



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE DIGITAL MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 15TH JUNE 2021 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Cushing - Chair

Councillors:

A. Angel, C. Bezzina (Vice Chair), C. Bishop, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Gair, L. Jeremiah, A. Leonard, S. Skivens, C. Thomas, W. Williams.

Cabinet Member: S. Cook (Social Care).

Together with:

Officers: D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), J. Williams (Assistant Director - Adult Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director - Children's Services), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer), and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

J. Welham (Regional Programme Director), Dr J. Hill (Regional Clinical Director, MyST Regional Programme)

Users and Carer – Mrs M. Jones

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – [Click Here To View](#). She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J. Bevan and V. James.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. D. Cushing (Chair) declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9 – Social Services Co-Opted vacancy as she has a friendship with one of the applicants and did not take part in discussion or voting for this item.

3. MINUTES – 27TH APRIL 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 27th April 2021 (minute nos. 1 - 7) 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. SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report that informed the Committee of its Forward Work Programme planned for the period June 2021 to January 2022.

Following consideration and discussion the recommendation in the report be approved. It was agreed to add the Day Services report to the next meeting in September and to move the Period 3 Budget Report 2021/22 to Information Items. The Committee also agreed to have an update on the Covid-19 pandemic when ABUHB are coming to Committee at the end of the year. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the additional report on Day Services and the Period 3 Budget Report 2021/22 being moved to Information items and the additional update on the Covid-19 pandemic, the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

6. MYST PRESENTATION

Cllr. S. Cook (Cabinet Member) introduced Jennie Welham (Regional Programme Director, MyST) and Dr. Jael Hill (Regional Clinical Director, MyST) who provided the Committee with a presentation on MyST (My Support Team) – Update for Caerphilly Scrutiny Committee June 2021. They provided Members with an update on the MyST service since they last attended the Social Services Scrutiny Committee in September 2020.

It was noted that Caerphilly MyST is part of a regional partnership programme and Caerphilly have taken the lead role in its development, in terms of hosting regional posts and in the strategic development of the Regional Programme. The final team of the programme has been recruited in Newport and MyST are now operational in each of the Gwent LA areas. Members were shown some examples of artwork provided by some of the children and young people supported by MyST.

Caerphilly MyST are moving into the new Bargoed base in July, co-locating with the IST (Intensive Support Team) service. The building has been extensively refurbished using ICF (Integrated Care Fund) capital monies. An update was also given on the development of their model of therapeutic residential care with Caerphilly homes. Members were given an update on the building work in the Bargoed building including some pictures of the refurbishments and informed that work is on target to be completed by end of July.

Information was provided on the regional programme which is currently working with 55 young people across Gwent with 1 disruption in placements from January 2021 to May 2021, total cost savings and avoidance for the region 2020/21 equate to £4.5 million. For Caerphilly this equates to £1,169,843 total last year (cost savings = £858,436 and cost avoidance = £311,407).

Dr. J. Hill provided details of a case to the Committee, in relation to a 15-year-old girl from the Caerphilly Borough, and gave an insight into her life and the support she and her family are receiving from MyST.

The Chair thanked colleagues for delivering the presentation and invited any questions from Members.

In responding to a number of Members questions, the Committee were informed that MyST are currently setting up a group and using family members who have been through the process of receiving support from MyST, and who will be undertaking a mentorship for others who are new to the system. Support can be given to young persons after reaching the age of 18, up until they are 21. There is consistency of good practice in all local authority areas throughout Gwent, avoiding duplication and learning from each other. The use of large indoor spaces to organise group events for young people and days out, etc has been delayed during the pandemic but all face to face requirements where needed, were still carried on throughout this time. The new premises at Bargoed will have therapy rooms and spaces available for young persons to speak with members of the team.

The Chair acknowledged the good work done by MyST, in particular the early intervention that had helped the child in the case story detailed in the presentation. The Chair thanked Jennie Welham and Dr. Jael Hill for their contribution.

D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing) thanked both and acknowledged their good work for vulnerable people and also thanked Gareth Jenkins (Assistant Director – Children’s Services) for his work and involvement with their MyST colleagues.

7. ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED UNDER THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMPLAINTS POLICY 1ST APRIL 2020 TO 31ST MARCH 2021

The report provided the Scrutiny Committee with information and analysis on the operation of the Social Services Directorate’s Representations and Complaints procedure from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021. The Report also included a summary of the compliments received in the same period.

It was noted that representations and complaints relating to Social Services are dealt with by the Directorate’s Complaints and Information Team.

Members discussed the report at length and in responding to a number of members questions, the Committee were informed of the timescales adhered to in relation to complaints received, and that information regarding the complaints procedure is included in Cllrs inductions, along with a request that attendance at relevant meetings be checked and Members to be offered some form of e learning/refresher course in the future. Members were also informed of some changes made to practice in response to issues raised in individual cases.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and noted the content therein.

8. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARDS - UPDATE

The Scrutiny Committee noted that at its meeting on 1st December 2020 a further update report of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (Appendix 1) was presented and one of the recommendations made after Members considered the report was for the Social Services Scrutiny Committee to receive ongoing regular reports on the work of the Regional Partnership Board (RPB).

The report provided Members with an update on the work and decisions taken over the last six months by the Regional Partnership Board.

It was noted that Part 9 of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 required local authorities and Health Boards to establish Regional Partnership Boards. RPB's were established on a Health Board footprint with seven Boards being established. The RPB for this area is titled the Gwent Regional Partnership Board.

Since their inception in 2016 the RPB have become increasingly influential in developing integrated health and social care services across the region. The Board has also been recipient of significant amounts of grant funding from Welsh Government (WG) to support, develop and transform integrated services across health and social care.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued. In responding to a number of Members questions, the Committee were informed in relation to the powers, accountability and communication with the RPB and the influence of the Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing and the Cabinet Member for Social Care over the RPB in relation to lobbying, raising agenda items and challenging decisions. The Committee were informed that the Gwent RPB is very well run and one of the stronger RPB's out of the 7 in Wales. A request was made that the decision from Welsh Government, when made, is circulated to Members of the Committee. The Committee were also informed of recruitment process for domiciliary care and possible increase in workload and demand after the pandemic and the future effects on care home requirements. The Committee were given information on how funding is received through the RPB from Welsh Government, and the implications of this funding ceasing, which would be referred to the Committee if this occurred. The Committee were given a detailed explanation of the Iceberg Model, a framework devised through Gwent children and families partnerships, health, education and social care and concentrating on those that are not accessing universal services or are unable to meet the criteria for other specialist services.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and noted the content therein.

9. SOCIAL SERVICES CO-OPTED MEMBER VACANCY

The Social Services Scrutiny Committee considered a report on 4th February 2020 on whether to fill the co-opted member vacancy and appoint members to sit on a Co-opted Member Appointments Sub-Committee. The former Chair Councillor L Binding, Councillor J Bevan, and Councillor D Harse were duly appointed. However due to lockdown and a few other issues the sub-committee were unable to meet and complete the interview process. Therefore, Social Services Scrutiny Committee are asked to re-appoint three members to sit on the sub-committee.

The report sought Members agreement to appoint three members who will sit on the Social Services Co-opted Member Appointments Sub-Committee. However, given that the Chair had declared an interest in this item, the Scrutiny Manager suggested that the Vice Chair be appointed, along with two other Members, and another Member to be a reserve.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and the Chair invited nominations from three Members, along with Cllr. C. Bezzina (Vice Chair). Cllrs. M. Evans, C. Bishop and A. Gair put themselves forward.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved en bloc and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting and show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report and as outlined at the meeting, Councillors C. Bezzina, M. Evans and C. Bishop be appointed to sit on the appointments sub-committee with Councillor A. Gair as reserve.

The meeting closed at 7.32pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th September 2021.

CHAIR