



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE DIGITAL MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 26TH JULY 2022 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Cushing –Chair

Councillors:

C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Petitt, M. Chacon-Dawson (Vice-Chair), R. Chapman, P. Cook, K. Ethridge, M. Evans, D. Harse, T. Heron, J. A. Pritchard, S. Skivens.

Councillor: E. Forehead. (Cabinet Member for Social Care).

In Attendance: Councillors J. Pritchard.

Co-Opted Members: Vacant.

Officers: D. Street (Corporate Director- Social Services and Housing), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director–Children’s Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director- Adult Services), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer).

Also in attendance: M. Palfreman, S. Inett (Huw Irwin Associates).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be made available to view via the Council’s website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click Here to View.](#)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors: L. Jeremiah, D. Price, J. Rao, C. Thomas.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 14TH JUNE 2022.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2022 be approved as a correct record. By way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 10 votes for, 0 votes against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 14th June 2022 (minute nos. 1-6) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

Mark Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) introduced the report which outlined details of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme planned for the period between July 2022 to March 2023. Members were asked to consider the Forward Work Programme, alongside the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, prior to publication on the Councils Website.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously 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. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARDS - UPDATE

Councillor E. Forehead, the Cabinet Member for Social Care introduced the report which provided Members with information of the role and functions of the Regional Partnership Boards (RPB's) which were introduced as part of the implementation of the social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014(SSWBA). The report aimed to assist in the Members understanding of the increasing significance of the RPB's in the eyes of Welsh Government (WG) and how they are becoming key drivers in delivering "Seamless Services" in Health and Social Care. The report also informed Members of some of the historical work that had been carried out by the RPB since its inception, and the key statutory obligations and the current priorities.

The Corporate Director Social Services & Housing – Dave Street provided the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the report. Members were informed there were seven Boards established and Caerphilly's RPB is titled the Gwent Regional Partnership Board. The

membership for this Board consists of the five local authority Cabinet Members for Social Services, five Directors of Social Services, Health Board providers and citizen and care representatives. The Board also has the ability to co-opt other members as required.

The Officer highlighted to the Members the requirement under the provisions of the Act to prioritise the integration of services in relation to;

- Older people with complex needs, including dementia.
- People with learning disabilities.
- Carers, including young carers.
- Integrated Family Support services
- Children with complex needs due to disability or illness.

In order to support this Boards must produce the following;

- A Population Needs Assessment
- An Area Plan
- An Annual Report
- Integrated Market Position Statement
- Establish pooled funds for care homes and family support functions.

The Officer advised Members, bids that were submitted to WG had secured £13m to support the development of services such as “Home First” to prevent unnecessary admissions to hospital and the ‘iceberg model’ to support young people requiring mental health support. The Scrutiny Members were advised this funding is allocated via the health boards who in essence acted as Treasurer.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the detailed report and discussion ensued.

Following a query raised by a Member of the Scrutiny Committee, Jo Williams the Assistant Director Adult Services advised Members the report submitted in September would include information on the collaborative work approach between GP’s and hospital staff to prevent hospitalisation where possible. A Member requested that this report includes the difference between “Gwent Frailty” and “Home First” services.

An Officer advised Members Care Homes are caring for far more needy people than they have historically. The aim is now to support people in their home for as long as possible.

Confirmation was sought by a Member on how the £13m is being distributed between the five Local Authorities. They also raised a query as to whether there were equal opportunities across all the Boroughs for part of the funding. The Cabinet Member Councillor E. Forehead and an Officer assured Members that every report and bid that is brought to the Board are subject to in-depth scrutiny. The Members were also advised that, had Caerphilly not become part of the RPB they would not have been eligible for a lot of the funding they have received.

Following a query from the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, an Officer advised Members that the allocation of the funding is complex and is based on a number of factors, for example area population or proposed projects.

A Member sought clarification whether there was a department that deals with the administration of the RPB’s. The Scrutiny Committee Members were advised that Torfaen Borough Council has received funding from WG to employ five staff who deal with all administration.

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 the content therein be noted.

8. DAY CENTRE REVIEW UPDATE – PRESENTATION BY CONTRACTOR.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care – Councillor E. Forehead, welcomed the colleagues from Huw Irwin Associates, who won the contract via the procurement procedure to co-produce a Model for Day Services for the future. Members were advised they would receive a brief presentation from the Associates to assist in the understanding of the work that is being undertaken and it was not intended to deal with any findings or recommendations at this point. However, a report would be brought before the Scrutiny Committee Members in the Autumn containing this information.

Martyn Palfreman introduced himself and his colleagues giving a brief background of the organisation. Members were given a presentation to outline the work the Associates have been commissioned to carry out on behalf of the Council. They were also advised the approach that they intended to take to enable them to produce a Model for a Day Services Function within Caerphilly.

The Scrutiny Committee Members were advised the purpose of the Associates role was to develop a Model of Day Services, which was agreeable with people receiving support, their carers, staff, Elected Members and Managers and aligned with the relevant policy and legislation. Once the model has been developed the Associates will give advice on how this should be implemented. The approach will include engagement with all stake holders. The model the Associates have been commissioned to develop will serve both older people and people with learning difficulties.

Members were advised the Associates are going to start work in August, talking directly to the service users and their carers. These meetings will be carried out separately on a one to one basis to obtain the aspirations and support required from both users and carers. They are aware of the issues and challenges that they face in speaking with the services users separately, particularly the service users with complex needs. To ensure those people are able to articulate what they would like, they will be working closely with the staff that are very well acquainted with them.

Members sought further clarification on a number of issues including whether the service provision model would also be aimed around crisis situations providing extra Day Care Services when required. The Member also sought clarification as to whether the consumer/cusomer base of finished products were being consulted as part of the review and also how many carers and users have been contacted to be part of the co-production. Steve Inett, an Associate of Huw Irwin's, advised that crisis management is not part of the brief. However, there will be talks about individual needs to try and prevent crisis situations. In relation to talking to customers, Steve advised this was not something that they have thought of, however, it's a really good idea. The Associates are meeting with service providers in the coming weeks, so will look at putting surveys at those premises for customers to give feedback. Martyn also clarified that correspondence has been sent out to all current carers and users. Jo Williams confirmed there have been 382 letters sent out on behalf of the Associates. The Officer also requested if there were any Members aware of carers and users who have not yet received this correspondence to provide her with the details so that it can be looked into.

Martyn invited Members to send comments and views to martyn@mjpalfreman.co.uk.

The Chair thanked the Associates for the presentation which was very interesting and will look forward to the receiving the report.

The meeting closed at 6.54 pm.

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th September 2022.

CHAIR