

Date: 18 May 2021

My Ref: SS/CYP/YJSUpdate – May 2021



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

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

Dear Graham,

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 11 MAY 2021 – YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE UPDATE

Please accept my thanks for attending the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to update the Committee on the Youth Justice Service (YJS). Please also pass on our thanks to Graham Robb, Paul Orders, Deborah Driffield and Angharad Thomas. The comments, observations and recommendations below were captured during the Committee's discussion at the Way Forward.

Overall, the Committee noted the progress made in relation to the YJS and acknowledged the scale of change required. The Committee will continue to support Cabinet Members, senior officers and those in front line services, and will monitor and review improvements in relation to all areas of the Service.

Meeting with Young People

As you will be aware, prior to the formal Committee meeting, Members met with young people who have had involvement with the Youth Justice Service. Whilst we only met with three young people on this occasion, we were very impressed with their openness and honesty about their experiences, and we have agreed to continue to link with them to gauge their views and suggestions for improvement. We would like to reiterate our thanks to Nick Corrigan and Joseph Lloyd who did a great job in facilitating the session for us. I will send a joint letter with Graham Robb to thank the young people for their time and our appreciation for meeting with us. I will ensure you receive a copy.

Engagement and Evidence Gathering

The Committee remains committed to ensuring that robust evidence and engagement to inform improvements going forward is a priority.

We would welcome some further detail on the nature of the evidence the Service will be seeking to demonstrate the impact of the Service's work. Having met with young people affected by the Service, working with young people and their families to influence the way forward will be critical, so we request that you provide details on how the Service intends to address this, and what weight will be placed on the views of young people and their families in determining next steps and improvements.

Partnerships and Joined up working

Members noted the responses received in relation to partnership working, but would wish to receive further evidence of how successful and joined up it is. Members flagged up that the self-assessment against the HMIP criteria (as set out in the update provided to the Committee) scored a relatively low mark in this area. They also picked up similar scores on the extent to which the staff were aware of the partnership.

Therefore, the Committee seeks reassurance that effective partnership and joined-up working is being addressed, and an idea of the progress being made in joining up the work of the different partners, as it appears that some parts of the partnership are stronger than others.

To this end, we would like to invite a number of partners to our meeting on the 13th July 2021 to update us on this. This will be 12 months since their initial commitment to the partnership and "All Our Futures" Strategy, so will be a fitting time for them to do so. Please could officers provide a contact list of YJ partners (at both strategic and operational level) and I will task the scrutiny officer to work with your officers to arrange this.

Funding and Resources

The Committee discussed funding and resourcing of the YJS following feedback from the young person session, who had called for more services and activities for young people to do. Therefore Members agreed that they would wish to receive a detailed breakdown of the budget for the Service. We agreed that this should include income (including contributions from partners); expenditure for the service (including staffing) etc. We agree to receive this on a confidential basis and will ensure that this will not be made public – please provide on a separate sheet to this letter.

Staffing

Members have previously raised the issue of staffing and the service review of the YJS. We understand and appreciate the sensitivity and confidentiality of such information and that this should not be discussed in a public meeting.

We support the intention of a service review, and would welcome some inclusion in this review, but to work with you in a closed environment, as we did earlier in the year on receipt of the letter from HMIP. Members would initially wish to receive some information on the following:

- Objectives of the restructure and intended outcomes
- Has consultation commenced on this?

Once we have established the above, we would request a closed session (or number of sessions), where we would like to receive the following:

- Sight of the consultation paper
- Outputs from the consultation
- When new structure has been agreed – a session on this, including comparing the current structure with the new structure

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

1. Further detail on the nature of the evidence the Service will be seeking to demonstrate the impact of the Service's work. We also request details on how the Service intends to engage with young people and their families, and what weight will be placed on these views in determining next steps and improvements.
2. A contact list of Youth Justice Partners (at both strategic and operational level) to enable us to invite a number to our July meeting.
3. A detailed breakdown of the budget for the Service. This should include income (including contributions from partners); expenditure for the service (including staffing) etc. We agree to receive this on a confidential basis and will ensure that this will not be made public – please provide on a separate sheet to this letter.
4. Information relating to the objectives of the staffing review/restructure and intended outcomes; and whether a consultation has commenced on this? As with the budget information, we agree to receive this information on a

confidential basis and will ensure that this will not be made public -- please provide on a separate sheet to this letter.

5. Agreement that once we have established the point 4 above, we will arrange a closed session (or number of sessions), where we would like to receive the following:
- Sight of the consultation paper
 - Outputs from the consultation
 - When new structure has been agreed – a session on this, including comparing the current structure with the new structure

As with the budget information, we agree to receive this information on a confidential basis and will ensure that this will not be made public -- please provide on a separate sheet to this letter.

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
Paul Orders, Chief Executive
Graham Robb, Independent Chair, Youth Justice Board
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People and Communities
Deborah Driffield, Director of Children's Services
Angharad Thomas, OM, Youth Justice Service
Nick Corrigan, Youth Justice Service
Joseph Lloyd, Youth Justice Service
Rhian Jones, PA to the Chief Executive
Liz Williams/Debra Willis, PA to the Corporate Director
Alison Taylor, Cabinet Support Office
Kim Thorpe, PA to the Director of Children's Services