



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 26TH MARCH 2013 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, G. Bevan, L. Binding, P. Cook, E.J. Gale, L. Gardiner, N. George,
C. Gordon, P.A. Griffiths, S. Morgan, J.A. Pritchard

Cabinet Member: Councillor R. Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services

Together with:

D. Street (Acting Director Social Services), S. Harris (Acting Head of Corporate Finance),
J. Williams (Interim Assistant Director Adult Services), A. Sheehan (Service Manager,
Safeguarding and Review Team - Children's Services), C. Short (Barnardo's Young Carers),
R. Morris (Principal Officer Financial Administration and Assessment), C. Forbes-Thompson
(Scrutiny Research Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer)

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors K. Dawson and G.J. Hughes and
Mrs J. Morgan (Users & Carers).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors L. Ackerman and C. Gordon declared an interest in agenda items 6(1) and 6(2)
and took no part in the debate or voting thereon. Councillor L. Ackerman left the meeting
during consideration of agenda item 6(2).

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee held on 12th February 2013 (minute nos. 1-11; page nos. 1-6) 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. The Scrutiny Committee received details of the following.

The Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Bill has been issued by Welsh Government and is now out for formal consultation. The Bill will significantly change the way organisations across the public sector deliver Social Services. When the final bill is received officers will arrange a Members' Seminar to explain and discuss the detail of the bill.

On the 25th February 2013 the Care & Social Services Inspectorate for Wales announced their analysis of Council performance for 2011/12. Although this report will not be published, it sets out to identify good practices that other authorities can learn from. The report concluded that Caerphilly's good practice examples were, Adult Protection, Child Protection and managing the performance of independent providers.

Similarly, on 7th March 2013, CSSIW published their report on the role of the Statutory Director of Social Services in Wales. This followed an inspection they carried out in December 2012. The conclusions of the report were very positive for the Authority and a report on the findings will be brought to Scrutiny in due course.

On the integration front a report will be going to Cabinet with regard to the future direction of our work with Blaenau Gwent. This report will be brought to the next HSC&WB Scrutiny Committee meeting in May.

The Directorate continues to try and recruit an Interim Assistant Director for Children's Services and it is hoped that this process will be completed in the next week. The Cabinet Member thanked the current Service Managers within the Children's Services Division for covering many of the roles over the past few weeks.

Reference was made to the media cuttings concerning a serious case review. The report from Bridgend Local Safeguarding Children Board made 52 recommendations, only one of which named Caerphilly. Caerphilly's involvement was a very small part of the investigations.

Finally, Councillor Woodyatt informed the Scrutiny Committee that two of the Directorate's services have been shortlisted for the Social Care Accolades. The Immediate Response Team and the Children's Rights Officer will now go on for further consideration. Members of the Scrutiny Committee joined Councillor Woodyatt in congratulating the staff involved and wished them well as the process continues.

5. YOUTH FORUM PRESENTATION

The Scrutiny Committee welcomed Joel Price, representing Caerphilly Youth Forum and Clare Jones, Youth Forum Coordinator.

By means of a digital story and PowerPoint presentation, Joel outlined the issues that the Junior and Youth Forum had chosen as their priorities for the year ahead under the four corporate themes of Regeneration, Education, Health Social Care and Well-being and the Environment.

The four priorities were voted upon at the Youth Forum Conference in October. The issue that received the largest number of votes (32%) and which had therefore been chosen by the Youth Forum as its priority issues for the year ahead falls within the Environment theme and to their wish for better leisure facilities, more activity choices at a lower cost and improved advertising. The issue for Health Social Care and Well-Being, with 28% of the votes, related to abuse and the need for everyone to be able to recognise all types of abuse, how to report it and to have the confidence to do so. The Youth Forum issue for Education receiving 21% of the votes, concerned better transition information from schools to colleges and higher education. The issue for Regeneration, with 19% of the votes, related to access for disabled people.

In terms of the priority Issue, Joel explained that the Youth Forum were hoping to work with Leisure to develop a smart card reward system to develop fitness sessions for all ages at the outdoor gym at Cefn Fforest, to create a phone application for the smartcard and to explore the feasibility of a free return journey on public transport when using the leisure facilities. In addition, they were hoping for more outdoor gyms to be provided across the county borough. Joel invited the views of Members present on these proposals, which were closely linked with health and wellbeing. In this respect, reference was made to the need to encourage more young people to use the leisure facilities in certain areas and Joel suggested that the Forum could promote this on their website and via social media sites such as Twitter.

Members thanked Joel for his excellent presentation and discussion ensued on the ways in which the Authority could help and support the Youth Forum in terms of raising awareness of abuse, being able to recognise it and having the confidence to report it. Joel welcomed the suggestions put forward and invited the Safeguarding and Review Team - Children's Services to attend one of their conferences.

SCRUTINY REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES CHARGING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Councillors L. Ackerman and C. Gordon had declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The Scrutiny Committee received a PowerPoint presentation on the background, findings and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, which had been set up to review charging for non-residential social services.

The review group's terms of reference were to examine the requirements of the Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure in 2010 and the impact upon non-residential social services charging in respect of services that have a charge; the level and application of charges and allowances and disregards. Whilst conducting their review, members of the group requested data on the level of client contributions towards non-residential services in CCBC compared to neighbouring local authorities. Members were surprised that the charges set by the Council were the lowest of its neighbours, in particular the daily charge for day care attendance of £1.62.

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group, Councillor B. Jones, thanked all Members and Officers who had taken part in the review for their hard work and commitment, whilst acknowledging the difficult decisions that had to be taken in order to ensure the sustainability of social services in the long term.

The Scrutiny Committee gave detailed consideration to the report and the recommendations contained therein and RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that:-

1. The Council increase the hourly rate for home care and supported living to £7.88 followed by a further increase of 10% per annum in subsequent years. To be reviewed after 5 years.
2. The Council increase the daily rate for day care services to £3.24 followed by a further increase of 20% per annum in subsequent years. To be reviewed after 5 years.
3. Service users residing in Extra Care facilities who are receiving domiciliary care services should be financially assessed under the Fairer Charging policy, to bring them in line with other non-residential service users.
4. A report be presented to Health Social Care & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at a future date that details the support element of home care, level of provision and recommendations on charging.
5. The Council should include savings in the financial assessment for ability to pay a contribution towards non-residential social services.
6. The Council should include in the policy a statement to state clearly circumstances when a financial assessment or charge will be waived or deferred. The statement to include a time limit of three months.

7. REVIEW OF DAY CARE SERVICES, OLDER PERSONS

Councillors L. Ackerman and C. Gordon had declared an interest in this item at the start of the meeting and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon. Councillor L. Ackerman left the meeting and the Vice Chair, Councillor B. Jones, took the chair until Councillor Ackerman returned.

The report informed the Scrutiny Committee of the review of the management structure of day care services that provide support for older people, younger adults with a physical disability and adults with a diagnosis of dementia. The review includes the proposed management structure to ensure effective and robust management arrangements are in place.

Members were advised that there is a need to re-shape services to achieve a more person centred, user led provision. This will support people to live in their own homes longer while adding invaluable support to carers to enable them to continue in their caring role whilst also being able to pursue their own interests. It is about supplementing the model and transforming day services to take account of demographic pressures.

A Member asked whether it was envisaged that the new structure would enable more service users to access the service and requested a report on progress six months after its implementation. Officers advised that it was intended that the service could be accessed more appropriately. It is about creating a range of different day services that meet the needs of different people. Feedback from staff has revealed that a full day at a centre is often too long for a service user with dementia and shorter sessions would best meet their needs. Options will therefore be considered for providing shorter sessional support and making links with current respite provisions to develop flexible services that also address the needs of carers. In terms of the request for a report, the Vice Chair requested that any requests for reports be emailed to the Acting Director Social Services and the Democratic Services Manager in view of the significant backlog of outstanding reports at the present time.

Members queried the proposed management re-structure staffing costs and were advised that the figures do allow for incremental increases. Clarification was also sought that consultation

had taken place with all service users and reservations were expressed about the impact of the proposals on some service users. Officers gave assurances that service users would have been made aware of the proposals from their service reviews and that the proposed changes were about supplementing the existing model not replacing it i.e. it was about creating a range of different day services that meets the needs of different people.

Following a detailed discussion, Members were asked to consider the recommendation contained in the report and the majority present voted in favour of the recommendation and endorsed the changes to the management structure within Day Services prior to a report going to Cabinet for formal agreement in April 2013.

Councillor Gordon abstained from voting having declared an interest in this matter. Councillor L. Ackerman had left the meeting during consideration of this item.

8. YOUNG CARERS SERVICE

Councillor L. Ackerman returned to the meeting and took the chair.

The report, which had been requested by the Cabinet Member for Social Services, provided information about the services offered for young carers within Caerphilly County Borough.

Caerphilly Children's Services and the Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) jointly commission Barnardo's to provide a Young Carers Service within Caerphilly County Borough. Children's Services contribute £76,317.00 per annum and SMAT £36,223.00. The service is targeted at children and young people between the ages of 7 and 25 years who have a substantive responsibility for caring for a sick or disabled parent or sibling. The service provides a range of activities to support young carers including: support to access community based activities; group work activities; individual support packages and signposting to other services. A collection of case studies, anonymised and collated for form 'A typical day in the life of a young carer' is attached as an appendix to the report.

Members welcomed the report and sought further information on how young carers are identified and supported. Officers outlined the steps they are taking to support young carers, helping them to link with others in a similar situation and get their voices heard. There are various support systems in place and the Barnardo's service is available 24 hours.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

9. BRIEFING ON LOCAL EMERGENCY CENTRE AT YSBYTY YSTRAD FAWR (YYF)

It was noted that no one from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB) was in attendance for this item.

The report had been prepared by the Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Chief Executive of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board following a request received from the Scrutiny Committee. The report sets out the background to the opening of Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (YYF), the services provided out of the hospital and activity data from the date of opening to 28th February 2013.

The Cabinet Member for Social Services informed the Scrutiny Committee that the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council had met with Health Board officials the previous day. The Health Board had proposed that arrangements be made for members of the Cabinet/Scrutiny Committee to meet representatives of their Management Committee at YYF, which would include a tour of the hospital.

Members were extremely disappointed that no one from the ABHB was in attendance to present and respond to questions on the report and they requested that the matter be

deferred for a full discussion with members of ABHB at the earliest opportunity.

It was agreed that the matter be deferred to a special meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to be convened at the earliest opportunity with senior representatives of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board in attendance.

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

The Chair advised Members that in view of the backlog of outstanding reports that had been requested at previous meetings of the Scrutiny Committee, the Assistant Director Social Services had requested that Members email any requests for reports to him (with a copy to the Democratic Services Manager) in order that can be categorised into items for discussion or items for noting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Councillor J.A. Pritchard had requested that the following Information item be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

11. ROTA VISITS BY MEMBERS TO SOCIAL SERVICES ESTABLISHMENTS: 1ST JULY 2012 - 31ST DECEMBER 2012

The report provided details of the number of rota visits undertaken by Members during the period 1st July 2012 to 31st December 2012.

Councillor J.A. Pritchard had requested that the report be brought forward for discussion at the meeting in view of the number of rota visits that had not been undertaken and the social services establishments that had not therefore been visited by Members during this period. Discussion ensued on whether the visits should continue in the future. Members were of the opinion that they served a very useful purpose but that perhaps some form of training, particularly for the newer Members, could be arranged to clarify the purpose of the visits.

The Acting Director Social Services advised that there are guidance notes for Members on undertaking these visits and suggested that he organise a seminar for all Members on the subject at the earliest opportunity.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Approved as a correct record subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2013.

CHAIRMAN