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**CLOSER TO HOME / DEVELOPMENT OF ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN CARDIFF**

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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 accommodation options for children and young people in Cardiff.

**Background**

2. In 2017, this Scrutiny Committee agreed as part of its work programme to undertake an inquiry into Out of County Placements. As a result, the Committee agreed to set up Task and Finish Group Inquiry. The terms of reference were agreed as follows:
  - a) To review the provision of out of county placements, the types of provision, cost and impact on resources
  - b) To identify gaps in local provision, social services, and education that result in the need to place children out of county.
  - c) To identify the barriers to providing additional support in Cardiff and the impact on looked after children in being placed outside Cardiff.
  - d) To consider plans and proposals to provide improved provision and determine the effectiveness of these improvement in addressing Cardiff high levels of out of county provision.
  - e) To report the findings of the Committee to the Cabinet.

3. The report was presented to Cabinet on 5 July 2018, and a full response was agreed by Cabinet on 15 November 2018, copy attached at **Appendix A**. A copy of the full scrutiny inquiry report can be found by following this link:

[Agenda for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 8th May, 2018, 4.30 pm : City of Cardiff Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

4. The scrutiny report included 19 recommendations for the Cabinet to respond to. The Cabinet response stated that six recommendations were partially accepted and 13 fully accepted.
5. This agenda item will provide an update on the work that the Council is undertaking to develop accommodation options for children and young people in Cardiff. This work is central to the Service Area's focus on shifting the balance of care and ensuring that children receive the right support, in the right place and at the right time. The recommendations of the Children and young People's Scrutiny Committee Inquiry into Out of County Placements is a key consideration in the development of accommodation options.

## **Issues**

6. A presentation will be made at the meeting and take Members through an overview of the issue and progress to date.

## **Scope of Scrutiny**

7. This briefing enables the Committee to be updated on progress against the recommendations set out in **Appendix A** and provide Members with the opportunity to input their views into any further developments.

## **Way Forward**

8. 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.
9. 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**

10. 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**

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 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**