

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 18th June, 2019.

Present: Councillor Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn (Chairman); Ms. J. Aviet, Mrs. J.E. Charles, O. Griffiths, S.J. Griffiths, T.H. Jarvie, K.P. Mahoney, R.A. Penrose and N.C. Thomas.

Also present: Councillor L.O. Rowlands.

43 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN -

RESOLVED - T H A T Councillor N.C. Thomas be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year.

44 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE -

This was received from Councillor J.W. Thomas.

45 MINUTES -

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

These were received from Councillors Ms. J. Aviet, Mrs. J.E. Charles and S.J. Griffiths in respect of Agenda Item No. 6, in that the Councillor were 'twin-hatted Councillors' and had dispensation to speak and vote from the Standards Committee in relation to Reshaping Services matters.

Following the change in Administration, the Chairman took the opportunity to ask all present to introduce themselves.

47 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2018-2019 - CHALLENGE VERSION (DSS) -

The Director of Social Services was required by Welsh Government to produce an Annual Report on the effectiveness of social care services in the Vale of Glamorgan and on plans for improvement. The Director informed the Committee that the report was an accurate picture of his assessment over the last 12 months. The report had been written for a wide range of people including service users and carers, Elected Members, the Council's own staff and a range of partners and providers who helped to deliver services. The report would be used by the Care Inspectorate Wales as evidence to guide their inspection programme in the Vale of Glamorgan. A copy of

the full Challenge Version of the Director's report was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The format of the report had been set out in accordance with Welsh Government regulations from 2017/18. The circulation of the Challenge Version was intended to allow key stakeholders the opportunity to comment and make observations before the report was finalised.

During consideration of the report, video presentations in relation to two service provisions were streamed for the Committee's information. One of the videos related to the service provided at Cartref Porthceri residential provision and the other to the role of foster carers. A Member took the opportunity to thank the staff of the Social Services department for all their hard work in particular the Flying Start project.

Following the video a Member referred to the number of residential care homes within the Vale (not Vale Council properties) that in her view were in need of attention, in particular referring to the cleanliness of such establishments. The Head of Service in response stated that they would be more than happy to take the details from the Elected Member taking the opportunity to advise the Committee that internally for Council establishments the Department had a very good quality assurance procedure. A number of Members stated that they were concerned about the size of the document and to its statistical nature and that in their view there was also the need to provide solutions. The Director, in response, stated that he too agreed that it was a long and detailed report which he would review in the future, although it was accepted that it had been written in line with Welsh Government guidelines. The statistics were also required as evidence had to be provided to Welsh Government.

The Chairman drew Members' attention to recent inspection reports that had been produced suggesting that they take an opportunity read them when they are able to do so.

In referring to the limited number of foster carers it was noted that there was currently a national shortage and work was ongoing in relation to raising awareness of the role and advertising for more foster carers.

Having regard to the use of agency workers, a Member asked for further details on how many job vacancies there were within the Directorate and how many agency workers were employed. In the main, Committee was informed that agency workers were used in relation to cover sickness absence. A Member also enquired whether the Authority compared its terms and conditions with other neighbouring Councils. In response the Director stated that this would be difficult as this would vary from job to job.

In referring to the increase in the numbers of Children Looked After and whether this was due to a common cause or simply the Council being more proactive in relation to safeguarding, the Head of Service advised that almost 50% of children were placed with their parents or with their wider families and were looked after by the nature of them being subject of Care Orders granted by the Courts. In the main, the importance for the Directorate was to ensure that children lived at home wherever possible and that support was provided for them to do that. There were various ways of reducing the numbers of Children Looked After, which included the ability to

discharge Care Orders for those places with family and with kin, to support those living away from home to return, to support those at the edge of care, those that will by virtue of age (turning 18) or those for whom an alternative plan for permanence was achieved e.g. following an Adoption Order. The number of Children Looked After had stabilised during Quarter 1 of this year with the same number currently looked after as at the end of March 2019. There had been movement in and out but ultimately more children had left care than started to be looked after, which reflected the work being undertaken by the Directorate. Committee Members were reassured that Social Services Officers were committed to supporting young people and to reducing the number of Children Looked After.

Having fully considered the Director's Annual Report, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the report be noted and the comments made at the Committee be reflected in the final report.

Reason for recommendation

Following consideration by Elected Members of the Challenge Version.

48 RESHAPING SERVICES - ADULT DAY SERVICES MEAL PROVISION (DSS) -

Committee was provided with an update report on the provision of mid-day meals at the Vale of Glamorgan Day Centres for adults with care and support needs following a report that had been presented in February 2019.

The Adult Services provision operated four in-house day services that provided a hot mid-day meal. However, the cost of providing the meals exceeded the cost charged so the Division was having to subsidise. The subsidy was calculated to be between £9.83 and £10.13 per meal.

Following a recent consultation exercise with people who attended the day centres, provision of a mid-day meal remained important for older people who might not have an alternative option of a hot meal but was less important for younger adults who were able to bring their own packed lunches or would prefer to have their lunch while accessing the community away from the centre.

Meal provision at adult day services had been identified as one of Social Services Reshaping Services projects with a target of £50,000 being included in the Council's revenue budget savings proposals for 2019/200.

The report highlighted that the model for day time opportunities within the Vale of Glamorgan was evolving to keep up with the increasing demand, as the number of people living with care and support needs increased and as people's expectations for supported social opportunities and respite changed. Research suggested that a range of centre based and community based day-time opportunities would provide a more sustainable response to assisting people to meet their personal outcomes into the future. The day centres employed care staff, (Support Workers/Day Services

Officers) who provided personal care to people at the day centre which could include feeding, providing refreshments and preparation for meal deliveries. However, they may also be required to assist directly with food related duties such as delivering/ serving of meals, clearing away etc. Although not the case in New Horizons or Rondel House, members of day care staff in Woodlands and Trysor O Le were provided with a free meal when supporting clients to eat their meals. Staff within New Horizons and Rondel House did not have free meals, they either brought in their own packed lunches or purchased a hot meal.

From 1st August, 2016, the price of a meal had increased to £5.35 which included hot and cold drinks throughout the day.

The cost of day centre staff supporting people to eat their meals had not been included in the calculation as this support would remain constant with any of the identified options for meal provision.

The Reshaping Services Programme had identified a £50k saving to be made from the provision of day centre meals.

A breakdown of costs and income associated with meal provision for Rondel House and Hen Goleg was included in the report and highlighted a significant subsidy being made by the Department totalling £106,000.

The key issues that were identified in the report were:

- the cost to the Department of providing mid-day meals to people attending the day centres was sustainable
- the provision of a hot mid-day meal at the New Horizons, Woodlands and Trysor O Le Day centres could be provided more flexibly as people were able to either bring their own packed lunches or access local cafes for lunch as part of supported activities.

Committee was advised that following consideration by the Scrutiny Committee any comments would inform a report to Cabinet in due course.

In considering the costs associated with the provision, it was suggested that further discussion take place with Vale Catering to ascertain whether they could facilitate such a service.

A Committee Member took the opportunity to advise that the British Legion was currently providing a service to veterans and local people, and asked the officer that if they had any information on any other people that they considered may require such a service to let the Member and the British Legion know.

Having considered the report, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the report be accepted and the comments of the Committee be included in a final report to Cabinet.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the comments made at the Committee.

49 SUPPORT FOR CARERS IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (DSS) -

The Annual Report 2018/19 provided the Committee with an update on the Regional Work Stream for Carers that had been introduced in the Director of Social Services' report in April 2018 together with the plans for a Regional Strategy for Carers. The report also provided an up to date overview of the current services and support available to carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Committee was informed that the last update had been provided to Committee on 16th April, 2018, it being noted that during 2018/19 a number of key developments had been implemented, many of which had been addressed on a regional basis going forward. The report outlined that the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 increased the rights of carers and enabled local authorities to build on the services and support that was already in place.

Whilst core funding for carers services was not increased in line with the growth in legislation to support carers, there had been Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) grant funding available to assist the transition and to develop new services for carers/

The Vale Council had maximised the impact of the available funding by putting in place arrangements to enhance carer's experience of the support available from Social Services and our partners by developing our existing arrangements and encouraging creativity and innovation.

Committee was informed that working with partners on a regional footprint, enabled the sharing of knowledge, experience and resources which together would improve the essential support to those who provided a care giving role within our communities.

A Member referred to their own experience as a carer, referring to the support received from Dewis Cymru which in their view had been exceptional. Following a query relating to the maximum hours allowed for carer support from the authority the Operational Manager for Safeguarding and Service Outcomes responded by advising that the service was provided following an assessment of need.

A Member also referred to the number of young carers with a request made that the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider the number of young carers in schools in order that the Council can ensure it was capturing such to consider what support/assistance could be provided to young people. The officer also advised that she would be more than happy to attend the Scrutiny Committee when the report was considered. The Vice-Chairman, in conclusion, stated that it was important to raise awareness of support of carers in the Vale of Glamorgan and the recognition of the amount of people that provided this service within communities.

It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the Annual Report on Support for Carers and work undertaken to support carers in the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee to note the work in respect of young carers and to consider the support required for young carers.
- (3) T H A T the duties of the Council and its partners in regard to delivering services for carers with the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 be noted..
- (4) T H A T work being undertaken by the the Council and its partners in meeting the Ministerial Priorities for Carers and considers the development of the Regional Carers Strategy be noted.
- (5) T H A T the Committee receives a report on support for Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan on an annual basis.

Reasons for Recommendations

- (1) To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function undertaken by the Social Services Directorate.
- (2) Following a report by the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee and for further work to be considered in relation to the number of young carers in schools.
- (3) That Scrutiny Members are aware of the duties outlined within legislation and the Ministerial Priorities set for carers.
- (4) That Scrutiny Members are introduced to the development of a Regional Strategy for carers and facilitates support from the lead Member for Carers.
- (5) To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function on an annual basis.

50 4TH QUARTER SCRUTINY DECISION TRACKING OF
RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE
2019/20 (MD) -

The Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer, in presenting the report, drew attention to Appendices A, B and C. In recognising the status of the majority of recommendations were deemed as completed. Reference was made to the Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy it being noted that the revised Leisure Strategy was to be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee prior to formal adoption by Cabinet.

Having regard to the Work Programme attached at Appendix D, Members requested that a Residential Homes Working Group be established in order that Members of the Committee can undertake site visits with regard to the provision and that leisure centre site visits by Members be arranged.

In noting that the Children and Young People Services Annual Placement Review was scheduled for the September meeting and that the Work Programme be amended accordingly.

It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED -

(1) T H A T the following recommendations noted as completed on the Appendices be agreed.

8 January 2019	
Min. No. 637 – Progress Report On Cogan Wellbeing Hub Presentation – Recommended	
That an update progress in relation to the Cogan wellbeing hub be provided in a year's time.	Added to work programme schedule. Completed
Min. No. 639 – Autistic Spectrum Disorder: Adult Autism Team (DSS) – Recommended	
(2) That an annual update on the work of the team be received.	Added to work programme schedule. Completed
Min. No. 640 – Update on the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board (DSS) – Recommended	
(2) That an annual update on the work of the Board be received.	Added to work programme schedule. Completed
Min. No. 641 – 3rd Quarter Scrutiny Decision Tracking of Recommendations and Updated Work Programme Schedule 2018/19 (MD) – Recommended	
(1) That the updated work programme attached at Appendix D to the report be uploaded to the Council's website.	Work programme uploaded to the Council's website. Completed
5 February 2019	
Min. No. 719 – An Overview of Meals Provision for Adult Residents within the Vale of Glamorgan (DSS) – Recommended	
(2) That a further report detailing costs per meal and options around outsourcing be provided at the Committee meeting set for June 2019.	Added to the Committee's work programme schedule for June 2019. Completed
Min. No. 720 – Telecare Services Update (DSS) – Recommended	
(2) That the Scrutiny Committee receive an annual update on the work of the Telecare Service.	Added to the Committee's work programme schedule for February 2020. Completed
5 March 2019	
Min. No. 806 – Internal Day Services and Telecare - Proposed Fees and Charges for 2019/2020 (DSS) – Recommended	

<p>(2) That the comments of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee be appended to the Cabinet report to be presented at its meeting to be held on 18th March, 2019.</p>	<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 18th March, 2019 resolved</p> <p>(1) That the fee proposals for Internal Day Services be approved.</p> <p>(2) That the reasons for charging in respect of Telecare Services as set out in the report and the associated appendices be noted.</p> <p>(Min. No. C618 refers)</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 807 – Vale of Glamorgan Wellbeing / Improvement Objectives and Improvement Plan Part One 2019/20 (DSS) – Recommended</p>	
<p>(1) That the comments as set out above (to highlight the recommendation section) regarding the formatting of the new report template be forwarded to the Performance and Development Team.</p>	<p>The Committee's views have been forwarded to the Improvement and Development Team for incorporation into an updated report to be presented to Cabinet.</p>
<p>(2) That the statistical evidence provided in the Improvement Plan be reviewed.</p>	<p>Cabinet, on 1st April, 2019, noted the Scrutiny Committee's comments.</p> <p>(Min No C635 refers).</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>Min. No. 808 – Quarter 3 (2018-19) Performance Report - An Active and Healthy Vale (DSS) – Recommended</p>	
<p>(3) That an update report on Corporate Plan Action AH16 - Undertake an Annual Programme of Targeted Inspections at Premises Undertaking Commercial Activities that Affect Vulnerable People be provided.</p>	<p>Added to work programme schedule.</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>(4) That Cabinet be advised of the Committee's view that performance in relation to delivering Wellbeing Outcome 4 - An Active and Healthy Vale, is likely to be affected by budgetary pressures within Social Services.</p>	<p>The Committee's views have been forwarded to the Improvement and Development Team for incorporation into an updated report to be presented to Cabinet.</p> <p>Cabinet, on 1st April, 2019, resolved</p> <p>[1] That progress to date in achieving outcomes in line with Well-being Outcomes and Corporate Health priorities as outlined in the Corporate Plan 2016-20 be noted and endorsed.</p> <p>[2] That the performance results and remedial actions to be taken to address areas of underperformance and to tackle the key challenges identified be noted and endorsed.</p> <p>(Min No C636 refers).</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>6 November 2018</p>	
<p>Min. No. 466 – The Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy (REF) – Recommended</p>	
<p>(2) That the revised and amended</p>	<p>Cabinet, at its meeting on 17th</p>

<p>Strategy be reported back to the Scrutiny Committee prior to formal adoption by Cabinet.</p>	<p>December, 2018, resolved [2] That once amended, the strategy be referred to the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee prior to formal adoption by Cabinet. (Min. No. C508 refers) (Due July 2019) Added to Forward Work Programme. Completed</p>
<p>4 December 2019</p>	
<p>Min. No. 532 – Initial Revenue Budget Proposals 2019/20 and Revised Budget 2018/19 (DSS) – Recommended</p>	
<p>(2) That the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee pass on to Cabinet the Committee's comments regarding acknowledgement of the increase in demand for services for Adults and Children and the pressures on the service's budgets, and a call for an easing of the cost pressures that needed to be fully considered and applied.</p>	<p>Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee, on 13th December, 2018 recommended [1] That Cabinet be advised of the Committee's comments regarding acknowledgement of the increase in demand for services for Adults and Children and the pressures on the service's budgets, with a call for an easing of the cost pressures that needed to be fully considered and applied. [2] That the Initial Revenue Budget Proposals for 2019/20 and the comments raised by the Committee, including those relating to cost pressures as set out Recommendation [1] above, be forwarded to Cabinet. (Min. No. 601 refers) Cabinet, on 21st January, 2019 resolved – that the contents of the report be noted and passed to the Budget Working Group for consideration in concluding the budget proposals for 2019/20. (Min. No. C552 refers) Completed</p>
<p>15 January 2018</p>	
<p>Min. No. 600 – Quarter 2 Performance: An Active and Healthy Vale (DSS) – Recommended</p>	
<p>(2) That a programme of site visits to Council run residential care homes be devised.</p>	<p>The Healthy Living & Social Care Scrutiny Committee visit to Ty Dyfan Care Home scheduled for 2:00 pm on Wednesday, 14th March, 2018. Further visits would be arranged over the next few weeks. (22 May Min No 22 refers) At the meeting on 8th January, 2019 Committee was advised that</p>

	<p>arrangements had been made to visit Hen Goleg and Rondel House on 8th February, 2019. Rondel House would commence at 10.00 a.m. and Hen Goleg later the same day at 1.00 p.m. Arrangements would also be made for a further visit to Barry Hospital. (Min No 641 refers)</p> <p>Visit to Barry Hospital (Mental Health Team) held on 12th April, 2019.</p> <p>Completed</p>
--	---

(2) T H A T the revised Vale of Glamorgan Leisure Strategy be added to the Committee's Work Programme and the status deemed as completed as a result.

(3) T H A T the Forward Work Programme be amended as outlined above and uploaded to the Council's website including the additions agreed at the meeting.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) In monitoring effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.

(2&3) To amend the Committee's Work Programme and upload to the Council's website.