

No.

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Hybrid meeting held on Tuesday, 11th June, 2024.

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

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

Present: Councillor J.E. Charles (Chair); Councillor N.C. Thomas (Vice-Chair); Councillors I.R. Buckley; C.A. Cave, A.M. Collins, R.E. Godfrey, S. Lloyd-Selby, J. Lynch-Wilson, J.M. Norman and C. Stallard

Also present: Councillors G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport and Wellbeing) and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

103 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.”

104 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors G.M. Ball and C.M. Cowpe.

105 MINUTES –

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 4 – Food Vale, the Vale of Glamorgan’s Sustainable Food Partnership. The nature of the interest was the Councillor was a Member of the University Health Board.

Councillor S. Lloyd-Selby declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 5 – Annual Review of Commissioned Services to Adults with a Care and Support Need. The nature of the interest was the Councillor had relatives in social care. The Councillor remained in the meeting during discussion of both items.

No.

107 FOOD VALE, THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN'S SUSTAINABLE FOOD PARTNERSHIP (DCR) –

The report provided an overview of the work of Food Vale across the Vale of Glamorgan as part of the rolling programme of providing Committees with insights into the work of the Public Services Board. The representative, Louise Denham, from the Public Health Team at Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board also provided a PowerPoint presentation which detailed the work that had been undertaken to date.

It was noted that the Public Services Board (PSB) had launched its first Well-being Plan on 22nd May, 2018 with the second Well-being Plan being launched at an event on 15th June, 2023. Since its launch partners had been working to progress the Well-being Objectives set out in the Plan and the actions aligned to those Objectives. Many of the Objectives, actions and key priority workstreams were aligned to the work carried out by Food Vale.

Food Vale, the sustainable food partnership for the Vale of Glamorgan, were working to develop a new local Food Strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan. The Strategy would cover the period 2024-2030 and would encompass both short and long term actions to guide action on a wide range of topics to build a healthy and sustainable local food system.

The work of the PSB was reported to the Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee. The Committee had requested the work of the PSB be also reported to other Committees whose remits aligned to elements of its work to broaden the understanding of the PSB's work amongst a wider range of Elected Members.

Councillor Lloyd-Selby, impressed and encouraged by the energy and vision proposed and progress to date, enquired as to how the impact of the work would be measured. The representative advised that progress was able to be tracked which included engagement levels. Councillor Lloyd-Selby said she would welcome updates on this going forward which was seconded by Councillor Cave. Councillor Cave also enquired as to how the work impacted in relation to the relevant planning permissions that would be required. Councillor Thomas, as Chair of Planning, stated that it was not a matter for planning at this stage but that matters would be addressed at the appropriate time. The Operational Manager for Corporate Strategy and Insight confirmed that the Food Vale partnership worked closely with all departments including officers within the Place Directorate. Louise Denham also commented to reassure the member that in taking forward the work of Food Vale and the Food Strategy that she would also be linking in with the Local Development Plan as well as other food related areas of work and networks.

No.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) T H AT the work of Food Vale and the progress partners were making in developing the new local Food Strategy be noted and that the officers be thanked for an informative and detailed progress report and presentation.

(2) T H AT further updates on the work of Food Vale during the year be presented to this Committee as appropriate and in addition to the progress reported as part of the PSB Annual Report, reported to Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) Having regard to the work of Food Vale and opportunities to engage with the development of the new local Food Strategy and to offer the Committees thanks for the detailed progress update.

(2) To enable Members to be updated on the work of Food Vale in a manner that best satisfies the needs of the Committee.

108 ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMMISSIONED SERVICES TO ADULTS WITH A CARE AND SUPPORT NEED (DSS) –

The Head of Resource Management and Safeguarding presented the report and outlined the activities undertaken regarding commissioned services for adults with care and support needs, and the priority actions for 2023/24.

The report also included the commissioning priorities for the wider Directorate for 2024/25. The Head of Service drew attention to the fact that the number of residents in Nursing and Residential Care remained relatively stable although respite care was continuing to increase. There were still 35 care homes in the Vale with a new home in Wenvoe to be opened soon. Recruitment and retention in the service area continued to be an issue however overseas recruitment had bolstered the market. In referring to paragraph 2.4 of the report and issues raised by providers, the Operational Manager referred to the good work undertaken by Gaynor Jones Operational Manager for Commissioning and Finance who was shortly to leave the service, with Members requesting that their best wishes and congratulations be extended to the Operational Manager.

The Chair in welcoming the report commented that it was a good report which detailed of the work undertaken to date and progress being made. Councillor Lloyd-Selby, in echoing the Chair's comments and acknowledging the pressures, enquired as to what arrangements were in place to monitor if there was a risk of any provider not being able to continue providing the service and what was the trigger process for the recommissioning of services.

The Head of Service in response advised that quality assurance monitoring was undertaken within his finance and commissioning team, provider forums also take place as well as the offer of individual discussions. A programme of

No.

recommissioning was maintained with options to extend contracts where contracts were working well. It was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the ongoing challenges and demand for commissioned social care services be noted.
- (2) T H A T the changing population of the Vale of Glamorgan and the associated increase in demand for care services be noted.
- (3) T H A T the availability of commissioned services for Vale of Glamorgan residents and the associated increase in expenditure be noted.
- (4) T H A T the improved timeliness of providing home care to residents be noted.
- (5) T H A T the Committee continues to receive an Annual Review of Commissioned Services for Adults with a Care and Support Need report.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1-4) Having regard to the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (5) Scrutiny receives annual update for their consideration and information

109 FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2024 (DSS) –

The Social Care Information Team Manager provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Vale Family Information Service (FIS) via a PowerPoint presentation. The link to the full detail of the Annual Report was contained within the report. FIS was a preventative service reaching families in the community and providing relevant information that could prevent families from reaching crisis point. 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. The FIS enabled the Council to fulfil its responsibilities under the Childcare Act 2006, Section 27, regarding the provision of prescribed information to parents and prospective parents, on childcare and other services or facilities.

Reference was also made during the presentation to the service achieving the Families First Quality Award with the Committee requesting that their congratulations be passed on to the service.

Having regard to the Welsh Government initiatives for the provision of child care and the eligibility criteria for pre 2 year olds and the 3-4 year olds offer it was recognised that there was confusion among parents and the information needed to be clearer. The Chair also commented that within the report the only element she thought may cause some further confusion related to the 30-hour child care offer together with the Flying Start offer.

No.

Councillor Lloyd-Selby, in welcoming Welsh Government's review of the hourly rate for child minders, asked whether concerns regarding the confusion for parents as to how the two schemes being introduced were being run had been fed back to Welsh Government and having regard to the financial pressures parents were experiencing because of the hourly rate whether a report every two years would provide the Committee with adequate reassurance and be provided asap of Welsh Government's response.

The Operational Manager advised that feedback had been referred to Welsh Government who did realise there was confusion across Wales and further information was awaited. An annual report could also be provided as well as providing Members with any responses received and outcomes of any consultation. Councillor Lloyd-Selby confirmed that she would not expect an annual report but would be satisfied with an email with information being sent to all Members of the Committee.

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 receives updates on the Family Information Service every two years with any information from Welsh Government received in the meantime being emailed to all Members of the Committee for their information.

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.