



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 30TH APRIL 2019 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

D. Cushing, M. Evans, A. Gair, J. Gale, D.C. Harse, V. James, Mrs A. Leonard, B. Owen, S. Skivens and C. Thomas.

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

Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), J. Williams (Assistant Director - Adult Services), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) and A. Dredge (Committee Services Officer).

Also Present:

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board - C. Birchall (Executive Director of Operations) and K. Smith (Interim Associate Director of Operations).

Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust - L. Platt (Assistant Director of Operations) and D. Panniers (Area Operations Manager).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A. Angel, C. Bezzina, Miss E. Forehead, L. Jeremiah and Mrs M. Jones and Mr C. Luke (Co-opted Members).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors S. Skivens and D. Cushing declared interests in relation to Agenda Item 7 - Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board - Response Times and Service Pressures, details of which are recorded with the respective item.

3. MINUTES – 19TH MARCH 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 19th March 2019 (minute nos. 1 - 8) 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. 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 planned for the period June 2019 to April 2020. Members were asked to consider the work programme and to make any amendments or request additional agenda items to be included for future meetings.

The Director advised Members of the significant initiative being introduced by Welsh Government (WG) aiming to safely reduce the number of children placed in Local Authority Care across Wales and suggested a report be brought to the Scrutiny Committee setting out the expectations required on the emerging policy. The Junior and Youth Forum had presented their priority issues at the meeting of Cabinet held on the 24th April 2019 and it was agreed at that meeting that the Forum be invited to attend a future Social Services Scrutiny Committee as their key priority of Mental Health links in with this portfolio. In order to accommodate these reports to be scheduled on the Forward Work Programme it was suggested that the report on the Regional Partnership Board provisionally scheduled for the meeting on the 22nd October 2019 be moved. A Special Scrutiny Committee meeting will then be arranged earlier in the year for consideration of this report.

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:

- (i) the Junior and Youth Forum will attend the Social Services Scrutiny Committee on the 10th September 2019 to present their priority issues;
- (ii) the 'Safe reduction in the numbers of Looked After Children' report be presented at the meeting on the 22nd October 2019;
- (iii) the report on the Regional Partnerships Board be moved from the meeting on the 22nd October 2019 and a Special Scrutiny Committee Meeting be arranged for consideration of this report.

6. 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.

7. WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST AND ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD - RESPONSE TIMES AND SERVICE PRESSURES

Councillors S. Skivens and D. Cushing declared interests in this item as they both have relatives who work within the Ambulance Service. As the interests were personal, they were not required to leave the meeting.

Colleagues from the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST) and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board ABUHB) delivered the presentation that provided an overview of the response times and pressures faced within the services.

The Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust is spread over an area of 20,640 kilometres and serving a population of 2.9 million people. Examples of services provided within a variety of communities were discussed, with differing environmental and medical needs, from pedal cycles to fast response cars, frontline ambulances, helicopters and Nurses/Paramedics in Clinical Contact Centres (CCC). It was explained that staff attend more than 250,000 emergency calls a year, over 50,000 urgent calls and transport over 1.3 million non-emergency patients to over 200 treatment centres throughout England and Wales. The dedicated staff are the Trust's biggest asset, employing 2,576 people. The resources utilised within the Aneurin Bevan area were summarised and the Red, Amber and Green category calls were explained. Members were advised that the focus for 2018-19 is to review staff rosters and reduce Amber waits and this will ensure the resources are utilised correctly, in the right area at the right time with the right skill set. The Current position in Caerphilly was discussed. It was explained that the population is approximately 180,000 and the number of calls is the highest of all 5 Localities. The 4 Ambulance Stations that support the borough are Bargoed, Nelson, Blackwood and Caerphilly. The support Resources available were set out that include advanced Paramedic Practitioners, a Joint Response Unit and a Falls Team. Members were referred to the performance data collated between January and December 2018 for the red performance target within Caerphilly and comparative data for the neighbouring Local Authorities during this time.

The Scrutiny Committee were then provided with an update of the ongoing work within ABUHB. The current services provided by Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (YYF) were discussed. These include a Minor Injuries Unit, an Elective Surgical Unit, a Foot and Ankle Centre of Excellence, a Rehabilitation Services and Midwifery Led Unit. Members were referred to the performance data linked to each of the services and the medical assessments of Caerphilly residents attending the Royal Gwent Hospital (RGH). In addition, services will continue to be provided at YYF with further services planned for example a Breast Unit Centre of Excellence. An update was also provided in respect of the Grange University Hospital (GUH) (at the Llanfechra site at the east of Cwmbran) that is currently being built and due to open in 2021. It was explained that a travel time analysis was used to determine the most central and accessible location for this hospital where 97% of the population (of the 5 Local Authority areas) can reach the GUH within 60 minutes. Treatment commences in the home or Ambulance and WAST will transport patients to the nearest hospital in a life threatening emergency.

Members discussed the recently classified categorisation of calls and it was confirmed that these are clinically focused, ensuring the right resource is sent when calls are made. The only time target is linked to the red category of calls made. In terms of data collated, emphasis was placed on the importance of the outcome rather than the response times. A Member referenced the Caerphilly and All Wales average of Category A response times and it was explained that colleagues undertake daily reviews when the 8 minute target is not reached.

Reference was made to Community First Responders who play a huge part in providing support and assistance. There are approximately 200 First Responders across the ABUHB and colleagues are currently working on a 5 year Strategy for the volunteers and promoting this area in moving forward. The importance of access to and the use of defibrillators within the Community was also discussed as this has/can save so many lives. In addition, it was stated that the training of CPR should be introduced across the board and as early as possible to school children.

There are significant pressures on the Health system and the hand over period from WAST to the ABUHB is 15 minutes. It was explained that the winter period was unprecedented with many unwell patients having difficulty in leaving hospital which impacts on the hours lost by

the Ambulance Service waiting outside hospitals. In terms of hospital discharge, assurances were given that this is a professional decision and the ABUHB are working with the LA and a new pathway has been introduced in respect of failed discharges. The services are looking at other pathways to reduce the impacts on emergency departments. Both WAST and ABUHB emphasised the importance of working collaboratively with all emergency services including the Police and Fire Service.

The Chair thanked colleagues from the WAST and ABUHB for the valued work the men and women undertake across the services on a daily basis. He also thanked the colleagues for attending the Scrutiny Committee and for delivering the presentation and Members noted its contents.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th June 2019.

CHAIR