

Date: 17 March 2021

My Ref: SS/CYP/CPSPD



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Neuadd y Sir  
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Councillor Graham Hinchey  
Cabinet Member for Children & Families

Councillor Sarah Merry  
Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee

Dear Graham and Sarah,

### **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 MARCH 2021 – CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY**

Please accept my thanks for attending the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to facilitate the consideration of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. Please also pass on our thanks to Deborah Driffield and Jade Harrison. The comments, observations and recommendations below were captured during the Committee's discussion at the Way Forward.

#### Care Leavers aged 16+

Members asked a number of questions in relation to young people aged 16 plus who were on the edge of care or leaving care. We particularly raised issues regarding whether those placed out of county were not proportionately disadvantaged in this case. We share yours and officers concerns for this particular age group.

We accepted the responses received on this issue, but would be interested in receiving further data and information. Therefore, we request that we be provided with data relating to the numbers of young people being brought back into the area on leaving care as a percentage of all those being placed out of county. We would also appreciate some examples of the types of support and interventions available for young people who are being brought back into Cardiff and some further information in relation to how you intend to expand support for this group in retaining them in the area, and what this will look like.

## Building relationships with Social workers

We asked you whether you felt there were any concerns regarding the commitment for young people to build trusted relationships with social workers was achievable, and Deborah kindly offered to provide us with a report on numbers of changes of social worker per young person, and we would welcome this report as soon as possible.

## Substance Misuse

Members asked questions on whether substance misuse amongst children looked after was a significant issue. We agreed that it was likely not to be the sole reason and substance misuse issues may also be a wider family issue for the young person. However, we would like to gain a better understanding of this issue and would therefore request data on the number of children in our care that have substance misuse problems, and any further information on the reasons for this.

## Personal Education Plans

Members of the Committee requested clarification on the numbers of personal education plans available for young people, particularly in relation to the Strategy stating 70% of young people having plans, with Committee Members enquiring as to why every young person didn't have one. It was agreed that a report on PEPs would be provided, and again, we would appreciate this coming forward to us as soon as possible.

To recap, the Committee **is requesting:**

## Care Leavers aged 16+

- Data relating to the numbers of young people being brought back into the area on leaving care as a percentage of all those being placed out of county;
- Examples of the types of support and interventions available for young people being brought back into Cardiff; and
- Further information in relation to how you intend to expand the support for this group in retaining them in the area, and what this will look like.

Building Relationships with Social Workers - a report on numbers of changes of social worker per young person.

Substance misuse - data on the number of children in our care that have substance misuse problems, and any further information on the reasons for this.

Personal Education Plans – a report on PEPs be provided

There are no formal recommendations arising from this letter.

Once again, on behalf of the Committee, please pass my sincere thanks to all who attended Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee. I look forward to a response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', written over a light grey rectangular background.

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

CC: CYPSC Members  
Deborah Driffield, Director of Children's Services  
Jade Harrison, Operational Manager for Service Improvement & Strategy  
Joanne Watkins - Cabinet Officer Manager  
Melanie Jackson, Cabinet Support Office  
Alison Taylor, Cabinet Support Office  
Kim Thorpe, PA to the Director of Children's Services