

ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2016

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 2.00 PM

Present

Councillor PA Davies – Chairperson

N Clarke
RC Jones
PJ White

N Farr
JE Lewis

EM Hughes
LC Morgan

PN John
E Venables

Apologies for Absence

D Sage

Officers:

Lesley Acton	
Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Gail Jewell	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Scott Pickrell	Day Services Manager

59. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following personal declarations of interest were made:-

Councillor P John – Agenda item 4, in that he was a member of a Committee that supports Maesteg Town Hall

Councillor N Farr – Agenda item 5, in that she was a Social Worker in a neighbouring authority.

61. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of the Adult Social Care O&SC dated 13 September 2016 be approved as a true and accurate record.

Members made the following points:-

1. Are there any figures available for the number of patients discharged from hospital then subsequently having to be re-admitted.
2. Is the care facility at Llys Ton fully subscribed
3. What is the number of hospital admissions for older people in the POW hospital
4. What is the current amount of Failed Discharges

The Scrutiny Officer advised that information regarding some of the above was sent to Members following the last meeting, on 9 November. Any further information required that hasn't been conveyed to Members would follow she added.

62. PREVENTION, WELLBEING AND LOCAL COMMUNITY COORDINATION

The Chairperson welcomed the Invitees to the meeting, and the Head of Adult Social Care gave a resume of the report.

She advised that the purpose of the report, was to provide the Committee with an update on the development of preventative services and local community co-ordination, in line with the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, and to describe the financial impact of this work.

The Head of Adult Social Care confirmed that today's report was a follow-up to that which was placed before Committee on 6 April 2016. The report explained amongst other things, how local community co-ordination has developed as part of a Western Bay initiative, and similar projects were taking place in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea, called Local Area Co-ordination (LAC).

The above report also set out a number of next steps, and progress regarding these was set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report.

The Head of Adult Social Care confirmed that the Local Community Co-ordinators Project continued to develop links with partners in the voluntary sector, the emergency services and health. Recent developments in respect of this included:

- Strictly Cinema
- Memory Walks
- Mindfulness Group
- Try it Do it Sessions
- Creativity for Wellbeing (Arts on Prescription)
- GP Surgeries
- Craft Network
- Carers' Creative Network

She confirmed that there had been further developments in the 'Ageing Well in Bridgend' initiative, with the Plan for this having been presented to Cabinet. The Plan would be linked to the Council website, and in addition, a bespoke "ageing well in Bridgend" web resource was being created.

The Head of Adult Social Care advised that the Halo Partnership had commenced support for armed force veterans free swimming, and was also making progress in terms of becoming a dementia friendly community, with training programmes for staff and partners commencing shortly.

She further added that since April and the coming into being of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014, a framework of principles of prevention had been developed, and this would be presented to the Western Bay Regional Partnership Board in November 2016 for consideration and a recommendation to adopt across the partnership. Expansion of roll-out of Local Area Co-ordination in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea and Local Community Co-ordination in Bridgend was continuing across the 3 Local Authorities, and a programme of implementation was being progressed in each local area.

The Head of Adult Social Care also confirmed, that a Western Bay website had been launched last year, and newsletters in respect of this were compiled and published quarterly and circulated via a broad distribution list.

She stated that as part of the review of the structure of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, the Group Manager role for sport, play and active wellbeing services had been refocused to lead a prevention and wellbeing service that responds to Corporate Priorities and the requirements of the new Act.

There was also a Welsh social care and well-being information website for citizens which had been developed by the Social Services Inspection Agency, Data Unit Wales and the North Wales Single Point of Access Programme, called Dewis Cymru. This was launched nationally at the Social Services Conference last June the Head of Adult Social Care added. A number of 'quick wins' in terms of easily accessible Bridgend local information in a number of areas had been identified for uploading onto the Dewis website, and these were outlined in paragraph 4.23 of the report.

Paragraph 4.26 then gave the next steps regarding Prevention, Wellbeing and Local Community Co-ordination, with these actions being included in a LCC development plan and business case, which will set out detailed actions and timescales for the expansion of the project.

In conclusion, the Head of Adult Social Care referred to the report's financial implications, which outlined the LCC team and costs which amounted to £208,400. Working in partnership with the learning disability team, the local community co-ordinator project had identified 71 people who can receive the support they need from the LCC's or the community hubs.

Following the presentation of the report, the Project Manager – Learning Disabilities then read out a number of case studies for the benefit of Members.

A Member noted from page 12 of the report, that the Strictly Cinema project in the Maesteg Town Hall had been a big success. However, the Town Hall would soon close for refurbishment so she asked, if there was a proposal to place the cinema facility there elsewhere.

The Project Manager – Learning Disabilities advised that there was a proposal to continue this facility while the above works were going ahead, within the Maesteg Sports Centre. There was a further proposal to roll-out Strictly Cinema to the Garw Valley Workingmen's Hall.

A Member asked how this and other Projects intended being funded. He was aware that Communities First were funding Strictly Cinema, however, they may soon cease to exist so he was concerned more for future funding rather than that which presently existed.

The Project Manager – Learning Disabilities confirmed that funding for these small projects was always considered up front, including how continued income could be generated. For Strictly Cinema customers did pay a nominal fee and that helped towards sustaining the project. Small grants and contributions were also obtained including the provision of food and beverages from large retail establishments..

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing added that the whole agenda for prevention and wellbeing going forward as a new model would need to be sustainable. The model subject of the report before Members, had been funded through Western bay monies and Officers were looking at avenues whereby this would continue in terms of longer term investments. This was for the whole programme, and not just

Strictly Cinema. There would be opportunities in the future to re-skill employees in order to successfully move things forward within the existing infrastructure. There was a Western bay piece of work due to start which would be looking at the workforce.. A Business Case was being progressed and the Western Bay collaboration were also going to commit to part funding the infrastructure.

The Project Manager – Learning Disabilities further added that many projects failed due to the lack of continued funding, and that's why other forms of income generation were being pursued and a Social Enterprise would also be set-up as a form of income/funding generation.

A Member also recognised the fact that grant funding could not always be relied upon to be forthcoming, and even if they do, this was normally only for a specified period and when the funding was withdrawn, the local authority were then often faced with costs for staff redundancies. He also asked if the local authority signposted individuals to Sandville which was an independent, self-help centre that supported people with a disability/acute illness.

The Project Manager – Learning Disabilities confirmed that individuals were referred to Sandville, and the Authority had been evaluated by Swansea University in connection with those people that had been referred to this facility for support. She added however that it was also important for service users to decide what forms of support mechanism suited their particular needs.

A Member noted from page 13 of the report that referral pathways were now in place with all nine GP's in the North Network, and around 23% of LCC referrals were now coming from GP's. As this developed, she asked if this would be financially supported by the NHS.

The Head of Adult Social Care confirmed that this initiative was in its early stages and the next development stage would take place in 6 months and between now and then, the above process would be evaluated and monitored in order to gauge its worth and success. If it did continue long term, then it would be discussed with partner organisations and a more holistic approach would be introduced, including the financial elements of these referrals.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.16 of the report, and enquired who the Western Bay newsletter was made available to.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing advised that this went to all partners in Western Bay and all Members. It was also available on line she added. She confirmed though that she would check this is correct and come back to the Member outside of the meeting.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.13 of the report where it stated that Swansea University had almost completed an Evaluation Report of the implementation of the LAC/LCC model which was in fact, due to be finalised this month and shared with partners. She asked if this had yet taken place.

The Head of Adult Social Care replied that it had not as yet, but would be very soon.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.19 of the report where it confirmed that the Dewis Cymru website went live across North Wales on 28 September 2015, and that arrangements were well developed to extend it to other parts of Wales. As this was over 12 months ago, she asked if this had now taken place.

The Head of Adult Social Care confirmed that this was work in progress in terms of Bridgend and its health partners and other key stakeholders.

A Member referred to paragraph 7.1 of the report where it confirmed the number of posts in the LCC team and the salaries for these through project funding by way of grant. However, paragraph 7.6 of the report, referred to there being a proposal in order to achieve savings by deleting a Social Workers post in Adult Social Care.

The Head of Adult Social Care advised that there were a total of 71 staff in Social Services that were managing care, with further options associated with sustaining support for LCC. This post she advised would remain in being should the LCC model not prove sustainable going forward. To accommodate all this, Officers were looking to enhance the different skill base of staff as well as, moving staff around to meet the needs of the service.

Conclusions:

Following the Committee's consideration of the report, Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:

- The Committee recognised and commended the work that was being undertaken within the service and stated how pleased they were to hear of the LCC projects succeeding in drawing people out from isolation. However, Members did note how labour intensive some of the case studies were and expressed their concerns regarding the assurance of resources being able to meet demand.
- Members welcomed the fact that officers plan to concentrate on LCC services generating an income to sustain the work of the projects.
- In relation to the statement made regarding 'ShedQuarters' users, the Committee felt that the record could be detrimental to members of the group and asked that this be taken into account when reporting on the enterprise in the future.
- Members have requested that when an update of the Prevention, Wellbeing and Local Community Co-ordination is next presented to the Committee, that the LCC projects are referenced under a heading for each area – Ogmore, Llynfi and Garw Valleys – to ensure ease of reference to what projects are being carried out where.
- The Committee expressed concerns in relation to the deletion of a social worker post and stated that even though the projects had succeeded in reallocating support to the LCCs or community hubs, it did not mean that they would not require support in the future or that demand in this area would not increase.
- In relation to the Dewis Cymru website, Members have suggested that when the site is populated with work that is being progressed in the Borough, a link to the website should be inserted on the BCBC website.

Additional Information

- Members asked Officers to confirm where the Western Bay newsletter is circulated and if it is found anywhere in hard copy.
- The Committee requested that they receive a copy of the Evaluation Report undertaken by Swansea University with finalised.

63. REPORT ON DAY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Chairperson welcomed the Invitees to the meeting.

Prior to Officers presenting the report, the Day Services Manager gave a power point Presentation entitled “The Community Hub – Localised Services and Active Citizenship”, which included an example of a service user who had autism and due to this, received Day Opportunities for Adults with Learning Disabilities.

The Head of Adult Social Care then gave a resume of the report, which was to provide Committee with an update on developments in day services for adults with a learning disability.

The report gave some background information following which, it explained that people with a learning disability are referred to a day opportunity service by a Social Worker in the learning disability assessment and care management team.

The Head of Adult Social Care then referred Members to paragraph 4.6 of the report, where it explained that day services provided a range of activities both in the service setting and in the community which included:-

In service:

- Hydrotherapy
- Sensory Stimulation
- Arm Chair Aerobics
- PC Sessions (safe use of internet/educational and cognitive programmes)

In the community:

- Cinema Club
- Swimming
- Model Boat Club
- Shopping Projects

She then referred to the service provided at Bridgend Resource Centre, which was designed for people with complex needs and/or challenging behaviour, and that many of the people who used this service were provided with personal care. The Head of Adult Social Care reminded Members that localised services were designed to provide a platform from which people could engage in community activities and develop their independence skills.

Paragraph 4.14 of the report then confirmed that as part of the Learning Disability Service Development Plan for day services there were two key work streams, details of which were included in this part of the report.

The Head of Adult Social Care advised Members, that by developing the community hubs and supporting people to be more independent, the service was contributing to the wider prevention and wellbeing work.

She then concluded her submission, by advising of the reports financial implications as were reflected in paragraph 7.1 of the report.

A Member was aware that localised service bases such as Cwm Calon were often used for other purposes, for example PACT meetings. She asked if the service were charging for such hiring.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing advised that if it was a voluntary or not for profit organisation then no charge was made, though if it was a private organisation then a small charge was made for the hire of the facility. In both instances donations would be welcomed.

A Member asked Invitees if the Authority were using Direct Payments as a way to integrate service users into the community.

The Day Services Manager confirmed this to be the case.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing added that the Direct Payment Scheme would be developed further and this new model would be available by commencement of the new financial year.

A Member enquired if B-Leaf and Wood-B were now entities that were attached from the local authority and governed solely by Awen Trust.

The Day Services Manager advised that both of these had now become a Social Enterprise as opposed to service models. The services that they both provided however, were agreed by way of an Agreement between the Trust and Social Services.

A Member referred to the Day Opportunities services and Rota Visiting and stated that she had only conducted visits to 3 of the 5 buildings where these services were provided and she enquired if it would be possible for her to visit the bases where she had not visited sometime in the future.

The Corporate Director – Communities confirmed that Members could, and should in turn, visit different localised service bases. However, such rota visits were avoided at Heron House, as there were individuals based there with acute autism and challenging behaviour and who relied on familiarity, and did not like any change in their environment including people who supported them. In terms of the Bridgend Resource Centre this was presently being re-modelled to cater for older service users, so therefore, rota visiting was currently not taking place there. She added that she would come back to Members outside of the meeting, on how the rota worked in terms of the rotation of Members visiting these establishments.

A Member referred to page 22 of the report and paragraph 3.7, which related to adapted vehicles that transported people who used day opportunity services to and from their homes/care establishments, and she asked if a benchmarking exercise had been undertaken in order to secure best practice, and also had the savings proposed for the use of this form of transport been realised in terms of a previous budget cut under the MTFS.

The Day Services Manager confirmed that there had been a reduction in contract transport costs compared to previous years, where costs for this had been as high as £680k, which after a re-tender exercise, had since reduced to £170k through varying methods.

The Head of Adult Social Care added that BCBC did examine other authorities for the purpose of adopting methods of best practice where this was considered necessary, and more so since the introduction of the new Act. As well as the above savings in transport costs having been achieved, the Department were also actively looking at minimising high cost Out of County Placements wherever this was possible.

As this concluded the business of the Invitees, the Chairperson thanked them for attending and they then retired from the meeting.

Conclusions:

Following the Committee's consideration of the report, Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:

- The Committee recognised and commended the work that was being undertaken within the service, along with the savings they have made which have contributed to the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- Members questioned whether a future meeting of Adult Social Care could be held at one of the establishments (Trem Y Mor was provided as an example) where a site visit could be undertaken by Members following or prior to the meeting.

Additional Information

- Members have requested clarification on which buildings and localised service bases are included on the rota visiting system and further queried how the rota worked in terms of the rotation of Members visiting these establishments.

64. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report on the above, the purpose of which, was to present the items due to be considered at the Committee meeting for 14 December 2016, and to seek confirmation of the information required for the subsequent scheduled meeting to be held on 21 February 2017. The report also presented a list of further potential items for prioritisation by the Committee.

Paragraph 4.1 of the report outlined the items scheduled to be placed on the agenda for the next scheduled meeting, whilst paragraph 4.2 listed topics on which there would be reports for the subsequent meeting next February.

Paragraphs 4.3 of the report then detailed suggested items earmarked for the Committee meeting in March 2017, while paragraph 4.4 listed a further two extra items for consideration.

The Scrutiny Officer advised that if Members wished to re-arrange these items in terms of priority, or if they had any additional items, then they could contact the Scrutiny Unit with their suggestions.

RESOLVED: That Committee noted the contents of the report.

65. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 4.30 pm