Dear Lesley

Cardiff Partnership Scrutiny – 13th March 2013

Thank you for your letter of 29th May with regard to an update on the Scrutiny Work Programme and a follow-up query about services provided for children and young people in Cardiff. In relation to the further responses required from the CPB, our comments are provided below.

Resolved
Emyr Williams to liaise with Rachel Jones to arrange Panel members attendance at one or more of the CPB meetings.

The issue of attendance of the Scrutiny Panel at meetings was discussed at the CPB on 17th April and Members of the Board expressed concerns regarding logistics with the number of attendees which would be present at a meeting and the difficulties this would cause in covering detailed agendas. It was therefore agreed that a separate session of the CPB and Scrutiny Panel should be suggested as an alternative solution or that this discussion took place at September’s meeting when the CPB were in attendance to discuss Asset Management. The CPB has asked Rachel Jones to discuss a potential date and draft agenda with Emyr Williams.

The Panel would like some further details on how the CPB plans to engage with agencies outside of the Families First programme, when addressing recommendations one and two.

As part of the CPB, there are eight programmes which identify key areas of work for the CPB in Cardiff. One of these programmes specifically looks at issues that affect children, young people and their families, and is overseen by the Families & Young People Programme Board. The programme is divided into a number of workstreams which reflect identified priority areas based on the What Matters needs assessment. These include improving outcomes in early childhood, reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training, safeguarding children and support for vulnerable families.

Each of the workstream activities is supported by partners across the city that work together to tackle the issues identified. A number of sub groups have been set up to
ensure that there is a coordinated response from all the services contributing to these areas of work. In particular, the Early Intervention & Prevention Group is responsible for developing a ‘think family’ approach across the services that work with children, young people and their families. This Group comprises representatives from across the partnership including Flying Start, Children's Services, Health, Police, Families First and Neighbourhood Management, as well as parent representatives. The group is able to establish common themes across the city and identify opportunities to work together to avoid duplication and ensure seamless service provision for families and young people who access the wide range of services available. The group has also been able to identify common training opportunities and review issues that affect the partners including referral criteria and mechanisms.

There is also a workstream group which is responsible for implementation of Cardiff’s Strategy for Disabled Children and Young People. This group has advised on the development of the disability focus of Families First, but with a particular interest in making sure that it provides support for families whose children have significant levels of need but who fall below the threshold for services from the Child Health and Disability Team. The group has a rolling programme so that they can monitor progress on the actions in the Strategy by inviting responsible officers to report on delivery.

In addition to the workstreams, each Neighbourhood Management team has an area specific action plan linking to the key priorities within the locality. The Neighbourhood Management teams work closely with partners, Elected Members and communities in the locality and ensure that information is provided to all with regard to service provision and need.

I hope this provides you with the information you required but should you require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

Yours sincerely

Jon House  
Chief Executive, Cardiff Council and  
Chair of Cardiff Partnership Board

Cc Members of CPB