



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 2015 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Ackerman - Chair
Councillor Mrs P. Cook - Vice Chair

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, Mrs A. Blackman, M. Evans, Ms J. Gale, C.J. Gordon,
J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees, S. Skivens

Cabinet Members: Councillors N. George and R. Woodyatt

Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director Children's
Services), S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public
Protection), S. Ead (Solicitor), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer)

Users and Carers – Mr. C. Luke, Mrs M. Veater

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board - J. Pagett (Director), D. Llewellyn (Lead Nurse)

Also Present:

Sarah Glyn-Jones Area Regional Manager (CSSIW)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors L. Gardiner G.J. Hughes,
Miss. L. Jones, A. Lewis, B. Bolt (ABUHB), D. Jenkins (ABUHB).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement of the meeting.
Declarations were received during the course of the meeting from Councillors J.A. Pritchard
and S. Skivens and are detailed with the respective item.

3. MINUTES – 20TH OCTOBER 2015

RESOLVED that subject to it being noted that the slides (referred to in minute 5) are still awaited, the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 20th October 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 13) be approved and signed as a correct record.

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 MEMBERS

The Scrutiny Committee received verbal reports from Councillor N. George (Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services) and Councillor R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services).

Councillor N. George reminded Members that at the last meeting, Catering Services celebrated National School Meals Week, running a campaign in partnership with intergenerational clubs. The social media campaign included a series of videos highlighting school meals which generated over 13,000 views.

The Public Health (Wales) Bill is continuing its passage through the Assembly with the Health & Social Care Committee Publishing its Stage 1 report this week. The Act is expected to be introduced next year and will include a number of provisions to be enforced by Public Protection staff, including:

- Restricting the use of e-cigarettes in enclosed public and work places;
- Creating a national register of retailers of tobacco and nicotine products;
- Prohibiting the handing over of tobacco or nicotine products to people under the age of 18;
- Creating a mandatory licensing scheme for practitioners and businesses carrying out 'special procedures', namely acupuncture, body piercing, electrolysis and tattooing;
- Introducing a ban on the intimate piercing of people under 16 years old.

It is also proposed within the Bill to require local authorities to prepare local toilets strategies for the provision of, and access to, toilets for public use.

In November a prosecution by Trading Standards resulted in the conviction of a doorstep trader fined for using aggressive practices and for not giving cancellation rights. He was fined £1800 and ordered to pay the authority's costs of £2,764. In this case doorstep callers were offering gardening services in a No Cold Calling Zone in Bedwas and Trethomas. A number of elderly residents were approached, one agreed to £600 worth of gardening work without any cancellation rights, and when another resident was approached about £580 worth of work the trader would not take no for an answer when she said did not want it done. Trading Standards worked with Gwent Police to trace and arrest those involved and a search of their homes and vehicle uncovered evidence linked to the offences. There are currently 56 No Cold Calling Zones within the county borough aimed at deterring cold calling.

Councillor R. Woodyatt informed Members that the Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales will present their evaluation of the Social Services Directorate for 2014/15. Their evaluation is based on the content of the Director's annual report, the supporting information that accompanied the report and their own site visits.

The Cabinet Member welcomed Members of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and advised they would be making a presentation later in the meeting of the progress and to highlight key issues.

The joint Youth Offending Service shared with Blaenau Gwent has recently been inspected by HMI Probation and CSSIW as part of a thematic inspection into supported accommodation, for young people that's taking place across England and Wales. There have been significant pressures in the hospital system over the past few weeks and hospital discharge social workers have been working alongside health colleagues to discharge patients as effectively as possible.

Sadly the Director, in conjunction with colleagues from the Health Board has decided to cancel the contract with Brindaven Nursing Home in Aberbargoed. This is as a result of ongoing concerns with regard the standard of nursing care. Despite ongoing support to the home from a range of professionals over an extended period of time, both agencies have concluded that there is little prospect of sustained improvement and the most appropriate course of action was to cancel the contract. Staff from both agencies are now working with family members to accommodate the residents concerned. A Member sought clarification on the number of residents at the Nursing Home. Officers informed Members that there are 22 residents, 4 of which are funded by the Local Authority and 18 funded by the Health Board and the transition to new accommodation will take between 6 to 10 weeks.

In concluding, the Cabinet Member informed the Scrutiny Committee that the Santa Appeal has once again received an excellent response this year and thanked all who have been involved and supported the pledge.

The Committee thanked the Cabinet Members for their reports.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. PRESENTATION: CSSIW ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR 2014-15

Sarah Glyn-Jones – Area Regional Manager provided Members with a presentation, which summarised the findings following the Annual CSSIW Performance Evaluation.

It was noted that the Council has continued to take a structured and planned approach to develop and transform services in readiness for the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (SSWB ACT). This is also reflected in the objectives of the Director of Social Services, which provides a comprehensive picture of the current status of social services in Caerphilly. Solid foundations built in the previous year have enabled the council to make progress in both adult and children's services. Clear planning has set the direction for prioritising, review and development of new services reflecting local need and national legislative change. The Corporate Management Structure and governance arrangements provide support to enable social services to continue development. The council works constructively with regulators and has made good progress in relation to areas for improvement in CSSIW's performance report 2014-15.

Following the Inspection, CSSIW highlighted Areas for Improvement within their Performance Report, which included prioritising the joint commissioning for older people, moving to a regional adoption service, successful recruitment of foster carers, ongoing restructuring and review in line with need and national legislation within Children's Services and continuing to develop the Scrutiny Process and Governance.

Members thanked the Officers for the very positive report and the Corporate Director of Social Services added that he was very pleased with the positive Inspection report. It was noted that, whilst the Directorate is facing challenging times with the Welsh Government's drive for Integrated Services, budget pressures and the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, the Directorate will continue to focus on the areas for improvement.

Having consideration for the detailed report and data within, a Member sought further information, on the variance in Adult Carer statistics. The Director confirmed that the data had highlighted an area of concern, which, upon investigation, was as a result of Social Worker recording issues. In some cases, Social Workers were recording that carers, who were also assessed as requiring a service, were recorded as Service Users and not carers, hence the drop in the number of carers.

Members thanked Sarah Glyn-Jones for her presentation and for responding to questions and noted the contents of the Annual Performance Evaluation Report 2014/15.

7. PRESENTATION: ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD – UPDATE

Councillor J.A. Pritchard declared an interest in this item due to having a knee operation at the hospital and Councillor S. Skivens declared an interest as his wife works at the hospital. As they were personal and not prejudicial, they were not required to leave the meeting.

Judith Pagett (Director) provided Members with an update from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and highlighted the Board's vision, values and the way they work, in relation to patient first, personal responsibility, passion for improvement and pride in what they do.

Members were informed of the Integrated Medium Term 3 Year Plan, which was approved in May 2015, setting out the priority areas.

Details of the progress made during 2015 in relation to assessment and specialist services were provided. A Member queried the reduced waiting times for Orthopaedics and Ophthalmology and the Committee were informed that ABUHB are working with Care UK in Bristol to commission additional treatment to help reduce waiting times. Over 350 patients have now agreed to be seen in Bristol.

Clarification was sought in relation to Diabetes Pathway and Members were informed that a Specialist Diabetic Nurse is in place supporting better care co-ordination, offering increased support to individuals to minimise the need to attend hospital and that this is in place across the County Borough.

Members queried the numbers of citizen engagement with services and Ms Pagett informed the Scrutiny Committee that details would be made available to Members following the meeting.

Attendance figures of patients were provided in respect of Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr for 2014/15. Details of the business case that has been submitted to Welsh Government was also highlighted in relation to the the proposed Specialist and Critical Care Centre (SCCC), with proposals for capital funding for the Royal Gwent Hospital and Neville Hall, ensuring their environments can respond to the reconfiguration of services post SCCC.

Ms Pagett set out the Board's performance in relation to strong focus on quality and patient safety, emergency and planned services, public health priorities and Financial Challenge 2006/07 – 2015/16.

In concluding, Ms Pagett summarised the 'Forward Look' Health Board's priorities (Sept-March 2016).

Members thanked Judith Pagett for her informative presentation and for responding to questions raised during the course of the debate.

8. IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES 2015/16 – SIX MONTH REVIEW

Councillor S. Skivens declared an interest in this item (being on the Board of the Citizens Advice Bureau) and confirmed that he did not intend on asking any questions and therefore was not required to leave the meeting.

Rob Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection) presented the report and informed Members that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities that improve the life of citizens. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) use Improvement Objectives and other data/information to evaluate the Council's annual progress on key performance indicators, measuring the outcomes and impact on the citizens of Caerphilly.

Members noted the update provided on the progress of the two following Improvement Objectives, for the six month period April 2015 – September 2015, and the service's evaluation of whether the Improvement Objectives are currently being delivered successfully or not:

Improvement Objective 1 (IO1) - To help people make the best use of their household income and manage their debts.

Improvement Objective 3 (IO3) - Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough.

Reference was made to the action plans appended to the report that sets out the progress made against individual targets achieved.

In respect of Improvement Objective (IO1), the main outcome of this priority is to introduce policies concerned with boosting households' resources so that Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels and are better able to meet their own needs. Poverty harms people's prospects and damages their long term future. It also places a burden on public resources and services. It is in all our interests to tackle poverty. Caerphilly Council is committed to ensuring its residents are able to live fulfilled lives and are not prevented from enjoying an acceptable standard of living due to economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

In relation to Improvement Objective (IO3) - The main outcome of this priority is to improve the lifestyles of the local population so that people recognise and take responsibility for their own health and well-being. In turn this will reduce the variation in healthy life expectancy so that the health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged.

A Member sought clarification regarding financial implications in relation to IO3 and the Officer confirmed that there are no implications as the report is reflected on current activity.

Members were informed that work has progressed well in developing actions. At the mid-year point the Directorate judge both the improvement objectives as being partly successful. The reason for this judgement is that, whilst there has been good progress within many areas, there is a need for further development in multi agency work and the projects need time to fully embed.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for his report.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the officer's report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

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

No items were requested to be included on the next available agenda.

10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were received and noted without discussion.

Summary of Members Attendance - Quarter 2 - 1st July 2015 - 30th September 2015.

Corporate Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

Rota Visits by Members to Social Services Establishments: 1st April 2015 - 30th September 2015.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2016.

CHAIR