and seek to investigate further.

Members also expressed some concern that the Governance arrangements indicated in the Act and Guidance did not include the Scrutiny of the Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership Governance Board. Members felt that was a clear deficiency in the Governance arrangements, and Members recommended that this must be reported back to the Welsh Government as part of the consultation exercises.

Finally Members expressed some concern that the Welsh Government were indicating that the implementation of the Act's regulations would be cost neutral. The Committee requested that the resource implications must be included as part of the regular monitoring reports, presented to this Committee.

CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee welcomed the presentation of the work of the Committee noted the overview of the work undertaken from October 2014 to April 2015, and that its first full Annual Report will be produced in April or May 2016.

The Members commented that the Committee had not been embedded into the normal democratic process, in particular, the publication of committee meetings and their agendas, however the Committee was pleased to hear that the Director was addressing this with the Director Governance and Legal Services. The Committee considered that the timely publication of Committee agendas and papers was crucial to highlighting the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities. The Members also suggested that the report should be presented to Council as soon as possible, to enable all Council members to be made aware of the work that has been undertaken by the Committee.

The Committee also requested that the agenda for all future Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee meetings should be sent to Martyn Hutchings, Scrutiny Services, so that he can ensure that the members are aware of each meeting.

I hope that these comments, advice and recommendations, detailed above will be of use and support in improving outcomes for children in need and corporate parenting. The Committee looks forward to receiving the requested information listed above together with a positive response to this letter within the next month.

To recap, this letter requests several actions, requests for information and recommendations, as follows and requires a response:

- Disaggregated the self assessment data, across the three organisations, so that the Committee can assess Cardiff Council's input and seek to investigate further;
- Members recommended that the lack of scrutiny arrangements of the Board must be reported back to the Welsh Government;
- that the resource implications of the Act on Children's Service, must be included as part of the regular monitoring reports, presented to this Committee;
- that the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee report should be presented to Council, as soon as possible.
- That the agenda for all future Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee meetings should be sent to members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Yours sincerely

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

CC: Tony Young, Director of Children's Services
Nichola Poole, Regional Lead, Sustainable Social Services
Melanie Jackson - Personal Assistant to Deputy Leader

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/MJH

20 July 2015



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

Thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 14th July 2015 to help introduce the **Youth Guarantee – Implementation Report** and the **Estyn recommendations 2 and 4 - update**. I would also like to thank Carol Jones, and her officers for their presentations and contribution to the two agenda items. During the consideration of the reports and answers to Members' questions, the Committee identified a number of comments concerns and recommendations detailed below.

Youth Guarantee – Implementation Report

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to be briefed on the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework key elements, which includes the Youth Guarantee offer. Members also noted progress being made in implementing the scheme so that the Guarantee will be introduced to Year 11 pupils in September 2015 with the expectation that young people will sign on in September 2016.

The Committee discussed at length Cardiff's approach to the implementation and requested a further update this time next year. Members were however surprised to hear that Careers Wales were not now providing one to one careers advice to pupils, but were expecting schools to provide the advice. Members agreed with the officers that this was a detrimental step and requested that you monitor the situation, to ensure that pupils are not disadvantaged.

The Committee were also informed that Careers Wales were not now vetting businesses for work placements but expecting Schools to ensure that businesses undertook the vetting. In addition Careers Wales had also withdrawn its work placement data base. Members considered that both these tasks were fundamental to the work of Career Wales and helped ensure that pupils are able to identify the most appropriate career. The Committee recommended that as Cabinet Member you make representation to Careers Wales to continue both tasks or investigate alternative provision to ensure pupils are not disadvantaged.

Estyn Recommendations 2 & 4

Members welcomed the report on the progress being made to address these two recommendations together with the honest and open answers to the Members

questions. As the Committee had scrutinised Neets at its last meeting the Members focused of the Exclusions element of Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 2 - Exclusions

Members noted the progress being made in addressing the level of fixed term exclusions across Cardiff's schools, however, following the Committee's consideration of the report, officer advice, and answers to member's questions, the Committee asked me to write with the following comments, advice and recommendations.

The Committee questioned at some length the level of exclusions in schools, particular those which were causing concern. Members requested that future reports must include the data for each school. Members also commented on the responsibility of the Governing Body on managing the level of exclusions in their school. The Committee recommended that the Governors of schools with high levels of fixed term exclusions must have specific advice on managing exclusions and on alternatives to exclusion.

The Committee was informed that the Challenge Advisors were directed to help support schools in reducing exclusions however members felt that Challenge Advisors do not necessarily have the correct skill set to have a positive impact. The Committee recommended that the joint support with education officers should be reviewed to ensure that effective support is provided.

Given the figures presented to the Committee Members expressed grave concern, that this element of the Estyn recommendation 2 may not be adequately achieved. The Committee therefore recommended that urgent action is taken to ensure that the Council satisfies Estyn in respect of this recommendation.

Finally the Committee noted that fixed term exclusions are not always the most appropriate action and alternative actions would be more appropriate. Member requested that a report be provide to Members via the Scrutiny Officer, explaining what alternatives could be used by schools.

Recommendation 4

The Committee welcomed this update and noted the detailed partnership work being undertaken. Member did however request a more detailed report on the "Prevent Strategy" to be presented to Committee later in the year.

I hope that these comments, advice and recommendations, detailed above will be of use and support in improving outcomes for Cardiff's pupils. The Committee looks forward to receiving the requested additional information listed above together with a positive response to this letter within the next month.

To recap, this letter requests several actions, requests for information and recommendations, as follows and requires a response:

- To receive a further update on the Youth Guarantee this time next year;
- Recommends that the Cabinet makes representation to Careers Wales to continue to undertake the vetting process and data base for work placements, as well as the careers advice to pupils or investigate alternative provision to ensure pupils are not disadvantaged;
- Future exclusion reports must include the data for each school.
- Recommends that the Governors of schools with high levels of fixed term exclusions, must have specific training on alternatives to exclusions;
- Recommends that the joint support provided by Challenge Advisors and Education Officers in schools with high exclusions, should be reviewed to ensure that effective support is provided;
- Recommends that urgent action is taken to ensure that the Council satisfies Estyn in reducing exclusions across all Cardiff's schools.
- Members requested a more detailed report on the "Prevent Strategy" to be presented to Committee later in the year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Cook', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

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

CC: Nick Batchelar – Director of Education and Lifelong learning
CC: Carol Jones– Assistant Director of Education and Lifelong learning
CC: John Fabes, Achievement Leader 14 – 19
CC. Phillip Norton, Achievement Leader Targeted Support
CC: Cheryl Cornelius – Cabinet Support Manger

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