

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(Council Chamber - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

28 November 2014

Chairman:	Councillor Mrs.S.M.Penry
Vice Chairman:	Councillor Mrs.A.Wingrave
Councillors:	Mrs P.Bebell, J.S.Evans, R.James, Mrs.D.Jones, J.Miller and R.Thomas
Officers In Attendance	Mrs.C.Marchant, Mrs.A.Thomas, N.Evans, Miss A.Flynn, Mrs A Saunders, Mr C. Williams and Mrs P.Williams
Cabinet Invitees:	Councillors J.Rogers and A.J.Taylor
Observers	Claire Maimone, Neath Port Talbot Homes

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

The following Member declared an interest:

Cllr. J Miller	As an employee of ABMU Health Board and in relation to any health matters.
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2. **TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 16TH OCTOBER**

The Committee noted the minutes.

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

The Scrutiny Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

4. **CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES INSPECTORATE WALES - PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT**

Members were informed that this item had now been withdrawn due to the fact that officers from the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) were unable to attend this rearranged meeting. Members were further advised that this report would be tabled at a later date.

5. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014/2015**

Members were advised that this report was presented for their consideration following the Cabinet Scrutiny meeting held on 12th November 2014 when the Chair of Social Care Health and Housing Committee requested that the report be presented to afford Members the opportunity to consider and comment on the budget pressures associated with the Social Care Health and Housing Directorate.

The 3 areas of interest were:

- Introduction of payment for day services
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- External Domiciliary Care

Introduction of payment for day services

Members were advised that there had been an issue within this and the timings of assessments. It was noted that some users had been assessed some time ago but others more recently. Members asked whether those who had been assessed early on in the process would have a refund on what they had already paid. It was confirmed that this would be the case.

External Domiciliary Care

Members were informed that this was a particular area of concern as the Council constantly over performs and assists individuals to live in their own homes. The budget for this area is insufficient going forward and this is the reason the Department faces this pressure.

Members asked what co-operation was the Council having from their partners to get the right packages and what the plans are for the next year. In response to these two questions Members were informed that there is joint work with the local health board to get the package right. Individuals are assessed within their homes so that the assessments ensure there is a true reflection on what individuals can do on their own.

It was further explained that there are issues right across the board internally and externally in this area. Social Work assessments look at everyone

individually but it was accepted that if you take people away from their goals i.e. independence their health potentially deteriorates quicker.

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

6. **QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT DATA 2014/2015
(CONTAINED WITHIN THE CIRCULATED CABINET BOARD
PAPERS)**

Agreed that this item would be considered as part of the Cabinet Board agenda.

7. **SOCIAL CENTRES UPDATE REPORT**

Members were advised that the report was presented to provide information of the alternative arrangements that had been made for the Social Centres due to close on 31st March 2015.

Members stated that this was an area of concern that individuals may be relying on 3rd sector organisations who in turn are reliant on funding from the Council. Members were informed that there was a need to move away from the default position where individuals automatically assume they require social services packages. The main thrust of the work should be the preventative agenda as this will hopefully address any big issues.

Following scrutiny it was agreed that the report be noted.

8. **REPORT ON SCAMS**

Members received a report on the work of trading standards which they had requested earlier in the civic year. The report concentrated on scams and the different types that are in existence.

Members were advised that it is a difficult area to monitor particularly as many of the businesses are based abroad. The problem is further compounded by the fact that some individuals due to their personal circumstances like the contact and fall foul of scams on a number of occasions.

Members stated that they appreciate that resources are limited and suggested the Council investigate wider partnership working. Members further recommended that as this was an issue that affects all members of the County an all Member Seminar should be arranged to advise Members of some of the scams and what protection is available.

Following Scrutiny, it was agreed the report be noted.

9. **TO SELECT APPROPRIATE ITEMS FROM THE CABINET BOARD AGENDA FOR PRE-SCRUTINY (CABINET BOARD REPORTS ENCLOSED FOR SCRUTINY MEMBERS).**

NPT Homes progress report.

Members considered the report from an officer from NPT homes on the progress that was being made in delivering the promises that were made to tenants.

Members stated that there had been complaints in some areas that remedial works were not undertake and when a property became empty it was boarded up. Members were advised that this was not generally the case and this will be investigated. However, it was further stated that the works for this area would be the next that are to be undertaken in line with the promise to ensure that all houses meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard by the end of March 2017.

Members requested that communication with themselves and tenants were improved and Members were advised that a hand book had been prepared for all staff which included many issues and how they should be handled. Members requested that they have a copy of this booklet also.

Members also requested an up to date schedule of improvement works so that they are aware of what works will happen and when.

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

Report to decommission the externally commissioned day services delivered by Hafal/Seibiant

Members considered a report on the proposal to decommission day services delivered by Hafal/Seibiant.

Members enquired how many service users would be affected by this. It was confirmed that currently there are 27 people on the books, but in the majority of the cases the individuals are also accessing other services so there would be no effect.

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

Report to decommission the externally commissioned day services delivered by Shaw Trusts ‘JIGSAW Project’

Members considered the above report and were informed that any changes will be positive as the services that are provided will become needs based and thus individually tailored.

Members asked what are the timescales for the project and were informed that it would be a three month transition period from 1st January. It was further stated that a number of individuals did not actually require the services anymore and were accessing them because they always had.

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

Report to decommission the externally commissioned day services delivered by Shaw Trusts ‘Our Choice Project’

Members considered the above report. Members enquired who undertakes the assessments to ensure individuals are eligible and it was confirmed it was the Council’s Social Workers who undertake the assessments in consultation with service users and carers.

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

COASTAL Project Exit Plans and Enfys Withdrawal.

Members were advised that this report had been withdrawn from discussion at this meeting.

Social Services, Health and Housing Quarterly Performance Indicator Data

Members questioned the performance of indicator PSR/009 and why Disabled Facilities Grants for Children and Young People had risen dramatically to 538 days. The explanation given for this was due to cases that had significant complexities and therefore skewed the figures.

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

10. **ANY URGENT ITEMS (WHETHER PUBLIC OR EXEMPT) AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 100B (4) (B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Because of the need to deal now with the matters contained in the Cabinet Board Agenda items 15, 16 and 17, the Chairman agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Statutory Instrument 2001 No.2290 (as amended)

Reason:

Due to the time element.

Commissioning and Contracting

Members considered a report on the adult social care contract monitoring for the year ending 31st October 2014. Members were informed that there is a large amount of money spent on this area, in excess of £30m.

Members enquired whether there was the same level of commissioning for nursing care and were informed that there is a currently legal action against health boards in relation to the fees and that Welsh Government and Local Authorities were united in their stances.

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

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Adult Safeguarding Annual Report

Members questioned whether the increasing in resources from a staff perspective would carry the service through. It was confirmed that any increase in resources will assist the situation. However, there is no guarantee that the levels of adults requiring safeguarding remain static.

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

CHAIRMAN