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Date 20 November 2017

My Ref SS/CYP/MJH

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

Dear Graham

The Committee was disappointed to receive your apologies for the meeting on 14 November, but understood that you were unable to attend this Committee meeting.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank Tony Young, Director of Social Services, Angela Bourge, Operational Manager Resources and Ceri George, Improvement Project manager, Prevention and Partnerships for your attendance to present the **Families First Annual Review 2016/17**

The Committee was extremely impressed with the work that the Annual Review report highlighted. Members were specifically impressive is the partnership working, the clear monitoring of the packages and presentation of outcomes achieved. Members noted the clear positive impact across all packages. Finally the Committee wished to thank all the staff for their hard work in ensuring that Families First is a success.

Following the question and answer session the Committee raise a number of issues for the future operation of Families First, namely:

- That the loss of funding of 11% last year had clearly impacted on engagement across all the programmes, the Committee wished to recommend that appropriate actions are undertaken to minimise the impact of reduced funding on engagement;
- Members noted that Families who need support were being directed to two help lines. The Family Information Service and the Families First Freephone service. The Committee considered this to be confusing and a duplication of resources. Members recommended that the two help line services should be merged.
- That providers will have to be informed of the future of each scheme, as soon as possible, to enable them to complete their work with Clients, organise hand overs with new providers, and inform staff of their future.

Finally the Committee discussed at some length the Education Directorate and Schools involvement in the Parenting and Youth Support service programmes. The Members

expressed some concern that funding was being linked to Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) funding (5%). The Members commented that PDG funding must only be used to improve attainment of pupils EFSM or Looked After Children. Members also commented that the level of PDG defers across Cardiff Schools which would result in different levels of Families First funding across the schools. The Committee recommended that the use of the PDG funding formula should only be used as an indication of funding levels and not part of the actual resources.

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

- Recommended that appropriate actions are undertaken to minimise the impact of reduced funding on engagement;
- Recommended that the two help line services should be merged
- that providers will have to be informed of the future of each scheme, as soon as possible, to enable them to complete their work with Clients, organise hand overs with new providers, and inform staff of their future
- recommended that PDG funding formula should only be used as an indication off the level of resources needed to provide the Parenting and Youth Support service

I hope that these comments, advice and recommendations will be of use and support in improving outcomes for Families First. The Committee looks forward to receiving a formal response within the next month

Yours sincerely

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

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

CC: Tony Young, Director of Social Service
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger
Angela Bourge, Operational Manager Resources
Ceri George, Improvement Project manager, Prevention and Partnerships