



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2017 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Binding - Chair
Councillor Mrs J. Gale - Vice Chair

Councillors:

C. Bezzina, D. Cushing, M. Evans, Miss E. Forehead, A. Gair, D.C. Harse, V. James, L. Jeremiah, Mrs A. Leonard, B. Owen, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, C. Thomas.

Cabinet Members: C. Cuss (Social Services and Wellbeing), Mrs E. Stenner (Environment and Public Protection).

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 Policy and Public Protection), M. Godfrey (Team Leader, Pollution Control and Emergency Planning), B. Manners (Solicitor), E. Sullivan (Scrutiny Officer), A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Co-opted Members: Mrs M. Jones, Ms J. Lawton.

Also Present – Representatives from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board:

Ann Lloyd CBE (Chair), Judith Paget (Chief Executive), P. Robson (Vice-Chair), Glyn Jones (Director of Finance), Alison Shakeshaft (Director of Therapies and Health Science), Nick Wood (Chief Operating Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor A. Angel and Mr C. Luke (User and Carer).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Mrs M. Jones and Ms J. Lawton, the newly appointed Co-opted Members to their first Scrutiny Committee.

4. MINUTES – 24TH OCTOBER 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 24th October 2016 (minute nos. 1 - 10) be approved and signed as a correct record.

5. 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.

6. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBERS

The Scrutiny Committee received verbal statements from Councillor C. Cuss (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing) and Councillor E. Stenner (Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Protection).

Councillor Cuss informed the Scrutiny Committee that it was Carer's Rights Day on Friday 24th November 2017. He was pleased to launch this event at Caerphilly Castle which was an opportunity to see what support is available to them as carers in the Caerphilly Borough. Various organisations attended offering advice, information and assistance. It was also an opportunity to find out how the Local Authority can further support carers in the future. Reference was made to the 2011 census, where more than 370,000 people in Wales viewed themselves as caring for someone, with around 22,500 in Caerphilly. The number of carers in contact with the Council has doubled in 12 months with 654 additional carers on the mailing list. There is further work to do in terms of promoting the support available.

The Cabinet Member was extremely pleased to be involved in the 8th Annual Awards Ceremonies for Looked After Children and Young People recently held at the Maes Manor Hotel. The Council is currently looking after 354 children and young people and over half of those had been nominated to receive awards for an outstanding achievement. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and it was considered to be both a humbling and uplifting experience that highlights the role Children's Services' plays in improving outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people.

Councillor Cuss placed on record his thanks to the Officers who planned the event, supported the children and ensured the events were such a great success. This was also supported by other Members of the Scrutiny Committee that attended the events.

In concluding, Councillor Cuss reminded Members of the Special Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Meeting that has been arranged for the 11th December 2017. The purpose of the meeting is to consider the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Savings - Social Services Directorate. All members were urged to attend this very important meeting.

Councillor Stenner addressed the Scrutiny Committee and advised that Caerphilly participated in National School Meals Week, in November. This was a celebration of all that is great about school meals. It was explained that Daniel Magee, Peripatetic Cook in Charge for Caerphilly Catering had the opportunity to work alongside the kitchen brigade at the award winning Walnut Tree Restaurant in Abergavenny. Michele Rodway, Cook in Charge at Trinant Primary and Hayley Astley, Cook in Charge at Hengoed Primary worked across various kitchens and outlets in the Senydd in Cardiff. They all represented the authority well and had the opportunity to develop their skills within the catering industry.

The Cabinet Member informed Members that on 31st October 2017, the Government published a consultation on proposals for changes to gaming machines and social responsibility requirements across the gambling industry. This includes regulatory changes to maximum stakes in Fixed Odds Betting Terminals in order to reduce the potential for large session losses. The consultation closes on the 23rd of January 2018 and the Local Authority will be submitting a response.

It was noted that the Council's Licensing Team have joined together with Gwent Police to promote 'Operation Makesafe', a child sexual exploitation awareness campaign as part of a Gwent wide initiative. Officers have conducted joint visits to taxi ranks, booking offices and local supermarkets in the Borough raising awareness amongst licensed taxi drivers of the warning signs of child sexual exploitation and how to report their concerns.

An update was provided in relation to the Licensing Team currently reviewing its policy for taxi and private hire vehicles in the Borough. A consultation exercise was undertaken and Officers have prepared a Newsletter to report the results and plan to discuss the issues in a meeting with the trade in January 2018.

In concluding, Councillor Stenner informed the Scrutiny Committee that during the last 2 weeks Trading Standards Officers have been busy executing a number of warrants and seizures in connection with some very un-festive activities. These include illicit tobacco, counterfeit goods and illegal money-lending. Legal case files will be prepared following consideration of the evidence obtained.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Members for their informative statements.

7. 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 24th October 2017.

Members were advised that unfortunately, there would be no interim report from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate of Wales (CSSIW) originally listed on the Forward Work Programme for this meeting and the Committee's approval was sought to remove it from 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.

RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme be updated to reflect the aforementioned changes and published to the website.

8. CABINET REPORT

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

9. ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD PRESENTATION

Judith Paget, Chief Executive of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) delivered the briefing as part of the ongoing engagement with Caerphilly County Borough Council. The briefing highlights a number of key developments since December 2016, and in particular the work that is undertaken with Caerphilly to deliver the new statutory Wellbeing Plan and Area Plan for Health and Social Care from 2018. It also outlines information with regard to current performance across a range of services and Welsh Government targets on the current Improvement Plans. The briefing also includes updates on other areas of the Health Board's activities that include the progress made against the Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) and the ongoing engagement with local communities with a series of service developments, many of which are being taken forward in partnership.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that as part of the delivery of the new legislative framework through the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Health Board are committed to ensuring effective delivery and responsive care closer to home. In doing so, as part of 'Clinical Futures Transformation Programme' a framework for an 'Integrated System of Care and Wellbeing' has been developed. This framework will drive activity through the IMTP, and reflect the contribution to the shared partnership agenda through the Greater Gwent Programme Board.

The framework, which has been discussed with Local Government colleagues identifies four key areas of activity, where significant service transformation will take place over the next five years. An overview was provided in relation to 'Keeping People Well', 'Self-care', 'Primary Care and Non-Clinical Nurse (NCN) Team' and NCN Hub with Specialist and Enhanced Services and Improving Population Health, Prevention and Early Intervention. The aim of the Health Board is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population, reduce health inequalities, and ensure the sustainability of the healthcare system.

Mrs Paget set out the specific priority areas for action during 2017/18, which included the Development of Integrated Wellbeing Networks, Living Well Living Longer Programme, Tobacco Control, Making Every Contact Count and Improving Cancer Survival Rates in Disadvantaged Areas.

An update was provided in relation to Primary and Community Services as this is an integral part of the Clinical Futures Programme. This is normally the first point of contact that patients have with the Health Board. Some of the key developments and achievements were discussed, such as 'The Care Closer to Home Strategy' that was endorsed by the Regional Partnership Board in October, and it was explained that a series of local workshops are now underway to develop the first round of 'Care Closer to Home' local action plans. Examples of work being taken forward include staff recruitment and retention challenges with emphasis on sustainability and broadening the workforce in terms of multi-functional teams.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that some GP practices in the Borough have encountered difficulties relating to resignation, retirement and branch closures. Particular reference was made to Brynryrion Surgery that became directly managed by the Health Board on the 1st December 2017. This is on the basis that the Health Board will work with existing practice staff and recruit additional workforce, to develop a new model of primary care within the practice, with a view to returning to independent status once established. Mrs Pagett stated that there are unprecedented pressures on surgeries across Gwent and this is also a nationwide problem. Attempts have been made nationally to recruit staff.

Members expressed concerns in relation to the decision made to close Graig y Rhacca Surgery. It was explained that a patient consultation was undertaken with all relevant consultees. The results of the consultation was taken to panel where all factors were considered including transport for patients to other surgeries. The panel supported the recommendation to close the surgery. Due to the state of repair of the building, this would have been closed in any event.

Clarification was sought in relation to the targets set and achieved in relation to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The procedure for accessing this service was set out. It was explained that good progress has been made to reduce the waiting times for access to this service. The implementation of the 'choice and partnership' model 2016/17 has improved the management of demand and capacity and provides a more sustainable model for the future. The referral to treatment target of four weeks has consistently been met in 80 per cent of cases. Members queried the target in relation to the Assessment by Local Primary Mental Health Specialist Services within 28 days of referral. The Scrutiny Committee were advised that this year the younger population have not reached the target. However, in the autumn resources were prioritised to meet the target and undertake all assessments. There will be no backlog from January 2018.

A Member queried the waiting lists for joining new dental surgery's across the Borough and was advised there are currently a number of surgery's accepting new NHS patients, 3 of which provide orthodontic services namely; Rhymney, Ystrad Mynach and Newbridge. The Health Board will continue to review and improve dental provision. Details of practices are available on the ABUHB website.

In terms of performance, it was explained that the availability of required workforce continue to be the Health Board's biggest challenge, in the context of available staff across the United Kingdom. The Health Board has undertaken a number of campaigns to attract suitably skilled staff to Gwent, with particular success in the area of nursing.

Mrs Paget provided an overview of the services available at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, which is regarded as a flagship Hospital. Members were also updated regarding the Specialist and Critical Care Services at The Grange University Hospital at Llanfrechra, Cwmbran. She confirmed that on the 10th November 2017, contracts between ABUHB and building contractors Laing O'Rourke were signed and mark the second and final stage of the process to enable the construction of the Grange University Hospital to begin. The Council was thanked for its continuing support for the development and the ongoing support with changes to other services associated with the implementation of the Clinical Futures Strategy.

The Chair thanked Mrs Paget and her colleagues from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board for attending the Scrutiny Committee Meeting and for responding to questions raised during the briefing.

10. HAFOD-YR-YNYS AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

The Head of Policy and Public Protection and Team Leader for Pollution Control and Emergency Planning introduced the report that provided an update on the development of the final draft of the Hafod-yr-ynys Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) (appended to the report), prior to its presentation to Cabinet on the 13th December 2017.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that all Local Authorities are required by the Environment Act 1995 to review and assess air quality within their area for present and future years. Previous reports presented to this Committee have provided information on the air quality monitoring being undertaken within Hafod-yr-ynys. The Government has established a set of national air quality objectives under the Act, for specific pollutants having regard to scientific and national evidence on the effects on health. Local Authorities are required to carry out reviews to determine whether there is compliance with these objectives and if there is not, to develop an Action Plan to improve air quality bringing it within the acceptable levels.

The national nitrogen dioxide air quality objectives are being exceeded at receptor locations on Hafod-yr-ynys Road. The Local Authority is required to designate any area failing the national air quality objectives as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and produce an AQAP which details measures to bring the pollutant back within acceptable limits.

The Hafod-yr-ynys Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in November 2013 following a Detailed Assessment which confirmed that monitoring results were continuing to fail the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide. A further assessment report was undertaken and submitted to Welsh Government in April 2015. Further air quality monitoring, modelling, and assessment has been undertaken following completion of the £1.3 million Crumlin Junction improvements.

Members were advised that an air quality steering group meeting was held with residents of Hafod-yr-ynys and key stakeholders on 9th March 2017, where officers of the Authority discussed the contents of the Draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). The draft AQAP went through a public consultation process between June and August 2017 where 21 responses were received (appended to the report). The final draft AQAP has been updated in light of the responses received and although the overall content of the plan has not altered, minor amendments have been made. There were no recommendations to remove any proposed options, however the merits of the suggestion from Public Health Wales that the introduction of a low emission zone be considered are still being assessed.

The Action Plan is a living document and actions will be subject to review as and when required. It was explained that Welsh Government have recommended that the authority undertake further traffic and air quality monitoring within the area to better refine the air quality model. It is accepted that more detailed air quality and traffic data will bring a better understanding of the current exceedance situation, not only in terms of overall source apportionment, but in terms of the emission profile linked to specific vehicle classes. As monitoring and actions progress, updates will be provided to residents, key stakeholders and Welsh Government. All options will be explored.

In concluding, the Head of Policy and Public Protection informed the Scrutiny Committee that the UK Government are currently being challenged in terms of its policy regarding air quality and climate change and have recently lost Court Cases, as the policy is not considered adequate. There is a debate in the Senydd this evening regarding the current situation with the UK Government. The outcome of this may impact on Welsh Government's approach to locations such as Hafod-yr-ynys and others in Wales.

Clarification was sought as to whether the Local Authority anticipates any traffic issues when the Grange Hospital is built in Cwmbran. It was explained that from a highways perspective this junction provides a strategic corridor within the borough.

Members discussed the modelling scenarios referred to in the Action Plan, in terms of future year 2020 air quality. At this stage it is unclear if one option will be enough however there is an expectation on Local Authorities to address air quality, ensuring compliance with EU Directives.

The Chair thanked the Officers for responding to questions raised during the course of the debate.

Having fully considered the Officer's report, and considering the additional recommendation that Officers engage with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to ask if they had considered the impact on traffic through Hafodyrynys when they chose the location of the New Hospital at Llanfrechfa, Cwmbran, it was moved and seconded that the comments of the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee be noted and recommend that the Hafod-yr-ynys Air Quality Action Plan be referred to Cabinet. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the foregoing, the Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that:

- (i) Caerphilly County Borough Council engage with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to ask if they had considered the impact on the traffic through Hafodyrynys when they chose the location of the new Hospital at Llanfrechfa, Cwmbran;

- (ii) the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee support the Draft Hafod-yr-ynys Air Quality Action Plan and recommend this be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2018.

CHAIR