

13.05.21

Dear Alastair,

I would like to thank you for your independent social work report that you presented at the Strategic Leadership Board Meeting 15th March 2021.

You will be aware that Deputy Macon, who chaired the meeting as the Childrens' and Education Minister, is not currently in his role. As the Assistant Minister, I am pleased to provide a response.

Your role in providing independent support and challenge is critical to our improvement journey and I thank you for your ongoing commitment to this work. I appreciate that Covid-19 has hampered you, but I hope to see you on Island again shortly as the restrictions lift.

I personally found your report to be insightful. It is reassuring to note that you believe that the building blocks for a strong and consistent and more restorative service have been established, under challenging circumstances. We have now published *Our Plan for Children's Social Care Services* putting forward an ambitious programme of change. I agree that we must ensure a joined-up partnership approach across the Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) department and with wider partners to deliver effectively for children and families. It is evident to me that there remain some significant partnership challenges to overcome, including more integrated working and the rolling out of an Intensive Youth Support Service. I am committed to supporting officers and working with my colleagues in the Assembly to improve how work together, particularly strengthening our approach to Corporate Parenting.

On your point about the Government Website, I am pleased to confirm that we have now created a dedicated website for Children's Social Care. We have published Our Plan, together with your Independent Reports charting our journey, challenges, and progress. I am passionate about the importance of transparency and I want to ensure that Islander's fully understand what we still must do, and what we have achieved.

I look forward to working with you and receiving your next report at the Board due in June 2021.

Best wishes,

Deputy Wickenden

Assistant Minister