



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY, 2016

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

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

Cooptees:
Brian Lewis

Officers:
Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Services), Joe Rhys-Jones (LAC), Gareth Kedward (MIA & TAF Co-ordinator) and Gary Evans (Audit Manager)

Matthew Phillips (Democratic Services Officer) and Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1051	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rhonda Braithwaite.
1052	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	Councillor David Davies declared his personal interest in Item three – Disabled Facility Grants. (DFGs)
1053	Referral from Governance Scrutiny Committee - Disabled Facility Grants (DFG's)	Councillor Linda Matthews explained that the item was referred to the Social Services Scrutiny Committee by the Regeneration, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee, via the Governance Scrutiny Committee. It was felt there were further questions to be asked and explained

		<p>that the appropriate officers were in attendance to address these questions.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by the appropriate officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a waiting list for Disabled Facility Grant Funding and if so how do you prioritise applications • What is the current budget for DFGs, and is it spent every year • If there is an under spend in the budget what happens to the remaining funds • Is the Authority able to carry out the required duties with the current staffing levels • How do Social Services liaise with the Housing Department in relation to the budget and the allocation of work • Does social services have any key performance indicators in relation to DFGs and if so provide examples • Who audits the work that has been carried out within the customers home • How is the authorities working relationship with Merthyr Valley Homes <p>The Committee agreed that the Scrutiny Officer would gather a response from Internal Audit for feedback to the Regeneration, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Scrutiny meets with the Audit Manager and the Head of Adult Social Services to clarify the issues raised by the Regeneration, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee.</p>
1054	Social Services Response to CSSIW Report	<p>Councillor Linda Matthews introduced the report and provided a background in relation to the four areas for improvement listed in the report.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by Mark Anderton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An area for improvement highlighted in the CSSIW report that doesn't seem to be included in the action plan in the report is "Continued progress with innovative commissioning and monitoring in adult services". Can you please update the committee on this area for improvement <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Scrutiny committee consider the report and raise questions and challenges that will improve practice and outcomes.</p>

1055	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there were no referrals, feedback and follow up actions.
1056	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	An update was provided by Mark Anderton in relation to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
1057	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the meeting.
1058	Forward Work Programme	The Chair agreed to meet with Howard Jones in relation to preparing next year's work programme.
1059	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no other business deemed urgent and closed the meeting.