



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, Mrs A. Blackman, M. Evans, Ms J. Gale, C.J. Gordon, D.C. Harse,
G.J. Hughes, Ms L. Jones, A. Lewis, A. Passmore, J.A. Pritchard, S. Skivens

Cabinet Member: Councillor R. Woodyatt

Together with:

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

Users and Carers - Mr C. Luke and Mrs M. Veater

Also Present - M. Roach (Regional Safeguarding Business Unit Manager)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A.P. Angel and L. Gardiner, S. Millar (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board), Mrs J. Morgan and Miss L. Price (User 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 – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 13th September 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 10) 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 R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services). He confirmed that along with Senior Managers from the Directorate he met with staff from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales for a performance review meeting on the 12th October, where Inspectorate staff took the opportunity to discuss:

- The Directors Annual report
- Key priorities for the next six months
- How Social Services are going to mainstream Welsh language into its service provision

The Cabinet Member was pleased to note that feedback from the meeting was very positive and the next review meeting will be in March, to which the Chair and Vice Chair of Scrutiny will be invited.

Reference was made to the Budget Report listed on the agenda that demonstrates how the Directorate is now experiencing a high level of demand and that the demographic challenges are becoming very real. Officers will be scrutinising spending closely during the winter months as provision made now will have a significant full year impact in 2017/18. Whilst last week's budget announcements by Welsh Government seems reasonably positive it will be some time before the detailed impact on social services will be known.

The Committee were advised that a report from the regional Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards will reflect on activity in the most important area of work and for information purposes Members were reminded that the Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been placed on the Members' portal.

In concluding, the Cabinet Member was pleased to announce that Staff in the Directorate has done very well recently in terms of awards. Zoe Williams and Darran Morgans received awards at the GAVO awards ceremony and Caroline Davies (Registered Manager at Ty Iscoed) has been nominated for two awards at the National Care Awards. The awards ceremony will take place during mid November and Members supported Councillor Woodyatt in wishing Caroline well.

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 meeting on the 13th September 2016 planned for the period September 2016 to April 2017. Members were asked to consider the work programme and to make any amendments or suggest additional agenda items to be included for future meetings.

The Committee were advised that Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) are available to attend the meeting on the 6th December and that this could be placed on the agenda with the Update Hospital Discharge Task and Finish Group Report on that date. It was suggested that a Special Meeting be held for the Outcome of Informal Public Consultation on The Making of a Public Spaces Protection Order Relating to Dog Control and

the 12th December 2016 was proposed. It was explained that as ABUHB present on a six monthly basis it is unlikely that they would attend the March meeting if they attend in December and it was suggested that Feedback on Gwent Frailty Project, Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group be added to the 21st March 2017 meeting instead with an additional report at the request of a Member regarding Systems Thinking.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that subject to the foregoing the recommendation in the report be approved. 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) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board attend the meeting on the 6th December 2016;
- (ii) a Special Meeting be arranged to consider the Outcome of Informal Public Consultation on The Making of a Public Spaces Protection Order Relating to Dog Control on the 12th December 2016;
- (iii) feedback on Gwent Frailty Project Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group be added to the meeting on the 21st March 2017 to replace Aneurin Bevan University Health Board;
- (iv) a Systems Thinking Report be added to the 21st March 2017 meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

7. ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING BOARD REPORT – CHILDREN’S AND ADULTS

The Regional Safeguarding Business Unit Manager presented the report that updated the Scrutiny Committee on developments in relation to the South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board (SEWSCB) and the Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board (GWASB). Both Boards are statutory multi-agency partnerships which have responsibility for monitoring the effectiveness of safeguarding practice across the five Local Authorities constituting the Gwent region. The functions of the boards were outlined with the statutory changes required by the Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales) 2014 (SSWBA). The Act sets out the following objectives:

Safeguarding Children’s Boards as being:

- To protect children within its area who are experiencing, or are at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and
- To prevent children within its area from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

Safeguarding Adult’s Boards as being:

- To protect adults within its area who;
- Have needs for care and support (whether or not a local authority is meeting any of those needs),
- Are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- To prevent those adults within its area mentioned above from becoming at risk of abuse and neglect.

It was explained that in response to the implementation of SSWBA, both the Children's Board and Adult Board worked together on proposals to establish a Joint Regional Business Unit to support the strategic and operational functions of both Boards. Welsh Government grant funding for the Children's Board ended in March 2016 and the Adult Board had no budget attached having been supported through the goodwill of Board Members. Details of potential options for funding the Regional Safeguarding Business Unit that needed to be identified from 2016/17 onwards were appended to the report. Members were informed that following the implementation of SSWBA, work is underway to ensure that both Boards have a consistent framework in which to operate and a number of sub groups are reviewing their Terms of Reference and membership to ensure consistency and governance across both Boards.

The Chair thanked Mrs Roach for her informative report and responding to queries raised during the course of the debate.

Clarification was sought in relation to the Local Authority's contribution to the Regional Business Unit and Members were informed that Welsh Government issued guidance on the percentage formula of the funding contribution that each partner agency was required to provide in order to support regional arrangements for the support for both Boards. Caerphilly contributes a higher percentage than the other Local Authorities as it has the largest population. This is now managed by the Regional Business Unit that consists of 7.5 non-operational staff and is hosted by Caerphilly County Borough Council, with partnership funding provided by all Statutory Partners.

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:

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) in future years the Annual Reports from both Gwent Wide Adult Safeguarding Board and South East Wales Safeguarding Children Board be provided to Scrutiny Committee for information purposes.

8. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 5)

The Interim Financial Services Manager introduced the report that informed Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Social Services Directorate for the 2016/17 financial year. An update was provided on the progress made against the savings targets built in to the 2016/17 revenue budget for the Directorate. The projected financial position for the Social Services Directorate for the 2016/17 financial year was summarised based on information available as at month 5 (August 2016). The report identifies budget pressures relating to the delivery of frontline services particularly placement pressures in both Adults and Children's Services, details of which were appended to the report.

Members were reminded that at the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13th September 2016, the Committee were informed that all of the £1.342m savings targets for Social Services had been delivered, subject to identifying a redeployment opportunity for 1 member of staff. This issue has since been resolved and all of the savings targets have now been delivered.

The Chair thanked the Interim Financial Services Manager for his informative report and responding to questions raised during the course of the debate.

Clarification was sought in relation to the projected overspend for external residential care within Children's Services. It was explained that this reflects the demographic changes and additional cost pressures experienced within the financial year with more children presenting with more complex and challenging behaviour than in previous years. This pressure has grown steadily throughout the financial year to date and could continue to grow through the remainder of the year. In terms of Adult Services a Member queried the projected underspend relating to transformational projects within Management, Fieldwork and Administration. The Scrutiny Committee were advised that this includes a number of temporary posts (where staff have been seconded into roles) and it is anticipated that these short term costs will be funded from service reserves thereby increasing the underspend in this area.

The Director of Social Services informed Members that the Department has discussed the societal pressures upon the Directorate's budget over the past few years and that these pressures have become more intense with the impact on the National Living Wage and this position is typical of what can be seen across other Local Authorities in Wales.

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:

- i) the projected overspend of £36k against the Directorate's revised budget for 2016/17 be noted;
- ii) the progress made against the savings targets included in the 2016/17 budget settlement for the Directorate be noted.

9. INFORMATION ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE SERVICE

The Service Manager for Children's Services introduced the report that provided Members with an update regarding the development and performance of the Information, Advice and Assistance Service (IAA Service). An overview of the Service was provided and the successes, issues encountered and how these were resolved together with gathering Performance Information were set out. He explained that the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) places a duty on Local Authorities to provide an IAA Service. Caerphilly County Borough Council Social Services Commissioning Strategy (2015 - 2020) identifies the IAA Service as the critical entry point to Children's and Adults Services enabling early intervention and access to preventative support to reduce the need for managed care and support. In developing the IAA Service the impact of the Medium Term Financial Plan was considered and savings were made. The 4 core main principles of the SSWBA are:

- People - individuals have a voice in and control over achieving their outcomes;
- Wellbeing - supporting people to achieve their own well-being;
- Prevention - increase in early intervention and preventative services that minimises the risk of escalating and critical need;
- Collaboration - stronger partnership working between all organisations and agencies.

The structure of the Team was set out and Members were informed that in December 2015 the Social Services Improvement Agency identified Caerphilly's IAA Service as a pilot site to develop the skills for front line duty staff. The purpose was to develop a consistent experience and engagement with citizens to assist in the "what matters conversation" with the focus reflecting a far more co-productive approach to addressing presenting issues. This work is ongoing and the final product will become part of the Care Council for Wales Framework on training under the SSWBA.

Reference was made to the IAA Service Citizen Feedback and the Scrutiny Committee were advised that a significant number of positive comments, letters and thank you cards have been received from citizen's who have been supported by the IAA Service. An overview was provided in relation to how Performance Information is recorded and comparisons were made to recorded figures over the past four years.

The Chair thanked the Officer for his report and full discussion ensued.

Clarification was sought in relation to promoting the new Team and Members were advised that the Team are currently working with the Communications Unit and this will be launched during National Safeguarding Week in November. The Scrutiny Committee praised the staff within the IAA Team for their hard work within their area of expertise.

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 report be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2016.

CHAIR