

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, on Wednesday, 10th September 2014 at 5.00 pm.

Present:

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) M E Davies – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors:

W J David	C Davies	(Mrs) S J Jones
S Lloyd	I Pearce	(Mrs) S Rees
R W Smith	L G Walker	(Mrs) J S Ward
D Weeks	D H Williams	

Officers:

Mr G Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services
Mr N Elliott – Service Director, Direct Services, Business and Housing
Mr R Gatis – Service Director, Adult Services
Mr A Gwynn – Service Director, Children's Services
Mr C B Jones – Service Director, Legal and Democratic Services
Mrs A Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer

In attendance:

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) S Evans

Cabinet Member:

County Borough Councillor G Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Children's Social Services and Equalities

8. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors A S Fox, (Mrs) A Roberts and B Stephens.

9. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr G Isingrini, the newly appointed Group Director for Community and Children's Services to his first meeting of the Committee. She also welcomed County Borough Councillor (Mrs) S Evans who was attending her first scrutiny committee as an observer.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest were received in relation to the agenda:

- (i) County Borough Councillor (Mrs) S Jones – in relation to agenda item 3 - Social Services and Health – Promoting Integrated Services – “ I am a director and trustee of Cwm Taf Crossroads”.

11. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee held on 2nd July 2014, subject to noting the typographical error under Minute 1 - Apologies – the last name should read County Borough Councillor D H Williams.

12. CHANGE TO THE AGENDA

In order to facilitate the arrival of the invitees from Cwm Taf UHB it was agreed to bring forward Agenda Item 4.

REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

13. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

The Group Director reported that in the absence of a Group Director, a draft Director of Social Services Annual Report had been prepared by the Service Director, Direct Services, Commissioning and Housing. He explained that earlier that day both he and the Service Director had met with representatives from the CSSIW who made positive comments about this self evaluation. The report now needs to go out for the usual consultation process and he therefore proposed that the report be presented to Members for scrutiny at their next meeting of the Committee in October.

RESOLVED: that the Committee be presented with the draft Director of Social Services Annual Report for 2013/14 at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 8th October 2014.

14. SOCIAL SERVICES & HEALTH – PROMOTING INTEGRATED SERVICES

The Service Director, Adult Services reported on progress in relation to the Welsh Government's initiatives to promote integration of Health and Social Services in Wales and direction which the Council, along with its partners ie Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Cwm Taf University Health Board propose to take. He reported on the Welsh Government's Framework for Delivering Health and Social Care for Older People and the draft Statement of Intent which is a requirement of the Framework and which sets out how across the Cwm Taf region, the partners will move to more integrated services over a 3 year period.

The Service Director reported that the Welsh Government had provided a 'one off' Intermediate Care Fund to support the integration agenda with £3.6m being allocated to the Rhondda Cynon Taf area. He reported on the key elements which the funding would support and also reported on the

requirements of the new guidance published by the Welsh Government in relation to the development of an integrated assessment process.

In conclusion, he highlighted the challenge to the Council and its partners in delivering the integration agenda given that the Welsh Government's Intermediate Care fund was for one year only.

Following the presentation of the report, the Chairman welcomed Dr Chris Jones, Chairman and Mr Stephen HARRY, Director of Primary, Community & Mental Health Services of Cwm Taf University Health Board to the meeting and Members were invited to ask questions.

Concerns were expressed in relation to the discharge of patients at weekends and in response Dr Jones reported on the processes introduced as part of their winter planning. He also reported on the work of senior nursing staff and the Matron for the Royal Glamorgan and Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda in ensuring that discharges were planned. He explained that in most cases planning for a patient's discharge began as soon as they were admitted. The Service Director, Adult Services reported on the work being undertaken with Health through the Intermediate Care Fund and Mr HARRY also emphasised the importance of a well planned discharge system adding that there needed to be a whole system approach from Social Services and Health.

Dr Jones and Mr HARRY responded to Members' comments with regard to enabling older people to have a 'voice' in their care. They emphasised the importance of a good assessment process and felt that it was also important that older people should have access to advocacy services if required.

With reference to 4.2 of the report and the development of services, Members pointed out that it was not only those with dementia that needed consideration but also others without obvious physical disabilities such as hearing and sight loss problems needed access to services.

Dr Jones spoke of the work being carried out to improve care across the board including Mental Health services. He pointed out that dementia was a huge problem and would continue to be a growing problem. He reported that the current average age of patients at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital was over 80 years. Lessons learnt from inquiries in England were being used to ensure patient care such as changing from a team based approach to introducing staff rotation but this had to be balanced against the development of skills and knowledge.

Following further questioning the importance of involving the 3rd Sector in the development of the Community Strategy was highlighted and it was also reported that monitoring of the new processes would be undertaken by the overarching Board which would have elected Member representation through the Cabinet Members.

Dr Jones commented that existing arrangements would not be fit for purpose in delivering services to meet the demands of a growing elderly population and there had to be different way of providing support. He commented on the importance of proper scrutiny adding that local authorities had more experience in this field.

In response to a query in relation to the inspection of care homes the Service Director reported on the 'Escalating Concerns Procedure'. He also responded to questions in relation to the challenge of delivering on the key elements of the funding bid.

In response to concerns raised in relation to staff roster issues at Ysbyty Cwm Cynon Dr Jones and Mr Harry explained that a move from a manual to electronic system had caused some issues but that they believed these to be resolved.

Members questioned the operation of pooled budgets and Mr Harry explained that it was not about giving an allocation of funding to an individual organisation but about using resources for the right scheme to deliver an output and this could be through the local authority, health or the 3rd sector. Dr Jones spoke on the financial challenges facing both local authorities and health and the need for an efficient joint relationship, one of respect, openness, proof of delivery and trust. The Group Director, Community and Children's Services emphasised the need to focus on the necessary re-modelling of services to develop more community resilience.

Members raised issues in relation to support for Carers, in particular the identification of carers and also support for carers who were then left bereaved. Dr Jones responded pointing to the important role which GPs should play and the Service Director also reported on the Carers Helpline.

With regard to the integrated assessment process, Members questioned what process would be in place should there be disagreement. Mr Harry explained that work had been undertaken to improve the Choice Protocol adding that although there was a need to work together, it was also important to be able to challenge each other in a constructive way.

Members questioned what plans were in place to link primary and secondary health care in implementing the new policy. Mr Harry explained that as an organisation their management was integrated. However, there was a need to ensure that policies were delivered and appropriate procedures and checks and balances are in place and this was delivered through their governance lines.

Dr Jones highlighted the challenge of changing primary care given that each GP practice was an individual contractor. He spoke of the importance of the introduction of the 4 locality teams ie Rhondda, Cynon , Taff and Merthyr and reported that he would be happy to speak to the Committee in the future on the development of these. However, he pointed out that the key issue across the UK was the shortage of doctors.

Members highlighted the strain on families when caring for loved ones with dementia and questioned how this challenge could be met in times of austerity. The Service Director, Adult Services, agreed that it would be a challenge and explained that the Social Services and Wellbeing Act points to early intervention and support and looks to the community and 3rd sector. He referred to the Carers programme and Carers information pack.

Members referred to the intention to review and update information sharing policy and protocols and the Service Director, Adult Services confirmed that IT and partners' ability to share information remained a significant challenge. Mr Harry explained that it was important that any IT system was fit for purpose. However, he also stressed the importance of good information sharing protocols.

With the permission of the Chair, the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Equalities commented on the importance of the voluntary sector in delivering services but questioned how they could be supported in the current climate of budget cuts.

The Group Director referred to the Intermediate Care Fund and the positive contribution being made by the 3rd Sector and other partners.. He also commented on the need for all partners across the Health and Social Care community to be clear about what they wanted to achieve and what this would look like. He explained that the new Social Services and Wellbeing Act is in fact a Public services act which includes a duty to promote social enterprise and that Welsh Government has made some transitional funding available to support change.

In conclusion, the Chair thanked Dr Jones and Mr Harry for their attendance.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report and discussion.

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

15. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PRE-MEETINGS

The Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services reported on the review being undertaken by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Working Group set up to consider the findings and recommendations of the Wales Audit Office contained in their report "Good Scrutiny? Good Question!" and reported on the working group's initial recommendations in relation to scrutiny pre-meetings.

The Service Director informed the Committee that the next meeting of the scrutiny working group would be used to consider the issue of cabinet member attendance and scrutiny committees and public engagement.

Following a full discussion it was agreed that pre-meetings should be held subject to a degree of flexibility with regard to duration to reflect to the content of the agenda.

It was also suggested that in undertaking its review, the working group might wish to obtain the views of cabinet members with regard to their attendance.

RESOLVED:

- (i) to note the information provided;
- (ii) to agree to the introduction of full committee member pre-meetings as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report subject to a flexible approach being taken with regard to duration.

16. **THE COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME**

Further to the report considered by the Committee at the meeting held on 2nd July 2014, (Minute 7 refers), Members were asked to confirm the work programme as attached to the agenda, subject to noting that work programmes are required to be flexible.

Members were asked to note that the November meeting of the Committee will take place on 4th November 2014 at 5 pm.

RESOLVED: to confirm the work programme as attached to the agenda.

(Mrs) M E Davies
Chairman

The meeting closed at 6.48 pm.