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## GOHEBIAETH YN DILYN CYFARFOD Y PWYLLGOR

**Pwyllgor** PWYLLGOR CRAFFU PLANT A PHOBL IFANC

**Dyddiad ac amser y cyfarfod** DYDD MAWRTH, 16 CHWEFROR 2016, 10.00 AM

Gweler isod gohebiaeth anfon gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor ar ôl y cyfarfod , ynghyd ag unrhyw ymatebion a gafwyd

Am unrhyw fanylion pellach, cysylltwch â [scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk)

7 **Gohebiaeth yn dilyn Cyfarfod y Pwyllgor** (*Tudalennau 3 - 16*)

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

My Ref: Scrutiny/CYP/MJH

Date: 16 February 2016



Councillor Graham Hinchey  
Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Performance  
City of Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Dear Graham

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - Corporate Plan and Draft Cabinet Budget proposals**

Thank you for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 16 February 2016. The Committee would also like me to thank Councillor Lent, Councillor Merry, Councillor Bradbury, Christine Salter and relevant Directors and Officers for their attendance. The Committee welcomed the presentations on the Corporate Plan, Cabinet draft Budget proposals overview and the departmental budget proposals for each directorate. The Committee considered the information presented together with answers to members questions and agreed to provide you and the Cabinet Members with the following comments, concerns and recommendations

In respect of the Budget Consultation exercise undertaken during December, the Committee acknowledges that Cabinet is increasing the scope of the consultation but recommends caution on the weight given to such a small sample of responses, acquired from certain demographic areas and minority groups. For example respondents from the east of the city are low and the numbers of responses from young people are proportionately low given the number living in the city. The Committee recommends that in future the Cabinet improves its consultation of the budget proposals by attending existing community groups, such as luncheon groups, youth groups, family centres and minority ethnic groups.. The Committee was also concerned that the questionnaire had a number of leading questions and Members suggested that future budget consultation questionnaires should be validated by an external market research company.

The Committee also questioned the achievability of many of the savings proposals, particularly those that were identified as RED or RED/AMBER. The Members highlighted the need for robust and detailed action plans with key milestones to be in place as part of each savings action plan. The Committee will be monitoring the action plans as part of the Committee's budget monitoring panels function.

The Committee also wished to highlight the following points:

- Members expressed particular concern around the achievability of lines 84, 85 and 86 of the savings proposals (Education – reduction of the costs of placements, Looked After Children placed out of County and the number of new placements), as these are dependent on partnership working. Members therefore requested details of the partnership action plans to be made available to the Committee as soon as possible.
- Members wished to seek assurance, that in respect of savings proposals – line 88, the different delivery model for tuition for children who are not educated in school, would not have a detrimental outcome for the pupils receiving the service.
- Given the present budget pressures, Members expressed surprise that there was no intention, at the present time, to have a debate around the provision of school transport for Faith and Welsh schools.

Finally following consideration of the new model for Children's Play, the Committee recommended an alternative way forward as follows: the proposed reduction in service would be better provided, from each of the current Play Centres, rather than spreading the service around several different buildings in each community, until the Community Asset Transfers have each been completed. This would ensure continuity of provision and be less confusing for children and parents..

I will be copying this letter to all the relevant Cabinet Members and Directors as well as the Chair of Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee in advance of its meeting on Wednesday 17 February and it is possible that these points will be raised with you in greater detail at that meeting.

We hope that these comments will have been of assistance to you and the Cabinet in agreeing the Budget proposals on Thursday 18 February and look forward to a positive response to the points raised in the letter, from you and the other cabinet Members, within the next month.

Yours sincerely

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

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

Cc

Councillor Lent, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families

Councillor Merry, Cabinet Member for Education

Councillor Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives, & Social enterprise.

Christine Salter, Section 151 Officer

Tony Young, Director of Social Services

Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning

Andrew Gregory, Director of City Operations

Chair of Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Rita Rohman

Cheryl Cornelius

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn fwriadol

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**



Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM33640  
Eich Cyf / Your Ref: Scrutiny/CYP/MJH

Dyddiad / Date: 24 February 2016

Councillor Richard Cook  
Chair, Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee  
Scrutiny Services  
Room 263  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Annwyl / Dear Richard

**Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee - Corporate Plan & Draft Cabinet Budget Proposals**

Thank you for your letter dated 16 February 2016 and the useful comments raised. I can assure you that Cabinet was able to reflect on the points raised prior to meeting on 18 February 2016.

This response to your letter relates to multiple Cabinet portfolios and directorates and has been written in consultation with all Cabinet Members and Directors that have responsibility for the relevant functions.

The following paragraphs set out responses to your specific points.

**Budget Consultation**

I appreciate the comments made and will ensure that they are fed into a review of the 2016/17 process which will inform the work for 2017/18.

**Budget Proposals**

I note your concerns regarding the achievability of the savings proposals that have been identified as Red or Red/Amber and will ensure that Officers are able to present robust and detailed plans with key milestones to your Committee's budget monitoring panels.

I also note your particular concerns regarding EDU savings lines 84, 85 and 86 in relation to savings proposals on Out of County Placements and EDU savings line 88 in relation to Education Other Than At School (EOTAS). I can confirm that once Officers have finalised the partnership action plans in relation to these savings proposals, copies will be made available to the Committee and would reiterate the verbal assurance provided to your Committee regarding EDU 88 that any alternative provision will be at least as good as or better than existing provision.

The Committee's comments regarding the delivery of the new model of play from existing Centres until any Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has been concluded is noted. Can I reassure the Committee that this approach has always been a central element of the delivery plan in that it was always understood that the service levels and locations would need to be fully agreed with local ward members prior to its introduction. One implication of this is that depending on circumstances this could mean that play continues from those Centres until such time as the CAT is completed. Even after a CAT is completed play may continue to be delivered from the Centre if applicable and subject to the Play Sufficiency Assessment (PSA) findings.

I hope that this letter captures all the points raised in your letter and thank you again for your support in the budget process.

Yn gwyir,  
Yours sincerely,



**Councillor / Y Cynghorydd Graham Hinchey**  
**Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Corfforaethol a Perfformiad**

Cc Councillor Lent, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children and Families  
Councillor Merry, Cabinet Member for Education  
Councillor Bradbury, Cabinet Member for Community Development, Co-operatives, & Social Enterprise.  
Christine Salter, Section 151 Officer  
Tony Young, Director of Social Services  
Nick Batchelar, Director of Education and Lifelong learning  
Andrew Gregory, Director of City Operations  
Chair of Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Rita Rohman  
Cheryl Cornelius



My Ref: Scrutiny/CYP/AEJ

Date: 16 February 2016



Councillor Sue Lent  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Families, Children and Early Learning  
City of Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Dear Sue,

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – DRAFT CARDIFF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION PREVENTION STRATEGY**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, following its consideration of the draft Cardiff Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Prevention Strategy.

This response is based on an evaluation and review of the draft Strategy on the 21 January 2016 by the CSE Task & Finish Group, and endorsed by full Committee on the 16 February.

Overall, whilst the development of a Strategy document on this critical issue is welcomed, the Committee has requested that a number of additions, updates and amendments be made to the Strategy and Action Plan before it is adopted by Cabinet. Whilst it is appreciated that it will evolve and develop, this Committee recommends that additional data and information that should be available at this juncture be added to the Strategy and Action Plan before it is considered by Cabinet.

This includes:

- Key baseline data;
- Explicit references to governance and lines of accountability;
- Performance measures, including targets, costs and clear timeframes for review;
- Details of progress made to date; and
- Links to other key plans and strategies

The Committee's detailed comments and recommendations on specific parts of the Strategy are set out in Appendix A.

I look forward to receiving an updated version of the Strategy document in due course.

Yours sincerely,

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

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

Cc Tony Young, Director of Social Services  
Irfan Alam, Assistant Director, Children's Services  
Sandra Cornwall, Operational Manager, Safeguarding Services, Children's Services  
Jan Coles, Interim Lead Manager for CSE, Children's Services  
Andy Senior, Business Manager, Cardiff & Vale Local Safeguarding Children Board

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**Draft CSE Prevention Strategy**  
**Detailed Recommendations**

**Purpose of the Strategy**

The draft document states *“It is important to note, for now, this is a Cardiff only Strategy..... With an aim to develop a regional strategy if it is felt that one is needed”*.

Evidence has shown that cross boundary, multi agency working is critical in identifying and tracking victims and perpetrators and it is therefore recommended that this Strategy should commit to working in this way from the outset and link to other LSCBs – to the Vale of Glamorgan; the SE Wales SCB (Newport, Torfaen, Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly); and the Western Bay SCB (Neath Port Talbot, Swansea and Bridgend). Whilst we recognise the need for a local strategy, it is crucial that a commitment to work and interact together is put in place to maximise impact in tackling this issue.

**Strategic Context**

The Committee recommends that additional content be added to this Section. Birmingham LSCB CSE Strategy 2015-17 detailed the following in its Strategic Context and it is recommended that these be included in the Cardiff document:

- A profile of children and young people in the area – numbers, ages, breakdown of ethnicity, numbers and percentages in school, achievements; NEETs etc.
- General overview of wards in the City, including numbers and percentages of children living in poverty and deprivation etc.
- Young people’s views - for example, children & young people’s perceptions of their neighbourhoods etc.; and
- Health – admissions of Under-18s to A&E, scale of mental health issues etc.

The Cardiff CSE Strategy Action Plan states a number of activities that could provide this context. The commitment to *“complete an audit of children’s services referrals and cases..... to identify the nature and prevalence of CSE in Cardiff” (by end December 2015)* should provide this, and it is therefore recommended that the relevant parts of these audit results be included in this part of the draft Strategy at this time, prior to consideration by Cabinet on the 10 March 2016.

## **What we know about CSE in Cardiff and how we will make sure we understand the scale of the problem**

Linked with the Strategic Context, we recommend the following be added to this Section:

Further details arising from the audit and other sources including:

- The numbers of children at risk and a breakdown of what category of risk (as per the SERAF framework)
- The ages of children at risk
- The ethnicity of those at risk
- Numbers of children classified as missing from school
- How many of those at risk are in the care of the Local Authority
- How many have plans in place
- How many Assessment meetings have taken place in the past 3 months
- Output of the mapping of existing services exercise (*as stated in the Action Plan as being completed by the end of January 2016*);
- Profile of ethnic groups, including any changes in demographics over the past five years;
- Indicators identified that could lead children to become “at risk” from CSE;
- Further detail needs to be made in relation to the Police “problem profile findings”, for example, “hotspots” identified – not just “where”, but numbers too; and a profile of the numbers of victims who have been identified as engaging in risky behaviour.
- Results/Findings of the Children’s Services Audit should be included at this juncture to clarify and back up the statement of *“early indication from this audit suggest an improving picture in terms of effective responses to CSE and real strength in terms of protecting Looked After Children from exposure to CSE”*.

## **Identifying and monitoring CSE**

Whilst we supported the intention of the commitment to working with multi-agency intelligence to identify and monitor CSE, terms such as “systematically” and “routinely” were used through this Section, with no indication of timescales. We recommend that the Strategy set out in clear terms **how** they will identify and monitor CSE, and **when** they will do this, using set timescales.

## **Raising Awareness, Identifying and Protecting Those who are Vulnerable**

We recommend that further detail (including supporting data) be added to this Section. In addition, arising from the Police Profile findings in a previous Section, where City Centre Hotspots had been specifically identified, the Committee felt that there was a need to engage with the City Centre Team to raise awareness and

educate across licensed premises, large chain restaurants, hotels etc. in tackling this issue, and this should be specified in this Section.

### **Supporting Victims to breakaway from CSE**

The Action Plan indicates that work on this commenced in January 2016, and it is therefore recommended that this Section be updated, prior to consideration by Cabinet, to support the statements in this Section.

### **How we will measure our Performance**

We recommend that *“progress on implementing this Strategy will be reviewed regularly”* be amended to *“progress on implementing this Strategy will be reviewed quarterly”*.

The Strategy and Action Plan do not specify how performance will be monitored or measured and recommend that performance indicators, targets and costs be added to the Action Plan. It is recommended that this be rectified at this stage to ensure that the Strategy is achievable, measurable and realistic in its expectations.

### **Our Plan to Implement this Strategy**

The draft Strategy states that terms of reference and governance arrangements will be presented to the LSCB and Vulnerable Children and Families Board in January 2016. We recommend that this Section be updated to reflect this, prior to consideration by Cabinet on the 10 March. The output from the LSCB and VC&FB presentations should be stated clearly within the Strategy, including governance arrangements across all agencies.

It is recommended that links to other key Plans and Strategies be included as part of the Strategy implementation.

There are also no details of which body will be holding the LSCB to account to ensure that the Strategy and Action Plan is being properly implemented, monitored and reviewed. As the major inquiries and serious case reviews revealed, the effectiveness of the LSCB is a critical element of managing CSE in an area. Therefore, it is recommended that these arrangements be explicitly stated in the Strategy document being considered by Cabinet on the 10 March.

### **Action Plan to implement the CSE Strategy**

This Committee recommends that this be updated, as some of the actions specified in the Plan should have been achieved and implemented by the date of this response and by the time it is considered by Cabinet in March. Where this is the case, this should be reflected in updates to the Strategy document and Plan.

Performance targets and measures should also be included in the Action Plan to ensure that a thorough and proper review of the Action Plan can be achieved in October 2016.

**Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee**

**16 February 2016**

**SWYDDFA'R DIRPRWY ARWEINYDD  
DEPUTY LEADER'S OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM33619

Eich Nghyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 1st March 2016

Councillor Richard Cook  
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Annwyl / Dear Richard

**CYP Scrutiny - Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Strategy**

Thank you for your letter of 16th February following the Task and Finish Group's consideration of the above, as endorsed by committee. Thank you also for Appendix A to your letter and the annotated version of sections of the draft strategy which officers will consider and take into account in due course, when revising the strategy.

Much as some of the committee's comments are clearly intended to strengthen the strategy, I am prompted to re-emphasise the nature of the current draft as a working document that enables us to establish a current position. As you will be aware I have made statements to Council on several occasions setting out my commitment to the establishment of a strategy and on ensuring that those at risk of CSE are protected.

However, as the covering report clearly explains, agencies in Wales are facing a very fluid national policy context which is also complicated by the lack of a clear multi-agency picture in any given region concerning prevalence, location, impact or response coordination. Whilst this does not mean that the picture is static or that agencies are failing to work together to address these inherent challenges, it does mean that our strategies need to strike a balance between providing an effective initial platform on the one hand but allowing a degree of revision and amendment as our understanding and attack strengthens. The dilemma we have faced is whether to wait until we 'have all the facts' and have complete coherence, or resolve a position from which we can strengthen our understanding and build and design effective responses. It remains my view that this latter approach is more appropriate to the issues we appear to be facing in Cardiff.

I am puzzled by the suggestion that members believe that "additional data and information that should be available at this juncture" should be added to the **ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO:**

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strategy. Clearly if the data existed there would be no reason not to include it and we would have done so. As the report clearly advises (para 7), the lack of coherent data is precisely the fundamental issue that the Welsh Government is also seeking to address by virtue of its "CSE Data Collection Pilot" with which we are engaged. Given that this exercise is not due to be completed it is difficult to see how the outputs could be incorporated at this point. Now that the report is to be considered by cabinet at a later date than intended at the time of drafting officers will of course take any opportunity to update it appropriately.

Similar considerations apply to the question of performance measures, targets and costs although it would be interesting to know what committee understands or suggests in this regard.

I am not entirely clear what is meant by 'explicit references to governance and lines of accountability' and perhaps colleagues could clarify what it is they believe is needed here? I am aware that we have previously discussed the accountability of the LSCB in committee and that you have been advised that as a statutory body the LSCB is not accountable to any specific authority in itself. Each of its constituent member agencies is in turn accountable to its respective agency or authority and to relevant regulators. In this sense the Director of Social Services has accountability for the Council's safeguarding arrangements, including Cardiff's contribution to the LSCB and he reports to Cabinet and scrutiny on this basis accordingly; CSSIW meanwhile also subjects those arrangements to regulatory scrutiny. It is important to understand however, that in addition, the Council, like other bodies, also owes accountability for the effectiveness of its safeguarding practice, to the LSCB. This does not mean that the LSCB is not open to challenge by others or that the Board is unwilling to advise Cardiff's scrutiny members.

Finally in relation to your comments about links to other plans and strategies I acknowledge that more explicit reference to the Corporate Plan would be helpful but would also wish to reiterate the report's advice about the emergent nature of national, regional and commissioner driven plans and strategies. So again this is a fluid context which the strategy endeavours to take into account.

I hope that this goes some way to clarifying the approach being taken by partners in Cardiff, in concert with the LSCB, to make sure that we have a coherent starting point from which to strengthen prevention and intervention in relation to CSE in Cardiff.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



**Councillor / Cynghorydd Sue Lent**  
**Deputy Leader / Dirprwy Arweinydd**  
**Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Families**  
**Aelod Cabinet Dros Y Blynyddoedd Cynnar, Plant a Theuluoedd**