

**Social Services JCC Meeting**

**Monday 5 November 2012**

**Sirhowy Room Ty Penallta**

**Attendees:**

Albert Heaney, Corporate Director Social Services  
Richard Ballantine, HR Manager  
Gary Enright Branch Secretary, Unison  
Juan Roberts-Garcia, Asst Branch Secretary, Unison  
Neil Funnell Branch Secretary GMB  
Terry Bendle, GMB  
Peter Short, GMB Regional Officer

Issue	Action
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ David Street, Assistant Director Adult Services</li><li>❖ Nigel Brown, Assistant Director Children's Services</li><li>❖ Steve Harris, Finance Manager</li><li>❖ A Woodman, GMB Regional Officer</li></ul> <p><b>2. Minutes of meeting 6 August 2012</b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.</p> <p><b>3. Matters arising</b></p> <p>PS enquired if there was any update on Mental Health/Learning Disability Integration</p> <p>AH explained that we have been working with ABHB for a number of years on the Integration of Mental Health Services, with ABHB taking the lead. The vision is to have one integrated service which met the needs of the citizens and providing the right model of care. It is anticipated that staff will be seconded to the service. In terms of Learning Disability this would be Local Government led.</p> <p>PS asked how long would the secondments last?</p> <p>AH stated that this would be dependant upon a number of factors .</p> <p>RB explained that the HR work stream on the Integration project</p>	

were planning to brief the Trade Unions when appropriate.

PS asked who the project lead for the Learning Disability Integration was?

AH confirmed that it was David Street.

#### **4. Blaenau Gwent/Caerphilly Social Services Integration**

AH confirmed that the potential for integration was still being progressed and an Assistant Director has been appointed covering both across Children's Services for BGCBC and CCBC. A business plan was currently being put together but this would not be ready until after Christmas. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) would be looking closely at the proposals

PS referred to a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in which it was stated that a decision on the governance model would be made shortly.

AH explained that the options for Governance had gone through the respective Scrutiny committees of both Councils, however they had not been to Cabinet. It was likely the options for Governance would be put forward at the same time as the Business Case and hosting.

PS enquired whether the WAO would be looking into the proposals on Governance

AH commented that the WAO may well look into this along with financial issues & scrutiny.

AH confirmed the favoured model out of the options proposed which would establish a single Social Services Directorate with a Joint Committee having delegated powers from Cabinet. Some issues would still go to Cabinet in each Council. Both Councils would still have statutory responsibility for the services provided by Social Services. Similarly the Section 151 Officers would still have responsibility for the budget of each Council.

PS stated that there were mixed messages regarding the workforce development team. Staff in Blaenau Gwent have been told that they will not be moving until the Governance is sorted out.

AH confirmed that the proposal is for staff to be located in a previously unused building in Foxes Lane, Oakdale.

GE commented that a number of the issues arising out of the new location seem to be around facilities, toilets and storage space.

<p><b>5. Update on Tredegar Court</b></p> <p>RB confirmed that of the 11 staff currently working at Tredegar Court only 2 have elected to remain with the other 9 looking to move to alternative roles. Of these 9 4 were currently being considered for existing vacancies.</p> <p><b>6. Provisional Budget Settlement</b></p> <p>The Director outlined the process for budget setting for the financial year 2013/2014.</p> <p><b>7. Local Government Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>AH referred to the Sustainable Social Services Report and the response that the WLGA/ADSS had submitted to Wales Government on 31 October 2012. AH agreed to send a copy to the TU representatives.</p> <p><b>8. Sickness Absence</b></p> <p>AH confirmed that the Sickness Absence rate had exceeded 6% for the past 2 months and work was being undertaken with managers and HR to tackle this issue.</p> <p><b>10.AOB</b></p> <p>JRG suggested that we get together every 3 to 4 months to discuss the current cases relating to absence to see if anything more can be done..</p>	<p>RB/CB</p>
<p><b>Date of next meeting</b>                      11 February 2012 at 2.00pm in the Sirhowy Room, Ty Penallta.</p>	