



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 17TH MAY, 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

Cabinet Member:

Linda Matthews

Officers:

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
1398	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rhonda Braithwaite.
1399	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
1400	Social Services response to CSSIW report	Councillor Linda Matthews led the Committee through the report and provided updates on the areas of improvement since the CSSIW Report.

		<p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by the appropriate officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance in 2014-2015 was affected by high levels of vacancies and sickness can you tell the committee what steps have been taken to ensure this issue won't be a reoccurrence. • Was it Adult or Children's Services that was affected by the issues of vacancies and sickness. • You say that the Statutory visits to looked after children will not be a measure in future; however you will continue to report it. The fact that it isn't required as a Measure, does this mean there will be fewer statutory visits to looked after children, or will the visits continue unaffected. • Other than this Scrutiny Committee where else is this action plan reported. <p>The Chair thanked the officer for the responses and commented on the excellent report.</p>
1401	Annual report Social Services Complaints, Representations and Compliments	<p>Councillor Linda Matthews led the committee through the report highlighting the stages of the complaints procedures and the figures recorded for the past year.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were responded to in detail by the appropriate officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are staff supported when a complaint is made about an individual. • Is there a likelihood of an increase in complaints when the new Act is introduced <p>The Chair thanked the Officer for their responses to the questions and for their attendance at the meeting.</p>
1402	Preparation of Work Programme for 2016/17	<p>The members of the committee agreed that the Chair meets with the Scrutiny Officer to discuss and prepare the future work programme. A meeting is to be arranged with the Chief Officer (Social Services) and her senior officers to hear suggestions for the work programme.</p> <p>The scrutiny officer provided members with a copy of a letter dated 2nd March 2106 from the CSSIW addressed to Directors of Social Services. He highlighted the point that CSSIW will be strengthening their relationship with council scrutiny arrangements to include attendance at meetings.</p>
1403	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	<p>Lisa Curtis-Jones provided the Committee with an update in relation to the Social Services Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.</p>

1404	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there were no referrals, feedback and follow up actions.
1405	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the issues that had been considered at the meeting.
1406	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no other business deemed urgent and closed the meeting.