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**PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES – WINTER PRESSURES BRIEFING**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with a brief overview of the services within People & Communities in dealing with Winter Pressures. A presentation will be made at this Scrutiny Committee on the effectiveness of winter provision for adult social care and homelessness/rough sleepers in Cardiff.

**Background**

2. On formulating the Work Programme for this Scrutiny Committee for 2017/18, Members agreed that they would wish to receive briefings on the performance in areas such as Delayed Transfers of Care (DeTOC); and winter plans for homelessness/rough sleepers.
3. The Chair of this Scrutiny Committee discussed and agreed with Cabinet Members and Officers that the most effective way of considering these Items would be to receive a review of how Services dealt with winter pressures in this high demand time. Whilst it is acknowledged that these services are in constant high demand, taking a snapshot in time would focus the pressures services faced, and how they dealt with it.

## Issues

### Adult Social Care

4. Each health board in Wales has its own plans to cope with winter pressures, developed with the Welsh Ambulance Service and local authorities. The Cardiff & Vale UHB serves a population of 481,900, with 7.3% of population aged over 75<sup>1</sup>.
5. In a BBC article (link below) in November 2017, the Cardiff & Vale UHB stated that:

*".....there was more work to do on patient flow and further scope for "joined up" working to reduce delayed transfers of care.*

*An additional ward will be available and it said it was "vital that the work on reducing length of stay was successful".*

In order to mitigate winter pressures, proposals included:

- "Enhanced resilience" of the GP out of hours service
- A "rebalance" of activity from acute hospitals into the community
- Promote the "home first" principle through admission avoidance and improved discharge processes.

6. Intrinsically linked with the above is the role of social care in winter pressures planning. At this meeting, Members will receive a presentation on the Council's role, including DeTOC figures during this period.

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<sup>1</sup> : <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-41891709>

## Homelessness

7. The Council implemented winter arrangements for rough sleepers/homelessness in Cardiff. This included<sup>2</sup>:
- Working with homeless charities such as Huggard, the Salvation Army, Wallich and the YMCA to provide hostel accommodation, the breakfast run, a day centre for the homeless, and a night bus service.
  - A wide range of accommodation is available with 216 hostel places for single homeless people, 45 emergency beds, and 390 supported accommodation units. During the winter, there were additional emergency bed spaces -an extra 86 spaces
  - As well as accommodation services, individuals were able to access a wide range of holistic services including medical help and other support services – although available throughout the year, these were publicised again on the launch of the winter arrangements.
8. At this meeting, Members will also hear, as part of the presentation, an update on the effectiveness of the winter arrangements.

## **Way Forward**

9. At this meeting, the following witnesses will be in attendance:
- (i) Councillor Susan Elsmore, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Wellbeing;
  - (ii) Councillor Lynda Thorne, Cabinet Member for Communities & Housing;  
and
  - (iii) Sarah McGill, Corporate Director for People and Communities
  - (iv) Jane Thomas, Assistant Director, Housing & Communities
  - (v) Lisa Wood, Operational Manager Locality Services - First Contact & Assessment

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c/17906.html>

10. Following the presentation, Members will be able to decide if they wish to feed any comments, observations or recommendations to the appropriate Cabinet Member for their consideration.

### **Legal Implications**

11. 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**

12. 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Committee note presentation made at this meeting, and consider the future scrutiny of this item.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**10 May 2018**