



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 7TH MAY, 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillors: W R Smith (Chair)  
S Jago (Vice-Chair)

Councillors G Richards, T Rogers, D Sammon and I Thomas

**Officers:**

L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), J Eyre (Safeguarding), A Edevane (Head of Adult Services) and M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1053	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from E Davies Youth Forum Representative.
1054	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were received.
1055	Consultation on the Annual Report for Social Services 2018-2019	Lisa Curtis-Jones introduced the report and highlighted that the service is currently ahead of schedule in providing this report and would like to receive feedback from the committee on whether they believe the priorities included are correct.  After receiving a brief outline of the detail contained within the report the following questions were raised by the committee and responded to by the appropriate officers.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is this information shared with our partners and how is feedback provided</li> <li>• Pressures on staff are listed as budget constraints, regional working and other pressures – In relation to regional working do you think the authority benefits more than the costs of the regional working</li> <li>• Dementia Day Service is mentioned in the report, can you confirm if we currently share information that is gathered from this service with an national research organisations</li> <li>• Deprivation of Liberty orders – the report states that you will involve people in the process, can you explain who you intend to be involved in the process</li> <li>• Can you explain what tools will be used to measure a person’s quality of life</li> <li>• It was noted by the committee that there were a lack of examples included in the report that would provide the committee with a better understanding of the provisions being provided</li> <li>• The Director’s Summary of Performance mentions the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, isn’t this a repetition of last year’s statement</li> <li>• It was noted that the report was difficult to follow with a lack of conclusions to highlight the priority areas</li> <li>• In relation to the financial resources section of the report there is a distinct lack of detail of the budget costs and pressures. Figures should be included to show how much money is available and how much services actually cost</li> <li>• Page 23 of the report mentions taking steps to protecting and safeguarding people. It was raised last year about proofing that we are making a difference and making families more resilient within our communities and whether percentages can be provided of the number of families coming back into Social Services</li> </ul> <p>The committee raised concern that the report lacked quantitative data to back up the statements made within the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the format of the report follow a Welsh Government template</li> </ul>
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1056	Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19	<p>The Scrutiny Officer updated the committee in relation to the new work programme for the new cycle of meetings for 2019/2020 which will be brought to the next meeting in June.</p> <p>Cllr D Sammon requested that a report be brought to the committee with a lot more information covering looked after children. He also requested that on the back of receiving the report can a task and finish group be set-up.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr D Sammon would liaise with the Scrutiny Officer to bring forward the Looked after Children report and to provide further detail on what they would like included in the report.</p>

1057	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised the committee that there was no update on this item.
1058	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered.
1059	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	No other business was deemed urgent by the Chair.