

## HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2022.

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

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

Present: Councillor J.E. Charles (Chair), G.M. Ball, C.A. Cave, C.M. Cowpe, S. Lloyd-Selby, J. Lynch-Wilson, J.M. Norman, H.M. Payne, C. Stallard and N.C. Thomas.

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing), Dr. I.J. Johnson and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### 14 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer 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.”

### 15 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR -

RESOLVED – T H A T Councillor N.C. Thomas be appointed Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal year.

### 16 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor M. Collins.

### 17 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### 18 DECLARATION OF INTEREST –

Councillor H. Payne declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 6 - Annual Review of Commissioned Services to Adults with a Care and Support Need. The nature of the interest was a personal interest in that Councillor Payne had a family member currently receiving a care package from the Local Authority however, given the

overview nature of the report and, having sought advice in advance of the meeting, Councillor Payne did not deem her interest as prejudicial and therefore remained in the meeting for the item.

## 19 INTRODUCTION TO THE HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –

To mark the first meeting of the Committee following the 2022 Local Government Election, the Director of Social Services and the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Performance presented a PowerPoint presentation to apprise members on the following matters:

- The Council's overarching vision and Corporate Plan Objectives most closely aligned to the remit of the Committee,
- How the work of the Committee is aligned to contributing towards the Wellbeing Goals for Wales which are part of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and how effective scrutiny was enhanced by the Act via the five ways of working,
- The 4 well-being outcomes of the 2020 – 25 Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan and subsequent key themes of the 2022 – 23 Annual Delivery Plan,
- The scope of the Committee and its role as a council function to ensure an active and healthy Vale, that residents of the Vale of Glamorgan lead healthy lives and that vulnerable people are protected and supported,
- The service divisions, staffing structures, future challenges and key service priorities going forward for the Social Care Directorate, and
- The staffing structures, future challenges and key service priorities going forward for the Leisure Services section.

Following the Officer presentation, and with no questions raised by members, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Officers be thanked for a comprehensive introductory presentation and that the content of the relevant slides be noted.

## 20 ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMMISSIONED SERVICES TO ADULTS WITH A CARE AND SUPPORT NEED (DSS) -

The Operational Manager for Commissioning presented the report, the purpose of which was to outline the activity undertaken regarding commissioned services for adults with care and support needs, and the priority actions for 2022/23.

The report outlined the activity with regards to commissioned services for adults with care and support needs, undertaken by the Resource Management and Safeguarding Division during 2021/22. The report also included the commissioning priorities for the wider directorate in 2022/23.

In addition, the Officer drew Members attention to a Market Position Statement for Care Homes for Older People attached at Appendix 1 to the report that was

completed in December 2021, which provided an assessment of demand, sufficiency, and stability of the care home market within the Vale, in order to inform commissioning priorities going forward.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Director of Social Services added:

- The isolation requirements for social services staff had changed throughout the pandemic and there had been some easements. The latest change to the Welsh Government (WG) guidance was made on the 28/3/22. In the context of the guidance, many of the Council's Social Care service users could be described as clinically extremely vulnerable and domiciliary staff may need to go from one client to the next and so would in all likelihood need to see a client in this category. Practically this required the provider to make rota changes, often at the last minute. There had been a high number of changes to the guidance throughout the pandemic and so all staff and managers found it increasingly complicated to navigate through the implementation of the guidance despite it easing. The Council did notice a small improvement when the isolation period was reduced some time ago.
- Many of the Council's services were required to be commissioned using prescribed procurement processes. The example provided in paragraph 1.19 of the report referred to the recent retender of supported living services. In that case the contract was for 5 years and so before the current contract was completed in 2027 the Council would be required to re-tender the service again. The Operational Manager for commissioning would oversee this area of work. Domiciliary care and Care homes packages used a different process as each care package was effectively spot purchased (albeit with a wider contract in place).
- The latest data available to the Director of Social Services from the week commencing 30th May 2022 indicated that the number of persons waiting for domiciliary care at home in the Vale of Glamorgan had risen to 90. The situation was very serious. The figures on the chart set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report did not include individuals that had been very recently referred as many were sorted very quickly. The 90 individuals were those whereby the Council had reached the stage of needing to widen its search and ask all agencies to see if they could provide the care. Overall, the picture was improving slowly until a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, an increase in demand coupled with an agency handing back packages of care which they no longer wanted to provide caused a further increase. The recent jubilee bank holiday was also likely to have had an impact as agencies would not want to take on extra care at said time and Council staff had not been in work to broker the care packages.

With no further comments or questions from Members, the Committee subsequently

## RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the on-going challenges and demand for commissioned social care services be noted.
- (2) T H A T the contents of the Market Position Statement for Care Homes for Older People as set out at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.
- (3) T H A T an Annual Review of Commissioned Services for Adults with a Care and Support Need report be received by the Committee each June.

Reasons for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the covering and appended report to provide Members with the opportunity to understand the challenges faced by the Council and service providers in commissioning social care services for older people.

(3) Scrutiny Committee receives a rolling update for its consideration as included within its Forward Work Programme.

## 21 FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2022 (DSS) -

The Social Care Information Coordinator presented the report, the purpose of which was to update Members on the performance of the Vale Family Information Service (FIS) during 2021-2022. The report also provided an update of how the Family Information Service had emerged from the Covid -19 Pandemic during 2021-22.

The Officer advised that the Family Information Service played a vital role in contributing to the Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and apprised members on the key impacts on the service going forward as set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.4 of the report.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions from Members, the Coordinator added:

- The service would continue to engage with third sector support networks/groups established as a result of the national pandemic, such as the children's different ability social media group, with the aim of adding new groups to the FIS Index. A FIS Index Newsletter was published on a regular basis to keep index members up to date with the work of the service at key points of interest such as the summer academic holidays.
- A key focus of the service going forward would be to monitor the availability of childcare provision in the Vale, as childcare providers were currently struggling with staff recruitment and the number of available childminders had decreased.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

#### RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the Annual Report of the Vale Family Information Service (FIS) and the work undertaken to support parents/carers and providers in the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the impact of the Pandemic upon the Family Information Service be noted.
- (3) T H A T an annual update report on the Family Information Service be received by the Committee each May.

#### Reasons for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the covering and appended Microsoft SWAY report to ensure effective oversight of the important area of social services activity in light of the national pandemic.

(3) Scrutiny Committee receives a rolling update for its consideration as included within its Forward Work Programme.

#### 22 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2021/22 AND PROPOSED ANNUAL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2022/23 (CX) –

The purpose of the report was to report progress on 2021/22 Scrutiny recommendations and to confirm the Committee's proposed Annual Forward Work Programme for 2022/23.

On behalf of the Chair, the Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer directed members through the various appendices of the report with key points of interest being:

- Key performance statistics of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for the 2021-22 Municipal Year had been added to the covering report at paragraph 1.3.
- In relation to recommendation tracking, only 1 recommendation remained labelled as 'ongoing.' This was a referral made by the Committee to the Governance & Audit Committee however, the Governance & Audit Committee had not yet sat to receive the referral. However, this point would be marked as completed in the near future when the Governance & Audit Committee met on the 13th June 2022.
- The Committee's Draft Forward Work Programme for 2022-23 took account of any points referred to the Committee by Cabinet as per the 2022-23 Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme.

- No report slippage was reported from the 2021-22 Forward Work Programme and therefore, the committee was in a healthy position looking forward to the 2022-23 municipal year.

Following the Officer's presentation, the Director of Social Services also requested the Committee's permission to remove the Families First Annual Report from the Committee's FWP as a rolling report. Officers felt it would be disproportionate to focus in on one particular team in the current climate especially given the implications of the service now being funded via a much broader grant funding stream. The Director's request was made in the context of freeing up much needed agenda space to accommodate more responsive and urgent reports when required.

With no further comments or questions from members, the Committee subsequently

#### RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendix A and B to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme for 2022/23 attached at Appendix C, in the context of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee Annual Forward Work Programme 2022/23 content, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the Committee's proposed Annual Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2022/23 as attached at Appendix D to the report be approved and uploaded to the Council's website subject to the removal of the Families First Annual Report.

#### Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) To align with section 7.6 of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Roles and Responsibilities Protocol.
- (3) Having regard to the contents of the draft Forward Work Programme and subsequent discussion at the meeting.