

**My Ref:** AUD/DJK/JB  
**Your Ref:**  
**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015



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Councillor Sue Lent  
Cabinet Member, Early Years, Children & Families  
The City of Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Atlantic Wharf  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW

Dear Councillor Lent

### **Re. Internal Audit - Children's Directorate – Safeguarding & Review**

At the Audit Committee meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015, Members received an Executive Summary report to a follow-up audit in Children's Services entitled "Safeguarding & Review". A copy of the Executive report is attached.

This reported an improved position from the previous audit, but the findings still provided only limited assurance, due to risks, primarily relating to incomplete records and process delays. The report set out 12 recommendations for management to consider.

This raised concern amongst Members of the Audit Committee and as a result the pair of us met on 20 February to consider our respective roles in addressing the serious issues that the report raises.

At this meeting we agreed that the continuing risks to the safety of vulnerable young people, for whom the Council has a responsibility, were such that we should refer the matter to you and your Executive colleagues, bringing this report to your attention and, given the significant risks highlighted, seeking assurances these matters will be addressed.

We have noted the efforts to enhance the control environment and implement the Audit recommendations, as well as the commitment to mitigate the associated risks, but we are not persuaded that it will be possible to satisfactorily address all the audit concerns within the resources currently available.

Whilst we do acknowledge that steps are being taken to address these issues now, given their seriousness, it is particularly important that some time-lines should be set by when the improved controls that are needed will be put in place.



We agreed that the Scrutiny Committee would continue to monitor this matter through regular contact with Directorate Management, and that the Audit Committee will continue to receive Internal Audit reports. It is thus important that both Chairs should continue to be informed of developments in this area.

We look forward to learning how you propose to address our Committees' concerns. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Sir Jon Shortridge**  
**Chairperson, Audit Committee**



**Councillor Richard Cook**  
**Chairperson, Children & Young**  
**People Scrutiny Committee**

Enc. Executive Summary Report

cc. Paul Orders, Chief Executive  
Christine Salter, Corporate Director Resources  
Tony Young, Director Children Services  
Marie Rosenthal, County Clerk & Monitoring Officer  
Derek King / Bob Jones, Audit Manager