

CYNGOR CAERDYDD

CARDIFF COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 NOVEMBER 2018

COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT

Background

1. This report sets out a summary of the Committee's business since September 2018. This includes:
 - A correspondence pack attached at **Appendices A-D**;
 - An updated Work Programme 2018/19 attached as **Appendix E** for information;
 - Inquiries/Task & Finish Groups
 - CASSC Performance Panel
 - Scrutiny of the 2019/20 Budget and Corporate Plan

Correspondence update

2. Attached as **Appendices A – D** are letters from the Committee to Cabinet Members;
 - **Appendix A** – Commissioning of Domiciliary Care and Procuring Care Home Services – Letters to Councillor Elsmore - 6 and 18 September 2018
 - **Appendix B** – Equality & Human Rights Toolkit for Councillors on Accessible Housing – letters to Councillor Thorne and Geraint Rees/Ceri Meloy – 15 October 2018
 - **Appendix C** – Building Management Framework – Voids Management Issues – 15 October 2018

- **Appendix D** – Regulation & Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016; Closer to Home Strategy – Letter to Councillor Elsmore – 15 October 2018

Work Programme 2018/19

3. Attached as **Appendix E** is the latest version of the CASSC Work Programme for Members information. In an effort to publicise the work of the Committee and encourage further participation and engagement, the Head of Democratic Services introduced the publication of the Committee’s “Forward Work Plan” (FWP) on the Council’s internet site – the current FWP for October 2018 to January 2019 has been published. The FWP sets out, for a four-month period, the work of the Committee, based on the Work Programme. At the December meeting of the Committee, Members will have the opportunity to review the FWP for the Committee for the period February – May 2019 (inclusive). Members will also be asked to reflect on the potential outcomes for each Agenda Item – this will also be published on the FWP.

CASSC Inquiries/Task & Finish Activity

Joint Inquiry on “Preventing Young People’s Involvement in Drug Dealing”

4. The draft report is now complete and has been signed off by the Task Group. This Committee and the Children & Young People’s Scrutiny Committee will receive the draft report at their December 2018 meetings for consideration and agreement.

Homelessness and Individual Supported Accommodation

5. When agreeing the Work Programme in August 2018, Members stated that they wished to carry out a major scrutiny Inquiry on Homelessness and Individual Supported Accommodation. At that time, some initial suggestions on the scope of this issue included:

- Are services fit for purpose?
 - How the hostels work together – is it effective?
 - Supported accommodation – how effective is it? What kinds of support is on offer? Do vulnerable people get the support they need?
 - To understand the complexities of the service and the people that use it.
 - To include – numbers of staff; mapping of facilities and support on offer at those facilities etc.
6. It was agreed that the Inquiry take place early in 2019 after the Committee had considered the **“Homelessness Review and Strategy 2018-2022”**, which will be a pre-decision Item at the December meeting of this Committee. In addition, Members will receive an update on the **“Rough Sleepers Strategy”** at the same meeting. Currently, the Inquiry is scheduled to run from February to July 2019.
7. A Scope for this issue will be drawn up in the near future, once the details begin to emerge from the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategies outlined in paragraph 6 above. Councillors McGarry, Carter and Kelloway have expressed an interest in being Members of the Task & Finish Group for this Inquiry, and will be fully engaged in drawing up the Scope in the coming weeks. If any other Members of the Committee are interested in being part of this Inquiry, please inform the Scrutiny Officer.

Closer to Home Strategy

8. At the last meeting of this Scrutiny Committee, a Member of the Committee raised an issue in relation to the placement of young people/adults in out of county college placements and suggested that the Council’s “Closer to Home Strategy” be a potential future scrutiny/inquiry topic. Members agreed that a scoping exercise be undertaken by Councillors McGarry and Lent to consider the viability of this topic. A meeting took place on the 24 October 2018, and they completed a

Scrutiny “PICK” Checklist and draft Scoping document. Both are attached at **Appendices F & G** respectively.

9. Members are requested to consider the information set out in **Appendices F & G** and any further verbal updates from Councillors McGarry and Lent at this meeting, and agree a way forward for the scrutiny of this issue, whilst having consideration for the issues set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 below.
10. The Chair of this Committee met with the Director of Social Services on the 31 October 2018 to discuss this issue. The Director informed the Chair that a **Learning Disabilities Commissioning Strategy for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan** was currently in draft form, which would be available for Members’ consideration as a pre-decision Item in April 2019. The Strategy would include issues relating to out of county (including college) placements. This Item will be added to the Work Programme accordingly.

Further Considerations for Members in undertaking Task & Finish Activities

11. In light of a new potential Scrutiny Inquiry outlined in paragraphs 8 to 10 above and in **Appendices F & G**, Members are requested to consider both the “Homelessness and Individual Supported Accommodation” and “Closer to Home” topics and agree a way forward for the consideration of these items.
12. With very limited resources in the Scrutiny officer team (1 x Scrutiny Officer and shared support from the Scrutiny Research Officer), as well as limited Member availability outside of Committee, Members may wish to discuss what options are available to them, whilst balancing this with Items already on the Work Programme (**Appendix E**).

CASSC Performance Panel

13. On the 5th October 2018, the Scrutiny Officer contacted CASSC Members requesting whether any Members would wish to join Councillors McGarry and Lent on the CASSC Performance Panel. If any other Members are interested in joining the Panel, please contact the Scrutiny Officer. The Performance Panel will next meet around w/c 19 November 2018 to discuss Quarter 2 performance.

CASSC Pre-Meetings/Committee Meeting Start Time

14. At this meeting, Members are requested to consider whether they would wish to hold pre-meetings to have the opportunity to discuss Agenda Items and formulate lines of enquiry for the meeting. To accommodate Members' time constraints, it is suggested that the pre-meet take place between 4.30 and 5pm on the day of the meeting, with Committee business commencing at 5pm.

Scrutiny of the 2019/20 Budget and Corporate Plan

15. On the 18 February 2019, the CASSC meeting will be dedicated to the consideration of the 2019/20 Budget and the Corporate Plan. All Members of the Council will be offered a briefing on these issues.
16. At this meeting, Members are requested to consider whether they feel they require any further, targeted training on the budget and Corporate Plan. The Head of Democratic Services is coordinating requests for further training.

Way Forward

17. During the meeting, Members may wish to:
- reflect on the correspondence pack, attached at **Appendices A-D**;
 - Note the updated Work Programme attached at **Appendix E**;
 - Consider the issues raised in **paragraphs 5-12 and Appendices F&G** in relation to Inquiries;
 - Note progress in relation to the Performance Panel (**paragraph 13**);
 - Consider the proposal to hold Committee pre-meetings and move meeting start times to 5pm (**paragraph 14**); and
 - Consider whether they wish to have additional training and support for budget and corporate plan scrutiny (**paragraphs 15 & 16**).

Legal Implications

18. 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

19. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. reflect on the correspondence pack, attached at **Appendices A-D**;
- ii. Note the updated Work Programme attached at **Appendix E**;
- iii. Consider the issues raised in **paragraphs 5-12 and Appendices F&G** in relation to Inquiries;
- iv. Consider the proposal to hold Committee pre-meetings and move meeting start times to 5pm (**paragraph 14**); and
- v. Consider whether Members wish to have additional training and support for budget and corporate plan scrutiny (**paragraphs 15 & 16**).

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

1 November 2018