

## AGENDA ITEM 7

### RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### CABINET

17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

#### SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING ACT: IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

#### REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES, IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR FOREY

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#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (SSWB Act) and its implications for RCT on the commencement of the Act i.e. 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the recommended changes to relevant Social Care procedures and Public Information leaflets to enable RCT to be compliant with the SSWB Act, regulations and Codes of Practice to be delegated to the Statutory Director of Social Services and relevant Cabinet members .
- 1.3 To seek Cabinet authorisation to continue charging for residential and non-residential care services and to update the Council's charging Policies and procedures to meet the requirements of Part 5 of the SSWB Act

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the breadth and range of the SSWB Act and delegate responsibility for the necessary changes to current procedures to the Statutory Director of Social Services and relevant Cabinet member.
- 2.2 Authorise officers to continue charging for residential and non-residential care services and to update the Council's charging Policies, procedures and Public Information to address the changes required by Part 5 of the SSWB Act.

- 2.3 Agree to receive six monthly reports to update on progress in implementing the range of requirements set out in the SSWB Act.
- 2.4 Agree that the Health and Wellbeing, and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committees consider regular reports on progress for implementing the requirements set out in the SSWB Act.

### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The SSWB Act will fundamentally change the way in which we consider the delivery of Social Care in Rhondda Cynon Taf and has a significant number of implications for current strategies, policies and procedures which will need to be amended to comply with the SSWB Act.
- 3.2 Codes of Practice and Statutory Guidance accompany the SSWB Act and whilst these statutory documents provide detailed guidance for the Social Services functions, local guidance is required to support staff to apply the requirements within the local context.
- 3.3 The timescale for receiving the Codes of Practice and Statutory guidance from Welsh Government means that a range of procedures, staff guidance and public information have to be updated in a short space of time
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed that the most effective way of achieving this would be to delegate the decisions to the statutory Director of Social Services and relevant Cabinet Members to allow officers to present revisions in a timely manner and as they are updated.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act was enacted in May 2014 and will come into force on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016.
- 4.2 The SSWB Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales.
- 4.3 The SSWB Act applies to children, adults and carers equally and as such is groundbreaking in its approach. Whilst it consolidates a range of legislation some legislation, most notably parts of the children's act 1989 and 2004 remain extant.
- 4.4 The SSWB Act comprises 11 parts and is supported by detailed regulations codes of practice and statutory guidance on the exercise of Social Services functions which are binding on Local Authority and which is legally enforceable for all partners.

























































