

No.

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 9th March, 2021.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

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

Also present: Councillors N. Moore (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), L. Burnett (Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration), B.T. Gray (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health), K.F. McCaffer (Cabinet Member for Leisure Arts and Culture), and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning).

452 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

453 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

454 AUTISTIC SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD): ADULT AUTISM TEAM (DSS) –

The Autistic Spectrum Disorder Project Lead Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide Members with an update on progress of the Adult Autism Team since the last update was provided in January 2020.

As a result of the national pandemic social restrictions, in-person social activities had stopped but remote contact had been maintained throughout to try and mitigate social isolation and/or feelings of loneliness which could be felt acutely by persons with Autism. Therefore, efforts had been made to develop online skills via the Autism Hub which provided an immediate and daily source of help for service users.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Project Lead Officer advised the following:

- Persons with Autism had largely been affected by the pandemic in the same way as many people. An absence of routine, increased eating issues and over-exposure to news reports had increased levels of anxiety. However, members of the Autism Team had been working with its service users to encourage more positive habits and regularly contacting individuals to check on their wellbeing;

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- The Adult Autism Team would undertake a diagnosis for any individual who was referred to the service directly by their Doctor.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the work undertaken by the Adult Autism Team since January 2020 be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Scrutiny Committee continues to receive annual updates on the work of the Adult Autism Team.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To keep Members apprised of the work of the Adult Autism Team and its achievements to date.
- (2) To ensure that a further report will be presented to this Scrutiny Committee in 2022.

455 SUPPORT FOR CARERS IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Safeguarding and Service Outcomes presented the report to provide members with an update and further information on the Regional Work Stream for Unpaid Carers and the plans for a Regional Strategy to support said individuals. The report also provided an up to date overview of the current services and support available to Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan.

By way of context, the Officer advised that the economic value of support provided by Unpaid Carers was estimated at £33m and was increasing year on year.

The report before Members reflected progress made prior to the national pandemic but, as expected, Covid-19 was having an immediate impact on services offered. Due to social restrictions, day centres offering respite care were currently closed putting significant strain on the Carers themselves and causing increased levels of social isolation.

Despite difficulties as a result of the national pandemic, efforts were still being made to engage with Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan and the 'Carer's Gateway' information and support service, launched in March 2020, had been a huge success for identifying carers and sign-posting individuals to real-time services. Newsletters also continued to be distributed during the pandemic and young carers were deemed key/vulnerable learners throughout the pandemic ensuring they continued to receive support via their school network.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Operational Manager advised the following:

- Every school within the Vale of Glamorgan had a designated Carers Lead, which had been an invaluable role since the start of the pandemic, however a

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young person had the ability to decide who their link person/member of staff at the school may be which may not necessarily be the designated Carer Lead;

- The aforementioned estimated economic value of care provided by Unpaid Carers was a national reflection;
- The Council would continue to steer governmental discussions on finance and resources for carers via the Ministerial Advisory Group.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Annual Report on Support for Unpaid Carers and work undertaken to support Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the report be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee to note the work in respect of young carers.
- (3) T H A T the duties of the Council and its partners in regard to delivering services for Carers within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 be noted.
- (4) T H A T how the Council and its partners were meeting the Ministerial Priorities for Carers and the development of the Regional Carers Strategy be noted.
- (5) T H A T a report on support for Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan continues to be received on an annual basis.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function undertaken by the Social Services Directorate.
- (2) At the request of Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee to receive an update report on young carers on an annual basis.
- (3) To ensure Scrutiny Members are aware of the duties outlined within legislation and the Ministerial Priorities set for carers.
- (4) That Scrutiny Members have the opportunity to consider the development of a Regional Strategy for carers.
- (5) To ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of this important function on an annual basis.

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456 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2020 TO 31ST JANUARY 2021 (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Accountancy presented the report, the purpose of which was to advise the Committee of the progress relating to revenue and capital expenditure for the period 1st April, 2020 to 31st January, 2021.

The revenue position for 2020/21 remained challenging with additional pressure for the service both operationally and financially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This had impacted both as a result of incurring additional expenditure but also from a loss of income. Funding had been provided by Welsh Government to cover some of the issues.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the 2020/21 revenue and capital budgets be noted.

Reason for recommendation

That Members are aware of the projected revenue and capital outturn for 2020/21.

457 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2020/21 (DSS) -

The Director for Social Services advised that the performance report presented progress at quarter 3 (1st April to 31st December, 2020) towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan (2020/21) commitments as aligned to the Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

Despite the ongoing challenges of responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic, which had extreme implications for the Social Services Directorate, positive progress had been made in delivering the in-year commitments in relation to the Annual Delivery Plan (2020/21). This performance had contributed to an overall AMBER status for the Plan at quarter 3 (Q3).

Following the Director's presentation, Councillor Ms. Aviet thanked all staff involved in achieving the excellent results set out on Page 101 of Appendix 2 in regard to supporting domestic abuse victims to feel safer in their homes as a result of target hardening.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21 commitments as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives within the remit of the Committee be noted.

(2) T H A T the remedial actions to be taken to address areas of under-performance and to tackle the key challenges identified within the remit of the Committee be noted.

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(3) T H A T the progress being made through the Council's Recovery Strategy and Directorate Recovery plans in response to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic be noted.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To ensure the Council clearly demonstrated the progress being made towards achieving its commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2020/21 aimed at making a positive difference to the lives of Vale of Glamorgan citizens.

(2) To ensure the Council was 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 maximised its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.

(3) To ensure Members maintained an oversight of the recovery issues impacting on the work of the Council and their respective Scrutiny Committees.

458 SERVICE PLANS AND TARGET SETTING TO DELIVER THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN (IMPROVEMENT PLAN PART 1) 2021/2022 (DSS) –

The Director of Social Services advised that the purpose of the report was to seek Members' endorsement of the priority actions as reflected in Service Plans and proposed service improvement targets for the period 2021/2022 that would deliver the Council's Annual Delivery Plan (Improvement Plan Part 1) within the remit of the Committee.

Following the Director's presentation, Councillor Thomas queried if the rehabilitative interventions provided by the Vale of Glamorgan Substance Misuse Services delivered in partnership with the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, as referred to on page 2 of the Adult Services Service Plan, were primarily focused on harm reduction to which the Director confirmed that was correct.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Service Plans and all planned activities as they relate to the remit of the Committee be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the proposed service improvement targets for 2021/2022 relating to the remit of the Committee be endorsed.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To ensure that the Service Plans aligned to the Committee's remit are accurate, up to date and relevant and become the main document through which performance against the Corporate Plan's Annual Delivery Plan is monitored and measured during 2021/2022.

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(2) To ensure the Council's Corporate Plan Performance Measurement Framework identifies a relevant set of performance measures and targets against which the Annual Delivery Plan can be monitored and measured during 2021/2022 in line with requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

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