



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, M. Evans, Ms J. Gale, C.J. Gordon, D.C. Harse,
G.J. Hughes, Ms L. Jones, A. Lewis, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees

Cabinet Member: Councillor N. George.

Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director Adult Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director Children's Services), R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), M. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), B. Manners (Solicitor), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer)

User and Carer – Mrs M. Veater

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs A. Blackman, L. Gardiner, S. Skivens, R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services) and Mr C. Luke and Miss L. Price (Users and Carers).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 21ST JUNE 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 21st June 2016 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 a verbal report from Councillor N. George (Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services). He placed on record his personal thanks to the dedication and hard work of all staff in Public Protection over the last year, at a time of reducing resources and was pleased to present a positive picture overall. Reference was made to ongoing enforcement activity with particular issues relating to littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping.

Members were advised that the Draft Audit Report has been received from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) regarding the Audit undertaken earlier in the year in relation to Environmental Health and Trading Standards. It was explained that there were no significant areas of concern highlighted and a number of elements of best practice were identified. Officers will have an opportunity to respond prior to the report being finalised by the FSA. In concluding, the Cabinet Member provided details of a recent successful prosecution at Newport Magistrates Court by the Environmental Health Team under the Health and Safety at Work Act. The Defendants were fined £95,000 and ordered to pay £16,000 in costs.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for his informative report.

6. HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Interim Head of Democratic Services introduced the report that informed the Committee of its forward work programme including all reports that were identified at the work programme workshop planned for the period September 2016 to April 2017.

Members were asked to consider the work programme and to make any amendments or to include any additional agenda items to future meetings. The Scrutiny Committee discussed the reports listed on the work programme for the 25th October and 6th December as it had not been confirmed if Aneurin Bevan Health Board (ABUHB) will be attending the October meeting for their 6 monthly visit. Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to ABUHB attending the meeting in October and the Budget Monitoring (Period 5) being placed on the Members' Portal as an Information Item, the recommendations in the report be approved. If ABUHB attend the December meeting instead, the Budget Monitoring (Period 5) remain on the programme for October's meeting. A report will also be added to the work programme for December relating to the outcome of the Public Consultation regarding Public Space Protection Orders. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the following the work programme appended to the report be approved: -

- (i) ABUHB attending the meeting in October, the Budget Monitoring (Period 5) be placed on the Members' Portal as an Information Item.
- (ii) if ABUHB attend the December meeting, the Budget Monitoring (Period 5) remain on the programme for October's meeting.

- (iii) a report be added to the work programme for December relating to the outcome of the Public Consultation regarding Public Space Protection Orders.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

7. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 3)

The Interim Financial Services Manager presented the report that informed Members of the projected revenue expenditure for the Social Services Directorate for the 2016/17 financial year. An update was also provided on the progress made against the savings targets built in to the 2016/17 revenue budget for the Directorate. The Scrutiny Committee were advised that the 2016/17 month 3 position is a projected Directorate overspend of £1,047k when compared with the original budget for the Directorate for 2016/17 as approved by Council on 24th February 2016. This was prior to any allocation of funding from the contingency of £2.5m for Social Services cost pressures. This funding has been held corporately until the actual impact of the National Living Wage and demographic pressures could be more accurately assessed.

Members discussed the projections in terms of Children's Services, Adult Services and Business Strategy and Business Support (details of which were appended to the report). This included increases in care provider fees linked to the National Living Wage and increased demand for commissioned packages of care and placements for both children and adults linked to demographic changes amounting to around £2.059m. It was explained that Fee uplifts have now been agreed for all providers of Adult Social Care and as a result £1.4m of the corporately held contingency has been released to fund the financial impact of these increases. A further £250k has also been released from the contingency fund to address the financial impact of demographic pressures faced within Children's Services. This release of £1.65m funding means that the Directorate is currently forecasting an underspend of £603k, The remaining £850k contingency funding will continue to be held in the Corporate budget in case of further demographic changes and cost pressures.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the officer's report: -

- (i) the projected overspend of £1.047m against the Directorate's original budget for 2016/17 be noted;
- (ii) the release of £1.65m from the corporately held contingency budget relating to demographic changes and fee uplifts linked to the National Living Wage resulting in a revised underspend of £603k against the Directorate's revised budget for 2016/17 be noted;
- (iii) the progress made against the savings targets included in the 2016/17 budget settlement for the Directorate be noted.

8. ANNUAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL CARE SERVICES 2015-16

The Corporate Director of Social Services introduced the report that identified the key messages in the preparation of the seventh Annual Directors Report on the effectiveness of Social Care Services in Caerphilly. It was explained that in June 2009, the Welsh Assembly Government issued Statutory Guidance on the Role and Accountabilities of the Director of Social Services. The Guidance sets out a requirement for Directors of Social Services to report annually to the Council on the performance of Social Services functions, and plans for further improvement. The process of compiling the report has been undertaken in accordance with the Annual Council Reporting Framework. This framework has been devised by the Social Services Improvement Agency, in conjunction with the Welsh Government, and provides a structure for the compilation of the Annual Report. The report provides a summary of the effectiveness of how Caerphilly County Borough Council delivers Social Services to its citizens. Details on the Directorate's performance for 2015-16 and the priority areas for development in 2016-17 were set out.

The Scrutiny Committee were informed that the report places significant focus on the preparation for the introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (SSWB) 2014. The Director of Social Services highlighted a number of key issues which the Directorate dealt with in 2014-15 but remain significant issues moving forward. Following presentation to Council on the 11th October 2016, the Annual Director's Report will be made available to members of the public, partner agencies and stakeholders. Members were advised of the future requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) in terms of the content of annual reports. He confirmed this will be the last time that Directors of Social Services report Performance/Effectiveness this way. Part 8 of the SSWBA sets out specific requirements of Directors of Social Services in terms of the way that performance must be evaluated and reported moving forward. Details of which were appended to the report.

Clarification was sought in relation to the closure of Care Homes and whether Officer's have considered running joint Care Homes with the Health Board. Members were advised that the care sector is a major concern and is currently a fragile situation across Wales. Caerphilly, like almost all other Authorities, is experiencing a series of service closures that appear to have occurred as a result of Providers experiencing financial difficulty and finding it difficult to recruit and retain particular groups of staff. He confirmed that Caerphilly are working hard in partnership with Welsh Government to identify a sustainable solution.

A member referenced the Statutory Guidance relating to the Director's Annual Report within the SSWBA where the report must set out how the Local Authority has engaged with people in its production and reflect the experiences of service providers and service users. It was expressed that this will be an excellent opportunity for information to be passed as communication is key.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Annual Director's Report on the Effectiveness of Social Care Services 2015-16 be noted and the report be submitted to Council on 11th October 2016 for adoption.

9. YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION 2015-16

The Corporate Director of Social Services introduced the report that provided Members with a performance update for Social Services for the past twelve months highlighting the exceptions and then looking forward i.e. future challenges, setting out key objectives/priorities for the next twelve months and identifying areas for improvement. Overall 2015/16 offered a generally positive year in terms of service performance. However, a number of future challenges have been identified and action plans have been developed and captured in 16/17 Service Improvement Plans. The biggest challenge across the service area remains, how to balance the demands of increasing legislation and rising public expectations against reducing budgets. Whilst challenging, the service area is well placed to respond to them.

The Assistant Directors of Social Services and Head of Public Protection provided an overview of their respective Service Areas. Details of what went well and the future challenges/risks and areas for improvement for each service area were set out. A Member queried if Satisfaction Surveys have been undertaken, in terms of future challenges for Adult Services. It was explained that a new questionnaire will be piloted this year in line with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. Reference was made to Mental Health Assessments and that the target figure had been exceeded. Members were advised that this was evidenced by the focus that has been placed on this part of the service during this period and details of the national data performance indicators were provided.

Clarification was sought in relation to performance indicators within Children's Services, regarding the percentage of Reviews of Looked After Children, children on the Child Protection Register and Children in Need carried out in line with the statutory timetable. Members were pleased to note the target figure had been exceeded and it was agreed that a breakdown of the figures would be distributed to the Committee following the meeting. A Member expressed personal thanks to the work undertaken by the Fostering Panel and asked that this be fed back to the Fostering Team.

In terms of Public Protection, a query was raised in relation to paying for meals in Primary Schools by standing order/direct debit and if any progress has been made in this area. It was explained that a business case is being undertaken that will seek approval and the Department are currently working with I.T. and Audit to progress this. Members placed on record their congratulations to the staff in the Public Protection Team involved in achieving the 'Recognising Excellence - Closed Circuit Television Management and Innovation Award.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that following detailed consideration of the performance data challenged, the Committee noted the content of the report.

10. IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE: CLOSE THE GAP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR RESIDENTS BETWEEN THE MOST AND LEAST DEPRIVED AREAS IN THE BOROUGH. (ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR END)

The Head of Public Protection introduced the report that informed Members of the Local Government Measure 2009, which requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of Improvement Objectives. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) will use these Improvement Objectives to evaluate the council's likelihood of improvement and following

that, the level of actual improvement that is achieved for the citizens of Caerphilly County Borough Council.

He advised that at the beginning of 2015/16, it was recommended that the Improvement Objective: *Close the gap in life expectancy for residents between the most and least deprived areas in the Borough*, would be reported to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for regular performance monitoring. This Improvement Objective aims 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 health and well-being of individuals experiencing disadvantage improves to the levels found among the advantaged. The activities undertaken, implementation, delivery and impact of the objective priorities for 2015/16 that are deemed to be partially successful were summarised.

It was explained that in the main, population based health data can only demonstrate trends over the medium to long term. Welsh Government has recently released trend data (Welsh Health Survey) from 2007 – 2014 based on local authority area. Data for Caerphilly County Borough shows: -

- (i) a steady decrease in adult smoking rates although Caerphilly remain above the Welsh average;
- (ii) percentage of adults overweight or obese remaining as one of the highest in Wales;
- (iii) a decrease in the amount of people eating 5 or more fruit and vegetables remaining below the Welsh average;
- (iv) adult physical activity rates having little change and remaining lower than the Welsh average.

Details of the high number of people accessing lifestyle changing projects in the most deprived communities were set out including the Living Well Living Longer Programme started in the North of the County Borough in December 2015. This is being delivered on a pilot basis by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Public Health Wales with the support of partners, in particular Communities First.

In concluding the Head of Public Protection advised that although trends in health outcomes can only be seen over extended periods of time (years) much has been achieved in relation to this Improvement Objective as detailed in the report. Overall therefore the Improvement Objective is considered to be partially successful for the year 2015/16 in view of the programme of activities delivered. Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that an amendment be made to the recommendation in paragraph 9.1. of the report to read 'information presented' to replace 'progress made'. In noting there were 9 for, 3 against and no abstentions, this was agreed by the majority present. It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in paragraphs 9.2. and 9.3. in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the information presented in meeting the actions set out in the year-end report be noted;
- (ii) the Officer Judgement of 'partially successful' delivery of this Objective be noted;
- (iii) the continuation of the Objective into 2016/17 be endorsed.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2016.

CHAIR