

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

15 March 2018

Councillor Susan Elsmore  
Cabinet Member Social Care, Health & Well-Being  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan,

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2018  
CARDIFF & VALE OF GLAMORGAN AREA PLAN FOR CARE AND SUPPORT NEEDS  
2018-23**

As Chair of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you and officers for attending Committee and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Area Plan for Care and Support Needs 2018-23. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you:

The Committee supports the Area Plan and corresponding Action Plan and commends the report to Cabinet.

Members agreed that the Action Plan provided a clear commitment towards more joined-up working, as well as drawing together the breadth of work that is already happening across the RPB and beyond. Members felt that the Plan was very clearly set out, easy to read, and appreciated the clear links with Wellbeing Objectives, Social Services Outcomes and Capital Ambition.

Members stated that they recognised the challenges faced in terms of governance structures, and that the Plan, in its current form, sets out a starting point for addressing this issue going forward. They also accepted that the development of the Plan had presented an opportunity for these discussions to start taking place and this is to be commended. However, the Committee would like to see, as a matter of priority, further clarity in terms of governance structures - particularly between the RPB, PSB and other statutory bodies, as this was not clear. This is to ensure that the raft of priorities and commitments set out in the Plan are implemented, are able to be monitored and reviewed, and most importantly, ensure

that the Plan presented the opportunity to provide real tangible improvements to people's lives.

Arising from the Q&A session, Members noted that some of the priorities set out in the Action Plan were not the responsibility of the RPB, and therefore did not have "key actions" against them. Whilst Members appreciated the inclusion of these in the Plan, going forward Members suggested that this be more clearly presented, to avoid confusion, and to place further responsibility on those delivering priorities outside of the RPB. Linked with this, these organisations should be encouraged to contribute to the Plan as per the organisations within the RPB.

Members noted that the Plan would not result in major changes being made in Social Services structures, staff and management. They welcomed the fact that the Plan provided the Service with a clear vision and direction on where services are going and how they are going to be delivered.

Members stated that they would welcome an update on any plans that were highlighted as "under development" in the Area Plan. In particular, Members would like an update (via the PSB) on when the Cohesion Plan on Asylum Seekers and Refugees will be available for Scrutiny, as this issue had been delayed for some time.

Members observed that, in terms of mechanisms for involving people in decisions that affect them, currently, they would fall under the particular methods adopted by the organisation providing the service. The Committee felt that this should be reviewed during the current year to ensure a consistent approach and avoid duplication.

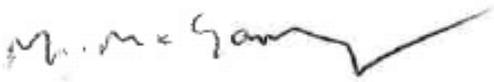
Overall, the Committee stated that it would be very interested to monitor the implementation of the Area Plan and Action Plan during the coming year and, in line with the issues raised in this letter, would be particularly keen to receive updates on the following issues:

- Clarity of Governance Arrangements/Structures
- Updates/progress on the implementation of priorities that fall under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee, including those being delivered by Partners
- An update on any Plan on Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Update on how consultation and engagement methods have been streamlined

I will work with yourself and Officers to programme these into the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/19. I will also speak to Councillor Bridgeman as Chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee to ensure that issues that fall within the remit of his Scrutiny Committee are also picked up and addressed.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I hope you find the Committee's comments useful.

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<sup>C</sup>GARRY**

**Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People and Communities  
Tony Young, Director of Social Services  
Rachel Jones, Assistant Director Integrating Health & Social Care  
Amanda Phillips, Assistant Director, Adult Services  
Cabinet Support Office