

THE CABINET 25/04/17

Present-

Councillors: Dyfed Wyn Edwards, Dyfrig L. Siencyn, Peredur Jenkins, John Wynn Jones, Dafydd Meurig, W. Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas and Mandy Williams-Davies

Also present- Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Dafydd L. Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Services)

Item 6: Rachel Jones (Gwynedd and Anglesey Childcare Strategic Officer)

Also present:

1. APOLOGIES

Cabinet Members and Officers were welcomed to the meeting.

No apologies to report.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

The Chief Executive declared a personal interest in item 6 on the agenda, because his wife worked for a provider that could be affected by the implementation of the action plan. The officer was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest and he left the Chamber during the discussion on the item.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no matters arising from overview and scrutiny.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

The Chairman signed the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 28 March 2017, as a true record.

6. CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESMENT 2017-2022

RESOLVED

- To approve the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017-2022 for submission to Welsh Government.
- To use existing resources and funding to address the gaps highlighted in the Assessment, and develop additional childcare where necessary, in accordance with the action plan.

DISCUSSION

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017-2022 was presented and it was noted that the Assessment needed to be submitted to Welsh Government by 30 April. It was noted that existing resources and funding would be used to address the gaps highlighted, in accordance with the Action Plan.

The Childcare Act 2006 (Local Authority Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2016 required Local Authorities to prepare assessments of the sufficiency of the childcare provision in their area and for these to be reviewed regularly. It was noted that an Action Plan identified gaps within the assessment and a procedure was in place within the Childcare Statutory Guidance.

Observations from the discussion

- It was enquired how the 30 hours of Childcare Scheme would work alongside this project. Rachel Jones noted that she had written the assessment and worked with the 30 hour childcare scheme, and consequently, both projects would tie-in together.
- It was noted that not much had been noted in the Milestones column in the Action Plan within the Assessment, therefore, a question was asked about who had the responsibility of ensuring that the milestones were realised. It was emphasised that there would be milestones for each action and that a Childcare Strategic Board would be established jointly between Gwynedd and Anglesey.
- A question was asked regarding why the number of responses to the parent questionnaire had been so low - Rachel Jones noted that the Government had reconciled the assessment and questionnaire across Wales and she noted that the number of responses had been low across Wales as a result. Rachel also highlighted the fact that she had created a short local questionnaire herself in order to obtain more information from parents.
- It was noted that grants accompanied the Assessment; however, grants tended to come to an end and where would the service be left if this would be the case. It was emphasised that this could be seen across all departments and that the department would prioritise and look at their services.
- In relation to the Welsh language, it was asked whether the plan and childcare available were in accordance with the education department's language policy. It was highlighted that the phrasing used in the

questionnaire classed provisions that operated through the medium of Welsh, but completed their paperwork through the medium of English, as bilingual provisions; despite the fact that the provision for the children was Welsh-medium. It was emphasised that the questionnaire followed Welsh Government's terminology and it was noted that there was a need to confirm that the provision was available through the medium of Welsh.

- It was noted that discussions were currently underway to develop an inter-generation care plan with Bangor University so that childcare and older people care could be brought together; it was noted that the department hoped that there would be a relationship between this plan and the assessment.

Before bringing the meeting to a close, the Council Leader thanked Council officers for their support during his term as Council Leader.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.30 pm

CHAIRMAN