



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Ackerman - Chair

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, Mrs A. Blackman, D.G. Carter, M. Evans, Ms J. Gale, C.J. Gordon, G.J. Hughes, Miss L. Jones, A. Lewis, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees.

Cabinet Members: Councillors N. George and R. Woodyatt

Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director Adult Services), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), M. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), B. Manners (Solicitor), J. Morgan (Solicitor) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer)

Also Present -

Users and Carers – Mr C. Luke and Mrs J.M. Morgan

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – G. Radcliffe (Midwifery Manager) and J. Evans, (Senior Public Health Practitioner)

1. **BEREAVEMENT – COUNCILLOR MRS G. BEVAN**

The Chair referred to the recent death of Councillor Gina Bevan. Members and Officers stood in silence as a mark of respect and extended their condolences to the bereaved family.

2. **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed Councillor Lisa Jones to her first meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and all members of the Committee introduced themselves.

3. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs P. Cook (Vice Chair), L. Gardiner and S. Skivens.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

5. MINUTES — 8TH SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that subject to it being noted that the request for slides in relation to Hospital Beds had been discussed at the previous two meetings and had not been received, the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 8th September 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 12) be approved and signed as a correct record.

6. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALL-IN PROCEDURE

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

7. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBERS

The Scrutiny Committee received verbal reports from Councillor R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services) and Councillor N. George (Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services).

Councillor Woodyatt informed Members that two presentations would be given by the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), in relation to 'Still Births and Cot Deaths' and 'Fit for Future Generations' that had been requested at a previous Scrutiny meeting.

Members were informed that the financial position of the Directorate at month 5, will be provided by officers and that the position remains positive.

A Scrutiny Meeting has been arranged for the 1st December 2015, where the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) staff will be in attendance to give their annual evaluation of the progress of the Social Services Directorate. In addition the Chief Executive and Executive members of the ABUHB will attend the meeting as a follow up to the session held earlier this year.

The Cabinet Member reminded the Scrutiny Committee that a Special Scrutiny Meeting in relation to the Directorates' proposals for its Medium Term Financial Plan for 2016/17 has been arranged on Monday 23rd November 2015 and requested members make every effort to attend this extremely important meeting.

Following the report from Councillor Woodyatt, the Scrutiny Committee received a report from Councillor George.

Members were informed that the National School Meals Week will be celebrated during the week commencing 2nd of November 2015. Caerphilly catering school meals services will be celebrating the event by running a themed Bonfire night menu throughout all its kitchens. Kate Davies, Cook in Charge of St Gwladys Primary and the reigning National School Chef of the Year, will be given the opportunity to work across various kitchens and outlets including the Houses of Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales. This will showcase the quality of the modern school meal.

Caerphilly Trading Standards Officers joined forces with colleagues in other Local Authorities and Gwent Police in a crack-down on rogue trading and door step crime. During the National Week of Action (28th September to 2nd October 2015) 28 vehicles were stopped and checked, 3 people were arrested on suspicion of theft, 3 vehicles were seized, and 2 people were arrested on suspicion of Trading Standards offences.

Councillor George informed Members that Public Protection regularly work in partnership with Gwent Police and other agencies to police the night time economy and deal with problem licensed premises. At 2 recent hearings of Caerphilly's Licensing Sub-Committee, premises licences were revoked from premises that had been targeted during special joint operations in response to major concerns about how the premises were run and breaches of legislation and licence conditions.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to confirm that the Community Safety Partnership Team has successfully implemented new Public Space Protection Orders for the Local Authority bus stations and shelters. The Orders came into force on the 12th October 2015, following extensive consultation, to alleviate problems being experienced by the travelling public. The provision will be jointly enforced by Community Safety Wardens and Gwent Police. The Community Safety Team has secured the first Anti-social Behaviour Injunction in the Civil Court in Gwent, with a power of arrest attached. A report will be produced at the next meeting to consider the introduction of new Public Space Protection Orders in relation to dog control.

In closing, Councillor George advised that the Chief Medical Officer for Wales issued her Annual Report earlier this month in which she highlights the opportunity of linking the public health system across the NHS and local government as well as the challenge of ensuring sustainable environmental health services.

The Committee thanked both Cabinet Members for their informative reports.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

8. PRESENTATION: COT DEATHS AND STILL BIRTHS

The Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from G. Ratcliffe, Midwifery Manager, ABUHB on the Perinatal Study undertaken within the Caerphilly Borough and the ABUHB, dating back to 1995.

With the aid of a slide presentation, G. Ratcliffe gave an overview of the causes of perinatal deaths as of 2015 and the factors considered such as the age of the mother, ethnicity, ante natal care, obstetric history, consanguinity, BMI, smoking, alcohol, substances, gestational age and multiple births. Reference was made to the causation of still births in relation to the all Wales Perinatal Report. Statistics of still births and neonatal deaths were compared at both local and national levels.

Members were advised of the Welsh Initiatives and that ABUHB work closely with the Welsh Government. The Board are required to provide maternal indicators on a six monthly basis. A new health of Health Care Workers (Healthy Baby Advisors) has been appointed to work directly with mothers offering advice in relation to issues such as BMI, smoking, alcohol and substance misuse.

G. Ratcliffe responded to a number of questions raised that were highlighted in the presentation in relation to smoking, mental health and the reason why pregnancy care is started within ABUHB (Royal Gwent and Neville Hall Hospital's) and then transfers to Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr Tydfil.

Members thanked G. Ratcliffe for her presentation and for responding to the questions raised.

9. PRESENTATION: FIT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS – A CHILDHOOD OBESITY STRATEGY FOR GWENT TO 2025

The Scrutiny Committee received a presentation from J. Evans, Senior Public Health Practitioner, in relation to childhood obesity.

With the aid of a slide presentation, J. Evans informed members of the current and anticipated obesity levels in relation to children and adults and stated that obesity is a significant risk factor in Wales. The level of overweight and obesity amongst boys and teenage girls is higher in Wales than the rest of the UK and most other European countries.

She advised that the draft childhood obesity strategy and action plan (as appended to the report) presents a vision of healthier, fitter future generations – where obesity will not be harming children and limiting the wellbeing of future generations in Gwent as it is today. It outlines the important and wide ranging benefits to people, communities and public services from effective and coordinated action on childhood obesity.

The Strategy makes the case that childhood obesity should be included as a priority wellbeing objective, for both Public Service Boards and Organisations because of its relevance to the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the significant harm childhood obesity causes right across the wellbeing goals.

Members were advised of the All Wales Obesity Pathway (Welsh Government) which sets out the action that should be happening on obesity on four different levels. Childhood obesity impacts on children in the short term but also harms life chances in the longer term, particularly as most obese children remain obese into adulthood. Childhood obesity can result in a range of physical and mental health issues, some of which until recently were only seen in adults. In addition to the health impact, childhood obesity can also impact of education, equality, prosperity, productivity and social inclusion.

J. Evans advised that the key areas for action are to disrupt obesogenic social norms, support a healthy start to life, coordinate and improve the efforts in early years and schools settings, influence healthy food choices in communities, encourage active recreation and play for families, create active and safe communities and provide community and healthcare based weight management interventions for families who need them.

Clarification was sought in relation to the financial implications of the strategy and members were advised that there are no financial implications at this stage. This strategy is not recommending new actions requiring investment. The focus is predominantly about the reorientation of existing activity but in line with the evidence aligning local authority corporate plans and local service board single integrated plan actions and as such, most of the actions in the accompanying action plan are low cost or no-cost.

A Member raised a query regarding legislation and the potential for placing taxes on sugared drinks and the psychological aspect in relation to eating as this for some is regarded as an addiction. Another Member asked about the role of domestic science in preventing obesity. J. Evans confirmed that the causes of obesity are wide ranging and complex and that action to increase knowledge and skills around healthy eating feature in the evidence based actions that support the strategy but there is no one solution and that all factors contained in the presentation should be considered as part of effective and coordinated action. This strategy is about reducing inequalities caused by childhood obesity. Implemented as directed it is predicted to have significant positive impact on child health and wellbeing and deprivation-linked health inequalities.

J. Evans was thanked for her informative presentation and for answering the questions raised by Members.

Members noted the draft strategy "*Fit for Future Generations – a Childhood Obesity Strategy for Gwent to 2025*" as appended to the report and supported the internal structure/process as detailed within the report to provide accountability for planning and delivery of relevant actions, as well as providing scrutiny of core business for impact or synergy on childhood obesity.

10. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 5)

M. Jones, Interim Financial Services Manager, provided an overview of the report, which informed Members of the projected revenue expenditure for the Social Services Directorate 2015/16 financial year.

The Officer summarised the projected financial position based on information available as at month 5 (August 2015) with a projected Directorate underspend of £324k. Children's Services is projected to underspend by £286k, Adult Services is projected to underspend by £48k and Service Strategy and Business Support, currently projected to overspend by £10k.

The report also identifies the progress that has been made towards delivering the targeted savings that have not yet been achieved.

Clarification was sought in relation to vacant posts as detailed in paragraphs 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 of the report and Members were advised that in response to the anticipated reductions in Welsh Government funding over the forthcoming financial years, a prudent approach to vacancy management has been adopted. A number of vacant posts have now been withheld for the remainder of the current financial year pending consultation in respect of the 2016/17 corporate budget strategy. This has not affected the services provided.

A Member queried para 4.5.5. of the report and the underspend relating to aids and adaptations and the Officer advised that the underspend does not only relate to equipment it also includes minor works and that particular line is currently projected to come in fully spend.

Information was requested regarding savings made from the meals on wheels service and although there were no figures available, the Officer was able to confirm that numbers have declined however this cannot be totally attributed to the increase in cost.

The Director informed Members that the demand for services increases over the winter months and that the Department is facing difficult challenges as further funding reductions in 2016/17, are anticipated.

Members thanked the Officers for the report and noted its content.

11. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2014/15

D. Street informed the Members of the final position for 2014/15 of the performance management figures for both adult services and children's services and gave an overview of forthcoming changes to the way that performance in social care will be managed from April 2016 in line with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.

Members were reminded of the previous reports/presentations that social services and public protection have provided on a range of performance indicators. Some of these indicators are national indicators determined by Welsh Government while others are local indicators that have been created by senior managers to oversee areas not covered by the national indicators. The report provides the end of year position in terms of performance information for 2014/15 as well as the performance for the first quarter of 2015/16.

In April 2016 the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act will come into force. The Act will bring with it a change in emphasis in the way in which Social Services Performance is

managed. There will now be a much bigger focus on outcomes for service users and a move from quantitative indicators to qualitative indicators which can best be described as measuring how well the Department work with people as opposed to how quickly services are provided. It was explained that this will be achieved by consultation with service users and Mr Luke advised that the voluntary sector would assist in this process as required

There was a discussion regarding the number of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling and the general approach to dog fouling enforcement. A specific query was raised in relation to dog fouling and the use of private contractors by other certain Local Authorities to enforce fixed penalty notices. Mr Hartshorn advised that there is an effective and proactive Enforcement Team and a range of awareness raising activities delivered. There has been a reduction in the number of fixed penalty notices issued but Officers will issue a fixed penalty notice whenever a relevant offence is witnessed.

Members noted the detailed performance data for 2014/15 as well as the performance for the first quarter of 2015/16 as detailed in the report.

12. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA

Councillor A. Rees requested a report on the use of private contractors for issuing dog fouling notices.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following item was received and noted without discussion.

1. Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling and Littering.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2015.

CHAIR