

SOCIAL CARE HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Committee Rooms A/B - Neath Civic Centre)

Members Present:

19 December 2019

Chairperson: Councillor L.M.Purcell

Vice Chairperson: Councillor C.Galsworthy

Councillors: A.P.H.Davies, S.Paddison, S.H.Reynolds,
D.Whitelock, A.N.Woolcock and H.C.Clarke

Officers In Attendance C.Warren, A.Thomas, J.Hodge, V.Smith,
C.Frey-Davies, D.Tiddy, M.Weaver,
K.Wedmore, S.Bradshaw, H.Davies, C.Howard,
M.Selby, A.Potts, D.Harding, M.Potts,
V.Thomas, J.Caswell, F.Lewis, S.Waite,
A.Bradshaw, S.Curran and J.Woodman-Ralph

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

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following members made a declarations of interest at the start of the meeting:

Councillor C. Galsworthy Re: The Direct Payments Policy as she is in receipt of Direct Payments for a family member.

Councillor P.D.Richards Re: Contractual Arrangements for a Minor Adaptations Service as he is a board member of Care and Repair Western Bay Limited.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 17 October 2019 be approved.

3. **ADULT AND CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICES HIGH LEVEL MEASURES - QUARTER 2 (APRIL 19 - SEPTEMBER 19)**

The committee received information on the Adult and Children and Young People Services High Level Measure Data for the second quarter period. (April 2019 – September 2019) as detailed in the circulated report.

In answer to members queries the following explanations were received.

The numbers of vacancies identified in the report included social workers, assistants and support staff, the figure did not just relate to Social Workers. In future, reports would contain more detail of each service.

Additional Social Worker and Occupational Therapist vacancies were as a result of additional temporary funding being received so additional posts were recruited on a temporary basis. Also, vacancies within the Occupational Therapy Service could impact on the waiting times for assessment.

The 85%(11/13) of the cases audited the supervisee had attended training during the last three supervision sessions was as a result of the supervision session targeting the individual needs of the officer.

As a result of some difficulty accessing staff supervision files within Hillside Secure Centre new lockers had been purchased to ensure this would not happen again and the audit of these files would be repeated.

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

4. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY**

The committee chose to scrutinise the following cabinet board items:

Remodelling and Relocation of Complex Needs Day Services

The committee received an overview of the proposal to remodel and relocate the current Complex Needs Day Services based at Abbeyview, Brynamlwg and Trem Y Mor as detailed in the circulated report.

Members were reassured that the proposal was not a cost cutting exercise as the costs were neutral. It was to strengthen the current provision.

Concern was expressed by members on the additional time service users would spend travelling to the new premises. It was explained that in liaison with our transport colleagues no additional time would be spent on buses. If necessary the pickup routes would be reconfigured to ensure this. Each bus where necessary would have less pick up routes. A report containing a breakdown of times and locations would be brought for members consideration to a future meeting.

Consideration would be given to assisting service users with Autistic Spectrum Disorder to cope with the changes that this proposal would bring. Friendship between service users, which was previously raised by parents during the consultation would also form part of the planning.

Officers confirmed that there would be additional costs incurred due to training staff as agency staff would have to cover those staff being trained. Discussions were on-going with care providers.

Discussion took place on the process for supporting family and parents who were unhappy with the proposal. Officers explained that meetings had taken place on an individual basis to mitigate any issues and assist people to understand why the changes had been put in place. It was also recognised that change could be difficult for many people. Also, when reflecting on the consultation any lessons learnt from that process would be used to inform future consultations.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by cabinet board.

Direct Payments Policy

At this point Councillor C. Galsworthy re-affirmed her interest in this item and left the meeting.

Members received information on the Direct Payments Policy as detailed in the circulated report.

In answer to members' queries, the Direct Payments Policy was not subject to external consultation because it was an explanation of the Direct Payments system, rather than being a policy which sets out and explains the approach that the Council had chosen to adopt within a legal framework. An Integrated Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the council discharging its legislative duties under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

In addition, members asked why there was no impact on the valleys. There were a number of cases where service users could not recruit to personal assistant roles. Officers explained that this section of the report referred to the legislative duties under the relevant equality acts. Also, no person would be forced to use direct payments. If there was no availability of personal assistants, then the council would provide the service based on the person's needs. Recipients could also stop direct payments at any time.

Members asked what a reasonable cost was as stated in the policy. Officers explained that the cost was dependant on the person's assessed need and what a reasonable cost was for the service. If a recipient chose to secure a more expensive service, the individual would have to pay the difference in cost.

In response to members' queries, officers confirmed that the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were checked by the social worker. If no social worker was involved the direct payments team undertook checks and where necessary referred to the safeguarding team.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by cabinet board.

Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy

(At this point Councillor C.Galsworthy returned to participate in the meeting.)

Members received information on the outcome of the public consultation on the revised Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy as detailed in the circulated report.

Concern was expressed at the new tick box form which determined the individuals' and carers eligible care and support needs for respite.

Officers explained that the form was developed from a request from social workers for assistance when assessing need. The scoring system forms part of the assessment. The form would then be part of the considerations undertaken by the Resource Panel who allocate respite.

The committee asked what the waiting times were for assessment and it was explained that the waiting times had reduced but that if a request was identified as urgent a response would be immediate.

The policy was developed to introduce a more flexible approach to enable service users and carers to choose a care package that suited their needs. Some service users did not wish to go into a respite establishment but preferred to remain at home and had the support in place. Direct payments could also be utilised.

The direct payments team had a register of personal assistants and approached existing PA's if service users/carers were looking for respite support and were unable to find a Personal Assistant.

Following scrutiny, the committee was supportive of the proposals to be considered by cabinet board.

Adult, Children and Young People Services – 2nd Quarter

The committee received information on the Performance Information and Complaints and Compliments for both Adult and Children and Young People Services for the Quarter 2 as detailed in the circulated report.

Members were concerned at the 100 people who were not prevented from becoming homeless. Officers explained that an update report would be prepared which would contain the variety of reasons why homelessness was not prevented and would also include the numbers of people who refused help. Officers highlighted that there was a variety of reasons why homelessness was not prevented. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council did not have any housing stock. There were issues with the bed and breakfast accommodation in Swansea. Discussions were taking place with the Welsh Government and Tai Tarian Housing Association to assist with supporting these vulnerable people.

Discussion took place on a model to prevent homelessness which was being used in Scotland and which has proved to be very

effective. Officers would look into this model and provide a report if appropriate.

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

5. **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 Paragraphs 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

6. **UPDATE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER / NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS (ASD/NDD) STRATEGIC PLAN**

The committee received an update on the progress and development of the Autism Spectrum Disorder/ Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ASD/NDD) Strategic Plan as detailed in the private circulated report.

Discussion took place on the support provided to people with ASD/NDD. Where necessary the service was brought to the service users. For instance, job centre staff visited the client if it was difficult for that client to attend the job centres.

In answer to members queries the funding was provided by the Integrated Care Fund which was led by Swansea Bay Health Board so there was no financial impacts to the council.

Concern was expressed at the lack of data on waiting lists for diagnoses and how many people accepted support after diagnoses.

Discussion took place on the importance of Social Services, Health and Housing and Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning Directorates working together to ensure there was consistency of approach. Further discussion took place on the need to involve other agencies who were also providing services to support ASD/NDD. The Head of Children and Young People Services was asked to identify all agencies responsible for ASD/NDD services and for the

Chairperson of this committee to write letter addressing the need for all agencies to work together.

In addition members asked that consideration be given to holding joint scrutiny meetings with Education, Skills and Culture on cross cutting topics such as the Autism Strategic Plan. The Scrutiny Officer was asked to alert the committee of any reports relating to ASD/NDD being considered by Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet Board.

Members asked that their appreciation be cascaded to all staff involved in the ASD/NDD services for all their hard work and commitment to providing an excellent service.

Following scrutiny, the report be noted.

7. **PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF PRIVATE ITEM/S**

The committee chose to scrutinise the following private cabinet board items:

The Manager's Report on Hillside Secure Children's Home

Members received information on the young people, information on staff, service planning and development for the period 1 June – 31 October 2019 (5 months) as detailed in the circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the report be noted.

Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 RISCA 2016

An overview was received on the Regulated Service (Service Providers and Responsible Individuals) (Wales) Regulations 2017 report in regard to Hillside Secure Centre, as detailed in the private circulated report.

Following scrutiny, the report be noted.

CHAIRPERSON

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