

Date: 3 July 2023

My Ref: CYP/YJS_Q4/June23



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

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

EXTRACT

Councillor Ash Lister
Cabinet Member for Social Services (Children's)
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
CARDIFF
CF10 4UW

Dear Ash,

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2023 – YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE UPDATE AND 2022/23 Q4 PERFORMANCE

Please accept my thanks on behalf of the Committee for attending the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to provide us with an update on the Youth Justice Service. Please also pass on our thanks to Angharad Thomas and Sarah Skuse.

The comments, observations and recommendations below were captured during the Committee's discussion at the Way Forward.

YJS Update

We wish to reiterate our thanks in relation to the report submitted to committee Members ahead of the meeting. As we stated at the meeting, directly addressing issues raised at March meeting letter was very useful, and we would request that this approach continue going forward. This would mean that no formal response to YJS issues is required (unless otherwise stated), but addressed in the quarterly updates, which we have agreed we would wish to continue to receive.

During our discussions with you and during the way forward, we agreed that we would wish to meet with the new Chair of the Youth Justice Board at our next meeting with you, which will be the 10 October 2023. Please could Angharad email Alison the Chair's contact details, so that we can ensure that he is formally invited to the meeting.

During the meeting, we asked a number of questions on the following issues and were satisfied with the responses:

- Attendance at school – pre and post Covid pandemic data
- Confidence on the operation and sustainability of demands on the service
- Whether evaluations of the projects set out in the YJS Update were being undertaken
- Whether evaluations include looking at best practice in this area
- Exclusions, particularly fixed term, and whether there were sufficient resources, a collective approach and sharing of information on this.

In the next update, please could you provide details on the following:

- Arising from questions on exclusions, Members were informed that data was available on exclusions; and we would request that, in partnership with Education colleagues, reporting on exclusions be added to the quarterly updates. Initially, Members would welcome an overall picture/profile of the situation, but also include the following:
 - Comparative data of exclusions for those in the YJS against the general school population, including the average number of days in relation to fixed term exclusions;
 - Number of pupils excluded (reported by YJS against the general population) and some data on how many of these are excluded a number of times
 - What proportion of young people within the remit of YJS have an additional learning need
 - What is the school attendance of young people within the remit of YJS compared with the general school population.
- You mentioned whilst discussing exclusions that a piece of work was being undertaken around exclusions, knife crime and other related issues. Please could you inform us on who is undertaking/leading this study, and either provide a copy of the output report (if available) or an indication of when it is likely to be available for this scrutiny committee to have a copy.
- During the Way Forward, Members raised the issue of diversionary activities proposed for the summer academic break for this cohort. Members will be considering summer provision generally at the Committee's July meeting. However, Members would welcome some information/reflection on the success/impact of diversionary summer activities for young people in the YJS at your next update in October.

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

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

Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People and Communities

Deborah Driffield, Director of Children's Services

Angharad Thomas, Operational Manager, YJS

Sarah Skuse, Operational Manager – Assessment and Care Planning

Liz Williams/Debra Willis, PA to the Corporate Director

Jennifer Goss, Cabinet Support Office

Kim Thorpe, PA to the Director of Children's Services