

No.

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on 9th January 2024.

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

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

Present: Councillor J.E. Charles (Chair); Councillor N.C. Thomas (Vice-Chair); Councillors G. Ball, I.R. Buckley, C.A. Cave, A.M. Collins, C.M. Cowpe, R. Fisher, E.J. Goodjohn, J. Lynch-Wilson, and C. Stallard.

Also present: Councillors C.P. Franks, W.A. Hennessy, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport, and Wellbeing) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

658 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.”

659 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor J.M. Norman.

660 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

661 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

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

The Director of Health and Social Care Integration for the Cardiff and Vale Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership (“External Director”), Cath Doman, presented the report which provided Members with a briefing on the work of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board (RPB) as per requirements of the Partnership Arrangements (Wales) Regulations 2015 that each RPB must prepare an annual report on the extent to which it has met its objectives.

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The report summarised the progress of the RPB made since the report was last received by the Committee in January 2023, recognising the severe financial and capacity challenges across the partnership and the associated effect on the progress of more strategic developments.

The External Director apprised the Committee on details of the activities and impact of the RPB set out in the 2022/23 RPB Annual Report, the hyperlink to which was provided at paragraph 2.1 of the report.

In conclusion, the External Director advised that the RPB had experienced a great deal of challenge in the last year due to the current financial climate, increasing costs, as well as recruitment, retention, and capacity constraints. This was unlikely to abate in the near future and, the attention of the RPB had turned increasingly to consolidating and strengthening existing arrangements that were demonstrating a positive impact and improved outcomes for people. The RPB was mindful of the need to continue to safeguard and maintain investment in prevention and joint working as a long-term strategy to reduce overall demand and associated financial risk.

Following the External Director's presentation, Councillor Cave began debate on the item by thanking officers for the report and apprising the Committee of their personal experiences of caring for a vulnerable relative with Dementia and the lack of Social Services support they received at home until their relative was admitted to hospital, but then advised that support would be transferred to hospital discharge. Councillor Cave expressed their personal disappointment in the unprofessional comments of Social Services officers at the time and also in the fact that Councillor Cave's personal experiences were not reflected within the report as presented.

As a secondary point, Councillor Cave noted the funding that the Council had been giving in previous years to voluntary organisations had now gone into the recruitment of two full-time Dementia Friendly Community Officers who had been working to support businesses and organisations to become more dementia aware, including in the Cowbridge area, however officers did not have the courtesy to contact the Dementia Friendly Cowbridge Group to inform the Group that the officers had been appointed and would be approaching businesses in Cowbridge as the Dementia Friendly Cowbridge Group had been undertaking themselves for many years.

In response, the Director of Social Services noted the personal context raised by Councillor Cave and that the issues raised by the Councillor were related to Social Services rather than the RPB that the External Director was present to comment upon. Therefore, it was not felt appropriate for the External Director to respond directly to Councillor's Cave's personal comments, in a Committee arena, without further investigation. However, in relation to Councillor Cave's comments raised in terms of liaison with the Voluntary Sector, the Director of Social Services advised that they were disappointed to hear, for the first time, the feedback provided and would report back to their relevant colleagues. In the Director's experience, the Council worked very well with the voluntary sector and had a number of arrangements in place to make sure the Council was providing services as seamlessly as possible.

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Councillor Cave then referred to the fact that the report before the Committee was in relation to partnership working for the RPB up until 2028 and therefore queried how close the RPB was to meeting its objectives set for that period.

In response, the External Director advised that in 2023, the RPB published its second Joint Area Plan 2023-28. This set out the Regional Partnership Board's commitments for the next five-year period and the RPB was at the start of delivering against the five-year period which was a continual development journey. It was important to highlight that a lot of the progress set out within the joint area plan demonstrated how the Partnership had built on progress already achieved and now efforts were being made to look at how past achievements could be extended upon at a higher level but, more extensive detail would be included within the annual delivery plans that the RPB would be publishing over the next couple of months ready for 2024-25.

Councillor Cave then added that it would be beneficial for the Committee to better understand the status of progress being made at the start of the five-year timeline, to which the External Director advised that the RPB produced very detailed documents that provided measures as to the impact that the RPB was having and how far the RPB were along the journey of a huge number of projects and pieces of work both at the very beginning of development as well as those already well developed. If there were particular projects that Councillors would like more detail understanding of, the RPB would be happy to provide any necessary information.

In reply, Councillor Cave advised that in order to measure delivery of objectives by 2028, it would be good for the Committee to have some record of progress set out in percentage form, to which the External Director agreed and thanked Councillor Cave for a good point, well made.

Councillor Cowpe then stated the importance of ensuring that efficient hospital discharge planning and the implementation of care packages being in place as efficiently as possible as these were often taking too long for the individuals involved. As a supplementary question, Councillor Cowpe then asked whether or not the Partnership was working with primary schools to identify and support children who were taking on a carer role as primary school children did get involved in providing care they were often missed because nobody knew they were providing care, especially if the matter was not raised by the family.

In response, the Director of Social Services confirmed that the Council, in the main education colleagues, were collaborating with schools to identify young carers and that young people identified were given as much support as possible. It was noted that young children would not necessarily realise they were undertaking a carer's role so identifying said individuals was a continuous challenge. The Director also added that in the past, officers had previously brought a report on unpaid carers to the Committee, and they would be happy to bring said report to Committee again in the future if Members required.

In reply, Councillor Cowpe reiterated their wish to flag the fact that children of primary school age were not necessarily aware of them undertaking a carers role and that caring responsibilities were often kept quiet within the family unit.

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Councillor Fisher then drew Members' attention to paragraph 2.13 of the report which stated how the RPB had supported the Council to invest in an innovative service, commissioning St. Johns Ambulance to respond to fallers and help them stay at home as part of the Telecare Service and asked officers if St. Johns Ambulance had sufficient personnel to undertake the service. In response, the Head of Adult Services and Vale Alliance advised that there was sufficient personnel and the service had been working really well.

Councillor Buckley then referred to paragraph 2.26 of the report which stated that the Early Years Path Finder had been delivering additional support across the region during 2023 to upskill the workforce including non-violence resistance practice that had been piloted with 36 practitioners and asked for further information about what was involved with regards to the training provided. In response, the External Director advised that the Early Years Path Finder programme had received funding to approach partners to provide training which included officers of the Vale of Glamorgan on how to restrain young people in a non-violent way and the training had been received very positively and extra information could be provided if required. In response, Councillor Buckley confirmed that additional information was not required and thanked the Director for their response.

Councillor Fisher then referred to paragraph 2.29.1 of the report that referred to the Cardiff and Vale Integrated Autism Service (IAS) celebrating five years of supporting autistic adults and their carers in the Partnership region in 2022 and asked that it be noted that they were delighted that the services were so well received by users and well recognised and used.

The Vice-Chair then thanked officers for an enlightening report and noted that the Pan-Cluster Planning Group evidenced joined up thinking and should be pushed forward even further. The Vice-Chair then referred to section 2.28 of the report and requested that further information from the section of the report be forwarded to all Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, to which the External Director advised that they would be happy to provide a summary to the Democratic Services Officer for forwarding to all Elected Members following the meeting.

The Vice-Chair then referred to 2.9 of the report which referred to funding for additional planning capacity being made available to Vale of Glamorgan Social Services to develop capital plans to support service delivery and modernisation and asked officers if they had any more detail on this point to share at the current time. In response, the External Director advised that the RPB had a number of capital funding streams for buildings, for infrastructure, which were routed through RPB, and it took a lot of planning and thinking through to make sure that the RPB was aligning the bricks and mortar to its services and how the RPB wanted the services to develop. The detailed planning sat alongside the operational delivery priorities but often the operational leads did not have the capacity to be able to get into the longer term thinking and the detail planning required so the RPB had used some of its funding to provide some additional capacity to come into the social services department. The External Director added that recruitment to the related post had not yet taken place, but the process was currently underway.

Councillor Fisher then referred to the key commitments outlined in paragraph 2.18 of the report and offered their support of the nine objectives, however, queried how

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realistic the objectives were to achieve. In response, the External Director advised that the Partnership hoped that all objectives would be achieved. However, this would be on a long-term commitment and real detail in relation to the objectives would be set out in the annual delivery plans. There was a significant amount of work to do as a Partnership in order to achieve the objectives and a lot of work had already taken place in order to formulate the objectives set out.

In addition, the Chair also set out their support for the aims and commitments set out in paragraph 2.18 of the report but expressed some worry regarding whether or not there was enough qualified staff available in order to achieve the objectives. In response, the Director advised that it was prudent for the Council to aspire to achieve objectives in order to maintain progress as having a deterioration in progress was not an option.

In addition, Councillor Cowpe noted that it was not always about the staff available but also about the current workforce working differently to obtain objectives.

The Chair then referred to paragraph 2.19 of the report and in relation to the commitment that improved services for people with learning disabilities to live closer to home with the right support and maximise their independence and queried whether meeting the objective would mean that young persons would be moved out of their current residential placement.

In response, the Director of Social Services advised that it was possible for individuals to be moved between residential placements however, this would only take place based on an individual assessment. If an individual wished to stay where they were, outside of the Vale of Glamorgan, the Council would collaborate with the relevant Local Authority to maintain stability for the individual.

The Chair then offered comments in relation to paragraphs 2.28, 2.30, 2.31 and 2.32 as follows:

- 2.28 – it was good to see the first Regional Unpaid Carers Assembly being recognised by the Deputy Minister for Social Services.
- 2.30 – the Transition Smart House in Penarth, for young adults with a learning disability transitioning from school to college was a first-class facility and essential for providing young individuals with independence.
- 2.31 – in relation to the work being undertaken to support people with dementia, this was a very important piece of work and even more important that the support was taking place.
- 2.32 – the home programme dedicated to developing community based integrated care services, focussed on enabling people to remain healthy and well and independent at home was commendable so long as the individual involved was not at risk.

In conclusion, the Chair wished the External Director the best of luck with achieving the objectives as set out in the Annual Report and thanked all officers for their time.

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With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

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

(2) T H A T further annual updates on the work of the Board be received.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the contents of the update report to increase awareness of the work of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board of which the Vale of Glamorgan Council was a major partner.

(2) To ensure that Members remained informed of and engaged with the work of the Regional Partnership Board.

663 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2024-25 (REF) –

The Director of Social Services presented the reference and appended report from the 30th November, 2023 meeting as contained within the agenda.

The report set out how the draft Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) 2024-25 (“the Plan”) had been developed, the proposed consultation and the timetable for the Plan as well as how the Plan was aligned to the Council’s four Well-being Objectives. The Plan also detailed the activities that would be undertaken in 2024-25 to deliver the objectives.

The Director advised that the Plan also detailed three critical challenges (associated with the four Well-being Objectives) that would continue to be a key focus for the organisation in 2024-25, these were organisational resilience, cost of living and the climate and nature emergencies and the commitments within the ADP would be reflected in Annual Service Plans together with a suite of performance measures that would detail how different Council services would contribute to the delivery of the Council’s four Well-being Objectives.

Following the Officer’s presentation, the Chair queried how many people were surveyed as part of the Plan consultation and what the individuals were asked. In response, the Director of Social Services advised that they did not have the information as requested to hand however, they would consult with the Director of Corporate Resources and provide further information to the Committee following the meeting.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

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RECOMMENDED – T H A T the draft Annual Delivery Plan, as attached at Appendix A to the referred Cabinet report, be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to both the reference and appended Cabinet report to ensure that all Scrutiny Committees had the opportunity to consider the draft Annual Delivery Plan and provide feedback as part of the programme of consultation.

664 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT REGIONALISATION (REF) –

The Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Performance presented the reference and appended report from the 14th December, 2023 meeting as contained within the agenda.

They advised that the report was previously presented to Cabinet to seek approval for the Vale of Glamorgan to become part of the Central South Sports Development initiative as a Strategic Partner. Sport Partnerships had already been set up in West and North Wales and it was hoped that the Central South Region would be next. Cabinet had subsequently referred the report to Committee to ensure that Committee remained informed of the development and to allow for any comments to be considered by Cabinet prior to entering into the partnership.

Section 2 of the appended Cabinet report set out the key issues for consideration in relation to the partnership including the objective to have a Central South Sports Partnership in place by 1st April, 2024.

The Operational Manager added that discussions had been ongoing with Sport Wales and the 5 Local Authorities (Bridgend, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Vale of Glamorgan) to be included in a Central South Region. Discussions had considered the benefits of regionalisation and the potential models that could be adopted to deliver an effective and efficient partnership. Given the variation that existed between existing delivery models for Sports Development, land areas (urban to large areas of countryside) and significant population variations, it had proven challenging to choose a model where everyone felt an equal partner.

The Officer added that the model proposed for the Central South Sports Partnership and supported in principle by all of the Local Authorities representatives on the project board, was the establishment of a company limited by guarantee (with an option to explore charitable status later) that would distribute funds. Each Local Authority was presently preparing a similar report to this to seek approval to become a Strategic Partner of the Central South Sports Partnership. Further details regarding the proposal and the discussions that had taken place to date could be found at Appendix A to the Cabinet report.

In conclusion, the Officer advised that, understandably, each Local Authority was keen to protect the funding it currently received from Sport Wales to deliver important wellbeing services in its communities and to prevent redundancies. For year 1 of the partnership all funding would be distributed based upon approximate allocation individual Councils received in previous years.

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At the end of the Officer's presentation, the Chair reiterated that final decision in relation to the Partnership rested with Cabinet but invited Committee comments that could be fed back if requested.

With permission from the Committee, Councillor Franks then addressed the Committee and advised of their scepticism when it came to Partnership programmes as it was often that the Vale Council lost out and did not receive its fair share once a partnership was established. Therefore, Councillor Franks asked what assurances Committee could receive in relation to the future Partnership and queried whether the Committee would receive future progress reports on the matter.

In response, the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Performance advised that it was not currently possible to advise of the outcomes of the proposed partnership but, as already mentioned, officers were aware that the first year of partnership funding would be ringfenced. The Council was currently planning against the impacts of the partnership and was expecting a drop in financial assistance, but this would also be the case for all other Local Authorities in Wales. Officers hoped that all Elected Members could be involved in supporting the partnership and that officers shared the concerns raised by Councillor Franks.

However, the Operational Manager was taking positive reassurance from the same partnership arrangements that were already underway in the North Wales area and the fact that the Local Authorities involved in the North Wales Partnership had been able to successfully obtain a number of funding schemes available due to the collective size of the collaboration. For the Central South Partnership, only time would tell, and officers hoped to bring an update on progress within the next Annual Sport and Play report already scheduled for the Committee's consideration.

Councillor Goodjohn then thanked officers for a very inclusive report and also echoed the concern of Councillor Franks with regards to the Vale of Glamorgan Council losing funding as a result of joining the Partnership. Councillor Goodjohn was also happy to see that engagement work was ongoing with schools as set out in the report and therefore hoped that the individuals reached via schools, individuals who were not receiving education in the school setting as well as much needed community engagement would not be negatively impacted by establishing the partnership.

In response, the Operational Manager advised that work undertaken with schools had been the focus of the Council's Sport and Play Team and would continue to be so as a readily available target audience. Community work was not expected to be affected by the Partnership and the officer noted that Sports Wales did not have responsibility for play activities and therefore sport funding was separate to Play Wales funding, however, it was recognised that play for young people was often an introduction for young people to take up sporting activities as they grew and therefore, the Council thought it important to ensure a link between the two.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Fisher in relation to how frequent reporting on the partnership would be, the Operational Manager advised that officers already provided a sport and play report to the Committee on an annual basis and it was therefore proposed proposal to continue with annual reporting unless a report

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was required sooner as a matter of urgency in terms of regionalisation issues that had occurred. For completeness, the Chair then clarified with the Operational Manager that updates on the Partnership were expected as part of the Sports and Play Report already contained on the Committee's Forward Work Programme however, separate directed reports could be brought to the Committee if required.

The Vice-Chair then asked the officer how the Partnership impacted the Council's relationship with Legacy Leisure. In reply, the Officer advised that the Council had a contract in place with Legacy Leisure until 2030 and therefore Legacy Leisure would have the opportunity to involve themselves in the regional partnership and had already indicated they wished to do so. In addition, part of the reasoning for moving to the partnership model was to involve other agencies and certainly colleagues within the health sector.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T both the reference and appended Cabinet report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the recommendation that the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee receive regular reports on the progress of the Central South Regional Sports Partnership, as part of the already established Sport and Play Annual Report on the Committee's Forward Work Programme, be agreed.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the content of the report to seek Cabinet approval for the Vale of Glamorgan to become part of the Central South Sports Development initiative as a Strategic Partner and to keep Committee informed of the development as well as to allow for any comments to be considered prior to entering into the partnership.
- (2) To monitor the performance of the Central South Sports Partnership from the perspective of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and to have the ability to share any appropriate information with Cabinet.

665 3RD QUARTER SCRUTINY DECISION TRACKING OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE (DCR) –

The purpose of the report was to report progress on Scrutiny recommendations and to consider the updated Forward Work Programme together with any slippage for 2023/24.

The report advised Members of progress in relation to the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and the updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24:

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- 3rd Quarter Recommendation Tracking October to December 2023 (attached at Appendix A to the report); and
- Updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24 (attached at Appendix B to the report).

The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer advised that only two recommendation tracking items were labelled as 'ongoing' due to the matters relating to references or agreements the Committee had made however, the receiving / subsequent meeting had not yet taken place. Therefore, the two items were expected to be marked as completed, as per all other items listed, in due time.

There was also minimal report slippage on the Committee's Forward Work Programme from Quarter 2 to Quarter 3 which was continually monitored by the Chair of the Committee. However, the decision of the Committee earlier on the same agenda to consolidate future updates on the progress of the Central South Regional Sports Partnership as part of the already established Sport and Play Annual Report, would be reflected on the Forward Work Programme prior to publication.

Therefore, the Committee was requested to agree the recommendation actions listed in Appendix A to the report as well as approve the Committee's updated Forward Work Programme for uploading to the public website as included at Appendix B to the report.

With no comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed in Appendix A of the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the updated Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2023/24, as attached at Appendix B of the report, be approved, and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the content of the report to maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2) For public information.