



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022-23

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28TH NOVEMBER 2022

CHILDREN'S SERVICES RESIDENTIAL TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To pre-scrutinise the children's services plans for developing residential care services in line with the Council's duties, and in the context of the Welsh Government Policy ambition to remove profit from the provision of care for looked after young people.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Members undertake pre scrutiny on the report (attached at **Appendix A & B**), thus providing Scrutiny with an opportunity to contribute to this matter; and
- 2.2 The comments of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee form part of the reported feedback to Cabinet.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need for Cabinet to be aware of the comments and observations of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee prior to their consideration of the Children's Services Residential Transformation Strategy.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2022 Welsh Government began to implement a policy to eliminate private profit making from the provision of care. There is consequently an urgent imperative on all local authorities to plan for this transformation ahead of 1st April 2027 when it is proposed that all providers will have transitioned to a not for profit status.
- 4.2 Children's Services has taken a sector-leading needs-led approach to the identification of the types of residential provision that will be required to meet the needs of children and in the future.
- 4.3 The vision for this strategy is that by 1st April 2027, all RCT young people who need residential care are looked after close to home in high quality settings where they can thrive, and that they are looked after by a stable, resilient, skillful and well supported staff group.
- 4.4 Members of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee are being provided with the opportunity to undertake pre scrutiny on the Children's Services Residential Transformation Strategy in advance of Cabinet's consideration.

5.0 PRE SCRUTINY

- 5.1 Members are reminded that the purpose of pre scrutiny activity is to influence the decisions before they are made. The Community Services Scrutiny Committee continues to have the opportunity to explore and comment on a number of reports in advance of Cabinet's consideration to bring a different perspective to the decisions made and enabling Cabinet decisions to be more informed.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The involvement of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in the pre-scrutiny exercise will contribute to the quality and robustness of Cabinet decision-making.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules).

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The undertaking of pre scrutiny by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Children's Services Residential Transformation Strategy, will ensure that the Community Services Scrutiny Committee fully evaluates the effectiveness of its overview and scrutiny function.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS:

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