
HEALTH, HOUSING AND WELLBEING STATEMENT

Regional Partnership Board

As Chair of the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board, I am pleased to report the good progress achieved across the region in implementing Part 9 of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWB)(Co-operation and Partnership). The newly formed board arrangements (established in April 2016) are supporting effective collaboration across a number of key areas. Among the issues under active consideration at its third meeting on 12th January 2017 were the following:

- **Population Needs Assessment** – the SSWB Act required all Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) in Wales to undertake a regional population needs assessment as the basis for determining strategic priorities. The RPB is required to publish the assessment by March 2017 and utilise it to prepare an ‘Area Plan’ for the region by March 2018, setting out key health and social care priorities for partners. The scope of the assessment, which is still in draft, is broad, comprehensive and set at a high level and reflects strong public and stakeholder engagement, both written and live.
- **Joint Commissioning and Pooled Budgets** – although ‘pooled budgets’ is a concept that has been much talked about in the past, the SSWB Act provides new impetus nationally as the establishment of pooled budgets for appropriate areas of partnership and integration is now a statutory requirement. In this context, the RPB considered best practice from elsewhere and has confirmed its commitment to make pooled budgets a reality, initially for residential and nursing care for older people.
- **Integrated Autism Strategy** – as one of the first regions in Wales to pilot the new ‘National Autism Service’, supported by grant funding, I was particularly pleased to see an example of where integration is critical to good outcomes and good quality services, making effective progress. Key appointments have been made and there is every reason to believe that this new service will substantially enhance services to meet growing demand.
- **Delayed Transfers of Care (DToCs)**
The much improved position reported at this stage in the winter is reassuring for all those in hospital or awaiting hospital admission and reflects the Wales Audit Office’s positive assessment of the strength of partnership working between the Council and Health. In headline terms, the total number of DToCs for December 2016 is 22% down on the November 2016 figure (down from 78 to 61) and 13% lower than the same period last year.

Dementia – Missing Persons Pilot Project

Together with South Wales Police, we are part of unique project that is designed to support adults and their families, in circumstances when adults go missing. This is obviously an extremely worrying problem for families and one that is growing. Based on good practice in England, both the Council and Police are working in partnership with Missing People, which is an expert national organisation in the field with over 20 years' experience of supporting missing adults. They provide the 24/7 free, confidential national helpline for missing adults, helping them to stay safe, access specialist support, and reconnect with their family if they wish to do so. They also provide direct support to that person's family.

The pilot project is based on a service where adults receive a Telephone Return Home Interview and support after returning following a missing episode. Through this service, a number of returned adults will be telephoned to assess the causes of the person's disappearance, to understand what happened whilst they were missing, and any risks they continue to face. The pilot will then work with the returned adult to agree a safety plan or next steps (e.g. referral into adult services or another relevant organisation). Missing People will also offer guidance and advice to every returned adult and their family and/or carer, including access to their Wales-only Aftercare Service.

The pilot will receive approximately 25 (8–10 high priority) referrals a week from South Wales Police, in conjunction with the Council, which will be responded to five days per week (Monday–Friday). Information will then be shared back with adult services and or police (as needed), either with the person's consent or without, if there are serious safeguarding concerns.

Right to Buy Consultation

Following approval by Cabinet in November 2016, we have recently consulted on the proposal to suspend the Right to Buy / Acquire scheme in response to the high level of housing need in Cardiff. A short survey form, information sheet and prepaid return envelope were sent to all council and housing association tenants, as well as all applicants on the housing waiting list. The survey was also available online on the Council's website during this period.

There were 2,785 responses to the consultation, with 57.2% of respondents in agreement with a suspension of the Right to Buy / Acquire scheme. 30.4% disagreed with a suspension, whilst 12.5% were unsure. A full report on the responses has been prepared and a report is expected to be considered by Cabinet in February 2017, which will seek agreement to progress the application to the Welsh Government to suspend the Right to Buy / Acquire scheme.

Rough Sleepers Strategy 2017-2020

We are currently working on a new 3-year Rough Sleepers Strategy for Cardiff that recognises and builds on the excellent work that is already taking place to prevent and tackle rough sleeping. I acknowledge that there are still too many people living on the streets in Cardiff. The strategy is a response to this issue and outlines the co-ordinated approach required to tackling and preventing rough sleeping in our city.

Sleeping rough is dangerous and can damage people's lives permanently. Life on the streets impacts detrimentally on physical and mental health and wellbeing and, at present, the average life expectancy of a rough sleeper is just 47 years of age, which is 30 years younger than the general population. The longer an individual remains on the streets, the more likely it is that secondary issues such as drugs and/or alcohol misuse can become an issue. Along with partners, I am committed to significantly reducing rough sleeping in the city and this strategy aims to ensure that some of the most socially excluded people in Cardiff will receive appropriate help and support when they need it most.

House Building Programme – Cardiff Living

I am pleased to update you on the Housing Partnership Programme that has been developed by the Council to help tackle the housing need across the city by building the right homes in the right places. The Housing Partnership Programme scheme has now been re-branded as *Cardiff Living* and a new website has been developed to provide information and promote the new housing schemes (www.cardiffliving.wales).

The programme will deliver 1500 new homes across Cardiff over the next 10 years in three phases of development. At least 40% of these homes (around 600) will be council homes available for rent through the Council's existing allocations process; with a small number being made available to first time buyers through the Council's low cost home ownership scheme.

Work on phase 1 is well underway with the first five development sites all having planning consent in place. The first development will be the Braunton & Clevedon sites in Llanrumney, which will deliver 106 new properties (66 open market and 40 Council). This scheme will deliver much needed regeneration to this area, provide improvements to the park land adjacent to the site, and provide a range of community benefits including local employment initiatives. A start date is scheduled for early March 2017.

Outside of the *Cardiff Living* programme, I can also announce another exciting new build programme of 100 additional council properties by 2022. This will be funded through the Welsh Government's Housing Finance 2 funding, as well as the Council's own HRA Capital and planning gain funding.

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member (Health, Housing & Wellbeing)
26 January 2017