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Date 11 January 2017

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

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you, Tony Young, Director of Social Services, and Denis Moriarty for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 10 January to present the **Draft Cabinet report on Direct Payments for Vulnerable People**. During the way forward section of the meeting the Members considered the information in the report, together with answers to their questions, and agreed to provide you with the following recommendations for consideration prior to Cabinet approving the report.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the Draft Cabinet report prior to its consideration at Cabinet on 19 January 2017. The Members were pleased to hear that almost 200 children are being supported through the Direct Payments system.

The Members did however express some concern around the governance and dispute resolution processes within the current system and recommended that the new contract must set out clearly the governance and responsibility arrangements for all parties as well as including a comprehensive dispute resolution process.

The Committee also expressed concern that the current contract currently offers two separate hourly rates, which did not meet the current Foundation living wage. The Committee therefore recommended that the Cabinet must be provided with the option to ensure that all people employed through the Direct Payments system received the Foundation living wages of £8.45 per hour, as set out in Council Policy.

Finally, the Committee requested that a progress report on the implementation of the contract and operation of the new direct payments support service for Children & Young people be provided to the committee one year after the contract has been signed.

I hope that these comments, advice and requests for information will be of use and support in improving outcomes for vulnerable children. The Committee looks forward to receiving a response to this letter before the cabinet meeting on 19 January 2017.

Yours sincerely

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

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

CC: Tony Young, Director of Children's Services
Melanie Jackson - Personal Assistant to Deputy Leader
Denise Moriarty, Strategic Planning Lead Manager