

SOCIAL CARE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

5 July 2018

Chairperson: Councillor L.M.Purcell

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S.E.Freeguard

Councillors: H.C.Clarke, A.P.H.Davies, C.Galsworthy,
J.Miller, S.Paddison, S.H.Reynolds,
O.S.Davies, C.Williams and C.Edwards

Officers In Attendance A.Jarrett, Ms.K.Warren, A.Bradshaw,
Ms.A.Davies, D.Harding, J.Hodges, M.Potts,
Mrs.A.Saunders, Ms.E.O'Brien, D.Bartley,
R.Davies, Ms.V.Jones, J.Davies and
Ms.N.Jones

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors P.D.Richards and D.Jones

Observers E.Bradfield

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

The following Member made a declaration of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Cllr Sonia Reynolds: 4th Quarter Performance Report, Report of the Head of Commissioning, Support and Services re: Homelessness, as she is a Board Member of Tai Tarian, Social Landlord.

Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy: 4th Quarter Performance Report, Report of the Head of Commissioning and Support Services re: Direct Payments as she is a Personal Assistant for her mother under the Direct Payments scheme.

2. **MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH JUNE 2018**

The Committee noted the minutes.

3. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following items:

Cabinet Board Proposals

3.1 Young Carers Strategy Annual Year 1

The Committee received information in relation to the Young Carers Strategy Annual Year 1 as contained within the report.

Members referred to the Young Carers Strategy and queried whether there was any data available which could give percentage figures of the attendance at the focus groups. Officers explained that they did not have the information to hand, but would circulate it to the Committee outside the meeting.

Members queried what the golden thread system was. Officers informed Members that this was a phrase used to describe how something was tracked from conception to its end.

Members questioned if there was any extra help that could be offered to young carers whilst they were undertaking their exams. Officers stated that this was something that was being looked at. Officers informed Members that the education establishments would refer pupils into the service where a lesson plan would be developed with individuals. Officers explained that a pilot was due to begin in September for first year and GCSE year pupils, with the intention of rolling it out to all years eventually.

Members questioned whether it was possible to have performance data in relation young carers on a quarterly basis. Officers agreed to provide the information on a quarterly basis.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

3.2 Occupation of 36 Forge Road by Dyffryn Children's Community Team.

The Committee received information on the Occupation of 36 Forge Road by Dyffryn Children's Community Team as contained within the circulated report.

Members questioned how long was the lease for and how often would it be reviewed. Officers explained that the lease states until 2020 and would be reviewed annually.

Members queried whether staff had full use of the facility. Officers confirmed that this was the case.

Following scrutiny, the Committee were supportive of the proposal to be considered at Cabinet Board.

3.3 – Quarterly Performance Management Data 2017/18 - Quarter 4 Performance (1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018) – (Adults)

The Committee received information in relation to Quarterly Performance Management Data 2017/18 Quarter 4 Performance (1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018) (Adults) as contained within the circulated report.

Members queried with regards to homelessness, and whether changes to Universal Credit was having a detrimental effect on this. Officers explained that this was having a negative effect as the dynamics had changed. Officers explained that private sector landlords were reluctant to wait five weeks for Universal Credit as they preferred to receive rent money sooner. Members queried what was being done to address the matter. Officers stated that they were currently working with Housing Benefits, Department of Works and Pensions and they had a member of staff based in the job centre to provide advice. Officers explained that these were long term issues.

Members referred to HOS/003 and HOS/005 on p.41 where the number of households for which homelessness was successfully relieved, and stated that the percentages for quarter four in 2016/17 compared to quarter four in 2017/18 were misleading, as there had been a significant rise in the number of instances in quarter four in 2017/18. Members queried why there had been such an increase in demand for the service. Officers stated that the stage in which people were seeking assistance had changed, and was left until a lot later in the process when there was a real risk of homelessness. Officers informed Members that they were working with Supporting People service in order to attempt to identify households who were at risk

sooner in order to provide assistance sooner. Officers stated that there was a homeless system review taking place which would inform a new homelessness strategy. Officers added that there was lot of emphasis on prevention work and working with multi agencies.

Members referred to the number of adults who received a service through a social enterprise which was zero, and queried how this was recorded. Officers acknowledged that the service needed to improve the way it captured and logged information, and stated that they would work on this.

Members referred to indicator P1/2 and P1/2(i) on p.37 and questioned why the number of carers that received assessments did not always have a support plan. Officers explained that many carers received support plans, but a service is also provided directly to the person being cared for which on occasions eliminates the need for the carer to receive a support plan in their own right, Members queried why the information was measured in this way. Officers stated that this was specified through Welsh Government guidance. Members asked could this be recorded in a different way. Officers stated that they would look into this and report back to the Committee.

Members queried how long did it take for carers to receive an assessment, and were officers happy with the figures. Officers explained that this area appeared to be under performing and that they would analyse the information further and bring back a position statement to the Committee.

Members asked how many carers were being supported through respite. Officers stated that they would bring a report back on the matter. Members asked why was there a 12 weeks wait between Social Work Assessments and Direct Payment requests. Officers stated that they would look into the matter further and circulate a response to the Committee Members via e-mail after the meeting.

Members questioned why there was a large increase in referrals to the Gateway Team in January. Officers stated there was often a bottle neck effect following the Christmas period, and work had been carried out earlier in the year to analyse the information and to look at delayed transfers of care.

Members referred to Measure 21 on p.40 and queried whether the decrease in the number calendar days spent by adults in residential

care homes was an actual improvement or was this due to lack of vacancies. Officers explained that in some areas finding vacancies for adults was at times problematic, but generally the reduction in calendar days spent at care homes was due to other services that were being offered to clients which kept them in their homes and helped them maintain independence for longer.

Members commended staff on the progress that had been made for the quarter four period, and for the increase in the number of compliments.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

3.4 Monitoring the Performance and Progress of the Western Bay Regional Adoption Service.

The Committee received information in relation to the Performance and Progress of the Western Bay Regional Adoption Service.

Members questioned how the system identified children for adoption. Officers explained that the Authority worked hard with parents to keep children and families together. Officers stated that children were only removed from their families when there was a risk to their safety.

Members queried how successful was the matching process for children and potential parents, and what happened when matches were unsuccessful. Officers explained that the statistics only identified the matches that had gone forward successfully. Officers stated that social workers and other agencies were involved in discussions with regards to matching, which was based on a child's needs and whether the adopters could meet the child's needs.

Members queried what AUK stood for, what did letterbox and inter agency mean. Officers stated AUK stood for Adoption UK, letterbox referred to the arrangements made with adopted families and birth families, and inter agencies referred to placements that were purchased from external agencies.

Members queried of the 88 children on the waiting list were there any siblings, Officers explained that there were siblings included, but siblings were usually adopted together, Officers stated that siblings were only split up if a placement could not be found for all children after a long period of time.

It was agreed that an all member seminar on adoption will be set up and a date to be arranged.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

4. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 13 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

5. **PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

Cabinet Board Proposals

5.1 **Hillside Managers Report**

The Committee received information in relation to the Hillside Managers as circulated in the report.

Members mentioned the acronyms that were being used in the reports, Officers apologised stated that they would take the suggestion on board in future.

Members referred to the member of staff in the report who was currently on suspension, and queried how long had period of suspension lasted. Officers explained that the suspension was ongoing but was nearing completion. Members queried whether a dedicated officer had been allocated to the case. Officers explained that due to capacity issues this had not been possible.

Following scrutiny, it was agreed that the report be noted.

6. **SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18.**

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

The Committee wished the NHS a Happy 70th Birthday.

CHAIRPERSON