

Minutes



Performance Scrutiny Committee - People

Date: 5 June 2018

Time: 10.00 am

Present: Councillors D Williams (Chair), J Guy, T Holyoake, H Thomas, K Thomas, C Townsend, J Watkins and T Watkins

In Attendance: D Cooke (Scrutiny Advisor)

Apologies: Councillors J Cleverly and L Lacey
R Penn (Church in Wales)

1 **Declarations of Interest**

None

2 **Minutes of the Meeting held on the 10 April 2018**

The minutes were **approved** as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on the 10 April 2018, subject to the amendment of 'Friendly Me' to read 'Ffrindi Mi' relating to the befriending service as outlined in last bullet point on page 7.

The Committee requested the following information:-

- Can they have more information about increase in rates of exclusion?
- The Cabinet Member stated an experienced temp had been working in the team however was unable to join permanently. Has a permanent Occupational Therapist person been employed?

3 **Draft Annual Forward Programme**

The Scrutiny Advisor introduced the Draft Annual Work Programme to the Committee and informed the Committee on each of the different items.

The Advisor explained to the Committee that the Annual Forward Work Programme was still currently in draft form and any of the topics could be removed or moved, and if new topics were identified then they could be added at any time through the year. The Committee understood the flexibility of the Annual Forward Work Programme and would discuss each topic and agree the final work programme at the end of the meeting.

The Advisor explained that there would be a change to how service areas would be reporting on performance in the new financial year. Service Plans would be reintroduced at the Mid-Year and Year End point, with each service area having its own dedicated meeting. The Advisor explained that the Adult & Community Services' performance updates and Children and Young Peoples' performance updates would be presented in the Service Plan for Social

Services in December. Educations' Performance Updates would be presented in the Service Plan for Education in November. Additional information that would be included in the service plans includes information relating to Budget Monitoring, Wellbeing Goals and Improvement Plan updates, as well as Corporate Plan commitments.

The Committee agreed that scrutinising large amounts of information from the entire People directorate in a single meeting was difficult, time consuming and ineffective. The Advisor informed the Committee that by dedicating a meeting to a service area there should be more time to hold the Cabinet Member and Officers to account. The approach the Committee took in scrutinising the Service Plans would have had to have been set out in the pre meeting, as the Committee would have had more information allowing them to dive deeper into the performance.

The second item presented to the Committee was Performance Analysis (All Wales Comparative Data). The Advisor set out the purpose of the report and how it would of provided the Committee with an overall picture of the Council's performance against other LAs in Wales. The Committee believed it was important to see how Newport compared to other LAs in Wales.

The third item on the Draft Annual Forward Work Programme was the Cabinet Draft Budget Proposals. The Advisor informed the Committee that this would have been the same as the previous year. The Committee would receive directorate specific proposals in January 2019 for the 2019/20 Budget. The Members acknowledged the importance of receiving the draft Budget proposals and accepted their place in the forward work programme.

The inclusion of the Recommendations Monitoring on the Implementation of 2018-19 Cabinet Budget Proposals had been requested by the all of the Scrutiny Committees in the previous year. The Advisor explained that each Head of Service would provide a report on how the Committee recommendations had been implemented. The Committee were also informed that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee would receive a report from the Heads of Finance and People and Business Change in response to the recommendations related to the Budget setting process and public engagement. The Chairs of People and Place and Corporate had been invited to represent the other Committees.

The Out of County Placement report, an Education & Social Services joint endeavour, was submitted by Strategic Director - People. Members discussed the importance of the out of county placements and agreed with the Strategic Director that the Committee should receive a Briefing for information and the report later in the year. The Briefing had been arranged for September and the Committee would receive the report in the New Year. The Members of the Committee agreed that the issues surrounding out of county placements were important and an area that they would be better placed to scrutinise if they received a briefing prior to the meeting.

The Advisor drew the Committees attention to the table of Information Reports and explained each one and the reason for its inclusion, if the reports differed from the previous year. Adult & Community, Children and Young People, and Education's Service Plans would be provided to the Committee for information in the autumn, prior to the Scrutiny meetings.

The Committee requested information on quality of care provisions in Newport and as a result the Quality of Care report will be sent out to the Committee for information when available. The Members queried if the report had included private sector companies and asked for feedback on the matter.

The CIW Inspection Report would be included with the performance report throughout the year. The reports that came last year from EAS, including; Education & Pupil Performance, School Attendance, Special Educational Needs & Performance, Exclusions Monitoring, Key Stage 4/5 Pupil Performance Data and National Categorisation of Schools were being issued

as information reports, but the Chair requested that a representative from EAS is made available to answer questions and explain performance if the Members requested.

The Regional Young Offending Partnership information report would be provided to the Committee as soon as it was made available. The Scrutiny Advisor made the Committee aware that there would be a risk of duplication from having the information report and a Briefing on the topic. The Committee were happy to receive the information report first, and request further information and/or a meeting if they felt it was required.

The Committee accepted the Information Reports.

The Committee agreed that the Review of Schools in Red and Special Measures Briefing would be held at 10 am on 17th July 2018.

Another of the Committees requested topics was the Transition from Children's to Adult's Social Services. The Members were advised that the Briefing would be arranged in the New Year, the Committee agreed that allowing the Heads of Service to coordinate and jointly produce the briefing would be important in achieving the highest quality briefing.

S33 Pooled Budget Briefing would be jointly held with PSC –Partnerships due to the overlapping nature of the topic. The Advisor explained that this Briefing was a direct result of the Committee requesting more information on the Gwent Frailty Scheme.

The Committee were informed of Performance Management and Budget Analysis training from the Performance Management and Finance teams. The training would be delivered in October ensuring the Members were ready for the first round of Service plan scrutiny in November.

The Committee agreed the list of Briefings and the Advisor confirmed some Briefing dates, informing the Committee that the rest would be scheduled at a later date:-

- 4th September 2018
- 18th September 2018
- 13th November 2018
- 11th December 2018

The Scrutiny Advisor brought the Committee's attention to the table which outlined the dates for the meetings, the Advisor explained that there were no meetings held on school holidays to reflect the wishes of the Committee. The Members agreed the above meeting dates and start times of 10am. It was then agreed to start the Briefings at 4pm.

The pre-meeting on the 10th July will start at 9am with the meeting following at 9.30am.

The meeting terminated at 12.45 pm