

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 11th May, 2021.

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

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

Also present: Councillors B.T. Gray (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Legal, Regulatory and Planning Services).

13 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chairman read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing.”

14 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN –

RESOLVED – T H A T Councillor N.C. Thomas be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal year.

15 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor J.W. Thomas.

16 MINUTES –

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

17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

18 FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2020 (DSS) –

The Social Care Information Coordinator presented a report that provided information on the performance of the Vale Family Information Services (FIS) during 2019/2020 as well as an update of the FIS response to the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020/21. 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

No.

2014 and continued to see a significant, incremental increase in the number of enquiries made to the service each year.

During the national lockdowns, as a result of the pandemic, the FIS took responsibility for the verification of all 442 applications made to the Coronavirus Childcare Assistance Scheme (CCAS) and were able to support 312 children of Key Workers and vulnerable children.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions raised by the Committee, the Officer advised:

- There were multiple avenues for individuals to connect with the Service either directly or through a health professional. Referrals made directly by an individual's GP or Pediatrician were received via the Family First Advice Line who then referred the individual on to FIS as appropriate. Going forward, the FIS wished to increase the overall number of referrals made to the service as well as the amount of information on the Service available in doctor surgeries.
- In December 2020 the Vale was awarded funding through the Welsh Government Child Development Fund (via the Council's Flying Start Service), to support children age 0-5 who had been most impacted by Covid until the end of March 2021. FIS employed a temporary Support Officer to support the scheme at source and place children in childcare Approximately £93k was spent by end of March 2021. Funding had now been extended for a further 6 months but the Council was awaiting final confirmation from Welsh Government.
- The Team had recently welcomed a further member of staff, on a limited contract, through the Kickstart Scheme and it was hoped that the Young Person would take advantage of opportunities to remain in the team following the end of their Kickstart experience.
- Cardiff Council had withdrawn from the regional Index for Children and Young People with Disabilities or Additional Needs as they had employed their own, full-time, Index Officer. However, Vale staff continued to work closely with colleagues in Cardiff and to hold Regional Transition Information Steering Groups on a quarterly basis.
- It was expected that a consultation process and subsequent national training programme would be undertaken by Welsh Government to support childminders with the Welsh Government 30 Hour Childcare Offer moving to a new national digital system in the hope that the digital system would simplify the process and avoid putting more experienced registered childminders within the Vale of Glamorgan off engaging with the Childcare Offer.
- Government funding for childcare settings was only available via CCAS, the Child Development Fund and the Childcare Offer, depending on eligibility. All childcare providers were given the opportunity to sign up to these schemes.
- Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) inspections had now resumed on a face-to-face basis that had previously been held virtually as a result of the national pandemic. The Council's Operational Manager for Commissioning and Information continued to have regular meetings with CIW and no inspections were scheduled for Vale of Glamorgan services.

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- Referrals regarding children of statutory school age and their lack of attendance at school were welcomed by the service and individuals would be connected with the Family First Advice line.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Family Information Service Annual Report, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and the work undertaken to support parents / carers and providers in the Vale of Glamorgan be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Committee continues to receive updates on the Family Information Service annually each May.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To ensure Scrutiny Committee continues to be updated with regard to the Family Information Service.

19 4TH QUARTER SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION TRACKING 2020/21 AND PROPOSED ANNUAL FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME SCHEDULE 2021/22 (MD) –

The Chairman of the Committee presented the report to update Members on progress on the Scrutiny Committee's historical recommendations and to confirm the Committee's proposed Forward Work Programme (FWP) for 2021/22 for publication.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the status of the actions listed as completed in Appendix A to the report be agreed.
- (2) T H A T the Cabinet Annual Forward Work Programme for 2021/22 attached at Appendix C to the report, in the context of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee Annual Forward Work Programme 2021/22 content, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the 4th Quarter Forward Work Programme attached at Appendix B to the report be noted.
- (4) T H A T the Committee's proposed Annual Forward Work Programme Schedule for 2021/22 attached at Appendix D to the report be approved and uploaded to the Council's website.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) To maintain effective tracking of the Committee's recommendations.
- (2&3) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

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(4) For information.