

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 NOVEMBER 2017

Present: County Councillor McGarry(Chairperson)
County Councillors Asghar Ali, Carter, Goddard, Jenkins,
Kelloway and Lent

23 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ali Ahmed.
Councillor Carter had advised that he would be arriving later to the meeting.

24 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

25 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

26 : CARDIFF'S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY STRATEGY 2017-2022

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, Joe Reay, Head of Performance and Partnerships and Stephanie Kendrick-Doyle, Community Safety Manager to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which she said that the strategy sets out how we, with our partners, will work together to ensure the city's night-time economy is safe and welcoming.

This strategy builds on the many areas of successful work in Cardiff over the last fifteen years, for example the work of Professor Shepherd to reduce violence in the night time economy; this strategy focuses on the management of the night-time economy, and not the wider growth agenda for the city – that will be picked up elsewhere.

The strategy will work alongside a number of other documents, including the music strategy for the city that will come forward in due course. The strategy will be signed off by separate partners and then by the overall Public Services' Board early in the New Year, however, this hasn't stopped us getting to grips with the action plan and the key priorities we have as a partnership; an example of this is the work the Council, Police and other partners are doing to address the challenges of street homelessness and a range of anti-social behaviour through a newly-established multi-agency Task Force. The strategy has been developed in consultation a range of partners from all sectors, including For Cardiff (the city's Business improvement District) and the Licensees' Forum.

Members were provided with a presentation on 'Delivering a Safe and Welcoming Night Time Economy: Our Plan 2017 – 2022' after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members referred to transport in the City and the problems encountered on the night of the Joshua fight. Members asked what was being done to alleviate people relying on taxis and whether taxi Marshalls would be increased and if so how they would be funded. Officers noted the issue of transport provision in and out of Cardiff and that there was currently not enough provision meaning that people were overly reliant on taxis. Officers considered that the Metro would help this. Officers added that partners were working with the Taxi Forum. The issue of Marshalls is slightly contentious in that they have a clear value but the pressure on the budget means that the capacity to fully fund them has ended. There was an agreement with the Business Improvement District to match fund half and half and discussions were ongoing with regards to the technical points of this agreement which needed to be resolved. Officers considered that the Marshalls would be needed over the Christmas Period.
- Members were advised that the Cabinet were fully aware of the issues experienced on the night of the Joshua fight and were having discussions with Arriva trains.
- Members asked for more information in relation to Safe Taxis for students and asked who pays for them. Officers explained that the University has developed a scheme with the Taxi Forum whereby the student doesn't pay the taxi on the night, the fare is logged with the University and is paid later when Students are less vulnerable. Currently Dragon Taxis are involved in the scheme but discussions were ongoing with the Taxi forum to include other taxi firms too.
- Members asked what was being done to address rough sleeping. The Cabinet Member advised that all Members had been sent the Rough Sleepers strategy and that a multi agency task group had been established. Operation Purple Ash had been established by the Police to action against aggressive begging. The Cabinet Member stated she would send a briefing to all Members before Council on the success of the Rough Sleepers Strategy. Members were advised that only 1 person arrested during Operation Purple Ash was a street homeless person.
- Members discussed some of the language in the Action Plan and suggested that 'Improve' be used instead of 'Consider' as there were things that could be done immediately and this showed commitment to that. Officers agreed with this.
- Members asked whether the perception of Cardiff as a Hen/Stag destination could be changed. Officers explained that through working with partners, the Council could apply for Purple Flag Status which was awarded by Town Centre Managers in relation to diversity etc. Applying for that status would show where improvements were needed and provide the practical evidence base needed to make changes. It was noted that the Bay was more balanced in terms of its offer than the City Centre.
- Members discussed dedicated street cleansing and asked how this translated to the numbers of staff. Officers explained that they enhance the service that

they already provide; businesses pay to have certain areas cleansed at certain times.

- Members referred to previous Crime and Disorder in the Night Time Economy and the proposed Action Plans and asked if the Council were being ambitious enough; asking if all of the actions were met, would it make a real difference. An example was provided of working with fast food outlets to improve cleansing and asked if this were met how would it impact on crime and disorder. Officers explained that there was evidence to show that the condition of the environment does impact on anti social behaviour; the look and feel impacts on how people behave and that's why its included in the plan. The Cabinet Member added that if the environment is clean and tidy then this improves the offer and attracts more of a balance of people which also makes for a safer environment.
- Members asked if there was sustainable funding to implement the strategy. Officers agreed this was an ongoing challenge, and they need partners to sign up, then together find ways of funding it. The agreement with the BID was a bonus but it was important to note that funds are not endless and there needed to be an understanding of what partners will do.
- Members discussed the trial of using breathalysers in local shops and asked if this was placing staff in danger by causing offence/anger. The Cabinet Member stated that it was everyone's responsibility to make the City a safe place, not just the Council's; shopkeepers and bar owners have a responsibility to keep other customers safe. Lots of improvements have been made over the years including the introduction of plastic glasses, the triage centre etc. and this was another way of further improving the safety of the City. Officers added that the Breathalyser scheme had been promoted by Public Health Wales and had been found a useful tool for door staff who saw reduced incidents on the door and there has been less drinking on public transport as a result of the trial in the Spar shops.

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

27 : DEVELOPMENT OF A CITY WIDE EMPLOYABILITY PROVISION & A NEW APPROACH TO BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, Sarah McGill, Director of Communities, Housing and Customer Services, Jane Thomas, Assistant Director Communities and Housing and Louise Bassett, Partnership Delivery Team Leader to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which she said that Members had attended consultation meetings prior to the public consultation; The Cabinet Member was pleased with the responses received from that public consultation.

Members were provided with a presentation on Employment Services and Building Resilient Communities, after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members noted the number of people unemployed who answered the survey was only 15% and asked if this was representative. Officers considered it was statistically appropriate, as it included those on zero hour contracts and part time working.
- Members considered that the first 2 questions were quite closed as there were only 2 options to answer from; officers stated that they had given this a lot of thought, they felt that they needed information on existing services so it was a conscious decision.
- Members asked if there had been much guidance from the Welsh Government; officers explained that they had provided a legacy fund which had been left very wide. There was less money so a whole new approach was needed and mapping very important.
- Members considered that there was a new approach in relation to resilient communities but no coherent strategy and hoped that this could be fed back to the Welsh Government via a 2 way dialogue.
- Members discussed resilient communities and noted that there were lots of people that want to help in the community but not in a management type of way; this provides the opportunity to put a support network in place for volunteers, building on people's ability and desire to work in their communities.
- Members expressed concern about the timings noting that Communities First projects close in March 2018 and there was nothing to replace them until 2019/2020 and asked how this would affect services in that gap year. Officers agreed that timing was a key point and there was the potential that it would prove difficult for some organisations. The focus was on the viability of organisations rather than particular projects. As there was a huge reduction in funding, mapping was crucial to determine what services actually exist. Officers added that they would look to provide funding to sustain organisations at risk in that gap year.
- Members asked if Officers were confident that they continue to have an impact on the provision of services to vulnerable people in the community. Officers stated that this provides an opportunity to ensure tie-up between the reduction in funding and statutory service provision being more efficient than previously.
- Members asked if there would be extra support needed by Council staff. Officers explained that this was to be determined as they come forward with proposals, there was limited funding available via the legacy fund but it was too early to tell just yet.

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

28 : PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS FOR COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Susan Elsmore, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-Being, Ian Wile, Director of Operations for the Mental Health Clinical Board, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, Tony Young Director of Social Services, and Rebekah Vincent-Newson Operational Manager, Mental Health to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the Cabinet Member to make a statement in which she said that this was a very important review led by the Health Board; it was a whole system review including primary care and non statutory services. The Cabinet Member added that the statistics were stark, particularly around ethnicity in the City. It was noted that the Mental Health Foundation 2016 in Wales invested £600m in Mental Health services which was more than any other service in the NHS. The severe and enduring impact of Mental Health on longevity of life of up to ten years was noted.

Members were provided with an overview of the Community Services Case for Change – Adult Mental Health, Cardiff and Vale UHB, after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

- Members asked for more information on the timescales involved for the implementation of changes in the Service. They were advised that it was in the hands of the Capital Planning Department but the Vale (at Barry Hospital) phase would be completed by 31 March 2018. There is a project management support post ready to start in January 2018, and this was filled from current staff. The pilot should run for at least 9 months, hopefully for longer after the success criteria has been evaluated.
- Members noted that the age category stopped at 65 years and asked why this was. Members were advised that this was the general rule as there were separate services in the structure for older people and people with dementia etc.
- Members asked how many mental health beds were in Cardiff and the Vale and were advised that there were 135 in Llandough, 14 in Park Road and 10 in Phoenix – all adult services. There were 130 older people beds.
- Members asked if Park View in Ely was being looked at and were advised that discussions were ongoing with regards to the Wellbeing Hub.
- Members were surprised by the number of people being supported in the community. Members asked which option, from the Case for Change proposal document would be the preferred option. Members were advised that they needed to go for the most ambitious option of Community Services, with a facilitated clinic and improved pathways for specific treatments. Members were advised that it needed to be advantageous, not just co-locating and doing the same things.
- Members noted that demand had increased fourfold, currently there were buildings that were small enough to feel community based. Members were

concerned that larger buildings to cope with the demand could feel like hospitals, which may affect how people may view the Service.

- Members asked if there had been a degree of over diagnosis/referral by GP's into that level of the service and were advised that there needed to be more basic training in anxiety and depression by the third sector, this would help with the Health Board being able to deal with the more complex cases.
- Members asked about the financial implications for the Local Authority and were advised that there should be some efficiencies made within the management infrastructure of each team, but they were not under pressure to make savings. The focus was about a healthy community service, which gives more positives elsewhere in the system.
- Members asked if there would be more consultation and public engagement and were advised that there would be; Case 4 Change would turn into an engagement paper.

AGREED – That the Chairperson on behalf of the Committee writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

29 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee is scheduled for 6th December 2017 at 4.30pm.

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg