

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH & WELLBEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2015 AT 10.00 AM

Present

Councillor PA Davies –Chairperson

M Butcher	N Clarke	EM Hughes	PN John
CL Jones	JE Lewis	DG Owen	M Thomas
HJ Townsend	E Venables	HM Williams	R Williams

Officers:

Gail Jewell	Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny
Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer – Committees
Sarah Daniel	Democratic Services Officer – Committees

Invitees:

Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Avril Bracey	Group Manager - Mental Health
Mark Wilkinson	Group Manager – Learning Disability
Rebecca Hamner	Occupational Therapist, Older People Mental Health, ABMU
Cllr Lyn Morgan	Cabinet Member - Wellbeing

153. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following members and Officers for the reasons so stated:

Sue Cooper –Unwell

154. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following interests were declared:

Councillor H Townsend, Councillor C Jones and Councillor M Butcher declared a personal interest in item 5 as they have family members which are service users

155. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOVLED: That the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 February 2015 were approved as a true and accurate record

156. DEMENTIA STRATEGY AND DELIVERY PLAN 2015-2018

The Head of Adult Social Care made an initial introduction on the report following which the Group Manager – Mental Health provided the Committee with an update on the draft Dementia Strategy and Delivery Plan 2015-18. The report is linked to the improvement

priorities in the Corporate Plan. She explained that the delivery plan is taking a collaborative and integrated approach to planning, commissioning and delivery of services and key elements to successfully take forward the Authority's intentions and commitments.

She explained that some of the key drivers of the plan are Demographics and Demand. In order to facilitate choice, control and long-term independence, it is important to explore and invest in a range of preventative and supportive services within the community. It is expected that demand on all health and social care services will grow due to the anticipated demographic changes in Bridgend. She highlighted that work undertaken as part of the Western Bay Collaborative Programme has indicated that Bridgend is predicted to have larger numbers of people with dementia than Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

She highlighted to the Committee the Authority's Dementia Priority areas for 2015-18. Four national priority areas have been identified for improvement which are:

- Improved Service Provision through better joint working across health, social care, third sector and other agencies;
- Improved early diagnosis and timely interventions;
- Improved access to better information and support with people with the illness and their carers, including greater awareness of the need for advocacy;
- Improved training for those delivering care, including research

These priorities will be consulted on and a delivery plan put in place. In addition to the four priority areas above, the joint working project team have identified that improved accommodation is another key local priority in Bridgend, particularly for a provision for younger adults. She explained that recognising the signs and getting an early diagnosis, particularly in younger adults is an issue, as the deterioration in younger adults is much quicker than in older people.

She continued to explain that if diagnosed early enough, generally all people can live well with dementia and do not have to be placed in a nursing home. Once a patient has a diagnosis the priority is putting in place a care plan so they are able to be treated in the comfort and familiar surroundings of their own home.

She reassured the Committee that the Authority is committed and passionate to the Dementia Strategy and Delivery Plan and remains a high priority for them.

A member asked if there was an issue in the Borough with patients having to stay in hospital to be cared for once diagnosed. The Occupational Therapist for Mental Health told the Committee that big investment has been made into getting people home as soon as possible with the relevant care plan under the care and repair initiative.

A member asked what steps are in place for early intervention and diagnosis. The Group Manager – Mental Health told the Committee that raising awareness and publicity campaigns, such as Dementia Friends is key to early intervention; Spreading awareness amongst family, friends, social workers and GPs so patients are referred as soon as possible which is important for an early diagnosis. She explained that Dementia Coordinators will be in contact with GPs to discuss the Strategy and Delivery Plan.

A member asked if Medical professionals are able to easily detect Dementia and if it is easily predicted. The Occupational Therapist for Mental Health explained that there are a number of tests undertaken to detect and diagnose Dementia such as blood tests and CT Scans.

A Member asked how the Authority intend on reaching people to provide an early intervention. The Group Manager – Mental Health explained that the public are in a key position; banks, shops and public transport could be made aware that they are able to make a referral if they have a concern about a member of their local community.

A member asked if there had been any research into drug and alcohol misuse during pregnancy and if this could be a cause for the higher levels of Dementia. The Head of Adult Social Care told the Committee there has been lots of research conducted into Alcohol misuse and Dementia and undertook to provide the Committee with research on alcohol and drug misuse during pregnancy.

Members asked who would be undertaking the consultation on the draft Strategy and Delivery Plan. The Group Manager – Mental Health informed the Committee that the Consultation would be undertaken using the Corporate Toolkit, with Local Groups, Partners, Community Groups and the Project Team before being presented back to Cabinet.

A member asked if the patients that are being diagnosed with Dementia in Wales are being given access to the same drugs that are prescribed in England. The Occupational Therapist for Mental Health explained that Wales are using the latest drugs that are available for all patients and that a combination of drugs and long term care plans are drawn up for each patient in partnership with family and social workers.

A member referred to appendix 1 of the report highlighting that 40,000 younger people (under the age of 65) in the UK have early-onset Dementia and queried how the Authority going to educate younger people and their peers. The Group Manager – Mental Health told the Committee that awareness starts in schools and that going into schools to raise knowledge and awareness is also part of the plan. Schools have already have Health and Wellbeing on their curriculum. A member informed the Committee that the curriculum is currently under review and informed members and officers that they are able to feed into it.

A member asked if there was any new funding available to deliver the Dementia Strategy and Delivery Plan. The Head of Adult Social Care informed members that no new funding has been made available but the remodelling of services will free up money in order to deliver the strategy.

Conclusions:

- With reference to the reasons for the prediction of larger numbers of people with dementia in Bridgend than Neath Port Talbot and Swansea, Members queried the explanation provided at 3.7.4. The paragraph states that population forecasts indicate that Bridgend will have a greater proportion of its population in the higher age bands, particularly in the 75 plus and 80-84 categories, but the table provided does not support this. Therefore Members continue to query the reasoning behind the expectation;
- In relation to the priority 'Improved early diagnosis and timely interventions' Members highlighted the need to train GP's and the medical profession in the diagnosis as soon as possible, or at least be able to signpost the individual to the appropriate specialist;
- The Committee recommended that Officers take the opportunity to feed into the Welsh Government Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales specifically in relation to raising awareness in Dementia;

- Members noted that all ABMU staff were required to attend mandatory training on Dementia and suggest that Bridgend Council take the same approach.

Additional Information

- Members noted that Korsakoff's syndrome was associated with heavy alcohol consumption over a long period and asked to be provided with any research linking Dementia with taking prescribed drugs or consuming alcohol during pregnancy;
- Members note the statistics showing the number of referrals in Bridgend for alcohol misuse for 2012/13 and requested more recent figures be provided.

157. PREVENTION, WELLBEING AND LOCAL COMMUNITY COORDINATION

The Group Manager of Learning Disability provided the Committee with a report on the Prevention and Wellbeing work being developed to support the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the work to develop Local Community Coordination (LCC) in Bridgend

He outlined and gave details on the key themes of the act which are:

- Population assessments
- Prevention
- Social Enterprises
- Information, Advice and assistance
- Regional Response

The Group Manager of Learning Disability told the Committee a Prevention and Wellbeing Board has been convened, chaired by the Head of Service for Adult Social Care. The Group is overseeing the production of a Prevention and Wellbeing Strategy which is now in draft and will be going out for consultation in May 2015.

A member referred to appendix 3 of the plan and asked where the location on the development of two housing projects would be. The Group Manager for Learning Disability told the Committee that land had been identified in Brackla for the first development and that they are still trying to identify land for the second development. Both projects are still at the design stage and are yet to go through the relevant planning application procedures.

A member asked the Committee for an update on the Bicycle Up-cycling Project. The Group Manager informed the Committee that the project is still in the early stages of Development and is currently based at the skills centre on Brackla Industrial Estate, as the funding for the project at Heronsbridge came to an end.

A member stated that a report had been presented to the Community Renewal and Environment Committee where a budget saving of £134,000 was linked to B Leaf and Wood B Projects - learning disability service work related projects - but no report had been received by the Health and Wellbeing Committee showing this saving. The Group Manager for Learning Disability informed the Committee that these projects would be integrated with a not for profit social enterprise and that half the budget saving had been achieved through a staff restructure.

A Member asked for more information regarding the Memory Walk in the Llynfi Valley. The Group manager for Learning Disability told the Committee that the project is due to start in May with plans to roll out to the whole Borough if successful.

A member asked if the Ambulance Service had been contacted to comment on the consultation to develop Local Community Coordinators. The Group Manager for Learning Disability said they had not been contacted but would look into the reasons why not.

A member referred to the Self- Assessment Tool at Appendix 1 and asked for more of an explanation on why and how it will be used. The Group Manager for Learning Disability explained that it is a self -assessment tool for each local Authority to complete, which is required by Welsh Government. Once completed it is submitted to Western Bay which they will then submit nationally. He also explained that the outcomes recorded from the assessment are fed into the implementation plan.

Conclusions:

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

- Members support the further development of the work and training opportunities for B Leaf and Wood B by being included into a social enterprise, but still have concerns regarding savings of £134,000;
- Members welcomed the report, in particular the work of the Local Community Co-ordinators (LCCs) and embraced the possibility of more LCCs being spread across other communities within the borough;
- In relation to the consultation that was mentioned in 4.16 of the report, which has commenced with colleagues in the voluntary sector, a Member enquired why the ambulance service was not included.

Additional Information

- In relation to the two housing developments as referred to in Appendix 3 of the report, Members requested to be provided with the proposed location of the self-contained apartments

158. SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORTING FRAMEWORK - NOMINATIONS FOR JOINT RESEARCH AND EVALUATION PANEL

The Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny presented the report and asked the Committee to appoint Members to sit on the joint Research and Evaluation panel for the Social Services Annual Reporting Framework.

Conclusions:

The Committee received nominations and appointed the following Members to sit on the above Research and Evaluation Panel:

Chair of Adult Social Care
Councillor E Venables
Councillor J E Lewis
Councillor P A Davies

159. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

HEALTH & WELLBEING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2015

The Committee noted the items to be considered at its meeting scheduled for the first meeting after the Annual Meeting.

Additional Information

- Members requested that the new remit for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees be circulated

The meeting closed at 12:40pm