

**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 Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at 5 pm.

**Present:**

County Borough Councillor R W Smith – in the Chair

**County Borough Councillors:**

(Mrs) A Calvert	(Mrs) J Cass	W J David
C Davies	J Davies	S Evans
G Stacey	(Mrs) M Tegg	L G Walker
D H Williams		

**Officers:**

Mr G Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services  
Mr C B Jones - Service Director, Legal & Democratic Services  
Mr P Griffiths - Service Director, Performance & Improvement  
Ms J Neale, Service Manager, Adult Safeguarding  
Mrs A Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer

**In attendance:**

Mr D Marshall – CSSIW

**In respect of agenda item 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Community Co-ordination**

Sharon Richards – Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Facilitator, VAMT  
Anne Morris - Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Facilitator, Interlink  
Deanne Rebane – Community Co-ordinator, Primary Health  
Karen Powell – Community Co-ordinator, Taf Ely Locality

**50. WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Mr D Marshall from the CSSIW who would be observing the meeting.

**51. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) M E Davies, A S Fox, I Pearce, (Mrs) S Rees and Mr D Weeks.

**52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**53. MINUTES**

- (i) The minutes of the special meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were approved as a correct

record subject to the addition of the following at minute 41 - 'it was noticed by Members that Llantwit Fardre Sports Centre was missing from the list of facilities mentioned at Appendix A and it was acknowledged by officers that this was an oversight'.

- (ii) The minutes of the scheduled meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 were approved as a correct record.

#### **54. ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that there would be change to the order of the agenda as attendees in relation to agenda item 3 had been held up in traffic.

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

#### **55. PRE SCRUTINY OF THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

The Service Director, Performance & Improvement reported on the proposed approach for the pre scrutiny of progress against the Council's 2015/16 priorities and the 2016/17 actions to deliver the priorities as set out in the Council's Corporate Plan. The Service Director explained that much of the work in the priority areas involved a number of services working together and as such it was considered beneficial to undertake a cross cutting approach and bring elected Members together from a number of different scrutiny committees. He also reported on the intention to invite existing co-opted members and also invite representation from organisations such as OPAG which had assisted in the past to join these groups to provide a user perspective.

The Chairman reported that these working groups would not be based on political balance. He also pointed out that potentially not all Members would be able to sit on the working group of their choice if numbers were to be contained to a reasonable level.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED:**

- (i) to endorse the way forward as proposed in the report to enable pre-scrutiny of the Council's 2015/16 priorities and 2016/17 priority actions to commence in March 2016;
- (ii) that interested Members should contact the Scrutiny Support Officer and rank their preference in relation to which working group they would wish to sit on.

### **PRESENTATION**

#### **56. THIRD SECTOR COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATION ACROSS CWM TAF**

The Chairman welcomed the presenters to the meeting and introductions were made.

Ms Richards, Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Facilitator, VAMT and Mrs Morris Health, Social Care & Wellbeing Facilitator, Interlink, provided the Committee with a presentation which explained how a portion of the Intermediate Care Fund (ICF) was utilised by the third sector. It was explained that Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil and Interlink work as equal partners leading a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector workstream across Cwm Taf with 3 key areas of responsibility; namely Project 5 – Ways to Wellbeing (Merthyr & the Valleys MIND), the management of a team of 5 Community Co-ordinators and the full administration of the Neighbourhood Capacity Grant Scheme (2014-15) and the Community Capacity Fund and ongoing support of the funded schemes. It was explained that the grant supported schemes which assist in the prevention of hospital admissions and support hospital discharge along with promotion of health and wellbeing and loneliness and isolation in the over 65 population.

Ms Richards informed Members on the advertising and promotion of the Fund via County Voluntary Council membership and on the criteria and selection process. She explained that unsuccessful grant applicants were given support to apply to other potential funding sources if it was felt that there was merit in their proposals whilst successful applicants were guided through the requirements of the scheme such as the grant conditions, the monitoring requirements including financial monitoring and they were also provided with advice and support to connect to others.

Ms Richards reported that during 2014/15 the service had fully utilised its £150k grant and supported 13 different projects which included a Road Safety Campaign and New Horizons, a mental health initiative. An annual report had been produced and all projects had been fully evaluated using a Results Based Accountability process. It was reported that less money had been available for 2015/16 i.e. £65k and that there are currently 12 projects on-going. There is also a feedback mechanism in place into the Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board.

Ms Richards responded to Members' questions in relation to the wide range of supported projects and pointed out that their brief is to reduce isolation and loneliness. Ms Richards explained that whilst initially the ICF had no follow on funding there is now an agreement to look to sustain where possible those projects which demonstrate local value and impact. Looking ahead the service is waiting to hear what funding will be available for 2016/17 and the intention is to strengthen the partnership approach to prevention under the Social Services & Wellbeing Act.

Following on, Deanne Rebane and Karen Powell, Community Coordinators for Primary Care and the Taf Ely locality, provided the Committee with a presentation on their role which is to provide information, advice and signposting older people to local community groups, activities and services.

The Community Co-ordinators shared the results of a snap survey which had been undertaken with statutory partners, third sector organisations and individuals. It was explained that whilst the results of this survey could not be

taken in isolation, they had been pleased with the response rate. In relation to statutory partners the survey identified that 82% of the 183 respondents rarely referred older people to a voluntary or community organisation with only 18% often or always referring. With regard to the third sector organisations, 87% of organisations stated that they never or rarely received referrals from GP surgeries; 65% stated they never/rarely received referrals from Registered Social Landlords; 59% never or rarely receive referrals from the Health Board; and 57% stated that they never or rarely received referrals from Local Authorities.

Ms Rebane reported that the survey identified that there was a need to assist the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector in promoting its services and a mapping operation began to detail the support available ranging from small community groups who meet socially and may hold occasional events to organised activities such as tea dances, armchair aerobics, walking groups. It also identified gaps in provision such as transport which is a particular issue for older people especially in the valleys and also a huge need for befriending services. Whilst there are a couple of befriending organisations there is a shortage of volunteers. Through their mapping process the Community Coordinators now hold information on over 800 new activities and groups across Cwm Taf many of which people had been unaware of. Mrs Powell provided the Committee with examples of how this work had made a difference to individuals.

Ms Rebane explained that four of the Community Coordinators were based in the four social services locality teams across Cwm Taf with access to client IT systems, whilst she herself although based with VAMT, links primary care settings such as GP surgeries. She reported that the baseline survey had identified the need to build links with primary care providers and this work had led to a number of initiatives including the development of the CIAS At Home Service and work to encourage vaccine take-up and bowel screening. She explained that the focus for their work was about prevention, keeping people well, active and living independently in their own homes for as long as possible and connected to their community .

In conclusion, Members viewed a short video clip which highlighted a small part of the work of the third sector in Cwm Taf.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for their attendance and interesting presentations.

## **REPORTS OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

### **57. MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB UPDATE**

The Service Manager for Adult Safeguarding provided Members with an update on the implementation of the Cwm Taf Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub which is located in Pontypridd Police Station.

It was reported that the Cwm Taf MASH has been operational handling concerns regarding adults at risk from January 2015 and fully operational for

concerns regarding children since May 2015 and is one of only a handful of such hubs nationally that includes handling concerns about children, adults at risk and high risk domestic abuse, taking a holistic, family approach. The Regional Emergency Duty Team which provides an emergency response to a social care crisis outside of normal office hours, weekends and bank holidays is also based in the MASH office.

The Service Manager explained that the MASH provides the first point of contact for new safeguarding concerns and directly receives safeguarding concerns from professionals such as teachers, doctors and commissioned care and support providers, as well as members of the public and family members via the Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil Councils' Contact Centres. She informed Members of the information sharing protocol and decision making system and also reported on the governance of the MASH.

The Service Manager reported that following a trial period of dual base working, the decision had been taken to permanently locate the Adult Social Care Safeguarding Team to the MASH and the entire team had been permanently re-located in January 2016.

Whilst a formal evaluation of the benefits and outcomes arising from the implementation of the MASH is due to commence shortly, the Service Manager reported that the initial evidence indicated that the work of the MASH is contributing to an improved service with significant improvement in the sharing of information between agencies, with immediate access to other agencies' information and resources, resulting in quicker and more accurate risk assessment and decision-making. Members were provided with two case studies which highlighted the positive impact of the MASH.

The Service Manager reported on the priorities for 2016/17 which included the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 but pointed out that the Welsh Government Guidance in relation to Part 7 of the Act which referred to safeguarding was still in draft form.

In conclusion, the Service Manager reported that the Cwm Taf MASH has attracted interest nationally with Cardiff and the Vale about to launch a MASH based on the Cwm Taf model. The first year of operation had been successful with all relevant partners being fully engaged and recognising the benefits of multi-agency information sharing and improved resource planning in providing a faster improved and effective pathways to safeguarding provision across the Cwm Taf region.

Members welcomed the report and were pleased to see the close working relationship with the Police. They questioned officers in relation to evidencing progress and the Group Director explained that they had commissioned an evaluation report which would provide data and would also help to identify what further measures need to be put in place. He also paid tribute to the support provided by Chief Superintendent Sally Burke of South Wales Police.

Members questioned how Councillors could relay information to the MASH and the Service Manager explained that work was underway to develop a corporate safeguarding policy but that any concerns by councillors should continue to be directed to the First Response Team who will then direct these to the MASH. It was agreed that Members would be re-circulated with the necessary telephone numbers.

The Chairman referred to a meeting he had attended with CSSIW representatives a few months earlier in respect of their annual evaluation of Rhondda Cynon Taf Social Services. Their evaluation had pointed to areas for improvement in relation to adult safeguarding and the Chairman asked the Group Director whether the CSSIW and the scrutiny committee could be assured that the Council was now in a better position.

The Group Director reported that an action plan had been produced and that officers had also met with the CSSIW and explained that the issue had been about process and capacity and it was hoped that these had now been addressed. However, he pointed out that the increase in referrals as a result of the introduction of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding guidance was a continuing problem.

The Head of Safeguarding added that at the time of the CSSIW's report the safeguarding team did have a significant capacity issue and had also been reliant on paper management systems. However, capacity issues had been addressed and along with introduction of digitalised processes and performance management systems much of the backlog of work had been cleared and she had confidence that she had the right information to manage the team.

In conclusion, the Chairman proposed that the scrutiny committee should receive future updates and also offered the support of the service committee in addressing any future areas of concern in relation to the safeguarding service.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to receive further reports as appropriate to ensure that progress with this significant development serves to improve safeguarding provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

#### **58. CWM TAF SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15**

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services presented Members with the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Annual Report for 2014/15 which provided an overview of the work of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board and the operation and effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard adults across the region. The report also provided an overview of future actions which would need to be undertaken during 2015/16.

The report set out key data with regard to the referrals received during 2014/15 and reported that three cases were considered by the Safeguarding Board

Adult Practice Review Group during the year, none of which proceeded to a full review.

The Group Director reported on the key achievements during the year which included the development of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub which he suggested gave the service an advantage. He also pointed to the importance of the work of the Community Co-ordinators which he felt would be critical in reducing the number of referrals for support.

With reference to the composition of the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board the Chairman suggested that it would be helpful if Members were provided with names alongside titles.

The Chairman also asked whether those residents affected by the closure of the privately operated Rhondda Care Home had been found placements within Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The Group Director explained that the short notice given with regard to the closure had been challenged.

The Service Manager for Adult Safeguarding reported that the majority had been re-located within Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Group Director reported that the information would be obtained and passed to Members.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the Cwm Taf Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2014/15.

## 59. **TRAINING**

The Chairman asked Members to consider whether there were any areas which they felt the Committee would benefit from specific training. Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the Finance Officer for the Community & Children's Services Group be asked to provide an overview of the Revenue Budget position for 2016/17;
- (ii) that the Committee be provided with training in relation to Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults.

R W Smith  
Chairman

The meeting closed at 7.10 pm.

