



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 22ND OCTOBER 2013 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Ackerman - Chairman

Councillors:

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

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

Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), J. Williams (Interim Assistant Director, Adult Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director, Children Services), S. Harris (Acting Head of Corporate Finance), R. Ballantine (Personnel Manager), J. Edwards (Team Leader, Leaving Care), J. Jones (Democratic Services Manager), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer)

Users & Carers: Mrs M. Veater

Aneurin Bevan Health Board: Mrs B. Bolt (Divisional Director, Primary Care) and Dr. J. Holland (Clinical Director, Caerphilly)

APPOINTMENT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

Members congratulated Mr. D. Street on his recent appointment to Corporate Director of Social Services.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, K. Dawson and Mrs. B. Jones. Mr. C. Luke, Mrs. J.M. Morgan and Miss L. Price (Users and Carers).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors L. Ackerman, J. Gale and C. Gordon declared a personal interest in agenda item 6(2) as they have family members in receipt of domiciliary care.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman: -

1. Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 10th September 2013 (minute nos. 1-13; page nos. 1-6).

4. 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.

5. 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 congratulating Dave Street on his recent appointment as Corporate Director of Social Services. He then drew Members' attention to the agenda for the meeting and in particular the presentation on Partnership Work and Neighbourhood Networks by Bobby Bolt, Divisional Director Primary Care, Aneurin Bevan Health Board. He advised that the report on the monitoring of domiciliary care agencies had been requested at a previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. There were also two reports on the agenda from the Children Services Division in relation to the impact of the Welfare Reform Act and the Homeless Young People Joint Project.

In terms of the budget monitoring report, Members were already aware of the very difficult financial situation facing the Authority for 2014/15 and beyond. Officers were currently considering the detail of the settlement and a fuller briefing will be provided at Council on 23rd October. Difficult decisions lie ahead and to this end a Members' Seminar is planned for 21st November 2013 and special meetings of the Scrutiny Committees will be held in December. Members were urged to attend the special HSC&WB Scrutiny Committee budget meeting on 11th December 2013 as the response to the financial challenges will form a major part of the work programme over the coming months.

From a service perspective, Members were advised that staff at Ty Clyd Residential Home for Older People in Bargoed were celebrating the first anniversary of the introduction of the assessment bed service. Over the past 12 months 39 people have accessed these beds and 27 of them have returned successfully to their own homes. The service has gained wide recognition and has been visited by the Older Persons Commissioner and the Minister for Local Government.

6. SCRUTINY REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following.

7. PRESENTATION - PARTNERSHIP WORK AND NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORKS

Mrs B. Bolt, Divisional Director Primary Care and Networks, Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABHB) and Dr John Holland, Clinical Director - Caerphilly, attended the Scrutiny Committee to outline the work that the Health Board is undertaking in relation to Partnership Working and Neighbourhood Networks.

The Health Board was formed in October 2009 and had subsequently developed five locality structures. The structure was reviewed in 2010/11 and as a result two divisions were created. The Board recognised the need to retain locality focus and worked in partnership with local authorities, GPs, third sector and other stakeholders to develop and implement Single Integrated Plans.

Mrs Bolt outlined the main functions of the Primary Care and Networks Division. Members were advised that Primary Care addresses populations and manages care in an integrated way. It leads the partnership agenda at locality level, including the Single Integrated Plan. It manages all Section 28as, service level agreements with local authorities and third sector. In addition, it develops Neighbourhood Care Networks to drive the service transformation agenda across the Health Board and manages all independent contractor issues. The Division supports effective prescribing in Primary Care and Primary Care Estate developments. It also manages prison health care and mental health.

Details of how the organisation fits into the structure were received together with details of the Welsh Government's strategic drivers i.e. *Sustainable Social Service, Setting the Direction, Together for Health etc.* Two new documents had been published this year in terms of continuing local health care and an outline business case had been approved.

It was noted that there are three Neighbourhood Care Networks in Caerphilly i.e. North, South and East. They are clinically led to reflect and integrate the role of primary care in the delivery of all services in the community. Membership includes GPs, CRTs, Community Health and Social Care staff, Public Health Acute Consultants, Third Sector, Housing and Communities First. Their principle function is "To optimise and improve care to local communities" through collaborative working; finding local solutions to service delivery issues; maximising use of all resources; whole system approach to patient centred pathways (across all health, community and social care settings) and delivery of single integrated plans.

The Chair thanked Mrs Bolt and Dr Holland for the very informative presentation and a detailed question and answer session ensued.

8. MONITORING OF DOMICILIARY CARE AGENCIES WITHIN THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR IN THE CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH

Councillors L. Ackerman, J. Gale and C. Gordon declared a personal interest in this item as they have family members in receipt of domiciliary care.

The Interim Assistant Director, Adult Services, presented the report, which informed Members of the monitoring arrangements in place for the provision of domiciliary care services commissioned from the independent sector in the county borough.

Domiciliary care monitoring is a significant challenge with approximately 1200 service users receiving a domiciliary care service in their own homes at any one time. Contract monitoring of domiciliary care agencies has mostly consisted of desktop audits, visits to provider bases, telephone surveys of service users and a number of home visits where consent has been granted. All providers are required to have working electronic call monitoring systems, which assist in supplying information to providers about the performance of their carers and also enables records to be scrutinised regularly by the Contract Monitoring Team.

Members were advised that there is currently a framework in place for the provision of domiciliary care, which has a total of 12 providers delivering between 10,000 and 11,000 hours a week. If it is identified that an agency doesn't come up to the required standard, for example missed calls, POVA concerns, non-compliance with CSSIW, poor communication with service users etc they can be subject to the Provider Performance Protocol.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and discussed the report in detail and officers responded to the issues raised. Members were advised that the Provider Performance Protocol seeks to work with individual agencies via the responsible individual and or registered manager to develop an action plan to clearly identify corrective or development actions that are required to ensure the agency meets the standards required. Over the last three years there have been five domiciliary care agencies that have been subject to the provider performance process in order to address poor performance/quality issues. All of the providers in question had since improved their performance and achieved the required standards of care and were no longer subject to the Provider Performance Protocol.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

9. POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE WELFARE REFORM ACT 2012 ON YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

The report provided information on the potential impact of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 on young people leaving care.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 contains provision for the introduction of a Universal Credit to replace a range of existing means tested benefits and tax credits for people of working age, commencing 2013. Overall it is possible that the reforms will lead to an increase in demand for support and services from the Local Authority at a time of reducing resources.

For young people leaving care there will potentially be issues regarding the benefits they are eligible to claim and the accommodation choices they will have as a result of the Act. Historically, allowances have been paid on a weekly or fortnightly basis and there may be issues in terms of budgeting for food, bills, rent etc, as the new allowances will be paid on a monthly basis. There is a risk that families will have to move into smaller properties and in turn young people may be forced to leave home.

Members of the Scrutiny Committee expressed their concerns and discussion ensued on further ways in which young people leaving care could be supported. Officers advised that they were actively pursuing ways in which they could help and that discussions had taken place with colleagues in Housing and private landlords to explore the feasibility of house shares.

During the course of the debate, a Member proposed that the Corporate Director and Cabinet Member for Social Services work with their counterparts in Housing Services to develop a shared accommodation protocol. Another Member referred to the recommendation in paragraph 9.2 and requested that a further report be brought back to the Committee in 3 to 6 months time rather than 6 to 12 months. In response to a concern raised in relation to the Supporting People budgets, the Director advised that Welsh Government had announced that the Supporting People budgets in Wales would be protected against expected cuts next year.

Following detailed consideration of the recommendations contained in the report and those proposed at the meeting, the Scrutiny Committee unanimously endorsed the following: -

1. To note the report.
2. That a further report be presented to the Scrutiny Committee in six months time to be able to establish a true picture of the impact that this new Act is having on young people leaving care.
3. That the Corporate Director and Cabinet Member for Social Services, work with their counterparts in Housing Services to develop a shared accommodation protocol.

10. HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE JOINT PROTOCOL

The report sought endorsement of the revised Homeless Young People Joint Protocol between Social Services and Housing, which has been developed in consultation with officers in both service areas.

Following independent training regarding homelessness in response to the Southwark Judgement, it was agreed that the 'Caerphilly County Borough Council Homeless Young People Joint Protocol' needed to be reviewed and revised. A number of meetings had been held and a lot of work undertaken by Housing and Social Services in connection with the review. The significant changes to the protocol relate to the improved joint working arrangements including joint assessment processes. The key principles of the protocol are set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report, the report and revised Homeless Young People Joint Protocol be endorsed.

11. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (PERIOD 5)

The Acting Head of Corporate Finance highlighted the key issues within the report, which informed the Scrutiny Committee of the projected revenue expenditure for the Directorate for the 2013/14 financial year. Members were also reminded of the arrangements to hold special budget meetings of the Scrutiny Committees in December.

The 2013/14 month 5 position shows a projected directorate underspend of £975k. The projected position for the Children's Services Division is summarised in the table in paragraph 4.3.1 of the report. An underspend of £564k is projected in Management, Fieldwork and Administration. At month 5 the vacancy level stands at 8.17% against a budgeted level of 2.67%. Current projections assume that the vacancies will remain at 8.17% for the next 3 months but will then revert back to the budgeted level for the remainder of the financial year. Members were advised that vacant posts are being reviewed to ensure that there are no undue delays in the recruitment process and that proposals were being considered in terms of market supplements for social worker posts.

External Residential Care is a highly volatile budget area and significant variations against budget often occur. The projected underspend of £265k reflects current committed placements and is net of financial contributions from Health and Education.

The Adult Services Division is currently projected to underspend by £273. The most significant variations against budget are in Management, Fieldwork and Administration, External Residential Care, Home Assistance and Reablement and Other Costs.

Within External Residential Care the projected underspend on Older People placements has increased to £573k, largely due to a number of individuals being awarded Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding. It was confirmed that the recent increase in fees to independent providers, had been factored into the projections. There is also a projected underspend of £147k for Learning Disabilities placements. These underspends are being partially offset by projected overspends of £245k on other placement budgets, £175k of which relates to Mental Health.

Within Home Assistance and Reablement there is a projected underspend for the in house Homecare Team amounting to £251k and a projected underspend of £155k in relation to the Gwent Frailty programme. However, these underspends are being largely offset by a projected overspend of £446k for independent sector homecare provision, particularly in

relation to services for older people. There has been a steady increase in the total hours brokered for independent sector homecare during the current year, which is expected to continue. As such, the current projections include a contingency of £170k to meet likely further increases in demand during the remainder of the financial year.

There are currently no significant variations against budgets within Service Strategy and Business Support.

Following detailed consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the report be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

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

There were no requests for items to be included on the next available agenda.

13. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were received and noted.

1. Summary of Members' Attendance - Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 - 9th May 2013 - 30th September 2013.
2. Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service HMI Probation Short Quality Screening Inspection 2013.

The meeting closed at 18.50 pm.

Approved as a correct record subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2013.

CHAIRMAN