



## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE DIGITAL MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2021 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor C. Bezzina – Vice Chair (Presiding)

Councillors:

Councillors: K. Etheridge, A. Gair, V. James, L. Jeremiah, S. Skivens, C. Thomas, W. Williams.

Cabinet Member: S. Cook (Cabinet Member for Social Services).

Together with:

Officers: G. Jenkins (Acting Corporate Director – Head of Children’s Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director – Adult Services), M. Jones (Financial Services Manager), R. Morris (Principal Income and Assessment Officer), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) J. Lloyd (Committee Services Officer), and J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer).

Users and Carer: M. Jones, C. Luke and P. Cook, M. Robotham

Also, in attendance: ABUHB representatives - N. Prydodzicz (Director of Planning, Digital and IT), N. Wood (Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health), L. Watkins (Interim Director of Operations), A. Richards (Accident and Emergency), and A. Bagwell (Anaesthetics).

### **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 A. Angel, J. Bevan, C. Bishop, D. Cushing (Chair), M. Evans, J. Gale, D. Harse and A. Leonard and M. Jones (Co-opted member).

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

## **3. MINUTES – 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2021.**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 (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. SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Scrutiny Officer introduced the report that informed the Committee of its Forward Work Programme planned for the period November 2021 to March 2022.

Following consideration, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was agreed.

RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

## **6. CABINET REPORT**

There had been no requests for the Cabinet report to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

## **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

## **7. ABUHB PRESENTATION**

The Scrutiny Meeting welcomed Nicola Prydodzicz (Director of Planning, Digital and IT), Nick Wood (Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health), Leanne Watkins (Interim Director of Operations), Alistair Richards (Accident and Emergency), and Andy Bagwell (Anaesthetics), who were all staff from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

The Director of Planning, Digital and IT, Nicole Prygodzilz provided a complex presentation in relation to the Grange University Hospital since opening 12 months ago and the new hospital model that has been implemented. It provided a high level overview of success and key challenges since the Hospital has opened. The presentation focused on the Emergency Department and Minor Injuries Unit and gave an update on Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

The presentation detailed how it assisted the public to navigate the system to be able to identify which service would best suit the individual's needs.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked Ms Prygodzilz for the detailed presentation and acknowledged the hard work of all Aneurin Bevan University Staff. The presentation was then discussed at length.

Members raised several queries in relation to how best to inform the public as to which service they would require. It was identified all Members have a duty to advise their constituents they need to contact 111 to be directed to the best form of care, to suit their needs. It was also noted that the Councillors and Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Members should be working closer together. Discussions took place around transportation to the hospital and the concerns of local residents at the number of smaller surgeries closing. Nick Wood the Director of Primary, Community and Mental Health advised a problem they currently have is that the smaller surgeries are independent providers. They are having a recruitment issue employing GPs, nurses and reception staff.

Following consideration and discussion, the presentation was noted.

## 8. FINAL REPORT FROM TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE CHARGES

The Chair of the Task and Finish Group (Cllr Vincent James) introduced the report which informed Members of the findings of the task and finish group that was established to review charges for non-residential care set by Caerphilly County Borough Council. Members were asked to consider recommendations of the review group and then determine their recommendation to Cabinet.

Members were asked to consider Hourly rate for Home Care

**Option 1:** That Committee supports an annual increase of 10% for hourly rates until 2024/25 when an annual uplift of 3% should be applied. This would mean that that the hourly rate within the County Borough would reach the Welsh median in 2023/24, assuming an annual inflationary uplift of 2% by the other Welsh Local Authorities surveyed. The hourly rate for 2023/24 would be £18.55. In 2026/27 the hourly rate would be £20.26.

**Option 2:** That Committee supports an annual increase of 6% for hourly rates. This would mean that that the hourly rate within the County Borough would reach the Welsh median in 2025/26, assuming an annual inflationary uplift of 2% by the other Welsh Local Authorities surveyed. The hourly rate for 2025/26 would be £19.35. In 2026/27 the hourly rate would be £20.51.

The Members were then asked to consider sessional rate for Day Care and given three options for consideration

**Option 1:** That Committee supports an annual increase of 10% for sessional rates. This would mean that that the sessional rate within the County Borough would not reach the Welsh median but would rise out of the lower quartile of rates for Wales in 2025/26, assuming an annual inflationary uplift of 2% by the other Welsh Local Authorities surveyed. The sessional rate for 2025/26 would be £16.97. In 2026/27 the sessional rate would be £18.66.

**Option 2:** That Committee supports an annual increase of 20% for sessional rates. This would mean that that the sessional rate within the County Borough would not reach the Welsh median but would rise out of the lower quartile of rates for Wales in 2023/24, assuming an annual inflationary uplift of 2% by the other Welsh Local Authorities surveyed. The sessional rate for 2023/24 would be £16.70. In 2026/27 the sessional rate would be £28.84.

**Option 3:** That Committee supports an annual increase of 30% for sessional rates. This would mean that that the sessional rate within the County Borough would reach the Welsh median in 2026/27, assuming an annual inflationary uplift of 2% by the other Welsh Local

Following discussions Members proposed and seconded Option 2 for both the hourly and sessional rates as set out above. For this item it was noted that votes would be taken by way of verbal confirmation (and in noting there were 5 For, 1 Against and 0 Abstentions) it was

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that: -

1. For the Hourly Rate for Home Care, Option 2, an annual increase of 6% for hourly rates. This would mean that that the hourly rate within the County Borough would reach the Welsh median in 2025/26, assuming an annual inflationary uplift of 2% by the other Welsh Local Authorities surveyed. The hourly rate for 2025/26 would be £19.35. In 2026/27 the hourly rate would be £20.51.
2. For the Sessional Rate for Day Services, Option 2 , an annual increase of 20% for sessional rates. This would mean that that the sessional rate within the County Borough would not reach the Welsh median but would rise out of the lower quartile of rates for Wales in 2023/24, assuming an annual inflationary uplift of 2% by the other Welsh Local Authorities surveyed. The sessional rate for 2023/24 would be £16.70. In 2026/27 the sessional rate would be £28.84.

## **9. GWENT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

The Cabinet Member introduced the report which informed Members the of the 2020-2021 Annual Report for the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and provide updates in relation to the key successes across the strategic partnerships operating beneath the RPB.

Following consideration and discussion the report was noted.

The meeting closed at 7.12 pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

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CHAIR