



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 23RD OCTOBER 2018 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Binding - Chair
Councillor J. Bevan - Vice Chair

Councillors:

C. Bezzina, D. Cushing, M. Evans, Miss E. Forehead, A. Gair, J. Gale, D.C. Harse, V. James, L. Jeremiah, B. Owen and C. Thomas.

Cabinet Member: C. Cuss (Social Care and Wellbeing).

Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director - Children's Services), M. Jones (Interim Financial Services Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Users and Carer – Mrs M. Jones.

Also Present –

Ms J. Welham (Children's Services Manager) and Ms J. Hill (Consultant Clinical Psychologist) – Multi-Disciplinary Intervention Support Team (MIST) Service.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A. Angel, Mrs A. Leonard and S. Skivens, J. Williams (Assistant Director - Adult Services) 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. MINUTES – 11TH SEPTEMBER 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 11th September 2018 (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 MEMBER

The Scrutiny Committee received a verbal report from Councillor C. Cuss (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing). He advised that major Care Home Safety Improvements are currently being undertaken due to recent risk assessments that identified concerns including aging fire alarm systems at six sites across the County Borough. Cabinet agreed at its meeting on the 17th October 2018, to provide appropriate funding to upgrade these facilities and carry out associated fire safety works as a matter of urgency. He emphasised that the current fire alarm systems are serviced and maintained to ensure continued fire protection throughout the Homes while the upgrades take place. Officers advised that the fire alarm systems comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and that the Residential Homes have staff on duty 24/7. The date the Council were notified of the concerns would be distributed following the meeting.

The Cabinet Member referred to the 'grim' financial settlement received from Welsh Government. He confirmed he is working with Officers in Social Services in terms of the budget proposals. All Members were urged to attend the Special Scrutiny Meeting to consider these proposals on Thursday 6th December 2018.

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 planned for the period October 2018 to April 2019.

Members were asked to consider the work programme and to make any amendments or request additional agenda items to be included for future meetings. Officers suggested a presentation could be delivered in respect of the Regional Partnership Board that will inform the Scrutiny Committee on the roles and function of the Board. Members requested that a report is brought on Sickness Absence in Social Services and for the MIST Service to attend a future meeting to present a case study that explains 'a journey of an individual' that has received the support from this service.

Following consideration and discussion and 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.

RESOLVED that subject to the following additional reports included in the date be confirmed section, the work programme appended to the report be approved:-

- (i) a presentation be delivered that sets out the key roles/functions of the Regional Partnership Boards;
- (ii) a report be delivered in relation to Sickness Absence in Social Services;
- (iii) representatives of the Multi-Disciplinary Intervention Support Team (MIST) Service attend a future meeting to present a case study that explains 'a journey of an individual' having received the support from this service.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

7. SOCIAL SERVICES POSITION STATEMENT - PRESENTATION

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

The Director delivered a presentation that set out the current position of the Social Services Department that provided an understanding of the 'Big Picture'. He gave an overview of the trends regarding population and expenditure and the Department's achievements to date. Members were advised of the key pressures currently being faced and the key opportunities in moving forward. Emphasis was placed on the increase in demand across both Children's and Adult Services and how this has impacted on the Directorate's budget. The value of Adult Social Care is the 7th largest contributor to the Welsh Economy and employs more staff than the NHS across Wales.

Members noted the Department's achievements that include the development of the Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Service, the move to a joint safeguarding unit and the implementation of the Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS). He advised that regional working is becoming more significant and proposed that a report be brought to the Scrutiny Committee at a future date that will set out the roles and functions of the Regional Partnership Board. The Scrutiny Committee discussed the current and future challenges and the opportunities that lay ahead. The Director now has the Housing Department within his portfolio along with Social Services. He advised that there will be a Corporate approach to prevention and early intervention and it is fundamental that housing is appropriate for residents' needs. In terms of moving forward the Committee were informed that Members would shortly be considering the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Proposals for 2019/20 and a 4 year budget strategy must be developed by January 2019. A review will also be undertaken in relation to administrative and back office staff and the development of a Strategy for residential accommodation for Children.

Members discussed the position statement and clarification was sought in relation to delayed transfers of care. Officers confirmed that previously people had been discharged inappropriately and that the figures should relate to how many people are re-admitted to hospital. Mrs M. Jones on behalf of the Parent Network referenced working in the Care Sector. She advised that Petra Publishing are currently producing a book that focuses on raising aspirations for children and young people to work in the Care Sector and the Director welcomed working with and supporting the Parent Network in raising awareness. Members also discussed the high sickness rates for staff within Social Services and it was suggested that a report be brought to a future Scrutiny Committee that will provide an overview in this area.

The Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee thanked the Director for delivering such a detailed Position Statement and noted its contents.

8. MULTI-DISCIPLINARY INTERVENTION SUPPORT TEAM (MIST) SERVICE - PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed Ms J. Welham (Children's Service Manager) and Ms J. Hill (Consultant Clinical Psychologist) from the MIST Service. They delivered a presentation that provided a background to the MIST Service and confirmed that Caerphilly MIST was commissioned in April 2017. Through engagement with key stakeholders the operational team was recruited and in place by October 2017 and the team are based in Blackwood. The Team are currently working with 11 children and young people, 3 in Local Authority (LA) foster placements and 8 in residential care ready for 'step down' to foster care/family based options. Capacity in the

Team is building through consultation and training. The Team provide a psychological perspective on case work and there is a feeling from service users of being supported by an accessible specialist Team on a 24/7 basis that also provide support and development in therapeutic residential care. There is also a MIST service based in the Torfaen area that has been running for the last 14 years.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that the Team provide intensive work with children and young people and the whole eco system around them and they also provide training to foster carers. Emphasis was placed on the importance of relationship building with key Social Care Teams, Education and Health. It was noted that the numbers of children and young people in care has risen from 373 – September 2017 to 412 – October 2018. Despite this position, there is less reliance on independent foster care placements, more children and young people are being placed with LA foster carers and residential numbers have remained the same.

Members were provided with an overview of the challenges faced by the Team that include embedding a vision of family based care for children and young people with complex needs. A joint commitment is required to work together to achieve the best outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people. In addition, there is a need to embrace the cultural change and shared vision of the model and practice. In terms of research, a recent study has been undertaken by Cardiff University on a small scale exploring the MIST service and model. This identified the key ingredients of MIST and considered the potential of replicating MIST into other areas, resulting in this excellent and thorough report that will greatly enhance the knowledge base in this important field of work. The link to the University's website would be distributed to the Committee following the meeting.

The Scrutiny Committee were pleased to support and note this model that offers better outcomes for children, from understanding what the child needs. They discussed the rationale of providing alternatives to residential care and the importance of this purposely employed diverse Team, providing a network around the 'child' that provides a protective resilience. In terms of training foster Carers, Officers confirmed that the Authority is currently training 3 foster carers. The average time for training carers is between 3 to 4 months, however gaining experience also takes time. Experienced therapeutic carers are also accessed from private providers that have provided services previously. In terms of the success of the organisation, Members were advised that there are lots of layers involved in striving to and achieving this. This stems from working with the community, children living in family based placements, providing a safe link with birth families, with emphasis on the child knowing where they came from.

The Chair thanked colleagues from MIST for attending the meeting and delivering such a detailed and positive presentation. He requested that representatives of the Multi-Disciplinary Intervention Support Team (MIST) Service attend a future meeting to present a case study that explains 'a journey of an individual' having received the support of this service.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that this request be supported. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

9. NON RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES CHARGING

Members requested the report be deferred to a future meeting, in order that additional information can be obtained prior to its presentation to the Scrutiny Committee.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the report be deferred. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

10. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 5)

The Interim Financial Services Manager delivered the report that informed Members of the projected revenue expenditure for the Social Services Directorate for the 2018/19 financial year and on the progress made against the savings targets built in to the 2018/19 revenue budget. The projected financial position was based on information available as at month 5 (August 2018). It identifies budget pressures relating to services for adults with learning disabilities and highlights the financial successes achieved by the Children's Services division despite an increase in the number of looked after children.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that based on known commitments as at the end of August 2018, the Social Services revised budget of £87.797m for 2018/19 is forecast to be underspent by around £1,027k. However, this does not account for the costs of transport of Social Services service users which is funded through a budget held by the Integrated Transport Unit within the Directorate of Communities. This budget for transport costs amounts to £1.465m and is forecast to be overspent by around £130k giving a forecasted net underspend of £897k when offset against the £1,027k underspend within the Social Services Directorate. Members noted that the Children's Services Division is currently projected to underspend its budget by £1,097k, the Adult Services Division is currently projected to overspend its budget by £135k and the Service Strategy and Business Support is currently projected to underspend by £65k. Further details are set out in the report.

Members discussed the content of the report and sought clarification in respect of vacancy levels in day care, direct payments and people with physical and/or sensory disabilities and women experiencing domestic abuse. Officers confirmed that further details would be distributed to the Committee following the meeting. In terms of transport costs, Officers clarified that the Local Authority has a duty to provide transport for Children, however this is different in Adult Services. Within Children's Service, staff encourage people to use their own transport, where possible. There is a 'big drive' to maintain Children in their own Schools as Officers consider this is a critical link that provides stability for the child. Councillor Cuss reminded Members of the benefits of the Transport Policy that had recently been presented to the Scrutiny Committee and endorsed by Cabinet.

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

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report: -

- (i) the projected underspend of £1,027k against the Directorate's budget for 2018/19 and the projected overspend of £124k against the Directorate of Communities' transport budget for 2018/19, be noted;
- (ii) the progress made towards delivering the savings target of £1.328m that was included in the Directorate's budget for 2018/19, be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2018.

CHAIR