



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

DECISION MADE BY: Cabinet DATE DECISION MADE: 24th November, 2015.

Agenda Item 3

SUBJECT:

Tackling Poverty – A review of Communities First, Families First and Flying Start Programmes in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

**Cabinet Members Present
County Borough Councillors:**

A.Morgan (Chairman), R.Bevan, A.Crimmings,
E. Hanagan, G Hopkins, K. Montague, J. Rosser & M.Webber

**Apologies for attendance
County Borough Councillors:**

M.Forey

Other County Borough Councillor(s)

In Attendance:-

C Davies, G Davies, T Leyshon, P Jarman,
R Smith & E Webster

1. **DECISION MADE:**

Agreed –

- To note the information contained in the report and the findings of the review
- To the creation of one Tackling Poverty Service: restructuring Communities First immediately with a phased approach to follow bringing all tackling poverty programmes together under one tackling poverty service.
- To authorise the Service Director, Public Health & Protection, in consultation with the Director, Human Resources, to commence the restructuring process for Communities First: to include a strategically commissioned 'core offer' of intervention / activity across all eight Clusters, but retaining an element of local flexibility through the Community Involvement budgets and local engagement with staff in accordance with the specific proposals set out in paragraph 7.9 of the report and as detailed below:-
 - Create a Single Rhondda Cynon Taf wide governance forum to reflect the shift towards a more strategic approach to developing and delivering provision
 - Develop a single coherent Communities First delivery plan to replace the current eight individual plans in operation
 - Align Community First commissioning activity to existing Families First practice and the new Early Intervention and Prevention Strategic Planning and Commissioning group. This group will be responsible for ensuring the right mix of specialised provisions / services is available within each setting that adds value to and does not duplicate existing provision (core offer)
 - Allocate flexible community involvement budget to each Cluster to retain an element of local flexibility. This budget will support the delivery of universal and targeted engagement activities with a focus on developing family and community resilience.
 - Amalgamate current front line roles to create Engagement Officers (28 positions). These roles will be responsible for brokering and co-ordinating the right support to those identified through a formal early identification process. Staff will act as a bridge between services/provision and its potential users by making initial targeted contact and providing on-going community support post activity. The 4 posts operating cross two Clusters will also have responsibility for developing capacity in the local voluntary sector in line with the RCT Together approach.
 - Streamline Cluster management positions to create 4 management posts to reflect the move to a centralised commissioning model. These posts will each have responsibility for direct line management of Lead Workers within 2 Cluster areas and located within the Communities First Central Support Team to provide more central support to the Communities First Co-ordinator.
 - Streamline Lead Officer positions to create 8 posts across the clusters to reflect the move to a centralised commissioning model.
 - Streamline administrative support to create 4 posts to reflect the reduction in the number of orders that will be required, due to the move to a centralised commissioning model.

- Centralise current activity budgets
- Review all elements of current voluntary sector provision and re-commission where appropriate.

N.B With the permission of the Chairman, County Borough Councillor G Davies spoke on this item.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION BEING MADE:

- The need to outline to Members the findings and recommendations following a strategic review into the Council's approach to tackling poverty, specifically in relation to Communities First, Families First and Flying Start Programmes.
- To improve the coordination of approach at a strategic level and on the ground, and release revenue resources to be reinvested to ensure best value and better outcomes.
- To ensure the greatest impact is made to improving outcomes for children, young people, families and communities most in need.

3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE:

- Not applicable at this stage.

4. PERSONAL INTERESTS DECLARED:

- County Borough Councillor A Morgan declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest:- " I am on the Partnership Board for Communities First in my area"
- County Borough Councillor K Montague declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest:" I am on the Rhondda Fach Communities First Cluster Board"
- County Borough Councillor M Webber declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: " I am on the Pontypridd Communities First Cluster Board"
- County Borough Councillor E Hanagan declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: "I am on the Tonyrefail Communities First Cluster Board"
- County Borough Councillor J Rosser declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: "I am on the Porth Communities First Cluster Board"
- County Borough Councillor R Bevan declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: "I am on the Rhondda Fach Communities First Cluster Board"

Non Cabinet Members

- County Borough Councillor G Davies declared the following personal and non prejudicial interest: "I am on the Upper Rhondda Communities First Cluster Board"

5. DISPENSATION TO SPEAK (AS GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE):
N/A

6. (a) IS THE DECISION URGENT AND NOT TO BE THE SUBJECT OF ANY CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

YES NO

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication i.e. **2nd December 2015** to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

6. (b) IF YES, REASONS WHY IN THE OPINION OF THE DECISION-MAKER THE DECISION IS URGENT:

N/A

6. (c) SIGNATURE OF MAYOR OR DEPUTY MAYOR OR HEAD OF PAID SERVICE CONFIRMING AGREEMENT THAT THE PROPOSED DECISION IS REASONABLE IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR IT BEING TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCEDURE RULE 17.2:

N/A

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(Mayor)

.....
(Dated)



.....
(Proper Officer)

24.11.15
(Dated)