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**FAMILY DRUG & ALCOHOL COURT**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report provides Members with a brief overview of this issue. Members will receive a presentation at this meeting, regarding the development of a Family Drug & Alcohol Court in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

**Background**

2. Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan local authorities have been selected as the pilot site for the first Family Drug and Alcohol Court. This is an alternative family court for care proceedings that is designed to provide a more sensitive approach to working with parents who struggle with drug and alcohol misuse. The focus is on trying to solve the problems that have led to the case coming before the court. This is a very exciting opportunity as the evidence suggests that this model delivers significant benefits for parents and children, as well as cost benefits for public services.

**Issues**

3. The presentation will take Members through an overview of the project and plans and progress to date.

**Scope of Scrutiny**

4. This briefing enables the Committee to be made aware of the of the project and provide Members with the opportunity to input their views into its development.

## **Way Forward**

5. At the meeting Councillor Graham Hinchey (Cabinet Member for Children and Families); Sarah McGill (Corporate Director, People and Communities); and Deborah Driffield (Director of Children's Services) will be in attendance to make a presentation and answer any questions Members may wish to ask.
6. Members may wish to review the information presented at the meeting and determine whether there are any comments, concerns or recommendations which they would like to pass on to the Cabinet Member, Corporate Director and Director of Children's Services.

## **Legal Implications**

7. 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 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**

8. 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 will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is recommended to review the information provided at the meeting and provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member, Corporate Director and Director of Children's Services.

**DAVINA FIORE**  
**Director of Governance and Legal Services**

**06 October 2021**