

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 (Block F), The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 15th March, 2017 at 3 p.m.

Present

County Borough Councillor R.W.Smith – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

W.J.David
A.S.Fox
I. Pearce
(Mrs) S. Rees
G.Stacey
L. G. Walker
D. H. Williams

In Attendance

County Borough Councillor C.J.Willis – Scrutiny Performance Management Coordinator

Cabinet Members

County Borough Councillor M. Forey – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services
County Borough Councillor G. Hopkins – Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Equalities and the Welsh Language

Officers

Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children's Services
Mr.A. Wilkins – Head of Legal – Corporate & Democratic Services
Mr N.Elliott – Service Director, Adult Services
Ms. K. May – Head of Democratic Services
Ms. J. L. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms. C. Hendy – Democratic Services Officer

Older People Advisory Panel (OPAG)

Mr G. Bell
Mrs A. Tritschler

42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs.) M.E.Davies, (Mrs.)A.Roberts, (Mrs.)M.Tegg,

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, there were no personal interests made at the meeting pertaining to the agenda.

44 MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on the 8th February 2017.

45 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman extended a welcome to the representatives from the Older People's Advisory Panel (OPAG), Mr G. Bell and Mrs A. Tritshler as well as to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Equalities & the Welsh Language. Introductions were made and the Chair announced that this would be the last Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

46 SUPPORTING PEOPLE TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY AT HOME REVIEW

In his report, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services informed Members of the review undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee into 'Supporting People to Live Independently at Home'. Members were advised that since the publication of the Supporting People review, the report of the Working Group established to oversee the transfer and settlement of residents from Maesyffynnon Care Home to other care home facilities following its closure, has since been reported to Cabinet (9th March 2017). It was confirmed that the recommendations have been agreed in principle and a formal response from the relevant Cabinet Member will be reported back to Scrutiny in due course.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer drew Members' attention to the recommendation set out at 2.1 of the report which asked Members to endorse the findings and seven recommendations set out at paragraph 13 of the report.

Both Cabinet Members acknowledged that the many topics referred to in the Scrutiny review 'Supporting People to Live Independently at Home' have been raised and discussed at the Cwm Taf Social Services and Wellbeing Partnership Board with colleagues from the 3rd Sector, Independent sector and the Welsh Government. They praised the Extra Care Housing facility at Ty Heulog in Talbot Green as an inspiring model of care which has moved away from the traditional method of residential care to a more innovative approach where couples can remain and be cared for together. They

considered the facility to be a model of care which will provide for our ageing population as its needs progress.

Following the introduction, the Chair suggested that Members give consideration to each section within the report so any revisions can be captured and amended accordingly. He added that should Members be minded to endorse the findings and recommendations the report would be submitted to the Executive for its consideration in due course.

Section 5 – Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

A Member requested an update in respect of the implementation of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services, provided an update in respect of the implementation of the Act which is being led by the Head of Transformation in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Group Director reported that the Social Values Forum, led by Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT) and Interlink, the County Voluntary Council (CVC) for RCT, is looking at how we can help generate support from the bottom up to help our residents live independently and lead better lives. He added that the fundamental principles of the Act are positive and the last 12 months has seen a change in processes and approaches to the way that peoples' needs and expectations are managed, from a traditional approach to a more personalised service. The Group Director advised that the development of early intervention and preventative services and enablement approaches to increase people's independence and quality of life is underway but will take time to implement.

The Service Director, Adult Services outlined the role of the Cwm Taf Community Coordinators who provide information, advice and signpost people to services provided by 3rd Sector organisations across the statutory public sector services who are able to assist in reducing isolation, loneliness and play a role in the prevention of hospital admission and support hospital discharge. In response to a concern raised as to what support will be available after Communities First, the Group Director confirmed that with resources in place a different kind of provision will be available in our communities, one which will meet the needs of our communities and make them more resilient.

Section 6 – Short Term Intervention Service

In response to a query in respect of what the Council's re-ablement service offers, the Service Director, Adult Services provided a comprehensive explanation as to the level of support and appropriate packages of care which are available to help people re-gain the skills they have lost following a fall or through dementia. He referred to the Butterfly Scheme in place to provide a system of hospital care for people living with dementia which offers a short term, intense period of care and can maintain independence or reduce services going forward.

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services emphasised the importance of the re-ablement service which supports patients who would otherwise lose confidence in their ability and become more frail and dependent. Members were also reminded of the availability of Telecare equipment which brings technology to the home of the patient and of the dedicated Stroke Service which is in place to help rehabilitate sufferers

Section 7 – Social Work Assessment & Direct Services

The Vice Chair referred to the high number of people entering into residential care and accessing the traditional care, (23.1% in 2015/16 with performance having improved slightly in 2016/17). The Service Director, Adult Services explained that the reporting frequency of this performance indicator has been revised to quarterly, to better capture a more meaningful picture of performance. He added that at Quarter 3, 199 people entered into Nursing/Residential Care (200 less than anticipated (40 residents residing in Ty Heulog, the Extra Care Housing Strategy in Talbot Green which is part of the Council's ongoing strategy to reduce the overall numbers of people entering into residential care). In response as to whether the Service can monitor the quality of peoples' lives, the Service Director confirmed that this can be achieved through review of their ongoing packages of care by their individual Social Workers or through links with other agencies to assess whether they have improved or deteriorated.

The Chair queried the number of carer's assessments provided specifically to young carer's. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Equalities & the Welsh Language confirmed that this issue has previously been discussed at both the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Parenting Board but assured Members that it would be reviewed at a future Corporate Parenting Board with a view to providing an update to Scrutiny.

Section 8 – Delayed Transfers of Care

In response to a query, the Service Director, Adult Services confirmed that evidence of the partnership working between the Local Authority and colleagues in the Cwm Taf Health Board is the development of the Cwm Taf Stay Well @ Home Service. The service is aimed at supporting older people to keep well and remain independent in their community thereby avoiding hospital admission or a lengthy hospital stay. It was reported that the service will go live on the 3rd April 2017 and the hospital based teams will work in a more coordinated way to intervene at an earlier stage so as to prevent escalation.

Members praised the work undertaken and the achievements made in respect of the Cwm Taf Stay Well @ Home Service which has been led by the Service Director, Adult Services, RCT and his team. It was acknowledged that Scrutiny has also played its part by raising the profile of such important issues.

The Vice Chair pointed out that the effectiveness of Primary Health Care had not been reflected in the report and asked whether an additional bullet point could be included at 8.6 to reflect this. Members agreed that this should be included. It was also agreed that information relating to the Stay Well @ Home Service would be sent to OPAG. Members discussed sections 9, 10 and 11 of the report and had nothing to add or amend.

Section 12 – Other Areas of Work Contributing to the Review

The Vice Chair acknowledged that the report had identified that the implementation of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act will lead the way to people living independently however noted that it had not referred to the work Scrutiny undertook in respect of the Social Services Annual Representation and Complaints for 2015/2016. The report highlights the complaints and compliments received which provides valuable feedback regarding the quality of the service and identifies areas of under performance as well as those areas that perform well. The Vice Chair reminded Committee that the Representations and Complaints report reflects how service users are receiving the information relating to the implementation of the Social Services & Well Being (Wales) and therefore should be included under the heading 'Other Areas of Work Contributing to the Review', Members agreed that this was an important indicator and should be included.

The Group Director, Children's Social Services praised Scrutiny for playing its part in reviewing such important topics as DtOC, Extra Care Strategy and the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act which has in turn focussed the work of the Service Areas and brought about some positive outcomes. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services echoed those sentiments and added that Scrutiny played an important part in overseeing the process of transferring residents from Maesyffynnon Care Home.

Section 13 – Conclusions & Recommendations

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their input and stated that the conclusions and recommendations reflect the medium to long term nature of the programme of work and, as such, support the requirement for continued Scrutiny Committee oversight to help ensure the necessary improvements are made. It was **RESOLVED**:

1. To endorse the report in respect of 'Supporting People to Live Independently at Home;' subject to the comments made being incorporated into the report;
2. That representatives from OPAG meet with the appropriate Officers of the Council at a future date;
3. That OPAG receive the final report of the review into 'Maesyffynnon Care Home',
4. That representatives from OPAG undertake a visit to the Extra Care Housing Strategy facility in Talbot Green; and,
5. That OPAG receive information in respect of the Stay Well @ Home Service.

**R.W.SMITH
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 4.45 p.m.