

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH, CARE AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON WEDNESDAY, 1 AUGUST 2018

PRESENT

County Councillors G I S Williams, J Charlton, S C Davies, J Gibson-Watt, H Hulme, A Jenner, E Jones, J Williams, R Powell and E Vaughan

In attendance:

County Councillor R Powell (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)
S Davies (Senior Partnership Manager), E Patterson (Scrutiny Officer)

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors D E Davies, S Lewis, C Mills, G Morgan, K M Roberts-Jones, D Rowlands, A Williams and J M Williams

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors D Davies, S Lewis, C Mills, P Pritchard, K Roberts-Jones, D Rowlands, A Williams and M Williams.

In attendance:

County Councillor R Powell (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)
S Davies (Senior Partnership Manager), E Patterson (Scrutiny Officer)

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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No declarations of interest were received.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIPS
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No declarations of party whips were received.

4.	MINUTES
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 12th June 2018 and 21st June 2018 as a correct record.

5.	ACCESS TO INFORMATION
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RESOLVED to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under category 3 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).

6.	INTEGRATED FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE
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Documents:

- Draft Cabinet Report on Developing an Integrated Family Support Service for Powys
- Outline Business Case and Options Appraisal for Developing and Integrated Family Support Service for Powys – v 6
- Situation summary and medium – long term opportunities for commissioning services for children and young people

Scrutiny observations for submission to Cabinet

- Whilst the Outline Business Case and situation summary were made available to scrutiny in good time the Cabinet Report was only provided one day before the meeting and the Impact Assessment had yet to be completed. Whilst it is appreciated that this item is to be considered at Cabinet on 18th September it had been intended to take this item to Cabinet in July and therefore it would be expected that these documents would have been readily available
- The Senior Partnership Manager and Portfolio Holder were able to provide detailed updates throughout the report and it is essential that this information is contained within the report so that the reasons for the recommendations can be understood.
- In particular the following matters need to be addressed:

Case for Change

- The case for change is made based on statutory requirements under the Social Services and Well-Being Act, the findings of the CIW Inspection and a need to tackle adverse childhood experiences. However, no analysis of demand for certain types of support is included and no analysis of any trends in this demand which may indicate that more or less of certain types of support may be needed in different parts of the county

Service Design

- A list of proposed family support services is included at Figure 3 but there is no evidence provided of the success of these interventions to justify the proposals. It was explained that there will be seamless transition between current provision and proposed provision with the existing providers on contracts which have been extended to March 2019 to tie in with any new contract starting in April 2019. It is not clear however from the current performance how successful the current provision of early intervention services is given the continued increase in numbers of Looked After Children

Resources

- This section is incomplete and it was not possible during the meeting to ascertain how much resource was available from Children's Services or the Health Board.

- It appears a large amount of the funding is accessed from recurring grants. Whilst it appears this has been the case for some years and the service build in break clauses when letting contracts in case the grant is not forthcoming this nevertheless is flagged as a risk to the authority.
- The list of resources includes the Families First Grant of £328,614. This is also included in the sister report on the Integrated Youth Services and clarity is needed to ensure that this grant is not effectively 'counted twice'.
- The list of resources includes a sum of £200,000 sourced from the Children's Services Improvement Revenue budget but identified as 'not currently signed off'. It is not clear if or for how long this funding is available and attention is drawn to this risk.
- The business case needs to be clear as to whether it is intending to provide a service within a financial envelope or whether it is needs led which will necessitate drawing on council resources depending on the level of need which presents. This links to the necessity of designing a service for which there is evidence it is addressing the needs that are presented and can demonstrate measurable improvement.

Options Appraisal and Recommendations

- It is not clear from the report how the ranking has been applied. For example a threat identified for a Strategic Partnership was noted as a 'limited market of providers willing or able to become partners' with the rationale for a Strategic Partnership given as 'Strategic Partner to bring additional resource to Powys and bring skill and expertise'. The meeting revealed there are interested partners and consideration may be given to amending the proposed strategic partnership to enable some smaller local providers to be able to tender for discrete parts of the contract. This fits with the expectation within Vision 2025 that there will be an increase in revenue spend with Powys based suppliers and providers. This needs to be clearly articulated within the Outline Business Case.
- One of the weaknesses identified for the Strategic Partnership was governance. It was explained that the Partnership would be monitored by the CYPP Management Team and Start Well Board. Consideration should be given as to the appropriate place for monitoring performance of this partnership at Member level. Given the impact the work of this partnership intends to have on statutory services it is essential that performance of the partnership is monitored at a level that assures the authority that the funding provided is having the outcomes expected. Detail of the governance arrangements need to be included within the report.

Next steps

- The timeframe is incorrect and requires amendment to reflect appropriate deadlines leading to the commencement of the Strategic Partnership in April 2019. Assurances were given that the deadline of April 2019 was achievable despite the inaccurate dates included in this section
- Assurance is sought that the service has sufficient capacity to be able to take this business case forward to meet these timescales.

Impact Assessment

- This had not been completed and will need to be undertaken before the Outline Business Case is submitted to Cabinet.

Recommendation:

- **That the Portfolio Holder have regard to the above observations and amend the Outline Business Case and Cabinet Report on the Integrated Family Service to address such observations.**

In addition, the Senior Partnership Officer confirmed she would provide Members with the current number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training.

Concern was also expressed that whilst Welsh Government are encouraging greater use of pooled budgets progress on this will be delayed until a decision is made on the design of this service.

7.	INTEGRATED YOUTH SUPPORT AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING SERVICE FOR POWYS
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Documents:

- Draft Cabinet Report on Developing an Integrated Youth Support and Well-Being Service for Powys
- Outline Business Case and Options Appraisal for Developing and Integrated Youth Support and Well-Being Service for Powys – v 6
- School based universal mental wellbeing interventions for children aged 10-18
- Together for Children and Young People – Best Practice Guide of interventions in Wales to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Public Health Wales Evidence Summary – Mental well-being among children and young people

Scrutiny observations to Cabinet

- Whilst the Outline Business Case and situation summary were made available to scrutiny in good time the Cabinet Report was only provided one day before the meeting and the Impact Assessment had yet to be completed. Whilst it is appreciated that this item is to be considered at Cabinet on 18th September it had been intended to take this item to Cabinet in July and therefore it would be expected that these documents would have been readily available
- The Senior Partnership Manager and Portfolio Holder were able to provide detailed updates throughout the report and it is essential that this information is contained within the report so that the reasons for the recommendations can be understood.
- In particular the following matters need to be addressed:

Case for Change

- The case for change is made based on statutory requirements under the Social Services and Well-Being Act, the findings of the CIW Inspection, a need to tackle adverse childhood experiences, the curriculum for Wales and Together for Children and Young People. However, no evidence of demand (volume or type of service needed) and demand trends is included which would help define what service is required.

Service Design

- This section appears to be lacking narrative when compared to the sister report on the Integrated Family Support Service. Figure 3 outlines proposed service offers and whilst supporting documents embedded at the end of the paper assess the effectiveness of interventions no detail is provided regarding which interventions it is proposed to use, and some of the schemes evaluated relate to primary school age children which are not the target age group of this proposed service.

Resources

- This section is incomplete and it was not possible during the meeting to ascertain how much resource was available from Children's Services or the Health Board.
- It appears a large amount of the funding is accessed from recurring grants. Whilst it appears this has been the case for some years and the service build in break clauses when letting contracts in case the grant is not forthcoming this nevertheless is flagged as a risk to the authority.
- The list of resources includes the Families First Grant of £328,614. This is also included in the sister report on the Integrated Youth Services and clarity is needed to ensure that this grant is not effectively 'counted twice'.
- The list of resources includes a sum of £200,000 sourced from the Children's Services Improvement Revenue budget but identified as 'not currently signed off'. It is not clear if or for how long this funding is available and attention is drawn to this risk.
- The business case needs to be clear as to whether it is intending to provide a service within a financial envelope or whether it is needs led which will necessitate drawing on council resources depending on the level of need which presents. This links to the necessity of designing a service for which there is evidence it is addressing the needs that are presented and can demonstrate measurable improvement.

Options Appraisal and Recommendations

- It is not clear from the report how the ranking has been applied. The detail within the SWOT analysis is broadly the same as that in the sister report on Integrated Family Support Services and appears to be written from the perspective of the Family Service. For example threats identified under the 'in-house' option are identified as 'adverse response from the wider third sector...', TUPE of existing staff in providing partner...., tight timescale for transfer of staff'. However, it was explained in the meeting that this service is

largely provided 'in-house' and thus these threats are incorrect. This reports needs to clearly address this difference.

- The overall option ranking is different from the other report and the reasons for this need to be clearly articulated. It was explained in the meeting that at present Family Support is largely commissioned and Youth Support is largely in-house which makes it easier for the Youth Support to remain in-house. If this is the reasoning behind the different conclusions drawn in the two reports then this needs to be clearly explained.
- If the recommendation that this service remains in-house are approved this will require different governance arrangements and these need to be included within the report.

Next steps

- The timeframe in incorrect and requires amendment to reflect appropriate deadlines leading to the commencement of the new delivery arrangements in December 2018. Assurances were given that the deadline of December 2018 was achievable.
- Assurance is sought that the service has sufficient capacity to be able to take this business case forward to meet these timescales.

Impact Assessment

- This had not been completed and will need to be undertaken before the Outline Business Case is submitted to Cabinet.

Recommendation:

- **That the Portfolio Holder have regard to the above observations and amend the Outline Business Case and Cabinet Report on the Integrated Youth Support and Emotional Well-Being Service to address such observations.**

8.	WORK PROGRAMME
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The next meeting of Health, Care and Housing Scrutiny will take place on 12th September 2018.

9.	CORRESPONDENCE
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No urgent items of correspondence had been received.

County Councillor Gwilym Williams