



## HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 1ST DECEMBER 2015

**SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE 2015/16 - SIX MONTH REVIEW**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities that improve the life of citizens. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) use Improvement Objectives and other data/information to evaluate the Council's annual progress on key performance indicators, measuring the outcomes and impact on the citizens of Caerphilly.
- 1.2 The report is to update elected members on the progress of the two following Improvement Objectives, for the six month period April 2015 – September 2015, and provide the service's evaluation of whether the Improvement Objectives are currently being delivered successfully or not;

**Improvement Objective 1 (IO1)** - To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts.

**Improvement Objective 3 (IO3)** - Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 **Improvement Objective 1** - We judge the current status of the improvement objective at the six month period to be **partly successful**, because we are working well towards achieving and exceeding the target for referring residents for support with managing debts and accessing benefits. We are on target in supporting children to access placements; this is significant in view of engagement in the new Flying Start areas.
- 2.2 We are continuing to actively promote take up of Free School Meals, using established media channels, and also working with schools and other partners. The information issued highlights the benefits to families and schools of eligible parents/carers completing Free School Meal applications. Uptake of Free School Meals in Secondary Schools has increased compared with the same period last year, although uptake remains below our target in both the Secondary and Primary school sectors.
- 2.3 Almost 500 Council tenants affected by welfare reform changes were visited in their own home and provided with advice and support; almost 400 other residents were referred to money advice support. The value of financial savings generated for tenants as a direct result of face to face support was £126,877. Also £50,913.72 of additional income has been generated for residents via social services at the end of September 2015.

- 2.4 **Improvement Objective 3** - We judge the current status of the improvement objective at the six month period to be **partly successful**, because there are a number of projects that are still in their early stages. Data that shows what outcomes we are achieving (or what difference is being made) in the Health field cannot be provided frequently and the nature of the change is often provided by longer-term data. Recording the number of people attending different initiatives can be straight forward but Health data that shows if differences are being made can be complex and trends can take 2-5 years to show a reversal.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Directorate has key role to play in the delivery of the Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017.
- 3.2 Anti-Poverty Strategy - clearly states Caerphilly Council's commitment to tackling poverty. It confirms the priority that we give to this issue. It also brings together the broad body of activity that we have in place to mitigate the impacts of poverty, to support people out of poverty, and to prevent poverty.
- 3.3 It is a priority within the Fairer Outcomes for All (2011) strategy (Welsh Government) that by 2020 we improve healthy life expectancy for everyone and close the gap between each level of deprivation by an average of 2.5%.
- 3.4 The Tobacco Control Action Plan for Wales (2012) (Welsh Government) sets a national target of 16% smoking prevalence by 2020.
- 3.5 The Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 lays down a Well Being duty to public bodies to maximise contributions to achieving seven well being goals including A Healthier Wales – “A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood”.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The detail of the Improvement Objectives action plans and the progress made against individual targets and actions can be found in **Appendix A & B**. Where possible a six month update on the data/actions has been presented in the report, and have been colour coded to indicate if the indicators are on track to achieve their target for 2015-16.
- 4.2 Improvement Objective (IO1) – The main outcome of this priority is to introduce policies concerned with boosting households' resources so that Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels and are better able to meet their own needs. Poverty harms people's prospects and damages their long term future. It also places a burden on public resources and services. It is in all our interests to tackle poverty. Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring its residents are able to live fulfilled lives and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.
- 4.3 Improvement Objective (IO3) - The main outcome of this priority is to improve the lifestyles of our local population so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well being. In turn this will reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy so that health and well being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged.
- 4.4 Work has progressed well in developing actions. At the mid year point the Directorate judge both the improvement objectives as being partially successful. The reason for this judgement is that, whilst there has been good progress within many areas, there is a need for further development in multi agency work and the projects need time to fully embed.

## 5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report although the objective seeks to address inequities and promote opportunities for learning for young people.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

## 7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

## 8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated into this report.

## 9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to note and question where required the content of the report and to agree or challenge the judgement of the Improvement objective (IO1) to be **partially successful** at the six month stage.
- 9.2 Members are asked to note and question where required the content of the report and to agree or challenge the judgement of the Improvement objective (IO3) to be **partially successful** at the six month stage.

## 10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The Council is required to undertake effective scrutiny for setting and monitoring of performance improvement.
- 10.2 To advise members of progress made at the half way stage in meeting the improvement objective and to gain their agreement on the judgement of the progress made to date.

## 11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government Measure 2009.

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Councillor Nigel George – Cabinet member for Community & Leisure Services  
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Councillor Elaine Forehead – Anti Poverty Champion  
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### Appendices:

Appendix A Improvement Objective 1 – Six month progress report.  
Appendix B Improvement Objective 3 – Six month progress report.