

No.

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 6th September 2022.

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

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

Present: Councillor J.E. Charles (Chair), Councillor N.C. Thomas (Vice-Chair); Councillors G.M. Ball, C.A. Cave, A.M. Collins, C.M. Cowpe, S. Lloyd-Selby, J. Lynch-Wilson, J.M. Norman, H.M. Payne, and C. Stallard.

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett (Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources), G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport, and Wellbeing) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

217 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer 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”.

218 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor R. Fisher.

219 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

220 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 - Annual Delivery Plan Monitoring Report: Quarter 1 Performance 2022/23. The Councillor advised that they had a dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak only on issues relating to Telecare and Care Package Services at Vale of Glamorgan Council meetings.

221 VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL: ANNUAL PERFORMANCE CALENDAR 2022/23 (REF) –

The Director of Social Services presented the reference from Cabinet of 7th July, 2022 which outlined the key plans and reports that would be subject to consideration

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by Members throughout the year. The report also outlined how the Council proposed to engage with the new cohort of elected Members in shaping the processes, key plans and reports aligned to the Annual Performance Calendar to enable the Council to meet the new performance requirements of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (LG&E Act) and contribute to the national goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG).

The Director drew the Committee's attention to Appendix A to the report which proposed an approach to engaging with Members on the Council's Performance Management Framework through the Annual Performance Calendar of activities in order to develop their skills and knowledge and strengthen their involvement in shaping and refining the key plans, reports and processes that would support them in their key role of assessing whether the Council was achieving its Well-being Objectives, delivering value for money and improving the wellbeing of its citizens. .

With no comments or questions received, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Annual Performance Calendar 2022/23 and the proposed approach to engaging with Members in-year to shape and refine the Annual Performance Calendar and associated processes, plans and reports be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the content of the Cabinet report to meet the new performance requirements in line with Section 114 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

222 REVENUE CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22 (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Accountancy presented the report, the purpose of which was to inform Members of the provisional financial position of the Council for the 2021/22 financial year on completion of the accounts.

The Officer advised that the Council's overall year end revenue position was an adverse variance of £13k after net transfers to reserves of £18.151m. The Council Fund now stood at £12.510m as at 31st March, 2022.

The Social Services Directorate had received significant additional Welsh Government Grant Funding which had enabled a net transfer into reserves for the service of £2.575m.

The Leisure Service had been unable to fully achieve the allocated savings in year and therefore reported a small overspend at year end which was offset by underspends elsewhere in the Neighbourhood Services and Housing Directorate.

A total efficiencies target was set of £500k for 2021/22 of this a revenue savings target of £79k had been set for Social Services which was fully achieved in year.

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The Leisure Services savings target of £56k was partly achieved and the service would work towards achieving the saving in full during 2022/23.

In response to a point of clarification from Cllr Lloyd-Selby as to the reason for the favourable variance of £315k for the Fostering Placement budget, as set out in paragraph 2.15 of the report, the Director of Social Services advised that the budget was for the payment of foster carer allowances and payments for skills in line with national guidance and there were annual increases in these as well as planned increases in the Council's foster carer numbers year on year. The variance would decrease incrementally over time as the number of foster carers recruited to the Council increased.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the financial measures taken and proposed be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Final amended 2021/22 budget, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) Having regard to the content of the report and amended budget for 2021/22 which reflects an increase in Revenue Support Grant awarded by Welsh Government during 2021/22 as well as financial measures taken and proposed.

223 CAPITAL CLOSURE OF ACCOUNTS 2021/22 (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Accountancy presented the report, the summary of which was to inform Members that the total capital expenditure during the year was £66.411m which required funding of £1.191m to be drawdown from reserves.

The Officer drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 2.5 of the report which reported a slippage of £249k for the ICF 4 Carys Close Refurbishment Project. The lowest tender received was more than double the available funding. As such, the project was delayed several months due to the need for extensive value engineering of the project. Additional funding to enable the project to proceed also had to be identified from Social Services Reserves. It had therefore been requested via emergency powers that £249K be carried forward into the 2022/23 Capital Programme.

With no comments or questions received, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the year-end capital position for the financial year 2021/22 be noted.

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Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the content of the report and the year-end capital position for the financial year 2021/22.

224 SPORT AND PLAY: UPDATE (DEH) –

The Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services, Healthy Living and Performance with support from the Principal Healthy Living Officer presented the report which detailed the work carried out by the Council's Sports and Play team for the period April 2021 – March 2022.

The report highlighted many of the successful initiatives undertaken during the year including assistance to clubs, the Summer of Fun, the Golden Pass Scheme, Winter of Well-being, and the provision of playschemes. A short PowerPoint presentation was provided which detailed case studies that highlighted the impact of initiatives across age ranges and supported the key achievements for the year as set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report.

The reported period of time was dominated by the re-establishing and recovery of services following the pandemic and was therefore different to that experienced previously but the team had again demonstrated their flexibility and adaptability.

Following the Officer's presentation, the Vice-Chair noted a comment in the report whereby a member of the public had indicated that it would be useful to have wider promotion of the Golden Pass project and suggested that the Council consider promoting the scheme via alternative methods as well as the Council's social media channels. Officers acknowledged the benefits of adequate promotion and would continue to increase methods of communication alongside those already established.

The Chair echoed the Cabinet Member's thanks to the Staff of the Sports and Play Team for their continued good work and efforts and commended officers on a successful and positive report. The Chair subsequently moved that the report be referred to Cabinet for its consideration. With the motion seconded and carried, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H A T the information contained within the Sport and Play Annual Update Report be noted.

(2) T H A T the Sport and Play Annual Update Report be referred to Cabinet for its consideration.

(3) T H A T a further Annual Report on the activities of the Council's Sport and Play Development Team be submitted to the Committee in September 2023.

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Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the content of the report and the current good work being undertaken by the Council's Sport and Play Development Team.

(2&3) To ensure that all Elected Members are informed of the good work being undertaken by the Council's Sport and Play Development Team.

225 CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN MARKET STABILITY REPORT 2022 (DSS) –

The Director of Social Services advised that Section 144B of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act') required Local Authorities to prepare and publish market stability reports every five years and that the report before the Committee was the first Market Stability Report (MSR) for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The MSR needed to be read alongside the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Population Needs Assessment (PNA) and the Vale of Glamorgan Well-being Assessment to gain a comprehensive understanding of the population care and support needs and the ability of the market to meet those needs.

The MSR was undertaken between October 2021 and July 2022. The dedicated engagement undertaken during development of the PNA as well as existing data and reports were used to inform the MSR, alongside dedicated engagement work in the form of focus groups with professionals and providers.

Improvements in care and support services had been made across all population groups since the 2017 Population Needs Assessment, despite the challenges of COVID-19. COVID-19 had had a number of impacts, including increasing demand for services, especially mental health, and changing models of delivery for many services. However, where it was the most appropriate approach services were returning to their pre COVID-19 delivery models. The longer-term impact on care and support needs of the Vale of Glamorgan's population, and the markets stability would require continual monitoring to ensure market sufficiency.

The MSR would be considered by Cabinet on 3rd October 2022.

In response to an enquiry from a committee member regarding the annual reporting requirement, the Director advised that the requirement would be considered in due course by the Regional Commissioning Board.

Having regard to the content of the report and hyperlinked draft MSR, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Market Stability Report be noted.

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Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the content of the report prior to it being considered by Cabinet and Full Council.

226 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN AND CARDIFF INTEGRATED FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22 (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Children & Young People's Services advised that the Integrated Family Support Team (IFST) had its origins in Welsh Government's Vulnerable Children Strategy. The legislative framework was the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, later superseded by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The IFST was a partnership between the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff Council and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board who had a joint statutory responsibility for ensuring the delivery of an IFS service in their region.

The report before Committee was the 9th Annual Report prepared in accordance with s.62 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and provided information on the effectiveness of the service provision and highlighted any challenges which would impact upon the successful delivery of the service.

The IFST had demonstrated significant progress since 2017/18 in meeting performance targets. Families were receiving the right support at the right time to effect long term behavioural changes. The team, through their enthusiasm and commitment, continued to deliver an excellent service to families through meaningful co-production, resulting in children living safely at home with their parents / carer. Positive outcomes from the service had reduced safeguarding concerns and enabled children's needs to be prioritised with early results showing a reduction in demand on statutory services.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, Officers present also added the following points of advice:

There was no allocation ratio for the service between the two Local Authorities. Allocations would be made based on support being available at the time of referral. In terms of historical demand, it had been documented that the number of Vale of Glamorgan allocations had not reached 50% however, allocations had exceeded a third ratio had allocations been made based on the size difference between the Local Authority areas.

A 'No space' referral was a referral that has been received and was deemed to be appropriate but, because all IS and CSW workers were working with families, it had to be closed. No space referrals were also not defined by an allocation ratio between the two Local Authorities. It was acknowledged that in future presentations of the report it would be beneficial for members to be provided with the numbers for the no space referrals over a number of previous years to better understand the demand on the service and any patterns arising within the Vale of Glamorgan area.

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The way that funding was initially received for the IFST was on a national basis and therefore over the two regions on a 50/50 basis however, given the significant difference in size between the two authorities the demand for the service was not equal; this was more realistically a 70/30 split. Officers in the Vale of Glamorgan had continued to work extremely hard (over 9 years) to ensure that the Council received 50% of the provision but, with the Vale of Glamorgan being much smaller than Cardiff the Council's demand was unavoidably smaller. A few years previously, the Vale of Glamorgan Council had increased the remit for submitting a referral in an attempt to increase the number of referrals made to the service by the authority to match its 50% funding entitlement. The 'no space' operational arrangement was a unique approach for a social care service however, it was in place for the Families Achieving Change Team and the IFST and therefore the Council would continue to ensure that it was effectively responding to the needs of Children. An identified need would always be prioritised over a funding allocation.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the Integrated Family Support Team Annual Report for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

Reason for recommendation

Having regard to the content of the report to scrutinise the work of the Integrated Family Support Service in relation to Welsh Government guidance.

227 REGIONAL UNPAID CARERS CHARTER (DSS) –

The Operational Manager for Safeguarding & Service Outcomes presented the report, purpose of which was to provide an overview of the work of the Regional Partnership Board in relation to unpaid carers including young carers and to provide an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to consider the draft Regional Unpaid Carers Charter and the draft Regional Young Carers Charter.

The Officer advised that through the governance of the Regional Partnership Board which included representatives from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cardiff Council, Cardiff & Vale Health Board and third sector organisations, Charters had been produced by the Regional Unpaid Carers Workstream outlining the Council's proposed commitments to support Unpaid Carers and Young Carers.

The members of the workstream had worked with unpaid carers and the people they care for, to understand their experiences and what matters to them. They had considered what unpaid carers and young carers had told them, appropriate legislation, and the local contexts and resources. Together they had produced two sets of commitments that set out the proposed direction for the planning and development of support to all unpaid carers and young carers across the region over the next five years.

The Unpaid Carers Charter (Appendix 1) and Young Carers Charter (Appendix 2) outlined the vision and eight commitments which were considered to be fundamental

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to supporting unpaid carers and young carers now and, in the future, and gave direction for the development of support for them across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Having regard to the content of the report, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the draft Regional Unpaid Carers Charter, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.
- (2) T H A T the draft Regional Young Carers Charter, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.
- (3) T H A T the draft companion document being produced to support the Charters, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

Reasons for recommendations

(1-3) Having regard to the content of the report to assess the associated background information which will accompany the Charters prior to subsequent approval by Cabinet.

228 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN MONITORING REPORT: QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE 2022/23 (DSS) –

The performance report presented the Council's progress at Quarter (Q1) (1st April 2022 to 30th June 2022) towards achieving its Annual Delivery Plan (2022/23) commitments as aligned to its Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives.

All 4 Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives were attributed a Green performance status at Q1 to reflect the good progress made to date in meeting the Council's Annual Delivery Plan commitments for 2022/23.

In relation to the planned activities within the remit of the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, 94% (107 out of 114) were attributed a Green performance status, and 6% (7) were attributed a Red status. Of the 4 measures reported, 75% (3) were attributed a Green performance status and 25% (1) were attributed Red status.

With no comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the performance results and progress towards achieving the Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 commitments, as aligned to the Council's Corporate Plan Wellbeing Objectives within the remit of the Committee, be noted.

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

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To ensure the Council clearly demonstrates the progress being made towards achieving its commitments in the Annual Delivery Plan 2022/23 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 & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and reflecting the requirement of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, so it maximises its contribution to achieving the well-being goals for Wales.