



MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 2019

PRESENT: Councillors: W R Smith (Chair)

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

Other Councillors in Attendance:

Councillor C Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services)

Officers:

A Lloyd (Head of Children's Services), L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)) and S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer) T Hudd (Social Services) and M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
536	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received.
537	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were received.
538	Regional Partnership Business	The Chair announced that the order of the Agenda had changed and Item 4 Mid-Year Update on Young Carers would be heard first. Lisa Curtis-Jones led the committee through the report and highlighted that this was an update as requested by the committee earlier in the year.

		<p>The following questions were raised by the committee and responded to in detail by the officers in attendance.</p> <p>The committee commented that the report was excellent but requested a full page copy of the flow chart on page 9 as it was difficult to read due to its size.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report states that it is important to listen to the public view and that you must continue to work with the public, can you confirm that you currently get a lot of engagement, communication and feedback from the public. <p>A request was made by Cllr D Sammon for Cllr C Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services) to feedback to Cabinet in relation to the issue relating to getting better public involvement and feedback on the services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the pool budget based on population and how is the pool budget made up and managed • With the addition of Bridgend to the Partnership area on 1st April, how are things working and are we now moving forward or are there still teething problems to be resolved • We have seen the Young Carers Annual Report but have the committee had sight of the Carers Annual Report • (WCCIS) Welsh Community Care Information System - are all partners now using the system • What reasons have been given for everyone not being able to access the system <p>The Chair thanked the Officer for the report.</p>
539	Mid-Year Update on Young Carers	<p>Annabel Lloyd introduced the item and highlighted that Merthyr Tydfil's young carers are remarkable young people and their achievements are noteworthy and thanked Taryn Hudd for being enthusiastically invested in developing service for Merthyr's Young Carers.</p> <p>Taryn Hudd highlighted the pertinent points within the report and mentioned that in the first two quarters of this year 20 new young carers had been identified which is a significant increase. It was also highlighted that 70% of young carers who attended the programme reported an improvement in their wellbeing.</p>

		<p>The following questions were raised by the committee and responded to in detail by the officers in attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the Early Help Hub is the funding regional or just Merthyr Tydfil • Do schools keep detailed records on young carers' attendance, behaviour, results etc. • Are the young carers identified sole carers or do they have additional specialist assistance from Social Services or other professional bodies • Concerns were raised in relation details contained within the report that highlighted the fact that schools were allowing young carers to fall through the net, but with the addition of the new post highlighted within the Early Help Hub it should allow you to achieve better outcomes in the coming year. • Are you currently sharing the expertise with schools and assisting them in highlighting and supporting young carers • Do Social Services actively try to lighten the burden on these children by providing home help / nursing assistance etc. • Does the Authority currently have a service in place to monitor the young carers mental health • What is K I T, can you explain to the committee what it is and what it does and provide. <p>The Chair requested an acronym breakdown sheet for future committees with a brief description on each acronym included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How confident are we as an authority that we are identifying all young carers and are there any that are slipping through the net as some young carers wont realise they are carers as it is the norm for them • In relation to the residential breaks and the Choir, who funds these projects and if it was to stop would the council be willing to fund the projects • The report states that 27 young carers attended the residential break, were these young people chosen or is it open to all young carers to attend • It was mentioned that 70% of young carers reported an improvement in their wellbeing after attending the residential break, what about the other 30% was additional support offered to them
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540	Forward Work Programme 2019/20	<p>Cllr G Richards highlighted the lack of non-elected members and the lack of youth forum representation.</p> <p>The Chair advised the committee that there were no changes to the current work programme.</p>
541	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair advised the committee that no referrals, feedback or follow up actions had been received.</p>
542	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered.</p>
543	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>No other business was deemed urgent by the Chair and he ended the meeting by wish the committee a Merry Christmas.</p>