

**COUNCIL: 23 MARCH 2017**

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## **SKILLS, SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT**

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### **Child Friendly City**

Cardiff's ambition to become a child-friendly city has taken a significant step forward after the Cabinet agreed a three-year partnership with Unicef UK. The partnership will see the City Council work with the world-leading humanitarian agency to deliver a 'Child Rights Partners Programme' in Cardiff which will embed children's rights throughout the authority and across the city. After the Cabinet agreed to the partnership at its meeting on 16 March 2017, the City Council will now undertake the following steps to make Cardiff a child-friendly city:

- Strengthen the voice of looked after children;
- Ensure young people and children have a voice in policy decisions and major consultations;
- Consider the rights of children when developing and delivering services;
- Give young people and children the opportunity to take part in shaping developments (e.g. the physical design of public spaces);
- Work intensively in selected areas of the city to pilot the integration of services for children which are delivered by different agencies across the public and voluntary sectors.

### **Domestic Violence Services**

I am pleased to announce that the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has agreed in principle to work with us to accommodate a one-stop-shop for Violence Against Women services at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. As part of the budget, the Council has agreed the capital funding to deliver this project and the creation of this facility will enable Cardiff to meet its requirements under the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. This is a good example of the maturing partnership working in Cardiff, utilising the opportunity to put supplementary services into the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, which has been identified by the UHB as a key Health and Wellbeing Centre and is to undergo a major programme of investment.

## **Adult Community Learning**

Adult Community Learning in Cardiff continues to provide an important service for a number of residents and has achieved some significant accomplishments over the past two years. Some significant milestones include:

- The complete redesign of the service undertaken during 2013/14 which created three distinct strands – Learning for Work, Learning for Life and Disability Inclusion in Community Education (DICE).
- Achieving substantial cost savings for the Learning for Life Programme, which is projected to be fully cost neutral moving forward.
- A significantly improved Estyn Monitoring report following a visit in 2015. The inspectorate noted that ‘strong or very good progress’ was being made against all the recommendations for service improvement.
- The Learning for Work Program recording year-on-year improvement:

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Success</b>
2010/11	47%
2011/12	57%
2012/13	61%
2013/14	72%
2014/15	87%
2015/16	94%

## **Into Work Advice Services**

The Into Work Service has been expanded across the city to better meet individual needs. The service is now accessible from various community buildings, including libraries and Hubs across Cardiff. Since 2014, the service has provided invaluable support for residents and ensured that:

- 139,649 people received Into Work Advice
- 2,185 people were assisted into employment
- 6,718 people attended accredited training
- 1,913 employers were assisted with their recruitment needs
- 541 people received support with Universal Credit since April 2016
- 98% of people felt ‘more job ready’ as a result of attending a work preparation course.

Funding has also been secured for a new outreach service to help some of the city’s most vulnerable citizens to deal with their finances, as well as support to help people to get back to work. Many of Cardiff’s most vulnerable citizens don’t seek the help they need to deal with their finances and fail to claim the benefits they are entitled to because of difficulties completing forms or a lack of awareness of their entitlements. As well as benefit advice the team outreach service will help with putting together CVs, assist with Universal Credit Job Match, identifying training opportunities and will book clients on courses. The service is expected to start in May 2017.

## **Regulatory Services**

Regulatory Services in Cardiff play an important role in preventing and protecting the public. Establishing a Shared Regulatory Service (SRS) between the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Bridgend County Borough Council and the City of Cardiff Council has provided an opportunity to ensure the service is efficient, effective and sustainable. This commitment to collaboration involved a fundamental reorganisation of a range of statutory services, critical to maintaining the health, safety and economic wellbeing of local communities. It is also a clear demonstration that councils can work together across boundaries and adopt new ways of working to deliver vital services at reduced costs.

Delivering a programme on this scale, demanding rapid change and set against a backdrop of diminishing public service funding, presented many challenges. The success of the programme, and the fantastic response of officers, is without doubt a great achievement and testament to the ability of officers to deliver and the Council to lead on innovative approaches to change. The new operating model is delivering positive, tangible results to challenging situations. In 2015/16, the service delivered the savings set out in the business case and is on target to deliver the savings set for 2016/17.

## **Equalities**

The City of Cardiff Council continues to reach out to engage its diverse communities, particularly those who may be under-represented or described as “hard to reach”. On 20 February 2017, the Leader and I were pleased to welcome the Chair of the British Deaf Association Dr Terry Riley, along with some 30 trustees and members of Cardiff Deaf Centre to County Hall to witness Cardiff becoming only the second local authority in Wales to sign the British Deaf Association’s British Sign Language (BSL) Charter.

As part of this commitment, the Council will regularly consult with the deaf community of Cardiff, learning first-hand what their most important issues are, and working towards solutions to remove any barriers to their accessing services. We believe that as a human right people should be able to converse in their preferred language. We must not forget that for many deaf people, BSL is an essential tool to getting through everyday life.

I was also pleased to attend the “Co-creating Healthy Change” event, jointly hosted by the Council with Diverse Cymru at County Hall, to highlight good practice in engaging and working with under-represented communities. The event was also an opportunity for the Council to underline its commitment to working inclusively, in line with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

The Council will also be hosting an event for Stonewall Cymru, who are launching a leadership programme for LGBT people who identify with an ethnic minority heritage. This will help build the capacity and confidence of a group of 20 people, including Council employees, who will be able to act as positive role models in their workplaces. Through our partnership in events like these, the Council is demonstrating its commitment to diversity and equality.

**Councillor Dan De’Ath**

**Cabinet Member for Skills, Safety & Engagement**

23 March 2017