

# **SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

(Committee Rooms 1/2 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

**Members Present:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015**

- Chairman:** Councillor Mrs.S.M.Penry
- Vice Chairman:** Councillor Mrs.A.Wingrave
- Councillors:** Mrs.D.Jones, J.Miller, L.M.Purcell, A.Taylor,  
R.Thomas, J.Warman, Mrs.S.Paddison, R.G.Jones  
and J.D.Morgan
- Officers In Attendance** N. Jarman, Mrs.C.Marchant, N.Evans, S. Adie and  
Miss A.Flynn
- Cabinet Invitees:** Councillors P.D.Richards and J.Rogers

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1. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL CARE,  
HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON  
20TH FEBRUARY 2015.**

The Committee agreed and noted the minutes.

2. **TO SELECT APPROPRIATE ITEMS FROM THE CABINET  
BOARD AGENDA FOR PRE-SCRUTINY.**

### **3.1 Transition of Young Adults from Children's Services to Adult Services Protocol**

Members considered a report that sought approval to implement to implement the Transition Protocol that had been developed between Adult and Children's Services.

Members noted that within the compliance statement it was highlighted that in relation to Equalities the new protocol would have a positive impact.

Members asked whether an Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken. It was stated that there should be an Equality Impact Assessment but checks would be undertaken to ensure that one had been done.

Members asked what the eligibility criteria are. Members were informed that the eligibility criteria are different to the previously used trigger criteria. Currently the categories are critical or substantial and the trigger is a health need. Members further noted that there was no mention within the report of a definition of either critical or substantial. Officers confirmed that this will be shared with Members outside of the meeting.

Following Scrutiny the Committee could not agree with the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board and asked that any decision be deferred until an Equalities Impact Assessment was presented to a future meeting.

### **3.2 Elected Council Members visits to Social Care and Nursing Homes in Neath Port Talbot**

Members considered a report on the establishment of a Lay Assessor programme where elected Members carry out visits to independent Social Care and Nursing Homes in Neath Port Talbot.

Members asked why the homes would receive advance warning that someone will be inspecting them because elected Members preferred the idea that no warning is issued. It was stated that a 30 minutes warning had been suggested as there may be occasions when something is happening at the home that means it would not be appropriate for Members to visit. Officers explained that the homes who had agreed to be part of the trial were fully on board with the proposals and welcomed the visits from Members.

Members asked what is the legal obligation in relation to Disclosure and Barring Service checks and whether their ones as school governors are sufficient. It was confirmed that specialist advice would be required and this would be sought from Human Resources.

A specific question was asked on whether Members of the public could be used as lay assessors. It was confirmed that if the pilot was a success then this may be a possibility, it was further noted that The Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales had piloted an initiative previously but this had not been taken forward.

Members were advised that the sample questions included in the report were not exhaustive but there as an aide memoir for Members.

As this is a pilot scheme Members requested that they be allowed to give a 15 minute warning.

Following Scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

### **3.3 Residential/Nursing Home Fees – 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018**

Members considered a report that sought to establish the fee levels for the forthcoming three years with the Council's Residential/Nursing Home Providers.

Members asked what was meant by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party agreement. Members were advised that this is a top up fee but not all homes charge it.

Further information was sought on what EMI funding entailed. It was confirmed that this is for homes that may charge for nursing care. It is in effect the supplementary over and above what the council can pay because its nursing care that must be paid for by health colleagues.

Following scrutiny the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

### **3.4 Environmental Health and Trading Standards – Fees and Charges.**

Members considered a report that had informed them of the fees and charges that had been set for Environmental Health and Trading Standards for 2015/2016.

Members noted the charge for pest control in relation to rats was £25 and asked was this £25 per visit. It was confirmed that it is a one off charge of £25 until the rats are eradicated. Officers visit the premises to lay bait and will only stop attending once the bait has been taken. If the bait is taken and the rats return at a later date then it will be another chargeable visit.

Following scrutiny the Committee noted the report.

**CHAIRMAN**