



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 25TH JUNE 2013 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

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

Together with:

D. Street (Acting Director Social Services), S. Harris (Acting Head of Corporate Finance),
J. Williams (Interim Assistant Director Adult Services), R. Ballantine (Personnel Manager),
A. Sheehan (Service Manager), G. Bromley (Learning Disability Team Manager),
V. Self (IFSS Service Manager), M. Wait (IFSS Gwent Team Manager), M. Rogers (Youth
Offending Services Manager), J. Edwards (Team Manager, Leaving Care), Z. Newman
(Business Manager, SEWSCB), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer), R. Barrett
(Committee Services Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs P. Cook, Mrs P.A. Griffiths,
R. Woodyatt, Mrs J. Morgan and Mrs B. Bolt (Aneurin Bevan Health Board).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning. Councillor L. Binding declared
an interest during consideration of agenda item 5(5) in terms of his professional capacity.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by
the Chairman.

1. Special Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on
30th April 2013 (minute nos. 1-3; page nos. 1-4).

2. Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 14th May 2013 (minute nos. 1-13; page nos. 1-5).

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**

An apology for absence had been received from the Cabinet Member for Social Services. There was therefore no report on this occasion.

5. **RAISING AWARENESS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION - THISTLE DVD AND ACCOMPANYING PACK**

The Scrutiny Committee were shown a short film which had been developed by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board in South Wales and produced by young people for young people to raise awareness of the dangers of child exploitation.

Following a high profile case of child sexual exploitation in Ebbw Vale three years ago, Gwent Police used the Proceeds of Crime Act to secure money from the perpetrator of these crimes. The police asked the LSCB's in South Wales if they would develop a resource for children and young people that would raise awareness of sexual exploitation and the associated risks. The LSCB's commissioned this work from the Ebbw Vale youth project.

The DVD called 'Thistle' (the name of the Police Operation in Ebbw Vale) was published in December 2012 and is in the process of being disseminated to all schools and youth groups in the region. There has been considerable interest from other parts of the UK in this product and it has been featured as good practice in several national conferences.

Members discussed the issues raised in the film and fully supported the use of the DVD as a means of raising awareness of child sexual exploitation. They were invited to contact Zara Newman, Business Manager SEWSCB, if they were aware of any groups within their community that would benefit from receiving a copy of the DVD.

The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the report and its recommendations.

6. **PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS**

The report demonstrates the increasing demands being placed upon the Community Occupational Therapy Team and advises on their performance in relation to assessment targets and national performance indicators.

The Community Occupational Therapy Team in Caerphilly provides a service to the population aged 18 plus. Approximately 40% of the enquiries received via the Adult Services Duty Information Team (ASDIT) are in relation to requests for Occupational Therapy intervention. When requests are received by the COT Team they are prioritised according to the level of need.

Following assessment by a member of the COT Team, the need for adaptations may be identified. Minor adaptations include stair rails, external rails, key safes etc up to the cost of £800. There is no financial assessment and contribution from the service user is not required as Social Services provide the funding for this service. Minor adaptations are generally completed within 6 weeks of receipt of a request from the OT. There is also a fast track system in place, which allows priority work to be undertaken within 24 hours.

For major adaptations, the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) provides adaptations, which cost over £800 eg. stair lifts, level access showers etc. For Council tenants DFG's are not financially assessed and the tenant is not required to make a financial contribution. However, owner occupiers are financially assessed and may be required to make a financial contribution. In both instances of Major and Minor adaptations the Authority is performing better than national PI targets. The Authority has recently taken the decision to pass all requests for minor adaptations in Housing Association properties directly to the registered social landlord. This should help realise cost savings in the current financial year or at the very least ensure that adequate budget is available for minor adaptations.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the issues raised within the report and officers responded to their queries. Further information was sought in terms of the hospital discharge procedure for priority 1 service users. Members were advised that the hospital discharge team alerts the Occupational Therapy Team as necessary as they have a list of every service user who is being prepared for discharge. Clarification was sought on when the criteria for the DFG had last been reviewed and whether service users with leasehold agreements were discounted from the grant. The Interim Assistant Director, Adult Services, agreed to look into these matters and report back.

A Member referred to the length of time that some service users have to wait for their adaptations to be provided. It was explained that where there are multiple jobs to be undertaken, the whole package has to be approved before it can be started and as this could involve several different agencies, delays were possible. In addition, certain adaptations such as external lifts require planning approval, which could also result in a delay in implementation. It was noted that the Directorate has increased the budget in this area by £130k in 2013/14 in order to meet anticipated further increases in demand.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF 16 PLUS SERVICES

The report was originally placed on the agenda for the Scrutiny Committee held on 14th May 2013 as an information item. Following a request from a Member at the end of that meeting the report was brought back to this meeting for discussion.

Janine Edwards, Team Manager, Leaving Care, presented the report, which sets out plans to develop the structure of the existing Leaving Care Team. It is proposed that the Team becomes a 16 + service, which will require the reconfiguration of resources to develop the necessary structure of the team. The 16+ service will give the Leaving Care Team extra capacity to improve services for care leavers and young people 16+. It will reduce duplication and provide a seamless service to improve outcomes for care leavers. For the team to take on the extra tasks expected of them there will be a need for extra resources and a new structure for the 16 + service is included in the report.

While developing the 16 + service, links have been strengthened with external agencies to improve services to young people. Citizens Advice Bureau, Youth Services, Housing and Careers are all on board to offer advice and support to young people and it is hoped that in time a surgery can be developed for young people to attend on a regular basis.

The Scrutiny Committee congratulated officers on progress made and endorsed the report and its recommendations. It was felt that the development of such a service will provide a more robust and comprehensive support network to some of the most vulnerable and needy young people within our communities.

8. SOCIAL SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AGENCY AND ALDERS CONSULTANCY OPPORTUNITY ASSESSMENT

Social Services Improvement Agency (SSIA) commissioned Alders Consultants to work with Local Authorities to examine the current practice in relation to efficiency and service improvement strategies in Learning Disability Services. Together they devised a national programme for Wales to support transformation.

Caerphilly County Borough Council Adult Services Division engaged in the programme of comprehensive analysis of strategic and operational practice. Whilst the Authority had already commenced a cost saving review and linked to the Gwent Strategy for People with a Learning Disability, it welcomed the external scrutiny.

The evaluation was very positive and noted the significant progress that the Authority's strategies had facilitated. Nevertheless, a series of recommendations, which are set out under paragraph 4.15 of the report, were provided to assist in balancing the cost review with change of models and practice.

SSIA and Alders plan to hold a national learning event later this year when all the demonstrator sites across Wales work concludes. It is likely that Caerphilly will be asked to speak about their experiences and progress with taking up the opportunities and implementing the recommendations.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the report in detail and officers responded to the issues raised. It was generally felt that there were lots of positives in the assessment and recognition of the services provided.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the information contained in the report regarding the activity and progress made in relation to the Learning Disability Service.

9. INTEGRATED FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE (IFSS)

Councillor L. Binding declared an interest in this item in terms of his professional capacity.

The Scrutiny Committee received an overview of the background and operational development of the Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) across the Gwent area, with specific attention to the local arrangements for Caerphilly.

Welsh Government committed significant funding to establish the IFSS across Wales and in 2012 set a requirement for there to be two statutory IFST's in Gwent. Locally it has been agreed that this will be facilitated through three hubs i.e. Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent; Monmouthshire Torfaen and Newport.

In recent years, there has been a clear message from WG that the future of effective public services in Wales, should be to provide holistic support at every level of need, built around integrated services for children and families. One of the mechanisms for delivering this 'holistic support' is the IFSS, a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary team delivering a very specific model of therapeutic intervention to families, where parental substance misuse is identified as being one of the critical risk factors in jeopardizing the safety of the children. In short, it involves a thirteen month intervention split into two phases and preceded by an assessment.

Phase 1 is intensive and can involve daily contact for 4-6 weeks. In this time, the practitioner gets to understand the family and the root (not presenting issues) of their needs; works with them to identify what could be improved and how, and then supports them to make the behavioural changes necessary to make the improvements which they have identified as being important to them. Phase 2 is much less intensive and primarily involves monitoring plans developed in phase 1 and offering boosters where families need that additional support.

The Scrutiny Committee considered the report in detail and arising from issues raised, officers provided an update on progress made with the roll out of the project. Members were advised that within the Caerphilly/Blaenau Gwent hub, accommodation had been secured in Pontllanfraith together with 'hot desks' in local areas across the area. Some of the team are in place whilst others are in the process of being recruited. Staffing structures were determined by the multi-agency management board and other existing governance structures. The service will be officially launched on 18th July 2013 and will become operational at the end of that month.

A service level agreement is being developed outlining roles and responsibilities. An agreement in principle document has been signed by all the local authorities, which specifies that should the current arrangement of Newport administering the WG grant for all Gwent authorities not continue next year, that financial liability for the posts in the area, be picked up by that area (as they will then have the funding from WG).

The Scrutiny Committee noted the progress made and endorsed the approach being taken to widen the influence of IFSS across Social Services and partner agencies within Gwent.

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

The following requests were received: -

1. Councillor J. A. Pritchard requested a report on the availability and suitability of buses used by our social services users.
2. Councillor Mrs E. Aldworth requested a report in respect of the number of still births and cot deaths recorded for the county borough and the support offered to families involved.
3. Councillor C. Gordon requested a report on the monitoring of home care contracts undertaken by private firms.
4. Councillor L. Binding requested that arrangements be made for a follow up visit by the Ambulance Service with regard to their response times to emergency calls.
5. Councillor L. Ackerman sought information on the criteria for disability facility grants, including details of when it was last reviewed.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were reported and noted:-

1. Summary of Members' Attendance - Quarter 4 - 1st January 2013 to 8th May 2013.
2. Social Services Grants 2013/14.

The meeting closed at 6.56 pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2013.

CHAIRMAN