

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JULY 2018

Present: Councillor Bridgeman (Chairperson), Councillors De'Ath, Philippa Hill-John, Joyce, Murphy, Taylor and Singh

Co-opted Members: Patricia Arlotte (Roman Catholic representative), Carol Cobert (Church in Wales representative) and Karen Dell'Armi (Parent Governor Representative)

13 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Linda Morgan and Mike Phillips and also Rebecca Crump

14 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Item	Nature of Interest
Councillor Bridgeman	3	Prejudicial Interest as employed by Action for Children
Councillor Bridgeman	4	Personal Interest as a Ward Councillor for Llanrumney
Councillor Joyce	4	Personal Interest as Ward Councillor Llanrumney

15 : THE PROVISION OF CARDIFF SHORT BREAK SERVICES AT TY STORRIE

Councillor Bridgeman indicated that he had a prejudicial interest in this item bearing in mind he is employed by Action for Children and would have to leave the meeting.

Councillor De'Ath nominated Councillor Joyce to Chair this item. This was seconded and agreed by the Committee. Councillor Joyce took the Chair.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member, Children & Families), Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities), Angela Bourge (Operational Manager, Strategy, Performance and Resources) to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Hinchey to make a statement in which he advised that Action for Children are the current provider of services at Ty Storrie. Previously there had been some concerns about some aspects of the service provided at Ty Storrie, these were addressed but there have been some ongoing issues and Cabinet will be asked to recommend that the provision of services is transferred to the Council's in-house team.

Angela Bourge provided Members with a presentation outlining the background and the benefits of bringing the service in-house, to include:

- Alignment with Crosslands / part of regulated services provision with same RI
- Greater control over quality of service

- A single case-management record system for Ty Storrie
- Expected improvement to recruitment and retention of staff
- Access to the Council's extensive social care training calendar to support staff development
- Stream-line approach to building management
- Provides the Council with greater flexibility to review the model of care in the future in order to maximise usage and meet changing needs.

In relation to Staffing and Finance Members were advised that Action for Children staff will transfer to the Council under TUPE Regulations; the Manager post is currently vacant; the proposal is cost neutral. Trade Union consultation has also taken place.

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

- Members noted that the manager at Crosslands is actively involved and will play a key role in registering the home for the council. Advice is also being provided and guidance on staffing issues.

The intention is to appoint a new Registered Manager at Ty Storrie, but that the manager at Crosslands will be working closely with the new Registered Manager.

- Members asked for clarification as to how we are better placed in terms of staffing that a full tender and were advised that whilst the providers have worked hard to address concerns about staffing those have continued, in particular the post of Registered Manager has been vacant for some time. Those on-going staffing issues have impacted on stability, unlike Crosslands where there is an experienced staff group, they have demonstrated their ability to recruit and retain good staff.
- Members referenced the contribution of £100,00 from UHB and whether that funding will remain in place. Officers advised that UHB funding is still an issue, and will remain so whoever operates the home.
- Members queried why Ty Storrie has been operating under capacity, bearing in mind there are 8 beds and were advised that initially 4 beds were to be used to deliver Cardiff Short Stay Breaks and that UHB nurses would use 4 beds a few nights a week as part of plans to integrate services however, the needs of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board have changed in terms of increased need and complexity can no longer be met.
- Members wanted clarification of whether the fee received was dependant on how many young people stayed at Ty Storrie. Officers advised that there was a complicated formula, but effectively the Council buys bed nights/overnight stays. In previous years the fee was paid and they did not deliver, however, that was not the case in 2017-18. It was value for money that was the issue as opposed to being substantially under contract.
- Members noted that despite there being a risk of initial disharmony between staff transferring under TUPE has opposed to staff recruited on the Councils salary scales Officers were satisfied that it could be managed, it is always

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an issue when staff are transferred under TUPE. On the whole staff at Ty Storrie believe that this transfer is advantageous; they are committed to the home.

- Members noted that there had been consultation with the children and young people and parents to ensure that they are aware that the same level of care will be provided and that a lot of the same staff will remain. There have been engagement sessions and the clear message is that parents see overnight respite as a last resort, they want support to do things together as a family.
- Members asked about the percentage of children eligible to access the services and were advised there would be no waiting list as such, Ty Storrie will be the first point of contact, but consideration has to be given to whether the child's needs be catered for when considering those already receiving the service.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations discussed during the Way Forward.

16 : THE PROVISION OF ENGLISH-MEDIUM PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN THE LLANRUMNEY AREA

Councillor Bridgeman returned to the Chair.

Councillors Bridgeman and Joyce declared a personal interest on the basis that they are Ward Councillors for Llanrumney.

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member, Education, Employment and Skills) and Nick Batchelar (Director, Education and Lifelong Learning) to the meeting.

The Director advised that it is acknowledge that bringing forward a proposal to close a school is not easy, particular in a community where the secondary school was also closed. However, it is important to ensure that young people receive the best quality provision and learning environment.

The Chairperson asked a number of questions on behalf of members of the public. Officers advised as follows:

- The wellbeing of children is paramount; at the end of the consultation period it may show that there are other better schools with better conditions;
- There is capacity in other schools in the area and the team will be working closed with parents to finalise places;
- Every effort will be made to accommodate siblings in one school – the nearest schools are Bryn Hafod, Pen Y Bryn and St Cadoc's. There would not be a requirement to attend a Catholic school.
- Evidence has been obtained through the admissions process that show that

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of 478 primary aged children resident in the catchment area in January 2017, 133 attended the school.

- The school is in one of the deprived areas that the undersubscription at the school needs to be addressed. Children deserve to have the best possible education, there is a deficit budget and little money for repairs. The aim is to cause as little disruption as possible. A deficit repayment plan has been agreed but with the school numbers it is difficult for them to get on top of the deficit, it will just escalate.
- There has been some investment at the school recently, repairs on the roof. Significant investment is however needed.
- The cost of relocating Flying Start provision would very much depend on where it went, the intention would be for that provision to remain local. As no decision have yet been made, details of any costs cannot be provided.

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

- Members noted that there had been a significant surplus of places at the school for some time, the consultation will ascertain the parents' view of the school but currently it would appear that parents believe that other schools offer better provision.
- Members noted that there was not a great distance between the schools, and clearly parents are already travelling to other schools in the area in any event.
- The Director advised Members that the currently St Cadoc's has a 1.5 form entry but it is understood that the building could accommodate a 2 form entry and that is being considered.
- Members sought clarification in relation to the accuracy of projections about capacity and the level of capital investment required. Members were advised that school projections were always difficult; there has been consideration of the various housing developments. It is something that should be consulted upon. The Cabinet Members advised that St Cadoc's could accommodate a 2 form entry. A huge school building programme is not required. It is necessary to consolidate sites, to increase pupils numbers and therefore increase budgets.
- Members noted that if 99% of from Glan yr Afon wanted to go to the same school the normal admission arrangements would apply and that in the unlikely event that that was the case it may mean that the consideration would have to be given to changes to the catchment area which would require consultation.
- Members expressed concern that the total yield of pupils from the new housing developments in Braunton Crescent and Clevedon Road is low and whilst accepting that pupil projections is not an exact science it was important that the information was as robust as possible.

- For the sake of clarity Patricia Arlotte advised the Committee that whilst pupils will not be forced to attend St Cadoc's, a Roman Catholic School, if they did attend they would be expected want to enter into that kind of environment. Staff Members have to sign a Catholic Education Service Contract, so those attending school there would also be expected.
- Members were advised that there would be a cost issue in not using a school and retaining the building. Significant capital investment would be required, and the site could be better used for the community.
- Members sought clarification about the relocation of ALN provision and were advised whilst there was not yet a clear proposal, there a clear commitment to relocate.

AGREED – That the Chairperson writes to the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Committee expressing their comments and observations discussed during the Way Forward.

17 : WORK PROGRAMME REPORT

The Committee agreed to convene a Panel to consider the Committee's Work Programme during the course of the next month.

18 : WAY FORWARD

Members discussed the information received and identified a number of issues which the Chairman agreed would be included in the letters that would be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers.

19 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next hearing scheduled meeting of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is on Tuesday 11 September 2018 at 4.30 pm

The meeting terminated at 6.20 pm

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