



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON TUESDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2012 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, L. Binding, P. Cook, J. Gale, L. Gardiner, N. George, C. Gordon,
G.J. Hughes, 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),
S. Harris (Financial Services Manager), R. Ballantine (Personnel Manager), D. Paton (Service
Manager North, Family Support and Residential Care), L. Dallimore (Lead Collaboration/
ACRF Project Officer), C.F. Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee
Services Officer).

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

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors G. Bevan, K. Dawson, P. Griffiths
and S. Morgan.

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 23rd October 2012 (minute nos. 1-15; 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. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER

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

Over the past few weeks a number of key people have visited the Directorate to speak to staff on forthcoming issues and to see how services are delivered within the County Borough.

On 19th November 2012 the Older Persons Commissioner for Wales spent a day with Adult Services staff. This provided an opportunity for the Commissioner to meet key people in the organisation and for us to showcase some of the work being carried out within Adult Services in relation to Older Peoples Services.

Staff spoke at length with regard to the adult safeguarding and commissioning work undertaken as well as giving a short briefing on the assessment beds at Ty Clyd. To conclude the day the Commissioner visited Min Y Mynydd Residential Care Home For Older People In Rhymney, which is participating in the Age Cymru 'My Home Life Project'. The Directorate has received very positive comments from the Commissioner and officers are in the process of arranging a further visit for her to the authority in February 2013.

On 3rd December 2012 Chris Stephens from the Safeguarding Team at Welsh Government spent the day with the POVA Team. Chris is involved in drafting the Social Services (Wales) bill and leads on the safeguarding sections.

Chris spent time with POVA coordinators focusing on how safeguarding adults works in practice, discussing the practice challenges around definitions of a vulnerable adult, thresholds for POVA advice and interagency engagement. He also spent time with the administrative staff considering the extensive support functions, the management of information and data collection. Chris said that he found the time to have been extremely useful, giving him a significantly increased understanding of the role of a POVA coordinator. He commented on the depth of knowledge, passion and commitment of the POVA staff he spent time with and will be returning on 4th December 2012 to observe a POVA strategy meeting. He will also observe the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board meeting on 6th December 2012.

Staff have been ensuring effective communication across all of social services in relation to the Social Services contribution to the new single integrated plan which will be implemented in April 2013. The draft plan is currently being finalised for consultation during January to March 2013. This will be a key document in determining the future direction of Social Services and the document is on this evening's agenda.

In early 2013 all Social Services staff will be given the opportunity to participate in a staff survey. Whilst staff currently have the opportunity to participate in corporate surveys, we think it is very important to give all staff the opportunity to participate in a survey which is Social Services focussed. The survey is currently being finalised and will be distributed to staff in a number of different ways.

The Chair thanked Councillor Woodyatt for his informative report.

SCRUTINY REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

5. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TEAM PILOT - UPDATE REPORT

The Scrutiny Committee welcomed Donna Paton, Service Manager North, Family Support and Residential Care and Gary Meale, Team Manager, Immediate Response Team to the meeting. Donna highlighted the key issues within the report and gave a short presentation, which included several case studies.

A report to Cabinet on 2nd August 2011 highlighted the need to develop a responsive service to families during times of immediate and urgent need and where there is a likelihood that a child or young person may become looked after by the Authority. There was an agreement to develop a new team as part of a pilot to address this area of need and the Immediate Response Team, consisting of the Team Manager and five Child Care Support Workers, was created and became operational in October 2011.

The service provided to families is very bespoke dependent on the strengths and difficulties identified. The Team aims to respond as quickly as possible with many families being visited the same day. Since the report was written, the number of referrals to the IRT has increased from 89 to 104. The outcomes for the families who have received a service have been very positive with a significant number of admissions to care being avoided. From the outset it was imperative that the service was evaluated and feedback to date has been very positive.

The Chair thanked the Officer for her report and presentation and Members discussed the matter in detail. Various issues were raised in particular in relation to the referral process, the future funding of the service and the relationship with other service users in terms of future development, to which detailed responses were provided by officers. In response to concerns raised in relation to costs and future funding, Members were advised that the IRT pilot is currently funded via a Welsh Government grant until the end of March 2014.

In acknowledging the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff involved in providing the service, reference was made to one of the original team members who was currently experiencing ill health. It was agreed to forward the best wishes of the scrutiny committee to him and to thank him for all his hard work in the past.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the progress and development of the Immediate Response Team to date and that there would be a review, in terms of budget planning, in twelve months.

6. RHYMNEY INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE RESOURCE CENTRE

The Assistant Director Adult Services presented the report, which updated the Scrutiny Committee with regard to the development of the Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Resource Centre. Recent images of the Resource Centre were circulated at the meeting.

Discussions around the development of the Resource Centre have been ongoing for a number of years and have been a key factor in the development of Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr and the subsequent closure of Redwood Hospital. The report identifies the communities that will benefit from the services provided by the Centre together with the various services that will be accommodated. An update was received on progress with the construction of the building work, which stated on 30th April 2012. Due to the inclement weather in June and early July contractors have reported that they have fallen 1.5 weeks behind schedule and it is envisaged that the centre will open in August 2013.

In terms of the ongoing operation of the centre and following a north service modelling workshop, a number of task and finish groups have now been established to consider specific service areas such as mental health; in patient beds; children and families; learning disability; health promotion; professions allied to health; staff accommodation; primary care/GP services and palliative care.

As the project is moving into an implementation stage, the opportunity has been taken to review the project structure, details of which are set out under paragraph 4.8 of the report. All the groups mentioned have representation from Social Services. In terms of public engagement there have been a number of newsletters circulated to the local community and on 7th November 2012 a community update took place. It is envisaged that there will be ongoing dialogue.

The annual running cost of the Resource Centre will be circa £1.9m and the funding of this has been subject to significant negotiation during the last 3 years. £1.3m will be met through redirecting Wanless funding, £362k of which is currently supporting existing services within Social Services. This funding transfer has been built into the Directorate's MTFP along with a further £180k, which will be required to fund the rent and other costs relating to the building.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the report in detail and further information was sought in relation to the allocation of in-patient beds at the Resource Centre, the proposals for catering and the provision of services. The Head of Partnerships and Networks, ABHB, advised that there are ongoing discussions in terms of the modelling and further information would be provided at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee if available.

Members noted the progress made in terms of developing the integrated Resource Centre at Rhymney and that a further report would be brought to the Scrutiny Committee when the final service model is agreed.

7. MENTAL HEALTH INTEGRATION PROPOSALS

The report sought Members' views on the integration of mental health services between the Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB) and the five local authorities in the former Gwent area. Members were asked to consider and endorse the proposal and associated timescales.

Since August 2010 a Partnership Board consisting of representatives from the five former Gwent local authorities and ABHB has met on a monthly basis to consider the opportunities and implications of integrated services regarding mental health and learning disability services. This work has been delivered through a Partnership Board of which the Corporate Director is a member, a Strategy Implementation group and a delivery group.

The preferred option being presented to the ABHB and the 5 Local Authorities in Gwent is:

- To move towards a model for mental health (inc the development of 2 pathways one for mental health and one for dementia)
- To move towards an integrated delivery structure at a county borough level .

- To move towards an integrated management structure for delivery that retains partners' existing governance structures, however, sees day to day management of the service undertaken by the General Manager for mental health.
- To support the above via establishing a Health Act - Section 33 Agreement.

Officers responded in detail to the queries raised by Members in relation to the partnership governance of the service, personnel issues and funding arrangements. Further reports would be brought to the Scrutiny Committee as the governance model becomes clearer.

The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the proposals contained in the report, including the associated timescales, prior to the report being presented to Cabinet for further consideration and approval.

8. ANNUAL REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE 2011-2012

The Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services sets out a requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually to the Council on the performance of Social Services and to set out plans for further improvement. The Annual Directors Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services for 2011-12 was presented to Council on 7th August 2012.

The Annual Council Reporting Framework, which governs the production of the Annual Director's Report, also requires CSSIW to review each local authority and provide an analysis of the Annual Director's Report and its supporting evidence.

The Social Services Inspection Evaluation and Review Report 2011-12 for Caerphilly County Borough Council is attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The report sets out the key strengths and areas for development/improvement in CCBC's Social Services Directorate for the year 2011-2012.

Members congratulated officers on the outcome of the inspection and the improvements that had been made within Social Services over the years.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the Social Services Inspection Evaluation and Review Report 2011-2012 prior to the report being presented to Cabinet for final endorsement.

9. SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL SERVICES: WLGA/ADSS CYMRU IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The report outlines the responsibility of the Local Authority in scrutinising the significant implications of the Local Government Implementation Plan for Sustainable Social Services.

The Plan has secured political and professional endorsement via the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the Association of Directors of Social Services Wales (ADSS Cymru). It sets out clear and measurable actions, aligned with each of the core objectives of Sustainable Social Services and supporting themes identified by the Welsh Government in its 'White Paper' of 2011. A key challenge for the Council is to deliver effective preventative services that maintain and enhance the wellbeing of people and the Plan rightly places the service user/citizen at the heart of all service planning and provision.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the information set out in the report and was invited to identify specific areas that it would wish to examine in further detail at future meetings.

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

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

1. The Head of Partnerships and Networks, ABHB, proposed that a presentation be prepared for a future meeting on partnership work and neighbourhood networks.
2. Councillor L. Ackerman requested an update report on the Befriending Service provided in the County Borough.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following reports were received and noted.

1. The Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2012-2014.
2. Summary of Members' Attendance - Quarter 2: 1st July 2012 - 30th September 2012.
3. Chief Medical Officer for Wales Annual Report 2011.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2013.

CHAIRMAN