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CORRESPONDENCE FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time of Meeting WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2015, 5.00 PM

Please find below correspondence send by the Committee Chair following the meeting, together with any responses received.

For any further details, please contact scrutinyviewpoints@cardiff.gov.uk

9 **Correspondence** (*Pages 1 - 4*)

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My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

5 November 2015

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member (Health, Housing and Well Being)
c/o Room 520
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan

Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 4 November 2015

Members thank you, Andrew Cozens, Tony Young, Sarah McGill, Jane Thomas and Amanda Phillips for your attendance at committee to discuss Reshaping Adult Social Care and the proposed Day Opportunities Strategy. This letter captures the agreed comments and observations of the Committee with regard to these items.

Reshaping Adult Social Care

Members welcome the focus that you have brought to the need to reshape adult social care in Cardiff in order to improve outcomes for vulnerable citizens. Members also welcome the chance to receive an independent appraisal of the current position with regard to adult social care in Cardiff and thank Andrew Cozens for his honesty in answering our questions.

Overall, Members recognise the picture described by Andrew. We are pleased that the hard work, loyalty and commitment of the adult services staff was acknowledged and paid tribute to; this was heartening to hear. Despite this, it is clear that there are significant areas that require improvement and Members are pleased that Tony Young has therefore established an Improvement Board, which will give the needed work both focus and drive. It is clear that high level mapping of the landscape has taken place; what is needed now is for the detail to be fleshed out in the Improvement Plan.

Members note that a key early action is the need to create a simple narrative for adult social care that captures the 'Cardiff offer' and can be quickly communicated and understood by staff, service users and citizens. Members are interested in

receiving this, once it has been discussed and agreed by the Improvement Board, and ask that this be shared with the Committee at an appropriate point.

Members note that Andrew Cozens is undertaking more work on partnerships; we would be very interested to receive the findings of this work as we recognise the critical importance of effective partnership working to improve outcomes for citizens.

With regard to the overall work of the Improvement Board, Members are aware of the role the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee played in assisting improvement in Children's Services; as the relevant scrutiny committee for Adult Social Care, Health, Housing and Communities, we wish to do what we can to support this Improvement Board and we were pleased to hear Tony Young's support for this happening; I look forward to continued dialogue with you on this.

Members also wish to thank Sarah McGill for her presentation outlining the Vulnerable Adults programme of work, which forms part of the Organisational Development programme. This work, alongside the Strategic Commissioning programme, is obviously key to ensure the successful reshaping of adult social care.

Our one concern relates to achieving clarity in knowing whether the changes deliver the needed improvements. I know this view was shared by all those attending the meeting, which is reassuring. Members would like to receive details of the following: the metrics that will capture the impact of changes; and the approaches being taken to ensure time and resource are not wasted replicating meetings or paperwork, across relevant Organisational Development programmes, the Improvement Board, the various partnership boards, the service area's delivery plan etc.

Once again, thank you for sharing with us your views and plans to reshape adult social care and the principles underpinning this.

Proposed Day Opportunities Strategy

Members thank you and officers for bringing the proposed Day Opportunities Strategy to Committee for pre-decision scrutiny. Members welcome the fact that the original proposals put forward in the last budget round have been revisited; at the time of budget scrutiny we raised our clear concerns that the proposed savings would not enable 'choice and control' It is therefore very pleasing to see these concerns addressed in the proposed Day Opportunities Strategy.

Overall, Members welcome the Day Opportunity Strategy and the principles underpinning this, working with partners and encouraging volunteering. The tiered approach seems to enable the Council to meet assessed needs appropriately and prevent social isolation by keeping three day centres, creating a Day Opportunities team and signposting to community provision.

Members also welcome the fact that a three month consultation period is proposed; this seems an appropriate length of time for consultation on an issue affecting vulnerable people, their carers and families. Members wish to receive the resultant consultation schedule and ask that this be brought to Committee at the time the final proposal is brought back to Committee.

Members note that the Day Centres will be available to clients other than Older People, if their needs are assessed as requiring this, so that it may be a client with young onset dementia who uses the dementia centre or it may be a client in their thirties or forties who uses one of the other two proposed centres, if this is suitable for their needs. Members welcome this, for the reasons stated at the meeting i.e. that there are younger-age clients who need day centre provision and we would wish to see this need met.

As discussed at the meeting, Members have some concerns about the capacity in Cardiff amongst partners and volunteers; it will be interesting to see if this is a theme in consultation responses.

Members are also concerned that there may be unintended negative impacts arising from putting high numbers of dementia clients in one venue; is it possible to provide Committee with some reassurance about the numbers of clients who will be using the proposed centre at any one time and the views on this of experts in working with dementia clients?

Members also raised the point that the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 details the role of local authorities in promoting and encouraging the use of social enterprises. Members note the responses at the meeting regarding your work with the Wales Cooperative Centre and officers views that some of the work described in the proposed Strategy could be undertaken by social enterprises in the future and Tony's recognition of the need to add this strand into the work being done to prepare for the implementation of the Act.

Finally, Members assume that transportation for service users will be put in place as required to enable access to the day centres; it may be worth spelling this out in the consultation to avoid unnecessary concern.

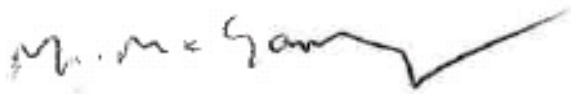
This letter requires a response please, as Members request the following:

- To receive the narrative for Adult Social Care, once it has been discussed and agreed by the Improvement Board, and at an appropriate point
- To receive the findings of Andrew Cozens work on partnerships
- To have a continued dialogue with you on how this Committee can work constructively to support the improvement of Adult Social Care

- To receive details of the metrics to be used to capture the impact of the improvement work
- To receive details of the work to ensure there is no duplication regarding meetings or paperwork
- To receive the Day Opportunities Strategy consultation schedule at Committee at the time the final proposal is brought back to Committee.
- To receive assurance about the numbers of clients who will be using the proposed centre at any one time and the views on this of experts in working with dementia clients.

Thank you once again for a very interesting and informative scrutiny, which sets the scene for future scrutiny of adult social care items.

Yours sincerely,



COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Andrew Cozens Tony Young Sarah McGill
Jane Thomas Amanda Phillips
Claire Deguara Paula Angel Liz Patterson Nick Blake