



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Ackerman - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, Mrs G. Bevan, L. Binding, Mrs P. Cook, K. Dawson, L. Gardiner,
N. George, G.J. Hughes, J.A. Pritchard.

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

Together with:

A. Heaney (Corporate Director Social Services), D. Street (Assistant Director Adult Services),
N. Brown (Assistant Director Children's Services), D. Perkins (Head of Legal and
Governance), S. Harris (Financial Services Manager), R. Ballantine (Personnel Manager),
G. North (Public Sector Housing Manager), C. Edwards (Environmental Health Manager),
A. Giordano (Service Manager, Protection of Vulnerable Adults), J. Williams (Service
Manager, Adult Services), A. Prosser (Programme Integration Manager), J. Jones
(Democratic Services Manager), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

Users & Carers: Mr C. Luke, Mrs J.M. Morgan and Mrs M. Veater.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A.P. Angel, Mrs J. Gale,
C. Gordon, Mrs P.A. Griffiths, Mrs B.A. Jones, S. Morgan and Mrs B. Bolt, Aneurin Bevan
Health Board.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee held on 10th July 2012 (minute nos. 1-13; page nos. 1-7) 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. VERBAL REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER

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

Councillor Woodyatt began by referring to the sad passing of Paul Osborne in August. Paul had worked for the Authority since 1998 and had been very respected for his work in mental health, not just in Caerphilly but across the whole of Wales.

The Scrutiny Committee was advised that Children's Services had convened a Corporate Parenting Group, which aims to drive forward a shared commitment that children looked after by the Authority are supported to achieve their full potential in life. The group plans to ensure that all directorates within the Authority and its partner agencies, understand and deliver their corporate parenting responsibilities to improve outcomes for the children. Arrangements are being made for a Members' seminar to take place in this respect.

Councillor Woodyatt introduced Nigel Brown as the new Assistant Director for Children's Services. Nigel will undertake the role for Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent CBCs in line with the Social Services integration programme.

Members were advised that the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) will be undertaking an inspection of the role of the Statutory Director of Social Services. The inspection will take place over 3 days in December 2012 and the Authority will receive a written report when the inspection is complete. Officers have recently received verbal feedback from CSSIW on the Director's Annual Report and a draft written report will be received in mid September 2012. Early indications from CSSIW are very positive.

SCRUTINY REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. ADULT PROTECTION - CAERPHILLY ADULT AREA PROTECTION COMMITTEE (AAPC) ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

The report outlined the purpose and membership of the committee, a summary of the committee's activity for 2011/12 and the activities of the multi agency subgroups; Education and Training; Performance Review and the POVA Practice Improvement Forum. It also provided information about key developments in relation to collaboration with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Gwent Agency Partners as the committee moved to become members of the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board.

The initial AAPC Provider Performance Monitoring Protocol agreed in January 2008 provided partner agencies with a comprehensive tool to respond to deteriorating quality and increasing levels of risk. The protocol is reviewed frequently and enables partners to respond collectively and intervene in a proportionate manner at the earliest opportunity. The lessons learned from using the protocol were shared with registered providers of care homes through a workshop held in May 2011.

The Scrutiny Committee accepted the annual report of the work of the multi-agency Caerphilly Area Adult Protection Committee and noted that the committee ceased to function at the end of March 2012, having become members of the regional Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board.

6. PROVISION OF CARE SERVICES AT TREDEGAR COURT

The matter had previously been considered at the Scrutiny Committee on 17th May 2011, 13th September 2011 and 10th July 2012. Following the meeting in July the Committee recommended to Cabinet that the matter be deferred to enable, where appropriate, a review of service users in conjunction with staff feedback and that a further report be presented to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting.

The report provided additional information under paragraph 4.11 on some of the issues raised by Members at the Scrutiny Committee meeting in July. The reviews of service users had now been undertaken and a verbal update was provided at the meeting. A total of 23 tenants had requested reviews of their care packages, of these, 12 remained unchanged, 6 increased and 5 decreased. The total care provided increased by 9 hours 40 minutes per week.

Since the last report to the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 10th July 2012 a letter had been received from the staff group outlining their concerns about the proposals. A full response had been made to the staff and their trade unions and a subsequent letter received from the staff in mid August had been acknowledged. A further letter had been sent to service users and their families offering individual meetings to discuss any of their concerns.

Of the three options set out in the report, from an officer perspective, only options 2 and 3 were viable in terms of providing the Authority's statutory responsibilities. Option 2 produces the greater levels of efficiencies where option 3 allows the provision of the service to remain in house. Members' views were sought on the proposals prior to consideration by Cabinet.

Following detailed consideration of the options set out in the report, the Scrutiny Committee endorsed Option 3, which will enable HART to continue to provide care on an in reach basis. The matter would now be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

Councillor L. Gardiner requested that his name be recorded as being opposed to this recommendation.

7. PART ONE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH MEASURE: THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

During 2010, the Welsh Assembly Government placed a requirement on health boards and local government partners to implement the Mental Health Measure (2010) Wales. The Measure makes a number of important changes to the current legislative arrangements in respect of the assessment and treatment of people with mental health issues. There are four parts to the Measure and this report focuses on Part One - Local Primary Mental Health Support Services.

Part One of the Measure aims to strengthen the role of primary care in the management of people with a mental health issue and as such has prescribed the development of Primary Mental Health Support Services across Wales. These services will be delivered by health boards and local authorities, in partnership and it is expected that they will operate within or alongside existing GP practices.

Members sort clarification on a number of issues within the report and requested that regular reports be presented to the Scrutiny Committee on progress with meeting the targets contained in the Measure.

The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the scheme for submission to Welsh Government by 1st October 2012, prior to consideration by Cabinet on 18th September 2012.

It was agreed that reports would be presented to the Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis on progress with meeting the targets contained in the Measure.

8. CAERPHILLY AND BLAENAU GWENT SOCIAL SERVICES INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

The report outlined progress made to date on the Programme of Integration of Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Social Services; detailed the options in terms of a governance model to support the integration and reviewed priorities and timelines for delivery in 2012/13.

It was reported that the programme management arrangements are well established and there has been good progress in developing foundations to support the integration of Social Services across Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent. Critical pieces of work such as governance modelling, further development of the detailed business case and IT arrangements are immediate priorities for the Programme to enable the development of joint services.

The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the recommendations in the report as follows:-

1. To note progress with the Programme of Integration of Social Services.
2. To consider the options for a governance model and support recommending to Cabinet the model of developing a Joint Committee to oversee the delivery of Social Services.
3. To note and support the priorities for 2012/13.
4. To familiarise themselves with the supporting documentation, which can be found in the Members' Library - Governance Modelling Report by Tony Garthwaite; report to Scrutiny (December 2011); Programme Delivery Plan and work stream flow chart.

In addition, it was agreed that the minutes of the Joint Social Services Panel/Committee meetings would be reported to the Scrutiny Committee for information. Andrea Prosser, Programme Integration Manager, agreed to send a copy of the flow chart to Mrs Veater.

9. CARERS STRATEGIES (WALES) MEASURE 2010 - INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION STRATEGY

The report advised the Scrutiny Committee of the 'Carers Information and Consultation Strategy' that had been produced as outlined in the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure. Due to the relatively short timescale (23 July 2012 to 19 August 2012) it had not been possible to present the draft report to the Scrutiny Committee as part of the consultation process. However, the report had been circulated electronically to members of the Scrutiny Committee in August 2012.

The Measure places a duty on 'designated authorities' to prepare and publish an Information and Consultation Strategy for carers, based on Health Board boundaries, setting out how organisations will work together to provide appropriate information and advice to carers.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the 'Carers Information and Consultation Strategy' and the consultation process followed to date.

10. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 3)

The report set out the projected expenditure for the Directorate for the 2012/13 financial year.

The 2012/13 month 3 position shows a projected underspend of £300k. However, there is a potential overspend of £222k on Social Services transport provision through the Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) which is charged directly to service reserves. This results in a net projected overall underspend of £78k.

The projected transport overspend is based on actual expenditure in the 2011/12 financial year. An updated position for 2012/13 will be reflected in the month 5 budget monitoring report, which will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee in October. Regular meetings take place between nominated leads in the Social Services Directorate and staff in the ITU to monitor transport provision and deliver efficiencies where possible. It is anticipated that this will result in a reduction in the level of the current projected transport overspend. Members requested that a report be prepared on how the service can be sustained in future within existing resources.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

11. REQUESTS FOR AN ITEM TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA

There were no requests for reports to be prepared for consideration at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following reports were received and noted.

1. Social Services Grants 2012/13.
2. Rota Visits by Members to Social Services Establishments: 1st January 2012 to 30th June 2012.
3. Summary of Members' Attendance - Quarter 1 - 18th May 2012 to 30th June 2012.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 2012, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN