

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015-16

**HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

16TH MARCH 2016

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Agenda Item No. 4

**PREPARATION FOR THE OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT
2015-16**

**Author: Mrs A Edwards – 01443 424102
Scrutiny Support Officer**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to consider its contribution to the annual Overview & Scrutiny report 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Members consider and comment on the proposed content of the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Procedure Rules for Overview & Scrutiny within the Council's Constitution requires that an annual report be submitted to Council on the work carried out during the year.

3.2 The proposed approach to the scrutiny annual report this year is that there should be an overview of the work undertaken by each of the scrutiny committees followed by a section which will set out more clearly the contribution made by scrutiny during the year in a range of areas such as policy review, performance monitoring and in depth review with recommendations and a plan of the report is set out at Appendix 1.

3.3 Appendices 2 & 3 attached attempt to set out in draft form an overview of the work undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee since the Council's AGM in May and provides a summary of the ways in which Scrutiny has contributed to the operation of the Council. As scrutiny work is on-going a number of the areas referred to in the draft documents will need to be re-visited in the coming weeks to bring the information up to date and there will be additional information to add.

3.4 Members' views and suggestions on the content of the annual report are welcome and if you so wish these can be sent to the scrutiny support officer in advance of the meeting.

- 3.5 As this is the first year of operation for the new scrutiny arrangements Members' views are particularly welcome in relation to how the operation of the Committee can be improved and what the key priorities should be for the Committee going forward into 2016/17.
- 3.6 It is intended that each of the themed scrutiny committees will undertake this process with a draft complete annual report to be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 20th April 2016 prior to submission to Council at the AGM in May 2016.
- 3.7 Attached as Appendix 1 is the proposed plan of contents for the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report, Appendix 2 sets out the draft summary of the work undertaken by the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee whilst Appendix 3 attempts to highlight the positive work undertaken by scrutiny as a whole.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

as amended by

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16TH MARCH 2016

List Of Background Papers

Report of the Director Legal & Democratic Services

Item - Preparation for the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 20015/16

Freestanding Matter

Contact Officer:-

Mrs A Edwards
The Pavilions,
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale,
CF40 2XX

Tel. No. (01443) 424102

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

PLAN

1. Foreword – Cllr Adams
2. What is Scrutiny? Structure
3. Overview from each Chair
 - O&S
 - C&YP
 - F&P
 - H&WB
 - PSD
4. What have we achieved?
 - Policy Development/review
 - Pre-scrutiny
 - Monitoring
 - Inspection/Regulation
 - Recommendations/outcomes
5. Future Challenges – overview

HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference:

The overview & scrutiny role in connection with scrutinising services which support the Health & Wellbeing of our communities. The Committee considers adult social services as well as other factors which contribute to the health & wellbeing of the County Borough such as Leisure Services, Housing and Public Health & Wellbeing.

Overview from the Chairman



**County Borough Councillor
R W Smith**

Membership of the Committee:

County Borough Councillors

R W Smith and (Mrs) S Rees (Chairman & Vice Chair respectively)

County Borough Councillors: (Mrs) A Calvert, (Mrs) J Cass, W J David, C Davies, J Davies, (Mrs) M E Davies, S Evans, A S Fox, I Pearce, (Mrs) A Roberts, G Stacey, (Mrs) M Tegg, L Walker, D W Weeks and D H Williams

Royal British Legion 'Insult to Injury' Campaign

The year began by the Committee considering an issue which had been referred from Council following a Notice of Motion. The Committee was asked to consider the Royal British Legion's 'Insult to Injury' Campaign which draws attention to the disparity in the means test for social care services between those retired armed forces personnel receiving payment through the War Pension Scheme and those receiving payment through the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. The Committee heard evidence from representatives of the Royal British Legion and the Service Director with responsibility dealing with social care payments and the Committee subsequently passed its recommendations to the Cabinet in support of the campaign.

Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act

It was a particular challenge this year for the scrutiny committees to develop their work programmes. The complete change in the scrutiny framework meant new areas of learning for Members combined with increased expectations. I was conscious that it would be all too easy to focus on adult care services and forget about the other important issues affecting health and wellbeing. However, there was one overriding challenge which needed to be addressed, namely, the impending introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and throughout the year the Committee received regular updates from the Cwm Taf Head of Transformation in relation to the implementation programme. Whilst the fundamental principles of the Act are positive, the future challenge will be to

work toward these principles and raise the public's awareness of the vision of the Act and what it means for social services across Wales.

Supporting People at Home

When considering the work programme, the Committee identified 3 key areas which they considered warranted scrutiny involvement given that the Council was in the bottom quartile for performance in 2014/15, namely:

- Supporting people in their own home – reducing the number of people aged 65+ that are placed in residential care homes
- Delayed Transfers of Care
- Support for Carers – Carers' assessments.

These three issues are very much interlinked i.e. better support for service users and their carers should enable vulnerable people to stay in their own home for longer and also lead to a reduction in those hospital admissions which are not attributable to an acute medical emergency. Fewer admissions should then lessen the opportunity for delayed discharge. The Supporting People agenda is in itself a significant undertaking, the ability of people to remain in their own homes depends not only on the support provided by the Council and carers but is also dependent on primary health care support i.e. the support of GPs, Community Nursing, Community Pharmacists and the 3rd Sector. With this in mind, it was agreed that the bulk of the Committee's time this year should focus on this work including the support for Carers. This work also ties in with one of the fundamental principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 which is to increase preventative services within the community to minimise escalation of need. It will be vital to increase the community capacity across Rhondda Cynon Taf to provide the type of support which will allow people to retain their independence.

As part of this process the Committee has received detailed presentations through the year from officers in relation to the Council's early intervention and prevention services and its long term and home care services. Linking both the Supporting People at Home agenda and the implementation of the SSWB Act, the Committee met with the third sector Community Co-ordinators for Cwm Taf who provided an insight into their work and the administration of the Community Capacity Fund. Their presentation highlighted the need to promote the services provided by 3rd Sector organisations across the statutory public sector services and the Community Coordinators will be critical in signposting people to those organisations and groups who are able to assist in reducing isolation, reducing loneliness and assisting in the prevention of hospital admission and support hospital discharge.

Support for Carers

In particular this year, the Committee tasked itself with ensuring that performance in relation to the percentage of carers of adult services users who were offered an assessment in their own right during the year improved and I am pleased that this has been achieved. **(See section ??)**

Housing

Housing has an important influence on Health and Wellbeing and during the year, the Committee learnt about the Housing (Wales) Act. The Act will enable the improvements in the operation of the private rented sector, and will assist in helping people to meet their housing needs effectively and prevent homelessness.

Following a referral from the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, we also reviewed the Council's performance in relation to homelessness and the use of bed and breakfast accommodation. The Committee learnt of the volatile nature of these performance indicators and the challenges faced in sourcing appropriate accommodation for those who are deemed vulnerable or a potential risk. The Committee was pleased to note that following a challenging period performance in meeting targets had improved.

Continuing on a Housing theme, the Committee was pleased to receive the response from the Cabinet Member to the recommendations made by the Empty Properties Scrutiny Working Group. All recommendations were accepted in principle and an action plan has been developed which the Committee will be monitoring.

Impact of service change

In October the Committee was made aware of guidance being produced by the Older People's Commissioner on Equality and Human Rights Assessments and the role of scrutiny in relation to changes to community services in Wales. The two-part Guidance is aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of impact assessments and scrutiny in Wales, ensuring that any changes to community services are thoroughly and rigorously thought through and analysed, the impact on older people and others has been fully explored, and that older people have been given every opportunity to comment on these proposed changes. The Committee felt that to undertake its obligations effectively it was important to have an understanding of the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process and the factors which have to be considered by Cabinet when proposing service change. As a result, the Committee received an informative presentation from our HR Advisor who reported on how EIAs are used by the Council to inform key decision making.

Linking in to the spirit of the Commissioner's guidance regarding decisions affecting older people, the vice chair and I attended a Cabinet meeting in October where we presented our concerns regarding the impending transfer of residents from Maesyffynnon Residential Home due to building maintenance issues. In response to our concerns, Cabinet agreed that the scrutiny committee should play a part in overseeing the process of the transfer of residents and therefore a small working group was formed which included the local members to ensure that the residents transition to alternative accommodation went as smoothly as possible. The Working Group also contributed to the consultation process which was organised to consider the future proposals for the site.....

Leisure Strategy

Shortly after Christmas, the Committee had the opportunity to consider the draft Medium Term (2015-20) Strategic Plan for Leisure Services for Rhondda Cynon

Taf and influence its content prior to its consideration by Cabinet. The vision of the strategy is that all residents will be able to access opportunities to undertake regular physical exercise, as part of a healthy lifestyle, which maintains and improves their health and well being.

Monitoring

The Committee has considered a number of reports during the year, including the Director's Report, Cwm Taf Carers' Strategy Annual Report, the CCSIW's annual performance evaluation report, Social Services Annual Representations & Complaints Report and the annual report of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report alongside a progress report on the new Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

Along with my vice chair and the chair and vice chair of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, I met with officers from the CSSIW on 17th November 2015 to discuss their findings as set out in their annual evaluation report. This proved to be a very constructive meeting and the intention is to meet twice yearly, probably around April and September time. The feedback from the April meeting can then help inform the scrutiny committees' work programmes for the forthcoming year.

Future Challenges

The Committee is keen to engage with representative groups of the public in relation to its review of Supporting People at Home and Rhondda Cynon Taf's Older People's Advisory Group has assisted the Council in recent years in challenging the Council's performance improvement plans. The Committee also sees a role for itself in assisting in the development of information, advice and guidance for the public to explain what the new Social Services & Wellbeing Act means for them.

Our work in relation to Supporting People a Home will continue into the new municipal year and I am sure will have a sharper focus and be the better for the preparatory work which we have undertaken this year. The intention will be to broaden our discussions to include health and the third sector with a view to making a positive impact on the future direction of services for those who need support in maintaining their independence.

I am also aware that there are other areas within the Committee's remit which we need to have a better understanding of, in particular the areas of public health and protection and this will need to be addressed over the next 12 months.

In conclusion I would like to give particular thanks to my vice chair for her support during the year and also my committee members for their hard work and dedication.

Appendix 3

WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?

The following information is intended to provide a summary of the contributions to the Council's policy development and governance arrangements made by the Council's Scrutiny Committees between May 2015 and April 2016

Policy development/review -

Considering draft policy/impact of policy change/providing Cabinet with the views of scrutiny members.

- Consultation on Home to School Transport – new policy
- Consultation on Revenue budget strategy
- Welsh Government Consultation – Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill
- Impact of service change – Meals on Wheels Service
- Library service
- The draft Corporate Performance Report for 2015/16?
-

Pre-decision scrutiny –

Where scrutiny has commented on policy proposals prior to Cabinet's consideration providing an opportunity to influence Cabinet's decision making:

- Draft Corporate Plan for 2016-2000
- 2016/17 Revenue Budget Proposals
- Draft Medium Term Strategic Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf Leisure Services 2015-2020
- 2016/17 action plans to deliver priorities

Monitoring performance/progress

Monitoring the Council's performance or monitoring the implementing actions previously agreed:

- Director of Social Services Annual Report
- Social Services Annual Representation & Complaints Report 2014/15
- Cwm Taf Carers Information & Strategy Annual Report 2014/15
- Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults' Board Annual Report 2014/15
- Cwm Taf Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report 2014/15
- School Attendance Performance
- Educational attainment at Foundation and Key Stages along with School categorisation;
- Esytn Inspection Outcomes
- Vale, Valleys and Cardiff Regional Adoption Collaborative
- Quarterly budget & performance monitoring;
- Monitoring of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy

- Rhondda Cynon Taf's Welsh Public Library Standards Annual Assessment Report 2014-2015

Inspection/regulation

- CSSIW Annual Council Performance Evaluation Report 2014/15
- Estyn Inspection Outcomes
- WAO review - Local Authority Arrangements to Support Safeguarding of Children

Call-in

- Home to School Transport: Maintaining the Existing Service but Reducing the Subsidy for Discretionary Travel – a Public Consultation on a Proposed New Policy. The Call-in was unsuccessful. However, as a result of the debate it was agreed that Scrutiny should play a role in the consultation process on the proposed new policy.

Scrutiny Reviews

- 'Zero Hours' contracts - completed
- Governor Support - ongoing
- Maesyffynnon Residential Care Home – ongoing (should conclude by May?)
- Council Accommodation – ongoing
- Fuel Poverty – ongoing (should conclude by May?)
- Participation rates in recycling across the County Borough
- Mobile Library Service
- The number of bids and tenders submitted for Council contracts by local businesses

Outcomes

In total Scrutiny has sent ??? recommendations/requests to the Cabinet during 2014/15

Empty Properties

The Empty Properties Scrutiny Review led by Councillor Geraint Davies considered not only the current work of the Council in tackling the issue but also considered the external factors that can influence the numbers of empty properties and the extent to which these can be address. As well as visiting those parts of the County Borough particularly affected by the blight of empty properties Members met with renowned architect Jonathan Adams who contributed to the BBC Wales programme ' How Green is my Valley: a Future for the Valleys'. In total **9 recommendations** were identified which it is believed will further strengthen the services available to bring back into use empty properties. The Cabinet responded positively to these

recommendations accepting them all in principal and the Cabinet Member in conjunction with officers presented their action plan to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee setting out how they aimed to implement these recommendations. Amongst this work will be the launch of a specific and targeted campaign to raise awareness of the issues caused by empty properties and the benefits of bringing them back into use to include: -development of a brand; use of various media eg website, radio, posters; improvements to the Council's website and reporting mechanisms and to improve and update the Council's empty property pack.

Carers

The percentage of carers of adult services users who were offered an assessment in their own right during the year improved from a bottom quartile position in 2014/15 to

Looked After Children

The findings and recommendations of the two scrutiny working groups in relation to children looked after by the Council were presented to Cabinet on 24th November 2015. The working group focusing on educational attainment was led by Councillor Christina Leyshon whilst the working group which focussed on placements costs was led by Councillor Margaret Davies. As part of these reviews Members visited schools and met with the Regional Commissioning Manager for the Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru and Dr Claire Ball the Clinical Director for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. In total, 15 recommendations were made which were all accepted and an action plan put in place which includes reviewing the current Pupil Education Plan system, developing a training programme for designated teachers for LAC, education staff and foster carers on the needs of LAC, improve the collation and interrogation of data to track and monitor outcomes of LAC (education) and Children's Services will produce a LAC Reduction Strategy as part of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.

Educational attainment

Our work on governor support should help develop the leadership of schools therefore driving improvement???

Aim to close the Gap on the performance of FSM children – challenge??

Community Infrastructure Levy

Scrutiny recommended a **6 point process** to Cabinet for the formulating, monitoring and revising the Regulation 123 List and these were considered and accepted by Cabinet on the 23rd July 2015.

'Zero Hour' Contracts

This Scrutiny Working Group made 3 recommendations to Cabinet which were accepted. Principally the working group developed and recommended the introduction of a policy which commits contractors to ethical practices and supports the ethical management of 'zero hours' contracts.

