



## **HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN, YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 19TH MARCH 2019 AT 5.30 P.M.**

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#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor L. Binding - Chair

#### **Councillors:**

A. Angel, C. Bezzina, M. Evans, A. Gair, J. Gale, V. James, A. Leonard, B. Owen and S. Skivens.

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

#### **Together with:**

D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing), J. Williams (Assistant Director - Adult Services), C. Forbes-Thompson (Interim Head of Democratic Services), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Co-opted Member – Mr C. Luke.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board - S. Millar (Director of Primary Care), Dr L. Taylor (Medical Director) and V. Taylor (Head of Primary Care).

Elected Members (not sitting on the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee):  
Councillors K. Etheridge, C. Mann and J. Roberts.

#### **1. WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed colleagues from the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to the Scrutiny Committee Meeting.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J. Bevan (Vice-Chair), D. Cushing, Miss E. Forehead, D. Harse, L. Jeremiah and C. Thomas, G. Jenkins (Assistant Director – Children's Services) and Mrs M. Jones (Co-opted Member).

In the absence of Councillor J. Bevan (Vice-Chair), it was moved and seconded that Councillor V. James undertake the role of Vice-Chair for the duration of the meeting.

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

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

#### **4. MINUTES – 5TH FEBRUARY 2019**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 5th February 2019 (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 a verbal report from Councillor C. Cuss (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Wellbeing), which had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. He provided an update of the events that he had attended in relation to his portfolio. In addition, he congratulated the Vice-Chair on his wedding that had taken place earlier in the day and this was echoed by Officers and Members of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Cabinet Member was pleased to advise Members that Ty Clyd Residential Care Home had received a glowing report from the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). He placed on record his thanks and appreciation for the hard work of staff at the home for their achievement. The Chair requested a letter of appreciation be sent to Ty Clyd on behalf of the Scrutiny Committee to acknowledge this achievement.

Members discussed the issue of Brexit and the potential implications within Social Care. Councillor Cuss along with the Deputy Leader Councillor B. Jones had attended a Social Care and Brexit Conference on the 14th February 2019 to discuss the implication on Local Authorities as result of a 'No Deal' or 'Leave with a Deal' after the 29th March. He reminded Members that Council endorsed setting aside £1m as a contingency in the event that the Council needs to act quickly. He added, that due to the level of uncertainty, Caerphilly's Brexit Working Group continues to work with Welsh Government in the event of a 'No Deal'.

Clarification was sought regarding the Welsh Government's (WG) pledge to reduce the number of Looked After Children in Wales and if any further funding will be made available. The Cabinet Member advised that as a result of the First Minister's manifesto's pledge, WG will meet with each Local Authority to develop 'reduction expectation plans'. He assured Members that reducing the number of Looked After Children can only be achieved if it is safe to do so. An update will be provided to the Scrutiny Committee following the meeting with WG in terms of funding and establishing a way forward.

The Chair thanked the Cabinet Member for the update and responding to queries raised.

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

The Interim Head of Democratic Services introduced the report and advised that the Scrutiny Committee had attended a Forward Work Programme Workshop prior to this meeting. The purpose of the workshop was to schedule reports for the next 12 months. The draft Forward Work Programme would be distributed to the Committee following this Meeting and subject to approval would be formally presented at the next Scrutiny Committee scheduled on the 30th April 2019.

RESOLVED that the draft Forward Work Programme be circulated to the Committee following the meeting and subject to approval be formally presented at the next Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled on the 30th April 2019.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

### 8. ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD (ABUHB) – CLOSURE OF GP PRACTICES – PRESENTATION

S. Millar (Director of Primary Care), Dr L. Taylor (Medical Director) and V. Taylor (Head of Primary Care) delivered the presentation that provided Members with an update as to the current position in respect of Primary Care. Primary Care has been the keystone of the National Health Service since its inception in 1948. For most people, most of the time, their principle contact with the NHS is via their GP Practice. The variety of Primary Care Service Practices within Caerphilly were set out and the challenges faced by ABUHB. These include Increasing patient need and demand and a diminishing GP workforce.

In response to the challenges faced, ABUHB has introduced a number of new ways of working that includes the establishment of the Sustainability Board and a Training Academy. A new transformational model has been developed that is intended to empower patients, to use more self-care, better self-navigation and assisted navigation of alternative pathways. The new model consists of supporting General Practice extended roles. These are practice based advanced Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Mental Health Practitioners, Paramedics, and Physicians Associates.

Members noted that the IT infrastructure in Wales is very good and the key is to help patients to help themselves so that they can be socially connected. ABUHB has commissioned an estate survey and an example was provided in respect of Bryntirion Surgery. The ABUHB has managed this practice since 1st December 2017, where there was no substantive GP workforce with a patient list size of 9,000 patients. The current workforce was set out and it was explained that the intention is also to reduce Locum usage in moving forward. Other changes that have been made within the practice were also discussed that included a telephone Hub, where calls are answered away from reception, ensuring confidentiality at all times. An appointment system is used that offers a mixture of same day urgent and pre-bookable appointments up to two weeks in advance and same day appointment via telephone triage by a Doctor or Nurse Practitioner. Reference was made to My Health Online where patients can also use the system to make appointments and order repeat prescriptions.

The difficulties encountered previously with GP recruitment was discussed and it was explained that there is a need to make the job more interesting and less pressurising and achieving a work-life balance is key. Reference was then made to the Caerphilly Demographic Implications which include higher demand for health and social care services. In terms of increasing population needs work will be undertaken in respect of how GPs are reimbursed and GP Recruitment difficulties.

The new model provides a different offer which is prudent and wise with a benefit of avoiding long winded referrals. This consists of a Multi-disciplinary team and an Integrated Service with Social Care.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the benefit of joined up working as concerns had been expressed previously regarding accessing locations of hospital care. ABUHB now have a good sense of demographics with less bureaucracy involved. Issues have been rectified by meeting regularly with the Local Authority as this allows planning for future needs by operating more collaboratively. In terms of demographics and topography surgery access points were discussed and it was confirmed that ABUHB are taking a localised approach. It was clarified

that in respect of support for GP's and Locums that much emphasis is placed on achieving a work/life balance. Welsh Government has funded 10 additional places this year.

A Member queried if an established Strategy has been developed that is coherent and tested. This review has been commissioned and the Health Board will produce a planned strategy in moving forward. £300k has been allocated to GP surgeries to make minor improvements and the strategy will contain a programme of work for the next phase of the scheme. A challenge linked to this is persuading GP's to enter into premises and to embrace new ways of working. The Scrutiny Committee discussed the extended roles within practices and a Member queried how mental health issues would be dealt with. It was explained that some patients attend the practice to talk to their GP and they would either be seen exclusively by the Mental Health professional or some would prefer to see the GP for continuity of care.

Clarification was sought as to the Sustainability Board and the purpose of its role. The Health Board (HB) set up the Sustainability Board due to problems with recruitment. The high profile group is Gwent wide that represents all GP's. The Director for Social Service and Housing sits on the HB as a Local Authority (LA) Representative. The Sustainability Board does not have an LA representative because the issues relate specifically to internal contractual/human resource issues.

The Chair gave permission for Councillors J. Roberts, K. Etheridge (as he had requested this presentation be delivered) and C. Mann to address the Scrutiny Committee. It was queried why new initiatives which might help cut out unnecessary time with a GP are not publicised and if there is a proposal moving forward to improve service delivery in the Aber Valley. It was explained that the National Campaign 'Choose Well' will be rolled out by Welsh Government and will be publicised in moving forward. In terms of service delivery it was confirmed that Welsh Government have provided funding to the HB and this will be allocated to the Aber Valley area in the next phase. The plan will be set in more detail within the strategy. Members were assured the HB are listening to Members and doing the best they can. Clarification was provided in relation to a number of other queries raised that include inequalities in the system and deprived areas, concerns for the elderly in terms of pathways of alternative care, the duration of waiting times for GP appointments and contingency planning for GP's retiring. It was explained that the Health Board are investing in these issues.

A Member queried if additional resources will help reduce the burden in Primary Care. Evidence is available that confirms investing in Primary Care will provide 'more for money'. GP's receive £160 per patient per year and emphasis was placed on addressing the balance and the HB want to ensure the new model is used widely. The option of Saturday appointments was discussed and a trial had been undertaken in Newport which had not proved to be very successful. Members noted there are 56 practices in the Caerphilly borough that offer extended hours beyond normal working hours as an alternative. In summing up, the Chair confirmed that an established strategy is being developed, that work is ongoing with smaller surgeries, Members agreed that there are inequalities in service provision and the Health Board are working in collaboration with the Local Authority,

The Chair thanked colleagues from the ABUHB for attending the Scrutiny Committee, delivering a detailed presentation and for responding to questions during the course of the debate.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2019.

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CHAIR