

My Ref: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr McGarry

13 February 2018

Councillor Susan Elsmore  
Cabinet Member Social Care, Health & Well-Being  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



Dear Susan,

**COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 12 FEBRUARY 2018  
DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2018-21 AND DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018/19**

As Chair of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you and officers for attending Committee and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the draft Corporate Plan 2018-21 and the Draft Budget Proposals for 2018/19 relevant to your Portfolio. Members of the Committee have requested that I feed back the following comments and observations to you:

**Social Services Directorate**

Members of the Committee wanted to pass on their appreciation of how you and officers have worked to produce an increased budget for this critical service. Members valued the work that had been done to achieve this and commend all involved in the process. Some further specific comments are:

**Service/Budget Realignment**

Members support the work being undertaken to realign and refocus services in order to make them more joined up and efficient and noted that the relevant savings in the budget come as a result of these service improvements.

**Partnership working**

The Committee were pleased to hear that a number of close working relationships with partners and other services across the Council had already resulted in a reduction of people needing admission to hospital and that DTOC levels were the lowest they had been in 12

years. This is very encouraging. In addition, Members were also encouraged to hear that a larger number of providers were interested in working with the Council in its move towards focussing on reablement.

### Preventative Services

Members were supportive that the above would result in ensuring that the Council can meet its commitments in supporting people to live independently, and pleased that a wider, tailored, offer of support to a wider range of individuals would be available as a result.

### Use of Technology (Line 41)

As you will be aware, at the meeting, Members aired their concerns about the use of technology in reducing the need for commissioned care. Members were satisfied with the responses given by yourself and officers that this was going to be a complementary service to what is already being offered rather than a replacement. However, Members of the Committee would again like to stress that how the Council promotes the use of technology will be crucial in ensuring that there is sufficient take-up of the service and also mitigate any potential criticism that it is a reduction in service. The Committee would be very interested in hearing about the development of this area of work, including the results of the pilot project with people with learning disabilities. If agreeable, when setting the work programme for 2018/19, I would like to discuss this with you to ensure that we receive the information at an appropriate date.

### Increase of Charges

Whilst Members accept the need to increase charges, they wanted to highlight again their concerns on how this will affect families already under financial pressure.

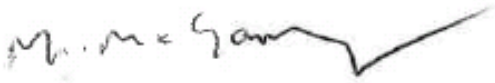
### **Communities, Housing & Customer Services Directorate**

In relation to your commitments within this Directorate, Members were very pleased to receive details on how you are continuing to drive forward Independent Living Services, including the future of the Wheels on Meals Service, which is aiming to become self-funding during 2018/19. Members would also like to commend you on the expansion of the Joint Equipment Service, and the improved service this offers individuals and families. The Committee will look forward to receiving further progress reports during the coming year.

Members were very reassured by the work you and Councillor Thorne are doing together across both Directorates (and further) in ensuring that the Council continues to develop a more joined-up, communicative culture in delivering services.

Thank you again to you and officers for attending. I hope you find the Committee's comments useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary McGarry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARY M<sup>c</sup>GARRY**

**Chairperson - Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee**

Cc: Christine Salter, Corporate Director  
Ian Allwood, Head of Finance  
Allan Evans, OM Accountancy  
Councillor David Walker, Chairperson Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee  
Nicola Newton, Principal Scrutiny Officer  
Sarah McGill, Corporate Director People and Communities  
Tony Young, Director of Social Services  
Amanda Phillips, Assistant Director of Social Services  
Leon Goddard, Operational Manager, Central Performance Team  
Cabinet Support Office