

APPENDIX A

Scrutiny Annual Report 2022 – 2023

Draft Copy of the CASSC Committee Page – “Highlights of Our Work During 2022-23”

Our Membership – photos to be sourced from Cardiff Council website.

Councillor Bablin Molik– Chair

Councillors Ali Ahmed, Saleh Ahmed, Mike Ash-Edwards, Claudia Boes, Sue Lent, Margaret Lewis, Peter Littlechild, Mary McGarry

Our Purpose

- The Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee works to improve the Council’s services and policies in the areas of community and adult services. This includes matters that relate to housing, neighbourhood renewal, community safety, mental health, community services and adult social care.
- The Committee also serves as the Council’s Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, reviewing actions taken by the Community Safety Partnership to address local issues of crime and disorder.
- We monitor the effectiveness of who the Council works with, its performance levels, how resources are spent, the effectiveness of measures in place and look to identify possible areas for improvement.

Our Key Achievements during 2022-23

- **The cost of living in the UK has been increasing since early 2021.** With a backdrop of growing demand, and continued uncertainty, this is an issue, affecting many, if not all, of Cardiff’s residents. In recognition of its prevalence, the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee committed itself to examining the **council’s offerings of support.**

In consultation with the **council’s executive, frontline staff** and **key external stakeholders** such as the **Welsh Government, Cardiff & Vale Citizens Advice** and **Diverse Cymru**, Members assessed the overall demand and capacity of council services, along with community awareness of schemes, and their accessibility.

Their work concluded with 10 recommendations posed to the council’s Cabinet. The recommendations ranged from **simplifying internal processes** and **methods to maximise current resource** and **allow greater flexibility in service provision.**

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- Throughout the year, the committee continued to remain mindful to the current context, **and in recognition of the devastating conflicts across the globe**, dedicated time toward assessing the council's **support for refugees and asylum seekers**, with the committee's assessment once more being supplemented and strengthened through liaison with externals.

Many of the committee's concerns fell outside of council control, and it became clear to Members; **parity across all support schemes is imperative; and this must be stimulated by equity in the funding arrangements provided to the council.**

The committee's work confirmed both council and third sector services are facing significant demand and capacity pressures, and so Members explored and offered suggestions on improving **partnership arrangements** and emphasised the need to ensure a **multi-agency, trauma informed training model is in place for the staff delivering support services.**

The committee welcomed the work the council is progressing in this area of service, and will continue to closely monitor and support the service area in its progress.

- **Housing need in the city continues to rise** and during the year, Members were briefed that the demand on the council's homelessness services is at unprecedented levels. As such, Members sought to consider this vital, yet complex area of work; focusing on **the accommodation and support pathways for those with complex needs.** To inform their work, Members engaged with a number of organisations including the **Salvation Army, Crisis** and the **Huggard Centre** along with the frontline staff **directly supporting individuals.**
- In addition, over the course of the year the committee has continued to **closely monitor the performance and quality of services** within the field of adult and community services; assessed the council's **commitments to unpaid carers**; evaluated both the council and Rent Smart Wales's response to the **Renting Homes (Wales) Act**; contributed to the council's management of **direct payment systems** and the **Cardiff & Vale Regional Partnership Board's Area Plan for 2023-2028**; and **explored the prevalence of ASB instances throughout Cardiff.**