

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

10 July 2015

Councillor Daniel De'Ath
Cabinet Member (Skills, Safety and Engagement)
c/o Room 520
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Daniel

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 8 July 2015

Thank you to you, Martin Hamilton and Nici Evans for attending the above committee and for your kind welcome to me as Chair; I am pleased to be in this role and look forward to a productive year of scrutiny. This letter captures the agreed comments, observations and recommendations of the Committee with regard to the progress report on tackling human trafficking and the draft 2015/16 Delivery Plan for Change and Improvement.

Tackling Human Trafficking

Members are very pleased to have the lead Cabinet Member and senior officer for tackling human trafficking confirmed as yourself and Martin Hamilton. We were also very pleased to hear you give your personal commitment to drive the work in this area to ensure it features on the agenda of Directors and partner organisations. Members agree that this will be essential, due to the cross-cutting nature of tackling human trafficking.

With regard to the proposal to establish a Human Trafficking monitoring group, Members are supportive of this proposal as long as there is clarity about its relationship with existing groups and there is no duplication. One of the concerns highlighted by the Inquiry was that several witnesses felt that partnership structures were taking decisions without the necessary discussions with relevant Cabinet Members. Members were therefore reassured to hear Martin Hamilton clarify that officers in partnership structures will only take decisions where these are covered by the Council's scheme of delegations and that, otherwise, reports will be taken through Cabinet as required.

Members were pleased to hear acknowledgement of the need for further training across schools, albeit that good work is happening via the Education Welfare Service and in some schools. Members take on board Martin's point that there is a

need to join up training to cover safeguarding and Prevent work, to avoid duplication and over-burdening finite time for training. With regard to training, I highlighted that the Inquiry had recommended that training be prioritised to focus on frontline staff, including waste and environmental health officers; whilst it is pleasing to see that some frontline staff have been trained, none from City Operations have been trained. Members therefore recommend that this be highlighted to Andrew Gregory and the position rectified.

Members were pleased to note that work has been undertaken to raise awareness of the need to register private fostering arrangements; as requested at the meeting, please supply data with regards to the number of registrations prior to the new publicity and since the new publicity.

With regard to the discussions on child sexual exploitation, Members were reassured to hear officers state that they had reviewed the findings of recent inquiries in England, including Rotherham and Oxford, in order to test whether the key lessons from these applied in Cardiff. Whilst we were pleased to hear Martin's views on his positive experiences of working with South Wales Police, Members are also aware that the interface (between work on tackling child sexual exploitation and tackling the human trafficking that can result from this) needs refining. I understand that the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are discussing whether to prioritise scrutiny of child sexual exploitation, so I will write to Cllr Richard Cook, Chair, to let him know this committee's views and will copy you into the letter.

Finally, Members were pleased to hear that you intend to keep raising the issue of support for male victims of human trafficking with partner organisations to try to find appropriate resources. This is something this Committee wholeheartedly supports, albeit that we remain troubled that it is not seen as a Council duty.

Change & Improvement Directorate Delivery Plan

Members were interested to see the breadth of the work within this Directorate although we focused our scrutiny on the areas within our terms of reference. Members note Martin's assurance that there are no unfunded commitments in the Plan and that there are plans in place to deliver the savings required.

As discussed at the meeting, Members believe many of the key aspirations are key objectives and recommend that the wording be amended prior to the Plan being finalised. Members also have concerns about the style of the performance measures listed against each commitment. Many of these are through-put or product related as opposed to outcome related, which is something Members recommend is corrected for next year's plans. We made the same point following our scrutiny of other Delivery Plans in June so recognise that this is an issue that applies across the Council rather than solely in this Directorate.

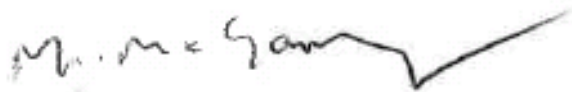
Finally, Members were reassured to hear Martin's views on the Prevent programme in Cardiff and are very pleased to accept his offer of a private briefing to provide more details on the CONTEST, Prevent and community cohesion work underway in Cardiff. I have asked the Principal Scrutiny Officer to liaise to arrange this.

This letter requires a response, please, as it contains the following:

- Recommendation that the Director of City Operations is made aware of the need for staff in his directorate to receive training and that this training is provided.
- Request to receive data with regards to the number of registrations prior to the new publicity and since the new publicity
- Recommendation that, in the Change and Improvement Delivery Plan, the wording of key aspirations be amended to key objectives
- Recommendation that performance measures in 2016/17 Delivery Plans be outcome related.

I hope this letter is of assistance

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: Martin Hamilton Nici Evans
Cheryl Cornelius Caroline Stokes