

4 March 2020

Cabinet Response to a Report of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee – Temporary and Supported Accommodation: The Single Person’s Gateway.

Purpose of report

1. To update Members on the Cabinet response to the recommendations made in the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee report entitled, *Temporary and Supported Accommodation - The Single Person’s Gateway*, published in September 2019.

Background

2. At a meeting of the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee (CASSC) on the 5th December 2018¹, Members received the “Homelessness and Housing Review Strategy 2018-22”. At this meeting, Members agreed that they wished to hold an additional meeting, dedicated to looking at temporary and supported accommodation via the Single Persons Gateway.
3. The aim of the meeting would be to obtain views from a range of sources, to explore views around the following issues:
 - An update on winter arrangements for 2018/19.
 - Are services fit for purpose?
 - How the hostels work together – is it effective?

¹ <http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/documents/g3438/Printed%20minutes%2005th-Dec-2018%2016.30%20Community%20Adult%20Services%20Scrutiny%20Committee.pdf?T=1&LLL=0>

- Supported accommodation – how effective is it? What kinds of support is on offer?
 - Do people coming through the gateway get the support they need?
 - The complexities of the service and the people that use it.
4. A CASSC meeting was held on the 21st January 2019 and heard from a range of witnesses, with focus on the bullet points detailed in paragraph 3 of this report. At this meeting, Members heard from a range of witnesses, including:
- Cabinet and Senior Officers in Cardiff Council
 - The Huggard Centre
 - The Wallich
 - Salvation Army
 - Ty Tresillian and the Outreach Team
 - Tamsin Stirling, Independent Housing Consultant
5. Prior to the meeting, Members also received a copy of Shelter Cymru's Report entitled "*Trapped on the Streets Understanding Rough Sleeping in Wales*"; as well as a written submission from United Welsh Housing.
6. The evidence gained at the meeting was used to identify key findings and to develop recommendations based on the evidence heard.
7. The subsequent report following the meeting was taken to the Cabinet meeting held on 26 September 2019.

Cabinet Response to Recommendations

8. The Cabinet agreed their response to the Committee's report at its meeting on 19 December 2019. Attached at **Appendix A** is the report to Cabinet, which includes the Committee's report at **Appendix 1** and a full copy of the Cabinet Response at **Appendix 2**. The Report outlines the recommendations made and the Cabinet response to each recommendation.

9. Overall, the Committee made 9 recommendations to the Cabinet. The Cabinet response (*Appendix 2*) shows that:
- 7 of the recommendations are agreed – *R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R9.*
 - 2 of the recommendations have been agreed in principle:
 - R7**-Work with the Welsh Government to explore ways of changing the laws so that organisations can work more effectively with individuals with substance use problems. With a particular focus on changing provisions so that this group will better engage with services.
 - R8** - Seek long-term funding for those organisations that are only receiving short-term funding so that the services, that are vital in addressing rough sleeping, are sustainable

Way Forward

10. Councillor Lynda Thorne (Cabinet Member – Housing & Communities) and officers from the People & Communities Directorate have been invited to present the response to the inquiry.

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.

Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to receive the Cabinet response and agree the way forward for receiving progress reports on the work required to implement the agreed recommendations.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance & Legal Services
27 February 2020