

MEETING OF COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2017.

AGENDA ITEM 11: To receive the following Question for the Cabinet Member for Social Services & Early Help

Question from Councillor C Webster to the Cabinet Member Social Services & Early Help

“Following publication of the CSSIW report Inspecting Children's Social Services June 2017, can the Cabinet Member for Social Services tell this Council what he is doing to implement the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) Act 2014?”

Response

A project team was recruited for a 6 month period, made up of professional lead managers from children and adult social care, a training and development officer and a strategic development project manager.

The scope of the project was developed to review and identify gaps in policies and practice and ensure the directorate was able to work and align practice to the requirements of the Act. The team developed a work schedule and plan outlining the requirements with timescales, itemising the work necessary with managers, teams, partners, service users and members across adults and children's services, including the work with welsh government and western bay over the 6 month period to the full implementation of the Act.

A project milestone action plan developed identified 68 key milestones necessary to the implementation and imbedding of the Act into practice. The team engaged with the Western Bay Regional Implementation Team, and also represented Bridgend at the national working groups looking at common approaches to implementation of specific areas of work across Wales (e.g. information, advice and assistance).

Progress was reported, monitored and reviewed by a management board made up of the Director Sue Cooper, Head of Adult Services Jackie Davies and Head of Safeguarding and Assessment for Children's services Laura Kinsey, with representation from legal and workforce development colleagues. The tight timescale for this work required monthly meetings to evaluate progress. A final report outlining all the work undertaken was produced in May 2016. A number of further reports have been written for members, and for western bay reporting purposes in relation to embedding the changes required by the Act into our practice. As Cabinet Member for Social Services I have been kept informed throughout.

Implementation of the Act is now an ongoing piece of work and the focus is now to embed new ways of working into everyday practice.

Member's induction about the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate is scheduled for the afternoon of 20th July and following this meeting the CSSIW Children's Services Inspection report will be presented to Scrutiny by the lead inspector. In addition to this the Director of Social Services and Wellbeing will be presenting her annual report to full Council on 26th July. There will be an opportunity at these meetings for there to be a

greater debate about both the implementation of the SS&WB Act and the recent CSSIW inspection

Cllr Phillip White
Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help