

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

Minutes (SJR(2)-12-06)

Meeting date: Thursday 21 September 2006

Meeting time: 9.30am – 12.25pm

Meeting venue: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Janice Gregory (Chair)	Ogmore
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Edwina Hart (Minister)	Gower
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Laura Ann Jones	South Wales East
Huw Lewis	Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney
Leanne Wood	South Wales Central

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Emyr Roberts	Director – Social Justice & Regeneration Department
Linda Whittaker	Director of Housing
Jo Jordan	Director of Community Safety Unit
Anne Stephenson	Director of Communities Directorate
Karen Eveleigh	Substance Misuse Treatment Services
Geoff Marlow	Housing Department

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing (if applicable)	Agenda item(s)
Richard Collins	Legal Services Commission	7
Paul Davies	Legal Services Commission	7
Tom Jones	Legal Services Commission	7

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Virginia Hawkins	Committee Clerk
Claire Griffiths	Deputy Committee Clerk

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, and Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

1.2 Apologies were received from Sandy Mewies. There were no declarations of interest

1.3 A verbatim record of the meeting is available

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting

Paper: SJR(2)-12-06 (min)

The Committee ratified the minutes from the meeting on 6 July 2006.

Item 3: Minister's Report

Paper: SJR(2)-12-06(p.1) Annexes A, B, C, D, 1

Actions

The Minister agreed to send a note to Members on the oral updates she had given in Committee on 21 September

The Minister agreed to obtain and circulate the costs incurred by the four Welsh Police Forces as part of the proposed mergers process and also provide an update on where the forces were in relation to their request for the money to be repaid by the Home Office

The Minister agreed to report back to Committee on the findings of the consultation on the Fire and Rescue Service Risk Reduction Plans

The Minister agree to update Committee regularly on the Supporting People Grant, particularly formula arrangements

Through discussions with NOMS, the Minister agreed to take up the matter of the lack of funding for sex offender and domestic abuse perpetrator programmes in prisons and report back to Committee

The Minister agreed to make enquiries about the number of unaccompanied asylum seeker children in Wales and report back

The Minister agreed to send a note to Committee on the budgetary issues of the HEES Scheme

The Minister agreed to seek clarification on the legal status and content (language, community information) originally scheduled for inclusion in the Home Information Packs and report back

The Minister agreed to explore if further research may be undertaken into excess winter deaths

The Minister agreed to circulate her keynote speech on "The need for housing" schedule for the Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru's Conference on 24 October

The Minister agreed to keep Committee updated on issues relating to Prescoed Prison

The Minister agreed to share the Rural Homelessness Research with Committee when available

The Minister agreed to share the Social Housing Cycle Research with Committee

Item 4: Annual Report on Substance Misuse

Paper: SJR(2)-12-06(p.2) Annex (Appendices)

The paper was noted

Action

The Minister agreed to provide the 2006/07 figures on drug and alcohol services expenditure in the substance misuse action fund when available

The Minister agreed to check that happened to the data relating to positive drug testing in the "Drug Testing on Charge Areas" where the individuals testing positive were not subsequently convicted of an offence

The Minister agreed to explore where Therapy Services were in place as a preventative measure for substance misuse and report back

Item 5: Secondary Legislation

Paper: SJR(2)-12-06(p.3) Annex 1, 2

The paper was noted

Item 6: All Wales Youth Offending Strategy

Paper: SJR(2)-12-06(p.6) Annex A, B

The paper was noted

Action

The Minister agreed to share with Committee the evaluation of the pilot schemes under the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy when available

Item 7: Legal Services Commission

Paper: SJR(2)-12-06(p.5)

The Chair welcomed Richard Collins, Director of Policy, Tom Jones, Commissioner for Wales and Paul Davies, Wales Director of the Legal Services Commission to Committee and invited them to make their presentation on the structural changes being undertaken within the Legal Services Commission.

Item 8: Policy Review: Youth Homelessness

Paper: SJR(2)-12-06(p.6) Annex

Members agreed to undertake a review into youth homelessness and would discuss the specific area (s) with the Clerk during the week of 25 September

Paper to note: European Legislation

Paper: SJR(2)-12-06(p.7) Annex

The paper was noted