

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

13 December 2016

Chairperson: Councillor Mrs.D.Jones

Councillors: A.Carter, J.S.Evans, Mrs C.Edwards and C.Morgan

Officers In Attendance Ms.L.Livingstone, G. Evans, Mrs.A.Thomas, N. Jarman, Davies and N.Evans

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors P.D.Richards and J.Rogers

1. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2016**

The Committee noted the minutes.

2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2016**

The Committee noted the minutes and asked when a progress report on Community Care Organisation would be presented to the Committee. It was agreed that this would be at the next meeting.

3. **TO RECEIVE THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017.**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

4. **HOUSING OPTIONS SERVICE REPORT CARD**

Members considered the Report Card for the Housing Options Service.

Officers reported that a new suite of local performance indicators has been compiled, based on the revised Welsh Government (WG)

Homelessness measures, but highlighted that the WG has advised against pan-Wales comparison in respect of 2015/16, as this was the first year of data collection.

Members requested more information about difficulties highlighted in relation to the recruitment of junior staff in the Temporary Accommodation Service. Officers advised that this only related to one specific post in the out of hours service and that the ongoing method of service delivery in this area was currently being reviewed.

Members asked whether, if the post was retained post-review, the salary could be increased but officers confirmed that that the post has been Job Evaluation scored at its current Grade and so this is not possible.

Members asked whether street homelessness is increasing and officers confirmed that, although the media suggests it is, there is no evidence of this locally, at the moment. Officers conceded that there is the potential for it to do in the future but confirmed that the service is equipped to address this, if and when it occurs.

It was noted that the Council's ongoing commitment to early intervention and prevention more generally will over time reduce the call on many crisis response services including homelessness.

Following scrutiny the report was noted

5. **RENEWAL AND ADAPTATIONS SERVICE REPORT CARD**

Members considered the service report card for the Housing Renewal and Adaptation Service.

Officers reviewed the performance for 2015/16 and the current performance of all areas of the service for the current financial year. It was explained that the predicted performance of the DFG's is likely to be slightly worse this year compared to last due to the higher demand for extensions compared with the previous years, this is mainly down to the additional demand from NPT Homes.

Officers advised that this would be the last year of the Specific Capital Grant for the declared Renewal Areas but the Welsh government are continuing to support future regeneration schemes with funding for Energy Efficiency improvements. Members asked in relation to funding how was there an underspend. It was confirmed that this is actually income generation but the accounting practices

must show it as an underspend but Members should understand that all grant funding that is received is used in the correct manner.

Due to the late approval of regeneration funding by the Welsh Government, members asked whether the relevant funding needs to be spent by the end of March 2017. Officers confirmed that the stance from Welsh Government at the present time is that yes it has to. However, depending on the weather this could change if the works are unable to be completed.

Members accepted that there are many unknowns coming with the future due to Brexit as a number of schemes are reliant on European Funding.

Following Scrutiny the report was noted.

6. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters

Cabinet Board Proposals

6.1 **MANAGING PERFORMANCE IN DIRECT SERVICES**

Members considered a report that highlighted a change in the performance indicators for the service.

Members asked how many assessments had been undertaken for carers and officers confirmed that the level was currently at 132 but they were all different types of case.

It was also to be noted that a significant amount of work has been undertaken behind the scenes that has made a difference to people's lives for the better.

Members welcomed the report and requested that specific anonymised case studies be brought to a future meeting so that they can understand what is happening at a service level.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

The meeting closed at this point as Members were advised the report that was due to be considered in private had been withdrawn from

consideration as it was incomplete. A further in depth report would be presented to a future meeting.

CHAIRPERSON