

CITY & COUNTY OF CARDIFF

DINAS A SIR CAERDYDD

COMMUNITY AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2017

COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT

Background

1. At the Committee meeting on 7 September 2016 Members agreed to continue to receive an overarching Committee Business report, which combines items such as correspondence reports and work programme reports where appropriate.
2. This report includes the correspondence schedule attached at **Appendix A** and an update from the Committee's Performance & Budget Monitoring Panel.

Correspondence Update

3. Following most Committee meetings, the Chair writes a letter to the relevant Cabinet Member or officer, summing up the Committee's comments, observations and recommendations regarding the issues considered during that meeting. At the Committee meeting on 7 December 2016 Members received a report detailing the Committee-related correspondence sent and received by the Committee following Committee meetings held on 7 September 2016, 5 October 2016 and 2 November 2016.
4. The correspondence schedule attached as **Appendix A** provides an update since 7 December 2016 Committee meeting, with the following information:

- i. Date the letters were sent;
 - ii. To whom the letter was addressed;
 - iii. The key recommendations set out in the Chair's letters;
 - iv. Date the response was received; and
 - v. The response of the Cabinet Member(s) to those recommendations.
5. The schedule attached at **Appendix A** shows:
 - i. *Response Received* – from Councillor Elsmore to the Chair's letter, sent 9 November 2016, following scrutiny of Domiciliary Care in Cardiff at the Committee meeting on 2 November 2016.
 - ii. *Response Received* – from Councillor Derbyshire to the Chair's letter, sent 9 December 2016, following scrutiny of progress in meeting the Council's commitments with regards to private sector housing in Cardiff at the Committee meeting on 7 December 2016
 - iii. *Response Received* - from Councillor Elsmore to the Chair's letter, sent 9 December 2016, following scrutiny of Direct Payments in Cardiff at the Committee meeting on 7 December 2016.
6. Copies of the Chair's letters and any responses received can be found on the Council's website page for the relevant Committee meeting, with a hyperlink provided at the top of the page, entitled '*correspondence following the committee meeting*'.

Update from Committee's Performance Panel

7. The Committee's Performance Panel met on 5 December 2016, to continue their deep dive into Disabled Adaptations. Members examined information provided by Communities & Housing officers, which included: performance and financial information; process maps and a timeline, including targets set for different stages of the timeline; case studies demonstrating lessons learnt that are applied thereafter; and a presentation taking Members through the main elements of Disabled Adaptations.

8. Members scrutinised the following areas: access routes into Disabled Adaptations; low cost adaptations and Disabled Facilities Grants; the linkage with other preventative services; and the linkage with tackling Delayed Transfers of Care. Members discussed with officers the work underway to tackle performance issues and the work with the Welsh Government to improve performance measures in this area and move towards a new Welsh Government funding regime, known as 'Enable Funding'. Members also discussed resources for undertaking work and noted a growth bid for 2017/18 has been submitted for two additional Occupational Therapists. Finally, Members examined comparator performance information, provided by Scrutiny Services, which showed that Cardiff Council processes significantly more Disabled Adaptations than other councils in Wales.

9. Overall, Panel Members were content that the information presented by officers from Communities & Housing and from Scrutiny Services had answered their queries. Panel Members were satisfied that the managers had a clear grasp of the performance issues to resolve, a clear plan to achieve this and that performance was improving. Members therefore decided that there was no need to look more deeply into this area at the moment. Members agreed to recommend to a future scrutiny committee that they look again at performance to see whether the planned management actions had resulted in improved performance.

10. The Panel also met on 12 December 2016 to hear from the Director of Social Services regarding Adult Services Month 6 Budget Monitoring report and the approach to budget planning, referenced in the Quarter 2 Corporate Performance Report. The Director of Social Services also provided a copy of his recent report to Audit Committee, 29 November 2016, and a briefing from the WLGA¹ regarding Adult Social Care funding, dated November 2016.

¹ WLGA stands for Welsh Local Government Association

11. Members explored issues with unachieved savings, both from this year and historically. Members also asked for more information about cost and demographic modelling and the proposed five-year financial plan.
12. The Director of Social Services explained that he had inherited a position where some of the Adult Services savings put forward in 2014/15 were not robust. All unachieved savings have been reviewed to see whether or not they are achievable over a longer term. The Director of Social Services has put forward £872,000 savings from Adults Services and Children's Services to be written off as unachievable savings. More savings may be put forward for write off, depending on the outcome of the reviews currently underway into each of the savings. The decision on write offs will form part of the overall budget report in February 2017.
13. The Director of Social Services explained that some other savings are felt to be achievable but require a longer time frame – for example learning disabilities and some mental health day services require capital works which will take longer than anticipated. However, once these are completed, service provision will be better for service users and there will be savings.
14. Members noted that there are some areas of underspend, particularly in relation to mental health services. The Director of Social Services offered to come back with information regarding out of county placements. With regard to Deprivation of Liberty cases (DoLs), the Director of Social Services believed that there had been fewer of these processed than anticipated, due to difficulties in recruiting assessors.
15. With regard to cost and demographic modelling, the Director of Social Services stressed that much work had taken place to make these processes more robust. Therefore, whilst it is complex to predict demand and costs in these areas, he felt officers were looking at the right issues.

16. The Director of Social Services explained that he is working on mechanisms to enable a longer term look at financial planning. The aim is to bring closer alignment between strategic intention, service planning and financial planning. Members can make policy decisions about which service options to pursue with the longer term financial implications information available at the same time. An initial discussion paper was taken to informal Cabinet in December 2016 and a further discussion paper is being taken to informal Cabinet in January 2017.

17. Panel Members agreed to thank the Director of Social Services for the information provided and ask for: a copy of the discussion paper taken to Cabinet; a list of the unachievable savings proposed for write off; and further information regarding the reasons for the underspend in mental health services.

18. Finally, as reported at the last meeting, Councillor McGarry recently wrote to Councillor Graham Hinchey detailing Panel Members' concerns about the performance information available to the Panel. Councillor Hinchey responded on 12 December 2016, stating that it has been agreed with the Director of Social Services that a supplementary report will be developed to report Adult Social Services performance to the Panel and that Communities will continue to supply supplementary information, adapting it to be analogous to the approach to be used for Adult Social Services.

Way Forward

19. During their meeting, Members may wish to reflect on the correspondence schedule, attached at **Appendix A**. Members will also have the opportunity to consider the information provided regarding the recent Performance Panel meeting.

Legal Implications

20. 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

21. 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/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Note the content of the correspondence schedule attached at **Appendix A** and consider any further correspondence required; and
- II. Note the feedback from the Performance and Budget Monitoring Panel.

Davina Fiore
Director of Governance and Legal Services
12 January 2017