



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

**TUESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**

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

Councillors G Richards, D Sammon and I Thomas

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

C Davies (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), L Morgan (Supporting People), T Hudd (Family Support) and J Eyre (Safeguarding)

M Morgan\* (Democratic Services Officer), M Edmunds (Democratic Services Officer) and A Taylor (Head of Democratic Services)

| ITEM NO. | AGENDA MATTER | DECISION |
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**Co-opted Member**

The Chair welcomed Mr I Cathrew, Co-opted Member to his first Scrutiny Meeting where he was in attendance as an Observer.

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| 16 | Apologies for absence | Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Rogers as he was unable to join the Meeting due to a technical Issue. |
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| 17 | Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations) | No Declarations of Interest were made.  |
| 18 | Draft Forward Work Programme 2020/21                       | <p>The Chair referred the Committee to the Draft Forward Work Programme 2020/21.</p> <p>Reference was made to 15 September 2020 Meeting on the Forward Work Programme - Scrutiny and Challenge where it should read 'Social Services' and not 'Neighbourhood Services.'</p> <p><b>Resolved subject to the foregoing that:</b></p> <p>The Draft Forward Work Programme 2020/21 be approved.</p>  |
| 19 | Coronavirus Pandemic - Update on Recovery and Activity     | <p>The Chair welcomed Councillor C Davies Cabinet Member, Jon Eyre, Lowri Morgan and Taryn Hudd to the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor C Davies then referred the Committee to the 'Coronavirus Pandemic – Update on Recovery and Activity' report.</p> <p>Tributes were then paid by the Committee to the hard work undertaken by the staff and thanks for their dedication and commitment.</p> <p>Taryn Hudd then gave an overview to the Committee on the work undertaken over the past four months in relation to Children's Services.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraph 7.2 – What is the current situation in relation to agile working – Are any staff solely working from home or is it mixed</li> <li>• Are all Social Workers undertaking Face to Face Community visits – Are Children being seen</li> <li>• Staffing Capacity</li> <li>• What other risk have been identified for Children's Services</li> <li>• What is the number of Children Looked After – What is the situation in other Local Authorities</li> <li>• Paragraph 5.9 – Further information sought on the backlog – Are there enough resources</li> <li>• What are the links with Outside Agencies</li> <li>• Further information requested on the Testing of staff and residents in Care Homes and the frequency of testing</li> </ul> <p>Councillor C Davies advised that the Chief Officer could update the Councillors on Testing in Care Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supply of PPE Equipment</li> <li>• Update requested on Disabled Facilities Grants – When will assessments be undertaken</li> <li>• Respite provision – What provision is being made</li> </ul> |

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|    |  | <p>for Carers</p> <p>Jon Eyre then gave an overview to the Committee on the work undertaken in relation to Safeguarding.</p> <p>The Chair then referred to the amount of work that had been undertaken and that staff had been tremendous in looking after the elderly and children and to convey appreciation to the staff.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked Councillor C Davies and the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>  |
| 20 | Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting               | The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been considered in the Meeting.  |
| 21 | Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions | <p><b><i>Pre - Meeting Start Time</i></b></p> <p>The Committee agreed that the Pre-Meeting for Committee Members would commence at 2.30 pm.</p> <p><b><i>Self-Evaluation for Scrutiny Members</i></b></p> <p>Sian Lyons outlined to the Committee the self-evaluation process for Scrutiny Committee Members and the process on completion of the self-evaluation.</p> <p><b><i>Typing error amendments in the Work Programme</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Reconfiguration of Peripatetic Social Workers Posts to Peripatetic Support Workers – Children’s Services</i></b></p> <p>The report that was considered at the Council Meeting held 9 September 2020 to be considered by the Scrutiny Committee</p> |
| 22 | Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair      | The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.   |