

**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, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 5 pm.

**Present:**

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) S Rees – in the Chair

**County Borough Councillors:**

(Mrs) A Calvert	W J David	J Davies
S Evans	A S Fox	I Pearce
G Stacey	(Mrs) M Tegg	L G Walker
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  
Mrs A Edwards – Scrutiny Support Officer

**In attendance:**

Mr D Marshall – CSSIW

**60. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) J Cass, C Davies, (Mrs) M E Davies, (Mrs) A Roberts, D Weeks and the Chairman R W Smith.

**61. CHAIR**

In the absence of the Chairman, County Borough Councillor R W Smith, County Borough Councillor (Mrs) S Rees (vice chair) chaired the meeting.

**62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**63. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 were approved as a correct record.

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

### **64. PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Members were presented with a report which provided updated information in respect of performance issues which had been identified by the Committee as key issues for scrutiny focus at the beginning of the Municipal Year given that the Council had been in the bottom quartile for performance in 2014/15.

The Chairman invited the Service Director, Adult Services to provide the Committee with the latest information in respect of:

- Delayed Transfers of Care;
- Reducing the number of people aged 65+ that are placed in residential care homes;
- Carers' assessments.

The Service Director reported that the main reason for people being delayed is due to completion of a social care assessment, which could be for a number of reasons, including waiting for specialist input; client's mental capacity as well as social worker capacity. Other factors can include housing related issues around the supply of aids and adaptations and a lack of social care provision in the community. In addition, if a patient requires a care home placement there can be delays especially if the patient requires specialist nursing care as there is a lack of nursing EMI beds.

The Service Director reported that in Rhondda Cynon Taf over the past 12 months, we have significantly reduced the number of people who are delayed in hospital for social care reasons. However, he advised there had been a rise during January and February 2016, which was mainly attributable to staff absence in January and the closure of Rhondda Care Home in February. The Service Director reported performance had improved in March 2016 and that he was expecting the end of year figure to be around 6% which while higher than the target figure was still a significant improvement on the 2014/15 figure of around 9.5%.

The Service Director informed Members that there continued to be discharge pressures across Cwm Taf Hospitals and explained that the Council continued to work with the Health Board to manage these pressures and support people safely to return home or to a care setting. He reported that the Health Board had some nursing recruitment difficulties and reduced hospital bed numbers which had compounded current pressures further. The Service Director also reported that some authorities were experiencing difficulties due to a shortage of available domiciliary care provision, although Rhondda Cynon Taf was managing to meet current demand through commissioned and directly provided in-house provision.

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services informed the Committee that "winter pressures" monitoring was undertaken weekly by the Welsh Government across all 22 Welsh local authorities and that Rhondda

Cynon Taf had been praised for the work undertaken in supporting the Health Board effectively manage hospital discharges. .

In response to questioning, the Service Director reported that 5 Hospital Discharge Coordinators had been appointed across Cwm Taf to better support hospital discharges, including improvement to communication and information sharing between health and social services at discharge. In relation to the lack of nursing EMI beds the Service Director reported that this was a priority for the service to address, in partnership across the Cwm Taf region and is a priority in the recently approved Older Persons Commissioning Strategy.

A Member drew the Service Director's attention to an issue in relation to the standard of work carried out by approved contractors undertaking Disabled Facilities Grant work and he reported that he would investigate and report directly to the Councillor.

In relation to the rate of older people over 65 whom the Authority supports in care homes, the Service Director reported that whilst current performance is below the ambitious target for 2015/16 there has been an improvement on 2014/15 with numbers of people reducing from 1061 in December 2014 to 1048 in December 2015. He expected performance to continue to improve for the rest of 2015/16 but explained that the target figure of 23% would not be attained. He reported that a more realistic target would need to be set for future years in order to bring our performance in line with all Wales performance levels

With regard to Carers' Assessments, the Service Director reported that performance continued to improve each quarter and currently stood at 86%. He explained that Carers' reviews are undertaken during the course of the year and that 100% could not be reached until the end of the year when the last of the carers reviews are undertaken and the carer offered an assessment. He could see no reason why 100% could not be achieved for 2015/16.

In response to a query the Service Director reported that there were a number Young Carers and that he would obtain the actual figures.

The Chair welcomed that improving picture which she hoped would be maintained.

The Chair referred to the Choice Protocol and its influence on hospital discharge and asked whether it would be beneficial for scrutiny to discuss.

The Group Director, Community & Children's Services explained that the new Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 placed an emphasis on giving people more control and in theory the Choice Protocol should assist this. He commented that he would prefer to see people receiving the services they need to allow them to remain in their own homes. The Group Director

reported that a paper could be prepared for scrutiny but suggested that Cwm Taf UHB should be involved in any discussion.

Following further discussion in relation to services to support people at home the Service Director, Adult Services reported on the introduction of a scheme to adapt properties to allow bariatric patients to move safely out of a hospital setting. This scheme is currently being funded through the Intermediate Care Fund.

A Member also reported that she was aware that in the Cynon Valley it is hoped to introduce a phlebotomist to take blood samples which would help free up the time of district nurses.

The Chairman thanked officers for the positive progress report and the Group Director, Community & Children's Services commented that the Committee's selection of 3 specific performance indicators had been helpful in focussing attention to this work and suggested that this model of action be repeated in the future.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) to acknowledge the progress made in address the performance issues as set out at 3.1 of the report;
- (ii) that a report in relation to The Choice Protocol for patients requiring placement in residential or nursing care be prepared for presentation to a future meeting of the Committee and that representatives from Cwm Taf UHB be invited to attend.

65. **PREPARATION FOR THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented the Committee with proposals for the composition of the draft Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015/16. She referred Members to the section which outlined the work undertaken by the Committee during the year and explained the intention to set out the positive outcomes from the work of the scrutiny committees during the year. She reported that Member' comments would be welcomed in relation to setting priorities for the Committee for 2016/17 and also the performance of the Committee during the past year. She informed Members that the draft annual report would be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 for consideration before presentation to the Council's AGM in May 2016 and that the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would be inviting the scrutiny chairs and vice chairs of the thematic scrutiny committees to attend to take part in the discussion.

Members considered the draft proposal and asked officers for their thoughts on key areas for 2016/17. Following discussion it was agreed that the implementation of the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 would

continue to be a priority along with the development of an accommodation strategy to provide alternatives to residential care.

**RESOLVED:** to endorse the proposed content of the draft Overview & Scrutiny Annual report and to include those areas mentioned above as priority areas for the Committee's 2016/17 work programme.

(Mrs) S Rees  
Chairman

The meeting closed at 5.40 pm.