

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Councillor Jenkins(Chairperson)
Councillors Ahmed, Carter, Gibson, Philippa Hill-John, Lent,
Lister and McGarry

98 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

99 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

100 : MINUTES - TO FOLLOW

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

101 : CARDIFF AND VALE OF GLAMORGAN REGIONAL SAFEGUARDING
BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020 & ANNUAL PLAN 2020-21

Members were advised that this item enabled them to consider and review the work of the Board relating to the safeguarding of adults during the year 2019-20, along with its priorities for the upcoming year.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Susan Elsmore, Cabinet Member Social Care, Health & Well-being; Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People & Communities and Co-Chair of the Board and Mel Roach - Strategic Business Manager for the Cardiff & Vale Safeguarding Boards.

The Chairperson invited Councillor Elsmore to make a statement in which she said that 2019/20 was a significant year in terms of strengthening the partnership approach and the integration between Children and Adult Services and this was embedded into the Boards structure. A number of events have been held to raise awareness around safeguarding, there has been a digital awards ceremony, an annual development day and domestic abuse workshop among others.

Members were provided with a presentation after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.

Members considered that the Board Structure was complex and asked how it could be ensured that things work as they should. Officers agreed it was complex and advise that the structure in all its intricate detail, including the groups that report to it, is outlined in the Annual Report. The simplified structure was Board/Groups/Sub-Groups/Task and Finish Groups was what officers are working to achieve; there is a need for clear Governance arrangements; a clear reporting framework and accountability. Progress had been made in getting groups to a manageable level, this was stalled by Covid but things are getting back on track now there is more confidence with remote working.

Members noted the significant responsibilities of the Board and asked how accountable it was. Officers considered that attendance on the Board was incredible; there was energy from a wide range of organisations and the scale of the ambition means that perhaps some thought is needed to being really focussed on where attention needs to be directed. The Board needs to learn from the Child Protection Reviews and impacts on being proactive going forward. It is all about procedures being followed and a focus on prevention and the impact is starting to be seen now.

Members considered there was discrepancy between procedures in place between children and adults with regard to prevention and outside agencies and asked about visiting vulnerable adults and children in residential care. Officers advised that there was an All Wales Procedure which has had an impact in Children's but in Adult's there was a huge shift in making sure that the individual is at the core of any services the Council provides; a person centred approach where service users are able to direct services in a way that's best for them.

Members referred to Training and asked if there was a multi-agency training strategy and if so how it is recorded and monitored. Officers explained that resources were limited but they link in with training providers, local authorities and other agencies; find out what the workforce needs and then how they can be supported to deliver that; they also use train the trainer.

Members noted that the Board reviews its own performance and asked what provisions there were to ensure that the review was robust. Officers explained they are quire regulated by Welsh Government, they use a self-assessment toolkit with is produced by Welsh Government and Social Care Wales; this is undertaken as part of the development day and has to be reported to Welsh Government. Welsh Government get results from each of the six boards in Wales. Officers added that they also work with the National Independent Board for Advice.

Members asked about the impact on service users if the Board did not perform well. Officers explained that if the Board did not perform well and was not fulfilling its responsibility effectively then the danger would be losing the opportunity for contextual safeguarding. The Board has to integrate and be connected so that all aspects of intervention are there.

Members discussed the membership of the Board in relation to third sector organisations and were advised that the NSPCC are now one of three joint Chairs and that report lists the full membership including the seven third sector members.

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.

102 : COUNCIL NEW BUILD DELIVERY PROGRAMME & CHANNEL VIEW REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Members were advised that this item enabled them to carry out pre-decision scrutiny on the Council New Build Delivery Programme and Phase 1 of the Channel View scheme ahead of its consideration by Cabinet. Members were advised that due to

confidential information contained in Appendix A this item would be considered in two parts if required, and any questionings relating to the detail contained in Appendix A must be asked during the closed session.

The Chairperson welcomed Cllr Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Sarah McGill Director People and Communities and David Jaques, Housing Development Manager.

The Chairperson invited Cllr Thorne to make a statement in which she said that the report to be considered by Cabinet provides an update on the progress to date of our new build programme, the numbers of homes completed to date and the numbers of homes being built on site or working their way through the planning process.

The development programme has the capacity to deliver between 2500 and 2700 new council homes. The report recommends an approach for the tendering of contractors for the projects over £5 million in value that would speed up some elements of the process.

The report also provides an update of the Masterplan for the Channel view redevelopment proposal and recommends the progression on the scheme onto Phase 1 subject to a successful public consultation taking place during November. Channel view will deliver around 360 new homes for the local community; Set new standards in quality, low carbon development; Provide attractive public spaces and provide an improvement to the Marl.

Members were provided with a presentation after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members.

Members noted the importance of architectural legacy and made reference to the Goldsmith Street development in Norwich and asked if it would be better if Channel View were linked to the Gas Works site. Officers agreed that the architecture needs to be pushed further. Other schemes have been used in their thinking and designs will evolve from the very early stages. There will be a flow/connectivity from the park/bridge/Ferry Road/Gas Works and green infrastructure would be very important. It was also important to encourage shared surfaces and areas where children can play and cars have to drive very slowly. There would also be green spaces with public realm, informal play areas and fruit trees growing.

Members asked if the total number of units would be more or less than are currently there. Officers advised that there would be more.

Members asked about the current occupants, where they would go when demolition starts and whether the Council is obliged to provide similar accommodation for Council tenants. Members also asked about private tenants and Compulsory Purchase Orders, asking if there was a guaranteed value on buy backs. Officers explained that only Phase 1 of the development requires resident to move. There are three private residents in phase 1 and they have indicated that they wish to sell and move elsewhere however discussions are ongoing. Council tenants would need to be rehoused. The Council would want to avoid CPO where possible however it would be market value plus compensation payment and reasonable legal and moving costs paid.

Members asked how confident Officers were on obtaining funding for the bridge. Officers explained that the scheme cannot deliver the full costs of the bridge, it can't be certain but the team were exploring many innovative grant opportunities including from the Heat Network.

Member asked why the three private residents did not wish to stay. Officers explained that they are keen to sell and move rather than come back to the site but discussions are ongoing. Hopefully they will see how phase 1 looks and want to return.

Members asked about the amount of Social Housing Grant officers expected to get. Officers said they would like all of it, the key thing is to prove deliverability to Welsh Government and the Council will make a significant bid against it.

Members noted that the existing site was unstable and asked if the costs of correcting this had been taken into account. Officers explained there is structural movement as its made up ground currently on raft foundation; this will now be a piled foundation and the estimated costs have been taken into account.

Member asked for a figure in relation to compensation paid if CPO was necessary. Officers stated that they have been open with residents, they would pay market value for the property plus 10% of market value as compensation, plus reasonable moving and legal costs.

Members asked if the Council had gleaned best practice from other schemes that have worked well. Officers explained that they have a design procedure; they identify schemes they like and they work with the Design Commission for Wales.

Members referenced historical issues with contractors and asked what reassurances could be given that the contractors would get the scheme finished. Officers explained that the contractors will be appointed a phase at a time. There was due diligence in the tendering process for the contractor which was undertaken by the finance service area.

Members sought clarification on the delegation to the Director and were advised that it was also in consultation with the Cabinet Member and the report would be amended to reflect this.

Members considered it was an ambitious scheme with lots of risks but it would all come down to the execution of the scheme and reaching the bar that has been set. Members asked about the confidence in delivering the scheme. Officers stated that the team do an exceptional job; it is a complex scheme and it will need a wide range of external professional support. A focus would be kept at all times as they want this to be an exemplar scheme.

There were no questions on confidential Appendix A.

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.

103 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

104 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 2 DECEMBER 2020

The meeting terminated at 6.15 pm