

Children's Services Improvement Board

Welcome to the first Improvement Board monthly briefing providing information about the work of the board within the county council.

The Board was commissioned by the Welsh Local Government Association following the Care and Social Service Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) report of Children's Services with former Swansea City Council chief executive Jack Straw as independent chair.

Improvement Board members includes Geoff Burrows, a former local authority cabinet member for social care, Phil Hodgson, a former Director of Social Services and Rachel Thomas, representative of the Children's Commissioner's Office.

The Board is independent of the council and has the dual function of making sure the authority has a suitable improvement plan in place and that it is making progress implementing the improvement work – a revised improvement plan is due to be submitted to CSSIW in January – and helping deliver improvement across the council as a whole. The council is due to provide an update to Welsh Government by the end of the month.

Although independent of the council, the Leader, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Chief Executive, Director of Social Services, Director of Education, Head of Children's Services, other officers and partners attend when required.

The Board is looking at all aspects of the council's corporate and service plans and will look at key areas in-depth, these include workforce development, leadership, practice, placement, fostering and much more. Their work is currently focussing on fostering and will then review early intervention.

The work of the Improvement Board is separate from the corporate review being undertaken by Sean Harris following the council's request to Welsh Government for support. However, the reviews are complimentary and their findings will be brought together to strengthen the county council's future operations.

Monthly briefings will be publicised following meetings of the Improvement Board.

If you have any questions or require more information about the work of the Improvement Board please email: socialcarematters@powys.gov.uk

Jack Straw
Improvement Board Chair