



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11th March 2024

BI-ANNUAL CABINET MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To scrutinise any arising matters with the portfolio holder responsible for Health and Social Care and to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to effectively scrutinise the Executive.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in respect of matters considered and agreed by Cabinet, and any key decisions taken, during the period 11 May 2023 – 11th March 2024; and,
- 2.2 Identify any areas arising from those matters determined within this period which Committee wish to further scrutinise, as part of revisions to the committees published work programme, in relation to Health and Social Care.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide the Community Services Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge the Cabinet in respect of the decisions taken in the defined decision-making period.
- 3.2 The recommendations seek to provide a structure to these sessions, to enable discussion and challenge to be focused upon a defined period and those individual decisions taken.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As part of this Council's ongoing commitment to improve the function of Scrutiny as a critical friend of the Council, this item is being brought before the Community Services Scrutiny Committee as part of Cabinet and Scrutiny engagement.
- 4.2 Such an approach will provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to further challenge the Executive, as the Cabinet Member can provide details relating to the investments being taken forward within the portfolio and the challenges faced by the Council.

5. SCRUTINY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER

- 5.1 The role that the Community Services Scrutiny Committee can play in holding the Council's decision-makers to account makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy. Scrutinising the Executive serves an important purpose in ensuring that decision makers of the Council are held accountable for their actions and decisions.
- 5.2 By Scrutinising the Cabinet Member Health and Social Care, the public can gain a better understanding of their decision-making process and hold them accountable, which will promote openness and transparency within the Council. It will also ensure that those in Leadership positions are acting in the best interests of their constituents.
- 5.3 Scrutiny can also identify areas for improvement and drive positive changes, strengthening our governance arrangements. Effective scrutiny helps secure the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the authority itself. Conversely, poor scrutiny can be indicative of wider governance, leadership and service failure.
- 5.4 Under the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee, Members have the opportunity to scrutinise and challenge areas that fall under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care. The main responsibility areas of the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care cover the following areas:
- Adult Social Care (including Residential, in-house & external)
 - Care management Mental Health
 - Care management Learning Disabilities
 - Day Care Services
 - Adult & Children's Safeguarding
 - Children's Services
 - Foster Care & Adoption
 - Family Support services
 - Corporate Parenting Lead
 - Resilient Families

5.5 Scrutiny in various forms is essential to ensuring accountability, transparency and fairness and ensures that political decisions are taken in the best interests of our residents.

5.6 **Decisions taken forward by the Portfolio holder during the period 11 May 2023 – 11 March 2024**

The decisions can be found by clicking on the following links below:-

Learning Disability Day Services Offer - November 2023

[Decision - Learning Disability Day Services Offer - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Future Commissioning of the Council's Supported Living Service for People with a Learning Disability – October 2023

[Decision - Learning Disability Day Services Offer - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Discussed at Community Services Scrutiny Committee meeting – Monday 24th April 2023

Social Services Annual Complaints and Compliments Report – October 2023

[Decision - Social Services Representations, Compliments and Complaints Procedures Annual Report 2022/23 - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Discussed at Community Services Scrutiny Committee meeting – Monday 25th September 2023

Domiciliary Care Services – October 2023

[Decision - Future Commissioning of Domiciliary Home Care - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Director Social Services Annual Report – November 2023

[Decision - Director of Social Services Annual Report 2022 / 2023 - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Discussed at Community Services Scrutiny Committee meeting – Monday 25th September 2023

Day Services for Older People – December 2023

[Decision – Day Services for Older People – Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Discussed at Community Services Scrutiny Committee meeting – Monday 21st November 2023

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2022-23 – October 2023

[Decision - Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2022-2023](#)

Exempt Decisions

'Operating without Registration (OWR) settings

[Decision - Update in relation to the Children Looked After: Residential Care Strategy 2022-2027](#)

This item was exempt due to it containing exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 14 and 18 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended). If Members have any queries in respect of this item, they should contact the Cabinet Member outside of the meeting.

- 5.7 Questions should be focussed in respect of the above decisions taken by the Cabinet Member, to enable effective scrutiny of those decisions by committee members.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY

- 6.1 None arising as a direct result of this report.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

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

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

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

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 To provide the Community Services Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to scrutinise, challenge and make recommendations for policy improvement under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11th MARCH 2024

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COMMUNICATIONS**