



HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 20TH MARCH 2018 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

A. Angel, D. Cushing, M. Evans, D.C. Harse, L. Jeremiah, B. Owen, and C. Thomas.

Cabinet Member – Councillor C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing).

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), J. Morgans (Customer Services Co-Ordinator), C. Evans (Scrutiny Officer), J. Morgan (Solicitor) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Users and Carers – Mrs M. Jones and Mr C. Luke.

Also Present:

Rebecca Haycock – Regional Adviser (Gwent), Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Safeguarding Unit.

Carin Quinn, Healthy Schools Practitioner – Education Department.
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement – Education Department.

Lianne Dallimore – Branch Secretary of Unison.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors C. Bezzina, Miss E. Forehead, A. Gair, V. James, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens and Ms J. Lawton (Co-Opted Member).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 6TH FEBRUARY 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 6th February 2018 (minute nos. 1 - 11) 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 statement from Councillor C. Cuss (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing). He confirmed Welsh Government have recently announced an amount of £10M to assist Local Authorities in meeting the additional costs of winter pressures. Caerphilly was allocated £530,948 and it was confirmed this is a 'one off' grant payment which limits the Directorates ability to use this for ongoing packages of care.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to confirm that Social Services has established a new Children's Residential Home at Hillcrest in Hengoed, which was a former Solas building. The House will initially take one single placement but the longer term plan will be to place up to 4 Children. Staff are currently being recruited for this facility. Councillor Cuss personally thanked Local Councillors their support, as this additional service is required in the County Borough.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School in Oakdale was the first school in the County Borough to complete Dementia Friends Training. Councillor Cuss was pleased to present staff and pupils with a plaque to acknowledge this and he was accompanied by Assembly Member for Islwyn Rhiannon Passmore AM, Cabinet Member for Education and Achievement - Councillor P. Marsden, Dementia Friends Champion Councillor C. Andrews and Ward Member, Councillor R. Saralis. He advised that Cabinet would be trained on Wednesday 21st March and urged all Councillors to undertake this training. It is intended that the training will be rolled out across the Council and to the wider community.

Mrs M. Jones who represents the Parent Network donated 5 copies of 'The Elephant who forgot' book to the School and they were congratulated for achieving the Dementia Friends status. The book was written by parents and carers from the Abertysswg Forum, who became dementia friends in 2015, they were concerned that although they felt they knew all about dementia it was difficult to explain it to their children.

In terms of the inclement weather, Councillor Cuss placed on record his appreciation to all staff in Social Services who worked hard to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in the drastic weather conditions recently.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for his informative update.

6. 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 February 2018.

Members were asked to consider the work programme and to make any amendments or additional agenda items to be included for future meetings. It was suggested that the following items be included on the agenda for the meeting on the 1st May 2018: Parliamentary Review HSC, Social Work Salaries – Children’s Services, Foster Care Fees and Domiciliary Care Tendering. It was also suggested that for the meeting on the 19th June 2018: Pooled Budgets for Older Peoples Services, Ffrind i Mi Presentation, Social Services Revenue Budget and Social Services and Public Protection Grants, be scheduled.

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

- (i) the meeting scheduled for the 1st May 2018 will include the following reports: Parliamentary Review HSC, Social Work Salaries – Children’s Services, Foster Care Fees, Domiciliary Care Tendering;
- (ii) the meeting scheduled for the 19th June 2018 will include the following reports: Pooled Budgets for Older Peoples Services, Ffrind i Mi Presentation, Social Services Revenue Budget and Social Services and Public Protection Grants.

7. CABINET REPORTS

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

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

8. HOW SCHOOLS ENGAGE WITH HEALTHY LIVING

The Healthy Schools Practitioner and Strategic Lead for School Improvement, introduced the report that provided members with details of how schools are engaging in the Healthy Schools Programme and also considers comparative performance against other Local Authorities in Wales.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised of the roles of the Healthy Schools Practitioners and the number of schools actively engaging with and working towards the National Quality Award (NQA). Schools who are not fully engaged and the measures in place to address this issue were highlighted in the report. The comparative data looks at Caerphilly’s position in relation to the 22 other Local Authorities and finally shows judgements made by ESTYN linked to Health and Well-being in the last 12 months.

It was explained that the Local Authority has 2 full time and 1 part time practitioners supporting schools across the Caerphilly region. They enter schools on a daily basis (with co-ordination) and produce and deliver specialist training. Copies of the ‘Gwent Charter for Working Together’ were distributed to Members of the Committee that set out what the Charter consists of, who signs up to this with strong emphasis for learning life skills and working together. Reference was made to paragraph 4.3 in the report in terms of the indicators for health and wellbeing provision and outcomes across the Caerphilly region and how they compare favourably against other Authorities in Wales. Members were advised that in October 2017, 88 schools had registered with the Healthy Schools Initiative (100% of schools), however some schools’ initiative has stalled are in need of review. There is no correlation with the participation of these schools to school categorisation of free school meals.

Members discussed the award levels achieved that were broken down into 'Primary', 'Secondary' and 'Other' categories. It was explained that after the NQA's are achieved, external assessors undertake assessments every 2 years to ensure schools are progressing. In terms of children with disabilities, Members were pleased to note that Trinity Fields School would be assessed for their NQA this week.

Clarification was sought as to how the Education Department interface with the Social Services Department. Emphasis was placed on good 'joined up' working with both Directorates in particular Helen West – Safeguarding Team Manager and Sarah Ellis (Lead for Inclusion and ALN). A Member of the Scrutiny felt this initiative is a missed opportunity for groups such as the Parent Network and that the principles and initiatives within the training should be provided to families as well as children.

The Chair thanked the Officers for delivering their informative presentation and for responding to questions during the course of the debate.

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.

9. DRAFT GWENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE STRATEGY

The Head of Policy and Public Protection and the Regional Adviser (Gwent), Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Safeguarding Unit, delivered a presentation in relation to the Draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse And Sexual Violence Strategy. They confirmed the aim of the strategy is to end violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, to support those who have been affected and to increase help-seeking. The background to the regional model was set out including the main aims of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015. Members were referred to the six Strategic Priorities, that include:

- Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Across Gwent.
- Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong.
- Increase focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety.
- Make early intervention and prevention a priority.
- Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors.
- Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services throughout the region.

The Scrutiny Committee were informed how the progress will be monitored, in the Strategic Delivery Plan.

The report provided Members with the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy. The Strategy is required by the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 and has been prepared by the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board of which the Council is a Member. It calls for the Public Sector in Wales to work together in a consistent and cohesive way to improve the outcomes for individuals and their families subjected to VAWDASV.

The Partnership Board has been established to meet the requirements of the Act and consists of the five Local Authorities in Gwent, Gwent Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, Welsh Ambulance Service, Probation Services, Registered Social Landlords, Supporting People Regional Collaborative Committee, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Gwent Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, VAWDASV Specialist Sector Partners and Voluntary Sector Organisations.

The Chair gave permission for Lianne Dallimore – Branch Secretary of Unison to address the Scrutiny Committee. She referred to paragraph 8 in the report and felt that due to the amount of staff employed by Caerphilly County Borough Council, there could be women suffering abuse or violence. She therefore considers that there are likely to be financial implications with potential absences from work. Members were informed that Unison welcomes the Strategy and it was queried how the Strategy will be used to support staff. Officers confirmed the intention of the Strategy is to bring about increased disclosure, to raise basic awareness, with the opportunity for face to face meetings and utilising work place policies.

Members expressed concerns in relation to the language and terminology used throughout the Strategy and felt that this excludes some groups of people. It was explained that issues around the language used will be discussed through training sessions and work will be undertaken across Gwent that will target all groups. The purpose of the training is to ensure that Professionals are trained to provide an effective response to anyone affected by any form of gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. Through on-going monitoring, evaluating and review the VAWDASSV Partnership will ensure issues around equality are consistently raised and delivery of the strategy adapted

The Scrutiny Committee also discussed the need for the strategy to be promoted across Third Sector Voluntary Organisations as they feel this message needs to be extended on a wider scale.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved.

RESOLVED that subject to the foregoing, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed:

- (i) the draft Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Strategy, be supported;
- (ii) the Strategy be promoted widely across Third Sector Voluntary Organisations.

10. 2017/18 ANNUAL COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS REPORT

The Customer Services Manager introduced the report that provided Members with information and analysis on the operation of the Social Services Directorate's Representations and Complaints procedure, from 1st April 2017 to 12th March 2018. The Report also includes details of the compliments received during this period. She explained that a representation is a request for information or a referral for a service made by a third party (including Elected Members) on behalf of another person. The Customer Services team make every effort to ensure compliance with the Protocol that governs the sharing of information. Staff are advised through training sessions to minimise the opportunity for information to be shared inappropriately and that all enquiries for information to be referred to the Customer Services Team or the Council's Data Protection Unit.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised of the three stage process of the Complaints Procedure set out in paragraph 2.3. in the report and details of cases that reached each of the stages were summarised. The Directorate appreciates the importance of learning from complaints and it is recognised that equal emphasis needs to be placed on learning from positive outcomes. Praise is received by teams in the form of thank you cards, letters and emails. In addition, annual survey responses by some service areas results in positive feedback that can be used to measure the success of the Directorate in those areas.

Clarification was sought in terms of the 118 stage 1 Complaints received and if data was available to confirm if they relate to staff or service providers. It was confirmed that this information could be distributed to the Committee following the Meeting. Historically, complaints have related to communication and in other cases, issues have related to eligibility for services rather than members of staff.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 1st May 2018.

CHAIR