



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 2022

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

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

Officers:

L Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer), T Stephens (Head of Childrens Services), M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer), J Eyre (Safeguarding Manager) Rachel Gray (Children Social Services & Safeguarding), Helen Lang (Children Social Services & Safeguarding), Angela Harris (VVC) and A Edevane (Head of Adult Services)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
764	Apologies for absence	No Apologies for absence were received
765	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Councillor David Hughes declared an interest in item 4 as Chair of Young Carers.
766	Verbal Update on the Impact of Covid-19 on the Service	L Curtis-Jones provided Committee with an update on the impact of Covid-19 on the Service with particular emphasis on staff absences. Staff absences had caused the Dementia Day Centre to close for 2 days.

		<p>The following question was raised by the Committee and responded to in detail by the officers in attendance:-</p> <p>What PPE is being used in care homes?</p>
767	Adult and Children's Services Carers Strategy	<p>Report on Child Services presented by Rachel Gray. Emphasis was placed on their vision for the future with a several goals as outlined as below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure carers voices are heard • Reduce social isolation faced by carers • Raise awareness of unpaid carers • Promote a carer friendly workplace <p>Report on Adult Services presented by Helen Lang. The report outlined statistics between 2020 and 2022.</p> <p>In the year 20/21;</p> <p>118 young carers engaged with the service. 11 new young carers assessments undertaken leading to a support plan. 152 young carers support plans were reviewed.</p> <p>In $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year 21/22</p> <p>130 young carers engaged with the service. 36 new young carers assessments undertaken leading to a support plan. 261 young carers support plans were reviewed.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the Committee and responded to in detail by the officers in attendance:-</p> <p>How does the carers innovative Welsh Government Grant Work?</p> <p>What has been ascertained from 5.3?</p> <p>Regarding 4.5, how many young carers are there?</p> <p>Has there been any research as to the percentage of young carers that are being missed?</p> <p>When will ID cards be available?</p> <p>How can we communicate what support is available to the public?</p> <p>The following comment was made: Acknowledgement of the excellent support and engagement throughout the pandemic.</p>
768	Vale, Valleys and	

	Cardiff (VVC) Adoption Collaborative Annual Report for 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021	<p>Angela Harris presents a detailed report of the impacts of Covid-19 with the main office remaining closed with a number of key staff in place. A hybrid approach to adopter assessment with a virtual panel system was developed to support adopting families. Research shows that more families were reached by the support service through the virtual approach than had previously been expected.</p> <p>No questions were raised.</p> <p>Committee commend report.</p>
769	Living Well - Corporate Self-Evaluation	Report was deferred.
770	Forward Work Programme 2021/22	<p>Committee reviewed the following recommendations for future Forward Work Plan;</p> <p>Information on the Emergency Duty Team Dementia Action Plan Safeguarding Workshop Youth Offending Service Workshop</p>
771	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair confirmed that there were no scrutiny referrals, feedback or follow up actions.
772	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the matters that had been discussed at the meeting. The Chair thanks the Committee and all of Social Services for all their work. Finally, thanks are extended by Councillor Rogers to the Chair and Committee.
773	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	No other business was deemed urgent.