



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELL BEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON TUESDAY, 10TH JULY 2012 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Ackerman - Chairman
Councillor B. A. Jones - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, G. Bevan, L. Binding, P. Cook, K. Dawson, E.J. Gale, L. Gardiner, C. Gordon, G.J. Hughes, S. Morgan, J.A. Pritchard.

Cabinet Member: Councillor R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services).

Together with:

A. Heaney (Corporate Director Social Services), D. Street (Assistant Director Adult Services), A. Jarrett (Assistant Director Children's Services), S. Harris (Financial Services Manager), R. Ballantine (Personnel Manager), J. Williams (Service Manager - PDSI), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

Users & Carers: Mrs M. Veater.

Aneurin Bevan Health Board: Bronwen John (Redesign and Integration Manager, ABHB)
Barnardo's Cymru: Pat Duke (Assistant Director Children's Services) and Christine Short (Children's Services Manager).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs P.A. Griffiths and Mr C. Luke and Mrs J. Morgan (Users and Carers).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 27th March 2012 (minute nos. 1-13; page nos. 1-5) and the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing (Performance Management) Scrutiny Committee held on 12th June 2012 (minute nos. 1-6; page nos. 1-5) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. 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.

4. CABINET REPORTS

There had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

5. VERBAL REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

The Scrutiny Committee received a verbal report from Councillor R. Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services.

A number of significant events had taken place since the last meeting involving Social Services staff. On 22nd June, Carers Day was held at the Ystrad Mynach Dance Centre. More than 70 carers turned up on the day, which consisted of various pampering activities. A number of organisations from both inside and outside of the Council were present to offer information and advice.

On 15th June the Authority recognised World Elder Abuse Day. A series of events were held to mark the occasion including an open event for the public at Caerphilly Visitors Centre. At Ty Penallta staff held a series of fundraising events and an opportunity to abseil down Penallta Rocks. More than £2000 was raised for Action on Elder Abuse, more than triple the amount raised in 2011.

Reference was then made to the increasing collaboration agenda across Social Care and on 11th June the Authority played host to the official launch of the South East Wales Adult Placement Scheme. Officers and Members of the six participating authorities attended together with a number of service users and adult placement carers. There were a number of speakers at the event including the Leader of Council and Alex Fox of Shared Lives Plus.

On 29th June officers attended the National Conference of the Association of Directors of Social Services (Cymru) at Llandudno. The event drew representatives from across the 22 Social Services Departments in Wales together with a number of prominent attendees and speakers. The Deputy Minister for Health and Social Care congratulated both Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent for their work on integrating the two Social Services Departments. In addition, CCCB's Corporate Director Social Services was chosen to be President of ADSS Cymru for the ensuing year. Congratulations were extended to Mr Heaney on his appointment.

For the Caerphilly Achievement Awards in 2012 Caerphilly Children's Services, Education and Health representatives worked together to arrange two events, one for the younger age group, which was held on 9th July and a second for the older age group, to be held on 11th July. The events were a great success and a tribute to the work of the Social Services Teams and foster carers.

Reference was then made to an Open Day at the Countryman, Bedwellty, organised by SOLAS, which provided an opportunity to view the project that had been set up for vulnerable homeless 16-24 year olds, offering accommodation and housing related support that helps to develop skills needed to live independently. The contribution made by Malcolm Topping and his team in this respect, was acknowledged.

Finally, congratulations were extended to Andrew Jarrett, Assistant Director Children's Services, on his success in gaining the post of Head of Children's Services at Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. Andrew has led Children's Services in Caerphilly for the past 3 years and has played an important role in the improvement of services. Andrew will be leaving Caerphilly on 31st August 2012 and Nigel Brown, Assistant Director Children Services in Blaenau Gwent CBC has agreed to take up an interim role as of 1st September 2012. This presents a real opportunity for the integration of services between the two local authorities.

6. CHILD AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE - PRESENTATION BY BARNARDO'S

The Scrutiny Committee welcomed Pat Duke, Assistant Director Children's Services and Christine Short, Children's Services Manager, Barnardo's Cymru.

The Scrutiny Committee received an overview of the Child and Family Support Service. Barnardo's took over the Family Support Service in July 2011 and had worked very closely with Caerphilly to ensure that there is a robust service in place. Information was provided on the Contact Service; Taith (for children who display inappropriate sexual behaviour) and SERAF (for children who are sexually exploited). Reference was also made to the development of the Family Support Service in Risca; the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project; Family Group Conferencing; Child Sexual Exploitation (Prevention); the transition period and the outcomes, one year on.

The Chair thanked Ms Short and Mr Duke for their informative presentation and a question and answer session ensued. Members were advised that the longer-term benefits of the service would be evaluated and the risk factors identified. It was anticipated that a report on the outcome of this would be available in September/October.

SCRUTINY REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following Scrutiny reports.

7. SERVICES WITH CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The report provided an update on the progress of re-modelling services for Children with Disabilities in Caerphilly County Borough Council and also on progress of the Children's Services Occupational Therapists Integration with Health Occupational Therapists.

Over the last 5 years, the Directorate has evidenced a change in the needs of children with disabilities. Children's Services subsequently reviewed the services currently provided, which can broadly be grouped into the following five areas: Family Link short break foster care service; Blackwood Resource Centre short break residential care; Early Years - Nursery provision and Community Based Pre-School Play; Play and Leisure Services and Shared Care.

The Family Link Foster Care Service has been managed through a contract with Action for Children but has now been successfully transferred to the management of the Family Placement Team and further development of the service is underway.

Blackwood Resource Centre in the main offers residential short breaks to children with complex physical disabilities between the age of 5 and 18. The service is available at weekends and school holidays only and is currently managed under a contract with Action for Children. The building is in Council ownership and draft plans are in place for Children's Services to transfer the service into Local Authority management. It is planned to widen the use of the centre to enable it to be used during the week as well as at weekends. Plans have progressed in respect of the Early Years Nursery provision in Blackwood Resource Centre.

Children who need a service in the future will be offered a place in the fully equipped Children's Centre Early Years Nursery. Children with complex needs who are assessed as being unable to access this service will be offered a long-term place in the Children's Centre Nursery.

Children Services also provide services for children with disabilities to have play and leisure opportunities during the school holidays and weekends. Currently there are two school holiday play provisions, one at the Action for Children Caerphilly Children's Centre for under 8's and at Trinity Fields School for over 8s. Following a review of services the Directorate does not propose to change these services and will continue to fund provision with the current providers.

Shared Care has been contracted to Action for Children for over 10 years and has a base within the Caerphilly Children's Centre. It consists of two distinct services, Sitting and Outreach. Sitting is a domiciliary care service in the family home and is available mainly in the evenings and weekends. Outreach is a leisure service for children and young people with disabilities. Twenty additional shared care places will be contracted this financial year and 10 outreach places will now be available on top of the contracted places.

Through the collaboration with the Health Board and CCBC's Children's Services, an integrated occupational therapy service has been established which will ensure a joined up, seamless service approach to OT assessments and interventions.

Feedback from consultation with parents and young people, who will be using these services, as well as the views of partner agencies, has been very positive. The plan will offer the opportunity to further develop services for those children and young people with highly complex needs of significant disabilities.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the improvements made and requested that a further update be brought back in 12 months' time.

8. MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN AND 2012/13 REVENUE BUDGET

The report provided an update on the Medium-Term Financial Plan and set out details of the 2012/13 revenue budget for the Directorate of Social Services.

Since April 2009 the Directorate has made significant savings and efficiencies to contribute towards the Medium-Term Financial Plan and to manage cost pressures arising from demographics and the increasing demand for services. The savings and efficiencies have been delivered with no adverse impact on front-line service delivery or staff redundancies and have been achieved through a range of actions including the review and restructuring of staffing requirements, the reconfiguration of services, rationalisation of office accommodation and a reduction in back office costs. A summary is provided in the report.

The 2012/13 Welsh Government funding settlement and indicative settlements for 2013/14 and 2014/15 will result in additional savings requirements for Social Services and these were discussed in detail later in the report. There are also significant demographic challenges facing Social Services, including: -

- Population aged 65 and over will increase by 25% by 2020 and 50% by 2030.
- 76% increase in people anticipated to be suffering from dementia.
- Anticipated increase of 51% in the number of people with a learning disability by 2030.

To meet this projected significant increase in demand the Directorate will need to explore further service reconfiguration opportunities and efficiencies to release funding for reinvestment in front-line services, in addition to those already identified. Opportunities for collaborative working will also remain a focus and key to this will be the integration between

Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent's Social Services Directorates, which aims to deliver better outcomes for service users, reduced cost of service provision and better use of existing resources.

The settlement includes a provision of 1% protection above the percentage applied by Central Government to the Welsh Government's block grant each year, for the next 3 years for schools and 2 years (2012/13 and 2013/14) for social care. However, the Medium-Term Financial Plan agreed by Council at its meeting on the 23rd February 2012 provides for the 1% protection and additional growth for Social Services in 2012/13 to meet service pressures and a continuation of the protection for both 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Members noted that whilst the 1% protection and additional growth monies have been allocated to Social Services, the Directorate is required to deliver savings totalling £684k in 2012/13 to achieve a balanced budget. Indicative savings requirements of £324k and £904k are also required in 2013/14 and 2014/15 respectively. Further details of these savings requirements are provided in the report.

The table in paragraph 4.2.3 of the report summarises the financial strategy agreed by Council for the Directorate of Social Services for 2012/13 and also includes indicative figures for 2013/14 and 2014/15. The approved 2012/13 budget for the Directorate totals £70,577,885. Full details are attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report.

9. PROVISION OF CARE SERVICES AT TREDEGAR COURT

The report set out proposals to change the way services are provided at Tredegar Court Extra Care Scheme and outlined how this would contribute to Directorate efficiencies and enable the Adult Services Division to meet current and future cost pressures brought about by increased demand and budget pressures.

Following a consultation exercise, the presentation of previous reports to scrutiny in May and September 2011 and receipt of written representation from staff and service users at Tredegar Court, a further third option has been developed for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

The first option, Option 1, is to retain the status quo and make no changes to the current provision with HART continuing to provide on site care 24 hours a day. The second option, Option 2, involves the service being transferred to REACH under the provisions in the tendering exercise undertaken for Cefn Glas and Plas Hyfryd. This would continue until August 2013, at which point a formal tendering exercise will be undertaken to identify a provider across all three Extra Care schemes. The third option, Option 3, would involve HART continuing to deliver the service in accordance with tenants' and staff wishes.

The report set out the merits of each of the three options. Details were also received of the financial and personnel implications. Members were advised that from an officer perspective only options 2 and 3 are viable in terms of moving forward due to statutory responsibilities. Option 2 produces the greater levels of efficiencies whereas option 3 allows the provision of the service to remain in house.

In terms of personnel implications, there are currently 13 HART care staff employed at Tredegar Court and all would be eligible to transfer to the new provider under TUPE if option 2 was the preferred choice. Staff had previously indicated that they would not wish to TUPE transfer and consequently would need to be redeployed within the local authority. If option 3 was chosen there would be implications for staff in terms of a reduction in contracts or in terms of them having to be redeployed to other areas where their contracts could be maintained.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the report and its implications in detail and recommended to Cabinet that: -

1. The matter be deferred to enable, where appropriate, a review of service users, in conjunction with staff.
2. A further report be presented to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

In addition, it was agreed that copies of the representations provided by members of staff employed at Tredegar Court would be sent to all members of the Scrutiny Committee.

10. VACANCIES IN THE DIRECTORATE FROM OCTOBER 2011

The report provides an update on the position with regard to front line vacancies within the Directorate from October 2011.

Recruitment and retention of suitable staff in key posts within Social Services has presented significant challenges over the years. Various initiatives and strategies have previously been implemented with varying levels of success. The Council's Workforce Strategy was endorsed by Cabinet on 30th March 2010 and the various strands contained within the report, including vacancy management and workforce planning, are now being implemented.

The report summarises the position at the end of October 2011 in terms of establishment headcount versus actual (people in post) headcount. The recruitment of key staff is continuing to be a challenge but the recruitment and retention strategy is being used to address some of the problems that are being experienced.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the data within the report and the progress that has been made in terms of ensuring vacancy levels within the Authority are kept to a minimum.

11. UPDATE REPORT - TASK AND FINISH GROUP NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES CHARGING

The Health Social Care and Well-being Scrutiny Committee established a task and finish group to examine charging for non-residential social services and to consider the implementation of the Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure 2010.

The task and finish group review commenced on 9th May 2011 and met on four occasions to consider reports and hear evidence. In addition, Members sought the views of service users using difference methods of consultation. The group considered the responses received from the consultation process but agreed that there were not enough responses to allow them to make an informed decision and the review was deferred until after the local government elections.

Following the local government elections there have been significant changes to the membership of the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and therefore the views of the Scrutiny Committee to reconstitute the group with new members were sought.

The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the recommendation in the report to reconstitute the membership of the task and finish group.

The Scrutiny Research Officer would email all members of the Scrutiny Committee seeking nominations to participate in the review.

12. REQUESTS FOR REPORTS

1. Councillor L. Binding requested a report on the transition process between Children and Adult Services and the potential transition from Adult Services to Elder Services.
2. Councillor J.A. Pritchard requested a report on trends over the last 2 years relating to the number of referrals to the Mental Health Teams and the length of time from the point of referral to the time of the appointment.

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following information items were noted: -

1. Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.
2. 2011/2012 Annual Representation and Complaints Report.

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2012, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN