

Sue Essex AM

Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

DEBATE ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

3 NOVEMBER 2004

DP 587/03-07

Our ref:

Your ref:

Gwenda Thomas AM
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Cardiff Bay
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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru

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22nd December 2004

Dear Gwenda

During the recent plenary debate on the Local Government Partnership Scheme Annual Report 2003-2004, you expressed the view that community safety partnerships must have a role in child protection and that this should feature regularly on future agendas of the Partnership Council.

I wrote to Jane Hutt AM seeking her views on your proposal. Jane has now responded and is fully in support of any initiative to encourage information sharing and to promote best practice in child protection. She is happy for the Partnership Council to discuss this at its meetings. You will be interested to learn that she will be considering wider issues around these subjects in taking forward the implementation of the Children Act 2004. Jane is also working towards the establishment of the new Local Safeguarding Children Boards. The Boards will have all the key agencies as members and will have a statutory duty to co-operate with the appropriate children's services authority and to have regard to any guidance given to them by the Assembly. During 2005, consultation will take place with other agencies on the guidance and regulations and this will clearly cover such issues as information sharing and best practice.

Jane has also suggested that you may wish to consider, in the first instance, looking at these issues as part of your review of Safeguarding Vulnerable Children and to bring forward in your report some specific recommendations that she can consider further.

Best wishes,

Sue Essex



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE