



## HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,  
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY 2017 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, D.C. Harse, Mrs A. Leonard, A. Lewis, Mrs L. Phipps, J.A. Pritchard

Cabinet Member: Councillor R. Woodyatt

Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director Adult Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director Children's Services), M. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), P. Diamond (Gwent Transformation Team), C. Cox (Consultant in Public Health), C. Jones (Legal Executive), E. Sullivan (Scrutiny Officer), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer)

User and Carer – Mr C. Luke

Also Present:-

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – Mrs Sam Crane (Head of Urgent Primary Care) and Dr Aruna Sanikop

### 1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Sam Crane and Dr Aruna Sanikop from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Phil Diamond from the Gwent Transformation Team to the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors: L. Gardiner, G.J. Hughes, S. Skivens and Mrs M. Veater (User and Carer).

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Mrs A. Blackman and J.A. Pritchard declared an interest at the commencement of the meeting in relation to agenda item 12, details of which are recorded with the respective item.

### **4. MINUTES – 6TH DECEMBER 2016**

RESOLVED that subject to Officers providing figures following the meeting in terms of the amount of Carers across the Borough and the request for the information not being recorded, the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 6th December 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 9) be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **5. MINUTES – 12TH DECEMBER 2016**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 12th December 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 3) be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **6. MINUTES – 21ST DECEMBER 2016**

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of Councillors A. Angel and C. Gordon in the apologies for absence the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 21st December 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 4) be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **7. 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.

### **8. CONSULTATION ON THE GP OUT OF HOURS PRESENTATION**

The Chair gave permission for this item to be brought forward on the agenda.

Councillor J.A. Pritchard declared a personal interest in this item as she is a Member of the Greater Gwent Community Health Council, which has been part of the Consultation process and Mrs A. Blackman declared a personal interest as she is a Member of Sight Cymru.

Sam Crane and Dr Sanikop from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) delivered a presentation in relation to the recent consultation on the GP Out of Hours Service. An overview was provided in relation to the current Service challenges, the issues involved with strengthening the Out of Hours Service and testing a new way of working. It was explained that the rationale for a six week trial provided a stabilised service to ensure quality of care and standards are delivered during high demand times within the system. This would enable workforce distribution and filling of weekend shifts with an incentivised pre-booking scheme. The enhancements, analysis and outcomes of the trial were summarised. The Scrutiny committee were informed of the timeline for the proposed formal consultation and details were provided in terms of how the Service would be managed

during this period. Emphasis was placed on the importance of engaging with the public to embrace this Service. Reference was made to roadshows that are being held across the South East Wales Authorities encouraging members of the public to attend to obtain their views on the Out of Hours Service change. The roadshows will be held during February and March 2017.

In concluding, the Head of Urgent Primary Care referred Members to the next steps for the Out of Hours Service. These include undertaking the formal consultation, reviewing outcomes, presenting back to the Community Health Council and then presenting to ABUHB in May 2017.

The Chair thanked Mrs Crane and Dr Sanikop for their informative presentation and responding to questions raised during the course of the debate.

Clarification was sought as to how the Out of Hours Service will work with NHS Wales Direct. It was explained that these are two separate services. The GP Out-of-Hours service is available when GP surgeries are closed, for urgent care only and not for routine medical matters. NHS Direct Wales provides a service for nurse advice if a patient is feeling ill and unsure what to do. Information can be provided on particular conditions and they can also provide the locations of doctors, pharmacists or dentists. A Member queried the volume of staff available to cover clinical shifts. The Scrutiny Committee was advised that there are a pool of Doctor's available, where some choose just to work in the out of hours Service, who are based locally. However, they must be signed up to the All Wales Performers List. Every patient who rings the GP Out of Hours Service will speak to a Clinician, GP or Nurse depending on the urgency of the condition.

## **9. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBERS**

The Scrutiny Committee received a verbal report from Councillor R. Woodyatt (Cabinet Member for Social Services) who was pleased to report the launch of the Cynnydd/Progress Programme offering work experience to young people in care and leaving care across Council Services that was introduced on the 2nd February 2017. Sally Holland (Children's Commissioner for Wales) attended in support of the launch.

The Committee were informed that CSSIW undertook a spot inspection of Ty Ni Children's Home prior to Christmas and their findings were extremely positive. Inspectors met with young people and were particularly struck by their positive view of the care provided to them. A Member queried if the Cabinet Member had been involved with the team at Ty Ni and was informed that he has had some involvement with this very busy team which is Officer led.

In concluding, Councillor Woodyatt advised that in the run up to the Local Government Elections in May, Elected Members were reminded that any issues raised by constituents in relation to Social Services must be referred to the Customer Services Team and not to Officers directly in line with the established protocol. It was explained that referrals should be made through the usual channel of the IAA Service and EDT for out of hours Service. Any other enquiries should be sent to the Customer Services Team. The Director of Social Services will email all elected Members confirming this position.

## **10. HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Scrutiny Officer introduced the report that informed the Committee of its forward work programme including all reports that were identified at the meeting on the 6th December 2016, planned for the period February 2017 to July 2017. Members were asked to consider

the work programme and to make any amendments or suggest any additional agenda items to be included for future meetings.

It was suggested that a report on Member's Rota Visits be included to the meeting scheduled for the 21st March 2017. Members were advised that the meeting scheduled for the 2nd May 2017 has been cancelled. A Member requested a report on the Impact of Community Connectors and the Scrutiny Officer confirmed that she would contact the Member after the meeting for further information so that an appropriate date can be found to add the report to the Forward Work Programme.

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.

RESOVLED that subject to the foregoing, the work programme appended to the report be approved:

- (i) a report on the Member's Rota Visits be added to the Meeting scheduled for the 21st March 2017;
- (ii) the meeting scheduled on the 2nd May 2017 is cancelled;
- (iii) a report on the Impact of Community Connectors be brought to a future Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee with a date to be arranged.

## **11. CABINET REPORT**

The Cabinet Report listed on the agenda had not been called forward for discussion.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

## **12. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 9)**

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 and updated Members on the progress made against the savings targets built in to the 2016/17 revenue budget for the Directorate. He summarised the projected financial position for the Social Services Directorate based on information available as at month 9 (December 2016). Reference was made to 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.

It was explained that the 2016/17 month 9 position is a projected Directorate overspend of £36k when compared with the current budget for the Directorate for 2016/17, which includes £2.5m of funding permanently vired from a corporate Social Services cost pressures contingency budget. This virement was approved in response to the impact of fee increases awarded to providers of adult social care in April 2016, due in the main to the introduction of the National Living Wage from April 2016 and demographic pressures experienced since April 2016.

The Committee were advised that the Children's Services Division is currently projected to overspend its revised budget by £577k. Adult Services Division is currently projected to underspend its revised budget by £426k and Service Strategy and Business Support is currently projected to underspend by £115k. The 2016/17 budget for Social Services included a savings target of £1.342m. All of the necessary actions have now been implemented to ensure that these savings can be delivered in full and on a recurring basis.

In concluding, the Interim Financial Services Manager advised that the pressures faced by Social Services will continue for 2017/18. There has been a significant increase in hospital discharge and associated care packages. These costs will be reflected in the next budget report presented to the Scrutiny Committee.

Clarification was sought in relation to the projected overspend in relation to Child Care Placement Costs. It was explained that the costs of individual placements differ depending on the needs and demand. Some specialist residential placements dealing with children with complex needs can cost between £3,000 to £6,000 per week and the number of children placed in Local Authority Care does fluctuate. There has been a significant increase in younger challenging children between the age of 8 and 12.

A Member queried the differing figures referred to in paragraph 4.3.3. and 4.3.7. of the report relating to Supported Living. Officers confirmed they would clarify the position following the meeting.

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 projected overspend of £36k against the Directorate's revised budget for 2016/17 be noted.

### **13. SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING ACT (2014) REGIONAL POPULATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Phil Diamond (Gwent Transformation Team) introduced the report that sought the views of Members on the draft Regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA) prior to presenting the report to Council for approval.

The report sets out the Draft Regional Population Needs Assessment (PNA). It was explained that the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities and Health Boards to prepare a regional population needs assessment (PNA) in relation to people requiring care and support. A draft PNA has been jointly developed across the region (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen) by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) and the Gwent Transformation Team. The Act requires local authorities and local health boards to jointly carry out an assessment of the needs for care and support, and the support needs of carers in the local authority areas. The care and support is in relation to people known to Social Services and recognition is also required for the large number of people who are supported through preventative services. Initial research has estimated that this could be approximately 1 in 5 people.

The PNA comprises of the assessment of need and the range and level of services required and sets out the common priorities across the region with suggested actions. The document is based on the views of citizens.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that the PNA must be signed off and agreed by individual Local Authorities and ABUHB by 31st March 2017 and subsequently published on individual websites. The first area plans must be published by 1st April 2018.

Mr Diamond emphasised there will be a need to ensure links between the Area Plan and the Public Services Board's Well-being Plans required under the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 to facilitate collaborative working between the two legislative duties must avoid duplication.

Members discussed the challenges that face an 'ageing population' and how the region will need to look at new ways of working. Concerns were expressed with regard to the availability of long term funding to provide good quality care later in life, in the future. The Scrutiny Committee felt that a better and quicker diagnosis in relation to Alzheimers and Dementia was key. A Member suggested that a volunteer service could be arranged to help people who have been diagnosed as a way of giving people confidence and not feeling alone, for instance attending a gym. It was also raised that a social network is needed for carers, a resource that could be utilised by carers when the care is no longer required.

It was noted that the eligibility criteria in relation to Carers has changed and the areas of interest as set out in the report were supported. In terms of mental health, concerns were expressed in relation to the support available to younger people and Members felt that earlier intervention is required and that more money should be invested. Reference was made to violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and a member queried why this does not relate to men. The Committee were advised that some seldom heard groups had been omitted from the assessment however the document will be amended to include these.

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.

Having fully considered the content of the Officer's report, it was moved and seconded that the comments of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee be noted as part of the consultation process and recommended that the Draft Regional Population Needs Assessment be submitted to full Council for approval. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

Recommended that the Draft Population Needs Assessment and the priorities and suggest actions contained therein be submitted to full Council for approval.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2017.

---

CHAIR