

No.

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 11th January 2022.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor S.J. Griffiths (Chair); N.C. Thomas (Vice-Chair); Councillors J. Aviet, J.E. Charles, O. Griffiths, T.H. Jarvie, R. Nugent-Finn and J.W. Thomas.

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration), B.T. Gray (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health), and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services).

723 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

724 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2021 be approved as a correct record.

725 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

726 POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (DSS) –

The Executive Director of Public Health for the University Health Board, Fiona Kinghorn, advised that the draft report before the Committee related to the second Population Needs Assessment (PNA) for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, following the first published in 2017. The PNA needed to be read alongside the complementary Well-being Assessments for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to gain a comprehensive understanding of the region.

The PNA was undertaken between May 2021 and March 2022 and provided an update of the 2017 report. Existing data and reports were used to inform the assessment, alongside dedicated engagement work in the form of surveys (for the public, children and young people, people in HMP Cardiff, and professionals/ providers) as well as focus groups.

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The Executive Director added that improvements in care and support services had been made across all population groups since the 2017 PNA, despite the challenges of COVID-19. COVID-19 had had a number of impacts, including increasing demand for services, especially mental health, and changing models of delivery for many services.

Through a PowerPoint presentation and with support from other UHB Colleagues, the Executive Director apprised the Committee on the themes, informative methods, care and support needs as well as range and level of services required as set out in the PNA.

In conclusion, the Executive Director advised that the PNA would be presented to the Vale of Glamorgan Cabinet on the 28th February 2022, and Full Council on 7th March 2022 in preparation for publication on 1st April 2022. Future PNAs would adopt a hybrid model approach, with rolling quantitative data updates, and periodic engagement findings updates.

Following the presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, UHB colleagues added that:

- The 17 themes (chapters) identified within the PNA were not in a need led order and were derived from the code of practice that stipulated 9 overarching themes that must be included within the PNA. The 2017 PNA identified the additional themes of asylum seekers, refugees, substance misuse and veterans as being pertinent to the Vale of Glamorgan area and had therefore been continued in the 2022 draft.
- Encouraging healthy behaviours and amplifying prevention methods would be undertaken through the work of the Cardiff and Vale Public Service Board and multiple associated plans. The information contained within the PNA would be used alongside said plans to inform decisions and ways forward for various PSB projects and initiatives.
- The level of engagement with the population and subsequent methods to build the needs assessment would always remain a topic for improvement. Some feedback had been gathered from small numbers of service users however, decisions were not taken on survey results alone.
- Life expectancy numbers were based on the statistics of deaths and the change in patterns in social equalities.
- A decrease in population numbers for persons under 16 years were as a result of a combination of the percentage of older people and a decrease in the general fertility rate.
- Unfortunately, the data collected as part of the 2021 census would not be available prior to the 2022 PNA being published on 1st April 2022 following the completion of a lawful consultation process.

UHB colleagues thanked members for their valued questions and dedication in studying the draft PNA and confirmed that the following points raised by members would be used to update the current draft:

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- No mention of hospital bed capacity and occupancy rates in relation to patients admitted as a result of eating disorders.
- A discrepancy in the numbers of Children and Young People with complex needs for the Vale of Glamorgan (823) in comparison to the Cardiff area (784) despite Cardiff having a much larger population.
- No mention of pre-justice involvement and diversion and preventative actions in relation to children and young people to tackle youth offending.

In summary, the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care reiterated the reporting timeline for the 2022 PNA within the Council and kindly requested that any further comments from the committee be shared with NHS colleagues or the Democratic Services Officer before 14th January 2022.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the draft Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment 2022 report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the appended report.

727 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2021 (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Accountancy advised it was anticipated that Social Services would require a potential unplanned transfer from reserves at year end of £1.101m.

In relation to Children and Young People Services, it was anticipated that the outturn at year end could be an adverse variance of around £618k. There still remained considerable pressure on the children's placements budget given the complexities of the children currently being supported and the high-cost placements some of the children require to meet their needs. This was further impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the significantly higher demand for placements and the scarcity of options available. However, work continued to ensure that children were placed in the most appropriate and cost-effective placements.

Welsh Government (WG) were providing additional funding via the Social Care Recovery Fund and proposals for its use had already been submitted to WG. £947k had been allocated to Children's Services and this would therefore mitigate the pressures already described. The November Hardship grant claim to WG was £70k which related to the additional costs for external placements and agency Social Workers as a result of the increased pressure due to COVID-19. This claim had not yet been accepted by WG but, if approved, would again mitigate the position. Any overspend at year end would be funded from Social Service reserves.

At present, for Adult Services, a £500k overspend was being projected relating to the Community Care Packages budget. There was continued pressures on the budget,

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which was extremely volatile, and therefore work continued to assess a realistic year end position. The current position considered additional funding received from WG via the Social Care Recovery Fund. Any overspend at year end would be funded from Social Service reserves.

The Officer added that a savings target for the year had been set at £135k and it was anticipated that the Social Services saving could be achieved by year end, but the position would be reviewed as the year progressed. It was anticipated that the Leisure saving would not be made in full this year.

In conclusion, the Officer apprised Committee on the currently approved capital budget set at £5.726m and drew members attention to paragraphs 2.9 and 2.10 of the report that detailed capital scheme slippage to the sum of £233k in relation to the Play Area in Stanwell and the Gladstone Park Interpretation Scheme.

Following the Officer's presentation, the Vice-Chair asked after pressures the Council was experiencing with regards to using agency staff to cover shortfalls in available staff and/or difficulties in recruitment. In response, the Director confirmed that agency staff were being used across all divisions within the Directorate but in relation to agency staff within care homes specifically, the costs of agency staff employment was broadly equivalent to the Council's own. In relation to the Children and Young People Services, the agency staff employed within the service were largely offset by the vacancies currently experienced within the service, but the Council recognised that the costs of agency staff in the sector were considerably higher than the Council's rates of employment.

The Head of Children and Young People Services gave her assurance that all efforts were made to recruit and retain permanent staff. In addition to the costs associated with agency social workers there were also significant challenges in identifying agency staff with the necessary skills and experience given the demands on the agency sector also.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the 2021/22 revenue and capital budgets be noted.

Reason for Recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report.

728 UPDATE ON THE CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD (DSS) –

The report, as presented by the NHS Director of Health and Social Care Integration for the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan area, Cath Doman, summarised the progress of the Regional Partnership Board (RPB) made since the last report received by the Committee in January 2021, recognising the ongoing and pervasive impact of

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COVID-19 on services across the partnership and the associated effect on the progress of more strategic developments.

Full details of the activities and impact of the RPB could be found in the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership Annual Report 2020 – 2021, the link to which was provided within the covering report.

The NHS Director stated that it was hoped that the Annual report would be an interesting and informative read for 'real' individuals impacted by the work of the RPB and was proud to report that despite the significant impact of Covid-19 the RPB had continued to make great progress.

The report concluded with an overview of the key priorities in the coming year, including plans to facilitate long-term financial sustainability for those projects which had proven themselves to be fundamental in supporting successful outcomes for people across the region. The RPB would continue to mature its population-focused approach through the 'Starting Well' and 'Ageing Well' Partnerships and establish arrangements to oversee the programmes of work associated with the 'Living Well' agenda.

In his capacity as the current Chair of the RPB, as well as the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care, Councillor Gray highlighted the far reaching and highly collaborative work of the RPB and therefore the increasing need to advertise the RPB's efforts via as many reporting avenues as possible to ensure that service users and members alike were aware of progress; as well as identify any gaps in services most required and not currently reported upon.

With no questions or comments, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the work being undertaken, and progress made, by the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board, including the outcomes being achieved for local people, be noted.

(2) T H A T a further annual update on the work of the Board be received by the Committee in January 2023.

Reason for Recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report to increase awareness of the work of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board.

(2) To keep Members apprised on the work of the Regional Partnership Board to ensure links to the wider Vale of Glamorgan Local Authority agenda and key priorities were considered and ensured.

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729 3RD QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2021/22 AND UPDATED COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2021/22 (MD) –

The purpose of the report was to advise of progress on Scrutiny recommendations and to consider the updated Forward Work Programme (FWP) together with any slippage for 2021/22.

The Chair advised that the Committee's recommendation tracking (Appendix A) was up to date with all points labelled as completed.

The Chair then brought members attention to paragraph 2.3 of the covering report which set out proposed changes to the Committee's FWP (Appendix B) following a workshop discussion held by the Committee on the 9th November 2021. In addition to these points, the Chair advised that since publication of the agenda for the meeting, a further request had been received from the Director of Social Services to reduce the Children and Young People Services Annual Placement Review reporting from biannual to annual.

In conclusion, the Chair added that all reports expected by the Committee for quarter 3 had been received by the Committee.

With no questions or comments, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendix A to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the updated Committee Forward Work Programme Schedule, as attached at Appendix B to the report, be approved and uploaded to the Council's website subject to the following changes being made in advance:
 - All notes as set out in paragraph 2.3 of the covering report; and
 - The removal of the six-monthly Children and Young People Services Placement Review Report so that the report is received on an annual basis only.

Reason for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) For public consideration and information.