

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - MONDAY, 10 JULY 2023

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2
HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET,
BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 10 JULY 2023 AT 10:00**

Present

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

E L P Caparros
M Lewis
R Williams

P Ford
J Llewellyn-Hopkins

D T Harrison
RL Penhale-Thomas

D M Hughes
A Wathan

Officers:

Lucy Beard	Scrutiny Officer
Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Stephen Griffiths	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Richard Hughes	Chief Executive, Awen Trust
Laura Kinsey	Head of Children's Social Care
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Andrew Thomas	Group Manager Sports & Physical Activity
David Wright	Family Support Services Manager

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Maxine Lewis declared a personal interest in Agenda item 3 as she runs a youth club from a Halo Leisure Centre.

38. PREVENTION AND WELLBEING, LEISURE (HALO) AND CULTURAL TRUSTS (AWEN) AND FURTHER INTEGRATION WITH BAVO

The Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide the Committee with information on how services and opportunities being delivered in partnership with Halo Leisure and Awen are supporting individual and community wellbeing and contributing to the Council's wellbeing objectives, and to provide information on the partnership working being developed with BAVO and the broader third sector to support people within their communities and to develop healthy and happy communities.

The Invitees from partner organisations, Halo Leisure, Awen and Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) introduced themselves and provided brief summaries of their organisation's association with the Council.

The Chairperson thanked the Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing and Invitees and Members discussed the following:

- The importance of leisure and cultural facilities within communities, how libraries could be better promoted and the available resources at local libraries including books, DVDs, historical and archive information and ICT facilities.

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - MONDAY, 10 JULY 2023

- The areas covered by the 'Books on Wheels' mobile library service and a possible Member's visit to the facility.
- The health and financial benefits of providing non-statutory leisure and cultural services, the extent to which prevention and wellbeing services prevent escalation to statutory services and Welsh Government's appreciation of the early intervention programme.
- Importance of sustainability and localisation of services, social return on investment and understanding of and misinformation around the 15-minute agenda.
- Pre- and post-pandemic visitor levels to leisure facilities and community hubs, the benefits of free and concessionary memberships available and aspirations to grow participation.
- Ensuring accessibility, particularly given the cost-of-living crisis, the pressures of increased energy costs and inflation, and ensuring that valued services are underpinned by grant funding and investment, including investment to ensure energy efficiency.
- Reports of closure of particular centres and how often customer satisfaction is measured.
- The Levelling Up Funding to secure the future of the Grand Pavilion and extent of the proposed refurbishment.
- Benefits and effective advertisement of referral schemes and specific programmes such as Active Bridgend Young People, Healthy Living Partnership, Super Agers, Ascent and Family Active Zone.
- The importance of groups and services provided by charitable and volunteer organisations, supporting communities to do more for themselves and the roles of BAVO and Local Community Coordinators.
- Long term sustainability and resources and the importance of successful collaborative and partnership working in contributing to person-centred objectives and corporate parenting responsibilities.
- The recently launched Summer Reading Challenge and other initiatives to encourage and support literacy.
- Lessons learned from warm hubs.

The Chairperson advised that there were no further questions for the Invitees, thanked the Invitees for their attendance and, advised that if they were not required for the next Item, they may leave the meeting.

RESOLVED: Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee requested:

1. That a visit be arranged for Members of the Committee to the Books on Wheels mobile library service to provide them with an understanding of the areas it covers and what is currently available.
2. A breakdown by characteristic of the number of participants that access leisure facilities that receive free or subsidised membership/access.
3. A copy of the presentation to be shared with all Members, demonstrating the vision and work to be undertaken at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl, utilising the Levelling Up Funding.

4. With regard to the partnership working with Halo Leisure and Awen, whether there are plans to bring the timelines into alignment, as the Healthy Living Partnership with Halo Leisure was established for a 15-year period in 2012 and the partnership agreement with Awen runs until 2035.

39. **3 YEAR SUSTAINABILITY PLAN TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES IN BRIDGEND**

The Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing presented the report, the purpose of which was to present the Committee with the 3-year plan to improve outcomes for children and families in Bridgend and which was intended to be subject to consultation and engagement over the summer period prior to submission to Cabinet in the Autumn for approval, highlighting how the plan had been developed and its aims.

The Chairperson thanked the Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing and Members discussed the following:

- An overview of the staffing arrangements in Children's Social Care, employment of agency staff to cover vacancies and resourcing teams above establishment to meet statutory responsibilities.
- Practitioners' caseload levels, differing levels of intensity and the need to work efficiently, safely and sustainably.
- The strategic theme, 'better intelligence and information systems', the ICT systems used by various agencies, the project to improve WCCIS and an update on the implementation of the Signs of Safety model of practice including its role in improving the practice of information recording to ensure meaningful and timely information sharing.
- The cost of implementation of the Plan, the detail of which would be submitted to Cabinet, spending through earmarked reserves and overspend and demographic impact on applications for grant funding.
- Ensuring access to pre-statutory support for children and families and the range of factors contributing to the substantial increase in demand in children's statutory social care including publicity of recent local tragedies, impact of the pandemic and professional awareness.
- Seamless partnership working being fundamental to implementation of the Plan.
- Streamlining the contact arrangements to avoid confusion over services and who to contact.
- Whether the seven strategic themes set out in the Plan were the correct ones and all worked together.
- The format of the 'Three-year key actions by year' table, possible inclusion of additional measures and how the Plan will be monitored.

The Chairperson advised that there were no further questions for the Invitees, thanked the Invitees for their attendance and, advised that they may leave the meeting.

RESOLVED: Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee made the following Recommendation:

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - MONDAY, 10 JULY 2023

5. That an additional column be added to the Plan to include in a table, what actions demonstrate success and how those successes are measured.

and the Committee requested:

6. That the Committee receive a quarterly update on the implementation of the Plan.
7. Clarification as to how the demographic, age profile, deprivation and any other factors affect the formula for applications for grant funding.

40. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report which requested the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

The Chairperson invited nominations, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Maxine Lewis be nominated to represent Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 as an Invitee to meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

41. CABINET RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS MADE ON THE CALL IN OF THE CABINET DECISION IN RELATION TO PORTHCAWL WATERFRONT REGENERATION: APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT GRIFFIN PARK AND SANDY BAY

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report, the purpose which was to present the Committee with the Cabinet response to the Recommendations made by the Committee on the Call-In of the Decision of Cabinet of 18 October 2022, in relation to the report on Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration: Appropriation of Land at Griffin Park and Sandy Bay, submitted to Cabinet on 17 January 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the Cabinet response attached as Appendix A to the report.

42. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee with the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A for discussion and consideration, requested any specific information the Committee identified to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wished to attend, requested the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the FWP having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.6 and the SSWB Performance Dashboard in Appendix 3, asked the Committee to note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and asked the Committee to note that the FWP for the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

There were no further items identified for consideration on the FWP having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.6, and this could be revisited at the next meeting.

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - MONDAY, 10 JULY 2023

There were no requests to include specific information in the item for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approved the FWP in Appendix A, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP, Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet and any updates from the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of COSC.

43. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

The meeting closed at 13:20