



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : REGENERATION AND PUBLIC PROTECTION MEETING

TUESDAY, 19TH JANUARY, 2021

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Lewis (Chair)  
K Gibbs (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Colbran, L Davies, J Thomas and S Thomas

**Cooptees:**  
M Ellis (Youth Forum Representative)

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**  
G Thomas (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**  
A Owen (Interim Deputy Chief Executive), M Purnell (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), T Stephens (Family Support) and R Evans (Community Safety Officer)

**Outside Bodies:**  
N Mahoney and J Beck (Safer Merthyr Tydfil)

M Morgan\* (Democratic Services Officer) and M Edmunds (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
321	Apologies for Absence	Apologies for absence were received from H Hopkins and H Jackson Co-opted Members.

322	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
323	Update Report - Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor G Thomas Cabinet Member, Nicola Mahoney and Julie Beck from Safer Merthyr Tydfil to the Meeting.</p> <p>Nicola Mahoney and Julie Beck then led the Committee in detail through the 'Update Report – Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence' report and together with the Officers responded in detail to the questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impact on Service provision in Merthyr Tydfil due to lockdown</li> <li>• Paragraph 4.7 – MARAC Cases – What is the Benchmark figure – What are the current figures – How do Merthyr Tydfil figures compare with neighbouring Councils – Are there any factors unique to Merthyr Tydfil – Why are the figures higher than neighbour Authorities – Are the cases only Domestic Violence or do they include cases of Sexual Violence</li> <li>• Operation Encompass – Are the Police given the figures for this – Has the level increased</li> <li>• Is Domestic Violence a historic problem in Merthyr Tydfil – Is it getting worst – What measures can be put in for prevention</li> <li>• What interaction is there between the Social Services Team with the Safer Merthyr Tydfil Domestic Violence Team</li> <li>• How do Safer Merthyr Tydfil work with Partner Agencies</li> <li>• How prevalent is Domestic Violence in the LGBT Community</li> <li>• Is there research to indicate how much Domestic Violence is unknown</li> <li>• Is assistance provided for men – What are the engagement figures for men</li> <li>• The Annual Meeting that is held with the Police and the Committee</li> <li>• Explanation requested in relation to accessing funding and an overview of funding – Is any funding received from the Local Authority – Has funding increased in recent years</li> <li>• The men campaign and the low uptake figure – Is there an opportunity to feed back instances to the Police in order to bring about change</li> <li>• Is Domestic Violence more of a generation issue – Is it coming through to a younger generation</li> <li>• Does Domestic Violence run in families – If violence is seen in the household is it more likely for a household member to commit violence</li> </ul> <p>The Chair and Councillor Thomas then stated that if there was any aspect that Safer Merthyr Tydfil wished to bring forward to refer this to the Committee.</p>

		The Chair then thanked Nicola Mahoney and Julie Beck for attending and for the information provided to the Committee.
324	Update on Response to Coronavirus	The Committee received the Information Report.
325	Work Programme 2020 - 2021	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the Forward Work Programme 2020/21 report.</p> <p>A Member then proposed that under additional Topics for Review Violent Crime: Sexual Violence be reviewed by the Committee.</p> <p>Maria Purnell advised that she would pursue this proposal and would agree the best Committee date for this item.</p> <p>The Response to Coronavirus would also be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Reference was then made to Appendix 1 of the Response Coronavirus Report and the Members requested further details in relation to:</p> <p>Fixed Penalty Notices, Number of joint visits made by Environmental Health, Homelessness, Universal Credit, Mass Testing, Transforming Towns, Cutback of Vegetation</p> <p>The Chair also proposed a COVID Dashboard where progress could be seen through a timeframe.</p>
326	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow Up Actions	There was no update on this item.
327	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been discussed at the Meeting.
328	Any Other Business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.