



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 2015

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

Councillors A Jones, T Lewis, B E Mansbridge and J McCarthy

Councillor L Matthew and 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), Ian Benbow (Manager for Community Development) and Ryan Stokes (Communities First Co-ordinator)

Outside Bodies:

Nicola Kingham (Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Business Manager)

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

| ITEM NO. | AGENDA MATTER | DECISION |
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| 551 | Apologies for absence | Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Braithwaite. |
| 552 | Declarations of Interest | Mr Brian Lewis Co-opted Member Declared his Interest in |

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| | (including whipping declarations) | Item three – Merthyr Tydfil Community First as VAMT are the holders of the South Cluster Contract. |
| 553 | Merthyr Community Clusters Tydfil First | <p>The Chair welcomed Ian Benbow and Ryan Stokes to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ian Benbow referred the Committee to the 'Merthyr Tydfil Communities First' report.</p> <p>Ryan Stokes then referred the Committee in detail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities First background • Key Strategic Actions that had been progressed • Key Issues and Risks • Future Communities First Funding <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by Ian Benbow and Ryan Stokes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Communities First Funding percentage cut and when would the figure be known and what are the contingency plans • Could a plan be given for each Cluster • What working skills are adults learning <p>Communities First – South Cluster</p> <p>Mr B Lewis having Declared his Interest in the South Cluster left the Meeting for this item.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Kenneth Long to the Meeting.</p> <p>Ken Long then referred the Committee in detail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Cluster activities summary • Health • Learning • Prosperous • Key Risks / Mitigating Actions • Areas of good practice • Key areas for improvement • Priorities Actions for 2016/17 <p>The following questions were then raised on the Presentation and were responded to by Ken Long:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would the Programme be managed if there were cuts • Feedback to Elected Members if there are cuts to a scheme • Promotion of children into sport • Staffing • Funding from other areas <p>Communities First – North Cluster</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Les Dobson to the Meeting.</p> |

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| | | <p>Les Dobson then referred the Committee in detail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Cluster activities summary • Health • Learning • Prosperous • Key risks / Mitigating Actions • Areas of Good Practice • Key areas for development • Priorities Actions for 2015/16 <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were answered in detail by Les Dobson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receipt of Communications • Plan of action to advise Elected Members what is going to be delivered, feedback, value for money etc • Low birth rates • Anti-Smoking programmes • Needs assessment based on budget cuts • Attainment improvement • Collaboration <p>Communities First – Mid Cluster</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Colette Watkins to the Meeting.</p> <p>Collette Watkins then referred the Committee in detail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Cluster activities summary • Health • Learning • Prosperous • Key risks / Mitigating Actions • Areas of Good Practice • Key areas for improvement • Priorities Actions for 2015/16 <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were answered in detail by Colette Watkins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Clusters working together to take forward projects • Digital inclusion • Collaborative Projects <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p> |
| 554 | Safeguarding Arrangements for reporting and managing Professional Abuse - for and | <p>The Chair welcomed Councillor L Matthews, Lisa Curtis Jones, Annabel Lloyd Mark Anderton and Nicola Kingham to the Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Matthews referred the Committee to the ‘Safeguarding – Arrangement for reporting and managing Professional Abuse’ report.</p> |

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| | | <p>The Committee then raised the following questions on the report and were responded to by Councillor Matthews and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who would take complains forward • Current investigations • Whistleblowing information • Safeguarding Board powers • MASH • Training <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Scrutiny Committee considered the report and raised questions and challenges that will improve our process for safer practice in relation to safeguarding children.</p> |
| 555 | Safeguarding - The role of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) | <p>Councillor L Matthews referred the Committee to the 'Safeguarding – The role of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board (CTSCB) 'report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback • Differences in ways of working • Report Cards <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Scrutiny Committee considered the report and raised questions and challenges that will improve our process for enhancing safe practice in relation to safeguarding children.</p> |
| 556 | The Development of the Joint Commissioning Statement for Older People | <p>Councillor L Matthews referred the Committee to 'The development of the Joint Commissioning Statement for Older People' report.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p> |
| 557 | 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"> • Project Management • Staff Training <p>The Chair thanked Lisa Curtis Jones and Councillor Matthew for the update to the Committee.</p> |
| 558 | Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions | <p>The Chair advised that there was no update on this item.</p> |
| 559 | Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting | <p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the items that had been discussed at the Meeting.</p> |

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| 560 | Forward Work Programme | The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme. |
| 561 | Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair | The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent. |