



**HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELL-BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TASK AND FINISH
GROUP TO CONSIDER NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES CHARGING**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE
6TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

L Ackerman, P Cook, J Gale, L Gardiner, N George, C Gordon, B Jones, S Morgan and J A Pritchard

Co-opted Members:

Mrs M Veater and Mr C Luke

Together with:

Mr S Harris (Financial Services Manager), Mrs R Morris (Principal Finance Officer) and Mrs C Forbes Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer)

APOLOGIES

Cllr L Binding

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest

2. ELECT CHAIR

Members nominated and elected Cllr B Jones as Chair of the Task and Finish group.

3. UPDATE REPORT – TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Mrs Forbes-Thompson outlined the main areas of the report which summarised the findings of the task and finish group to-date. The main areas were:

- Background – the legislation and guidance applicable to charges for non-residential social services.
- Charges – what the Council charges at present.
- Comparison of Charges – how the charges compare with other neighbouring authorities. The services that currently have a charge and the number of clients who make a contribution.
- Income – a breakdown of income generated from client contributions at present.
- Services with no charge – details of services for which there was no charge; adult

placement; extra care and community living. Since the review group met however there are now charges applied to the adult placement scheme.

- Services with no charges – compared with other Local Authorities, in some case there are no comparable services but where there are services a charge is made.
- Assessment of Charge – the review group received information on how the assessment is made and examples of how this is applied.
- Inclusion of savings – Councils can include savings and capital when calculating ability to pay a contribution. Caerphilly County Borough Council is one of only 3 that do not include savings and capital in the calculation. There would be a limit of savings over £23,250 and capital cannot include their home.
- Consultation with service users – there was some consultation with users groups but the review group wanted to carry out further consultation. This was not carried out due to clashes with other public consultation and the local government elections.

4. DRAFT PROJECT PLAN

The review group discussed options for the consultation it was agreed to carry out further consultation and to contact the third sector for their assistance.

INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR NEXT MEETING

The task and finish group asked for the following information:

- A breakdown of people making a contribution for non-residential services at present, the breakdown to show in numbers of clients paying a contribution in increments of ten pounds per week.
- A comparison of the type of day care services provided by other local authorities in Wales.
- An estimate of the charges that would apply should a contribution towards costs be imposed for services where no charge applies at present.
- List of day centres, location and type.