



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

**TUESDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, 2015**

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

Councillors D Davies, A Jones, B E Mansbridge and J McCarthy

Councillor L Matthew – Cabinet Member

**Officers:**

Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)), Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Services) and Annabel Lloyd (Head of Children's Services)

**Outside Bodies:**

Denise Moultrie – Area Manager – CSSIW  
Rachel Evans and Angela Harris – Vale, Valleys and Cardiff  
Regional Adoption Collaborative

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer), Mair Morgan (Scrutiny /  
Democratic Services Officer) and Jayne Overbury (PA to the  
Mayor)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
741	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Braithwaite, T Lewis and Mr Brian Lewis Co-opted Member.
742	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest.
743	Vale, Valleys and	The Chair welcomed Rachel Evans and Angela Harris to

the meeting.

Angela Harris provided an update on the progress since VVC became operational on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

Angela Harris referred the Committee in details to:-

- Governance Structure
- Staffing Resources
- Service Delivery
- Priorities
- Performance Management
- Budget and financial considerations.

The following questions were then raised by the committee and were responded to by Angela Harris and Rachel Evans.

- Three of the four Authorities have transferred staff over to the Vale of Glamorgan, not Merthyr. Was there any particular reason for that?
- Staffing gaps in the organisation; what you are doing to fill them?
- What traditionally is the turnover like in adoption services? Is it low or high?
- Staff on maternity, what has the knock on effect been in respect of the efficiency of the service?
- Regarding older children placed for adoption, do we have a significant problem do we have a problem in placing them?
- When you start the adoption process, do you keep the same social worker involved with the adopters, as you mention there is a shortage of staff? You may lose the link.
- How do you advertise for adopters to come forward as we don't see as much advertising such as for example Blaenau Gwent, who advertise on roundabouts?
- How would your social workers be allocated their cases loads, for example would you be sending social workers from Merthyr down to Cardiff or the Vale and vice versa, considering the travelling time and the time allocated to each adoptee?
- The budget line. The four authorities are in the same

		<p>position, so what would be a 5% cut for example have an effect on the service and the way you are operating. Where would you get the extra funding?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will you feed back to the committee if there are problems as we don't want to hear last minute of any problems? Can you report regularly to this committee (to Portfolio Member)?</li> <li>• It has been mentioned that social workers existing work load had been increased. Are you happy that there is a right balance that they are not being put undue pressure as the last thing we want is that staff are off work with stress for example?</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Linda Matthews and Annabel Lloyd to Feedback</p> <p>The Chair thanked Rachel Evans and Angela Harris for their update.</p>
744	Merthyr Tydfil Social Services CCSIW Performance Report 2014-15	<p>Councillor Linda Matthews outlined the reasons for this presentation and welcomed Denise Moultrie to the Meeting.</p> <p>Denise Moultrie apologised that the Regional Director, Margaret Rooney was unable to attend. Denise Moultrie then went through the presentation and referred the Committee in detail to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership and Governance</li> <li>• Adult Services – Key National Priorities – prevention and early intervention</li> <li>• Key National Priorities – integrated services for older people with complex needs</li> <li>• Areas of progress</li> <li>• Areas for improvement</li> <li>• Children's services – Key National Priorities – looked after children</li> <li>• Areas of progress</li> <li>• Areas for improvement</li> <li>• CCSIW national inspections and reviews.</li> <li>• CCSIW follow up work this year</li> </ul> <p>The following question was then raised on the presentation and was responded to by Denise Moultrie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers of adults decreasing in numbers, will homelessness now rise.</li> </ul> <p>Denise Moultrie to bring report back to this Committee in 6 months.</p> <p>Councillor Linda Matthews referred the Committee to the fact that Merthyr Tydfil are the only authority whose child minders have to apply for planning permission, it is discretionary and social services need to get it right with</p>

		<p>policy changes.</p> <p>Council report being prepared, planning need more information to move forward as soon as possible.</p>
745	De-registration of Glendere and Park View	<p>Mark Anderton updated the Committee in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The delay in the District Valuers report and that the date for full de-registration is now 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016.</li> </ul> <p>The following question was raised by the Committee and was responded to by the Officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How has this affected the residents and concerns from family members regarding this delay.</li> </ul>
746	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	<p>Lisa Curtis-Jones updated the Committee on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Management</li> <li>Staff Training</li> <li>Local Action Plan</li> <li>Performance Indicators.</li> </ul> <p>The following question was then raised by the Committee and was responded to by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there any extra funding for this.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Lisa Curtis Jones and Mark Anderton for the update to the Committee.</p>
747	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair advised that there was no update on this item.</p>
748	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and Committee reflected in detail on the items that had been discussed and decided that a fact finding meeting is needed with regard to support for child minding.</p>
749	Forward Work Programme	<p>Report from CCISW to be added in 6 months' time.</p>
750	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>