

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Working Group with representatives of Audit Committee – 12 March 2018
Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet on: Section 33 Care Home Accommodation Functions (due to be considered by Cabinet 27 March 2018)

The Group made the following observations to Cabinet/Management Team in respect of the draft Cabinet Report Section 33 Care Home Accommodation Functions:

- The Group welcomes the move towards pooled budgets for residential care and acknowledge that this is a first step in a move towards integrated commissioning
- The Group supports that Powys County Council assumes the lead agency role and note that a Fund Manager will be appointed and eventually paid for, through efficiencies in the Pooled Fund
- It is essential that democratic accountability and the role of scrutiny be clarified - this will become even more relevant as the project moves towards joint commissioning.
- The Section 33 agreement must define the legal implications of governance - for example which body is financially and legally accountable and where, in this system, does the final accountability lie?
- The governance regarding requirements for additional funding mid-year also needs to be defined – it is recognised that this may not be a major issue in the first year but clarity is required as to how those funds could be challenged in-year if necessary. Again, this will become more relevant as the pooled budget develops into a fully integrated scheme
- Performance measures need to be identified to enable effective monitoring to take place
- Members remained concerned that whilst they were aware of the Regional Partnership Board and Joint Partnership Board, there was little detail available regarding what is considered by the two Boards or what impact either was having. The Boards are far removed from the general membership and consideration should be given as to how they communicate with the wider Membership to enable those Members to fulfil their democratic role.

Membership of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group:

County Councillors J Gibson- Watt, E Durrant, E Jones, G Morgan, G Williams and A Williams

Audit Committee Representatives:

County Councillors J Charlton and K Laurie-Parry