



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON TUESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER 2012 AT 6.00 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, J. Gale, L. Gardiner,
N. George, C. Gordon, P.A. Griffiths, 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),
N. Brown (Assistant Director Children's Services), S. Harris (Financial Services Manager),
R. Ballantine (Personnel Manager), Z. Newman (LSCB Coordinator), L. Curtis-Jones (Service
Manager East & Assessment Care Management), D. Llewellyn (Health and Safety Partner
Social Services), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

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

Aneurin Bevan Health Board: S. Crane, Head of Partnerships and Networks.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs J. Morgan and Miss L. Price.

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 11th September 2012 (minute nos. 1-12; 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

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

On Friday, 19th October the Local Authority held a Foster Carers Appreciation evening at Virginia Golf Club to thank its foster carers for the excellent work they do in caring for children looked after by the Authority. In total the foster carers look after 180 children. The event was very well attended and was very much appreciated by the foster carers.

At the last Scrutiny meeting it was reported that officers had received verbal feedback from the Care & Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (CSSIW) on the Director's annual report. Since then the written report has been received and its content shows that the Directorate is strongly placed and moving forward. A report on the content of the CSSIW report will be brought to a future meeting.

Officers are currently making plans to offer free flu vaccinations to more than 800 frontline staff in the Directorate. In 2011, 212 members of staff took up this offer and it is hoped that numbers can be increased in 2012.

In response to the draft Social Services Wales Bill, the Welsh Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru have worked together to complete a delivery plan. On 11th October 2012 officers attended a seminar to provide input into the delivery plan, which will become a major priority for Local Government. It is understood that the legislation will be brought forward in January 2013 and will be titled 'The Social Services & Wellbeing Bill'. A report accompanying the delivery plan will be brought to a future Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Woodyatt recently participated in a visit by the Older Peoples Commissioner to Lewis School, Pengam. The interaction between the older people and the boys from the school had been very pleasing and it was very encouraging to see this luncheon club continuing on a weekly basis.

Councillor Woodyatt also attended the Youth Forum conference where young people talked about their priorities for the forthcoming year and their experience of both health and social care services in the County Borough. Councillor Woodyatt and the Corporate Director Social Services found the session very helpful in being able to talk to young people about their views. As in previous years, members of the Youth Forum will be invited to speak at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for his informative report.

SCRUTINY REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE - PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

The Scrutiny Committee received a report and brief presentation from the Assistant Director, Adult Services.

Information was provided on the trends for the rate of referral and response times for people referred to Mental Health Services for an assessment over the past two years. An update was also provided on developments within Mental Health Services in the County Borough. The data shows an increasing trend in the number of assessments in all categories in the past two full years. The figures for the current year indicate a similar trend.

Reference was made to the jointly agreed standards for the First Access Service, which are the same day for emergency, within three days for urgent referrals and all routine appointments within six weeks. The routine assessment target has recently increased to 6 weeks as the service could not respond to demand within the previous timescale of 28 days.

At the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 11th September 2012, Members endorsed the proposals for Part 1 of the Mental Health Measure. Officers are currently working alongside colleagues from ABHB with regard to implementation.

It was noted that since February good progress has been made in respect of adult mental health and the integrated strategy has been agreed and is in place. Other developments in terms of integration include the appointment of two integrated team leader posts and a move from three to two Community Mental Health Teams. Groups considering the finance and personnel implications continue to meet and proposals are about to be made with regard to the appointment of integrated borough managers for Mental Health.

Members were updated on the report of the Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW) recommendations following the homicide committed within the County Borough in March 2009. The HIW made a total of 23 recommendations for all agencies involved in the investigation and staff from both Social Services and Health met weekly to oversee the implications of the action plan. Wales Audit Office visited the Authority in 2012 to consider the governance and housing issues arising from the action plan. This was followed by a visit from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales on 3rd October 2012 to consider care management practice.

Members sought clarification on a number of issues raised within the report to which detailed responses were provided by officers.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

7. JOINT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SERVICE UPDATE

The report considers current context and demands of the Joint Workforce Development Service; sets out the priorities for 2012/13; outlines progress in integrating and reviewing key areas of service and looks forward to 2013/14.

The Cabinet/Executive of Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent endorsed mandates to progress with the integration of Social Services in June/July 2011. Discussions around creating a joint workforce development service began in August 2011. This area was identified as the first service in line with the programme plan to integrate. The Interim Joint Workforce Development Service was launched at the beginning of April 2012.

A joint business plan for 2012/13 is in place, which translates the priorities into actions and role responsibilities as well as detailing actions for business improvement. A current role and responsibility review has been completed which details roles and levels within the team, where responsibilities are held and how activities are being delivered. A service review plan

has been developed which details the key areas of service that are being reviewed during 2012/13. The results of service reviews will inform the development of the new service specification and the creation of a permanent integrated staffing structure.

In the Social Care Workforce Development Plan areas of effective emerging practice have been identified, examples of this include the creation of a Joint Workforce Development Service for Social Services and the Social Care sector across Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent and practice learning for trainee social workers. A focus on the student hosting arrangements to ensure that students are fully supported, receive high quality practice learning opportunities to equip them for their first year in practice has brought successful outcomes.

Various accommodation options have been considered for a Joint Workforce Development Training facility. A potential central geographical site has been identified that would provide accommodation and a central hub for learning and development. Members sought further information in relation to accommodation issues and personnel implications and were advised that further reports would be brought forward in due course.

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

1. To note and support the priorities for 2012/13.
2. To note the progress made in integrating the Workforce Development Services for Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent and reviewing key areas of service.
3. Familiarise themselves with the supporting documentation, which can be found in the Members' Library; Social Care Workforce Development Plan 2012/13; Joint Workforce Development Service Business and Service Review Plan.

8. CASEWORK AND MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

The report provides an update on case allocations and workforce variations within Children and Family Services together with information on the stability of the workforce by highlighting vacancy rates on a monthly basis.

In April 2012 a permanent advert was placed on the Council's internet site for Social Workers/Senior Practitioners. At the end of September there was only one social work vacancy. The recent recruitment drive has been successful and teams are waiting for new staff to arrive. Agency workers are covering some of these posts in the interim. A Senior Practitioner/Mentor has been appointed to support and mentor all newly qualified staff within children's services. The introduction of the Team Around the Family has enabled the Authority to signpost families to lower tier services resulting in less referrals being processed for the Assessment Teams.

Members complimented officers on the current position within Children and Family Services and discussion ensued on the issues raised. Concerns were expressed in relation to the level of illegal substances available in the area and in particular the impact of this on young people.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report.

9. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 5)

The report summarises the projected financial position for the Social Services Directorate based on information available as at month 5 of the 2012/2013 financial year. Full details are attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The 2012/13 month 5 position shows a projected Directorate underspend of £200k. However, there is a projected overspend of £179k 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 £21k. Regular meetings are taking place to monitor transport provision and deliver efficiencies wherever possible. This has already resulted in a decrease in the level of projected overspend and it is anticipated that there will be further reductions throughout the financial year. Full details of the month 5 budgets and projections are provided in Appendix 1 and the key issues are highlighted within the report.

The projected position for the Children's Services Division summarised in table 4.4.1 of the report, shows a projected underspend of £128k for 2012/13. The Adult Services Division is currently projected to overspend by £8k but this increases to £138k after adjusting for the projected transport overspend of £130k. Members were advised that there has been an increase in demand for services in recent months and this will need to be carefully monitored and managed during the remainder of the year as there is no contingency available within Adult Services budgets to fund further increases.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report.

10. CAERPHILLY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

The report informed members of the achievements of Caerphilly Safeguarding Children Board and future changes to the structure of Safeguarding Children Boards in Wales, specifically the changes taking place in South East Wales.

The proposal that the LSCB's in the region merge, has been approved by the five LSCB's and a Transition Project Board has now been formed. A timeline for the transition is attached to the report at Appendix 2. The Regional Safeguarding Children Board will be in place by April 2013 and will be chaired by the Corporate Director Social Services. A development event will take place for the Caerphilly Board in November with the aim of capturing the Board's good practice and the issues considered important in taking forward a regional Board. A joint development session with members of the other LSCBs will take place in early December and this will be used as the basis to develop a strategic plan for the Regional Safeguarding Children Board.

There will be four standing regional sub groups to undertake the work of the Board and a local sub group (e.g. in each Local Authority area) to monitor and ensure that multi agency safeguarding practice is effective. A progress report will be presented to Scrutiny in January 2013.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

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

The following requests for reports to be prepared for consideration at future meetings of the Scrutiny Committee were made as follows: -

1. Councillor J. Pritchard requested an evaluation report on re-designation of beds at Castle View to EMI and Ty Clyd to rehabilitation.
2. Councillor J. Pritchard also requested a report on the arrangements for the provision of contact, including legal requirements and demands on social workers' time.
3. Councillor L. Binding requested a report on the Learning Disability Service - current nos. on register/caseload allocations and details of the number of service users who access the Supported Living Service and Independent Living Service.
4. Councillor R. Woodyatt suggested that arrangements be made for a young person who has benefited from the Leaving Care Service to share his experiences with the scrutiny committee. (Nigel Brown to liaise with Janine Edwards).

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following reports were received and noted.

1. Sickness Absence within the Council.
2. Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy 2011-2014: Progress Update.

13. TRANSITION REPORT

A Member of the Scrutiny Committee had requested that the information report be brought forward for discussion at the meeting. The report provides information on the implementation of the Pan Gwent multi agency transition protocol for young people with disabilities/additional learning needs and the work of the Caerphilly Transition Operational (TOG) Group.

The Welsh Government SEN Policy Review of Transition (2007) highlighted a number of problems including lack of coordination between services; transition planning process being ineffective; young people not being involved in their transition plans and reviews and relevant professional not participating in the transition process. Welsh Government responded by funding pilot projects to develop transition key working in Wales.

The Gwent transition project was later awarded monies from the European Social Fund to continue the development of transition. The transition team developed a transition information pack including a DVD, a person centred transition plan that was used for the young people in the pilot group and piloted a transition coordinator role. The project shared good practice across the local authorities, ABHB and education agencies involved in transition in Gwent developing an agreed multi agency transition process. The protocol sets out a vision and principles for young people with disabilities and additional learning needs to have a well-planned and well-coordinated transition support through their transition into adulthood.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee sought clarification on a number of issues in relation to the transition process. Officers gave assurances that there are arrangements in place in Children and Adult Services to identify people who may need additional support.

It is anticipated that the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) may visit the Authority later in the financial year to review the Authority's transition arrangements. Further information regarding findings and any recommendations can be shared with Scrutiny Committee members as required.

14. EXEMPT MATTERS

Members considered the public interest test and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and it was: -

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

15. ANNUAL ACCIDENTS AND VIOLENT INCIDENTS REPORT 2011-2012

The report provided information on the number and type of employee related accidents and violent incident reports received during the period 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

The meeting closed at 7.56 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2012 they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN