

**CYNGOR CAERDYDD**

**CARDIFF COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**5 DECEMBER 2018**

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**COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT**

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**Background**

1. This report sets out a summary of the Committee's business since the last meeting. This includes:
  - A response from Councillor Thorne re the Voids issue considered by CASSC in October 2018 - **Appendix A**;
  - A response from Geraint Rees, Equality & Human Rights Commissioners Office re the Housing Toolkit issue considered by CASSC in October 2018 – **Appendix B**;
  - An updated Work Programme 2018/19 attached as **Appendix C**;
  - CASSC Forward Work Programme January – April 2019, attached at **Appendix D**;
  - Inquiries/Task & Finish Groups
  - CASSC Performance Panel
  
2. This report also calls on Members to agree the Committee's Forward Work Programme for the period January – April 2019, which will be published on the Council's website.

## Correspondence update

3. Attached at **Appendix A** is a response from Councillor Thorne regarding the Committee's letter on Voids.
4. Attached at **Appendix B** is a response from Geraint Rees, Equality & Human Rights Commissioners Office re the Housing Toolkit issue considered by CASSC in October 2018.

## Work Programme 2018/19

5. Attached as **Appendix C** is the latest version of the CASSC Work Programme for Members' information. Since the last meeting, the following changes have been made:
  - Members have received a written briefing on "The Impact of Universal Credit on Rent Arrears". The Chair requested that this issue be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency, and it is being considered at this meeting;
  - The Wales Audit Office informed the Council that they have completed a review of Cardiff Council on the Wales Housing Quality Standard and "service user perspective" report and requested that this be considered by this Committee within the earliest opportunity. It will be considered by CASSC in January 2019.
  - The remainder of the January CASSC meeting be dedicated to considering Homelessness issues – to include external witnesses. This is currently being developed;
  - The Older Persons Accommodation Strategy will now be considered by Cabinet in March (originally scheduled for December 2018), so this Item will

be considered then, along with a wider scrutiny of care homes (to include input from Care Inspectorate Wales);

- “Closer to Home”/Out of County Adult College Placements is now the Committee’s Inquiry, commencing early 2019.

### **CASSC Forward Work Programme**

6. At the last CASSC meeting, Members were informed that the Head of Democratic Services introduced the publication of the Committee’s “Forward Work Plan” (FWP) on the Council’s internet site. The next FWP published will cover the period January 2019 – April 2019, and at this meeting, Members are asked to consider the information set out in **Appendix D** and agree for this to be published.

### **CASSC Inquiries/Task & Finish Activity**

#### “Closer To Home”/ Out of County Adult College Placements

7. At the last meeting of this Scrutiny Committee, Members agreed that this issue be taken forward as the Committee’s Inquiry for 2018/19. Councillors McGarry, Lent, Goddard and Molik agreed to be Members of the Task & Finish Group. Arrangements will be put in place within the next month to take forward the issue, including developing the Terms of Reference.
8. Also at the last meeting, Members also received an overview of the forthcoming **Learning Disabilities Commissioning Strategy for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan**, which will be considered by this Scrutiny Committee during the Spring of 2019. Members may wish to take the opportunity to feed into this strategy through the Inquiry and inform the development of the Strategy through its work.

## **CASSC Performance Panel**

9. Members of the Performance Panel met on the 22 November 2018 to consider Q2 Performance and the month 6 budget report. Overall, the Panel were satisfied with both the budget position for Adult Services and Q2 results. The Panel has raised a query in relation to PI 18 - **the % of adult protection enquiries completed within 7 working days**. This had been flagged as a “red” result in Q1 (Actual - 88.7%/Target - 99%) and an overdue result in Q2. Panel Members will report back on this PI in due course.

## **Way Forward**

10. During the meeting, Members may wish to:
  - Reflect on the correspondence responses, attached at **Appendices A and B**;
  - Note the updated Work Programme attached at **Appendix C**;
  - Agree the contents of the FWP attached at **Appendix D**;
  - Note progress in relation to Inquiries; and
  - Note progress in relation to the Performance Panel.

## **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.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Reflect on the correspondence responses, attached at **Appendices A and B**;
- ii. Note the updated Work Programme attached at **Appendix C**;
- iii. Agree the contents of the FWP attached at **Appendix D**;
- iv. Note progress in relation to Inquiries; and
- v. Note progress in relation to the Performance Panel.

**DAVINA FIORE**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**28 November 2018**