



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor W R Smith (**In the Chair**)

Councillors D Davies, R Braithwaite, B E Mansbridge and J McCarthy

Councillor L A Matthews and Councillor P Williams - Cabinet

Cooptees:
Brian Lewis

Officers:
Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Services), Annabel Lloyd (Head of Children's Services) and Richard Parry (Consultant for School Improvement)

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer), Mair Morgan (Scrutiny / Democratic Services Officer) and Heidi Jones (Executive Support)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
331	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Jones and Councillor T C Lewis.
332	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
333	Merthyr Tydfil Looked	The Chair welcomed Councillor L A Matthews, Councillor P

	After Children Strategy	<p>Williams, Lisa Curtis Jones, Annabel Lloyd and Mark Anderton to the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor L Matthews referred to the Merthyr Tydfil Looked After Children Strategy report and led the Committee through the report.</p> <p>The Committee then raised the following questions on the report and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of Looked After Children population – Can the figure be reached • Achievement figure for Focused Plans and Permanence • Vacant Posts • Case Loads • Surplus Foster Carers • Future Demand for Foster Carers • Immigration <p>The Chair then thanked Councillor Matthews and the Officers for the update.</p>
334	Budget & Transformation Projects 2014/15	<p>Councillor L A Matthews referred the Committee to the Budget and Transformation Projects 2014/15 and the Highlight reports in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Services: Efficiencies Projects – • Leaving Care • Children's Services: LAC Strategy – • Special Guardianship Orders • Adult Social Services: Transformation Projects <p>Councillor R Braithwaite entered the Meeting at 3.17 pm.</p> <p>The Committee then raised the following questions on the Highlight Reports and were responded to in detail by the Cabinet Members and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forecast for 2015/16 for Mental Health • Numbers - Re Mental Health Section 117 • Timing of Reports • Detailed reports – Key areas of concern <p>The Chair then thanked the Cabinet Members and the Officers for the update.</p>
335	Performance against our outcome agreement with the	This item was deferred.

	Welsh Government	
336	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	<p>Lisa Curtis Jones updated the Committee in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training • Well Being Board <p>The Chair thanked Councillor L A Matthews and Lisa Curtis Jones for the update.</p>
337	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair, Committee and Richard Parry reflected in detail on the issues that had been discussed at the Meeting.
338	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there was no update in relation to this item.
339	Forward Work Programme	<p>The committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.</p> <p>It was also agreed that an update on Budgets be given at every Meeting.</p>
340	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.