



THE CAERPHILLY LOCAL SERVICE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE INNOVATION CENTRE, TREDOMEN ON TUESDAY 18TH MAY 2010 AT 9.15AM

PRESENT:

Councillor L.G. Whittle – CCBC
Stuart Rosser - CCBC
Mike Bridgman - GAVO
Superintendent Jon Burley - Gwent Police
Rory O’Sullivan - WAG
Sian Martin - Aneurin Bevan Health Board

Together with:

Colin Jones - CCBC
Alison Palmer - GAVO
Dorothy Phillips - CCBC

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Chief Constable Mick Giannasi and Chief Superintendent Paul Symes - Gwent Police.

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Rory O’Sullivan (Director of Rural Affairs- Welsh Assembly Government) and Sian Martin (Locality Director – Aneurin Bevan Health Board) to their first meeting of the Caerphilly Local Service Board.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2010 were agreed.

2. MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT UPDATE

Albert Heaney (Director of Social Services) and Dave Street (Interim Assistant Director – Adult Services) were attending the meeting to update the Board on developments regarding the Promoting Positive Mental Health project.

At a previous meeting it had been reported that work was progressing on the modernising of adult mental health services and a model of service delivery had been developed and accepted by stakeholders, service users and carers. The appointment of a project manager to lead the implementation of the model had however been advertised but remained unfilled.

A number of meetings have subsequently been held with the Aneurin Bevan Health Board who had indicated that they would now be implementing an all Gwent approach in order to be able to offer a wider range of services rather than progressing on a locality basis.

Concern was expressed at this decision as it was anticipated that Caerphilly county borough could pilot the model developed and improve services sooner rather than later. They would have also been able to share lessons learnt.

The mental health project had been chosen by the Local Service Board as one of their LDA projects so it was of concern that this could not now be progressed by the local authority. WAG funding in support of the project had been received and, in particular, it was reported that the funding for a project manager was no longer required.

SM confirmed the decision of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board to take forward the All Gwent approach to the mental health services and considered that there would be a number of benefits to the county borough when the work was complete.

MB expressed concern regarding the lack of funding for mental health work to the voluntary sector and gave a number of examples where services had been dissolved or reduced.

JB referred to the importance of mental health services and the need for a re-assurance of an integration of all contributors.

A number of concerns were expressed regarding this change of direction and it was asked if the decision for the county borough not to pilot was for financial reasons. It was also questioned if there would be scope for flexibility as individual local authorities may at times be at different stages of development and different approaches might need to be implemented in different localities.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to discuss this in more detail and that the Chief Executive of Aneurin Bevan Health Board, Dr Andrew Goodall be invited to a future meeting in order to respond to concerns raised.

3. REVIEW OF CAERPHILLY LOCAL SERVICE BOARD

CJ reported that at a previous meeting it had been agreed that in view of a number of membership changes it might be opportune to hold a review of the Board and its direction.

SR agreed it may be appropriate to 'Take Stock'. He considered that the partners of the Board have always worked well together to resolve difficult issues but that priorities and the future direction of the Board should now be determined.

MB expressed concern that there has been no recent communication to the Voluntary Sector from the Board. During the early stages of the establishment of the Board a number of presentations had been given to the Area Steering Groups but there had been no contact since and he suggested that a newsletter could be considered.

MB also considered that regular monthly meetings of the LSB should continue.

Reference was made to the Efficiency and Innovation bid which provides funding from the Welsh Assembly for projects that will deliver more efficient and effective public services.

It was suggested that the role of the Board was to primarily drive the Community Strategy forward.

AP reported that other LSB's had chosen a member of their Board to champion a project and a former member of this Board (Colin Palfrey) is presently doing that with the Citizen Engagement project, with a positive effect.

CJ considered that the Board should be challenging the delivery of the Community Strategy and work with the co-ordinators to find a model to deliver.

JB referred to a different approach by the chairs of the partnerships and reported that a number of them are now meeting to discuss joint initiatives.

Following further discussion it was agreed that a report on the progress of the Resource Centre to the North would be appropriate for SM to present to the Board. It would reassure the Board and the public that the project was progressing.

SR considered that the discussion was about taking 'stock' and being constructive – the meetings of the Board are not for 'day to day' issues. He suggested that the main functions of the Board are:

- to drive the Community Strategy.
- to identify key projects - should others now been considered and should an individual champion be nominated for each?
- to discuss and help if there are any 'blockages' to delivering.

CJ suggested that he prepare a report for a future Board meeting following consultations with partnerships and propose a model to go forward.

It may also be beneficial to invite the Chairs of Partnerships to a future meeting in order establish how they can be supported/challenged.

JB suggested that the Chairs of the partnerships present a joint presentation on how to deliver and work together within the present financial constraints. The Board could look at delivery outcomes.

AP reported that the Citizen Engagement and Information Sharing projects had progressed well and attracted funding and it may now be appropriate to consider the involvement of the LSB with all priority projects. New projects may need to be identified and supported/championed by the Board in order that any possible funding opportunities are not missed. She noted that Development Funding would continue and the outcome of the ESF bid was still awaited which could provide up to £109,000 a year for the next five years to support initiatives.

It was agreed that a July meeting would be arranged and the following included on the agenda :-

- Dr Andrew Goodall (Aneurin Bevan Health Board) be invited to attend.
- CJ to prepare a report and the partnership chairs be invited to give a joint presentation.
- An updated report be given on the Resource Centre for the North (SM).

The date of the July meeting to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 11.15am.