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**CABINET RESPONSE TO REPORT OF COMMITTEE TITLED:**

**‘CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY TEAM (CHAD)’**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the December 2014 Cabinet response to this Committee’s scrutiny task and finish report on the Child Health and Disability Team, which was published in September 2013.

**Background**

2. In March 2013, the Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed as part of their work programme to undertake an inquiry into the Council’s Child Health and Disability Team (CHAD). As a result the Committee agreed to set up Task and Finish Group Inquiry. The terms of reference were agreed as follows:
  - To establish the level of services and support provided by the CHAD team to meet the needs of disabled children in Cardiff.
  - To identify best practice that can be utilised in Cardiff for the identification of need, assessment criteria and provision of service.
  - To identify how best the CHAD service should be operated for the children and young people who wish to access services and support.
  - To report the findings of the Committee to the Cabinet.
3. The task group Inquiry was informed by evidence from Senior Management of Children Services, Interim Service Lead Manager, Staff from the Children’s Health and Disability team, the previous Cabinet Member Councillor Richard Cook, the GMB Union as well as voluntary sector organisations and partners.

4. The task group Inquiry heard from representatives of the following external voluntary organisations; ABCD Cymru, Touch Trust, Ty Gwyn School, Bobath Children's Therapy Centre, Action for Children, Ty Storrie, Ty Hafan. It visited other local authorities which included Newport Council and Luton Borough Council. The task group also heard from parents, carers and a grandparent of disabled children.
5. The resultant report which captured the main comments and views from the evidence received, was endorsed by Committee on 10 September 2013, and contained 28 key findings and identified 18 recommendations.
6. The Cabinet considered the report at its meeting on 9 December 2013 and agreed its formal response at its business meeting on 15 December 2014. A full copy of the Cabinet Response is attached at **Appendix A**.
7. The Director of Children's Services had already begun to draft a CHAD Development Plan set out that the Service vision will be to ensure that:
  - Disabled children are supported to live safely within their families, realise their aspirations and achieve their full potential;
  - Where they cannot live at home disabled children will experience best care available within resources;
  - Support disabled young people towards achieving smooth and safe transition to enabled adulthood.
8. The plan was considered by this Committee at its meeting in May 2014 and members were pleased to see that it included details of the actions, timescales, progress to date and the responsible officer, to ensure that each of the areas of activity (Strategy and Commissioning, Eligibility and Access, Service Standards and Quality, and Workforce) are undertaken.

## **Cabinet Response to Recommendations**

9. The Cabinet response shows that all of the report's recommendations have been accepted, In addition of particular significance were recommendations 1 and 9, which have been commented on in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Cabinet report.

## **Way Forward**

10. Councillor Sue Lent (Cabinet Member, Early Years, Children and Families) and Tony Young (Director of Children's Services) have been invited to present the Cabinet Response and answer Members' questions.

11. Members are requested to consider the responses received from the Cabinet.

## **Legal Implications**

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to the Cabinet or Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet or Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Members consider the information contained in **Appendix A**, and submit any comments or recommendations to the Cabinet Member and Director of Children's Services.

**Marie Rosenthal**  
**County Clerk and Monitoring Officer**

28 December 2014

Background Report: Child Health and Disability September 2013  
Report of the Child and Young People's Scrutiny Committee