

Social Care Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

3 December 2020

Chairperson: Councillor L.M.Purcell

Vice Chairperson: Councillor C.Galsworthy

Councillors: A.P.H.Davies, O.S.Davies, J.Miller, S.Paddison, S.H.Reynolds, D.Whitelock, A.N.Woolcock, C.Edwards, W.F.Griffiths, H.C.Clarke and N.J.E.Davies

Officers In Attendance A.Jarrett, A.Thomas, K.Warren, J.Hodges, R.Davies, C.Frey-Davies and C.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.R.Lockyer and P.D.Richards

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

That the minutes of the previous meetings, held on 30 January 2020, 12 March 2020 and 21 July 2020, be approved.

2. **Verbal Update on the Impact Covid-19 has had on Care homes, Domiciliary Care Services and Delayed Transfer of Care .**

Members received a presentation from the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing in relation to the Impact Covid-19 has had on Care homes, Domiciliary Care Services, Delayed Transfer of Care, Respite/Day Services and Homelessness.

Members were provided with an update on the impact that Covid-19 has had on Social Services since the pandemic was announced. It was highlighted that Social Services is ultimately responsible for supporting vulnerable individuals within the community. It was noted that Covid-19 has made this very challenging for Social Services.

Discussions took place around the pandemic as a whole, having updates from March 2020 and the emergency crisis planning procedures that were put in place for the first surge of the virus. Officers then discussed the decrease in positive cases of the Covid-19 virus as we entered the summer months. As officers were planning to enter a recovery stage, figures started to increase as we entered autumn. A firebreak was announced at this time which decreased the positive case figures, however, cases rapidly increased as we entered the winter months.

It was noted that robust governance arrangements had been put in place, ensuring that Cabinet Members along with the Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair were continually updated on the process during the pandemic.

It was noted that an overview report based on lessons learned was produced, which was available to the public and the committee. Detailing lessons learned on preventing Covid-19 for infecting care homes.

Members were informed that during the second surge of Covid-19 there had been an increase in responsibilities to the Council, such as, delivering testing and vaccination roll out.

Members were highlighted with the pressures on families as they had cared for vulnerable family members during the outbreak and the need for respite.

Members were made aware that Residential and Nursing Care were running at a low capacity rate. As 20 out of 24 homes were currently in lockdown, only allowing 4 homes to be available for new residents.

Discussions around agency staff were highlighted to members, due to the lack of resources.

It was highlighted that the remodelling of Adult Services was still in the process and being pursued.

Domiciliary Calls were discussed and members were informed that they had been RAG rated in readiness for problematic times.

The Committee commended the work of the Social Care Service and the efforts that they had conducted in ensuring the community was provided with the utmost care during these unprecedented times.

Members commended the recent news of the release of the Covid-19 Vaccine. They therefore queried the timeline of when the vaccine would be available to Neath Port Talbot, specifically to the priority of Care Staff. Officers highlighted that Care Home Residents and staff were at the top of the list, however, discussions were taking place on the logistics of administering these vaccines as there were difficult factors to consider. Such as, the vaccine being kept at a low temperature and not being transported once opened.

Members queried whether Community Organisations could help facilitate and support the Domiciliary Care Service, by helping to provide low level care. Officers highlighted that the care is mainly personal care and therefore these areas have previously been considered and debated.

Following scrutiny, the report was noted.

3. **Verbal Update Covid-19 has had on Respite/ Day Services**

The update for Respite/Day Services is contained within minute number two above.

4. **Verbal Update on Homelessness**

Members received a verbal update on the effects that Covid-19 has had on homelessness within Neath Port Talbot.

It was noted that Welsh government had instructed that all rough sleepers be provided with accommodation, ensuring that nobody was rough sleeping during these unprecedented times. It was also noted Welsh Government had removed 'priority need', resulting in an increase in housing applications. There was also additional pressures to the Homeless team as it was highlighted that two accommodation centres that were currently being utilised will need to be evacuated by the end of March 2021, resulting in a number of individuals potentially being homeless. Officer's reassured members that they were considering numerous options to ensure alternative accommodation would be available.

Members asked whether risk assessments are completed for young people who are temporarily homeless due to complications at their

residence. Officers reassured members that they would take all necessary protocols.

Members discussed the timelines of when the recent change of regulations around homelessness would return back to its original guidelines. Officers confirmed that the new guidelines would more than likely continue.

The Scrutiny Committee along with the Cabinet Members commended the work of the Homelessness Team.

5. **Forward Work Programme 2019/20**

The Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Forward Work Programme was noted.

6. **Cabinet Forward Work Programme**

It was mentioned that the Cabinet Forward Work Programme would be a standing item on the agenda, to allow scrutiny to pick areas that fall within the Social Care remit that require scrutiny.

7. **Urgent Items**

Because of the need to deal now with the matters contained in Minute No. 8 below, the Chairperson agreed that these could be raised at today's meeting as urgent items pursuant to Statutory Instrument No.2290 (as amended).

Reason for Urgency:

Due to the time element.

8. **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.

9. **The Regulated Service (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations 2017**

Members were provided with an update on the quarterly visits to Hillside Secure Centre by the Responsible Individual to meet the requirements of the regulated services (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals)(Wales) regulations 2017, as detailed in the private circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the private report was noted.

10. **The Manager's Report on Hillside Secure Children's Home (Exempt under Paragraph 13)**

Members were provide with an update on the young people, staff, service planning and development for the period 1st January 2020 – 31st October 2020 (10 months), as detailed within the private circulated report. It was noted that the time period of the report had been extended due to restrictions around the COVID 19 pandemic and reporting to committee.

Following scrutiny, the private report was noted.

CHAIRPERSON