
**UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES and WELL -
BEING (WALES) ACT 2014 - PREVENTION SERVICE BRIEFING**

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides Committee with a briefing on the progress being made to ensure the Council is prepared to implement the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 around the Prevention service, copy attached at **Appendix 1**.

Background

2. The Committee has previously received briefings in January, July 2015, January 2016 and March 2016 providing an update on progress with the preparations for the Act. These briefings included:
 - an implementation timeline and self- assessment of readiness;
 - information on the implications of the Act for Social Services and the wider Council;
 - details of the advice and support available to assist Councils in implementing the Act;
 - details on the various statutory codes of guidance and regulations that Welsh Government were enacting to support the primary legislation;
 - the Cardiff and Vale Social Care and Workforce Development Plan, which will ensure the workforce receive the information they need to deliver the changes the Act requires;
 - Information that a Regional Steering Group has been established to oversee and monitor the preparations for implementing the Act and reports to the Integrated Health and Social Care Governance Board, so that all partners are kept up to date on progress;

- An updated Regional Implementation Plan, which reflects the nine work streams being delivered through the Sustainable Social Services Programme and includes a risk assessment of the tasks required to implement the Act; and
 - The governance structure together with regional task and finish groups for each work stream and lead co-ordinating officers.
3. In addition four national work groups have been established to share best practice and produce consistent material on an all Wales basis. Cardiff and the Vale region have appointed officers to contribute to each of these groups. They are helping with the development of national checklists and, where possible, avoidance of duplication.
4. At the meeting in March 2016 Committee asked for the final briefings on the prevention service to be provided latter in the year.

Update and Issues

5. The Act establishes four key principles and these can be summarised as:
- We must support people who have care and support needs to achieve **well-being**.
 - **People** are to be put at the heart of the new system by giving them an equal say in the support they receive.
 - **Partnership** and co-operation must drive service delivery.
 - Services will promote the **Prevention** of escalating need and ensure that the right help is available at the right time
6. New services are being developed to work towards these principles. Part 2 of the Act sets out a duty on local authorities, with support from their local health boards, to ensure the provision of an information, advice and assistance service for all people in their area, not just people who have an immediate need for care and support. This

service will be designed to ensure that people can get access to the right help at the right time to meet their individual situation.

7. The Prevention Service (the Service) is central to the success of the transition to the care and support system under the Act. The Acts requirements for the Provision of Preventative Service by Local Authorities are to provide or arrange for the provision of preventative services in order to:

- Help prevent or delay the development of people's needs which require care and support;
- Reduce the needs for care and support for those who have these needs;
- Promote the upbringing of children by their families, when it is consistent with the wellbeing of the child
- Prevent people from suffering abuse or neglect
- Enable people to live as independently as possible;
- Reduce the need for:
 - i. Care of supervision orders under the Children's Act 1989
 - ii. Criminal proceedings against children
 - iii. Proceedings which may lead to children being placed into local authority care.

8. The report provides details of the briefing report provided for the Task & Finish Group on the "Current position in relation to Preventative Services across Cardiff and the Vale, copy attached at **Appendix A** and the "Early Help Strategy", which sets out the strategic direction for delivering a partnership approach to Early Help and provides guidance for everyone who works with children, young people and families in Cardiff in order that the strategic approach can be successfully implemented across the Cardiff Partnership copy attached at **Appendix B**.

Scope of Scrutiny

9. The scope of this scrutiny is to consider the implementation of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014, and to pass on any observations, comments or recommendations to the Director of Social Services, and cover:

- the progress being made to undertake this area of the Implementation Plan, in accordance with the Act's requirements;
- any identified risks and the appropriateness of any proposed countermeasure;
- The effectiveness of the implementation plan in addressing the requirements of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014.

Way Forward

10. Tony Young (Director of Social Services), Angela Bourge (Family Intervention Support Services /CAMHS) and Cheryl Chapman (OM for Early Intervention) have been invited to Committee present the briefing and answer any questions Members may have.

11. Members are invited to consider the information set out in this report and to identify any issues on which they would wish to receive further information.

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 Cabinet/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. These financial implications will need to be considered before any changes are implemented. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

Consider this briefing paper and provide comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and Director of Social Services.

DAVID MARR
Interim Monitoring Officer
5 July 2016

TONY YOUNG
Director of Social Services