



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE 2018 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Binding (Chair)

Councillors:

A. Angel, J. Bevan (Vice-Chair), C. Bezzina, D. Cushing, M. Evans, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, D.C. Harse, V. James, S. Skivens and C. Thomas.

Cabinet Member: 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), M. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), C. Evans (Interim Scrutiny Officer), B. Manners (Solicitor) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Users and Carers – Mr C. Luke.

Ms T. Strange – Associate Director of Nursing/Divisional Nurse Primary and Community Care - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and Mr A. Hesselden (Registered Home Manager Woffington House Care Home - Tredegar).

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Councillor J. Bevan to his first Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as Vice-Chair and thanked Councillor Gale for her support in her role as Vice-Chair during the previous year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss E. Forehead, L. Jeremiah, B. Owen and Ms M. Jones and Ms J. Lawton (Co-Opted Members).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES – 1ST MAY 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 1st May 2018 (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 MEMBER

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report from Councillor C. Cuss (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing) which provided an update on his portfolio, and had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

Members were reminded of the Welsh Governments' Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care that was presented at the previous Scrutiny Committee Meeting. The presentation referred to the fact that the review would be followed up by a national plan. This has subsequently been published ('A Healthier Wales – our plan for Health and Social Care') and copies had been distributed to the Scrutiny Committee and placed on the Members' Portal. Councillor Cuss explained that Local Authorities and Health Boards will now begin to work through the document as part of the Regional Partnership Board arrangements. He also advised that Officers are awaiting further information on how the £100 Million Transformation Fund can be accessed.

The Cabinet Member congratulated the dedicated staff working at Ty Clyd Residential Care Home which had received a glowing report with "consistently high standard of care" from the Care Inspectorate Wales. The Committee extended their appreciation to the staff and for their hard work and commitment at the Care Home.

Reference was made to the Foster Carer Fee Levels Report that was presented at the last Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Cuss confirmed that Cabinet have agreed the proposals subject to a progress review in 12 months' time. Officers are currently working towards implementation.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to welcome colleagues from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to deliver a presentation regarding the Ffrind I Mi initiative which tackles loneliness and isolation in communities.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for his report.

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

The Interim Scrutiny Officer presented the report, which outlined details of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Forward Programme (FWP) for the period May 2018 to June 2019. Members were asked to consider the FWP alongside the Cabinet Work Programme as appended to the report and to suggest any changes. Reference was made to the meeting scheduled for the 11th September 2018 and that there are currently 2 reports listed, the Director's Annual Report and Wellbeing Objectives.

Members noted the details of the reports and discussed the possibility of a report and or presentation being delivered from the Alzheimer's Society in relation to Dementia Friends Training. It was explained that the Local Authority does not commission services from the Society but works with them. It was suggested that a training session be arranged outside of a Scrutiny Meeting and for Committee Members to be invited.

It was unanimously agreed that the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Forward Programme as appended to the report be published on the Council's website.

8. CABINET REPORTS

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. FFRIND I MI/FRIEND OF MINE PRESENTATION - ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

Ms T. Strange and Mr A. Hesselden delivered the Ffrind i Mi/Friend of Mine Presentation. The background to this initiative was set out and it was explained that in 2015, 79.5 million prescriptions in Wales were issued and 5 million of those were anti-depressants. This was more than double in the previous decade. In 2016 there was a 30% increase in anti-depressants prescribed to children in Wales. It was questioned at that time how many of these people were potentially lonely. Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) arranged an Engagement Event during May 2016 that considered the effects of loneliness and isolation and how people were currently coping. Consideration was given to what other support was needed and what the new service model should look like. Of those in attendance, 150 people were affected by loneliness and this inspired the Ffrind i Mi initiative which is regarded as a 'Prescription of Loneliness'. Ffrind i Mi is a partnership approach to combatting loneliness and social isolation across communities. This was launched in January 2017 and focuses on the wider determinants of health, it has created an exciting and dynamic social movement, driving forward innovative low cost/no cost solutions to reconnect lonely and isolated people with their communities. This links in with the Parliamentary Reviews and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. There are currently 50 active Ffrind i Mi volunteers and a further 30 are being recruited across the Gwent area.

It was explained that over the past 12 months, one of the fastest growing areas of compassionate practice has been that of intergenerational practice. It is bringing older and younger people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities, building upon the resources that each has to offer each other. Organisations such as Health, local Councils, the Police, Housing, Schools, Colleges, Voluntary Sectors, Care Homes (to name a few), are recognising how inclusive participation is strengthening community bonds and mutual respect. Whether activities are face to face, exercise related, technology based or through written communication, the observed well-being benefits for children, young people and adults have compelled the partnership to develop a draft Intergenerational Strategy '*Buiding Bridges across Generations*'. Copies of which were provided to the Scrutiny Committee. The document provides context in terms of intergenerational practice and why the strategy has been developed. In addition, it sets out the benefits for children, young people and older people and its vision, mission, values and goals and its key factors for success.

The Scrutiny Committee noted that the draft Strategy will be considered at the Intergenerational Conference that will be held with all partners on the 28th June 2018. It is anticipated that 490 people will attend from across Wales. Members were invited to attend the Conference as there were spaces available.

Reference was made to the website and twitter account and it was confirmed that leaflets have been distributed raising awareness of Ffrind i Mi and what support services are available in local areas. Community Connectors are available who have good knowledge of local services and the groups and activities that are already in place. Examples of existing groups were discussed such as a bilingual Scrabble Club, a conversational Sign Language and Hearing Loss Working Group and other Friendship Groups. Information is also available in terms of recruiting volunteers. Members discussed the 'Pimp my Zimmer Project' where Care Home residents in Wales have been decorating their Zimmer frames, with the help from local School Children. The project aims to reduce falls after a Care Home Matron noticed that people with dementia sometimes find it difficult to recognise their own frame. One Care Home claims the project has reduced falls by up to 60%.

A Member queried if data was available for anti-depressants prescribed to children during 2017 as there was a 30% increase in 2016. It was confirmed that these figures are currently being mapped for children in 2017 but the amount of prescriptions in older people has decreased.

Members wholly supported the Ffrind i Mi Project and a Member referred to loneliness and the importance of having pets for companionship. He referred to Facebook posts where older people had to give their dogs away because they were no longer able to walk them. It was explained that volunteers could be matched with the dog owner and could walk the dogs on their behalf.

The Chair thanked Ms T. Strange and Mr A. Hesselden for delivering the presentation and for responding to questions during the course of the debate.

10. DOMICILIARY CARE FRAMEWORK

The report sought Members' views on the recommendations proposed to progress the commissioning of a new domiciliary care arrangement, minimising disruption to individuals who currently receive the service whilst increasing capacity to meet identified needs. The current arrangements for the provision of externally commissioned and internally provided domiciliary care in the Caerphilly Borough were outlined and some of the difficulties and issues facing the domiciliary care sector on a local and national basis were highlighted.

To put the fragile position of this area into context, Members were advised that as of the last week of March 2018, Caerphilly County Borough Council were commissioning 9000.5 hours per week of external domiciliary care. This is a snap shot figure as the amount of care provided and commissioned varies on a daily basis. In the same week the in house homecare service, Home Assistance Reablement Team (HART) provided 2922.25 hours per week of support, not including travel time. Emergency Care at Home and Reablement provided a further 722.30 hours of support excluding travel time.

The current arrangements for commissioning were set out in paragraphs 4.3 and 4.4 of the report. The Scrutiny Committee were advised that in order to ensure that CCBC is best placed to respond to all the market pressures, driving forces and influencing factors to securing a sustainable domiciliary care provision provided in an outcome focused way for the future, a project group has been meeting in order to develop the following: -

- A service specification and contract – to include a domiciliary care service for children and young people and also respite sitting service;
- A proposal for the new arrangement;
- An agreed tender process.

Members were informed that the service specification and contract has been reviewed and the only outstanding part is the section relating to Finance and Payment. This section is dependent upon the arrangements with the new Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) IT system and a decision to be made regarding how CCBC will expect providers to report hours of service they have delivered.

In relation to the proposal for a new arrangement, there have been 3 consultation sessions with the current providers, discussions with people using the current service and the project group meetings. In addition there has been some communication with Leonie Cohen a Lawyer specialising in Procurement and Social Care with an intention to engage further, once a final proposal has been agreed by the Senior Management Team. Following consultation, the proposed approach will seek to ensure continuity and consistency for the people currently in receipt of a service, while increasing the number of providers available and therefore increase capacity to meet future demand. It was confirmed that the commissioning relates to domiciliary care in the home and not for service users residing in supported living. Members were referred to paragraph 4.12 in the report that sets out the risks associated with this process, despite the fact that there is a requirement to tender for a new Care at Home Service.

Members discussed the report in detail. Clarification was provided in relation to the tender process and the weighting of quality and cost of service provision. In terms of in-house provision, figures were requested in respect of increasing the percentage of care provided in house. A Member referenced the proposed ten year Contract period (4 years with 2 +2 +2). It was confirmed that as long as performance is maintained, this will allow the provider to invest in the business and plan for the future. Should any issues arise in relation to poor performance then the Local Authority could take steps in serving notice on a service provider. Regular reviews shall be undertaken at each break point in the contract. Members queried if the hourly rate for providers would be equivalent to the National Living Wage and it was explained that providers will submit their own hourly rate. However, there is a possibility of a 'floor' and 'ceiling' rate to be set by the Local Authority in order to ensure that services are sustainable and affordable. It was also confirmed that in-house service providers earn above the National Living Wage.

The Scrutiny Committee expressed concerns in relation to the new Domiciliary Care model and considered that it would be appropriate to hear an expert testimony prior to making recommendations to Cabinet. Members requested that Representatives from an External Service Provider, Trade Union and Service User and/or Representative be invited to attend a future meeting to provide their perspective on the model.

It was moved and seconded that this proposal be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the aforementioned reasons, the matter be deferred.

11. 2018-19 SOCIAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET

The report provided Members with details of the 2018/19 revenue budget settlement for the Directorate of Social Services that outlines the reasons for movements in the revenue budget since the 2017/18 original budget. The report also sets out the context within which the

2018/19 revenue budget has been set, including savings delivered since 2013/14 and the financial pressures that the Directorate has faced over recent financial years and will continue to face in the future.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that since the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review of 2013, Local Authorities have faced an unprecedented period of on-going austerity. The impact on Caerphilly County Borough Council has necessitated savings totalling £45.6m over the 4 year period from 2014/15 to 2017/18 in response to reductions in funding from Welsh Government and a number of inescapable cost pressures. It was explained that whilst the Council's financial strategy has provided a degree of protection for the Directorate of Social Services from the full impact of these savings requirements, the Directorate has contributed £7.765m of savings over the same 4 year period. This amounts to 17% of the total savings delivered across the authority over the 4 years.

Members were referred to paragraph 4.1.2. in the report that sets out the savings delivered across the authority over the 4 years. The £7.765m of Social Services savings identified have been delivered through a combination of budget realignment, back office efficiencies and service re-design which has had very little impact upon the services received by the public. However, it has had a significant impact upon the workforce within the Directorate with 108.34 full time equivalent posts having been permanently deleted from the Directorate over the 4 year period in order to deliver the £7.765m saving target.

It was noted that for the 2018/19 financial year, Caerphilly received an increase of £3.613m in an Aggregate External Finance settlement from Welsh Government. This was better than had been predicted but after adjusting for grants transferred in to the settlement and new responsibilities this translated in to an effective cut in funding of £1.778m. This was compounded by the £5.253m inflationary pressure and the £3.178m inescapable service pressures faced by the authority in 2018/19 resulting in a funding gap of £9.735m for the forthcoming financial year. In relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 to 2022/23 and in the face of continuing austerity and financial uncertainty it is unlikely that local government will see any significant increases in Welsh Government funding in the medium term. Members were reminded that on the 22nd February 2018, full Council were presented with a Medium Term Financial Plan which assumed a 1% funding cut in 2019/20 followed by a 0.5% cut in each of the following 3 financial years through to 2022/23. It was emphasised that any saving target set for the Directorate for the forthcoming 4 years must be viewed in the context of the £9.903m of savings already delivered by the Directorate in the preceding five year period.

Clarification was sought in relation to the percentage of workforce that has been lost and the impact this has had on frontline services. Members were advised that the savings referred to above were achieved with very little impact on front line service provision and avoided compulsory redundancies. However, such options have now become exhausted so it is likely that some very difficult decisions will be necessary in order to deliver any further savings. In terms of the Directorate delivering the savings totalling £1.328m in 2018/19, this will bring the total number of posts lost across the Directorate over the last 5 financial years to 134.5 full time equivalents (or just less than 5,000 staff hours per week). This is approximately 8 - 9% of the workforce.

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 for the reasons contained in the Officers report: -

- (i) the 2018/19 budget for the Directorate of Social Services set out in appendix 1, be noted;
- (ii) the implications of the Council's 2019/20 to 2022/23 Medium Term Financial Plan that apply to the Directorate of Social Services, be noted and it be

recognised that options for delivering savings with little impact on front line services have been exhausted over the preceding five year period.

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2018, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR