

Julie Morgan AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Your ref: Petition P-06-1199  
Our ref: JMSS/10375/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

23 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 September asking for my views on the petition to 'Place Cardiff Children's Services into special measures and conduct an urgent independent review'.

The pandemic has made it exceptionally challenging for local authorities and the workforce to support vulnerable children and families in their communities. I continue to be impressed by the resilience, hard work and creativity of the children's social care workforce, local authorities and partners in meeting the challenges.

The Welsh Government has remained focused on working with local authorities to ensure they continue to prioritise the delivery and development of their early intervention and preventative services and on improving outcomes for care experienced children and young people. This is aligned with our continuing policy objectives to reduce numbers of looked after children and supporting families to remain together. These policy aims will help our local authorities sustainably deliver better outcomes for vulnerable children and families in their communities.

We are regularly in touch with local authority children's services and are aware of the progress they are making in delivering our shared objectives for looked after children and children and young people at the edge of care. There are robust mechanisms in place to ensure local authorities are providing high quality children's services to their communities. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) play an important role by providing independent assurance about the quality of children's social services in Wales. All local authority children's social services are reviewed by CIW through an annual cycle of performance, evaluation and inspection.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

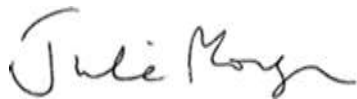
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

CIW takes a risk based, proportionate approach to their work and actions to reduce risks to children's safety and well-being and ensures improvement measures are taken when concerns arise. If CIW has significant concerns about children not being adequately safeguarded, matters are then escalated to the involvement and intervention of Welsh Government, under section 151 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

I have recently taken the opportunity, in correspondence with the Cardiff Council Cabinet Member for Children & Families, to highlight our continuing focus on supporting our most vulnerable children and families and to ensure the local authority is working collectively to relieve ongoing pressures and deliver sustainable services.

I hope you have found my reply helpful and noted the safeguards which are in place which would lead to Welsh Government intervention into a local authority children's service.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie Morgan AS/MS**

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Deputy Minister for Social Services