



MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

PRESENT: Councillors: W R Smith (Chair)

Councillors G Richards, D Sammon and I Thomas

Other Councillors in Attendance:

Councillor T Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services)

Officers:

L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), T Stephens (Family Support), L Lewis (Youth Offending Team) and M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
224	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from the following: Councillor S Jago and C Handley (MTYF)
225	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were received.
226	Social Services Recovery, Transformation and Improvement Plan Update	The Chair provided an update in relation to the changes to the membership of the committee and welcomed the new portfolio member for Social Services Councillor T Rogers to the meeting. Lisa Curtis-Jones introduced the item to the committee and provided an update on the previous 3 months.

		<p>The Chair praised the social services staff on all the work that they have carried out throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by the officers in attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are to be further lockdowns in the near future are there things that you would change or do differently from what you have learned • Concerns were raised by the Chair in relation to members of the public contacting Social Services and reassurances were sort to ensure that members of the public could reach the correct department and that waiting times were not excessive • Under the heading 'what we need to do next' 8.3 of the report mentions ensuring staff receive the right support and that HR and Care First have offered support around Counselling for staff. Have many staff taken up the offer of support and is this the support you mean when you say staff need to be looked after • Have you had support from the Chief Executive and HR in relation to staff being able to carry over holidays to ensure they didn't lose the days they were unable to take • Have our own internal HR Team played a big part in providing support to the staff • The booster jab is being mentioned in the press, are there plans for staff to receive the booster and have all staff now received the vaccine <p>The Chair thanked Lisa Curtis-Jones for the report.</p>
227	Annual Report on Social Services 2020-21	<p>Lisa Curtis-Jones introduced the report to the committee and gave a brief outline of the titles included in the report.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in details by the officers in attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report refers to the Tacking Poverty Board, can you briefly outline what the board is and what remit it has • Page 43 of the report refers to the Community Occupational Health Service and the fact that there is a very high turnover of staff and the difficulties in recruiting – can you confirm why there are difficulties recruiting in this area

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity was sought in relation to who has been invited to attend the poverty summit, will this committee be involved or all Councillors <p>The Chair thank Lisa Curtis-Jones for the report.</p>
228	Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (YOS) 2020/21 - Update	<p>Lyndon Lewis introduced the report and provided the committee with a brief overview of its content.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by the officers.</p> <p>The Chair requested a workshop as the report is similar year on year and members require a better understanding of how the service is currently working, which will assist in suggesting improvements. The Chair also had concerns around Staffing levels, funding and the public's perception of the service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The figures on youth offending are rising, have lockdowns and restrictions directly resulted in an increase in youth offending Are people too eager to refer young people to the service when they don't need that level of intervention <p>The Chair thanked Lyndon Lewis for the report.</p>
229	Forward Work Programme 2021/22	<p>No updated was provided on the work programme.</p> <p>The Chair suggested an update once the Youth Offending Service Workshop had been agreed and confirmed.</p>
230	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair confirmed that there were no referrals, feedback or follow up actions.</p>
231	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the matters that had been discussed at the meeting.</p>
232	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair confirmed that he had no other business deemed urgent and thanked members for their attendance before closing the meeting.</p>