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Date 14 March 2019

My Ref SS/CYP/MJH

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

Dear Graham

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank you, and Deborah Driffield, Interim Assistant Director Children's Services for attending the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 12 March 2019 to present the **Children's Services Quarter Three Performance report**.

The Committee welcomed the new format and content of the performance report and considered it much easier to read and understand.. The Members wished to thank the Officers for their honest approach to what was a poor set of performance data for quarter three.

During the way forward section of the meeting the Members considered the information in the report, and expressed some concern at the low level of kinship placements, and they noted that work was being undertaken to investigate the reasons. The Committee, however, requested that Officers provide a briefing of the outcome from their investigations and the actions to improve the level of kinship placements.

In addition a member queried a comment in the Well-being Objective 1.4 which stated that *"There is a considerable risk of attrition from the social care sector in the lead up to registration and this action is an amber risk recognising the scale of the work to do"* The Committee noted that officers would provide an explanation for the statement in your response to this letter.

The Committee was please to hear of the many plans being put in place to improve a number of areas which are causing concern, such as the review of MASH, recruitment and retention of social workers, a Council run agency, and an improved exit interview process to capture concerns. Members requested that the Directorate provide an additional papers, with each quarterly performance report, summarising the progress being made on each of the improvement projects.

I hope that these comments, advice and requests for future reports, will be of use and support in improving outcomes for children. The Committee looks forward to receiving a response to this letter within the next month.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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

CC: Claire Marchant, Director of Children's Services  
Deborah Driffield – Interim Assistant Director for Children's Services