

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 15th July, 2019.

Present: Councillor Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn (Chairman); Councillor N.C. Thomas (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Ms. J. Aviet, O. Griffiths, S.J. Griffiths, T.H. Jarvie, K.P. Mahoney, R.A. Penrose and J.W. Thomas.

Also present: Councillors B.T. Gray (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and N. Moore (Leader).

148 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE -

This was received from Councillor Mrs. J.E. Charles.

149 MINUTES -

RECOMMENDED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 18th June, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

150 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

No declarations were received.

151 PRESENTATION - THE CARDIFF AND VALE DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2017-2027 -

Dr. Suzanne Wood, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, alongside Dr. Ian Wile, Director of Operations for the Mental Health Clinical Board at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board provided a presentation to the Committee regarding an update on the delivery of the Cardiff and Vale Dementia Strategy 2017-2027 since the Committee had received a report on the matter in November 2017.

Dr. Wood began by advising that the Cardiff and Vale Dementia Health Needs Assessment was completed in January 2017 with the National Dementia Action Plan for Wales being launched in February 2018. This was closely followed by the launch of the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Dementia Strategy in May 2018.

The Cardiff and Vale Dementia Strategy strategic objectives were as follows:

- Dementia is everyone's business;
- The risk of dementia will be reduced and there will be a timely diagnosis;
- Access to services will be equitable;
- Services will be fully co-ordinated;
- Services will be delivered with kindness and compassion;
- Support will be centred on primary care;

- Carers will be cared for; and
- Crises will be avoided.

Mr. Wile then added that the Strategy aimed to keep individuals in their own homes for as long as possible with a focus on the mental and physical needs of the dementia condition and the key achievements of the Strategy to date were:

- GP-led memory clinics and link workers (1st point of contact for all individuals known to have dementia and their carers living within cluster) existed at cluster levels;
- The adoption of the Dementia 'Team Around the Individual' ethos;
- The creation of a dementia training and development programme of work;
- The creation of a Psychiatry Older People liaison role;
- The existence of a care home liaison role and the expansion of the role being available to all care homes;
- The adoption of crisis home treatment for older people;
- The existence of integrated and co-located community health teams that were social worker led;
- The development of a centre of excellence for young on-set dementia being established at Barry Hospital;
- A focus on physical health care;
- The establishment of the Dementia Friendly Community Support Network.

In conclusion, Mr. Wile advised that there were only a few crisis home treatment teams in the country as a whole and therefore it was a privilege to have one operating within the Cardiff and Vale area as a high intensity care team.

Dr. Wood then provided the Committee with a further update on the three Welsh Government funded initiatives relating to the Dementia Strategy as follows:

1. To deliver the Dementia 'Team Around the Individual' ethos the majority of staff were now in post and objectives would be implemented by autumn 2019;
2. A training needs analysis across health and social care had been undertaken and therefore a training and development action plan had been developed in line with a good work guide. 'Informed' levels of training were the first level of training available to staff with the higher level of training being 'Skilled' which included modules such as communication, physical and mental health and behaviour. Dr. Wood also added that an e-learning programme was now available.
3. With regards to the Dementia Friendly Community Support Network, Dr. Wood advised that more than 25,000 people were registered as dementia friends across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and that the areas of Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Cardiff Airport were all working towards becoming dementia friendly.

In conclusion, Mr. Wile summarised the next steps for the Strategy as follows:

- Meaningful activities closer to home as identified following carer feedback;
- Continued expansion of G.P. Memory Clinics to all clusters;

- Establishing and expanding the partnership framework for the 'Team Around the Individual';
- Enhanced links to physical health care;
- Ensure health and social care staff reach skilled level;
- Further develop dementia friendly communities;
- Enhanced links between universities to develop a research culture;
- Connect with individuals who have previously looked after a partner with dementia and to identify how they may mentor new individuals supporting family members with the condition.

The Chairman thanked both individuals for their presentation and kindly requested that the Committee be kept up to date with any local events in support of the strategy so that the Local Authority may continue its support. In response, Dr. Wood advised that the Dementia Delivery Group which was established to identify the needs and wants of carers within their community was operational and she would be happy to share any future events co-ordinated by the Group in the future.

A Member then requested an update on the Dementia Specialist Unit being moved to Barry Hospital and asked what the expectations were with regards to delivering the Strategy for local businesses.

Mr. Wile advised that in his experience of the Mental Health Board there were no confirmed plans to move services at the current time to his knowledge. However, there were plans for a public consultation regarding the Sam Davies Ward at Barry Hospital following discussions for an intended change of use for Barry Hospital given its size and a need to extend community services. In response to the Member's secondary question, Dr. Wood then advised that organisations had been encouraged to sign up to the Dementia Pledge which meant that the organisations would undertake staff training in working towards a dementia friendly ethos and the Dementia Delivery Group were working to produce a visible motif that could be displayed within local businesses to widely advertise the fact that the business was dementia friendly.

In conclusion, the Chairman added that the Dementia Friendly Walks held in the Vale of Glamorgan were very popular and that she looked forward to a future update on the Strategy when appropriate.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the update regarding the Cardiff and Vale Dementia Strategy 2017-27 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Committee continues to receive updates regarding the delivery of the Cardiff and Vale Dementia Strategy 2017-27.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) To ensure that the Committee remains aware of progress made regarding the delivery of the Cardiff and Vale Dementia Strategy 2017-27.

152 REGIONAL COMMISSION STRATEGY FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY (REF) –

The Director of Social Services presented the reference following the meeting of the Cabinet on 17th June, 2019 whereby Cabinet Members were provided with information regarding the development of a Regional Commissioning Strategy for Adult with a Learning Disability.

The Officer added that significant progress had been made in developing the Strategy as it was the first time that the Council had an established Regional Strategy for Adults with Learning Difficulties. Also, in using the Strategy as the benchmark, the levels of service provided by the Council were very high.

In conclusion, the Director of Social Services advised that going forward, officers would be required to prepare detailed action plans to supplement the work of the Strategy and that the Committee would be provided with a copy of the relevant action plans in due course.

A Member then referred to page 28 of the Strategy and in particular to the statement regarding the transition from Children's to Adult Services and that discussions regarding the future for relevant individuals should start earlier in schools and youth clubs and raised the question whether the Local Authority should establish contact with individuals much earlier than in their 18th year which would prove cost effective for the Council long term.

In response, the Director of Social Services advised that preparation for individuals transitioning from Children's to Adult Services did take place much earlier than the Strategy suggested and that had been the case for some years. Therefore, the Strategy would further support families facing the transition period and as an authority, the Council was in a much stronger position than the wording of the Strategy would suggest. In conclusion, the Director added that the Adult Learning Needs (ALN) Act that would shortly be coming into effect would have a significant impact on the approach officers took in supporting families.

The Chairman advised that she had had the pleasure of attending the event which helped to inform the Strategy and believed that the Strategy would make a positive impact going forward.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Regional Commissioning Strategy for Adults with a Learning Disability (attached at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report) be endorsed.

Reason for recommendation

To ensure that Members have a wider oversight of the approved Regional Commissioning Strategy for Adults with a Learning Disability.

153 CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2018/19 (DSS) –

The Head of Finance presented the report to inform Scrutiny Committee of the provisional financial position of the Council for the 2018/19 financial year, subject to audit, and to confirm that the accounts were complete.

The Officer began by highlighting the table contained at paragraph 2.3 of the report which set out the amended budget and the actual expenditure, including transfers to and from reserves, for the Committee. The final column also demonstrated the net transfers to reserves for the Committee which had been included within the actual expenditure figures.

Service	Original Revenue Budget	Amended Revenue Budget	Total Provisional Actual	Variance +Favourable (-) Adverse	Net Transfer to / (From) Reserve
Year - 2018/19	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children and Young People	15,235	15,653	15,686	(33)	
Adult Services	46,644	47,022	47,022	0	
Resource Mgt & Safeguarding	201	286	286	0	
Leisure Services	1,324	1,371	1,276	+95	
Total	63,404	64,332	64,270	+62	+1,292

The Officer went on to advise that the year end revenue position was a favourable variance of £62k after a net transfer to reserves of £1.292m and that the revenue savings target of £583k was set for 2018/19 which was achieved. However, during the financial year there was capital expenditure of £2.426m.

With regards to the Children and Young People Services budget there was an Adverse Variance of £33k. Overall, there were adverse variances of £418k. There was an adverse variance of £221k relating to the Children's External Placements budget which was due to the higher cost of placements for children with significant complex behaviour as well as the number of remanded children being higher than usual with a small number that required secure accommodation. The Officer noted that the adverse variance would have been higher, however Welsh Government had provided a grant of £513k, during December 2018, which was allocated to the budget to help cover the aforementioned cost pressures. Work continued to ensure that children were placed in the most appropriate and cost effective placements. There was also an adverse variance for legal costs of £197k due to the complex court cases that required counsel.

There had been a number of favourable variances during the year totalling £385k with £190k regarding staffing linked to vacancies and £68k on supplies and services. The Officer advised that a favourable variance of £127k had been achieved by providing alternative means of service provision and accommodation required for the current cohort of children, which was as a result of ongoing work to ensure that children were placed in the most appropriate and cost effective placements.

Moving on to the Adult Services budget, which the Officer advised had broken even, there were favourable variances in the year totalling £1.113m with a favourable variance of £499k relating to community care packages. During the year, there had been service remodelling, focusing on services that delivered reablement and supporting people back into independence. Additional work had been carried out to mitigate increases such as schemes funded through the Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) and the Officer highlighted that the year-end position was more favourable than projected. There were also favourable variances of £572k on staffing and £42k on supplies and services and where possible there was early implementation of future Reshaping Services savings. There had also been difficulty in recruiting to some posts which had been assumed would be filled in the months prior to year end.

In conclusion, the Officer advised that the favourable variances had allowed £1.113m to be set aside in the Social Services Legislative Changes reserve and a transfer of £75k had been made into the Telecare Reserve which was an annual planned transfer in order to set funding aside for future years to replace the equipment and to cover any additional staffing costs.

The majority of the Resource Management and Safeguarding budget, that had also broken even, was recharged to Children's and Adult Services. There were adverse variances of £195k and the residential homes had an overall adverse variance of £32k due to increased costs and a significant reduction in self-funded clients in 2018/19 compared to previous years. There was also an adverse variance on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards of £41k. The favourable variance had meant that there had been a reduced internal recharge to Children's and Adult Services of £122k.

There was a favourable variance of £238k including £126k on staffing linked to vacancies and £83k on supplies and services as well as a favourable variance of £29k on the Delivering Transformation work undertaken jointly by Cardiff and the Vale. This had allowed a transfer of £43k to the Social Services Legislative Changes reserve.

The Officer then advised that there was a £95k favourable variance on the Leisure Services budget mainly due to staffing vacancies pending the finalisation of the reorganisation and also from the supplies and services budget. An underspend of £55k relating to the ringfenced maintenance budget for Leisure Centres had been transferred into the Council Building Fund.

In conclusion, the Officer drew the Committee's attention to a breakdown of the 2018/19 Capital Programme by scheme (Appendix 2 of the report) and advised that the overall capital outturn for the Committee was a variance of £803k. Appendix 3 to the report set out the Committee's reserves as at 31st March, 2019 and demonstrated an increase in reserves used since the last financial year. Progress on the achievement of the final revenue budget proposals savings targets for 2018/19 had been monitored and reported to Committee during the year and Appendix 4 to the report confirmed the final status of the savings at the end of 2018/19 in that all target savings were achieved in the year.

A Member then referred to paragraph 2.5 of the Officer's report and questioned why Welsh Government had provided a grant to the Council of £530k during December 2018 and as a supplementary question how the funds came to be allocated to the Children and Young People Services budget. In response, the Director of Social Services advised that Welsh Government had recognised the Council's pressures in delivering services as a whole, however it was a decision taken within the Council to delegate the funds to the Children and Young People Services area.

On the same point, a Member then noted that despite the additional grant fund provided to the Council by Welsh Government, the Children and Young People Services area had still ended the financial year with a £33k adverse variance and that this was due to a significant increase in demand on the service. In light of the point, the Member suggested that a more realistic financial figure be set for the Children and Young People Services section of the budget going forward.

The Member then referred to page 2 of Appendix 2 which set out the capital monitoring for the period ending 31st March 2019 and expressed his concerns in the delays / continuation of works relevant to the Leisure Centre refurbishment in that a slippage of £46k was requested for the 2019/20 budget.

In response to the Member's secondary point, the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services advised that the new changing facilities at Barry Leisure Centre were now open to the public and that a soft open event had already taken place. In addition, a press release would be released in the near future advertising progress made and all Elected Members were encouraged to visit the facilities at Barry Leisure Centre at their convenience. The Operational Manager also wished to add that the dry changing facilities at Penarth Leisure Centre were also now available to the public.

A Member thanked the Officer for his update and shared his understanding that the delays were caused due to unforeseen problems and therefore naturally costs were higher than anticipated. However, the Member wished to ask if any enquiries had been made regarding the original contractor who had constructed the original facilities to ensure that the same contractors were not able to bid for tenders available within the Vale of Glamorgan going forward given concerns over poor construction practices and quality. In response, the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services advised that he did not have the information to hand regarding the original contractor and advised that the delays were predominately due to the underfloor drainage within the facilities not matching the original architectural plans. The Officer acknowledged the Member's concerns and advised that further advice would be provided to Committee Members after the meeting following advice being sought from the Council's Property Department.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the report and the financial measures taken and proposed regarding the Council's Closure of Accounts 2018/19 be noted.

Reason for recommendation

To make Members aware of the provisional financial position and actions that have been taken.

154 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST MAY 2019 (DSS) –

The Head of Finance presented the report to advise Committee of the progress relating to revenue and capital expenditure for the first two months of the financial year, 1st April to 31st May, 2019. In summary, the officer advised that the revenue position for 2019/20 was challenging, with the savings target for the year being set at £545k and that the capital budget had been set at £5.031m.

The forecast for Social Services was shown as a balanced budget however this was after a potential unplanned transfer from reserves of £1.5m.

Directorate/Service	2019/20	2019/20	Variance
	Original Budget £000	Projected £000	(+)Favourable (-) Adverse £000
Children and Young People	16,098	17,598	-1,500
Unplanned use of reserves to fund overspend	0	(1,500)	+1,500
Adult Services	47,957	47,957	0
Resource Management & Safeguarding	272	272	0
Leisure Services	1,349	1,349	0
Total	65,676	65,676	0

The Officer advised that the major concern for the Children and Young People Service was the continued pressure on the children's placements budget given the complexities of the children currently being supported and the high cost placements some of the children required to meet their needs. Work continued to ensure that children were placed in the most appropriate and cost effective placements, however in the context of the complexity of need and the national challenges in identifying placements, it was projected that the budget could overspend by around £1.5m for the current financial year. The Officer also noted that due to the potential high cost of each placement, the outturn position could fluctuate with a change in the number of children looked after and/or the complexity of need. In previous years Welsh Government had provided additional funding which had assisted the year end position however this could not be guaranteed and relied upon so early in the financial year. The service held a reserve that could be accessed at year end to fund high cost placements if required.

The Adult Services budget was currently projecting a breakeven position, however, the major issue concerning the service for the coming year would continue to be the pressure on the Community Care Packages budget which was extremely volatile and was influenced by legislative changes such as the National Living Wage. Therefore, the outturn position was difficult to predict. The Officer went on to note that the

service also continued to be affected by the pressures of continued demographic growth, an increase in the cost of service provision and that the Community Care Packages budget would need to achieve further savings during the financial year. The service would strive to manage growing demand and would develop savings initiatives which may be funded via regional grants. Welsh Government had continued to provide Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) grant to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board to allow collaborative working between Health and Cardiff and the Vale Councils however the level of grant funding was not guaranteed on an ongoing basis.

With regards to Leisure Services, the Officer advised that the Parks element of the revenue budget could no longer be reported separately, as operationally it was an integrated part of the new Neighbourhood Services. It was therefore only possible to report the Leisure and Play element under the Leisure Services heading for the Committee. As Parks capital schemes were separately identifiable they would continue to be reported to the Committee.

In conclusion, the Officer summarised the key points regarding the appendices for the report as follows:

- As part of the Final Revenue Budget Proposals for 2019/20, a savings target of £545k was set for the Committee. Appendix 1 to the report was a statement detailing all savings targets for 2019/20 and it was anticipated that all savings would be achieved this year;
- Appendix 2 provided further detail of the savings within the Social Services Budget Programme. The Corporate Programme Board and project teams overseeing the Plan would continue to monitor and ensure its delivery. As in previous years, ongoing progress updates would to be reported to Committee as part of the overall financial monitoring report for the Directorate;
- Appendix 3 detailed financial progress on the Capital Programme as at 31st May, 2019 and included requests for unspent committed expenditure to be slipped from the 2018/19 Capital Programme into 2019/20 as approved by Emergency Powers on 20th June, 2019.

A Member agreed with the Officer's statement that the Social Services sector continued to have immense financial pressures, however wished to express the opinion that the pressures on Adult Services were predictable to a degree, which contradicted the Officer's statement within paragraph 2.3 of the report, as the Council was aware of the demographics of the Vale. Therefore, the Member stated that the Committee needed to enforce the point with Cabinet and Officers more strongly that realistic funding be allocated to the Adult Services budget.

In response, the Head of Finance offered her agreement and advised that the Council was unable to keep using reserves as reserves were only used as a short term solution. The Officer further advised that Cabinet had very recently agreed to increase the Social Services funding on the Medium Term Financial Plan and that Adult Services remained the only area that had a cost pressure built in at the medium term stage of financial planning. Therefore, the Officer wished to provide reassurance that officers were already having discussions to respond to the ongoing pressures.

The Member then wished to reiterate that the funding available for children in Looked After care was also dramatically unrealistic and recommended that the Committee express its great concern over the unrealistic allocation of funds during the Council's financial planning to Cabinet.

Following the Member's recommendation being seconded, the Chairman concluded the item by informing officers that she would be happy to support any efforts to rectify the difficult situation for the service going forward.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the position with regard to the 2019/20 revenue and capital budgets be noted.

(2) T H A T the concerns of the Committee regarding unrealistic allocation of funding to both the Children and Young People and Adult Services budgets, as set out in the minutes above, be referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) That Members are aware of the projected revenue outturn for 2019/20.

(2) To ensure that Cabinet is aware of the concerns of the Committee regarding the allocation of funding for the relevant Social Services areas under significant pressure.

155 END OF YEAR 2018/19 PERFORMANCE REPORT: AN ACTIVE AND HEALTHY VALE (DSS) –

The Director of Social Services presented the report to advise Members of the end of year performance results for the period 1st April to 31st March 2019 for the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Outcome 4, An Active and Healthy Vale, including an update on the Council's progress in addressing recommendations and improvement proposals from its external regulators.

The Officer began by advising that, overall, the Council had made good progress in delivering its Corporate Plan priorities in relation to the Well-being Outcome 4 with the objectives of 'Encouraging and promoting active and healthy lifestyles' and 'Safeguarding those who are vulnerable and promoting independent living'. Therefore an overall Green status had been attributed for Quarter 4.

98% (53) of the planned activities aligned to "An Active and Healthy Vale" had been attributed a Green performance status reflecting the exceptional progress made during the year with 2% (1) of the planned actions aligned to the Well-being Outcome being attributed a Red status.

Of the 31 performance measures aligned to the Well-being Outcome, a performance status was applicable at end of year for 19 PIs. 13 PIs were attributed a Green

performance status, 3 Amber status and the remaining 3, a Red status. The PIs that were categorised as Red (and therefore missed target by more than 10%) related to the rate of delayed transfers of care, adult protection enquiries completed within statutory timescales and the number of new telecare users. The Officer added that the PIs continued to remain challenging for Social Services however the Council continued to rank higher than the Welsh average with regards to Adult Protection in enquiry timescales and that despite the significant increase in demand for new Telecare users, the Council was doing well to manage the rate of growth.

A performance status was not applicable for 12 measures as the measures were either establishing baseline performance in 2018/19 and consequently no target was set or were national well-being indicators for which Welsh Government data was not yet available. In addition, data could not be provided for a number of Social Services measures due to the ongoing work to cleanse data following adoption of the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS). The Officer added that ensuring the accuracy of the Council's performance measures through WCCIS continued to be a priority for the Social Services Directorate, however, it was expected to take time to achieve.

In conclusion, the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services advised that the draft Leisure Strategy was being finalised in partnership with the newly appointed Cabinet Member and that the draft strategy would be presented to Committee in the Autumn 2019 for adoption during 2019/20.

A Member wished to seek clarification with regards to the Council's stance on the recently published news articles in both the Penarth Times and Barry and District News which stated that Council housing tenants were now being charged for Telecare systems within their properties which were not required. In response, the Director of Social Services advised that the tenancy arrangements were dealt with by the Council's Housing Department and therefore further advice would be provided to the Committee following the meeting after seeking advice from Housing colleagues.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving key outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan Well-being Outcome 4 – “Residents of the Vale of Glamorgan lead healthy lives and vulnerable people are protected and supported” be noted.

(2) T H A T the progress made to date in addressing existing regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals arising from local and national Local Government Studies and the removal of completed actions from the Insight Tracker be noted.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To ensure the Council is effectively assessing its performance in line with the requirement to secure continuous improvement outlined in the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 and reflecting the requirement of the Well-being of Future

Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that it maximises its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.

(2) To ensure the Council implements its regulatory recommendations and improvement proposals and responds appropriately to the recommendations and proposals for improvement identified through the Wales Audit Office's programme of local and national Local Government Studies.

156 FAMILIES FIRST 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT (DSS) –

The Prevention and Partnership Manager presented the report to apprise Members of progress and activity within the Welsh Government Grant allocated to support the delivery of the Families First Plan 2018/19, as well as some of the individual project outcomes, and to highlight the future direction of the programme in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Officer began by advising that Welsh Government had decided that Families First was to become part a new Children and Communities Grant (occasionally called Flexible Funding) along with six other grant streams and it was not envisaged that the change would have any detrimental impact on the current projects or their delivery.

For context, the Officer stated that the Families First Plan was initially developed in 2012 and focused on a support network of provision and services aligned to a “team around the family” approach and that the Families First Programme Guidance was refreshed in 2017 and reaffirmed the requirement to maintain the 'team around the family' model; described as Families Achieving Change Together (FACT) in the Vale of Glamorgan and to maintain services within the criteria for a Disability Focus. The guidance also highlighted a step change within its priorities for commissioned services moving away from a wide range of bespoke services to a clear focus on parent support services and support for young people.

As such, the Families First Management Board approved the Families First Advice Line (FFAL) moving from a pilot to a standalone project and the creation of two new teams, Vale Parenting Team and Wellbeing Youth Mentoring Team, to go live from April 2018, with a formal launch in October 2018. The Officer advised that the merger of projects had brought together projects with similar aims and target groups, and allowed the Management Board an opportunity to:

- Test the positives of closer alignment and to consider if further alignment of similar projects could be considered;
- Reconsider how the projects were supported and managed and sought to develop a more overarching streamlined management and administration structure; and
- Strengthen project capacity to deal with changes in funding, guidance and staff turnover making these easier to manage.

The Officer then apprised the Committee of activities undertaken by the Families First seven distinct projects that existed under the Families First Plan during 2018-19:

FACT was delivered via Social Services and 69 families had completed a Joint Assessment Family Framework (JAFF) (68 families in 2017/18), with 48 post JAFF closure assessments. Referrals from Children's Services (where these had not met the threshold for statutory intervention or required a "step down" service), had remained high, with many cases remaining open between 8-12 months due to complex needs. The Officer was pleased to report that 87% of children improved their school attendance and 93% of families reported they felt able to contribute to changes in their lifestyle / behaviours and noted that families were usually engaged with at least two other support services before engaging with the FACT project.

The FFAL was originally designed as a filter process for FACT and was delivered by Social Services whereby children, young people and/or families were referred through a central formal referral system. 968 calls had been received in 2018-19 which was an increase of 384 on the previous year. The team offered advice and signposting and if appropriate undertook assessments. This had proved successful in reducing the overall number of referrals to FACT by 5.4% from 2017/18 and improved the appropriate nature of referrals. This had aided a decrease of 23% (122) of those needing to access the FACT project from 2017/18 (159) and was seen as a positive response to the implementation of FFAL.

The Disability Focus project was centrally co-ordinated by the Lead Officer for Families First and consisted of a series of interlinked projects all offering different services to families with disabled children and young people.

- 692 families were now registered on the Disability Index which was an increase of 104 from 2017/18. The Index newsletter had become a regional Cardiff and Vale newsletter, which provided information on services and support for children with disabilities across Cardiff and the Vale making the information more accessible. The newsletter was also distributed to 1012 professional partners (compared to 632 in 2017/18) and was now considered a partnership project with Cardiff Council due to its recognised successful origins within the Vale of Glamorgan;
- Holiday Club had provided 64 disabled children (aged 4-11 years) with access to inclusive play opportunities, with 23 new referrals in 2018/19. The delivery had also been adapted following feedback received from parents that it would be of greater benefit if services were spread over the full six week academic holidays over a couple of days each week;
- Inclusive Youth Provision Teenscheme had provided 53 disabled children (aged 12 years+) with access to inclusive play opportunities, with 14 new referrals in 2018/19;
- Inclusive Youth Provision 'Speak Up' had provided self-advocacy for 44 learning disabled young people and supported them to complete 71 accredited training opportunities in 2018/19. 'Speak Up' provided a platform for disabled children and young people to have a voice and assisted them with accessing and being part of their local community. Four of these young people represented 'Speak Up' on local and national forums;

- 23 disabled young people had undertaken travel training, giving them the key skills and confidence to travel in an independent capacity using public transport. Nine young people were still travelling independently six months after completion of the 1:1 travel training which demonstrated the long term benefits to both the individual's wellbeing and social services financial pressures;
- 13 young people undertook 1:1 Life Skills (16 -19 years old). The support provided disabled young people opportunities to develop skills such as personal care, cooking, budgeting etc. Nine young people achieved their set outcomes on completion of the programme.

The aims of the Vale Parenting project were to support families with children between 0-18 in order to build on strengths and make positive changes, enabling parents to feel more confident in managing; behaviour, routines and boundaries. Services promoted emotional wellbeing, and support positive family relationships and the Officer confirmed that the following formal and informal sessions were provided:

Nurturing	282 sessions to 62 parents
Baby's 1st Year	228 sessions to 62 parents
STEPS	122 sessions to 17 parents
Handling Teenage Behaviour	39 sessions to 9 parents
Welcome to the World	18 sessions to 8 parents
Talk, Learn Do	7 sessions to 7 parents
Attachment	91 sessions to 19 parents

The Youth Wellbeing Service was delivered by the Education section of the Council and targeted young people aged 8 to 19 years to support their wellbeing and engagement with school and home:

- 280 new referrals were received in 2018/19 with 135 current open cases. 155 initial assessments were completed and 63 final assessments were undertaken during 2018/19. 96% of these pupils had identified that they had benefited from the intervention, including improved mental and emotional wellbeing;
- EMOJIS was an intensive support programme, delivered out of school time, targeting young people aged 8 to 11 who had been identified as having emotional and behavioural issues. 424 individual sessions of support were provided in 2018/19 which supported schools with the loss of their own soft support services due to financial constraints.

The Young Carers project, which was externally commissioned to the YMCA, provided a respite provision and bespoke 1:1 support in the home for young carers (aged 7 - 18) to help improve the Young Carers and their families' resilience. 61 Young Carers accessed the project compared with 53 in 2017/18 and 11 of these received 1:1 support in the home and 15 received 1:1 support at school. An average of 32 young carers attended the youth club each quarter and the Officer confirmed that the project also involved a Homework Club. 36 young carers reported an improvement in their own resilience and in family relationships, 61 carers stated they

felt less isolated as a result of accessing the project and enjoyed the activities provided.

The Central Co-ordination project was also delivered by the Education section and its team were responsible for the strategic management of the Families First programme in the Vale of Glamorgan. They had supported 92 individual workforce development opportunities, commissioned a new Framework for workforce development and reported regularly on outcomes for Welsh Government. The Officer also wished to highlight that Families First was revenue funded and funding was heavily focused on staffing.

Continuing on the theme of funding, the Officer went on to advise that Welsh Government had established the Children & Communities Grant in April 2019. The grant absorbed Families First and encompassed six other grants: Flying Start, Legacy Fund, Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People, St. David's Day Fund, Communities for Work Plus and Childcare and Play. The Officer added that the new integrated funding stream would remain in place for the remainder of the current Assembly term and would apply to all Local Authorities in Wales. Welsh Government had maintained the funding levels for 2019/20 of all the individual projects / programmes as 2018/19 through the grant merger however the grant remained subject to annual confirmation and was subject to discretion and ministerial approval.

In conclusion, the Officer confirmed that the Council received a grant of £1,331,364 for 2018/19 and was indicative for each year covering the financial years until 2021/22.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for his presentation and requested that Members of the Committee receive a copy of the Disability Index Newsletter, to which the Officer confirmed that the hyperlink to the newsletter would be shared with Members following the meeting.

The Chairman then referred to paragraph 2.8 of the report and to the fact that the Families First Team had also delivered various events including the Networking Event in November 2018, and enquired whether there were any plans to run the successful event again in the future. As a secondary point, the Chairman also referred to paragraph 4.4 of the officer's report which referred to Welsh Government's intention to merge seven existing grants into a single grant and questioned whether monitoring systems were still in place to report against the individual project's outcomes. In response, the Officer advised that there were plans to run networking events in the future however he did not have the dates to hand and that all seven project outcomes would continue to be monitored individually.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the positive work undertaken to support children, young people and families in the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.

(3) T H A T the merger of the Families First Grant under the new flexible funding arrangements being implemented by Welsh Government into the Children and Communities Grant (C&C) Grant be noted.

(4) T H A T a briefing note be emailed to all 47 Elected Members of the Council informing them of the new flexible funding arrangements implemented by Welsh Government into the Children and Communities Grant (C&C) Grant.

Reasons for recommendations

(1&2) That Members are kept informed about positive progress made around the development of Families First.

(3) To support Committee's broader understanding of the new grant funding arrangements under the C&C Grant.

(4) To ensure Elected Members are kept up to date with the change in funding arrangements being implemented by Welsh Government.

157 FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19 (DSS) –

The Information Officer for Social Services, Business Management and Innovation presented the report to update Members on the work of the Vale Family Information Services (FIS). The report provided current information on the performance of the Vale FIS and included information on a major change that had been implemented in relation to the roll out of the Welsh Government's 30 Hour Childcare Offer in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Officer began by stating that the FIS played a vital role in contributing to the Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) requirement of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and that the FIS maintained a database of over 800 services, including approximately 190 family support services, 190 Children and Young People's activities and Services, 300 childcare resources and 65 parent and toddler groups.

The Vale FIS had experienced a number of changes in 2018/19, including the regionalisation of the Index, which held information on children with additional needs, and the roll out of the 30 Hours Childcare Offer. The Childcare Offer provided parents of eligible children with 17.5 hours of funded childcare per week in term time and 30 hours during 9 weeks of the school holidays. FIS had increased its use of social media to engage with parents and promote the service and used the Vale Connect system to send regular e-bulletins to parents, providers and professionals.

The Welsh Government 30 Hours Childcare Offer was originally planned for implementation in the Vale of Glamorgan in September 2019. However, expectations of Welsh Government were that it was to be rolled out across Wales by April 2019, which had a significant impact on the number of enquiries being received by the FIS Team and service.

The officer added that FIS provided an outreach service which supported parents in the community, through schools, groups and via key professionals. The service worked closely with agencies such as the Families First Advice Line, Carers Support, Flying Start, PACE, JCP, health visitors, schools and sports and play, to reach parents in greatest need. Over the last 12 months the FIS had hosted two of its own outreach events and run 5 small scale workshops as well as supporting partner organisations in the delivery of their events.

A new national FIS website had also been created by Data Cymru, which linked to the Dewis Cymru website, so providers would only have to update their information in one place. Plans were in place to launch the website locally and nationally as the primary place to go for information on childcare, groups, family support and activities for children and young people in Wales.

The Chairman thanked the officer for her presentation and in order to support the FIS provided Outreach Service, suggested that officers also make contact with Parent Teacher Associations of Vale of Glamorgan schools, which may be hosting their own enterprise/outreach events within the school setting.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Annual report of the Vale Family Information Service and the work undertaken to support parents / carers and providers in the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee continues to receive annual updates on the Family Information Service.
- (3) T H A T the impact of the Welsh Government 30 Hour Childcare Offer upon the Family Information Service be noted.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To ensure effective oversight of this important area of Social Services activity.
- (2) To ensure Scrutiny Committee continues to be updated with regard to the Family Information Service.
- (3) To ensure Members are aware of the impact of the 30 Hour Childcare Offer.