

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

20 February 2015

Chairman: Councillor Mrs.S.M.Penry

Vice Chairman: Councillor Mrs.A.Wingrave

Councillors: H.M.Bebell, Mrs P.Bebell, J.S.Evans, Mrs.D.Jones,
J.Miller and R.Thomas

Officers In Attendance Mrs.C.Marchant, Mrs.A.Thomas, S. Adie,
Miss A.Flynn, Mrs C.Jones, Mr A Potts, G.Liley and
N.Evans

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors E.V.Latham and J.Rogers

1. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM
MEMBERS**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Cllr. J. Miller	In relation to any Health issues as he is an employee of ABMU Local Health Board.
Cllr. D. Jones	Report of the Head of Community Care and Housing Services – Older Persons Commissioner Response as she is Chair of Neath Port Talbot Age Concern.
Cllr. P Bebell	In relation to any Health issues as she is a member of the ABMU Community Health Council.

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

Noted by the Committee.

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

Members noted the work programme.

4. **TO SELECT APPROPRIATE ITEMS FROM THE CABINET BOARD AGENDA FOR PRE-SCRUTINY**

The Committee scrutinised the following matters:

4.1 **Arwelfa Relocation**

Members considered a report that contained the outcomes of the public consultation on the proposed relocation of Arwelfa Day Centre.

Members stated that they were satisfied that the consultation that had been undertaken was robust and the options put forward were the best possible option.

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

4.2 **Market Position Statements**

Members received a report that sought approval to implement Market Position Statements.

Members were advised that consultation had been undertaken with current contractors and potential providers. Members were informed that the Council was one of the first in Wales to prepare such a document.

Members asked who would be identifying individuals care needs. It was confirmed that the care assessment would be referred to prior commissioning any packages.

Members stated that they wished ensure that there was guidance in place to assist carer's and individuals to select the correct care. It was confirmed that there was support in place for both.

Officers confirmed that the Market Position Statements are open and flexible and are a means of assisting businesses in developing their models for future service delivery/provision.

Members asked whether there were any funding implications associated with the market position statements. Members were advised that funding is provided to find the appropriate care to ensure people come out of hospital. It was further asked how important social workers will be and it was confirmed that they will be key in getting people the right care provision. In addition to this there is a requirement to evaluate the current levels of support for individuals particularly historic care packages to ensure that people are still receiving the correct type of care package and are not over supported.

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

4.3 Western Bay response to the Older Peoples Commissioner for Wales report on care homes in Wales 'A Place Called Home'

Members considered a report that contained the Western Bay response to the Older Peoples Commissioner for Wales report on care homes in Wales.

Members were advised that the response had not been developed in isolation and there had been engagement with a wide range of individuals and organisations. This ensures that there was value in only undertaking the work once.

Members noted that there were gaps in the action plan that require significant resources but it was confirmed that these were mainly in relation to health e.g. continence and psychiatric services. Members requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting highlighting the progress made in implementing the relevant actions.

Members were advised that at the next meeting a report will be presented to Members on the resurrection of Rota Visits to Care Homes.

Members asked what the current status of the document was and it was confirmed that a draft had been submitted and any changes would be communicated to the Commissioner if required.

Members stated that welcome packs should be available to allow people to have information when they wish to consider a care home as opposed to having to visit each one individually.

Members raised the issue of staff training at care homes and the concern that training may not be consistent either across a specific home or across the care home sector. This was in the main in relation to conditions such as dementia, it was suggested by Members that all staff within a home should at least receive basic training on the specific conditions. This would be from care staff through to gardeners for example.

Members stated their disappointment that they had read aspects of some care in some homes is poor. It was stated that this was on occasions due to some individuals not being in receipt of the correct care e.g. diabetes or wound management.

Members welcomed the fact that the response was a joint response due to the crossovers between organisations.

Members asked whether any costs for care across the Western Bay region would be equitable to the relevant authorities. It was stated that it was difficult to answer this at the current time due to a judicial review on nursing home fees that local authorities have been linked to as an interested party.

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

4.4 Outcome of the consultation on the future of Mental Health Rehabilitation and Respite in Neath Port Talbot

Members were advised that the report was presented to provide them with feedback from the recently held consultation and to allow them to consider the closure of the Mental Health Residential Unit in Gelligron and relocation of the Gelligron respite unit to Trem y Mor.

Members asked whether anything had been raised as part of the consultation process that would require the plans to fundamentally change. It was confirmed that this was not the case.

Members noted that the proposals would give people independence whereas previously they would have to live within a residential setting.

Members asked how many individuals this would affect. It was stated that are 21 people who receive respite care in Gelligron and of these 16 are living with support but in the future there won't be respite care but they receive targeted support. A specific example of this is an individual who is cared for by their parents would receive respite care if their parents required a break; the new arrangement would be that they would be supported by the

Community Independence Team. This will provide consistency to the individual and allow them to remain in their own comfortable surroundings.

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

4.5 Housing (Wales) Act 2014: Commencement and Implementation

Members received a report that highlighted the impacts and consequences of the new legislation.

A question was raised in relation to whom the legislation affects and in particular private landlords. It was confirmed the legislation deals with private landlords but will also have an impact for Councils particularly in relation to enforcement.

Members were asked how will the new legislation link with Welfare Reform and the limited one bedroom properties. Members were advised that a bigger problem could be Universal Credit which may result in more cases of Universal Credit. It was further confirmed that it will be a challenge for the Council to deal with but the Council has its own letting agency which aims to develop the market.

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

4.6 Environmental and Trading Standards – Wales Audit Office Report

Members considered a report that provided feedback from the Wales Audit Office following review of Environmental Health Services across Wales.

Members noted that in general the report made good reading. However, it was asked whether savings made were achievable and it was stated that the savings can be made when individuals are trained up. This has already been done to a certain extent by reducing management and upskilling other individuals and approximately nearly £500,000 savings have been made since 2015.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

4.7 Social Services, Health and Housing Quarterly Performance Indicator Data (Quarter Three)

Members queried the performance in relation of Disabled Facilities Grants and understood that they figure was high due to two particularly complex cases. Members were advised that the performance has been assisted by the Care and Repair rapid adaptations team. Members raised further concern that as people live longer will there be pressures on the core budget to provide adaptations. It was agreed that this is a possibility and will be investigated as time progresses. Members requested a further report specifically in relation to adaptations to gain more of an understanding of the issues facing the service.

Following scrutiny the report was noted.

CHAIRMAN