



MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

**TUESDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2016**

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

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

**Co-optees:**  
Brian Lewis

**Cabinet Members:**  
Councillors L Matthews and P Williams

**Officers:**  
Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services))  
Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Matthew Phillips  
(Democratic Services Officer)

**Outside Bodies:**  
Jason O'Brien (Head of Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service)  
Nicola Kingham (Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Business  
Manager)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
886	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rhonda Braithwaite.
887	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.

	(including whipping declarations)	
888	Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service	<p>The Chair welcomed Jason O'Brien Head of Cwm Taf Youth offending Services to the meeting.</p> <p>Jason O'Brien led the committee through the report giving and brief history of the service prior to highlighting the key points held within the report.</p> <p>The key priorities highlighted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Time Entrant (FTE) Trends</li> <li>• Custodial Sentence Trends</li> <li>• Reoffending trends</li> <li>• Reoffending – frequency and binary rates</li> <li>• Financial Arrangements</li> </ul> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Jason O'Brien.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the plan of action for Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service to target the reoffenders?</li> <li>• Is the Youth Offending Service (YOS) working with other agencies to assist in targeting reoffenders?</li> <li>• Could the YOS put out a press release highlighting the positive nature of this report?</li> <li>• What is YOS relationship with the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)</li> <li>• What are the deficits with the YOS relationship with CAMHS?</li> <li>• What level of seniority sit on the YOS board?</li> <li>• Are the records of the board meetings available to this committee?</li> <li>• What plans are in place to offset the reduction in future funding?</li> <li>• What is the staffing structure is it joint with Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf or is there a split?</li> <li>• Has any feedback been received from the Inspection carried out in January/February last year?</li> <li>• What age group is the YOS responsible for and at what age do they transfer to the probation service? Is support provided during the transition from YOS to the Probation Service?</li> <li>• Does the YOS work closely with Social Services and the family unit?</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three key indicators have been highlighted today, are there any other key indicators available such as Risk of Harm?</li> </ul> <p>The Chair then thanked Jason O'Brien for the report and the responses to the questions raised.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>Scrutiny acknowledges and scrutinizes the maintenance of positive performance in relation to the key performance indicators;</p> <p>Gains an understanding of the financial arrangements of the service and the risks relating to potential loss of the future funding;</p> <p>Receives further reports in due course aimed at highlighting specific functions and development of the service.</p>
889	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Boards Annual Reports 2014-15	<p>The Chair welcomed Nicola Kingham to the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Linda Matthews introduced the report to the Committee and Nicola Kingham led the Committee through the report highlighting a number of salient points within the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Aims</li> <li>• The structure of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board</li> <li>• Our Priorities in 2014/15</li> <li>• The key achievements in 2014/15</li> <li>• Monitoring performance in 2014/15</li> <li>• Co-operation and Collaboration</li> <li>• Our priorities for 2015/2016</li> </ul> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by Nicola Kingham:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When will the Committee receive an up to date report?</li> <li>• The structure provided for the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board looks very complicated, does it work and how do you keep track of all that is going on within the structure?</li> <li>• Is there going to be an issue with future funding within the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board?</li> <li>• Have any lessons been learned from the Rotherham Report?</li> </ul>

- Will the local and regional Board action plan be brought back to the Committee?
- Do the board currently consult with groups or individuals on how they feel about safeguarding?
- Are there any measures in place in the instance that a partnership fails to provide financial support, information etc.?

Nicola Kingham then led the committee through the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2014/15 highlighting the key points:

- The Structure of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board
- Performance in 2014/15
- Progress against strategic outcomes
- The number of referrals, the Category of vulnerability, location of alleged abuse, the alleged perpetrator and the type of abuse.
- The number of cases considered by the Safeguarding Board Adult Practice Review Group
- The key achievements: the development of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the development of a new Cwm Taf Safeguarding Website, enhanced designated Lead Manager (DLM) effectiveness and increased capacity across Cwm Taf to deal with increased number of DoLS referrals.
- Learning, Development and Training
- Key improvements for 2015/2016.

The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Nicola Kingham:

- Is there a possibility that in the near future the Children and Adult Boards will merge?
- When discussing the Children's Board it was stated that the protocol and procedures group were common to the Adult Board and MASH is common to all ages do you foresee a time when the Boards will be able to merge and be a more efficient use of the members' time?
- Have any other Boards merged and is there any evidence of the effectiveness of the merger?
- How will the new Adult protection and Support orders under Section 127 of the Social Services and Well Being Act assist you in dealing with difficult individuals who refuse your help or intervention?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a piece of work that can be done by this committee in relation to the graph which highlight the location of the alleged abuse? The independent sectors levels are quite worrying and perhaps we need to investigate and see if there are any actions that we can take to normal the figures?</li> </ul> <p>The Chair agreed to meet with Councillor Linda Matthews and Lisa Curtis-Jones in relation to the figures highlighting the alleged abuse in the independent sector.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Nicola Kingham for the report.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The contents of the report be noted.</p>
890	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	<p>Lisa Curtis-Jones updated the Committee on the progress in relation to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.</p> <p>The update provided included information relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work has been completed in relation to the Codes of Practice within the authority.</li> <li>Prioritising updates to Policies and Procedures</li> <li>Prioritising the Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) which is part of the Act.</li> <li>Training has started in the train the trainer format but the timescale is short.</li> <li>Information received from Welsh Government in relation to raising awareness of the Act which has now been placed on the MTCBC website.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked all the Officers for their attendance at the meeting.</p>
891	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair advised that there were two referrals that will be added to the work programme as a matter of urgency.</p>
892	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the meeting.</p>
893	Forward Work Programme	<p>The Committee considered and agreed the Forward Work Programme.</p>
894	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no other business deemed urgent and closed the meeting.</p>