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Date 21 July 2017

My Ref SS/CYP/MJH

Councillor Graham Hinchey
Cabinet Member for Children and Families
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Graham

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you, Tony Young, Director of Social Services, and Officers for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 19 July to present the **Draft Cabinet report on Families First Recommissioning**.

The Committee welcomed the opportunity to review the draft Cabinet Report prior to its consideration at Cabinet on 27 July 2017. 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 comments, concerns and recommendations for consideration prior to Cabinet approving the report.

The Committee expressed some concern that the timeline was both ambitious and complex. The Members requested that the Committee should be kept informed of the progress being made on recommissioning Families First.

The Committee also raised concerns about the promotion of Families First services across the City. The Committee recommended that a communications strategy be developed to ensure that everyone is aware of the services, support and access arrangements for Families First.

The Committee expressed its grave concern that the Council was entering into 4 year contracts to the value of £5M each year, although the Welsh Government was only committing to annual budget announcements. The Committee recommended that this be taken into account in all contracts for Families First.

The Committee did consider that the option appraisal documentation attached to the report needed to be more transparent and if possible independently assessed in future.

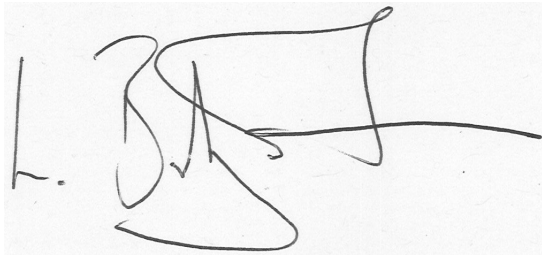
Finally, the Committee agreed to include the consideration of progress reports on Families First in its work programme for the next year.

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 27 July 2017.

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

- Further briefings on the progress being made in recommissioning Families First;
- To present to Committee the draft Communication Strategy for Families First;
- Confirmation that the contracts will reference, the possibility of funding being withdrawn during the 4 Year period;
- That future options appraisals are transparent and independently assessed; and
- Provide regular progress reports throughout the 4 years on outcomes from Families First.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN
Chairperson – Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

CC: Tony Young, Director of Children's Services
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger
Chantel Abel – Assistant to the Cabinet member
Angela Bourge – O M - Resources
Ceri George - Improvement Project Manager - Prevention and Partnerships