

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
25th January 2018**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader

SUBJECT: Question from Michael McCarthy

Powys Council commissioned a major external review of children's services during 2015/16. This was tasked with service development, meeting its duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and establishing if efficiencies to the value of £2.7m were deliverable and sustainable. Do you accept that not prioritising safeguarding was a serious omission which contributed to the failings in children's services which were identified in the recent CSSIW report?

Answer

The Council has fully accepted the findings of the CSSIW Report issued in October 2017. As a result the Council has produced an improvement plan and is working closely with the independent chair of the externally appointed Improvement Board. As the new Leader of a new Cabinet, I am committed to delivering the level of care and service that the children and young people of Powys deserve and expect. It is important that we learn from the report's findings and we are already starting to see early signs of improvement.

It is important that I stress that safeguarding has always been a priority for the Council and that we all have a role ensuring children in need of care and support receive the right help at the right time to improve their well-being and protect them from harm.