

Social Services JCC Meeting

Monday 2nd May 2012

Sirhowy Room Ty Penallta

Attendees:

Albert Heaney, Corporate Director Social Services
 Andrew Jarrett, Assistant Director Children's Services
 Steve Harris, Finance Manager
 Richard Ballantine, HR Manager
 Gary Enright, Branch Secretary, Unison
 Juan Roberts-Garcia, Asst Branch Secretary, Unison
 Terry Bendle, GMB

Issue	Action
<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dave Street, Assistant Director Adult Services ❖ Neil Funnell Branch Secretary GMB <p>2. Minutes of meeting 6 February 2012</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p> <p>3. Matters arising</p> <p>No matters arising.</p> <p>4. Blaenau Gwent/Caerphilly Social Services Integration</p> <p>AH gave an update on the integration programme between Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Social Services. The official launch of the Workforce Development team was held last week giving the Directors and Senior management team the opportunity to meet with staff.</p> <p>A draft paper had been submitted relating to proposals for the Contracts and Commissioning functions, which currently operate slightly differently between the 2 authorities. Once the paper had been discussed and submitted to the board then formal consultation will commence with staff over the future shape of the service.</p>	<p>Budget</p>

GE enquired what format the consultation would take.

AH confirmed that this would involve face-to-face meetings with staff to answer queries and allay any fears.

AH referred to a comment that was made by a Regional TU Rep in a recent meeting viewing the proposed integration as a means of cutting jobs across the 2 Authorities. AH confirmed that this was not the intention and that whilst some staff may have to change roles the focus was on sustaining and improving services.

5. Update on Residential Homes

GE requested that the TU's are informed where Residential Homes and Establishments are put into special measures. This results from a recent case where the privately run home had members of Unison working within the establishment. AH explained that this would be difficult as the purpose of putting them under special measures was to seek an improvement in performance. It did not always follow that this would result in the contract being terminated. RB commented that this was made more difficult as the staff were not employees of the authority.

6. Sickness Absence

The current absence figures were discussed together with actions that had been taken to reduce the levels of absence within the Directorate.

7. AOB

AH stated there are 2 items he wished to brief the members of the JCC on :-

The Budget for the Directorate and The Social Services Wales Bill

❖ Budget

There were considerable cost pressures on the budget and it was predicted that there would be a small overspend on the 2011/2012 budget, which would be covered by service reserves in order to produce a balanced budget for the year. The final figures were expected later in the month.

The budget negotiations for 2012/2013 had resulted in a fair settlement for Social Services for the forthcoming year but there were certainly challenges to be met. Adults Services face demographic pressures and challenges re continuing health care. The current economic situation was having an impact on families, which in turn placed greater demand on Children's Services.

Further work is underway on the Mid Term Financial Plan to ensure a strong ongoing financial base going forward.

❖ Social Services Wales Bill

<p>AH outlined the main issues raised in the Bill and how it aimed to transform services to meet future needs. The bill outlined proposals to change the way in which services are delivered, changes to the regulatory framework and a National Adoption Service for Wales. A formal response to the Bill was currently being developed within the Authority and would be forwarded to the Welsh Government.</p> <p>GE asked for an update on Meals on Wheels and the MAPS restructure at the next meeting</p> <p>TB asked about Tredegar Court AH confirmed that it was an extra care facility and not a residential home. The proposals previously discussed did not propose any job losses. Alternative proposals were being looked at and when these were ready staff would be consulted.</p>	
<p>Date of next meeting 6 August at 2.00pm in the Sirhowy Room, Ty Penallta.</p>	