

**SWYDDFA'R DIRPRWY ARWEINYDD
DEPUTY LEADER'S OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM33128

Eich Nghyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 27th January 2016

Councillor Mary McGarry
Cardiff County Council
County Hall
Atlantic Wharf
Butetown
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



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

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

Annwyl / Dear Mary

**Scruinty - Joint Children & Young People And Community & Adult Services
Scrutiny - 17 December 2015 - Cssiw Evaluation**

Thank you for your letter of 21st December following our attendance with officers to hear the presentation by CSSIW of their Annual Evaluation of Social Services 2014/15.

Please note as a preliminary that it is important to apply the correct nomenclature and that the term is 'Social Services' not as indicated in your letter 'Social Care'. Whilst this is a generic term which many of us use in a variety of settings it is in fact somewhat broader and less specific than 'social services'. This is important in the context of the report that was considered by committee because it relates to the very clearly defined statutory duties and functions of the Director of Social Services in Wales; his discharge of those specific duties in Cardiff; his Annual Report assessment of performance in relation to those duties; and the Annual Performance Evaluation by CSSIW of Social Services in Cardiff.

We very much welcome your recognition of the positive comments from CSSIW concerning improvements being made.

We note your comments concerning the committee's desire for an update against the 'Areas for Improvement' and feel that this is appropriately addressed in our response to your first recommendation as set out below.

In relation to the committee's consideration of the issues covered in the CSSIW report overall and your recommendations in particular, we would respond as follows:-

1. **Recommendation concerning an action plan.** The established practice in relation to this issue is for all 'Areas for Improvement' to be incorporated into the Directorate Business Plan for the forthcoming year where relevant. This has worked effectively in each of the last two years and CSSIW have, as reported, been satisfied that the 'Areas for Improvement' raised in the 2012/2013 and

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO:

Swyddfa'r Dirprwy Arweinydd, Ystafell 525, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, Caerdydd CF10 4UW
Ffôn (029) 2087 2501
Deputy Leader's Office, Room 525, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4UW
Tel (029) 2087 2501



2013/14 evaluations were addressed satisfactorily as a result. The Director does not see value in preparing a separate action plan to deal with the 'Areas for Improvement' only, particularly when there are also parallel improvement plans in place in both adults and children's services already; taken together with the existing business plan, these plans address themselves to those issues. To prepare yet another plan that would require separate monitoring activity is simple not efficient and moreover would require additional attention and draw on already limited management capacity. We would also emphasise that the committee will also have a full opportunity to scrutinise the Directorate Business Plan and the extent to which it effectively addresses the 'Areas for Improvement' , when the Directorate Business Plan is considered by Scrutiny in March.

2. **Provision of SSWB Act Briefings** - this is agreed.
3. **Further Information - Personal Education Plans** – this is agreed.
4. **Recruitment of Personal Advisors** – further information following the investigation of this concern; this is agreed.
5. **Further Information on the Review of Direct Payments Contract** – this is agreed
6. **Request to clarify roles and responsibilities re Prevention** – this is agreed
7. **Provision of Information – Vega Watches** – this is agreed.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely



Cllr / Cynghorydd Sue Lent
Deputy Leader / Dirprwy Arweinydd
Cabinet Member for Early Years,
Children & Families
Aelod Cabinet Dros Y Blynyddoedd Cynnar,
Plant a Theuluoedd



Cllr / Cynghorydd Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member for Health,
Housing & Wellbeing
Aelod Cabinet dros Iechyd, Tai a
Lles