

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen y Bont ar Ogwr  
Swyddfeydd Dinesig  
Stryd yr Angel  
PEN Y BONT AR OGWR  
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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



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Date / Dyddiad: 2 October 2018

Huw Irranca-Davies AM  
Minister for Children, Older People & Social Care  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CARDIFF  
CF99 1NA

Dear Minister

The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 met on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to consider a report on Advocacy Services in Bridgend County Borough. Members were updated on the work undertaken to date in developing the provision of Independent Professional Advocacy (IPA) services for adults and for children and young people, which is being undertaken in response to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Council's ongoing remodelling plans.

During the meeting the Committee referred to the Revenue Support Grant to support advocacy services and questioned officers on the duration of the funding and whether this could be at risk due to the pressures in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Committee was informed that the responsibility for advocacy had been identified in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the authority had developed an Independent Professional Advocacy (IPA) service as part of core funding. The current contract for IPA was for 2 years, with the possibility of extending the contract for a further 2 years' duration. Members were informed that future budget was difficult to predict but the provision of advocacy services is a statutory requirement and is part of core funding.

The Committee therefore asked that I write to you on their behalf as they were concerned that grant funding from Welsh Government was at risk and that it was vital to support the delivery of the service. Members believe that funding for the

delivery of IPA services should be prioritised and supported within Welsh Government, just as it is within the Authority.

I look forward to hearing from you with a response and some reassurance around the future funding to ensure the delivery of this vital service

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. A. Green'.

Councillor Cheryl Green

Chairperson Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2