

CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 18 JUNE 2018

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB
ON MONDAY, 18 JUNE 2018 AT 09:30**

Present

Councillor CA Green – Chairperson

JPD Blundell	T Giffard	M Jones	RL Penhale- Thomas
RMI Shaw	JC Spanswick	T Thomas	CA Webster

Apologies for Absence

N Clarke and J Gebbie

Officers:

Gail Jewell	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Invitees:

Judith Brooks	Group Manager Business Support
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Laura Kinsey	Head of Children's Social Care

61. NOMINATION OF CHAIRPERSON

RESOLVED: That Councillor CA Green be elected as Chairperson of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year.

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:

Councillor RMI Shaw declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 – Nomination to the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel as a member of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority.

Councillor JC Spanswick declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 – Social Services Annual Report 2017/18 as his wife is employed in the Homecare service.

63. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 21 February, 29 March and 30 April 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record.

64. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

RESOLVED: That Councillor CA Webster was nominated as the Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

65. NOMINATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

RESOLVED: That the following Members were nominated to sit on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

Councillor RMI Shaw
Councillor JC Spanswick
Councillor T Thomas

66. CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL - JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report which sought to establish a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCRD). She stated that the CCRD Joint Cabinet at its meeting on 20 November 2017 considered a report which detailed proposals for the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It was subsequently determined that this authority would be the Host Authority.

The Committee was apprised of the background and information on the proposal together with the draft Terms of Reference. A report containing details of the proposal would be considered by each of the participating authorities' appropriate scrutiny committee prior to it being endorsed by Council in accordance with Statutory Guidance, issued under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011.

The Committee considered there needs to be proper scrutiny and accountability in place and the Committee was concerned that it had been presented with very little information as to how the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee will operate. The Committee also questioned the decision making process for the City Deal project and that the decisions made by the Joint Cabinet must stand scrutiny. The Committee gave support in principle to the establishment of a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but considered that it would like to receive further information on the meeting arrangements and for clarification of its powers to call-in decisions and refer matters back to the Joint Cabinet, prior to nominating a Member to Council to represent the authority on the CCRD Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee also considered that it required information as to whether there would be pre-decision scrutiny and whether the Joint Overview and Scrutiny would be able to examine spending decisions on the project.

Conclusions

The Committee support in principle the establishment of a JOSCD for CCRCD, although request clarification on the following prior to Council on 18 July 2018 where the Committee will be asked to nominate a Member to represent the Authority:

- What powers would the JOSCD employ – would the Committee undertake any pre decision items?
- What responsibility would the nominated person hold?

Members also specified that two meetings a year would not allow effective Scrutiny of the CCRCD and relayed their concerns in relation to the report confirming that there would be limited Scrutiny in the first year, as Members are conscious that decisions are already being made.

67. SCRUTINY ANNUAL RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING 2017 - 18

The Scrutiny Officer presented the recommendations of this Committee, the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel for 2017-18. The annual monitoring of all recommendations made by scrutiny will detail the items that have been raised and discussed throughout the year and provide an opportunity for Members to determine which topics they wish to revisit or those which remain a concern to provide a foundation for setting the 2018-19 Forward Work Programme.

The Committee was requested to review the outcomes and impacts which Scrutiny has made during the previous year.

The Committee requested that in future years each Committee only receives the recommendations relevant to their own Committee. The Committee was satisfied with the format and timeliness as to how requests for further information are responded to.

The Committee requested that as part of the review of the referrals process that the level of dissatisfaction in the way services are delivered is considered as the Committee wished to see greater visibility in the Corporate Plan to address levels of dissatisfaction in service delivery and whether there are common themes in order to improve service delivery. The Committee considered that the Service and Performance Update reports which are reported to the Democratic Services Committee could be shared with this Committee.

The Committee considered that it wished to see the Waste Contract revisited as part of the Forward Work Programme.

Conclusions

The Committee recommend that when presenting future recommendations and their responses, that they be allocated and portrayed to the relevant Committee and any comments are then collated and fed back to the Corporate Committee.

Following a discussion in relation to Member Referrals, the Committee recommend that a comprehensive evaluation of all referrals be undertaken. Members confirmed that this would highlight common themes of dissatisfaction and provide key topics that should be considered by Scrutiny.

68. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19

The Scrutiny Officer reported on the items to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 25 July 2018 and sought confirmation of the information required for the subsequent meeting to be held on 17 September 2018. The Committee was presented with responses to comments, recommendations and requests for additional information from the previous meeting of the Committee. The Committee was also presented with a list of potential Forward Work Programme items for prioritisation and allocation to each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The Committee determined that for the City Deal item to be considered at the meeting on 27 July 2018 in addition to the Chief Executive being required to attend, Councillor Andrew Morgan, the Chairperson of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Cabinet also be invited to attend. The Committee recognised the importance of making a distinction between this Committee's role in scrutinising City Deal from a Bridgend perspective with that of what will be the role of the CCRD Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the project across the region.

The Committee determined that it wish to scrutinise Waste Services at its meeting on 26 September.

The Committee also determined that an item on Ethical Procurement and Contracts be allocated to Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on 17 September 2018 and that Group Manager Legal and Corporate Procurement Manager be invited to attend. The Committee at that meeting would like clarification of the role the Corporate Procurement Team has in ensuring compliance with contracts and whether this role is devolved to Departments for the monitoring of major contracts and whether financial penalties are imposed for non-performance by contractors.

The Committee allocated School Standards to Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 on 4 July 2018 and Plastic Free Bridgend County Borough to Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on 23 July 2018.

Conclusions

The Committee confirmed the following items for Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme:

- Members agreed to receive City Deal on 26 July 2018 and re-add Collaboration with Police to the Forward Work Programme for future consideration
- Members request to receive a report on Procurement and Contracts on 26 September 2018. The Committee ask that the report include:
 - What monitoring process is in place with contractors to ensure compliance?
 - Who is obligated to guarantee compliance?
 - How can public accountability be assured if information within a contract is restricted to Members?
 - Have any financial penalties been issued as a result of a breach of contract?
 - End dates for all major contracts.

Members requested that following officers be invited to attend the following for the Procurement and Contracts item:

- Rachel Jones, Corporate Procurement Manager
- Kelly Watson, Group Manager Legal
- Representative from Wellbeing Directorate
- Representative from Communities Directorate

The Committee confirmed the following items for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme:

12 July 2018	SOSC 2	Safeguarding
23 July 2018	SOSC 3	Plastic Free Bridgend County Borough
5 September 2018	SOSC1	School Standards
6 September 2018	SOSC 2	ALN Reform
17 September 2018	SOSC 3	Waste
16 October 2018	SOSC 1	Advocacy

69. SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented the Director of Social Services' draft Annual Report for 2017/18 for comment and requested that the Committee note the judgements reached locally about social care services in Bridgend. The Annual Report is based on the Authority's self-assessment of the performance and delivery of social care services.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) from October 2016, had changed the way they inspect children's and adult social services and following the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, the CIW had developed a new framework which aims to ensure that authorities are inspected using the wellbeing outcomes of the Act. The aim of the Annual Report is to provide an overview of social care in the County Borough and is evidence based, with contributions made by staff and includes feedback from service users. She stated that the template for the report follows the six national quality standards for wellbeing.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that the priorities for improvement reflect the analysis of performance and addresses the challenging context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy with that of increasing demand for those in need.

The Committee requested details of the number of looked after children at present. The Head of Children's Social Care informed the Committee that the number of looked after children as at last week was 374 and is constantly changing. The trend overall shows a downward one which contrasts to the picture nationally where the numbers of looked after children are increasing. The Committee questioned how this compared with the picture in England and Scotland. The Head of Children's Social Care informed the Committee that there are similar issues in England to that experienced with looked after children in Wales with numbers increasing. She stated that the practice deployed in Scotland to reduce the number of looked after children could be considered.

The Committee questioned the reasons for the downward trend in the number of looked after children in the County Borough. The Head of Children's Social Care informed the Committee that the authority is working proactively with Early Help and families to prevent children from becoming looked after and arrangements for special guardianship orders are also in place. She stated that the Regulator is satisfied that the authority has the correct thresholds in place to keep children living safely with their families. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing confirmed that the most important element of reducing the number of looked after children is to do so safely and there is a whole system approach to do this.

The Committee questioned whether there are plans to bring looked after children who are in placements in England back so that they are cared for closer to home. The Head of Children's Social Care informed the Committee that there is a great deal being done to address this issue, namely, the residential remodelling project. She stated that some looked after children could not be cared for locally due to their specific needs. The authority is however extending its provision through the residential remodelling project. Approaches are routinely made to neighbouring local authorities to establish whether they have provision for this authority's looked after children, but they mostly experience similar shortages in provision as this authority. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that looked after children is a major priority for the Directorate.

The Committee asked whether greater use of ICT systems could be made in the Directorate. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that the WCCIS is now used by 13 local authorities in Wales and RCT and Merthyr Councils had now signed up as users. Further use of ICT is made to support service users of Telecare which enables them to live more independently. Staff in the Homecare service are equipped with tablet devices to enable them to access shift and rota patterns. Service users can make use of the Dewis portal to enable them to gather information that they need on the availability of social care services. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that short-term services

were being piloted linked to the WCCIS system. She stated that she would include a paragraph in the Annual Report on the use of ICT.

The Committee referred to Quality Standard 5 and questioned whether courses are offered to service users to support them to develop and maintain healthy domestic, family and personal relationships or are there thresholds in place. The Head of Children's Social Care informed the Committee that children are offered a range of services and targeted campaigns are done. Children are encouraged to engage with activities and also have one to one support, with the Wellbeing service running a Get on Track programme and play schemes. Work had been commissioned to develop an app for looked after children and work placements are also offered. The Committee asked whether these services were also offered to looked after children who are in out of county placements. The Head of Children's Social Care informed the Committee that the service endeavoured to offer looked after children equality of opportunity if they are in out of county placements. Placement providers will signpost looked after children to opportunities that are available to them.

The Committee referred to the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and asked whether they impact on the budget and bring additional pressures to the service. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 had brought additional pressures but no additional funding had been made available by the Welsh Government for its implementation, apart from the availability of funding of ICF monies to be used across the region. She stated that the sustainability of services is important and the services delivered are demand-led. Services and their financial viability were being reviewed as part of the budget reduction proposals. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help informed the Committee that a meeting would be taking place with the Cabinet Secretary on 16 July to discuss the use of the £100m transformation grant funding for health and social care. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that a Parliamentary review had been concluded and that funding of £100m would be available to be spent across the region over 2 years. She stated that the challenge now is the realignment of the health board boundary to Cwm Taf, and the need for Bridgend to receive its fair share of that funding and which would bring about a whole systems change.

The Committee questioned the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing on her thoughts on the realignment of the health boundary and plans to continue with the Western Bay region. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing commented that Bridgend has a very strong foothold in the Western Bay region and with the realignment of the health board boundary; it now needed to develop a strong foothold with Cwm Taf. Officers from Bridgend were now attending planning meetings with Cwm Taf Health Board and RCT and Merthyr Councils to take forward what is a new partnership for Bridgend. She stated that from the health service perspective it would involve a large scale transfer of staff under the TUPE arrangements. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that Cwm Taf is an ambitious health board and she looked forward to the challenges the realignment of the health board boundaries would bring. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help stated that the emphasis has to be to continue to work in partnership as a region, but this would now be with Cwm Taf. The Committee questioned the reason for the merger with Cwm Taf. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help commented that the realignment of the health board was about realigning the region and were not related to the proposals for local government mergers.

The Committee welcomed the introduction of Local Community Coordinators into Bridgend and were keen to explore the tangible outcomes of from the referrals which

had been made. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that Bridgend currently has 3 Local Community Coordinators and based in the valley communities. The Maesteg Local Community Coordinator was the first to be established and is based in a GP practice. The role of the Local Community Coordinator is to support people who experience social isolation and providing support within the community. The Head of Adult Social Care informed the Committee that the aim of this service is to make it sustainable and help prevent isolation. She stated that many friendships had been formed as a result of the work of the Local Community Coordinators and there were now examples of where people who had previously experienced isolation now volunteering with other groups. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help commented that the work of the Local Community Coordinators had been crucial in developing relationships with hard to reach people and had proven very successful.

The Committee questioned whether Directorate had input into the consultation on subsidised bus services. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing commented that the Directorate did not have a great deal of input into the consultation.

A member of the Committee commented that Ynysawdre was hoping to become a dementia friendly community and asked whether there were ambitions for all communities to be dementia friendly county wide. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing commented that she would like to see all communities becoming dementia friendly.

The Committee referred to there being autism friendly communities. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing commented that the Council has access to an ASD Coordinator and with the move to Cwm Taf, there would be a need to see what continuing support would be available. The Head of Adult Social Care stated that consideration would need to be given as to how the Integrated Autism Team would be managed along with Cwm Taf.

Conclusions

Members were pleased to note the improved figures presented in the report for the safe reduction in the number of looked after children, particularly as the decline was against the reported trend in other areas. Although Members recommend that the Directorate undertake research into what approaches are undertaken in Scotland to adopt best practice in early help and prevention.

The Committee note the lack of reference to 'smarter use of resources' within the report in way of technology and recommend that the document should highlight how ICT has assisted with social care processes and reductions to staffing roles.

The Committee questioned the impact of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 on budget in terms of compliance and recommend that the Directorate consider rewording the financial implications within the cover report to reflect the monetary pressures in relation to the aforementioned legislation.

The Committee were concerned that the Social Services Directorate were not invited to act on as a consultee for the Supported Bus Services, especially as reductions to some bus routes could affect residents health and wellbeing due to increased isolation, which could result in a surge in care packages required by Social Services. Therefore Members recommend that all Directorates are invited to respond to all consultations which would also assist with the One Council approach.

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The Committee commend the ongoing work of the Local Community Co-ordinators (LCC's) in the Borough and are pleased that LCC's are referenced within the report, but Members recommend that more tangible outcomes are provided in the document as evidence of their efforts, such as tackling loneliness and isolation.

Members were pleased to note that the Directorate will continue to develop dementia friendly communities and that there is a plan in place to make increase the number of dementia friends across the county borough by training staff, elected Members, schools and colleges. Members recommend that the same emphasis is provided to creating Autism friendly communities.

70. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

71. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 16 Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007.

This item was not subject to the public interest test for reasons of legal professional privilege and should therefore be considered in private. The public interest therefore did not apply in respect of this item

72. APPROVAL OF EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 29 March 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record.

The meeting closed at 11:55