



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

COMMITTEE SUMMONS

C Hanagan
Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavilions
Cambrian Park
Clydach Vale CF40 2XX

Meeting Contact: Claire Hendy - Senior Democratic Services Officer
(01443/424081)

YOU ARE SUMMONED to a meeting of **HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held as a **Vitrual Meeting** on **MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2020** at **3.00 PM**.

Non Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made to Democratic Services by Thursday, 10 September 2020 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

AGENDA

**Page
No's**

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To receive the minutes of the previous meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee which was held on 24.02.2020

3 - 6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

3. UPDATE ON COVID 19 POSITION IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

To receive an update on the actions taken by the Council as a result of the Covid 19 National emergency from an Adult Service perspective.

7 - 12

4. CHAIR'S REVIEW AND CLOSE

To reflect on the meeting and actions to be taken forward.

5. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency

Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Circulation:-

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (County Borough Councillor R Yeo and County Borough Councillor G Holmes respectively)

County Borough Councillors:

Councillor A Roberts, Councillor M Forey, Councillor J Davies, Councillor J Williams, Councillor P Howe, Councillor G Stacey, Councillor M Tegg, Councillor G Hughes, Councillor D Owen-Jones, Councillor C Willis, Councillor W Jones and Councillor E Griffiths

County Borough Councillor G Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Adult & Children's Community Services



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 24 February 2020 at 5.00 pm at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor R Yeo (Chair)

Councillor A Roberts	Councillor J Davies
Councillor P Howe	Councillor M Tegg
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor W Jones	

Officers in attendance:-

Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services
Mr N Elliott, Director of Adult Services
Ms L Davies, Service Director – Public Protection Services
Ms C Emery – Supporting People and Housing Options Manager

County Borough Councillors in attendance:-

Councillor S Evans

39 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

40 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors M. Forey, J Williams, G Stacey, C. Willis, G. Holmes and E.Griffiths.

41 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 7th January 2020 and 28th January 2020 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

42 Consultation Links

The Chair advised Members of the consultation links which were provided for their information and for the Committee to acknowledge any consultations that were relevant to the Committee.

43 Understanding the Council's 2019/20 Budget

The Senior Democratic Service Officer explained to Members that the budget report would be postponed until 30th March 2020.

44 Care Inspectorate Wales Inspection of Older Adults in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Director of Adult Services provided Members of the Health and Wellbeing Committee with the Outcomes of the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) inspection of older adults in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the progress made since the inspection along with any associated actions in place to ensure continued focus on the areas for improvement identified by CIW.

Members considered the Inspection Outcomes and commented on the outcomes and thanked the officer for a very informative report.

Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the information contained in the report and agreed to monitor the progress in the future.

45 Homeless Prevention Strategy Action Plan

The Service Director Public Protection explained to Members that the report provides an update on the delivery of the RCT Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022 that was approved by Cabinet on the 18th December 2018.

The Service Director Public Protection highlighted that Members would recall the Draft Strategy was subject to scrutiny by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 6th December 2018.

Members were reminded that the objectives of the Strategy, are:

- **Objective 1.** Preventing homelessness and repeat homelessness from occurring, whenever possible, therefore reducing homelessness.
- **Objective 2.** Ensuring that appropriate support and accommodation including temporary and emergency accommodation is available to meet the needs of homeless and potentially homeless people.
- **Objective 3.** Ensuring people with housing support needs have these fully assessed and have access to services to maintain independent living.

The Officers explained that the Homeless Strategy has a 4 year delivery plan and Members were updated on where we are against the targets.

The Service Director concluded her report by explaining that the homeless review found that our existing services and prevention activity have helped deliver effective results in the face of increasing demands on the services. It is anticipated there will be further increasing demands on Housing Advice, Homelessness and Supporting people going forward.

With regards to the strategic objectives officers explained that the objectives will allow the Council to meet its statutory duties to homeless people and to prevent homelessness in accordance with Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and build on the good work already in progress.

The Chair thanked the Service Director Public Protection for a very comprehensive report and opened up the meeting for Members questions and observations.

A Member commented on lack of cooperation with outside bodies. He went on to say that trying to access rooms within new developments is a struggle.

In reply the Service Director Public Protection explained that there a range of different housing projects, and we are aiming to move away from emergency accommodation. The Director of Adults Services also explained that with the extra care facilities have temporary beds that accommodated housing rest bite.

Discussions continued and a Member asked if any change to residents on housing benefit and the impact of the Welfare benefit reform, which could cause resident to find themselves in financial difficulty and becoming homeless. It was explained that the local authority are working on early intervention and prevention to limit any effect.

Another Member asked for data on how many homeless people do we have at present in RCT. Officers explained that there are 150 live various cases.

Members commented on the latest flood issues within RCT, Officers explained how the service has responded to the immediate housing needs of flood victims and that we continue to have staff dedicated to supporting displaced households..

A Member commented on the application process for housing and felt that some people would not put themselves forward as on the application form for housing you have to give the landlords detail and many are reluctant to do so as they feel there could be a backlash from them. They were also concerned about any rent arrears being taken into account by the Council allocating social housing.

The Officer explained that when doing the eligibility check debt is not an automatic reason for refusal and understanding the individual circumstances enabling the service to put the right support in place.

Members discussed the report further and **RESOLVED:**

- Acknowledge the report
- To monitor the action plan going forward.

46 New Housing Models related to Housing First

The Supporting People and Housing Option Manager presented Members with an overview of Housing First Developments in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Members were provided with the principles of the “Housing First” Housing Model and update on the delivery of pilot Housing First projects in Rhondda Cynon Taf, along with outcomes achieved to date.

The Officer explained that Housing First is an evidence-based approach to successfully supporting homeless people with high needs and histories of entrenched or repeated homelessness to live in their own homes.

Members were presented with the principles of the Housing First philosophy, which is to provide a stable independent home, and intensive personalised support and case management to homeless people with multiple and complex needs. These were explained in detail within the report.

The Supporting People and Housing Option Manager highlighted to Members that in Rhondda Cynon Taf the Wisdom Project was set up in 2018 and was the first project in RCT to be developed based on the principles of Housing First. The need for the project was identified through recognition of high-risk individual leaving prison, who would otherwise have been faced with homelessness.

Members were provided with other housing first projects along with examples of the Assertive Outreach Project, Rapid Response Project and Housing First for young people (16-24).

Members found the report very encouraging and asked for clarification on a number of aspects of the schemes with regards to placing individuals with older residents in many complexes. It was explained that this is closely monitored. Members found the case studies the officer's referred to as very enlightening and look forward to seeing the project develop further.

After robust discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the information contained within the report and agreed to receive a progress report at a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

47 Chair's Review and Close

The Chair thanked the entire Committee, along with officers for their Reports and recapped on the outcomes of the meeting.

This meeting closed at 7.10 pm

**CLLR R. YEO
CHAIR.**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14th SEPTEMBER 2020

CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19 – ADULT SERVICES ELEMENTS - REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide members of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise, review and challenge the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the information received from the Director of Adult Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Consider the verbal update from the Director of Adult Services in relation to the Council's response to COVID-19, from an Adult Services prospective.
- 2.2 Acknowledge the contents of the information included and latest verbal information received and determine whether there are any areas in which Members would like to receive further information.
- 2.3 Subject to 2.1 and 2.2 above, request the Service Director Democratic Services and Communications to report any relevant and further information to the next Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Cabinet reports cited within this report, identify the critical actions taken by the Council since the COVID-19 restrictions were imposed by the UK and Welsh Governments and set out the future steps the Council will take in respect of service planning in the next recovery phase.

- 3.2 To support the committee's considerations of the Council's response, from an Adult Services perspective, and to consider the current plans that are in place to help and support the vulnerable Adult and families of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On the 23rd March 2020, and in response to measures implemented by the UK and Welsh Governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council's committee meetings were temporarily suspended.
- 4.2 Council decisions have continued to be made during this period in accordance with the Council's constitution. However, the Council's Scrutiny Committees have been unable to undertake their role as part of the Council's decision making processes during this time, until the necessary regulations were presented by the Welsh Government.
- 4.3 With the introduction of [the Local Authorities \(Coronavirus\) \(Meetings\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2020 in May](#) all local authorities in Wales have been provided with the opportunity to resume their committee processes.
- 4.4 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee met for the first time under these arrangements on 26th June 2020.
- 4.5 Taking an over-arching response to scrutiny in the immediate period, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, determined areas for scrutiny over the extended municipal year up to the Council's Annual General Meeting on 16th September 2020.
- 4.6 Thematic Scrutiny Committee are not being requested to consider or develop specific work programmes for this period. Future updates in respect of the Council's response to Covid will be presented to Members at future meetings of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

5. SCRUTINISING THE OF THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- 5.1 The Cabinet has been utilising video conferencing to engage with senior officers around the Council's response to the Coronavirus and the first formal virtual meeting of the Cabinet was held on [Thursday 21st May](#). At that meeting, the attached report was presented by the Chief Executive, outlining the Council's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic to date, and the future intentions to establish the recovery and resumption of services. Reports emanating from the recommendations agreed at this meeting, were considered by Cabinet on [Thursday 25th June](#). The Chief Executive also provided a detailed summary to members at the first virtual meeting of Council, held on [1st July 2020](#).
- 5.2 The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee has to-date taken a Council-wide approach to scrutiny, as the Council's over-arching scrutiny committee. The

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee is the next thematic scrutiny committee to take place under the new regulations virtually.

- 5.3 This Committee is being held to provide the opportunity for the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, to consider the service response of the Council to date. Importantly it provides the first opportunity for members to receive information in respect of these issues relating to the remit of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. **Members are asked to consider the reports attached and determine whether there are any issues on which they would like to receive further information or review in greater detail at a future meeting. It is not proposed, at this initial meeting, to facilitate detailed discussions around specific areas.**
- 5.4 Given the fast moving nature of these matters, it is important to acknowledge that information may need to be provided to Scrutiny in different formats, with a focus on a smaller range of issues relating predominantly to the Council's activity around COVID-19.
- 5.5 There will be further reports to Cabinet in the coming weeks which will outline how the Council continues to respond and prepare for the future. The Cabinet considered the Service Recovery Plans of the Council, at its meeting on the [28th July 2020](#). The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, determined at its first meeting, to scrutinise the details of these proposals at its meeting, which took place on [30th July 2020](#) and will continue to monitor progress at future meetings.
- 5.6 **It is important to acknowledge, in the current circumstances, that facilitating the opportunity for Senior Officers to provide up-to-date information directly at the committee meeting provides the most effective way for Scrutiny to be engaged in these matters.** In doing so, the opportunity will continue to be afforded for Scrutiny to be updated with the latest developments as they unfold, providing greater scope to engage in these matters and request information and additional reporting as deemed appropriate by Committee Members.
- 5.7 This Scrutiny committee will receive the latest information and evidence from Director of Adult Services at this meeting.
- 5.8 As part of the review of these matters, it is proposed to receive information and evidence from the Cabinet Members where appropriate.
- 5.9 To support the smooth conduct of this virtual scrutiny meeting, members are encouraged to seek clarification on specific matters, particularly of a ward nature, outside of the meeting, if these questions do not relate to recommendations set out for Member's considerations.

6. SUPPORTING PAPERS & INFORMATION

- 6.1 As general information for the committee, the following reports have been considered by the Cabinet:

- Cabinet report titled: [“Update on COVID 19 Position in Rhondda Cynon Taf”](#) considered on the 21st May 2020.
- Cabinet Reports considered on 25th June:
 - [‘Council Infrastructure Projects – Supporting the Local economy during CORONAVIRUS’](#)
 - [‘Safer Places – Social Distancing in town centres and public spaces during Coronavirus’](#)
 - [‘Safer buildings social distancing and other safety measure in Council Offices, schools and other public buildings as lockdown is lifted.’](#)
 - [‘The Financial Implications of COVID-19.’](#)
- Urgent Cabinet Member Decision – Child Care & Summer Activities (<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/DelegatedDecisions/RelatedDocuments/Decisions/2019to2020/ChildcareandSummerActivityProgramme2020.pdf>)
- Cabinet Reports considered on the 26th July 2020:
 - [Update on the Covid 19 Position in RCT – Recovery Plan](#)
 - [The Council Corporate Safe guarding Arrangements](#)
 - [The Council Performance Report -31st March 2020\(Year End\)](#)

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Engagement has been undertaken with Director for Adult Services in respect of the contents of this report.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not currently required - the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

11. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 11.1 This is an information report presenting the Cabinet report which outlines how the Council is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. CONCLUSION

- 12.1 Whilst it is proposed that Scrutiny is presented with a regular package of information identifying the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (pressure points on Council services relating to COVID-19, along with the business of reinstating some services and the recovery and service planning process), Members are asked to acknowledge the fast-moving nature of this situation, which has necessitated the need to provide up-to-date information as part of the meeting, to effectively allow Scrutiny to consider these matters.

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

7TH SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &

COMMUNICATION