

COUNCIL: 19 JULY 2018

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STATEMENT

New Director of Social Services

I'm sure that Members will join me in extending a warm welcome to our new Director of Social Services, Claire Marchant, who started her new post on 9 July 2018. Claire joins us from a similar role at Monmouthshire County Council and brings a wide range of experience in both social care and housing. I know that she is very much aware of the ever growing pressures on Children's Services across all UK Core Cities, including Cardiff, and the need to look for more innovative ways to reduce costs and improve better outcomes for our young people.

Crosslands

I visited the Crosslands children's home again at the end of June, along with Councillors Bowden, Lister and Merry as members of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. We were shown around the home and were able to meet and chat with staff and young people to talk openly about their work and experiences. We were also able to talk with managers about proposed building works at the home to improve the kitchen and outside areas. It was good to hear not only about the education of looked after children and the focus this receives at the home, but also about the work undertaken by staff with the children in placement and their families. Staff were able to share some recent successes in helping young people to access education when they had previously disengaged. Staff also spoke to us about the support they offer to children who have moved on, but who come back to visit or meet up with staff as part of their ongoing connection to the home.

Ty Storrie

I am pleased to announce the proposal to bring the Council owned Ty Storrie provision in-house was agreed by the Cabinet on 12 July 2018. The registered children's home is currently run by Action for Children and provides respite provision for disabled children in need of care and support. It is located on the same site as Ty Gwyn Special School in Caerau and the benefits of bringing the service in-house include greater control over quality of service, improved recruitment and retention of staff, and a single case management record system. The move would also provide the Council with greater flexibility to review the model of care in the future in order to maximise usage and meet changing needs of the service.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Councillor Molik joined me on a recent visit to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) located within Cardiff Bay Police Station. The MASH is now approaching its second full year of operation and a review of this innovative collaboration model with our partners is being undertaken to ensure that the increasing complex volume of work continues to be dealt with efficiently and effectively.

Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member for Children & Families
13th July 2018