



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 3RD MAY 2016 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs P. Cook - Vice Chair (Presiding)

Councillors:

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

Cabinet Member: Councillor R. Woodyatt.

Together with:

G. Jenkins (Assistant Director Children's Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director Adult Services), M. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), M. Topping (Supporting People Manager), B. Manners (Solicitor), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Users and Carers – Mrs M. Veater.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors L. Ackerman (Chair), J. Bevan, L. Gardiner, N. George (Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services), S. Skivens, D. Street (Corporate Director of Social Services), and Mrs J.M. Morgan (User and Carer).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There had been no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 22ND MARCH 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd March 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 11) be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. 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.

5. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER

The Scrutiny Committee received a verbal report from Councillor R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services). He informed the committee that it has been business as usual for the Directorate since the implementation of the Social Services and Well Being Act (6th April). It was explained that the Information, Advice and Assistance Team has been involved in a training pilot focussed on engaging people in 'meaningful conversations' which is one of the core principles underpinning the Act and is aimed at helping people to help themselves. Credit was given to the Directorate as Caerphilly was invited to pilot this training which will now be rolled out across Wales.

Members were advised that the Development of an Intensive Therapeutic Fostering Service in Caerphilly Report presented at the last meeting was subsequently endorsed by Cabinet.

The Chair thanked Councillor Woodyatt for his report.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Mrs Catherine Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services) introduced the report that informed the Committee of its draft forward work programme including all reports that were identified at the work programme workshop on 22nd March 2016 planned for the period June 2016 to April 2017.

Members were asked to consider the work programme and to make any amendments or additional agenda items to be included for future meetings.

A Member requested an updated report on the progress made with the recently combined Information, Advice and Assistance Team. Due to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act that was implemented in April 2016 it was considered appropriate to allow an opportunity for the Act to 'bed in' prior to providing an update in terms of progress made.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to the inclusion of an item in relation to the Information, Advice and Assistance Team being included on the work programme for the 25th October 2016 the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of an item in relation the Information, Advice and Assistance Team for the 25th October 2016, the work programme appended to the report be approved.

7. GWENT FRAILTY PROGRAMME - REVISED SECTION 33 AGREEMENT

Mr Mike Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager) presented the report that informed members of the revisions to the Section 33 (Health Act 1999) Partnership Agreement (appended to the report) between Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the five local authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen that was approved by Cabinet on the 30th March 2016.

It was explained that the Gwent Frailty Programme is a transformational programme and its aim is to provide services to frail people across the area in a way that is person centred and focused on the needs of individuals, rather than organisations. It is regarded by the Welsh Government (WG) as one of Wales' iconic projects, and has been backed by repayable 'Invest to Save' funding of £6.3 million from WG.

A Member queried the current terms and conditions of the contract and it was confirmed that the current agreement is open ended and will remain in force until three months written notice to withdraw is received from one of the partners.

Clarification was sought in relation to the introduction of the new Frailty Director and it was confirmed that the post is fixed term for 18 months and was established following a recommendation of the independent review undertaken in 2014 in respect of the Gwent Frailty Programme. The post is jointly funded by each of the partners.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the revised Section 33 Agreement as appended to the report be noted.

8. THE PROVISION OF FLOATING SUPPORT TO BED AND BREAKFAST ESTABLISHMENTS

Mr Malcolm Topping (Supporting People Manager) introduced the report and informed Members that an earlier report in relation to bed and breakfast establishments had been presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on 22nd October 2015. At that meeting it was proposed that a further report regarding the support for homeless clients whilst in bed and breakfast accommodation be presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for information.

Members were advised that the number of individuals currently being placed by the Local Authority in bed and breakfast placements has reduced significantly over the past six months, principally, due to the implementation of the Housing Act 2014.

An overview was provided in terms of the current accommodation and supported housing schemes available across the borough. Reference was made to the floating support service that the Local Authority has commissioned provided by the housing

support agency 'The Wallich'. The agency work closely with the Council's Emergency Housing Team, Housing Advice Centre, Probation and other support agencies and Landlords to ensure that risk is minimised and that a client's stay in a bed and breakfast is properly managed, so that they can successfully move into a more permanent tenancy when it becomes available.

Clarification was sought in relation to the planned accommodation in Rhymney and how this will be managed. It was confirmed that an open evening was held with local residents three months ago and assurances have been given that there will be two members of staff on duty 24 hours a day 7 days a week and that CCTV will be installed outside the main entrance.

It was explained that having been assessed the majority of people that come into refuge are entitled to claim Housing Benefits. Most individuals are required to contribute towards the service charge in particular, however, those who work could be liable to pay several hundreds of pounds per week for the accommodation provided.

The committee thanked Mr Topping for the informative report and for responding to questions raised.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2016.

CHAIR