

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 JUNE 2018

Present: Councillor McGarry(Chairperson)
Councillors Ahmed, Carter, Ebrahim, Goddard, Kelloway and
Lent

1 : APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Council at its meeting held on 24 May 2018 appointed Councillor Mary McGarry as Chair and the following Members to the Committee:

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Joe Carter, Saeed Ebrahim, Susan Goddard, Shaun Jenkins, Kelloway, Lent and Molik

2 : TERMS OF REFERENCE

To scrutinise, measure and actively promote improvement in the Council's performance in the provision of services and compliance with Council policies, aims and objectives in the area of community and adult services, including:

- Public and Private Housing
- Disabled Facilities Grants
- Community Safety
- Neighbourhood Renewal and Communities Next
- Advice & Benefit
- Consumer Protection
- Older Persons Strategy
- Adult Social Care
- Community Care Services
- Mental Health & Physical Disabilities
- Commissioning Strategy
- Health Partnership

To assess the impact of partnerships with and resources and services provided by external organisations including the Welsh Government, joint local government services, Welsh Government Sponsored Public Bodies and quasi-departmental non-governmental bodies and health services on the effectiveness of Council service delivery.

To report to an appropriate Cabinet or Council meeting on its findings and to make recommendations on measures which may enhance Council performance and service delivery in this area.

To be the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee as required by the Police and Justice Act 2006 and any re-enactment or modification thereof; and as full delegate of the Council to exercise all the powers and functions permitted under that Act.

3 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shaun Jenkins.

4 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

5 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 May were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

6 : CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN REGIONAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2018 - 2023

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Susan Elsmore (Cabinet Member – Social Care, Health and Wellbeing), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director for People and Communities), Jane Thomas (Assistant Director, Housing & Communities) and Natalie Southgate (Policy & Development Manager, Housing & Communities) to the meeting.

The Chairperson advised Members that this item was for pre-decision scrutiny prior to consideration at Cabinet on 14th June.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Elsmore to make a statement in which she commended the work done by officers, and in particular Natalie Southgate and Nicola Evans, believing that it was one of the finest strategies that she has seen in terms of her portfolio. The strategy not only supported the requirements highlighted by Welsh Government and the Act, but sets out 5 further high level aims; Prepare, Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Support.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Strategy by Natalie Southgate after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.

- Members referred to the frustration that must be felt by police officers when, despite attending an incident the victim refuses to make a complaint and noted that whilst it was addressed in the strategy, the police also are able to conduct a victimless prosecution.

- Members noted the reference to the commissioning of a special male victim service and expressed concern about victims within the BME community. It was accepted that incidents of this nature were probably underreported, but that this issue was currently being looked at as part of ongoing development work.
- Members referenced the commitments outlined in the Prevent aim in relation to schools/education and were advised that no additional funding was being provided. The national training framework will help in offering staff the training to become better equipped to interact with, signpost and support victims.
- Members recognised the need for there to be collaboration with the Ministry of Justice & Court System, but for that to be of benefit, links need to be strengthened.
- Members queried the rationale for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan operating as a region; officers outlined the natural travel to work patterns, service access migrations for residents; the existence of a number of services and also the shared health board footprint. Members were advised that, whilst the Strategy primarily covers Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, it does not preclude wider working across the region.

In relation to the delivery of the Strategy, Members were advised that currently there was no real cost but it is anticipated that the costs of training will be shared equally. An advisory group is assessing training needs going forward. Costs will also come from existing funding streams, and the Strategy had presented opportunities to consider integration and efficiencies.

- Members asked whether there had been any consultation with religious leaders and were advised that whilst the impact of religion was acknowledged they had not been specifically targeted. They were aware however BAWSO do liaise with BME victims and the various cultural leaders.

Members stated that they wished to ensure that awareness is raised and information can be accessed throughout the city, for example in the hubs, on buses and bill boards

- Members were advised that there would be an Action Plan provided with the Strategy, which will also have to be agreed. Welsh Government have been made aware of the delay, the Action Plan was to have been submitted in May 2018

AGREED: that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

7 : CARERS - ASSESSMENTS & ENGAGEMENT

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Susan Elsmore (Cabinet Member – Social Care, Health and Wellbeing), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director for People and Communities), and Sue Schelewa (Operational Manager, Locality Services) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Elsmore to make a statement in which she stated that she was pleased with the progress that has been made in providing carers' assessments and highlighted the important role that officers play.

Members were provided with a presentation which outlined the current position; current provision and future development, including:-

- Carer's Trust SE Wales (Cardiff and Vale UHB) have been commissioned to undertake consultation and engagement with carers, working on an accreditation award, including young carers in schools;
- The Carers' support team is to link in with networking events to try and reach existing and new carers, including the Council's Health & Wellbeing Fayre and the launch of Dementia Friendly City; and
- Various events are being held during Carers' Week; a joint stall with Cardiff and Vale UHB in UHW concourse; a drop in session at Ely Hub Café; an advice and information session at Llanedeyrn Hub; and Llanishen and Fairwater community coffee mornings to be visited.

Members were invited to comment, seek clarification or raise questions on the information received. Those discussions were summarised as follows:

- Members asked for information regarding the numbers of carers in receipt of Direct Payments and were advised that it is believed that 800 or 900 are in receipt of Direct Payments, however, were unable to confirm the number of carers.
- Members were advised that of 770 assessments undertaken approximately 25% of the carers were known. Members sought clarification about the proportion of the 770 were in receipt of night sit services. Officers advised that they were unable to provide that information, however, they anticipated that out of the 3300 total (carers known to Adult Services in 2017-18) the number of those receiving night sits would be in the low hundreds.

AGREED: that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

8 : ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Scrutiny Officer advised Members that the Draft Annual Report was presented for their consideration, which outlined the work undertaken by the Committee between June and May.

AGREED: to approve the Draft Annual Report to be laid before Council.

9 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee is on Wednesday 4 July 2018 at 4.30 pm.

The meeting terminated at 6.15 pm