



HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON TUESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2015 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Ackerman - Chair
Councillor Mrs P. Cook - Vice Chair

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, A.P. Angel, Mrs G. Bevan, Ms E.J. Gale, L. Gardiner, N. George, C.J. Gordon, Mrs P. Griffiths, G.J. Hughes, A. Lewis, S. Morgan, J.A. Pritchard, A. Rees.

Cabinet Members: Councillor R. Woodyatt and D.V. Poole.

Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director Social Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director Children Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director Adult Services), M. Jones (Finance Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

Users & Carers: Mr C. Luke, Miss H.L. Price and Mrs M. Veater MBE, Sam Crane (ABUHB).

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed Wendy Bourton, Paul Buss, Allan Davies, David Jenkins, Judith Paget and Siobhan McClelland (ABUHB), together with Sarah Glynn-Jones and Gillian Huws-John (CSSIW) to the meeting.

COUNCILLOR K.V. REYNOLDS

It was noted that Councillor K.V. Reynolds, Leader of Council, was currently experiencing ill health. Members requested that their best wishes be sent to him for a speedy recovery.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor L. Binding.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors L. Ackerman and J.A. Pritchard declared an interest during the course of the discussion on Agenda item 9 - ABUHB Annual Performance Evaluation for 2013-14. Details are recorded in the minutes relating to that item and in the Declaration of Members' Interests Register.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that: -

1. The minutes of the Special Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 16th October 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record subject it being noted that Ffwrn-Bryn should read Fferm-y-Bryn (page 3, line 7).
2. The minutes of the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd December 2014 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. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

The Scrutiny Committee received a verbal report from Councillor R. Woodyatt, Cabinet Member for Social Services.

Councillor Woodyatt attended two events last week to celebrate the achievements of almost one hundred of the Authority's Looked After Children. The events at Ty Penallta and Caerphilly Castle were an opportunity to show the children that the Authority recognises their hard work and is extremely proud of their endeavours.

Since the last Council meeting there have been some temporary structural changes which impact on the role of this Scrutiny Committee. With effect from January 2015 the Public Protection Division, which is overseen by Rob Hartshorn, came under the management of the Corporate Director Social Services. With effect from the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee any Public Protection reports will be considered at this Scrutiny Committee rather than the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee. Rob Hartshorn will deliver a short presentation on the role and functions of Public Protection at the next meeting.

In terms of the agenda for this meeting, Members were informed that there would be two presentations. The first will be from colleagues at the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. This will be followed by a presentation from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales with regard to the annual performance evaluation for 2013/14. Members will also receive a report on the latest budget position and a report on the Wales Audit Review of Local Authority arrangements to support Safeguarding of Children.

The Chair thanked Councillor Woodyatt for his report and invited questions from the Scrutiny Committee.

6. CABINET REPORTS

There had been no requests for the Cabinet reports dated 10th December 2014, to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

SCRUTINY REPORTS

Consideration was given to the following presentations and reports.

7. PRESENTATION - ABUHB ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR 2013-14

Judith Paget, accompanied by her colleagues from ABUHB, presented the Health Board's Annual Performance Evaluation for 2013-14.

The Health Board, which was established in 2009, covers six Local Authority areas and serves an estimated population of over 639,000, of which 171,300 are Caerphilly residents. It employs over 13,000 staff and is allocated £1.1 billion per year from Welsh Government to deliver its services.

The Health Board's current 3 year plan included the opening of Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan and the consolidated minor injury service at the Royal Gwent and Nevill Hall Hospitals in 2010. In 2011 Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (YYF) opened and the Frailty Community Resource Teams and Neighbourhood Care Networks were established. 2013 saw the arrival of Single Integrated Plans, driving shared agenda through NCNs, the opening of the Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Centre and the consolidation of Foot and Ankle Surgery at YYF.

Key developments that had taken place in Caerphilly included work on the Eye Care Pathway with patients now being able to access post operative and glaucoma follow up services at high street opticians. There had also been success in working with local dental practices in connection with the Minor Oral Surgery Pathway. The Stroke Community Rehabilitation Service commenced in October 2014 and Step Down services were developed with partners in each NCN area. In addition, more children and families are receiving support through the expansion of Flying Start.

In terms of improving models of care, reference was made to LEAP (Listen, Engage, Act, Participate) new ways of working with people with mental illness in Caerphilly County Borough (Vanguard); 3rd sector services joint procurement approach to reshape services and the Family Intervention Team - CAMHS. In terms of improving health and wellbeing, there had been major investment in 2014/15 in obesity, smoking and cardiology and plans to deliver more local services. Moving forward into the new plan, there will be an ongoing focus on health prevention.

Details were received of the Health Board's performance against targets for the year. A strong focus on quality and patient safety had resulted in good progress on controlling infection in hospitals and in the management of stroke patients. Much work was being undertaken to improve figures for A&E waiting times and Ambulance Response Times.

Reference was made to the financial challenges ahead and a chart showing the 2014-15 revenue allocation per head for the Welsh Health Boards was displayed. The ongoing pressure is growth in continuing health care expenditure. The importance of working with patients and the public was highlighted and a Patient Quality and Safety Committee meets regularly.

Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCNs) are continuing to develop as multi professional and multi agency fora. The networks are leading and influencing local service delivery and pulling in a broad range of health and social care professionals to address many local issues including health inequality, housing and poverty. There are three NCN areas in Caerphilly, one each in the north, east and south. Details of their priorities were provided.

Looking ahead, the Integrated Medium Term Plan 2015/16 - 2018/19, will address reducing health inequalities; prevention and improving population health; primary care services; bringing care closer to home; chronic conditions management; continuing health care; service sustainability; mental health and learning disability; urgent and emergency care and planned care.

Following the informative presentation, a detailed question and answer session ensued. During a query raised in relation to Trinant Medical Centre, Councillor Lyn Ackerman declared an interest as she is registered with the Practice that was running the Centre. Judith Paget referred to the likelihood of some of the very small practices within the Health Board area amalgamating to provide a range of services for patients.

The Health Board responded in detail to a series of questions and comments from a Member in relation to the step-up bed chart, tier 2 psychiatric support at Rhymney, continuing healthcare, hospital bed numbers, A&E emergency figures and the temporary cessation of overnight emergency admissions at the Medical Assessment Unit at YYF. Judith Paget and Siobhan McClelland advised that they had not been aware of any issues with the tier 2 support at Rhymney. Ms McClelland invited members to contact her with their concerns in order that she could investigate the matter. The Committee was advised that during the short disruption at YYF, patients were re-directed to the Royal Gwent Hospital for treatment.

In response to observations made by a Member of his experiences of visiting YYF, Judith Paget responded that a Trust into Care Audit had taken place during which all wards were visited and positive feedback had been received. The audit had not identified any issues with regard to staffing levels or safety. A working group had been set up to examine issues around medication and a major study was looking at demand in GP practices, appointment times, capacity etc. ABUHB compared well with other Health Boards in Wales in terms of GP access.

Reference was made to the work being undertaken in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). A Member questioned how improvements could be made to the partnership with local authorities. The Health Board agreed that there was a need to do more across Wales in terms of CAMHS. Paul Buss said that he would refer the Members' comments to David Williams, Divisional Director (Family and Therapies ABUHB). Judith Paget stressed that the Health Board's wish was to work together to meet the wellbeing and emotional needs of children. Sam Crane referred to the Gwent wide CAMHS Board, which comprises the Directors of Children Services from the five local authorities and offered to forward details of its activities. Siobhan McClelland referred to a National Review launch on 28th February 2015.

Concern was expressed in relation to the 8 minute Ambulance Response Time figures and Members queried what action was being taken to resolve the situation. Judith Paget said that a range of initiatives were being put in place to ease the pressure and additional resource had been allocated to the Welsh Ambulance NHS Trust to recruit more staff. The Health Board was working with its colleagues to explore how response times can be improved.

A Member commented on the signage for the Local Emergency Centre at YYF, which causes confusion and raises expectations amongst the public about the type of condition that can be treated there. It was reported that there is ongoing debate at a national level on the naming of these types of units across Wales on which consensus was awaited.

In congratulating the Health Board on the presentation, Mrs M. Veater referred to a request she had made at a previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for a report on progress with the Carers Strategy. Judith Paget said that she would be happy to provide this report and asked for details of any other reports that are awaited from the Health Board.

Reference was then made to waiting times for Orthopaedic and Ophthalmology services*. Alan Davies advised that there were various reasons for the increases in waiting lists, including staffing issues. In moving forward, the Health Board has been using other NHS facilities and is looking at ways in which it can protect its services and respond more effectively to emerging pressures. * Councillor J.A. Pritchard declared an interest in this matter.

The Chair thanked members of the ABUHB for attending the meeting and for responding in detail to the issues raised.

8. CSSIW ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR 2013-14

The Chair welcomed Sarah Glynn-Jones and Gillian Huws-John (CSSIW) to the meeting to present CSSIW's Annual Performance Evaluation for CCBC's Social Services for 2013-2014.

The report sets out the key areas of progress and identifies areas for further improvement. The summary of findings shows a clear vision for the shape of social services to meet future demand and to enable people to live their lives independently; the direction of travel is aligned to the principles set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. There is evidence that the Council has listened to and understands what matters to the people of Caerphilly. There is a need to build on current quality assurance systems to provide a framework for review and measurement of success in terms of outcomes for people.

In response to last year's areas of improvement, it was noted that there had been progress in developing practitioner awareness of the Shared Lives project; developing methods to identify and engage with carers; compiling resources for signposting and developing citizen centred care and improved performance in relation to statutory visits to looked after children. In addition, a permanent appointment to the post of Director of Social Services had been secured.

Within Adult Services, the Authority is continuing to shape services to reflect local needs and initiatives are in place to develop prevention and early intervention services. Restructuring is taking place to align with health services moving towards integration. There is clear signposting for people to access advice and support and a move to regional arrangements for adult safeguarding.

The numbers of delayed transfers of care due to social care reasons has increased and the Council remains in the lower quartile in Wales. A task and finish group with representatives from health and social services has recently been set up to examine this and develop communication between discharging hospitals and social services.

Children's services has seen continued strong performance in assessment and plans for permanence (100% performance maintained from the previous year. The year 2013-2014 saw a drop in performance in relation to statutory visits undertaken to looked after children. There has been good progress in improving this to 99.2% completed within timescales. Whilst there has been an overall decrease in referrals to children's services, those that proceed to allocation for initial assessment have increased from 67.1% to 79.9%. In addition the number of open cases allocated to someone other than a social worker has decreased from 32% to 19.9%. Performance indicators have demonstrated that the number of placement changes for children and young people looked after by the Council has increased and the Council has made the continued recruitment of foster carers a priority.

In terms of the key areas of progress, the Council has successfully worked with others to implement the regional adoption service and is commencing a pilot mental health strategy. It has improved performance in undertaking statutory reviews of looked after children within timescales and developed a 16 plus team to provide a focus on longer-term outcomes for young people leaving care services. The Council has put in place measures to identify carers and improve carer support mechanisms. It has continued to improve educational progress for children and has strategies in place to maintain this and has developed methods for assessing outcomes for older people. The Council has commenced reconfiguration of services in line with national strategies and has implemented a joint workforce development team.

Areas for improvement had been identified as follows: Development of the commissioning strategy for older people; Interrogate reasons for delayed discharge and develop strategies to monitor and improve this; Continue to develop methods for supporting and developing skills of foster carers; Examine the factors contributing to the rise in numbers of children placed on the register and continue to develop outcome measures for new services; Continue to develop methods/frameworks for quality review; Develop mechanisms for corporate oversight.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the implications of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, the possible reasons behind delayed transfer to care figures and the factors contributing to the rise in the numbers of children placed on the child protection register.

The Chair thanked Sarah Glyn-Jones and Gillian Huws-John for their very detailed presentation and drew Members' attention to the recommendation in the report.

Following consideration it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the contents of the Annual Performance Evaluation Report 2013/14 be noted.

9. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 9)

Mike Jones, Financial Services Manager, highlighted the key issues within the report, which sets out the projected financial position for the Social Services Directorate for the 2014/15 financial year based on information available as at month 9 (December 2014). Full details are attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The report also identifies the 2014/15 savings targets that have been achieved by the Directorate and the progress that has been made towards delivering the targeted savings that have not yet been achieved.

The 2014/15 month 9 position shows a projected underspend of £2,984k the details of which are summarised in paragraph 4.1 of the report. The Children Services Division is currently projected to underspend by £1.132m whilst the Adult Services Division is currently projected to underspend by £1,796k.

The underspend of £332k within our Own Residential Care Service is largely due to additional income from residents in Council's homes for older people. The projections indicate that the average income of the current cohort of residents is higher than those that were resident at the time that the budget was set. Within Home Assistance and Reablement the projected underspend of £678k is largely attributable to services for older people. An additional £1m was invested in this service for 2014/15 in anticipation of increasing demand from an ageing population. The anticipated rate of increase has not transpired resulting in a sizeable underspend.

In terms of progress made against the 2014/15 revenue budget savings targets, the 2014/15 revenue budget settlement for Social Services included targeted savings of £2.062m. Progress made against the individual savings targets included in this figure is summarised in paragraphs 4.7.1 and 4.7.2 of the report.

Of the £2.062m Directorate savings target for 2014/15, £1.848m will be delivered in 2014/15 with a further £0.184m delivered in 2015/16 as a result of actions already taken. This leaves just £30k of savings within the direct care management structure, which can be delivered in 2015/16 if the proposed restructuring of day services is implemented. Although the actual savings delivered in 2014/15 fall short of the £2.062m target, there will be no need to draw upon service reserves as other underspends are anticipated in 2014/15.

Officers responded to the various issues raised by Members in connection with the report. Arising from a query raised in connection with paragraph 4.5.10, the Director said that he would like to explore the benefits that social care enterprises could offer and possibly invite someone along to give a presentation to a future meeting.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The projected underspend of £2,984k for 2014/15 be noted.
2. Progress made against the savings targets included in the 2014/15 budget settlement for the Directorate be noted.

10. WALES AUDIT OFFICE REVIEW OF LOCAL AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPORT SAFEGUARDING OF CHILDREN

Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director Children's Services, presented the report which informed Members of the findings of the Wales Audit Office Review into the Local Authority arrangements to support the safeguarding of children and the actions being undertaken within the Authority as a result.

The findings of the review were published in October 2014. The review was reported to Cabinet on 10th December 2014 where it was agreed that a cross directorate group of key officers would be established to implement the recommendations made by the WAO.

The review focused on "Does the Council's governance and management arrangements provide assurance that children are safeguarded?" The main questions that the review sought to answer are set out in paragraph 4.1. Paragraph 4.2 sets out the conclusions.

Members were informed that the review did not identify any weaknesses in the operational, day to day safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Caerphilly. The recommendations relate to the corporate governance of those arrangements. Following on from the conclusions referred to in paragraph 4.2, the review makes five proposals for improvements, as set out in paragraph 4.4.

A cross directorate Corporate Safeguarding Group has been established to develop and implement an action plan to address the recommendations in the review. Membership of this group includes service areas that either have a key strategic contribution to make to the agenda or provide direct services to residents of Caerphilly. The first meeting of the Group took place on 2nd February 2015 and monthly meetings are scheduled until the corporate policy is drafted for ratification. Thereafter it is likely that the Group will continue to meet twice yearly to monitor compliance with the Policy. The key issues, to be considered when

responding to the five recommendations are set out in paragraph 4.8 of the officer's report. Progress against the Action Plan will be reported through the Audit Committee and Cabinet.

Officers responded to the various queries raised by Members and confirmed that the policy will address the levels of training that staff groups will require.

Following consideration and discussion it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that: -

1. The conclusions and recommendations contained in the WAO Review be noted.
2. The establishment of the Corporate Safeguarding Group to develop the Action Plan required to address the recommendations be endorsed.

11. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA

There were no requests for any items to be prepared for consideration at a future meeting.

12. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following items were received and noted without discussion.

1. Improvement Objective 1 - 204-15 Six Month Update.
2. Summary of Members' Attendance - Quarter 3 - 1st October 2014 - 31st December 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Approved as a correct record subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 24th March 2015.

CHAIR