



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES & SOCIAL REGENERATION MEETING

TUESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 2014

PRESENT: Councillor W R Smith (In the Chair)

Councillors T Lewis, B E Mansbridge and J McCarthy

Co-optees:

Christopher Brazier

Officers:

Sue Hughes (Assistant Director Social Regeneration), Ian Benbow (Head of Adult Social Regeneration and Development), Chris Hole (Head of Youth Regeneration and Development) and Ewan McWilliams (Corporate Performance Manager)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Manager) and Mair Morgan (Scrutiny / Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
692	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Mytton.
693	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
694	Consideration of Agenda items	The Committee considered in detail the items on the agenda.

695	CSSIW inspection of Safeguarding and Care Planning for Looked After Children and Care Leavers.	<p>The Committee considered the CSSIW Inspection of Safeguarding and Care Planning for Looked After Children and Care Leavers report that had been considered by Cabinet with a recommendation for referral of the Action Plan to the Social Services and Social Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>A Task and Finish Group be convened in the new year to consider the Action Plan and that this Group comprise Councillor W R Smith, Councillor T C Lewis and Councillor J McCarthy.</p>
696	Adult & Community Learning Impact of budgetary reductions	<p>The Chair welcomed Sue Hughes, Ian Benbow and Chris Hole to the Meeting.</p> <p>Sue Hughes referred to the potential impact of reductions in funding in relation to Adult Community Learning (ACL) and how the overall ACL Service will endeavour to maintain the high level of standards and quality as seen in the ACL inspection in 2013.</p> <p>Ian Benbow then gave details to the Committee in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Funding Profile • Key Issues • Option for implementation • Actions being progressed to mitigate impact • Current Structure • Future Structure Mitigating Negative Impact from Loss of Funding <p>Questions were then raised on the Presentation and were answered in detail by the Officers.</p> <p>A Committee Member then referred to representation being made to Welsh Government regarding funding.</p> <p>Sue Hughes advised that representation had been made regarding the impact.</p> <p>The Committee then agreed to support any further representation made to Welsh Government in relation to reductions in funding for the ACL Services.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for the update to the Committee.</p>
697	European Social Fund Cohesion	<p>Sue Hughes referred the Committee to the European Funding that had been accessed to drive forward employability and skill development.</p> <p>Chris Hole then gave details to the Committee on:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF Funding Accessed • Bridges into Work • SEN Transition • Change Management • Future Cohesion Funding Priorities • ESF Draft Programme Aims • Future Funding Priorities: • Tackling Poverty through Sustainable Employment • Skills for Growth • Youth Employment and Attainment • Key Issues <p>Questions were then raised on the Presentation and were answered in detail by the Officers.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for the update to the Committee.</p>
698	Self-Evaluation and Service Challenge Process	<p>The Chair welcomed Ewan McWilliams to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ewan McWilliams referred the Committee to the Self Evaluation and Service Challenge Process report and responded in detail to questions raised by the Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The proposed improvements to the Self Evaluation process be noted.</p>
699	Scrutiny and Audit Chairs Liaison Group Update	<p>The Chair advised that there was no update.</p>
700	Forward Work Programme	<p>The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.</p>
701	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there were no items deemed urgent.</p>