

**SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**29 MARCH 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at Delyn Committee Room, County Hall, Mold CH7 6NA on Thursday, 29 March 2012

**PRESENT: Councillor Richard Jones (Chairman)**

Councillors David Barratt, Marion Bateman, David Cox, Veronica Gay, Trefor Howorth, Dave Mackie, David McFarlane, Hilary McGuill, Eric Owen and Carolyn Thomas

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Adele Davies-Cooke and Hilary Isherwood.

**CONTRIBUTORS:**

Executive Member for Social Services, Chief Executive, Director of Community Service, Head of Social Services for Adults, Head of Development and Resources, Service Manager and Fieldwork Service Manager

For minute number 91: Jill Galvani, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services; Andrew Jones, Executive Director of Public Health; John Darlington, Assistant Director – Planning; Jackie James, Principal Health Development Specialist and Janet Ellis, Primary and Community Services Programme Manager.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Member Engagement Manager, Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

**90. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

Councillor H.G. McGuill declared an interest in agenda item number 3, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

**91. BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD**

The Chairman welcomed Jill Galvani, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services; Andrew Jones, Executive Director of Public Health; John Darlington, Assistant Director – Planning; Jackie James, Principal Health Development Specialist and Janet Ellis, Primary and Community Services Programme Manager to the meeting who were in attendance to provide presentations on the following areas:-

- Healthcare in North Wales is Changing – update on service reviews
- Locality Developments
- Public Health – Tobacco and Alcohol update

**Update on service reviews**

The Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services gave a presentation which covered the following areas:-

- The Triple Aim
- Case for change – the main messages
- Bringing the threads together
- What questions need to be answered?
- Localities and Community Services
- Paediatric Services
- Maternity, Gynaecology & Neonatal Services
- Non-elective General Surgery
- Trauma and Orthopaedics
- BCU Board position
- Next steps – key areas

In response to a question on junior doctors, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services said that there was a need to address the high level of funding spent on locum doctors. Significant work was being undertaken to provide training opportunities to ensure junior doctors were being drawn to employment opportunities in North Wales. Executive Director of Public Health said that a significant review on junior doctors had been undertaken over the last 18 months.

Councillor H.G. McGuill asked whether there was flexibility to enable nurses to move around departments depending on the needs of the service areas. Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services said that there was flexibility to move staff depending on their confidence in a specific service area. The Unions were largely supportive of this.

In response to questions on future funding and the efficiency programme, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services explained that the capital funding was well utilised. There was a need for the Health Service in Wales to save £70M in 2012/13 and increased drug costs and staff costs together with ringfenced budgets were adding to the financial pressures. An efficiency programme had been produced to enable savings to be met whilst maintaining a high level of service. The Assistant Director – Planning said that in line with the Medium Term Financial Strategy 6% of the budget since 2010 to 2015 had to be identified as savings.

The Chief Executive said that he and others had recently met with the Chair and Acting Chief Executive of the Local Health Board and recognised that there were significant challenges ahead. High level political engagement was key together with collaborative working across North Wales.

The Executive Member for Social Services asked whether the reduction in senior managers had been considered to meet the level of savings required. Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services said that there was a voluntary release scheme for employees but this continued to be a major challenge across the National Health Service.

In responding to questions on changes to the National Health Service, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services explained that the presentation given to the Committee was a bold statement outlining the significant changes which needed to be made to meet the high level of savings required. The Chief Executive was confident that his health service colleagues

would achieve the funding pressures placed upon them through their efficiency programme.

Councillor D. MacFarlane asked if a copy of recommendation of the recent Wales Audit Office (WAO) report could be provided to the Committee. Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services explained that the WAO was a separate report to that of the Welsh Royal College report which provided recommendations on the Health Service. This report was published in the public domain and could be made available to the Committee.

Councillor M. Bateman asked whether there was a need to consider continuing with free prescriptions in Wales. Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services explained that the Health Service, where possible, used local suppliers to ensure best value. The Chief Executive said that there was a need for a review as the cost for free prescriptions was significant.

### Locality Developments

The Director of Community Services and Primary and Community Services Programme Manager gave a presentation which covered the following areas:-

- What are localities
- Locality working
- Model of Care
- North Wales Localities
- Flintshire Localities
- Locality Leadership Team
- Where are Local Services Now
- Where are we up to?
- Key deliverables 2011/12
- Work in progress
- Work to date
- Links with TSSA
- Future work
- Engagement and Inclusion

Councillor H.T. Howorth raised concern around the speed in which some opportunities for co-located health services were progressing. The Chief Executive commented on the development of co-located health and social care teams in Connah's Quay and said that consultation was being carried out with the primary health service to co-locate health and social care teams in Flint as part of the regeneration programme. The Committee would be given the opportunity to consider the future shape of the service.

In response to concerns around meeting the needs of patients once they have been discharged, the Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services reported that an annual survey was carried out to review how the care of out-patients was being met. Copies of that survey could be provided to the Committee.

Councillor E.W. Owen commented on cross border issues and raised concern on patients from Wales having to be treated at the Countess of Chester Hospital. The Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services explained that there was a need for cross border working with hospitals treating specialist conditions based in England. In response to specific cases she said that she would look into these matters following the meeting.

#### Public Health – Tobacco and Alcohol update

The Executive Director of Public Health provided a presentation which covered the following areas:-

- Our healthy future
- Tobacco and Alcohol
- BCUHB Approach
- Local Authority
- Summary
- Director of Public Health Annual Report

In response to a question on Council employees smoking outside Council buildings, the Chief Executive said that banning smoking on the Council campus would be difficult to enforce. There would need to be a progressive approach and this would have to be considered with Unions but was not a change the Council was looking to make in the immediate future.

The Director of Public Health reported that initiatives to stop smoking on hospital campuses had been carried out in conjunction with the Unions and support was provided to employees seeking to stop smoking. The change was introduced following complaints from patients having to walk into the hospital with people smoking near the entrances. Feedback following the introduction of the changes had been positive.

#### Questions from Members

All Members had been given the opportunity to submit questions to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board prior to the meeting. A copy of the questions and the responses given are attached at Appendix 1 of the minutes.

The Chairman thanked Jill Galvani, Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery & Patient Services; Andrew Jones, Executive Director of Public Health; John Darlington, Assistant Director – Planning; Jackie James, Principal Health Development Specialist and Janet Ellis, Primary and Community Services Programme Manager for the presentations and for answering the questions from Members.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the presentations be noted.

**92. FINAL DRAFT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Director of Community Services introduced the final draft of the Social Services Annual Performance Overview report to the Committee to seek any final views and comments before approval by the Executive Member for Social Services.

The final version of the report had been prepared following an in-depth review of current performance by service managers and performance officers and a period of consultation and challenge including a Member Task and Finish Group.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Committee endorse the final draft of the Social Services Annual Performance Overview report for consideration by Executive.

**93. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2011/12**

The Director of Community Services and Head of Social Services for Adults introduced a report to request that the Committee consider the 2011/12 Quarter 3 service performance reports, note the update on the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) contained within the performance reports and note the progress made against the Improvement Target Action Plans contained within the performance reports.

The Director of Community Services and Head of Social Services for Adults gave a short presentation on the performance within each of the service areas, outlining work which had been undertaken to improve performance and areas where improvement was needed, as outlined within each report.

**Social Services for Adults**

Councillor H.G. McGuill raised concern on the Occupational Therapy Service which was not meeting the needs of the service users. She recognised that improvements had been made to the service but said that more work needed to be done around working with voluntary organisations.

The Head of Social Services for Adults explained the process for dealing with Occupational Therapy referrals which were dealt with by a dedicated team which covered three service areas. The Service Manager explained that a lean review had been carried out around the time spent waiting for an assessment and how to improve this. Each year the Council received around 2,000 referrals but a range of improvements were being introduced together with additional resources to improve the service. The lean review also identified areas of expertise and where it was important to have a skills mix within the teams.

The Executive Member for Social Services confirmed that improvements had been made to the service, but acknowledged that additional resources were required to provide further improvements.

In response to comments on working with the voluntary sector, the Head of Social Services for Adults reported that the Council did work with the voluntary sector.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the 2011/12 Quarter 3 performance reports produced by Heads of Service be noted; and
- (b) That feedback on any challenge be provided to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**94. ROTA VISITS**

Councillor D. MacFarlane reported on a visit he had undertaken at Buckley Wood. He reported that this was a wonderful facility but raised concern on two gas fires which had been condemned and were in need of replacing. He also reported that improvements were needed to the bathrooms and asked if these works could be carried out as a matter of urgency.

The Head of Social Services for Adults confirmed that these issues would be addressed through the landlord, Clwyd Alun Housing.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update be received.

**95. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and ended at 5.10 p.m.

**96. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE**

There was one member of the press present.

.....  
**Chairman**