

## **SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)**

**Members Present:**

**17 March 2016**

**Chairperson:** Councillor Mrs.D.Jones

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor H. N James

**Councillors:** J.S.Evans, J.Miller, L.M.Purcell, H.N.James and C.Morgan

**Officers In Attendance** N. Jarman, B. Browning, N.Evans, K Davies, Mrs.J.Duggan, G.Evans, S. Mason and G. Pascoe

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

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1. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2016**

Members noted the minutes.

2. **WESTERN BAY PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

Members welcomed Sara Harvey the Western Bay Programme Director who was presenting an update report on the Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme.

Members were reminded that the Western Bay Programme was established in 2012 as a partnership between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Bridgend County Borough Council, City and County of Swansea Council and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board.

Members welcomed the presentation and the report but stated that future reports should be set out in a way that highlighted the work that has been undertaken, the current work and associated deadlines and finally what's been achieved. It was agreed that this would be taken forward with future reports.

A question was raised in relation to the workforce and whether it is ready to meet the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act. Members were informed that over 1500 people had attended awareness raising sessions and a further 570 had received specific training of which 295 were staff from Neath Port Talbot.

Clarity was sought on the term scalable contained within the report and it was confirmed that this was in relation the Care Home sector being able to deal with more people and more complex needs.

Members noted that there had been benefits but asked whether specific examples of achievements could have been included. It was confirmed that some specific achievements could have been included within the report for example how 57 historic care packages have been removed.

Members asked whether there was a duplication of effort across the programme. It was stated that they could not be sure there was no duplication but highlighted that it was not the Western Bay Programme being done to the Council but Council's engaging with the programme to ensure a consistent approach across the region whilst attempting to achieve economies of scales.

Members noted that there may appear to be a lack of transparency in what is discussed at meetings as Members do not seem to have sight of any meeting minutes. Members were advised that this may have been an issue and it was agreed that the newsletter would be circulated to Members on a regular basis.

Members noted that within the budget figures £10,000 had been set aside for redundancy figures and requested clarity on this issue. It was confirmed that a lot of the work is done out of good will but there a core team of staff based in Swansea that are grant funded.

Members requested that additional information be included on the Western Bay website that highlights the governance structure as well as the Membership of the group including their roles.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

3. **TO RECEIVE THE SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2015/2016**

The Committee noted the work programme.

4. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

**Cabinet Board Proposals**

- i. Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales: Homecare Service Inspections Report 2016

Members considered the report that highlighted the outcome of the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) inspection that was undertaken between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016.

Members noted that it was an encouraging report that highlighted that the Council was aspiring to have excellent services.

It was noted that at a previous meeting sickness absence had been highlighted as a problem and Members asked whether there were staff having repeated instances of sickness absence. Officers confirmed that this had been an issue previously but the sickness absence figures were moving in the right direction and this has been aided by having dedicated HR staff within the Directorate. It was further noted that in relation to long term sickness absence this was being managed in line with new policy and it was making a difference.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

- ii. New Governance Arrangements for Mental Health and Learning Disability Services.

Members considered a report that set out the new governance arrangements for managing the development of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Commissioning and Practice Services. Members were advised that the new arrangements were required due to the departure of the responsible Principal Officer.

Officers stated that an additional £1,000,000 had been identified to deal with pressures but it was confirmed that the money would be

used to deal directly with the problem which in turn will deal with any pressures.

Members noted that there are high costs of packages particularly in Mental Health and asked whether Direct Payments will assist in addressing a potential problem. It was confirmed that it would as the direct payments would be used to fund more accurately.

Members asked whether there was a risk that cost would be put before an individual's needs. It was confirmed that there was no risk of this happening and that each case will be considered individually to ensure that each person had the appropriate package put in place.

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

iii. Residential and Non-Residential Care Charging

Members considered a report that sought to establish a Residential and Non Residential Charging Policy in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

Members received a verbal amendment to Schedule 1 of the circulated report, as detailed below in bold and italics:

SCHEDULE 1

Charges for Services – April  
2016

Long Term Residential Care

Charges – Service Users Per Week (Max Charge)

Gwalia Homes – Existing Residents (admitted prior 01/04/12)  
£536.90 week

Gwalia Homes – New Residents (admitted 01/04/12 onwards)  
TBC

***Residential Care – All Other Providers***

***£506.94 week***

Charges – Other Local Authorities (Per Week)

Elderly Care – Gwalia Homes  
TBC

Learning Disabilities Accommodation  
£1,701.40 week  
Additional Hours RCO  
£15.06 hour  
Additional Hours NCO  
£21.87 hour

Fees Paid to Providers of Residential Care (Per Week)

<b>Basic Fee</b>	<b>£506.94</b>
<b>Quality Premium</b>	<b>£12.06week</b>
EMI Nursing Care Supplement (added to above figure)	£27.52
Residential Care for Under 65's (Basic Fee)	£506.94week
Adult Family Placement	£432.52
Gwalia Homes (Basic Fee)	TBC

Members were advised that the Council had discretion to charge and not a duty. The act now allows the Council to back date the charges to when the package was put in place. Officers stated that charges for respite were now means tested and that the residential rules had been brought in line with other charges.

Following scrutiny the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

5. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following private matters

Cabinet Board Proposals

i. Grwp Gwalia Contract Payments

Members considered a report that sought approval to pay costs incurred to Grwp Gwalia.

Members questioned why the costs had been incurred and why hadn't any investigative works been undertaken before the contract was signed. Officers stated that works had been undertaken but when more in depth works had been undertaken it highlighted additional problems and therefore the Council was not really in a position to not pay the costs.

Following scrutiny the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

ii. 2016/17 Supporting People Programme Grant Contracts

Members considered the report that sought approval to enter into interim contractual arrangements with the current providers of the Supporting People Programme Grant.

Members asked whether this was something out of the ordinary. Officers confirmed that this was standard practice and would allow the service to undertake a re-procurement exercise during 2016/2017. Members requested that progress reports be brought to committee should there be any problems with negotiations.

Following scrutiny the Committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

**CHAIRPERSON**