

## Scrutiny Committee B

1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

<b>Children's Scrutiny Group</b>
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<b>Purpose of Report:</b> Progress report
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Since the last planned meeting of Scrutiny Committee B on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 the following work has been undertaken:

14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Safeguarding

The outcome letter from this meeting is attached at Appendix A.

The response to the outcome letter is attached at Appendix B.

15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – jointly with Adults Scrutiny – PPD

The outcome letter from this meeting is attached at Appendix C.

The response to the outcome letter is attached at Appendix D.

8<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – Governance and Performance

The outcome letter from this meeting is in preparation.

Scrutiny Visits

Scrutiny Members have been matched with Children's Services teams and Members have been given contact details to arrange mutually convenient dates for their visits.

**Work Programme**

15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	10.00 – 12.30	Geoff Burrows – Imp Board Rep LAC - Fostering Service and Out of County Placements - numbers and costs
19 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00 – 12.30	Assessment compliance and quality assurance framework (audit findings, KPIs, Service User and Carer feedback)
2 <sup>nd</sup> May	2.00-4.00	ACRF (Annual Report of Director of Social Services)
24 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 – 12.30	Early Intervention and Prevention
28 <sup>th</sup> June	1.30 –	Monitoring Improvement Plan

	4.00	
18 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 – 12.30	Complaints monitoring

**Report contact:** Liz Patterson, Scrutiny Officer  
**Contact details:** 01597 826980, elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk  
**Sources/background papers:**

**Membership:**

County Councillors: **D Rowlands** (Lead Member)  
A Jenner, J Gibson-Watt, D Jones, K Laurie-Parry, S. McNicholas and P Roberts,  
County Councillor R Williams  
Parent Governor Representatives Mrs A. Davies and Mrs S Davies

## APPENDIX A

### Atebwch os gwelwch yn dda /Please reply to:

Gwasanaethau Craffu / Scrutiny Services  
Cyngor Sir Powys County Council  
Neuadd y Sir/ County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

To Councillor Rachel Powel Portfolio Holder  
for Children's, Youth, Libraries and Leisure  
Services

E-bost/Email: [elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk)

Dyddiad/Date: 22 January 2018

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Children's Scrutiny Group to the Cabinet Member for Children's, Youth, Libraries and Leisure Services following the meeting of the Panel on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017. It covers Children's Safeguarding.

Dear Councillor Powell

The Scrutiny Group met on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and looked at the draft Cabinet Safeguarding quarter two update which was taken to Cabinet on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018. We would like to thank David Johnston and Sharon Powell for their attendance and involvement in the scrutiny session.

The meeting considered the report in depth and welcomed the opportunity for this pre-Cabinet scrutiny. The group noted that the report was in a new format to previous reports and welcomed the additional detail given in certain areas. The group did note that there were some areas which lacked clarity and made a number of suggestions which it is hoped will address this. The group also made observations on other matters which were raised during the course of the discussion. The recommendations of the group are outlined below:

### Quarterly Safeguarding Report

- That the quarterly safeguarding reports cover the three month period to which the quarter relates but that where available more up to date information is provided in addition
- That in respect of those children on the Child Protection register not receiving their required 10 day visits the number of children not in receipt of a visit every 10 days and the extent of the delay to the visits is detailed within the quarterly safeguarding report
- That the table of ages of children registered and de-registered within the safeguarding report is reworded for clarity

*It is noted that the January report to Cabinet was not changed in light of the scrutiny meeting and therefore it is requested that the Quarter 3 report not only incorporates recommendations 2 and 3 but returns to report on the whole of quarter 2 (to enable the July figures to be recorded). This will enable a return to proper quarterly reporting of this area.*

### Children's Services Performance Monitoring

- That the measures provided to all Members are recorded on a monthly rather than quarterly basis to allow for closer tracking of performance
- That Children's Scrutiny receive on a monthly basis the 10 measures with narrative that are being prepared for the Improvement Board.

## Member Training

- **That Member training on Domestic Violence be arranged**
- **That the training being arranged with Ian Botterill be made available to scrutiny members**

## Scrutiny

- **That the Member representative on the Improvement Board be invited to meet with the Children's Scrutiny Group**
- **That a visit be arranged to view scrutiny in practice in a neighbouring authority**
- **That visits for Members of Children's Scrutiny to Children's Services be arranged**

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your views on any of the issues raised and would be grateful for a formal response in respect of Recommendations 1 through to 7. Recommendations 8-10 are being followed up by the scrutiny team.

Yours sincerely

*Daniel Rowlands*

Councillor Daniel Rowlands  
Lead Members Children's Scrutiny Group  
cllr.daniel.rowlands@powys.gov.uk

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Cllr R Powell response to Outcome letter Safeguarding 14 December 2017**

In view to the quarterly reports, it is clear that our data has certainly improved and it is recognised that the overall review of statistics from the past 3 months is certainly helpful, as a reference for current performance. I will reinforce this request. The Children who are on the CPR register whom are not receiving their statutory visits on time, require a 'narrative' or rather the 'variable' and reasoning why this has not happened as a form of reference. The request and clarity of ages in view to registration and de-registration recordings, is noted.

In view to domestic violence training, it is hoped that all members have undertaken the VAWDASC training but, also noted that on-going training is required. I have forwarded on an email contact for Swansea, for members and PCC staff, to observe and overlook scrutiny but, I also understand that Ian Bottrill can also provide some guidance for authorities of good practice.

I would like to thank you and all members of the scrutiny committee for your recommendations and insight.

### **Scrutiny update to Outcome letter Safeguarding 14 December 2017**

#### Member Training:

Rec 6 Online Domestic Violence Training undertaken by some Members. County Council will consider whether this will be part of the mandatory training sessions on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018. How this is presented will be agreed after the Council meeting.

Rec 7 Mandatory Scrutiny Training with Ian Botterill has been arranged for 5<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

#### Scrutiny

Rec 8 Geoff Burrows from the Improvement Board will attend Children's Scrutiny on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Rec 9 Work is ongoing to find a suitable date

Rec 10 Members of Children's Scrutiny have indicated preferences and this has been passed to the service for the visits to be arranged

## APPENDIX C

### Atebwch os gwelwch yn dda /Please reply to:

Gwasanaethau Craffu / Scrutiny Services  
Cyngor Sir Powys County Council  
Neuadd y Sir/ County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

To: Councillor Stephan Hayes (Portfolio Holder for Adults Services) Rachel Powell (Portfolio Holder for Children's, Youth, Libraries and Leisure Services) and Mark Barnes (Chair of Employment Committee)

*E-bost/Email:* elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk  
*Dyddiad/Date:* 22 January 2018

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Joint Adults and Children's Scrutiny Group to the Cabinet Members for Adults Services and Children's, Youth, Libraries and Leisure Services following the meeting of the Joint Scrutiny Group on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018. It covers Powys People Direct (PPD), the first point of contact for both Adults and Children's Services.

Dear Councillors Hayes and Powell

The Scrutiny Group met on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 starting with a visit to the recently relocated Powys People Direct service in County Hall and then receiving presentations from both Adults and Children's Services on PPD. We would like to thank Jen Jefferys, Karen Arthur, Kate Light, David Johnston, Kellie Wood and Lesley Hill for their attendance and involvement in the scrutiny session.

Members took the opportunity to ask questions on both the adults and children's first point of contact and welcomed the updates that had been provided and the work that had been done and was planned regarding both parts of the service. The group observed that the name Powys People Direct did not particularly well describe the first point of contact that the service provided for both adults and children's and that when the service was rebranded serious consideration should be given to finding a name which better described the purpose. This may go some way in decreasing the number of calls received in PPD that are for elsewhere within the authority. The recommendations from the group are outlined below:

Powys People Direct:

1. That call monitoring for quality assurance is considered for both PPD adults and PPD children's.
2. That KPIs are introduced to assist with auditing processes.
3. That the service provided out of hours is clarified and supported appropriately to fulfil the role defined
4. The outcome of the pilot for the Assessment Team be brought back to scrutiny

Scrutiny:

5. That scrutiny members ask locality teams for their experience of PPD when they undertake visits.

Employment Committee

- 6. That the Employment Committee ascertain the full cost of employing an agency post against establishment post to allow an understanding of comparative costs**

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your views on any of the issues raised and would be grateful for a formal response in respect of Recommendations 1 through to 4 (Portfolio Holders for Adults and Children's Services) and Recommendation 6 (Chair of Employment Committee). Recommendation 5 is being followed up by the scrutiny team.

Yours sincerely

*James Gibson-Watt*

*David Jones*

Councillor James Gibson-Watt Lead Member Adults Scrutiny Group <a href="mailto:cllr.james.gibson-watt@powys.gov.uk">cllr.james.gibson-watt@powys.gov.uk</a>	Councillor David Jones Vice-Chair Scrutiny Committee B <a href="mailto:cllr.david.jones@powys.gov.uk">cllr.david.jones@powys.gov.uk</a>
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## **APPENDIX D**

### **Cllr S Hayes response to Outcome letter PPD 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Dear Liz,

Thank you for forwarding the joint scrutiny group's letter following their consideration of PPD. I should be grateful if you will pass on to the chairs and members my appreciation of their work and recommendations.

Since the group's visit and deliberations, two internal reviews into the working of PPD have taken place, looking from a process and a service practice point of view respectively, and we have of course also had the CIW inspection of ASC, albeit the report of that inspection will not be available for some months.

In the light of this work and the scrutiny group's letter, it is clear to me that a substantial overhaul of PPD and its role as a first point of contact for adults' services is necessary, and I will be ensuring it takes place as soon as compatible with resources. The specific points the scrutiny group raises are most helpful and will be addressed as part of the overhaul referred to above.

I would welcome the scrutiny group taking an active interest in progress with overhauling PPD, and suggest in the first instance that you discuss with Dylan Owen and Jennifer Jeffreys how this work should be scheduled in the scrutiny forward work programme.

Stephen

Cllr Stephen Hayes  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care  
Elected member for Montgomery

### **Cllr R Powell response to Outcome letter PPD 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

I completely welcome the focus and welcome any additional comments and recommendations.



**Cllr M Barnes response to Outcome letter PPD 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Cllr Barnes has indicated that the Employment and Appeals Committee will undertake the request to **'ascertain the full cost of employing an agency post against establishment post to allow an understanding of comparative costs'** and will advise the working group of their findings.