

Rob Thomas,
Chief Executive, Vale of Glamorgan Council

25 September 2023

Cardiff and Vale Family Drug and Alcohol Court Pilot

Dear Mr Thomas,

You may be aware that we have recently published a report looking at the experiences of children and young people in the care system. This report sets out our views on what radical reform of the care system should look like. You can see from our report, that we recommended that the Welsh Government work with local authorities, the judiciary and other stakeholders to roll-out a consistent FDAC model across Wales, subject to the successful evaluation of the Cardiff and Vale pilot. (Recommendation 9). This recommendation was accepted by the Welsh Government who said that they would review the evaluation from the pilot before considering sustainable delivery models for a national rollout.

We held a further scrutiny session on 14 September with the Deputy Minister for Social Services to further explore all aspects of the Welsh Government's response. As part of this session, we sought assurances from the Deputy Minister that the funding for the pilot was not part of the wider Welsh Government work to find in-year savings to the Welsh Government budget. We were pleased to hear confirmation from the Welsh Government that Welsh Government funding for the pilot was secure.

We have subsequently been advised that the Cardiff and Vale Family Drug and Alcohol Court Pilot has been terminated. This is, of course, deeply worrying to the Committee. Our concern is that that not only will the FDAC not continue in the long term but that the pilot itself is to end early, with uncertainty around the current active cases and what this means for those children and their families.

We would appreciate a response as soon as possible as to what your local authority is doing to secure both the short and long term future of the FDAC.

Due to the timeliness of this issue, we would appreciate a response as soon as possible. We are also writing to the Deputy Minister for Social Services and Cardiff Council.

If you need any further information, please contact Naomi Stocks, Committee Clerk on seneddchildren@senedd.wales or 0300 200 6222.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.