

SOCIAL CARE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

7 September 2017

Chairperson: Councillor L.M.Purcell

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S.E.Freeguard

Councillors: H.C.Clarke, A.P.H.Davies, C.Galsworthy,
H.N.James, J.Miller, S.Paddison, S.H.Reynolds,
D.Whitelock and C.Williams

Officers In Attendance S. Curran, D.Harding, J.Hodges, N. Jarman,
A.Jarrett, Ms.S.Jenkins, Mrs A Saunders,
Mrs.A.Thomas and Mrs.J.Woodman-Ralph

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.D.Richards

1. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 JULY 2017**

The Committee noted the minutes

2. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 JULY 2017**

The Committee considered the minutes of the 13th July 2017. A discussion was held on Matters Arising, and it was noted that this is not a constituted item for inclusion on Council meeting agendas. The Committee requested that a way of recording actions and referrals from Scrutiny Committees be considered and discussed making representations to the Democratic Services Committee for their view.

In relation to the item on Future Direction Options for Personal Social Services the Committee noted that they had requested further detail

on how regularly the service will be monitored and requested that this be included in future reports brought the Committee.

The Committee noted the minutes.

3. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Committee received the Forward Work Programme for 17/18.

Members were made aware that the planned Western Bay Progress Report for consideration at today's meeting had been withdrawn due to officer illness. The Committee requested that the officer be contacted and the presentation of the reports be re arranged at her earliest convenience.

The Committee requested that the Autism Strategy be added to the Forward Work Programme.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

4. **WESTERN BAY PROGRESS UPDATE REPORT**

This report was withdrawn from the agenda and will be reconsidered at a future meeting.

5. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

5.1 **Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2017-18**

The Committee received the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Annual Plan 2017/18 as contained within the circulated report.

Officers explained that the Youth Offending Services are statutory multi agency partnerships that have a legal duty to co-operate in order to secure youth justice services appropriate to their area, funded from a variety of sources and this report presented the background and summary of the Early Intervention Plan 17/18.

Members questioned how the rates of re-offending remain high but the actual number of young people reoffending continues to fall. It was explained that there exists a core of repeat offenders who account for these numbers.

The fact that the Youth Offending Teams have been merged was discussed and the Committee questioned how the new arrangements are working. Officers assured Members that arrangements are working well and representing good value for money.

The Committee asked for further information on the benefits of regional working arrangements. They observed the continual decline in reoffending rates and asked how this compares to the situation before the inception of Western Bay and requested the statistics in relation to this.

Members discussed those young people who are excluded from school but who are not offending and asked for detail on the support that is offered to them. They agreed that the responsibility is with the leadership and governing bodies of the schools and the Schools Improvement Service.

Young people's interests were considered by the Committee as they agreed that a variety of skills and abilities could lead to interest in different academic or vocational routes of study. The Committee raised concern on the elements of work that are heavily reliant on WG grant funding and that the impacts of Bridgend moving out of the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board are unknown.

Concern was raised over the assistance required with speech and language and officers assured Members that sufficient support is provided.

Members asked for further information in relation to the consultation that had been carried out on the plan. Young people themselves have been consulted on the content and the responsibility for sign off rests with the Youth Offending Team Management Board.

The Committee requested that further information on consultation be included in future such reports received by the Committee.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered at Cabinet Board.

5.2 Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report And Business Plan

The Committee received the Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and Business Plan as contained within the circulated report.

The Western Bay Safeguarding Children Board was established in April 2012 and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is identified as the lead partner responsible for establishing effective regional safeguarding boards for the Western Bay area. It is a multi-agency group with responsibility for supervision, challenge and oversight of safeguarding issues hence was being presented for information at this meeting.

The Committee asked about the operation of the Board and how are any concerns escalated. Officers explained that individual partner agencies would be written to directly.

Members queried the timescales for completion of Child Practice Reviews. It was explained that while there is a pool of trained reviewers and chairs who willingly undertake practise reviews as an addition to their working role this does regularly impact on availability to attend panel meetings undertake learning events and write reports.

It was noted that austerity measures haven't impacted significantly on the work of the Board as it is not a frontline service and it is the caseloads of the service which have to be managed effectively in line with austerity and budget measures.

The Committee raised some concern over the data presented in the graphs within the report observing that the data presented was not consistent graph by graph making comparison and disaggregation difficult. Members requested that an analysis of NPT children be provided, split into LAC/non LAC and those under special guardianship as well as those on the CSE register.

Further concern was raised on the Action Plan as Members felt the wording used could be strengthened to include tasks,

strategies and relevant legislation to avoid it becoming a 'tick box' exercise.

Members were concerned that half of children/young people at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) go missing and the discrepancy in how this is defined and recorded across the region.

The Committee asked for further information in relation to Gwella Project Management who are named as those responsible for outcomes throughout the action plan. They requested that a report on Gwella be added to the Forward Work Programme of the Committee

The Committee requested a detailed presentation on CSE be added to the Forward Work Programme of the Committee.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

5.3 Western Bay Commissioning Strategy for Care Homes for Older People 2016-25

This report was withdrawn from the agenda and will be considered at a future meeting.

5.4 Quarterly Performance Management Data 2017/18- Quarter 1 Performance- 1 April 2017-30 June 2017) - Children's Services.

The Committee received information on the quarterly performance management data 2017/18 for Quarter 1 for Children's Services as contained within the circulated report.

It was explained that some of the final data is awaiting sign off by Welsh Government and that some 15/16 indicators are new statutory indicators where information is not yet available.

The Committee queried the average length of time for all children who were on the Child Protection Register during the year. Officers explained that more children are being maintained at home so the risk is being managed for longer.

The Committee requested that previous figures for caseload per worker be included in the next report for comparison.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

5.5 Quarterly Performance Management Data 2017/18- Quarter 1 Performance- 1 April 2017-30 June 2017) - Adult's Services.

The Committee received information on the quarterly performance management data 2017/18 for Quarter 1 for Adult's Services as contained within the circulated report.

Members observed the under reporting of Homelessness and officers confirmed that accurate data will be available in the next performance report.

The Committee discussed adults who have Carers Assessments and officers explained that the data represents a moment in time and that the quarterly data stands in isolation. Refusal of assessments was discussed and the Committee agreed that it is important that the Council continue to promote the assessments whilst providing advice and assistance and the Committee stated the importance of recording this advice.

The data was discussed and the Committee expressed concern that some of it is difficult to compare and disaggregate. The Committee requested that officers bring back a report on performance overall based on the style of report that the previous Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Committee used to receive on key priority indicators to give this committee an option to consider and agree what priority information they wish to see reported to them on a regular basis.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

CHAIRPERSON