

No.

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 8th March, 2022.

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

The meeting recording is available [here](#).

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

Also present: Councillors B.T. Gray (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health), G. John and K.F. McCaffer (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture).

932 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair 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”.

933 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

934 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

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

The Team Manager for Performance and Information presented the covering and appended SWAY report, the purposes of which were to provide Committee with an overview of the current services and support available to unpaid carers in the Vale of Glamorgan. A Carer was someone who provided unpaid care to an adult or disabled child.

They advised that the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 increased the rights of unpaid carers, and this enabled local authorities to build on the services and support already in place.

A diverse, flexible, and wide range of services and support were required to support carers given the incredible amount of invaluable unpaid care they provided to their communities. Carers were the largest source of care and support in all regions of the UK, and it was in everyone's interest that they were supported effectively.

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The Officer added that, within the Vale of Glamorgan over the last year, a number of key developments had been progressed, many of which are being delivered on a regional basis.

The Directorate continued to develop its response to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and manage its statutory responsibilities and local needs within its resources, making the most of collaborative arrangements and Government funding streams where appropriate as well as encouraging creativity and innovation. The Officer apprised the committee on the following developments:

- The publication of a National 'Strategy for Unpaid Carers' and an associated Delivery Plan. This added a new Priority, to the three already established, of 'Supporting unpaid carers in education and the workplace',
- June 2021 saw the launch of the Council's Regional identity card for young carers. A range of awareness raising activities were provided to support uptake of the card and the increased recognition of young carers the initiative was designed for, and
- Respite continued to be one of the main requests made by carers for support. The Council had been able to meet a wide range of needs by continuing to make funding available to third sector providers for general access and through the statutory assessment process.

With the Committee's permission, Councillor John addressed the Committee in his capacity as the Council's Carer Champion and advised that unpaid carers often found themselves in the position of huge responsibility very quickly and sometimes unexpectedly. The waiting time for domiciliary care packages was often lengthy and therefore returning home with a family member was often the quickest option to shorten a person's hospital stay. It was also important to note that some unpaid carers did not want to take time away from the loved one they cared for. It was fact that there were not enough carers to go around, and Councillor John advised of the huge respect he had for unpaid carers, especially given his own personal experiences of performing the carer role.

Following the Officer's presentation and representations from Councillor John, Officer's added the following advice in response to Committee questions:

- Approximately 100 Young Carer Identity Cards had been issued within the Vale of Glamorgan since its launch in June 2021 and efforts would continue to increase this number.
- Young People could request a Carer Identity Card directly from the relevant Council Team or via the designated Carer Champion based within their school. The cards were also advertised on the Cardiff YMCA website.
- Designated Carer Champions within schools were very skilled at identifying young carers as well as supporting the young person to acknowledge their carer role. Posters were also available through-out schools encouraging young people to self-identify themselves as a carer.
- Based on the suggestion raised by Councillor Nugent-Finn, Officers would be happy to explore and arrange as necessary hygiene packs for young male carers.

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- Officers were in regular contact with GP Surgeries to ensure that surgeries had up to date and accurate information available for any identified unpaid carer. Hard copy packs for distribution were not available however, surgeries were encouraged to enroll on an accreditation scheme to ensure staff were qualified to advise.
- A further annual report on support for Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan would be made available to the Committee in March 2023.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T both the covering report and appended 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 a further annual report on support for Unpaid Carers in the Vale of Glamorgan be received in March 2023.

(3) T H A T the following aspects of the report be noted:

- the duties of the Council and its partners in regard to delivering services for Unpaid Carers within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, and
- how the Council and its partners were meeting the Ministerial Priorities for Unpaid Carers and consider the regional work of the Unpaid Carers workstream.

Reasons for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the contents of the covering and appended report to ensure that Members continue to exercise effective oversight of the important function undertaken by the Social Services Directorate on an annual basis.

(3) That Scrutiny Committee Members are aware of the duties outlined within legislation and the Ministerial Priorities set for carers as well as the regional work taking place for unpaid carers and facilitated support from the lead Member for Carers.

936 LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT – YEAR 9 PERFORMANCE REPORT (DEH) –

The Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Performance introduced the report to outline the performance of the Leisure Management Contract over the previous 12 months and advised that the Leisure Management contract was now into the final year of the initial 10-year contract.

The potential extension to the contract had been agreed in principle but detailed negotiations were ongoing with all parties committed to a positive outcome. The

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delays to signing the extension agreement had been mainly due the impact of Covid-19.

The year 9 report varied greatly from previous reports as it detailed the performance from August 2020 to July 2021 and therefore reflected the restrictions the service had had to adapt to as a result of Covid regulations.

The report also detailed the actions taken and planned response to the Audit Wales review of the Council's out-sourced Leisure Services published in January 2021. The Audit Wales report concluded that the Council had maintained its leisure centre provision and was receiving an income from its contract with Legacy Leisure Limited but until recently lacked a strategy to shape the service; that there was significant scope for the Council to apply the sustainable development principle and focus on delivery of its well-being objectives through its contract with Legacy Leisure, and; the Council had strengthened its management of the contract, but there was scope to improve arrangements to assure itself that it was achieving value for money.

Legacy Leisure, the Council's Leisure management contractor was required to produce an annual report detailing performance, service improvements and any operating issues. The Operational Manager subsequently introduced the Legacy Leisure Regional Director Wales & Southwest who provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Vale of Glamorgan Active Communities Strategy.

In conclusion to the presentation, the Regional Director advised of the next steps as follows:

- To gather feedback to inform the Active Communities Strategy,
- Complete the recruitment process for the Active Communities Manager post,
- Conduct a social value assessment,
- Further development of the Active Communities Action Plan, and
- Conduct final consultation and launch the Strategy.

Following Officer representations and subsequent questions from the Committee, the following points of advice were added by Officers:

- The Active Communities Manager post would be operational within the Vale of Glamorgan area and funded by Sport Wales. Although Legacy Leisure wanted the roll to be a permanent position the funding was currently only available on a temporary basis.
- A comparison exercise had been undertaken against other local authorities in Wales in relation to Vale of Glamorgan fees for leisure services. The exercise had demonstrated that although fees had increased inline with public inflation, Vale of Glamorgan fees were still competitive in comparison.
- Now that the pandemic had transitioned to endemic in nature, Legacy Leisure continued to work within the social restriction guidelines as set by the Government. Some environmental changes as a result of the pandemic were now preferred by customers using the facilities such as the re-spacing of equipment within gyms and regular assessments of air condition systems.
- The date for starting the Active Communities Strategy public consultation had not yet been confirmed. Elected Members would be afforded further

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opportunity to consult on the strategy action plan once the plan had been finalised.

- The Active Communities Manager Post would be responsible for maintaining connections with the Local Authority and local organisations to maintain an effective outreach service. Legacy Leisure had access to community grant funds that it hoped to be more proactive in assigning going forward.
- Women only swimming pool sessions were still in operation and remained popular.

In conclusion, Councillor McCaffer thanked all leisure staff for their continued efforts to provide valued and crucial leisure services across the Vale of Glamorgan and especially during the pandemic. It was a very positive step to be so close to confirming a contract extension and, as always, communication with stakeholders and service users would remain essential going forward.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the contents of the covering report and the performance of the Legacy Leisure Contract for Year 9, as set out in Appendix A, be noted.
- (2) T H A T a Year 10 performance report for the Leisure Management contract be presented to Committee in the autumn of 2022 (September).
- (3) T H A T the actions being taken in response to the Audit Wales Report be noted and the approach proposed for the remainder of the contract period be endorsed.
- (4) T H A T the report be referred to the Governance and Audit Committee and thereon to Cabinet for consideration in relation to the issues raised by Audit Wales.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the covering and appended report in relation to the performance of the contractor during the Year 9 period.
- (2) To keep the Scrutiny Committee informed of progress on the Leisure Management Contract.
- (3&4) To ensure that the Leisure Management Contract reflected the findings of the Audit Wales Report, and that necessary action was taken to provide assurance that the issues identified by Audit Wales were being progressed.

937 REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL 2021 TO 31ST JANUARY 2022 (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Accountancy advised that the revenue position for 2021/22 would be challenging with the continuing pressure for the service as a result

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of the COVID 19 pandemic. This would impact both as a result of incurring additional expenditure but also from a loss of income.

Funding had been provided by Welsh Government in February 2022 to cover some of the issues and an additional grant of £1.852m had recently been received to address Social Care pressures.

It was anticipated that Social Services would breakeven in 2021/22 after a transfer into reserves of £1.654m, which took account of the additional grant recently received from WG to address Social Care pressures. It was projected that this would offset the current Children's Services overspend (around £811k) and the allocation over and above this sum, that could not be utilised in year, would be transferred into Social Services reserves.

A savings target for the year remained at £135k.

The currently approved capital budget had been set at £4.445m. Appendix 2 to the report detailed financial progress on the Capital Programme as at 31st January 2022. The Officer advised that the Council had been awarded a variation to the Flying Start Capital Grant 2021/22. The award was for £30k to complete the additional work required at Grasshopper Creche (formally Skomer Road Creche). In addition, there had been some delays in relation to leisure centre schemes as set out in paragraphs 2.11 and 2.12 of the report.

With no questions being raised by the Committee, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the position with regard to the 2021/22 revenue and capital budgets be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the contents of the report related to the projected revenue outturn for 2021/22.

938 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VALE ALLIANCE – AN INTEGRATED MODEL FOR THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TO ADULT CITIZENS IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN (DSS) –

The report apprised Committee of the proposal to form an Alliance model to support the delivery of integrated health and social care services to the population of the Vale of Glamorgan.

A presentation was provided by the Head of Adult Services in partnership with NHS colleagues which set out the proposed governance and partnership arrangements outlining how an alliance model between health and social care services in the Vale of Glamorgan could be implemented.

The first stage of the process would involve bringing together a number of existing services that were supported through multiple funding streams into a single pooled

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management arrangement, with a view to establishing combined oversight and measuring its performance prior to moving to any wider implementation.

The Officer added that at a time when health and social care providers were under critical pressure the phased approach would allow significant progress to be made without incurring any unnecessary risk. It would also allow for the proper due diligence to be carried out with respect of responsibility and accountability as the model evolved.

Councillor Gray (Cabinet Member for Social Care & Health), in his additional capacity as Regional Partnership Board Chair added that the Alliance was an exciting initiative and a driving force to making real change. In later stages of the alliance development, it would be necessary for the Council to adopt new ways of thinking to create community led services.

The Vice Chair endorsed the representations made and agreed that the Alliance was a step forward in improving the working relationships between the Local Authority (LA) and University Health Board (UHB). He then advocated a 'tell us once' approach for services going forward and expressed a wish for the LA and UHB to be treated as equal partners so that consultations, decisions and subsequent changes were more transparent.

In response to the Chair's question on how the Alliance would be resourced, the Head of Adult Services advised that a workforce was already in place in the key service areas relevant to the first stage of the process. The workforce would be exploring mechanisms for delivering services as well as looking at the governance and management of services. No additional employment was forecast at this time.

NHS colleagues added that the current staff infrastructure was looking at 'how' services operated and there was a collective will to make the first stage of the Alliance happen on top of current service demands. The ultimate aim was to create a person first service whilst maintaining the safety of the service. In the short term, progress would be more clunky, but this would become more efficient as the amount of forward planning increased.

With no further comment or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the proposed development of an Alliance model for the delivery of health and social care services be noted.
- (2) T H A T the proposal that the Head of Adult Services / Locality Manager should proceed to stage one, as set out within the report, be endorsed.
- (3) T H A T a further report following the first stage of the process be received by the Committee having regard to the fact that any future partnership agreement would be considered by Scrutiny Committee and would require approval by Cabinet.

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Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and the planned development of a new integrated management model for community health and adult locality services.
- (2) To ensure that the Head of Adult Services / Locality Manager had the approval of Scrutiny Committee before developing the Alliance model further.
- (3) Scrutiny Committee had an opportunity to review the progress that was made and was able to consider the relevant issues that would inform the development of more formal integrated arrangements having regard to the intended approval process for any future partnership agreement.

939 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE 2021/22 (DSS) –

The Director of Social Services presented the performance report that set out the Council's progress at Quarter 3 (1st April to 31st December, 2021) towards achieving its Annual Delivery Plan (2021/22) commitments as aligned to its Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

The Council had made positive progress in delivering its in-year commitments in relation to its Annual Delivery Plan (2021/22). This performance had contributed to an overall Green status for the Plan at Quarter 3 (Q3).

The Vice-Chair passed on the Committee's sincere thanks to all staff for their excellent work during a very difficult pandemic. It was very positive to see solutions already set out against red items within the report which he hoped would demonstrate progress in the next Quarter 4 report.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2021/22 commitments, as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Wellbeing 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.
- (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

Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting:

- (1) To ensure the Council clearly demonstrates the progress being made towards achieving its commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2021/22 aimed at making a positive difference to the lives of Vale of Glamorgan citizens.
- (2) To ensure the Council is effectively assessing its performance in line with the requirement to meet its performance requirements as outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and reflecting the requirement of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that it maximises its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.
- (3) To ensure Members maintain an oversight of the recovery issues impacting on the work of the Council and their respective Scrutiny Committees.

940 SERVICE PLANS AND TARGET SETTING TO DELIVER THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2022/2023 (DSS) –

The report, presented by the Director of Social Services, presented the service plans and targets within the remit of the Committee. The service plans set out the specific areas of focus associated with the delivery of the Council's Annual Delivery Plan for 2022/2023 as aligned to its four Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

Progressing the Annual Delivery Plan would help meet the Council's statutory obligations under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WCFG). Both pieces of legislation placed specific duties on the Council in relation to reviewing and setting objectives, keeping performance under review and reporting on performance, with a focus on improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Vale citizens.

The commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan were reflected in the Service Plans (Appendix A to the report) together with proposed service improvement targets (Appendix B to the report) to show how individual service areas would contribute to their achievement and overall delivery of the Council's four Well-being Objectives.

Following the Director's presentation, the Vice Chair referred to section 4.2.2 of the Annual Delivery Plan (Appendix A) as considered during the previous agenda item which stated that the pandemic had continued to affect the completion of child assessments with 47.1% being completed on time against a target of 85%. This also represented a decline in performance when compared with the previous year's quarter 3 performance of (70%). Social workers had continued to respond to priority needs of children and their families during the period of involvement, albeit without completed assessments. In addition to the 'What do we need to improve?' statement above, the Vice-Chair referred to recent media coverage outlining tragic events elsewhere in the UK of children coming to harm because face-to-face assessments had been unable to take place and, in light of both these pieces of

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evidence, questioned what preventative measure were reflected in the Vale of Glamorgan service plans going forward?

In response, the Head of Children and Young People Services offered reassurance that Vale of Glamorgan Council staff had not had any issues gaining access to the necessary personal protection equipment required to be used to allow them to gain access to families during the pandemic and the safety of both staff and children had remained the number one priority for the authority.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the Service Plans (Appendix A) and all planned activities as they relate to the remit of the Committee (as illustrated in Appendix C) be endorsed for Cabinet consideration.

(2) T H A T the proposed service improvement targets for 2022/2023 (Appendix B) relating to the remit of the Committee be endorsed for Cabinet consideration.

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 2022/2023.

(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 2022/2023.