

Social Services JCC Meeting

Monday 14 April 2014

Sirhowy Room Ty Penallta

Attendees:

David Street, Corporate Director Social Services
 Gareth Jenkins Asst Director Childrens Services
 Stephen Harris, Finance Manager
 Shaun Watkins, Principal Personnel Officer
 Susan Phillips Unison
 Neil Funnell Branch Secretary, GMB
 Juan Garcia, Assistant Branch Secretary, Unison

Issue	Action
<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo Williams, Asst Director Adult Services • Gary Enright, Branch Secretary, Unison • Terry Bendle GMB <p>2. Minutes of meeting 11 November 2013</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p> <p>3. Matters arising</p> <p>The following updates were given from the last meeting</p> <p>Rhymney Integrated Resource Centre DS advised that the Centre is now open and fully up and running.</p> <p>4. Budget/MTFP update</p> <p>SH provided an overview of a report being presented to Cabinet on the 16th April 2014 which details the next steps to identify savings proposals to meet further savings of £6.5m for 2015/16 and £6.9m for 2016/17. SH explained that this will be achieved through a review of Discretionary Services and further efficiency targets. A report will also be presented to Council on the 22nd April 2014 to agree the Discretionary Services to be reviewed, the efficiency targets and a series of Special Scrutiny Committees to consider detailed savings proposals. This series of meetings will conclude around the time that the provisional LG settlement for 2015/16 is expected to be announced. This will enable firm</p>	

savings targets for 2015/16 to be agreed and will hopefully provide updated indicative budget settlements for 2016/17 and 2017/18, which will aid financial planning. SH explained that there will be extensive consultation over the coming months which will commence with a Viewpoint Panel meeting on the 30th April, which will focus on the MTFP.

5 Staff Meals in Community Support Services

SW advised that this item was the removal of paid meals and that appropriate notice was due to be served to staff. Team meetings have been held and staff will be written to.

6 Children's Services Reconfiguration

GJ provided an update on Children's Services Reconfiguration Plans and explained the key drivers behind the need for change. These include the Social Services and Wellbeing Bill, Public Law Outline, the MTFP and the need to build resilience within teams. GJ advised they are trying to protect front line staff through natural wastage and the fact they don't use agency staff makes the Authority very well placed compared to others. GJ is looking at cutting the various teams and in particular the Assessment Teams with the management posts being deleted. The management staff have been acting up and therefore have their substantive posts to return to. GJ advised this is the biggest change for Children's Services going forward but all Managers are fully aware of these proposals and have been consulted.

7 Adoption Service Update

GJ advised that this went live on the 1st April 2014. There were no loss of posts but certain posts were ringfenced. All have now been appointed. Unfortunately Mahilidat Office wasn't ready in time and staff had to be co-located to the Ebbw Vale Offices which resulted in some disgruntled staff but pleased to advise that this has now been resolved. Policy and procedures are being worked through, early days but was a good move.

DS thanked all involved.

SW advised that he had received a few calls from staff mainly regarding the excess mileage and asked that the Trade Union refer any calls to him. These were regarding the technicalities of paying the claim.

8 Front Door Service – Combining of Teams

DS confirmed that the ASDIT and Contact and Referral teams had now co-located to Foxes Lane in Oakdale and that they are formally looking to combine both those teams with a reduction from 2 to 1 Team Manager post, so there will be a redeployment issue. DS advised that staff have been consulted.

<p>JG asked when this is likely to happen. GJ advised that they need to enter into a formal discussion process and this hasn't happened yet.</p> <p>9 Any Other Business</p> <p>SW informed the meeting that JW wanted him to raise the issue of Tredegar Court staff room. This is a primarily a Housing establishment and they now want their staff room back to utilise this as an office, at the end of May. Staff will therefore need to be informed. There are sensitivities around particular cases and the Trade Union are likely to receive calls on this issue.</p> <p>JG was unsure what room SW was referring to and asked if he could find out and clarify exactly what room.</p>	
<p>Date of next meeting Monday 14th July 2014 at 10.30am in the Sirhowy Room, Ty Penallta.</p>	