

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

26 November 2015

Chairperson: Councillor Mrs.D.Jones

Councillors: Mrs P.Bebell, J.Miller, L.M.Purcell, A.Taylor,
R.Thomas and D.Whitelock

Officers In Attendance Mrs.A.Thomas, N. Jarman, A.Jarrett, M.Jones,
M. Potts and N.Evans

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors P.D.Richards and J.Rogers

1. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2015**

Noted by the Committee.

2. **TO RECEIVE THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15.**

Members considered the Forward Work Programme and the following issue was raised.

Concern was raised in relation to the new system for contacting GP's. Members stated that it sometimes affects an individual's independence. An example was given that an individual sometimes contacts the GP's and when a GP calls back they advise for the individual to call an ambulance. This then has a knock on effect on hospitals etc.

Members were advised that in general the triage system works but it would be beneficial to invite an officer from the ABMU Health Board to provide more information on any additional issues.

3. PRE-SCRUTINY

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

i. CSSIW Annual Report

Members welcomed an officer from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) who presented an annual report of the assessment of the Council's performance during 2014/2015.

Members were informed that it was an honest assessment of the Council and highlighted the benefits of the sustained targeted support in Children's Services and that the Council was well on track with implementing the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Act.

Members noted that there was evidence of working together both externally and internally. CSSIW stated that they will continue to work with Heads of Service to work on the areas highlighted within the report.

Members asked what areas they should concentrate on from a scrutiny perspective. It was highlighted that the Committee should continue to monitor the remodelling of day care services and Gwalia Homes.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

ii. Direct Services – Integrated Community Services Model

Members considered a report that sought approval to enter into consultation to move from a traditional dedicated building based day service model, to an integrated community service model.

Officers stated that the current premises based model requires transport to be in place to take individuals to the relevant services. In addition to this cost there is approximately £750,000 refurbishment works backlog.

Members of staff have already been spoken with to explain that the Council does not have to deliver services in the way we currently do.

Members welcomed the fact that simultaneous consultation was happening with staff and the public and Members requested that the consultation was communicated fully particularly in the communities as it will need to highlight to individuals the benefits of the service modifications.

Members asked whether the peripatetic model would isolate service users and it was confirmed that it would not. Further clarity was sought on whether an individual who was accessing a service and then accessed Direct Payments would not be disadvantaged and it was confirmed that the service will continue and individuals will just pay for the service themselves.

Members were informed that the new model will allow the Council to gain an understanding of people's needs and it is anticipated that it would highlight that only 50%-60% that is currently provided is appropriate.

Members were concerned that if more individuals accessed direct payments would it have a detrimental effect but it was confirmed that the more people who have direct payments then the better it is for all concerned including the Council, individuals and service providers within the local community.

Members requested that once the consultation was completed that the responses are included within the final report.

Following Scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

iii. Quarter Two Performance Report

Members requested why the Health and Safety Inspection of high risk premises had been removed from the data set and it was confirmed that the Welsh Government had requested this but Members were advised that officers undertook this type of inspection routinely and didn't inspect for the sake of inspecting.

Members requested further information in relation to the performance of PPN/007ii – The percentage of significant breaches that were rectified by intervention during the year for Animal Health. Members were advised that as contained within the report this was because work had concentrated on Trading Standards due to significant

breaches. Clarity was sought on what the breaches were and it was confirmed they were instances of underage alcohol sales for example.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

4. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEM(S) PURSUANT TO SECTION 100A(4) AND (5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE RELEVANT EXEMPT PARAGRAPHS OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A TO THE ABOVE ACT.**

5. **PRE - SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following private matter:

Cabinet Board Proposal

i. Provider Support for Administering Direct Payments

Members considered the private report and asked whether there would be sufficient staff resources to run the service in the future. It was confirmed that it would probably be in sufficient but given the current economic climate it was sufficient in the first instance but as the number of members increased then this would have to be monitored.

Following Scrutiny the Committee were supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

CHAIRPERSON