



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 24TH JANUARY, 2017

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

Councillors T Lewis, B E Mansbridge and J McCarthy

Cabinet Member:

Councillor L Matthews (Social Services)

Officers:

Joe Rhys-Jones (LAC), Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Services), Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer (Social Services)) and Chris Hole (Head of Community Wellbeing) Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Matthew Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)

Outside Bodies:

Jay Goulding (Cwm Taf Integrated Family Support Team)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
731	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Braithwaite, Councillor A Jones and Brian Lewis.
732	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
733	Cwm Taf Integrated Family Support Team Annual Report 2015-16	Councillor Linda Matthews introduced the report and provided a brief background to the committee.

		<p>The following questions were raised by the committee and responded to in detail by the officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the Executive Summary it is mentioned that one of the main challenges to the team in 2016 -17 is to increase the number of referrals from Merthyr Tydfil Children’s Services, Can you explain what is meant by this statement? • In 2015-16 staffing levels were an issue, what is the current position? • The aim of the Integrated Family Support Team is to provide a highly skilled, multi-disciplinary tea. Are you satisfied that you have achieved this; and how would you know? • Have you delivered on your priorities for 2015/16; and were any carried forward to 2016/17? • Is there a cost for the new WCCIS computer system which is being introduced across all local authorities? • One of the team’s objectives is to “reduce the number of children becoming looked after by the local authority”. Is this being achieved? • Who are your external auditors and when were you last audited and what was the outcome? • How often are you Audited? <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Scrutiny committee discusses and comments on the issues set out in the attached report.</p>
734	Communities First ‘Minded Phase Out’	<p>Councillor Linda Matthews introduced the item and explained that the report had been to Cabinet and there are a lot of unanswered questions and that the officers present were not in a position to answer the questions that members have.</p> <p>An in-depth discussion ensued and it was agreed through the Chair that the Committee send letter to Carl Sargeant AM Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children asking for further information in relation to the Communities First ‘Minded Phase Out’.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The contents of the report and the implications for the closure of the programme are noted and debated.</p> <p>The continuation via a 3 month extension at current funding levels be noted.</p>

		<p>Further Resolved:</p> <p>A letter be sent to Carl Sargeant AM highlighting the concerns of the committee and asking for further information in relation to Communities First 'Minded Phase Out'</p>
735	Performance Report – Corporate Plan Priority Area 2 Promoting independence	<p>Councillor Linda Matthews and Sian Lyons-Nicholas introduced the item to the committee.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the committee and responded to in detail by the officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes were “Adequate” in 2013 and then again in 2016. Your ambition is to be “good” by this year (2017). Is this realistic? • For 2015/16 only 66.2% of carers of adults were offered an assessment against a target of 100%. What issues are you facing in reaching the target? • In relation to the figure of for 2015/16 are they based on a calendar year or a financial year? • Why are you retendering the Direct Payments Service? • Can you give the Committee some examples of how you have and are aiming to improve the Hospital Discharge Process? Are you working closely with the health Service on this and is this issue being taken on by the newly formed Cwm Taf Public Service Board? <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The judgements and evaluations are noted and debated.</p>
736	Performance Report - Corporate Plan Priority Area 3 Meeting the needs of vulnerable children	<p>Councillor Linda Matthews and Sian Lyons-Nicholas introduced the item to the committee.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the committee and responded to in detail by the officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your ambition is for outcomes for children to improve from “adequate” as it is now, to be “good” by 2018. Is this really achievable bearing in mind the financial pressures we are facing? <p>The committee congratulated the officers on the reduction in the figures from March 2013 to March 2017.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The judgements and evaluations are noted and debated.</p>

737	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	The Chair advised that there were no referrals, feedback or follow up actions.
738	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been discussed in the meeting. The committee agreed to draft a letter to Carl Sargeant AM raising their concerns in relation to the Communities First Scheme.
739	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	No update was provided in relation to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.
740	Scrutiny Work Programme	Discussion ensued in relation to the Scrutiny Work Programme.
741	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there were no items deemed urgent.