



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

**TUESDAY, 1ST NOVEMBER, 2016**

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

Councillors A Jones and T Lewis

Councillor L A Matthews – Cabinet

**Cooptees:**

Brian Lewis

**Officers:**

Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Services), Annabel Lloyd (Head of Children's Services), Alexandra Beckham (Child Protection), John Sellwood (Leisure, Culture and Sports Development Manager) and Sian Lyons (Performance and Risk Support Officer)

**Outside Bodies:**

Nicola Kingham (Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Business Manager)

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

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
445	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Braithwaite and Councillor B E Mansbridge.
446	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
447	Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Safeguarding Action	The Chair welcomed Councillor L Matthews, Mark Anderton, Annabel Lloyd, Alexandra Beckham and Nicola Kingham to the Meeting.

	Plan	<p>Councillor L Matthews referred the Committee to the 'Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Safeguarding Action Plan report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Councillor Matthews and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What consultation has taken place – What Organisations have been involved</li> <li>• The development of an action plan has been ongoing since March 2015. Has the Authority come up with an Authority wide action plan and when will it be ready</li> <li>• What is the timescale for when things will be done</li> <li>• Who sits on the Corporate Safeguarding Reference Group and who do they report to</li> <li>• Are there any gaps to be filled on the group and is the representation appropriate</li> <li>• One of the outcomes is that 'there is an effective transition process in place to support those young people who become eighteen and who may still be vulnerable' – Do we have an efficient transition policy – Is there only one plan or does it change</li> <li>• Is there a programme laid down for reporting</li> <li>• Are the voluntary sector involved in this process</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Scrutiny comments on the recommendations that are outstanding and ongoing actions are remitted to Corporate Safeguarding Reference Group in order for effective monitoring and reporting to Scrutiny on a regular basis</p>
448	Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Annual Report 2015/16	<p>Councillor L Matthews referred the Committee to the 'Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Annual Report 2015/16' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Councillor Matthews and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the first year of MASH, 57% of RCT referrals progressed to formal investigation and 85% of Merthyr Tydfil referrals proceeded to formal investigation – Do you have any early indications as to why there is such a variation</li> <li>• What is the number of cases that equates to 85% - Helpful to have figures as well as percentages</li> <li>• Is there inspection by CSSIW</li> <li>• What is the relationship with the Public Service Board</li> <li>• Is the review near completion</li> <li>• What is the progress on the way forward</li> <li>• Who will you report to on progress on these next steps, and who will you report back to</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the Cwm Taf MASH Annual Report 2015/16 be noted</p>
449	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015/16	<p>Nicola Kingham referred the Committee to the 'Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015 – 2016'.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by Councillor L Matthews and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the differences between the Plan and the Report</li> <li>• Paragraph 6 (ii) – Have the reasons for these figures been analysed and why was the figure so high in 2013/14</li> <li>• Paragraph vii – Activity Title Table – Actions to address attendance issues are considered at the Adults Learning and Development Group – What are the issues</li> <li>• In November 2015 both Safeguarding Boards negotiated a funding formula for 2016/17 – What is the situation for future years bearing in mind the budget restraints</li> </ul>
450	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children Board Annual report 2015/16	<p>Nicola Kingham referred the Committee to the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2015 – 2016'.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to by Councillor L Matthews and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is one Board more effective than the other in terms of Partner participation and outcome</li> <li>• Are there areas of good practice from one board that can be shared with the other</li> <li>• Are there lessons to be learned</li> </ul>
451	Performance Report - Corporate Plan Priority Area 4 Active Lifestyles	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b></p> <p>Councillor W R Smith Declared his Interest in this item as he is the Council's Representative on the Board for the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust Limited.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed John Sellwood and Sian Lyons to the Meeting.</p> <p>Sian Lyons led the Committee through the 'Performance report – Corporate Plan Priority Area 4 – Active Lifestyles' report.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by Councillor L Matthews and the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visits have been reducing year on year – What are the reasons for this</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we doing anything to reverse this trend</li> <li>• There has been a big reduction over the last year – Does it tie in with an increase in fees at Leisure Centres or is there another reason</li> <li>• Do we get any Lottery money for sport</li> <li>• How does Community Chest support Adult and Children's teams</li> <li>• The Committee should receive a report on active lifestyles</li> <li>• Can the Committee have a list of what the Community Chest has been spent on this year</li> <li>• Are there comments received back from the people who use the Trust facilities</li> <li>• The effect of Free Swim Funding on the Trust</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The judgements and evaluations be noted</p>
452	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	Councillor L Matthews updated the Committee in relation to the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014.
453	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the notes of the Regeneration, Planning and Countryside Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Meeting that had been held 28 September 2016.</p> <p>The Committee were also advised that a report would be made to the Joint Scrutiny Committee to be held in January 2017.</p> <p>The Chair then recommended that a Task and Finish Group be convened prior to the January Meeting to consider communication between Social Services and residents.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>A Task and Finish Group be convened to comprise Councillor W R Smith, Councillor A Jones, Councillor T C Lewis and Mr B Lewis.</p>
454	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been discussed at the Meeting.
455	Scrutiny Work Programme 2016-17	The Committee considered the Work Programme report and agreed that the Chair meet with the Officers to agree the Committee Work Programme.
456	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there were no items deemed urgent.