



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

SCRUTINY : SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING

TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2017

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

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

Cooptees:

Brian Lewis

Cabinet Member:

Councillor L Matthews (Social Services)

Officers:

Mark Anderton (Head of Adult Services) Annabel Lloyd (Head of Children's Services) Jon Eyre (Early Intervention Team Manager) Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Matthew Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
879	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Braithwaite.
880	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were made.
881	Early Intervention Team	Councillor Linda Matthews introduced the report and provided a brief background to the committee. The following questions were raised by the committee and responded to in detail by the officers.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the “Early Intervention Team” approach being used by other local authorities; and is it proving to be successful • Can you please explain to the committee what is a “strength based” approach • Can you please explain what the procedure is if the families involved in the process don’t follow the plan • You provide the staffing structure within the report, are there newly recruited staff within the team or have they been moved from other areas within Social Services • From the point of entry with children’s services where does this strength based, outcome focused approach fit in relation to the multi-agency approach • What is the timescale from point of entry to assessment being carried out • In relation to the success measures listed in the report; where they introduced by this authority or are they in place at other local authorities. • What measures were used previously when it was the Enhanced Child in Need service <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Scrutiny members note the content of the report and raise questions and challenge with a view to improve the outcomes for young people who are known to Early Intervention Team (EIT).</p>
882	Social Services response to CSSIW Action Plan	<p>Councillor Linda Matthews introduced the report to the committee and invited the committee to put their questions to the appropriate officers.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and responded to in detail by the officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (DoL’s) Deprivation of Liberty safeguards – There are no figures provided, when will the figures be at an “acceptable” level and what has the feedback been from CSSIW on this issue. <p>Councillor John McCarthy left the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there now sufficient staff within the team to carry out the work and to reduce the waiting list • Are any special measures being introduced to assist the team in achieving the Welsh average in relation to the frequency of statutory visits to Looked after Children

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is mentioned in the CSSIW report that regular engagement meetings will take place with the council in relation to the areas for improvement, can you confirm that these meetings are taking place <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Scrutiny committee consider the report and raise questions and challenges that will improve practice and outcomes.</p>
883	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Scrutiny Manager addressed the committee and provided details of the referral that had been received from Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>An in-depth discussion ensued and it was agreed through the Chair that the committee would not investigate the matter and suggested that the best way forward was for Councillor P Brown to progress the case via the Councils Complaints procedure as the committee felt that an individual case would be better dealt with in that way.</p>
884	Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014	<p>The officers provided the committee with an update on the Authorities progress in relation to the Social Services Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.</p> <p>The update included information relating to Commissioned Assessment work and Practice Solutions which has assisted the department is putting together an action plan around priorities moving into year 2 of the Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Services Priorities – Building on work around looked after children voice, strengthening the effectiveness of the early information, advice and assistance and building on the work with care leavers Adult Services Priorities – Advocacy for vulnerable adults not subject to the Mental Health Act which will be looked at on a regional basis.
885	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the issues that had been discussed in the meeting.
886	Scrutiny Work programme	Discussion ensued in relation to the Scrutiny Work Programme and what items are to be included for the new administration after the Local Government Election.
887	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there were no items deemed urgent.
888	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board - Child Sexual Exploitation	<p>Councillor Linda Matthews introduced the report and provided a brief background to the committee.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and answered in depth by the officers.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can you tell us what the Gwella project and needs assessment is all about?• In relation to the “caught in traffick” video highlighted in the report, can you tell the committee if it can be made compulsory for all schools to show this film?• At point 1.1 of the appendix it states you are awaiting guidance from Welsh Government, what is the guidance about and when are you likely to receive it• Are the Police invited to attend any Social Services Scrutiny meetings <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>Scrutiny members note the content of the report and raise questions and challenge with a view to improving our partnership response to preventing child exploitation and protecting young people who may be at risk in this way.</p>
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