

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

10 July 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 – 8 July 2015

Many thanks to you, Tony Young, Sarah McGill, Andrew Cole, Kate Hustler, Amanda Phillips and Stuart Young for attending committee for the three items in your portfolio. This letter captures the agreed comments, observations and recommendations of the Committee with regard to these items. Firstly, though, Members welcome Tony to his new role and appreciate the clarification provided that his role has overall responsibility for budgets, delivery of service and line management responsibility for staff and that Sarah has responsibility for reshaping services, via her lead responsibility for this strand of the Organisational Development programme. It was pleasing to see the obvious desire between senior officers to work together to resolve issues in adult social care.

Health and Social Care Savings

Members thank you and officers for being open and transparent about the current projections for Health and Social Care savings - we welcome and appreciate this approach and intend to respond in kind by focusing on the work underway to tackle the issues.

The scale of the challenge is apparent (with £3.94 million projected to be non achievable) and Members were pleased to note that Tony Young and Sarah McGill will work closely together to ensure that the reshaping of adult social care is successful; this is much needed. We note that several reports to Cabinet are planned and we have scheduled these for pre-decision scrutiny as requested. We also intend to schedule an item later in the municipal year to scrutinise the progress in reshaping adult social care, including the commissioning work as well as changes to assessment and care management and domiciliary care.

Our concerns focused on two areas: the impact on service users, carers and their families; and the robustness of previous budget planning processes. On the latter, I

have written to Christine Salter and copied you into the letter, seeking assurance that the process for 2016/17 will be improved. With regard to the former, Members are concerned that, as process and efficiency changes have not delivered the anticipated savings, savings will be found by reducing services. We note the statements at the meeting that no vulnerable adult will be knowingly left without their statutory entitlement to a service; our concern is more to do with the level of service received. We would welcome further comments and any assurance you can give on this.

Members also noted that Sarah has implemented robust budget monitoring processes, including operational budgets and savings, with regular meetings with senior officers to resolve issues highlighted by these processes. Members commend this. We note that, currently, operational budgets are on target with no overspend. You will see from my letter to Christine Salter that Members wish to receive monthly budget monitoring reports to enable us to schedule scrutiny at Committee as required.

RCF and ICF

Members wholeheartedly commend the progress made by the projects within these programmes and are pleased to note ICF funding for the projects bid for has been confirmed for 2015/16. Members recognise that these programmes are essential to reshape adult social care and improve delivery for service users, carers and their families. Please pass on the Committee's sincere thanks to all those involved in making such a success of this valuable work. Members wish to continue to receive quarterly progress reports, which we shall consider and only schedule for Committee attention where required.

Welfare Reform

Members are pleased to note that all the agreed recommendations from both inquiries have been implemented and that work has gone further in some areas – we applaud this. As such, Members are content to consider their work on this closed and will not require further progress reports.

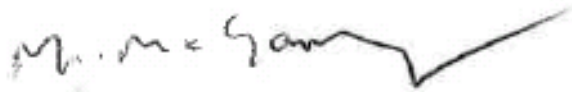
Members were reassured to learn about the work underway to prepare for the implementation of Universal Credit, as set out in the briefing report to Committee. Again, please pass on our sincere thanks to all those involved. Thanks also to Kate Hustler for her response to the Parents Federation's query which we will pass on to them

Also at this meeting, Members considered the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year. This is currently being finalised and will be sent to you shortly, to show the items scheduled for scrutiny.

This letter requires a response, please, as it contains the following:

- Further comments and any assurance you can give with regards to saving pressures not resulting in a decline in the level of service received.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McGarry', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M^CGARRY

Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Cc: Tony Young Sarah McGill Andy Cole Kate Hustler Amanda Phillips
Stuart Young
Claire Deguara Amanda Stokes Liz Patterson Nick Blake