

31st May 2023

Councillor Norma Mackie
Cabinet Member for Adult Services
Councillor Ash Lister
Cabinet Member for Children Services
Sent via e-mail



Dear Norma & Ash,

**JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AND
COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 MAY 2023 – CARDIFF
& VALE JOINT AREA PLAN 2023-28.**

As Chair of the joint meeting of the Children & Young People, and Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, I wish to thank you, Sarah, Jane, Meredith & Cath for attending our meeting, and providing Members with an opportunity to consider the Cardiff & Vale Joint Area Plan, 2023-2028, which we note, is a continuation of the previous Joint Area Plan, and is therefore a combination of existing work, alongside new areas of development.

As mentioned at the meeting, Members appreciated, and commend, the design of the document, due to its clarity and digestibility for the reader.

The Overall Impact of the Joint Area Plan and Partnership Working

We are aware this plan is largely informed by the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) of the area, and so, it was interesting to explore the strength of the Population Needs Assessment. We concur with the comments made by the RPB representatives that, in addition to the PNA, continuous feedback and consultation is still required with all social groups. We wish to stress for this Area Plan to work effectively, it needs to remain committed to a ground-up approach. Where service users, and grass root organisations, voice, views, knowledge, and experience remain integral.

We feel capturing and assessing the impact of partnership work in the region, and delivery of the commitments laid out in this plan is vital. Although the complexities of this matter detailed at the meeting are noted, we are of the view the Delivery Plan being developed, should detail the mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of this Area Plan's work.

We would also appreciate further information on how the commitments made in this plan will be monitored and assessed as part of the Regional Outcomes Framework. Including if commitments will be assessed through local policy or action plans relevant to partners, or from a more holistic perspective, led by the RPB. In addition, we would also appreciate insight into how the RPB monitors and evaluates the impact of partnership working in the region.

Further, as mentioned at the meeting, we wish to again highlight the importance of the Regional Partnership Board ensuring there is a consistent training approach to issues across their partners. As we are of the view, this will significantly help ensure continuity in service and positive outcomes.

Starting Well

We were pleased to note the reference to perinatal support for mental health detailed in the plan, yet we would like to request more information on this matter. Specifically, the mechanisms in place to engage with parents and assess their needs. We would also encourage this information being detailed in the Delivery Plan.

It was pleasing to note the plan's commitment towards young people's mental health needs, and the assurance offered at the meeting that this work will be taken forward in conjunction with the recommendations made in the Youth Council's 2019 report. Likewise, it was also pleasing to note the recommendations made in the Children's Commissioner report, 'No Wrong Door', have also been aligned with the plan's commitments.

During the meeting we were informed the current number of young unpaid carers in the region is not currently known. We wish to stress the importance of this data being attained and closely monitored. In line with this, we are of the view it may be beneficial for Cllr Lister and Cllr Merry to liaise with all local schools, and councillors who are governors, to reiterate the importance of utilising the SIMs system to record this information.

We note assessments are currently taking place to determine if the council can achieve Child Friendly City accreditation by this summer, 2023.

Living Well

We note in the commitment for individuals with learning disabilities, there will be improved services to allow individuals to live 'closer to home'. Though improvement in services is welcomed, we wish to stress the importance of those individuals who may reside in a placement outside of county (due to their needs), being allowed to do so, and not being

encouraged, or required, to move, 'closer to home' against their will. We would suggest this recognition be incorporated into the plan itself, or its Delivery Plan.

We welcome the commitment made to improving an individual with learning disabilities access to annual health checks, including dentistry services, and look forward to seeing the breakdown of how this will be progressed, in the forthcoming Delivery Plan.

Regarding the plan's commitment to reduce violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence, we welcome the assurance that this commitment will be achieved. Along with the governance arrangements the Partnership Board has for progressing this work.

Ageing Well

A key area of concern for the council's Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee of late has been the national suspension of data collection for delayed transfer of care.

We understand work is taking place, on a national basis, to reintroduce this data collection through a revised model. We note partnership work on this issue has continued, regardless of data suspension, for instance through the establishment of an Integrated Discharge Hub. Although partnership work on this matter has continued, we wish to stress the importance of a model, capturing this data being in place, and available for monitoring, as soon as possible.

Thank you once more for attending our meeting. I hope you find our comments, and the discussions at the meeting of use.

To confirm a response to this letter is requested, which includes the following information:

- How the commitments made in this plan will be monitored and assessed as part of the Regional Outcomes Framework. Including if commitments will be assessed through local policy or action plans relevant to partners, or from a more holistic perspective led by the RPB.
- Insight into how the RPB monitors and evaluates the impact of partnership working in the region.
- The mechanisms in place to engage with parents and assess their needs to assist with the offer of perinatal support for mental health.
- Indication on when the Delivery Plan will be available.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. BRIDGEMAN', written over a light grey rectangular background.

COUNCILLOR LEE BRIDGEMAN

CHAIR, Joint Meeting of CYPSC & CASSC

cc. Members of the Children & Young People and Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee

Group Leaders

Sarah McGill, Corporate Director, People & Communities

Jane Thomas, Director Adults, Housing & Communities

Deborah Driffield, Director Children Services

Cath Doman, Director of Health and Social Care Integration

Meredith Gardiner, Head of Partnerships and Assurance

Cardiff Council Chair of Governance & Audit

Tim Gordan, Head of Communications & External Relations

Cabinet Office