

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2017 AT 2.00 PM**

Present

Councillor N Clarke – Chairperson

PA Davies  
JE Lewis

N Farr  
LC Morgan

EM Hughes  
M Thomas

RC Jones  
R Williams

Officers:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Sarah Daniel	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Carmel Donovan	Group Manager - Older People
Julie Ellams	Democratic Services Officer - Committees

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

80. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 7 February 2017 be approved as a true and accurate record.

81. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report which detailed the items to be considered and the invitees to attend the next meeting of the Committee to be held following the Annual Meeting of Council. The report also contained potential items to be considered for the 2017-18 forward work programme and the invitees due to attend. The prioritisation and timings of these items would be agreed at the Committee meeting following the Annual Meeting of Council.

Since the report was published there had been discussions with Directors regarding the 2017-18 forward work programme. Also Members requested that the following additional items be added to the list for consideration

- Direct Payments
- Homecare Phase 2
- Residential Remodelling
- Dementia
- DOLS
- Advocacy (Update to come back after the completion of the Pilot, possibly within a report on an update to the Social Services and Wellbeing Act or Prevention and Wellbeing)
- Partnership working with the Community Health Council – this will come under the Partnerships and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee under the Public Service Board.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the topics due to be considered at the next meeting, the date to be scheduled at the Annual General Meeting of Council.

82. NEW EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEMES

The Head of Adult Social Care presented a report updating members on the progress of the development of two new Extra Care Housing (ECH) schemes within the County Borough. She introduced Louise Attwood, Development Director Linc Cymru and Anne Thomas, Executive Director Linc Cymru to respond to any queries raised by members.

In November 2014, Cabinet approved the option for the Council to seek Registered Social Landlords (RSL) to develop two new ECH schemes in the County Borough. Three RSLs, Linc Cymru, Hafod and United Welsh were sent a briefing note and selection criteria that clearly set out the Council's intention to dispose of two parcels of land for the potential development of two ECH schemes. Scheme 1 – Former Maesteg Lower Comprehensive site; and Scheme 2 – Former Archbishop McGrath site

Cabinet, authorised the disposal of the sites to Linc Cymru at the market value, to be agreed by the District Valuer. The Council disposed of the land at the Former Lower Maesteg Comprehensive site having an area of circa 2.7 acres for the amount of £370,000. The sale of the land was by way of a 125 year lease. Linc Cymru developed a scheme on the site consisting of 20 ECH flats (2 two bedroom and 18 one bedroom) and 10 residential care units. Linc Cymru also developed 17 affordable housing units on the site (7 one bedroom and 10 two bedroom). The affordable housing units were bungalows which were 'self-contained elderly persons dwellings (not wardened)' and restricted to use / purchase by persons over a particular age i.e. over 55.

Planning had been approved for both sites. Both sites had required separate S106 Agreements to be signed before the final planning approval was provided. The residential care element catered for a range of care needs. If in the future the demand for residential care accommodation diminished, the ground floor bedrooms had been designed to readily convert into additional Extra Care units.

Council approved capital funding of £3 million in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016-17 to 2019-20 to support the creation of the 2 Extra Care schemes. This constituted a £2.5 million capital grant in line with Linc Cymru's submission and £500,000 for any unforeseen additional costs following detailed site surveys or through the planning process, including any associated highways works. The capital grant was intended to meet the funding gap in the construction costs which Linc Cymru had identified.

The Committee requested further information on delegated authority. Members were advised that within the Council there was a Scheme of Delegation which allowed certain officers to approve a course of action. On this occasion delegated authority was given to officers to enter into formal agreements with Linc Cymru.

The Committee asked why there were more units being built in Tondu (25) than in Maesteg (20), even though there was more land available in Maesteg. Officers explained that this was based on comparable land use and they were responding to demand in each of the areas

The Committee asked why other compatible uses would be considered after ten years. Officers explained that this was to allow for flexibility and to adapt the accommodation to meet service users ever changing needs. It would still be compliant in terms of land use but not residential care in its current format. Officers confirmed that the planning

condition regarding junction works at the Former Archbishop McGrath site was the responsibility of the primary school project.

Members referred to the challenging behaviour of some residents and were advised that this would be taken into account when considering a range of options for their future. Each resident would undergo a personal assessment and in order to manage expectations there would be a continuous process of matching and monitoring.

The Committee asked if there were problems recruiting and retaining staff. Members were advised that officers were confident they would have fully trained staff by the end of August 2018 as they were key to the success of the development. Members commented that they had made a number of visits to homes in the past and that they were always impressed with staff.

The Committee asked if the Extra Care units would be available to the whole of Bridgend County or just for local residents. Members were advised that each applicant would be assessed according to their needs and their wishes taken into account. Officers assured Members that the process would be fair and transparent.

The Committee asked if there was provision for those with extra sensory impairment in the two extra care homes. They were advised that the build would incorporate lighting, hand rails, different floors in different colours, hearing loops and braille in the lift to accommodate those with sensory impairment.

Officers outlined the facilities and confirmed that a guest room would be available to visitors of tenants. They would be tenants not residents who would pay rent, not fees.

The Development Director, Linc Cymru confirmed that Linc had just purchased Sunnyside with a view to developing a wellbeing site with BCBC.

The Committee asked what feedback had been received following the consultation with staff and carers. Members were advised that a range of issues had fed back and taken on board as people had engaged in the process.

The Committee referred to the development of bungalows proposed in Maesteg for the over 55's and thanked Linc for providing accommodation which would otherwise be in short supply.

### **Conclusions:**

Members commended officers from BCBC and Linc Cymru in their developments of the schemes and were pleased to see throughout the planning of the Extra Care Schemes the ability to cater for a range of service users care needs and also to be able to adapt to the change in demand in the future.

Members raised concerns on the transition of existing service users and urged officers to ensure the process was carefully managed so service users had a smooth transition into accommodation that was matched and suitable for their needs

### **83. ADVOCACY SERVICES - ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

The Head of Adult Social Care presented a report updating the Committee on the work undertaken to date in developing the provision of Independent Professional Advocacy services, which was being undertaken in response to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Council's ongoing remodelling plans. She introduced and highlighted progress of the Advocacy Pilot Scheme being undertaken over the next 12

months which would be used to inform the development and implementation of a new advocacy service model from 2018/19.

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 defined “advocacy services” as services which provided assistance to persons for purposes relating to their care and support. The 2014 Act also set out the requirements for local authorities in relation to advocacy, which were to:

- a. Ensure that access to advocacy services and support was available to enable individuals to engage and participate when local authorities were exercising their statutory duties in relation to them; and
- b. To arrange an independent professional advocate to facilitate the involvement of individuals in certain circumstances.

The council currently supported independent professional advocacy for adults with learning disabilities through a Third Sector contract with People First, who delivered support to people so that they could be empowered to have a voice and live more independently with lesser reliance on those around them for support.

In recognition of the new duties for local authorities, Welsh Government had funded the Golden Thread Advocacy Programme (GTAP) to support local authorities with the commissioning of IPA services across Wales. The Council had reviewed the range and level of commissioned advocacy services, including informal, peer and independent professional advocates. Consultation had also been undertaken with stakeholders in Bridgend including providers of advocacy services along with other representative bodies.

A stakeholder workshop was facilitated by GTAP in October 2016 with representation from advocacy providers as well as other services that offer representation and support to individuals and groups in the local authority. This was undertaken in line with the new statutory duties for “co-producing” service models with providers, service users and other stakeholders.

The Head of Adult Social Care outlined the work being undertaken to further develop a statutory advocacy response. Invitations to quote for the Pilot Services were issued in December 2016. Three independent providers submitted bids in January 2017 and an evaluation panel had met to agree the successful tenders for each element of the Pilot Scheme and it was planned to commence the Pilot Scheme in March/April 2017. A Steering Group would be convened to oversee the Pilot Scheme and to provide independent evaluation to help form the development of the longer-term service model. Work to review, maintain and further develop advocacy services would be undertaken collectively by the Steering Group in their appraisal and analysis of the Bridgend IPA Pilot Scheme during 2017/18.

The Committee asked if a telephone number was available to access the range of advocacy services. The Committee was advised that the telephone number would be available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

The Committee requested more information regarding funding for the scheme. Members were advised that a budget of £50,000 pressure funding was awarded in the MTFS 2016-17 to 2019-20 and was being used to fund the three distinct elements of the IPA Pilot Scheme. GTAP had been commissioned by Welsh Government to ensure that Local Authorities were supported to look at a model and training needs to ensure they complied with the requirements of the Act. The £50,000 was recurring and within core budgets. The pilot project would determine what funding was required in future.

Members asked what officers were hoping to gain from the 12 month pilot scheme. The Head of Adult Social Care explained that it was not clear what the pilot would demonstrate but it was an opportunity to let the service speak for its self. There would always be a need for specialist services and it was important to develop the service alongside the Act.

A Member asked if there was a risk that meeting its duties for early intervention and preventative approaches might slow down the process. The Head of Adult Social Care explained that the duties for early intervention were part of the Act and this was not a sprint but something to work towards. Services were developing all the time and this was a focus on prevention and intervention. Members asked for an update on the outcome of the Advocacy Pilot Scheme to come back to the Adult Social Care Committee once the pilot had been completed.

**Conclusions:**

Members thanked Officers for the report and update in developing the provision of Independent Professional Advocacy Services throughout the Council's ongoing remodelling plans.

Members asked for an update on the outcome of the Advocacy Pilot Scheme to come back to the Adult Social Care Committee once the pilot had been completed. The Scrutiny Officer confirmed that this would be placed on the Annual Forward Work Programme for Adult Social Care.

84. **URGENT ITEMS**

None

85. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor N Farr declared a personal interest in agenda items 5 and 6 as she is a social worker in adult social care for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.