

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY, 24 FEBRUARY
2020**

PRESENT

County Councillors G I S Williams (Chair), J Charlton, D E Davies, S M Hayes, E Jones, G Morgan, L Rijnenberg, K M Roberts-Jones, D Rowlands, A Williams and J M Williams

Cabinet Portfolio Holders In Attendance: R Powell

Officers: Alison Bulman, Corporate Director, Children's and Adults, Sali Campbell-Tate, Project Manager, North Powys Wellbeing programme, Jo Harris, Senior Partnership Manager, Dylan Owen, Head of Commissioning, Jackie Pugh, Finance Manager, Karen Sharp, Senior Manager, Early Help and Assessment and Phil Stasiw, Communications, Engagement Specialist

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors A Jenner, S McNicholas, R Williams and MC Alexander

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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There were no declarations of interest.

3.	DISCLOSURE OF PARTY WHIPS
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There were no disclosures of party whips.

4.	MINUTES
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Documents:

- Notes of meetings held on 13 and 27 January 2020

Discussion:

- There was some confusion regarding statements made in the minutes of the budget meeting of 27 January 2020. A revised form of words would be drafted with the Corporate Director (Children's and Adults)

Outcomes:

- **The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of meetings on 13 and 27 January 2020 as correct records**

Members were concerned regarding the extensive agenda and how effectively it could be scrutinized. It was suggested that any agenda should be limited to two or three substantive items otherwise appropriate scrutiny could not take place.

The Chair reported that he had raised the issue with the Co-ordinating Committee.

5. NORTH POWYS PROJECT - MODEL OF CARE

Documents:

- Report of the Corporate Director (Children and Adults)
- North Powys Wellbeing Programme – Model of Care
- Impact Assessment

Discussion:

- A high level, extensive consultation with the public, staff and wider stakeholders had been carried out
- The next steps of the programme would see a more detailed design of the Model of Care developed
- The Model would be the delivery vehicle for the joint Health and Care Strategy approved in 2017.
- A key focus of the programme is around delivering care closer to residents' homes and aims to keep residents as independent as possible for as long as possible
- There had been concern via engagement feedback that dementia did not have a section of its own, but it was considered under the wider issue of mental health
- Similar issues had been raised regarding younger disabled adults – the view is that the Model covers Start Well, Live Well and Age Well and single groups should not be singled out at this stage
- There had been criticism that the Model was too medicalised – the language had been adjusted but it was not possible to remove all medical terms
- The Citizens' Pledge had been revised to soften the language regarding expectations of citizens
- The Project Manager was asked whether a desk top exercise had been carried out, the validity of the exercise and how many residents had been engaged in the process – engagement reports have been completed and were available to any Member
- The programme was ambitious and the level of risk was also questioned, for example whether it would be possible to recruit an adequate workforce etc – a risk register was in place behind the programme with workforce being one of the greatest risks. Workforce issues would become more apparent as a more detailed case is prepared and would be supported by a Workforce Strategy and plan. The right resources need to be in place to deliver better outcomes. Demand may also change if the prevention and wellbeing programme is effective.
- The programme intends to develop a campus approach incorporating education, housing etc
- The medicalisation of the Model was also a cause of concern. Within the document people are viewed as 'patients' which was not thought to be appropriate in a high-level document.
- The components of the Model are not described on an equal basis

- The Health and Care Strategy underpins the programme and the proposal must not be seen as provision of new medical facilities in Newtown
- Some elements were not mentioned at all
- It would be necessary to engage with all residents and ensure that there was awareness that the project was not exclusively for Newtown
- A bid for capital funding for site development would be made to the Welsh Government
- There is the potential for savings to be made and for the project to be delivered within the existing revenue budget. In time, the programme will influence demand as early intervention and wellbeing increases. There could also be a change to the type of services commissioned, for example less residential care or more technology enabled care to drive independent living.
- More emphasis should be given to other partners – it currently appeared as though the project was a joint arrangement between the Authority and PtHB but the 3rd sector was crucial. Communities need to be aware of all bodies involved.
- The Corporate Director indicated that the Model of Care was only part of the issue. Detailed design work would be the next stage. A broader update of the project should be provided to Members.
- The Engagement, Communications Specialist briefed Members on the level of engagement that had taken place. This began in June in Llanidloes and Newtown. Schools were also involved at an early stage. Communities were asked what helped them to keep safe and well in their own homes. Every library, apart from Montgomery, held an engagement session. Three hundred people attended these sessions and 1600 comments were received. Qualitative comments were received around transport, affordable housing, access to services out of county and mental health services. In the Autumn an engagement report was produced and published and was available at powys.wellbeing.wales. The second phase took place during December and January when comments received were shared. A survey was conducted on social media. The next stage is to produce a plan on a page.
- It was noted that there were proposed new builds at Cedewain and Brynllwarch Schools and it was asked if these schools had been consulted with. PAVO had undertaken consultation with Brynllwarch before Christmas. All town and community councils had been emailed with details of sessions. The same email had been sent to all Councillors in the north. Shaw Healthcare, day centres and residential homes had also been included. Further work could be undertaken with private businesses and with Care and Repair and domiciliary care providers.
- Transformation funding had been provided to support the project
- There seemed to be some contradictions – for example the Model indicates that children will be supported to achieve their full potential at school but at the same time, some schools were looking at redundancies. How can the ambition of the project be communicated to communities? A culture change was needed. The aim was to campaign as much as possible now to build a narrative around what is already happening.
- It was suggested that reasons were needed to enhance the recommendation given in the report. The Model will eventually be used across Powys but there is a significant reliance on citizens response.

Austerity remains an issue and services are heavily reliant on goodwill and voluntary activity. Is it realistic to expect the project to be delivered?

- Further integration was needed, and a multi-agency approach would be beneficial for outcomes
- Identifying the demographic of participants was challenging. Surveys asked for resident's age etc but very few, for example, complete the earnings question.
- Members were supportive of the programme but asked that the recommendation be strengthened.

Outcomes:

- **The Health and Care Scrutiny Committee retain concerns regarding the medicalised model and primacy given to medical services included. The Committee would like to see a more positive attitude to in reach communities in the region. The Scrutiny Committee approves the model of care for more detailed design to focus on prevention, education and future support across Powys.**
- **The reason for this recommendation is to allow further discussion to take place between principal partners and encourage a change in culture in order to deliver the project**
- **Town and Community Councils to be reminded of the consultation process**

6.	PERFORMANCE REPORTS
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6.1. Adults' Performance Report - December 2019

Documents:

- Adult Services Performance report as at 31 December 2019

Discussion:

- The service was in a good budget position and was projecting a balanced budget at year end
- Delayed transfers of care were significantly lower
- The use of technology enabled care continued to increase
- Ask Sara, a virtual OT service, was due to be launched imminently
- Pressures remain:
 - Winter pressures – although the Welsh Government provides some funding, this will end at the end of March but the associated pressures may continue into the new financial year
 - Domiciliary care – the service continues to try to reshape demand
 - Residential Care – there had been a spike in residential care which has continued into January. Although fewer residents are being admitted, numbers remain high
- Members raised concerns regarding end of life care and asked that a representative of the Health Authority be invited to a future meeting to discuss the issue
- The recent flooding had caused concerns for both service users and carers. There had been significant challenges during the past week and the communities had also been very responsive in assisting where necessary. The Committee asked that a letter of thanks be sent.

- Once the initial crisis has been dealt with, Members asked if there was sufficient capacity to support affected residents in the coming weeks
- Commissioning – there had been an increase in individual costs which were concerning and a risk. The Committee asked how this was being dealt with. The Head of Commissioning informed the meeting that a fair cost of care exercise had been completed in conjunction with care homes and an agreement had been reached regarding the cost of care. As Members were aware, no uplift had been provided for 2019/20 but this agreement will be renegotiated for the forthcoming financial year. Care homes had had to absorb the costs of increases in inflation and the living wage.
- Supported employment – the report indicated that the Disability Team was under stress through supporting employment. Reviews for supporting employment had been prioritized leading to pressures elsewhere. However, the review had been completed and supported living provision was working in a holistic way in each area.
- Agency staff – there had been an increase in agency workers although the number remained lower than it had been. Winter pressures funding had enabled a team to be created in hospital settings. This will finish at the end of March when the funding ceases.
- Concern was raised regarding the number of residents being discharged from hospital into residential care. Whilst this had had a positive impact on the number of delayed transfers of care, it was thought that this may not be the most appropriate model of care. Discharging to a residential home can be a good step-down model if it is supported in the right way. If a client needs domiciliary care for the first time, there are challenges regarding availability, but an existing client should have arrangements in place. Step-down beds should only be used for a maximum of six weeks and can assist with reablement etc. Glan Irfon has been able to provide more therapies with increased winter pressure funding.
- The Committee asked if plans were in place to deal with corona virus if necessary. Plans were in place with the Health Board and the Corporate Director has been appointed to a national body to represent social care.

Outcomes:

- **The Chair would send a letter showing the Committee's appreciation of work undertaken during recent flooding**

6.2. Children's Services Performance Report - December 2019

Documents:

- Children's Services Performance report as at 31 December 2019

Discussion:

- WCCIS has been a cause for concern as staff have not been able to access the necessary systems. This has been escalated and is being dealt with.
- The adverse weather has also presented challenges
- Seven Child Protection Enquiries had not been completed in time – this represented three families and it had not been possible to conclude enquiries without legal advice
- No assessments were outstanding as at 24 February 2020

- The number of starters and leavers did not include agency staff. Officers were asked if the reasons for leaving were available. There had been a spike in starters in July when the new staffing structure had been introduced. A new recruitment campaign is being launched in the north of the county. All leavers have an exit interview and the Corporate Director is provided with a monthly report
- In November there were 42 agency staff in place. This has reduced to 34. A supplementary payment will be offered to recruit to some hard to fill posts. This follows on from scrutiny work relating to pay comparisons.
- A new interactive report was available regarding children's placements. This would be demonstrated to the working Group. The number of out of county placements had reduced to 58 in December from 82.
- There were 237 Children Looked After
- The Committee asked where fostering and adoption statistics were reported. Corporate Parenting Group received details of fostering arrangements, but adoption was considered on a regional basis. The Portfolio Holder had requested more information and this report will be shared with the Committee.

Outcomes:

- **New interactive reporting would be presented to the Children's Services Working Group**

7.	FINANCE
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Documents:

- Financial Overview and Forecast as at 31 January 2020

Discussion:

- The costs of storm Dennis may impact upon the social care budget.
- Members were of the opinion that such events should be met from reserves

Outcomes:

- **The report was noted**

8.	INTEGRATED EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND SOUTH SUPPORT UPDATE
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Documents:

- Report of the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture

Discussion:

- The Portfolio Holder provided an update on the Integrated and Emotional Health and Wellbeing and Youth Support Workstream that sits under the Start Well Board
- The aim is to avoid escalation and crises
- This programme covers the age group 0 to 25 years
- Members questioned whether recruitment was a risk to the project – a permanent Psychologist has been appointed jointly with the Health Board.

Funding has allowed resources to be increased by increasing the hours of existing staff.

- Integrated working

Outcomes:

- **The report was noted**

9. CHILDREN FIRST PROJECT

Documents:

- Report of the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture

Discussion:

- Newtown Together is a Children First Project designed to improve opportunities and reduce deprivation and need
- This project mirrors the Flying Start programme
- The project will be replicated in Welshpool but will be shaped by the community
- Evaluation is being built in
- Case studies and videos are being prepared which will be available to Members in due course
- Members asked how involved GPs were - GPs tend to refer to more specialised agencies. In this instance, the residents need to accept any support.
- The project provides another strand of community based early intervention and prevention
- The project is funded to the end of 2021. Other funding has been attracted. As the work has stemmed from the community, it is hoped that this will be continued beyond 2021.

Outcomes:

- **The report was noted**

10. QUALITY ASSURANCE

This item was withdrawn.

11. MID WALES GROWTH DEAL - JOINT SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED that County Councillor J Charlton be appointed as the Committee's representative on the Mid Wales Growth Deal Joint Working Group.

12. WORKING GROUPS - SUMMARY REPORTS

12.1. Adult Services Working Group

Documents:

- Scrutiny summary report – Adult Services Working Group

Outcomes:

- **The report was noted**

12.2. Children's Services Working Group

Documents:

- Scrutiny summary report – Children's Services Working Group

Outcomes:

- **The report was noted**

13. WORK PROGRAMME

Documents:

- Forward work programme 2020

Outcomes:

- **The following items to be added to the work programme**
 - **End of Life Care – representative of the Health Board to be invited to attend**
 - **Capital investment for north Powys community hospitals – a representative of the Health Board to be invited to attend**
 - **Adoption and Fostering recording**
 - **Dementia Friendly authority - update**

County Councillor G I S Williams (Chair)