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Date 15 December 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, and Irfan Alam, Assistant Director Children's Services for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 12 December 2017 to present the **Children's Services Quarter Two Performance report**.

The Committee noted the performance information included in the report and agreed that this quarter's data was not showing any clear improvement, and was not that different to previous reports. The Members also considered that many of the issues they were going to raise had been raised before and that they expected that they would receive similar responses.

Members explained that they were not going to ask any specific questions on the performance data, but would seek a different format of report, for the next quarter which highlighted the improvements being made.

During the way forward section of the meeting the Members considered the information in the report, and agreed that the format of future reports should be amended to include additional monitoring information, from which the Committee can assess the Directorates progress in addressing the challenges and risks that it is facing.

In respect of this additional monitoring information the Committee identified four key areas for future monitoring, namely:

- Recruitment and retention of children's social workers
- Performance in relation to the timeliness of assessments
- The percentage of looked after children returned home from care during the year
- The percentage of social worker vacancies and number and cost of resultant agency staff

The Committee is particularly interested in receiving the following information for each of the above points:

- The current position
- The trend over the past five years
- The management target and how it was calculated
- The current management actions to improve current performance
- The expected future quarterly improvements

In addition the Committee would also be pleased to receive details of the budgetary implications of the projected growth in the number of children who are looked after for this year and the years covered by the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

The Committee looks forward to receiving the additional monitoring information in addition to the next and future quarterly performance reports for Children's services.

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 Children's Services  
Jo Watkins – Cabinet Business Manger  
Irfan Alam – Assistant Director for Children's Services