



## HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,  
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 5.30 P.M.

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PRESENT:

Councillor L.J. Binding - Chair  
Councillor Ms J. Gale - Vice Chair

Councillors:

C. Bezzina, M. Evans, E. Forehead, A. Gair, V. James, L. Jeremiah, B. Owen, J. Simmonds,  
S. Skivens and C. Thomas

Cabinet Members:

C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing), Mrs E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection)

Together with:

G. Jenkins (Assistant Director - Children's Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director - Adult Services), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), M.J. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), E. Sullivan (Interim Scrutiny Officer), J. Morgan (Solicitor), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A. Angel, D. Cushing, D. Harse, A. Passmore together with C. Luke, Mrs J.M. Morgan (Users and Carers) and S. Crane and S. Millar (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board).

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

### 3. MINUTES – 26TH JUNE 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26th June 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 10) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

#### **5. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBERS**

The Scrutiny Committee received verbal reports from Councillors Mrs E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection) and C. Cuss (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing).

The Committee noted that, since Councillor Cuss was appointed as Cabinet Member for Social Care & Wellbeing he has conducted visits to a number of services across Adult and Children Services and recognises the hard work of staff delivering services to vulnerable people across the Borough.

The Cabinet Member had made visits to Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Service, Trafalgar Park Care Home, Nelson (Private), Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Young Offending Service, Caerphilly Children's Centre, Community Resource Team, Hospital Discharge Team, Brooklands and Tywncarn Day Centre and Tŷ Ni Children's Home, with further visits scheduled during the coming months.

It was noted that Cabinet had approved to fund additional resources, for a 12 month period, to meet the increased demand in Children Services; agreeing to provide 2 Social Workers in the Locality Teams, 2 Social Workers in the Fostering Team, 1 Administrator to work in Legal Services and also an additional Solicitor.

The Committee were asked to note that an inspection of the Integrated Mental Health Team was postponed, however this has been rearranged for the 11th and 12th October. Further updates would be provided in due course.

Inspections have however been conducted in Home Assistance Reablement Team (HART), 14 Graig Road Supported Living Home, Ty Iscoed RH and Min-y-Mynydd RH, which have received excellent reports, which are available on the CSSIW website.

Councillor Eluned Stenner, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection provided the Committee with an update and has continued to familiarise herself with the role and meeting Officers and staff.

Members were pleased to note that the CCTV control room has retained the NSI Silver Award following an Audit during the summer and a visit will be scheduled shortly to gain insight into the service and how enquiries and complaints are managed. In addition, visits to the various Catering Services and sites will shortly be undertaken.

Members will be aware that, having considered the outcome of the statutory consultation process Cabinet has now approved a new Public Space Protection Order to enhance the response to irresponsible dog ownership. The Order has a number of new legal powers including a requirement that dog owners carry the means to pick up after their dogs. The Order also has the effect of increasing the level of fixed penalty fine for dog fouling from £75 to £100 and the results of the PSPOs will be closely monitored and reviewed again next year.

Within Catering, the programme of school kitchen refurbishments has continued over the school summer holidays and included full refurbishments at Coed y Brain Primary, Pontllanfraith Primary, and Blackwood Comprehensive schools. In the commitment to

ensuring that school kitchens meet the required standards, a spend of over £600,000 this year has been invested.

Finally, the Committee noted that the public consultation on the draft Hafodyrynys Air Quality Action Plan has recently ended and will be reported to Cabinet for consideration in the near future.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Members for their informative reports.

## **6. HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

Mrs Emma Sullivan (Interim Scrutiny Officer) presented the report which detailed the forward work programme for the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee going forward.

Members were asked to consider the work programme and to make any amendments or for additional agenda items to be included for future meetings. Members were advised that the Air Quality Action Plan would be presented to the Committee on 24th October 2017 and there would be a requirement to consider the addition of Budget Information within the programme.

Having fully considered its content the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee noted the report and agreed the forward work programme as attached in Appendix 1 of the report.

## **7. CABINET REPORT**

The Cabinet report listed on the agenda had not been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

## **8. WELLBEING OBJECTIVES 2016/17 – END OF YEAR REVIEW**

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 Well-being 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.

The report provided Members with an update on the progress of two Well-being Objectives (Well-being Objective 1 (WO1) – to help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts; and Well-being Objective 3 (WO3) – close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough) for the period April 2016 to March 2017, and whether they are currently being delivered successfully or not.

It was noted that the main outcome for WO1 is to introduce policies focussing on boosting households' resources so that Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels and are better able to meet their own needs and reduce the impact of Poverty. In order to

meet this priority, the take up of Free School Meals is being actively promoted through the use of established media channels and working with schools and other partners. Uptake of Free School Meals in Secondary schools is slightly lower than last year whilst Primary School uptake is up by over 2% on the same period last year.

In addition, it was noted that 2183 Council tenants affected by welfare reform changes were visited and provided with advice and support, and 3273 people have been supported to access benefits they are entitled to, which is well above the target for the year.

The report outlined that the status of WO1 as at year end 2016/17 is considered to be successful.

In considering WO3 it was noted that the main outcome is to improve the lifestyles of the local population so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well being, which will in turn 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.

There has been a significant decrease in resources over the past few years, which has had an impact on the availability of funds and capacity to deliver services. With the phasing out of the Communities First Programme, a new approach is to be implemented to meet the need, which will focus on employment, early years and empowerment

The report outlined that the status of WO3 as at year end 2016/17 is considered to be successful as the gap in healthy life expectancy has reduced for both male and female residents between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough, adult smoking rates continue to decline, the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-School Scheme continues to be very successful, participation in the School Cycling Programme has increased, development of community based self-help support for people living with a mild to moderate mental health condition has resulted in increased uptake and over 3900 residents completed a cardiovascular risk assessment as part of the regional Living Well Living Longer programme with 514 residents receiving ongoing support.

The Committee thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

In considering WO1, a Member sought further information on the reasons for the reduced take up of Free School Meals in Secondary Schools and the promotions in place. The Officer outlined that there could be a number of economical factors contributing to the numbers, which could include Housing Benefit Eligibility and lack of awareness. There is further promotion being undertaken in Secondary Schools, and template letters being sent to the Head teachers, in addition Members were asked to provide any further promotional suggestions to Officers.

Having consideration for WO3, Members raised concerns for the phasing out of Communities First and requested further information on the plans to replace services. Officers provided further details on some of the schemes previously in place and it was noted that there is some uncertainty for contingency, however, Members would be kept up to date through out the process.

A Member considered the number of actions taken in order to meet WO3 and sought further information on the percentage of schools undertaking the Daily Mile. Officers agreed to gather the information and disseminate to the Committee.

Following consideration and discussion of the report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be supported. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) The content of the report and the judgement of Well-being Objective 1 and 3 to be successful as at year end 2016/17 be noted;

- (ii) The assessment of successful at the full year stage in respect of Well-being Objective 1 and 3 be agreed.

## **9. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 3)**

The report provided Members with the projected revenue expenditure for the Social Services Directorate for the 2017/18 financial year and the progress made against the savings targets built in to the 2017/18 revenue budget for the Directorate.

The report summarised the projected financial position for the Social Services Directorate for the 2017/18 financial year based on information available as at month 3 (June 2017) and identified budget pressures relating to the delivery of frontline services, particularly within Children's Services, and highlighted some potential issues that could lead to increased costs within Adult Services.

The Committee noted that the 2017/18 month 3 position is a projected Directorate overspend of £1.163m. The Children's Services Division is currently projected to overspend its budget by £1,730k, £2.189m of which is projected in respect of residential placements, fostering and adoption support. The Adult Services Division is currently projected to underspend its revised budget by £470k and Service Strategy and Business Support is projected to underspend by £97k.

Members noted that the 2017/18 budget for Social Services included a savings target of £563k. A number of actions, including reviewing staffing structures across Children's Services, Adult Services, Business Support and Financial Services, as well as the realignment of Office Accommodation budgets have resulted in the savings target being delivered in full and on a recurring basis.

The Committee thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

In considering the expected overspend in Children's Services, a Member sought further information on the placements and plans to reduce the costs. Officers explained that, whilst every effort is made to ensure that placements are made available within the borough, in some cases, the needs of individuals can be so complex and specialist placement, which meets the need of the individual are not available in County. Every effort is made to provide support and permanent residence as soon as possible.

Members considered the costs associated with Fostering and Adoption Support and the continued overspend. It was noted that there is national shortage on Foster Carers, and as a result a significant investment was made through a radio campaign, which has resulted in 8 new assessments being received.

Members discussed the staffing restructures and sought assurance that service delivery would not be impacted in order to make savings. Officers explained that the savings were made in business support and back office services, which had no direct impact to families or service users.

Following consideration and discussion of the report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be supported. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the projected overspend of £1,163k against the Directorate's budget for 2017/18 be noted;
- (ii) the potential increases in costs resulting from further increases in demand and the potential loss of Integrated Care Fund Grant be noted along with the efforts being made by officers to reduce placement costs.

## **10. PUBLIC PROTECTION ENFORCEMENT, UNDERAGE SALES ACTIVITY AND CONSUMER ADVICE – 2016/17**

The report provided Members with information on the wide range of protective and regulatory functions, supported by the Public Protection Division, which seek to promote and improve the health, safety and economic well being of communities, as well as regulate trade, commerce and the environment. In compliance with the Public Protection Enforcement Policy the report provided an overview of the formal enforcement activity undertaken including outcomes of investigations undertaken under the auspices of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act during 2016/17.

The Committee noted that the Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice states that the local authority should consider, on an annual basis, its surveillance camera system to ensure that it remains necessary, proportionate and effective. The Public Open Space CCTV system comprises 156 cameras covering 28 town and village centres. The location and number of permanently fixed cameras is considered as necessary, proportionate and effective. The CCTV Control Room refers incidents and suspicious behaviour directly to the Police for their action. Descriptions provided by the Control Room can result in arrests being made at the time of the incident and in some cases Control Room Operators are able to guide Police Officers to offenders as a result of on-going monitoring after an incident.

The report detailed Underage Sales and it was noted that complaints about premises supplying age-restricted products are received from members of the public, local elected Members, Police Officers, Community Safety Wardens, and other businesses. Complaint data is used to target enforcement activities and also to support authorisations for directed surveillance using covert recording equipment, under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. During the financial year 2016/2017 the Trading Standards Service received complaints about tobacco sales, 6 complaints about "on" licence alcohol sales, 10 complaints about "off" licence alcohol sales, complaints about premises selling both tobacco and alcohol, 1 complaint about E cigarettes (Nicotine Inhaling Devices, NIDs), complaints about alcohol sales from members clubs but there were no complaints in relation to other age restricted products such as fireworks, butane lighter fluid and lottery tickets

Finally, the report provided information to Members on the number and nature of complaints dealt with by the Consumer Advice function of Trading Standards in 2016/17. Some of the complaints received included used cars, with 256 complaints received totalling a value of over £898,249.50, 149 complaints were received around Home maintenance and improvements totalling £247,838.40, 53 complaints were received for furniture totalling £62,001.99, 46 for clothing and footwear totalling £717.31. The analysis is comparable with national data, with second-hand cars and home maintenance being the highest sources of complaints both nationally and locally.

The total value of all goods and services dealt with by the Council's advice service for the financial year was £1,491,629.95 and the total value of all goods and services where Caerphilly consumers sought advice either directly from the service or through the Citizens Advice Consumer Service was £8,286,585.95. These figures exclude high value complaints regarding financial advice and prize draws.

Members thanked the Officer for the detailed report and discussion ensued.

CCTV was discussed at length, and Members raised queries around the locations and types of cameras in town centres and length of time in which data is kept and times in which CCTV is turned off. Officers explained that there has not been a blanket turn-off, occasionally individual cameras are down for electrical testing or maintenance, however, if there are any prolonged faults, ward members are notified. Cameras vary depending on position, some being fixed, other rotate periodically and are located in hotspots, and it is endeavoured that these cameras are always operational. Data from the CCTV cameras are kept for up to 31 days, in line with Data Protection requirements; however, this timescale would be extended, should the data be required as evidence.

Members sought further information on licensing arrangements and in particular with private members clubs. Officers explained that there are different arrangements for these premises as they are owned by the members. However, testing is still conducted, special constables could be deployed to access the premises, should they be admitted as non-members, the premises is in violation of the licence and investigations are conducted into the matter.

Following consideration and discussion of the report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendation be supported. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the review of Public Protection enforcement activity, including underage sales, and CCTV provision be noted, along with the activity in relation to Consumer Advice.

The meeting closed at 7.07 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2017, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR