



HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2018 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Binding - Chair
Councillor Mrs J. Gale - Vice Chair

Councillors:

C. Bezzina, D. Cushing, M. Evans, A. Gair, D.C. Harse, V. James, L. Jeremiah, B. Owen, S. Skivens.

Cabinet Members: C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing) and Mrs E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection).

Together with:

J. Williams (Assistant Director Adult Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director Children's Services), R. Hartshorn (Head of Policy and Public Protection), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), M. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), B. Manners (Solicitor), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Users and Carers – Mrs M. Jones

Also Present –

Phil Diamond – Theme Lead - Regional Partnership Team.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A. Angel, Miss E. Forehead, J. Simmonds, C. Thomas, D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), Ms J. Lawton and Mr C. Luke (Co-opted Members).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 5TH DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED that subject to it being recorded that at agenda item 9 (*Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) Presentation*), a Member had requested an update as to the progress made in relation to Penyrheol Surgery due to its poor condition and being informed it was an ongoing 2 year project and a question was raised as to the transport links to Llanfechra Grange in terms of accessing Primary Care, the Member contacted Stagecoach who confirmed there had been no liaison with ABUHB, the Member sought reassurances from ABUHB representatives that this would be dealt with, the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 5th December 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 10) be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. MINUTES – 18TH DECEMBER 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Special Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 18th December 2017 (minute nos. 1 - 4) be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. 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.

6. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBERS

The Scrutiny Committee received verbal reports from Councillor C. Cuss (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing) and Councillor E. Stenner (Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection).

Councillor Stenner informed the Scrutiny Committee that Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 came into force in Wales from the 1st February 2018 to protect children and young people from the potential harms which can be caused by an intimate piercing. The provisions within the Act make it an offence to intimately pierce anyone under the age of 18 in Wales. Enforcement will be carried out by the Council's Environmental Health staff, in conjunction with the Police, to ensure the law is being followed by piercing practitioners and businesses in Wales. A Member asked if establishments providing these services have been notified of the changes in the law and the penalties set out. Officers confirmed that further information on penalties for intimate piercing would be provided to Members following the Committee meeting.

The Committee were advised of the Council's response to the Government's Consultation on proposals for changes to gaming machines and social responsibility requirements across the gambling industry. Caerphilly County Borough Council supported the proposal to reduce the maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals from £100 to £2.

It was explained that Welsh Government has introduced new fixed penalty notices providing local authorities with the option of a more efficient response to fly tipping of waste instead of enforcement by prosecution. The legislation gives local authorities the power to set the level of the fixed penalty within the range of £150 to £400 with the default being £200 if no other amount is specified. The proposal to set the level of fixed penalty fine at the maximum of £400 will be presented to Cabinet for consideration on the 28th February 2018.

In concluding, the Cabinet Member advised that she will be visiting the Catering staff at Islwyn High School to present The 'Team Award' for the overall best performing catering team. The team worked together in a professional way during the transition from Oakdale and Pontllanfraith Comprehensive Schools in relocating to Islwyn High School.

Councillor Cuss addressed the Committee and made reference to the Special Scrutiny Committee Meetings held in December relating to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). He advised that he has had detailed discussions with members of the public and voluntary organisations such as The Stroke Association and Care and Repair, to relay the comments made at the Scrutiny meetings and from other bodies. The comments will be considered during the decision making at the Special Meeting of Council on Thursday 22nd February 2018.

The Scrutiny Committee was informed that an Inspection of the South Caerphilly Community Mental Health Team was recently undertaken and the joint inspection report has been received. The outcome was very positive and there are no significant issues raised. The Team were congratulated for this excellent result and an action plan has been developed to address some of the recommendations within the report.

The Cabinet Member was delighted to inform Members that the 'Operation Santa Appeal' was a huge success in December. Over 2,500 gifts had been donated with selection boxes and vouchers and Cabinet Members contributed £900 towards the cause that meant more than 800 disadvantaged children within the Borough received gifts for Christmas. Councillor Cuss extended his gratitude to all the kind people and businesses across the County Borough who helped make this happen with a 'special' thank you to the Communications Team who manage this appeal every year with such commitment and hard work.

The Scrutiny Committee were reminded of the recent media coverage relating to the pressure in the Hospital system and the subsequent pressures on Social Services Departments to help discharge patients. Caerphilly has not escaped these pressures and Adult Services' Staff have responded very positively to the challenges they have faced. The Hospital Discharge Team recently welcomed Huw Irranca-Davies AM (Minister for Children and Social Care) who was keen to hear about the pressures within the Hospital system created within social care.

A Member questioned if there was data available on the pressures within Caerphilly during the winter and Christmas period and it was explained that this is a national issue and is not unique to Caerphilly. Councillor Cuss is due to attend a meeting later this week with the WLGA and will provide feedback at a future Scrutiny Committee Meeting.

The Chair thanked both Cabinet Member's for their informative statements and for responding to questions raised.

7. 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 forward work programme including all reports that were identified at the work programme workshop planned for the period February to March 2017.

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

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 work programme appended to the report be approved.

8. CABINET REPORT

The Cabinet Report listed on the agenda had not been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

9. REGIONAL AREA PLAN

Mr P. Diamond, Theme Lead - Regional Partnership Team introduced the report that updated Members in relation to the Population Needs Assessment (PNA) – Gwent Region Report following his attendance at the Scrutiny Committee in February 2017. Copies of the PNA were made available to Members at this meeting.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that the Social Services and Well-being Act (2014) (SSWBA) places a statutory duty on Local Authorities and Health Boards to prepare a regional Area Plan following the publication of the region's population needs assessment (PNA). A draft Area Plan has been jointly developed across the region (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen) by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and the Regional Partnership Team. The Area Plan (appended to the report) sets out the actions to achieve the priorities identified in the PNA. The PNA report was agreed and published on 1st April 2017. Following the publication of the regional PNA report each Local Authority and health board are required to prepare and publish an Area Plan setting out the range and level of services they propose to provide in response to the PNA. Area plans must include the specific services planned in response to each core theme identified in the population assessment.

It was noted that the first Area Plans must be published by 1 April 2018 and there will be a need to ensure links between the Area Plan and the Local Authority Well-being Plans required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act to facilitate collaborative working between the 2 legislative duties and avoid duplication. Links to CCBC's Corporate Improvement Plan and ABUHB Intermediate Medium Term Plans will also need to be established, as well as alignment to the Neighbourhood Care Network plans in each of the GP cluster areas.

It was explained that the PNA (which is a working document) was developed through extensive engagement with regional citizen panel, provider forum and the regional executive leadership group; as well as local groups such as Youth Forums, Older People's Forums, Carers Groups and Parenting Networks. Further engagement is planned during the consultation period including some of the wider regional emerging areas of interest. The PNA is required to be signed off by individual Council's and the Health Board by 31st March 2018.

A Member referred to para 5.1. of the report and the similarity of the principles of working within the SSWBA and the sustainable principle identified within the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The development of the Action Plan relating to the long-term that identifies issues that will affect the Borough and Region over the next 3 – 5 years was queried. It was explained that the WBFGA does not define long-term but the Action Plan gives consideration to electoral cycles and the urgency to 'act now' with resources for early intervention and prevention.

Members discussed the Regional Priorities and Outcomes in relation to Children and Young People with complex needs through early intervention, community based support and placements closer to home. The priority of improving emotional well-being and mental health for adults and children through early intervention and community support was also discussed and how the priority will be measured.

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 Draft Area Plan, priorities and suggested actions be submitted to Welsh Government.

10. YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

The report provided Members with a performance update for Social Services (that includes Children's Services, Adult Services and Public Protection) for the previous twelve months. The report highlights the exceptions in performance and looks forward in terms of future challenges that set out key objectives/priorities for the next twelve months and identifies areas for improvement.

It was explained that overall 2016/17 offered a positive year in terms of service performance. However, a number of future challenges have been identified, the greatest being the need to balance increasing demands and rising public expectations against reducing budgets. Whilst challenging, the service area is relatively well placed to respond to them.

The Committee were advised that performance data is not available for the 4th quarter due to the implementation of the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) new Integrated Care System that will be going 'live' next week and this needs to be embedded and developed to enable the department to share information, and report accurately on performance. A further report will be brought back to the Scrutiny Committee at a later date.

Having fully considered the Year End Performance Report for Social Services and Public Protection Services, the Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

11. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 9)

The Interim Financial Services Manager presented the report that informed Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Social Services Directorate for the 2017/18 financial year.

The report summarised the projected financial position for the Social Services Directorate for the 2017/18 financial year based on information available as at month 9 (December 2017). It identifies budget pressures relating to the delivery of frontline services particularly within Children's Services and highlights some potential issues that could lead to increased costs within Adult Services Full details are attached at Appendix 1.

The Committee were informed that on 24th October 2017 the budget for the Education Safeguarding Team was vired in to the Social Services budget to reflect a change in management responsibilities that took effect earlier in the year, with the Team now falling within the remit of the Assistant Director for Children's Services. A further budget virement from Adult Services into Children Services has also been undertaken to enable a contribution to be made from the Children's Services budget towards the cost of autism services incurred within the Education Directorate. These virements have had the net effect of increasing the Directorate's budget by £124k, details of which were set out in the report.

It was explained that the 2017/18 month 9 position is a projected Directorate overspend of £2.045m. This equates to an increase of £525k since month 5. While there have been a number of movements in projected costs across the Directorate since month 5, it is the continuing increase in child care placement costs that is responsible for the overall increase. The position in relation to the service areas was summarised.

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 6.43pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2018.

CHAIR