

Date 8 March 2017

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Councillor Sue Lent
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Families, Children and Early Years
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
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CF10 4UW

Dear Sue

I am sorry that you were not able to attend the last meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 7 March 2017. I would however like to thank Tony Young and Jan Cole for their presentation of the **Child Sexual Exploitation progress report and the Quarter 3 Performance Information..** During the consideration of the reports and answers to Members' questions, the Committee asked me to write to you providing the following comments.

Child Sexual Exploitation progress report

The Committee welcomed the excellent work that Social Services had undertaken to ensure that the recommendations of the committees' Task and Finish report had been implemented. The Committee noted that the Directorate had been successful in attracting additional funding for next year. The Members therefore look forward to receiving further progress reports on the work that the CSE team will be undertaking.

Quarter 3 Performance Information

The Committee noted the sustained improvement in many of the performance indicators and wished to ask that you pass on the Committee's thanks to the Directorate's staff for all their hard work in improving performance across the service. The Committee however expressed concern that some of the performance indicators had shown a small decline.

Members focused their questions around the recruitment and retention of social workers, as the vacancy level was still at over 20%. Members understand the difficulties in recruiting social workers, but wished to inform you that they will recommend that the future Committee continue to monitor the level of staff vacancies, sickness and the recruitment and retention initiatives.

Yours sincerely

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

CC: Tony Young, Director of Children's Services
Jan Cole - Interim Lead Manager CSE