

**Social Services JCC Meeting**

**Monday, 6th August 2012**

**Sirhowy Room, Ty Penallta**

**Attendees:**

Albert Heaney, Corporate Director Social Services  
 Andrew Jarrett, Assistant Director Children's Services  
 David Street, Assistant Director Adult Services  
 Steve Harris, Finance Manager  
 Richard Ballantine, HR Manager  
 Juan Roberts-Garcia, Assistant Branch Secretary, Unison  
 Neil Funnell Branch Secretary GMB  
 Terry Bendle, GMB

Issue	Action
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Gary Enright, Branch Secretary, Unison</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Minutes of meeting 2 May 2012</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p> <p><b>3. Matters arising</b></p> <p>DS updated those present on the latest developments with the Meals on Wheels Service. More information had been supplied to the Trade Unions and there was a meeting planned with the staff and management next week.</p> <p><b>4. Blaenau Gwent/Caerphilly Social Services Integration</b></p> <p>AH explained that there were on going meetings with the TU's and that this is now included as a standard item on the JCC agenda. A report on the options for Governance had been submitted by Tony Garthwaite that was subsequently submitted to the Programme Board. The Board endorsed option 4 and this would go forward to both Councils for approval.</p> <p>Option 4 maintains the sovereignty of both Councils and establishes a Joint Committee with delegated powers (the details of which have yet to be defined). Below the Joint Committee would be a Joint Scrutiny. A decision will have to be made on the hosting arrangements.</p>	

NF asked if a copy of Tony Garthwaite's report could be forwarded to the TU's as he had not seen a copy.

AH confirmed that a copy of the presentation materials would be sent to the TU's which details the options set out in the report.

AJ confirmed that the work streams within Children's Service were still meeting regularly. AJ confirmed that he would be leaving CCBC at the end of August 2012 and that Nigel Brown would be heading up Children's Services for both CCBC and BGCBC with effect from 1 September 2012.

SH confirmed that a detailed business case was currently being prepared in relation to the Integration of Social Services within the 2 Authorities.

AH explained that a draft paper has been developed on proposals on Contracting and Commissioning. The proposals will see a strengthening of the Service.

#### **5. Mental Health/Learning Disability Integration**

DS gave an update on the integration proposals for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities. There have been ongoing meetings between ABHB and the 5 LA's. There has been more progress with the Mental Health Integration. The Management structure would be headed by a Lead Manager for Mental Health Services covering both Health and Local Authorities. Work will be undertaken to look at the governance models to ensure the Service and staff can be managed effectively.

#### **6. Update on Tredegar Court**

DS explained that a report was submitted to HSCWB Scrutiny on 10th July but this was deferred to enable a review to take place. Tenants were offered the opportunity to have their care packages reviewed and a report will be resubmitted to HSCWB Scrutiny on 11th September 2012 before going onto Cabinet on 18th September 2012. DS confirmed that the tenants have also been given the opportunity to have 1 to 1 meetings to discuss any concerns. Staff have also been offered the opportunity to have 1 to 1 meetings.

The management view is clear, that change is necessary as we cannot continue to provide the existing level of service. Options 2 or 3 are acceptable. Staff have been given every opportunity to engage with Management to discuss the proposals but have not taken up this offer.

AH confirmed that the contract tenants have are with the Housing Department and that Tredegar Court was an extra Care facility. Not all the tenants have a care requirement and there are no tenants who have a need for 24 hour care. The needs of the

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tenants can change and if the reassessment identifies additional care needs then these will be delivered. Obviously Staff are concerned about the effects of the proposals but they can be accommodated in other parts of the Service should they wish to retain their current contractual hours.

### **7. Living Wage and Positive Impact on Staff**

AH confirmed the proposals that had been agreed by Council relating to the introduction of the living wage for all CCBC employees raising the minimum hourly rate to £7.20 per hour. The TU's reps welcomed this decision.

### **8. Directors Annual Council Report**

AH explained that the Annual Directors report will be presented to members the following day which shows a year on year improvement. Priorities for 2012/2013 include the Integration Programme and learning the lessons from complaints. AH confirmed that the report was available in DVD format or a booklet and could also be accessed via the CCBC website. The report contained some very positive messages from service users and staff.

### **9. Sickness Absence**

The current absence figures were discussed which showed a year on year improvement with the overall absence rate reducing from 7.2% to 5.2% over the past 3 years.

### **10. AOB**

JRG raised an issue about staff access to the Violence at Work register as he was concerned that staff were entering properties without a clear picture of any potential risks.

**Date of next meeting 5th November 2012 at 2.00 p.m. in the Sirhowy Room, Ty Penallta.**