



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Binding - Chair
Councillor J. Bevan - Vice Chair

Councillors:

A. Angel, C. Bezzina, M. Evans, Miss A. Gair, J. Gale, D.C. Harse, V. James, L. Jeremiah, Mrs A. Leonard and C. Thomas.

Cabinet Member: C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing).

Together with:

J. Williams (Assistant Director - Adult Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director - Children's Services), M. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), P. O'Neill (Senior Youth Service Manager), C. Jones (Youth Forum Co-ordinator) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

S. Taylor (Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and L. Jones (Gwent Transformation Programme).

Youth Forum Representatives: I. Jones (Chair), L. Parker (Welsh Member Youth Parliament) and L. Mallon (Project Group Chair).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D. Cushing, E. Forehead, B. Owen, S. Skivens, D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), Mrs M. Jones, Ms J. Lawton and Mr C. Luke (Co-opted Members) and A. Gough (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 – 18TH JUNE 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 18th June 2019 (minute nos. 1 - 9) be approved and signed as a correct record.

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. SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer introduced the report that informed the Committee of its Forward Work Programme planned for the period September 2019 to April 2020.

Members were advised that the Dementia Friends Training that had been scheduled for this meeting will be rearranged to a date to be confirmed. The Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider the work programme and to make any amendments or request additional agenda items to be included for future meetings.

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

RESOLVED that the work programme appended to the report be approved.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. JUNIOR & YOUTH FORUM PRIORITIES

The Chair welcomed representatives from the Youth Forum, CAMHS and the Gwent Transformation Programme to the meeting.

The Youth Forum Representatives delivered a presentation and showed a video that provided the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the issues raised by Children and Young People in the last year. They explained that following the Youth Forum Conference in January 2019 and the Junior Forum meeting in November 2018, Children and Young People have identified issues important to them and have voted on Priority Issues for 2019.

The issues voted on by the Youth Forum were knife crime, tackling homelessness, putting an end to period poverty, providing safe adventurous outdoor play and their overall priority issue was raising awareness of Mental Health. They felt the Services should be improved with young people's help and that young people should receive mental health first aid education. The issues voted on by the Junior Forum were more support for children with additional learning needs, more shelters and opportunities made available to homeless people, raising awareness of speeding cars within communities and community litter picks. Their overall priority issue was raising awareness of support for Drugs and Alcohol.

The process that follows the identification of issues was discussed and this includes working with Officers, Cabinet and the Public Services Board (PSB) as appropriate on a range of initiatives intended to have a positive impact in moving forward.

Members discussed the priority issues in detail and asked if there were any statistics available in relation to bullying and if any progress has been made since this priority issue was raised previously. The Senior Youth Service Manager advised that the issue of bullying comes up year on year and is now looked at formally with colleagues in education. Officers consider this is making a difference at a strategic level. A Member queried if matters have improved since the priority issue of mental health had been raised 2 years ago. The Youth Forum

Representatives advised that this issue is now addressed on a higher platform and is progressing on a regional scale. Social Services are working closely with CAMHS in relation to the Transformation Programme which is currently being implemented. Clarification was sought in relation to waiting times for CAMHS. S. Taylor referred to Specialist CAMHS which is about seeing the right person at the right place at the right time and for this area there is no waiting list. For urgent appointments, individuals are seen on the same day. Specialist CAMHS has a new Community Team which is a single point of access which is moving away from clinic settings. She was pleased to note the issues raised by young people and felt their voice and working together will help shape the way forward, by developing fantastic opportunities.

The Chair requested a rounded report from CAMHS, Social Services and other agencies on the main priorities raised by the Junior and Youth Forums as he feels that both priorities are linked. He felt this information will provide a clear view of the current position and allow suggestions on how the Scrutiny Committee can support young people in moving forward. In addition, the Chair would like to invite representatives from the Junior and Youth Forums to the meeting when the report is presented so that they can gain an appreciation of the response to the issues they have raised.

In response to a Member's query, the Youth Forum representatives referred to their own personal experiences whilst at school and feel that mental health first aid training should be provided to pupils and teachers. A Member referenced drug and alcohol prevention and Officer's advised that services are commissioned with the Health Board and the working relationship is very positive.

The Chair thanked representatives from the Youth Forum, CAHMS and Gwent Transformation Programme for attending the meeting and for responding to questions during the course of the debate. The representatives from the Youth Forum thanked Members for the opportunity to deliver their priority issues.

Following consideration and discussion, and subject to an additional recommendation in that *Officers to work with partners on an overarching report on the two main priorities raised by the Junior and Youth Forums – Mental Health and Raising Awareness of Drug and Alcohol Support, be agreed* it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Youth Forum's Priority Issue of Mental Health, be supported;
- (ii) the Junior Forum's Priority Issue of raising awareness of Drug and Alcohol, be supported;
- (iii) the Social Services Scrutiny Committee to have due regard to issues raised within the report by Children and Young People when making decisions which impact upon their lives;
- (iv) Officers to work with partners on an overarching report on the two main priorities raised by the Junior and Youth Forums – Mental Health and Raising Awareness of Drug and Alcohol Support.

7. WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 6 - TO SUPPORT CITIZENS TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND IMPROVE THEIR WELL-BEING (2018-23)

The report provided Members with the first year (2018/19) performance of the 5 year Plan (2018-2023) towards achieving Well-being Objective 6 - Support Citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

Members were advised that completion of the objectives is on track and several have already been completed and were referred to Appendix A that provides the full detail of the update. Page 2 highlights the outcomes for achieving that include: Supporting people to 'help themselves' by providing comprehensive advice and information including signposting to other services; Having 'meaningful conversations' to help people identify 'what matters' to them to inform 'outcome focused and Continuing to identify opportunities to work collaboratively wherever appropriate. Reference was then made to page 5, which sets out the tracking progress and how each outcome has been and will be achieved.

A Member questioned why there isn't an equality impact assessment (EIA) attached to the report. Officers advised that the focus of the report and the wellbeing objective relates to Social Services and there is no discrimination to citizens and therefore an EIA is not required. Reference was made to the Corporate Plan which is an overarching document for the Authority and this contains an EIA. A Member requested an update on the recruitment of Foster Carers. Officers advised that there are 20 new Foster Carers employed which are 5 over the target set. Members were pleased to note that Caerphilly's Model has been used by other Local Authorities due to its success.

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

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

8. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 3)

The report provided Members with the projected revenue expenditure for the Social Services Directorate for the 2019/20 financial year and the progress made against the savings targets built in to the 2019/20 revenue budget for the Directorate.

The report identifies the reasons behind a projected underspend of £339k for Social Services in 2019/20, despite a significant increase in demand for residential care placements for children since the beginning of the financial year. It also identifies the progress that has been made to date towards achieving the £2.261million savings target that was included in the Social Services budget for 2019/20.

Members discussed the areas of projected underspend within Children's Services and it was explained that this links mainly to Management, Fieldwork and Administration. This relates to the turnover of staff, the difficulty in recruiting in the North of the Borough and ICF Funding. The report represents the first quarter of the financial year. A Member sought further clarification for the projected underspend within Adult Services of £1, 202k. The Officer advised that there has been a fall in demand in respect of external Residential Care. This has resulted in a potential underspend of £737k for all adult residential and nursing care provision. There is also a projected underspend of £532k for Own Residential Care and Supported Living, which is largely due to client contributions. The further £250k projected underspend relates to staff cover but this may increase in the second quarter due to holiday cover. Members noted that in respect of Domiciliary Care, following the recently completed tender process, 4 new providers have been engaged to undertake services.

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

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the budget virement of £190k from the Social Services Budget to the Education budget in respect of the Education Safeguarding Team, be noted;

- (ii) the projected underspend of £339k against the Social Services budget for 2019/20, inclusive of transport costs, be noted;
- (iii) the progress made to date towards delivering the £2.261million savings target that was included in the Social Services budget for 2019/20, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2019.

CHAIR