

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held at the County Borough Council Offices, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, on Wednesday, 16th December 2015 at 3.30 pm.

Present:

County Borough Councillor R W Smith – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors:

(Mrs) A Calvert	W J David	C Davies
J Davies	S M Evans	A S Fox
I Pearce	(Mrs) S Rees	G Stacey
L G Walker	D Weeks	D H Williams

Officers:

Mr G Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services
Mr N Elliott, Service Director, Adult Services
Mr C B Jones – Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr P Griffiths – Service Director, Performance and Improvement
Ms C Emery – Housing Options, Homelessness & Supporting People Manager
Mrs A Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer

In attendance:

County Borough Councillor C Willis – Scrutiny Performance Co-ordinator

33. . APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) J Cass and (Mrs) M Davies.

34. WELCOME

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance pointing out that the time of the meeting had been brought forward to accommodate the Extraordinary meeting of the Council.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to the agenda.

36. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 11th November 2015 were approved as a correct record.

37 **PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Scrutiny Support Officer reminded the Committee that following consideration of the quarter 1 performance information, the Finance & Performance Scrutiny Committee had expressed concern in relation to a number of performance measures which were not hitting target. Two of these areas of concern came within the remit of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Members had agreed that quarter 2 progress should be reported to the Committee.

During Quarter 1, the average number of days homeless households spent in Bed & Breakfast accommodation was 44 against a target of 40. The Chairman invited the Housing Options, Homelessness & Supporting People Manager to provide the Committee with the latest information.

The Committee was informed that during Quarter 1, there was a higher than average number of bed & breakfast placements for young people who were not suitable for other forms of temporary accommodation while at the same time there were 3 high risk offenders placed and again sourcing suitable move-on accommodation took time due to their level of risk and need. The Housing Options, Homelessness & Supporting People Manager provided the Committee with an overview of the pressures faced by the service and she circulated data which set out the numbers of cases with priority needs that had been placed in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation during the year. She reported that by far the biggest pressure came from prison leavers and explained that whilst legislation has changed, there is still a duty to provide accommodation if they are deemed vulnerable. The Committee was informed that the other main groups requiring temporary accommodation are those with mental health issues and young people.

Following the presentation of her data, the Housing Options, Homelessness & Supporting People Manager responded to Members' questions.

With regard to prison leavers, the Manager explained that her service does work closely with both the Probation and Prison Service and a prison leavers' pathway has been developed which is supported by a working group of the agencies which considers the issues of each case and undertakes a risk assessment. The Manager also reported that those moving into temporary accommodation are assigned a support worker to assist with the transition and again when they leave for permanent accommodation. With regard to choice, she explained that this is dependent on circumstances. Usually prison leavers chose to live close to family support and a number of routes could be used to find accommodation including the Common Housing Register. There is also assistance for those wishing to use the private housing sector through the provision of bonds etc and support is provided for those who need it such as those with mental health issues.

The Manager explained that the aim is that no-one should remain in bed & breakfast accommodation for more than 3 months and sometimes this involves moving people into hostels. However, there is a shortage of suitable

move-on accommodation and work is underway to develop a shared landlord scheme. The Manager reported on the hostel accommodation available in the Pontypridd area which now includes the Grange, a hostel facility for young people aged between 16-24 years.

The Chairman thanked the Housing Options, Homelessness & Supporting People Manager for her report and asked the Service Director, Adult Services for an update in respect of the performance measure related to Carers' assessments. Performance at Quarter 1 in relation to the percentage of carers of adults who were offered an assessment or review of their needs in their own right during the year stood at 68.28% against a target for 2015/16 of 86%. Performance for Quarter 2 had reached 75.27%.

The Service Director reported on the process for offering assessments to carers explaining this takes place when undertaking the clients' reviews. During quarters 1 and 2, not all clients would have been reviewed in this period which skews the figures for the early quarters of the year. He explained that in addition, work was underway in relation to the recording methods and he was confident that performance should reach 100% by the end of the year.

In conclusion, Members acknowledged and welcomed the improvement in performance.

38 CSSIW ANNUAL COUNCIL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT FOR 2014/15

The Chairman invited the Group Director, Community & Children's Services to provide his overview of the CSSIW's Annual Performance Evaluation Report for 2014/15 in relation to Adult Services.

The Group Director explained that the CSSIW's report reflected his own view of the service and that there were no unexpected issues highlighted. The Group Director, referred Members to the report which set out the progress made against areas previously identified for improvement and he provided an overview of areas of good progress along with those areas identified by the CSSIW for further improvement which were:

- Review of thresholds for residential care for older people in conjunction with health - the Group Director explained that there is a need to manage the discharge process and develop robust social care home services with health.
- Improved monitoring and quality assurance systems across local authority residential homes - measures have now been put in place.
- Reduce delayed transfers of care – this is improving but the Group Director explained that there is a need for the Council to further improve joint working with the University Health Board.
- To increase reviews of people's care plans - the Group Director reported that there had been changes to staff structures which had created some churn but that from January there would be a team in

place to target reviews which should in the long term make a difference.

- To increase integration of council staff within the MASH – it was reported that this new initiative is still bedding in but more staff have already moved across to the hub.
- Improve quality assurance and monitoring of adult safeguarding - the Group Director explained that this had been a process issue rather than a safeguarding issue. However, processes had been changed and these changes discussed with the CSSIW who were now satisfied that the quality assurance processes were robust.
- Increase the pace of change to achieve integrated services with health - the Group Director explained that in his opinion staff could do no more than they already are.

Following his overview of the CSSIW's report, the Group Director and Service Director, Adult Services responded to Members' questions.

A Member referred to paragraph 6.5 of the report which highlighted the Council's poor performance in relation to Delayed Transfers of Care and also referred to the high staff sickness rate in the adult locality teams

The Group Director reported that performance in relation to Delayed Transfers of Care is improving and informed Members that he had received a letter from the Health Board thanking staff for their help during critical periods.

The Service Director, Adult Services added that quarter 2 performance was much better than that of quarter 2 last year which had been particularly challenging due to the closure of the Dewi Sant wards. He explained that the service is working closely with Health and that there is now a hospital based social worker to support the discharge process. He added that further information could be provided in this respect which he would send to the Scrutiny Support Officer for circulation.

Responding to a query in relation to the re-modeling of the service, the Service Director, Adult Services explained that there were a number of factors in play ie the Older People's Strategy for Cwm Taf is out for consultation and the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act which will require consideration.

With regard to Sickness Absence, the Service Director reported that there had been an improvement. He added that some staff had chosen to leave the service and the intention was to recruit immediately.

A Member reported that he was personally aware of three patients waiting for transfer at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.

The Group Director explained that he could not comment on these cases but he was aware that the Cwm Taf University Health Board was currently experiencing a nursing shortage. The Service Director, reported that he was aware of a number of vacancies in District Nursing staff.

In response to a query, the Group Director reported that approximately £2m had been made available through the Welsh Government's Intermediate Care Fund across Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil for 2015/16 which whilst significantly lower than the 2014/15 figure, still provides an opportunity to do more integrated work with Health, for instance, enabling better end of life care at home.

A Member questioned whether there was a willingness by Health to contribute toward more integration of services.

The Group Director reported that in his opinion there is willingness but that there are a number of other priorities and pressures which they also have to deal with.

The Chairman referred to the comments by the CSSIW that social services should seek to engage with the health board around establishing a shared threshold for residential care and asked whether this had been discussed with Health.

The Group Director reported that work is being undertaken to move toward this goal such as the introduction of a Placement Panel which considers those cases which may require residential nursing care.

The Service Director, Adult Services explained that the challenge is discussing the options with families and being able to point out that residential care is not the only option and it is possible for people to be supported in their own homes for longer.

A Member asked whether having a form of intermediate care following hospital discharge would be an option.

The Group Director explained that this had been tried in the past through the use of a specially adapted house. However, in his opinion this did not help in the long term as service users' homes often did not mirror this type of facility. He felt that it was better for people to return to their own homes so that they could adapt as quickly as possible with the right support.

Following consideration of the report and the Committee's work programme it was **RESOLVED** that the current work programme supports those areas identified for improvement by the CSSIW.

39. WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Support Officer updated the Committee in relation to its work programme and informed Members of necessary changes arising from the request from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee should undertake pre-scrutiny of the proposed new Medium Term Strategic Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf Leisure Services 2015-2020. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED**:

- (i) that a special meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to be held at 3.30 pm on Wednesday, 20th January 2016 to consider the Leisure Strategy;
- (ii) that the scheduled meeting of the Committee should take place as planned at 5 pm on Wednesday, 20th January 2016 to receive:
 - An update in relation to the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014;
 - to receive a presentation from the Head of Service, Long Term & Direct Services (Adults) in support of the Committee's work in Supporting People at Home.

R W Smith
Chairman

The meeting closed at 4.26 pm