

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet – Powys Health and Care Academy

The Health and Care Scrutiny Committee undertook virtual scrutiny of the Powys Health and Care Academy in the week up to 9 December 2020.

The Committee recognises the need for the proposal and supports the project but make the following observations:

- Within the blueprint, we would have expected to see a timetable for the next stages and a timeframe for implantation of each stage. It would be helpful to see the envisaged implementation timetable so that scrutiny can consider when to request further sight of next stage plans.
- Legal implications – this is not directly answered in the report to cabinet. Going forward this will need further consideration. In particular, once governance and accountability are clear.
- Clarity is needed regarding any risks there might be in delivery against the ICF funded outcome. Funding is only available in the short term and detail of the longer term commitment should be sought. Given long term funding information is not set out in the blueprint - will Powys CC be expected to provide any funding– either in its development or once operational?
- How will success of the Academy be measured? Will there be clear indicators in order to ensure a) quality of learning is delivered, b) that learning impacts quality of care provided by the service and c) that the academy is value for money
- The proposal represents an opportunity to develop a collaborative approach to address future workforce challenges
- This major project underlines how important it is that scrutiny now extends to the decisions/proposals of the Regional Partnership Board and will be actively embraced by the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
- Scrutiny engagement with these proposals should have been offered and facilitated at an earlier stage. It is important that scrutiny continues at every appropriate stage of the project.
- The papers set out clear benefit of the Academy in relation to a health workforce. The benefit to care workforce issues is significantly less clearly

analysed suggesting an imbalance in ambition and perhaps a lesser appetite for collaborative input on the part of the County Council. If this imbalance does exist and is not swiftly addressed, it is likely that potential social care outputs will be significantly underachieved.

- The relation of the Health and Care Academy to the North Powys Regional Rural Centre needs to be presented explicitly in the papers, and should be articulated clearly to Scrutiny and Cabinet
- Proposals have the potential to close the divide between rural and urban education/learning opportunities especially for 16-18 young adults who are not planning on university education at the traditional point in their lives.
- Further detail in respect of governance, both in relation to the project, and in relation to the Academy itself in the long term is required
- We note that in the past Powys has been a leader in aspects of technology. As the Academy develops it should have the flexibility to adapt to changing localised needs, opportunities and risks.
- The Academy should not operate in a silo and must continue to share and draw on best practice and innovation from across Wales and the UK.

Members of the Health Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee: County Councillors A Jenner (Chair), J Gibson-Watt, S Hayes, E Jones, S McNicholas, G Morgan, K Roberts-Jones, D Rowlands, L Rijnenberg, A Williams, R Williams and J M Williams