

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
12 JUNE 2014

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, 12 June 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Carol Ellis (Chairman)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Peter Curtis, Andy Dunbobbin, Hilary Isherwood, Stella Jones, Brian Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Hilary McGuill, Ian Smith and David Wisinger

SUBSTITUTES: Councillors: Mike Peers (for Veronica Gay) and Mike Reece (for Cindy Hinds)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cabinet Member for Social Services, Chief Officer (Social Services), Senior Manger Commissioning and Performance, Service Manager Localities, Team Manager Performance, Environment and Social Care Facilitator, and Committee Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

Councillors Hilary McGuill and Dave Mackie declared personal interests in the following item as members of the Community Health Council:-

Agenda Item 5 – Presentation by the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chairman sought nominations for a Vice-Chairman for the Committee.

Councillor David Wisinger nominated Councillor Andy Dunbobbin as Vice-Chair of the Committee and this was duly seconded.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Andy Dunbobbin be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee.

3. MINUTES

(i) The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2014 had been circulated with the agenda.

(ii) The minutes of the joint Lifelong Learning and Social & Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 2 May 2014 had been circulated with the agenda.

Matters arising

Visual Impairment Support to Children and Adults in Flintshire

Councillor Peter Curtis referred to his request to reinstate the Disability Sub Group and expressed his disappointment that no resources were available to enable this to happen.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. PRESENTATION BY THE BETSI CADWALADR UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

The Chair welcomed and introduced Mr. John Darlington, Assistant Director of Planning (BCUHB), and Jon Falcus, Operational Manager, Wrexham Maelor Hospital. She invited them to provide an update on service change/developments and respond to the issues which had been raised by Members in advance of the meeting

Mr. Darlington and Mr. Falcus thanked the Committee for the opportunity to provide an update about key areas of public health practice in the County and gave a brief overview of the structural changes and developments which had taken place in BCUHB.

In response to the question on the removal of services from Flintshire, including Deeside Hospital, Mr. Darlington and Mr. Falcus said they were not aware of any services withdrawn from Flintshire. Mr. Darlington referred to the importance of Deeside Hospital and explained that significant capital development had been made in Deeside to expand the range of services for the area and population. Mr. Falcus commented on the work being undertaken to re-establish links with the Authority's Social Services department to develop a closer working relationship between Deeside Community Hospital, BCUHB, and the Countess of Chester Hospital.

Mr. Falcus referred to the changes put in place at Deeside Hospital to maintain quality of care and referred to the secondment of a senior charge nurse, and the allocation of an additional 8 beds from May 2014. He also commented on the need to recruit nursing staff as a result of the increase in the number of beds at Deeside Hospital and whilst this had presented a challenge it was anticipated that appointments would be made by September 2014. He advised that since March 2014 a range of measures had been introduced to assess the quality of services delivered in Deeside Hospital and significant improvement had been made in terms of quality of care which should be sustained.

During discussion Mr. Darlington and Mr. Falcus responded to the additional comments and queries raised by Members around the increased pressure on main hospitals due to closure of local cottage/community hospitals, demands of a future ageing population and the new Deeside Enterprise Zone.

Concerning the question on the hearing clinic being discontinued at Deeside Hospital, Mr. Darlington advised that BCUHB continued to provide an

audiology service at Deeside Hospital, however, the Countess of Chester had withdrawn its audiology service from the site.

The Chair expressed congratulations, on behalf of the Committee, to Mr. Darlington and Mr. Falcus, for the recent award received by Deeside hospital.

Concerning the question on cross boundary issues Mr. Darlington commented on the ongoing collaborative work with the Countess of Chester in terms of managerial and clinical matters. Regarding Flintshire residents accessing treatment at Gobowen, Mr. Darlington advised that access to Gobowen was the same for Flintshire areas as elsewhere in North Wales and that all patients in North Wales received the same treatment and standard of care. BCUHB had a contract with Gobowen to provide a range of services and was an important partner in terms of specialised services. Mr. Darlington and Mr. Falcus responded to the further queries raised around patient choice and explained that patient choice was part of the English policy but there was not a policy of choice in Wales. Mr. Falcus highlighted the significant increase in the range of services in local areas and the development of services in Flintshire. He advised that GPs were encouraged to refer patients to Deeside Hospital rather than Countess of Chester.

Referring to Podiatry Services and changes to the clinic arrangements in local centres and hospitals, Members were informed that the changes were a temporary measure and that the Podiatry Services would be moved to the new Buckley Health Centre when completed.

In response to the question concerning a reduced service at Mold Hospital X-Ray department, Mr. Falcus confirmed that the X-Ray service was reduced in April 2013, however, following the purchase of new equipment there are proposals to increase the number of sessions at Mold hospital. Mr. Falcus agreed to provide information to the Committee on the timeline for the commencement and number of sessions.

Concerning Dementia services and the outcome of CSSIW Inspection, Members sought BCUHBs view regarding moving forward on the recommendations within the report to progress Dementia services and the dementia care provision at Mold Cottage Hospital. Mr. Darlington referred to the need for a joint commissioning plan with the Authority and commented on the ongoing work with the Director of Community Services and his Team to develop a joint plan to respond to the recommendations within the CSSIW Report.

The Chief Officer Social Services referred to the many positive outcomes in the CSSIW Inspection Report. He said there were also some areas which required further improvement and that an action plan had been produced to address the recommendations. It was agreed that the Action Plan would be submitted to the meeting of the Committee in September 2014 for consideration.

On the question of recruitment of staff, Mr. Falcus advised that there was a shortfall in nursing staff in England and Wales and said recruitment was also taking place from Europe to fill the vacancies. He also referred to a shortage in medical staff in some areas in a range of specialities. In answer to the comments made by Councillor Peter Curtis regarding retention of staff and use of agency

workers, Mr. Falcus said the objective was to get to a position where agency staff were used as an absolute minimum. Members raised a number of further issues around primary care in relation to recruitment of GPs and NHS dentists and suggested that the Primary Care Support team be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide more detailed information.

Concerning the issue of Infection control which had been raised by Members, Mr. Falcus reported that a review of the infection control services in BCUHB had been undertaken. He referred to the range of structural and governance changes being put in place as a result and advised that infection control in North East Wales was kept under weekly review and if a case was identified a root cause analysis was undertaken. He also gave an overview of the rigorous procedures in place to control Cdiff, and the cleaning regimes in all sites to reduce the risk of infection. During discussion Mr. Falcus responded to the concerns raised by Members regarding hospital visiting times, handwashing, and the wearing of staff uniforms outside hospitals.

It was agreed that Mr. Darlington and Mr. Falcus would provide a detailed consolidated response to the additional issues which had been raised by Members during discussion. The Chair thanked Mr. Darlington and Mr. Falcus for an informative update and responses to Members' questions and welcomed the initiatives and progress achieved to improve the health and well being of residents in Flintshire.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

5. IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/15

The Performance Team Leader gave a short presentation on the draft Improvement Plan 2014/15 and the "How achievement will be measured" document prior to final publication in June 2014. She provided background information and advised that for 2014/15 a review of the current priorities and sub-priorities had been undertaken. She referred to the main considerations in the report and explained that the sub-priorities to be monitored and reviewed by the Committee, as part of the quarterly Improvement Plan monitoring process, were attached as Appendix A to the report. Members were also asked to comment on the targets and milestones proposed for the 2014/15 Improvement Plan.

The Chief Officer (Social Services) gave an update on plans to extend extra care housing in Flintshire. He advised that the Authority had agreed a Social Housing partner to provide units in Flint and Holywell. The Chief Officer explained that one of the options for consideration was to develop extra housing and a primary care resource centre on the same site.

Councillor Hilary McGuill raised concerns around the proposal to create a 'joint site' in Flint by developing an Extra Care unit and a Health Centre on the same site and emphasised the need to "protect" extra care facilities. The Chief Officer acknowledged the concerns raised and gave an assurance that extra care

would not be compromised as a result of a 'joint site' facility and referred to the joint site at Hafan Gwydir, Llanrwst, as an example. It was suggested and agreed that it would be helpful if a site visit was arranged for the Committee to view the facilities at Hafan Gwydir, Llanrwst.

During discussion Members raised further queries around the Intermediate Care Fund. The Senior Manager Commissioning and Performance advised that a range of measures were being implemented to support people out of hospital into care at home. It was suggested that a report be submitted to a meeting of the Committee in six months time to provide more detail around how the Intermediate Care fund was being used.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the draft Improvement Plan 2014/15 and the "How achievement will be measured" document be supported; and
- (b) That a site visit be arranged for the Committee to view the facilities at Hafan Gwydir, Llanrwst.

6. SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Environment and Social Care Facilitator introduced the report to consider the Forward Work Programme of the Committee. She advised that the following items were scheduled for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 3 July 2014:

- Adult Safeguarding
- Emergency Duty Team
- 2013/14 year End and Q4 data
- Improvement Plan Monitoring update
- Chief Officer Performance Report

Councillor Dave Mackie asked that a report on hearing impairment be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Facilitator advised Members that a Forward Work Programme planning session had been arranged to be held on 25 July 2014.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above the Forward Work Programme be agreed.

7. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press and no members of the public in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.30 pm)

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Chairman