

9 May 2019

**Pieter Montyn**  
**Chairman, Performance and Finance Select Committee**

Via Email

Dear Pieter,

**Requests from the Performance and Finance Select Committee**

At its meeting on 25 April 2019, the Children and Young People's Services Select Committee's Business Planning Group (BPG) considered your requests for the Committee to be updated on the following items: -

- a) The school transport service and the current, and continuing, overspend within this area of the Children's budget
- b) Concerns around the provision and cost of residential placements; and
- c) Plans to support schools to keep pupils within mainstream environments as the Alternative Provision Colleges were exceeding capacity.

Members received updates on the above items. It was agreed that school transport would be discussed as a wider item on SEND provision at a future meeting of the Committee in 2019. This was likely to form part of the new SEND and Inclusion Strategy.

Regarding Point (c), the BPG agreed this would be considered at the July meeting of the group, as part of a wider item on Elective Home Education (EHE).

Concerning the provision and cost of residential placements, members noted that the focus was to provide services which allow children to remain within the county. Social Workers were reviewing high cost cases and looking at alternative provision. A new Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Framework for children's placements was allowing an engagement with the external provider market to ensure that all children placed have a pathway into less supported residential provision and to provide economies of scale.

Due to the current workload of the BPG, including consideration of some high priority issues, the following items have been carried over to the meeting due to be held in July:

- a) School place planning and how this could be improved
- b) The implications of the delay to the project at Manor Green Primary school
- c) The implications of the Whole Council Design programme on Children's Services, and
- d) The poor customer satisfaction scores for services provided by Capita to schools.

I will write again following the meeting in July to provide the Committee with a further update.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Cloake



Michael Cloake  
Chairman – Children and Young People’s Services Select Committee