

CYNGOR CAERDYDD

CARDIFF COUNCIL

COMMUNITY AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3 Feb 2021

CASSC TASK & FINISH INQUIRY COVER REPORT

Background

1. This report enables the Committee to consider approving the draft report of the Committee's Task & Finish Group; copy attached at **Appendix A**.

2. At a meeting of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee on the 7th November 2018, Members agreed to undertake an Inquiry on the decision-making process for supported living arrangements for adults with a learning disability. Focusing on the current pathways in place for transitioning identified individuals back into county.

3. The Committee agreed the following Terms of Reference for the task group:
 - To review current pathways (with a particular focus on the decision-making process) in relation to supported living arrangements for adults with a learning disability;
 - To review residential College placements and how decisions are made in terms of continuation;
 - To identify best practice in relation to transitioning individuals from an out-of-county placement back into Cardiff;
 - To engage with service users and their families in relation to the above whilst also understanding their level of involvement– placing them at the centre of any recommendations going forward;
 - To identify current funding arrangements, consider whether this is being used effectively and make recommendations accordingly;

4. Members of the Task & Finish group were:
 - Councillor Mary McGarry (*Chair*);
 - Councillor Ali Ahmed;
 - Councillor Susan Goddard¹;
 - Councillor Sue Lent;
 - Councillor Bablin Molik².

5. The Inquiry report was originally intended to be formally submitted to the Council's Cabinet during spring 2020, however, the subsequent onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and its unprecedented repercussions meant that formal submission of this report was delayed.

6. During the course of the inquiry the Task Group reviewed the evidence gathered from all stakeholders who engaged with the work, including but not limited to; the Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being, Cardiff Council's former Director of Social Services, Operational Managers within both social services and education, frontline staff, both local and out of county providers, individuals with a learning disability and their carers. The Members also reviewed a number of publications, reports and guidance on upcoming legislation.

7. As part of the inquiry, the Task Group commissioned independent research into this area. Tasking Scrutiny's Research Officer to address, through consultation with parents and advocates, the current pathway in place for transitioning identified individuals in order to identify possible areas for improvement. A copy of the research findings are attached to the main body of the report at **Appendix 1**.

8. As a result of the analysis and assessment of all the evidence gathered throughout the Inquiry, a number of key findings were identified from which a number of recommendations were agreed; *as set out in the attached report at **Appendix A***.

¹ Cllr Goddard was a Committee Member until September 2019

² Cllr Molik was a Committee Member until June 2019

Way Forward

9. The draft report of the Task & Finish Group, is attached at **Appendix A**. Members' attention is particularly drawn to the recommendations section.
10. Members may wish to consider the report, make any amendments and agree whether to approve the report to be considered by the Cabinet.

Legal Implications

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

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. Consider the draft report of the Task and Finish Group, attached at **Appendix A.**
- ii. Endorse the report, subject to any comments the Committee may wish to make, for submission to the Cabinet.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

28 January 2021