

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
13 FEBRUARY 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, 13 February 2014

PRESENT: **Councillor Carol Ellis (Chair)**

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Andy Dunbobbin, Brian Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie, Ian Smith and David Wisinger

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillors Mike Reece for Peter Curtis and Arnold Woolley for Veronica Gay

APOLOGIES: Councillors: Stella Jones and Hilary McGuill

CONTRIBUTORS:

Cabinet Member for Social Services, Director of Community Services, Head of Adults Services. (For minute No. 52) Andrew Jones, Executive Director of Public Health, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), Dr. Sandra Sandham, Director of Dental Public Health, Heather Ramessur-Marsden, Lead Screening Engagement Specialist, Hannah Jones, Screening Engagement Specialist, Marian Jones, North Wales Community Dental Services, Dr. Neil Wigglesworth, Nurse Consultant, Welsh Healthcare Associated Infection Programme Team, Tracey Cooper, Assistant Director of Nursing – Infection Prevention, BCUHB, Jackie James, Principal Health Development Specialist, Karen Chambers, Well Being and Partnership Lead, Flintshire County Council/BCUHB, and Helen Jones, Well Being and Partnership Assistant.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Member Engagement Manager and Committee Officer

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

There were no declarations of interest.

50. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2014 had been circulated with the agenda.

Matters arising

Enhanced Care at Home:

Page 7: The Chairman referred to the comments expressed by Councillors Dave Mackie and Stella Jones in relation to BCUHB discharging patients from hospital to free up beds. She asked for an update on the position in Deeside Hospital and commented that 28 beds had been closed in Flintshire and asked when they would be reopened.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair; and
- (b) That the Member Engagement Manager seeks the information relating to the comments on page 7 from BCUHB.

51. ADDITIONAL ITEM

The Chair announced that she had agreed that the Committee should consider an additional item on the grounds of urgency, as provided for under Section 100 B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The item was concerning consultation on amendment of the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (Wales) Directions 2009.

The Chair invited the Director of Community Services to report on the above consultation by the Welsh Government. The Director advised that responses to the consultation were to be submitted by end of 13 February 2014 and gave an outline of the three main proposals in the consultation document. He explained that he had drafted a response on behalf of the Authority for the Committee's consideration which, if agreed, supported the changes proposed but made the point that commissioning arrangements should be based on local need, supported patient choice, and reflected cross border arrangements and good relationships.

The Committee considered the draft response. Councillor David Wisinger proposed that the draft response be agreed and this was endorsed by the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee endorsed the draft response to the consultation on amendment of the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (Wales) Directions 2009.

52. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

The Chair welcomed Andrew Jones, Executive Director of Public Health, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to the meeting.

Mr. Jones introduced Dr. Sandra Sandham, Director of Dental Public Health, Heather Ramessur-Marsden, Lead Screening Engagement Specialist, Hannah Jones, Screening Engagement Specialist, Marian Jones, North Wales Community Dental Services, Dr. Neil Wigglesworth, Nurse Consultant, Welsh Healthcare Associated Infection Programme Team, Tracey Cooper, Assistant Director of Nursing – Infection Prevention, BCUHB, Jackie James, Principal Health Development Specialist, and Karen Chambers, Well Being and Partnership Lead, Flintshire County Council/BCUHB.

Mr. Jones thanked the Committee for the opportunity to provide an update about key areas of public health practice in the County and in particular concerning:

- Cancer prevention (focus on screening)
- Oral hygiene (including school setting and access to dentists)
- Healthcare Associated Infections (focus on C Difficile and MRSA)
- Current health improvement initiatives involving Flintshire County Council

Heather Ramessur-Marsden, and Hannah Jones gave a presentation on Screening in Flintshire. Members were informed that the Screening Division, Public Health Wales, was charged with managing the following population based national screening programmes across Wales:

- Breast Test Wales
- Cervical Screening Wales
- Bowel Screening Wales
- Wales Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme
- Newborn Hearing Screening Wales
- Newborn Bloodspot Screening Wales
- The Division also hosted the Antenatal Screening Clinical Network (Antenatal Screening Wales)

In response to the comments and concerns expressed by Members around the uptake of screening, specifically bowel and cervical screening programmes, Heather Ramessur-Marsden explained that a number of initiatives were being undertaken to increase uptake and tackle inequity. She said there were many factors, including personal choice, which may deter individuals from participating in screening. She advised that the aim was to enable all eligible people to make an informed decision as to whether or not to engage in screening and that collaborative working with partners was key to achieving the objective.

Dr. Sandra Sandham and Marian Jones provided an overview on oral hygiene in Flintshire and gave a presentation on the following:

- Access to NHS General Dental Practice: Flintshire
- National Oral Health Plan (identified areas of good practice – Flintshire)
- Designed to Smile programme – Flintshire

In response to the comments made by Members, Marian Jones confirmed that all schools in Flintshire were participating in the Designed to Smile programme which aimed to establish good health habits from an early age.

Dr. Neil Wigglesworth and Tracey Cooper gave a presentation on the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections in the BCUHB. They provided an update on progress with infection prevention, including developments in reducing Clostridium difficile infection, the prevention of MRSA, and the actions in place to strengthen Norovirus control measures.

Dr. Wigglesworth provided a brief overview on the work programme to improve antimicrobial prescribing across BCUHB and the actions to achieve required outcomes. Tracey Cooper advised that the Welsh Government and Health Boards and Trusts in Wales had committed to a 'zero tolerance of preventable Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI)'. She referred to the new national targets and large-scale change programme for HCAI reduction which had been introduced by the Welsh Government. She advised that BCUHB was keen to progress with these initiatives to achieve infection prevention and control and ensure patients are protected from avoidable harm and received safe care.

During discussion Members expressed a number of concerns around hospital visiting and the risk of infection, and the levels of staffing for nursing care. The Cabinet Member for Social Services asked if any data was available on the 'Stevens-Johnson syndrome' which can result in overuse of antibiotics amongst the elderly.

Jackie James gave a presentation on Improving Population Health in Flintshire. She provided background information and referred to a range of initiatives which the Council, in its leadership role as an employer and provider of services, continued to be involved in, in partnership with the NHS and third sector organisations, to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for its residents. The main points of the presentation were:

- Babies are born healthy (reducing teenage pregnancy)
- People do not smoke
- Reducing alcohol related harm
- Older people do not fall
- Reducing overweight and obesity, including child obesity

Councillor Marion Bateman referred to the subject of planning applications and cited as an example the issue of fast food or alcohol retail outlets located in close proximity to school premises. Karen Chambers acknowledged the point made and commented on the need to consider how planning decisions could impact on local health and well being. Andrew Jones commented on working with local communities and the need for a community approach and interest in taking responsibility for all aspects of improving the health and well being of the population.

Andrew Jones gave a brief overview of the Annual Report 2013 of the Director of Public Health. He referred to the focus on working age adults with particular emphasis on those aged 30 to 50 years, and on an asset based approach which is an alternative way of thinking about health and wellbeing. He explained that by strengthening the assets in individuals, communities and environments a greater difference could be made to the health and wellbeing of the population. The report looked at assets from three aspects:

- The individual
- The family and community
- Resources for living: financial, natural and built environments

Mr. Jones gave an overview of the key messages in the Report and some suggestions and recommendations for individuals and service providers in North Wales.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Jones and the representatives from Public Health Wales and BCUHB for their detailed and informative presentations and welcomed the initiatives and progress achieved to improve the health and well being of residents in Flintshire.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

53. ROTA VISITS

The Head of Adult Services introduced a report to provide feedback on rota visits completed from September 2013 to start of February 2014. He referred to the visits undertaken to Arosfa, Estuary Crafts, Freshfields, Glanrafon, Marleyfield Day Centre, Melrose Day Centre, North East Wales Community Equipment Service (NEWCES) and Triffordd, and commented on the value of feedback and the actions taken to improve services where necessary.

The Head of Adult Services said that if any Member should require support to carry out their initial rota visits arrangements could be made to assist them in this task. Councillor Andy Dunbobbin asked if he could be provided with training on Rota Visits. The Head of Adult Services said he would ask the Contact Team Manager to coordinate arrangements.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That Members be encouraged to complete all outstanding visits up the end of March 2014; and
- (c) That further updates on rota visits be provided to the Committee at 6 month intervals.

54. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Member Engagement Manager introduced the report to consider the Forward Work Programme of the Committee. He advised that the following items were scheduled for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 20 March 2014:

- Annual Council Reporting Framework
- Improvement Plan Monitoring update
- Annual Fostering Inspection
- Directorate Plan

The Member Engagement Manager sought volunteers to form an Annual Council Reporting Framework Task Group. In response to the request

Councillors Marian Bateman, Dave Mackie, Andy Dunbobbin, Carol Ellis and volunteered to serve on the Group. The Chairman commented that Councillor Hilary McGuill had also previously indicated that she may be willing to serve on such a group.

The Member Engagement Manager advised that the Local Government (Wales) Measure provided a duty to scrutinise other public service bodies. The Welsh Government (WG) had issued draft guidance on which bodies be included and Health was included which was a major change of the previous Welsh Government (WG) stance. However, he cautioned this may not be implemented for a while. In the circumstances, health scrutiny would continue to be carried out using the general powers in S21(2)(e) of the Local Government Act 2000.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That an Annual Council Reporting Framework Task Group be formed by Councillors Marian Bateman, Dave Mackie, Andy Dunbobbin, Carol Ellis and Hilary McGuill.

55. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press or public in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.10 pm)

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Chairman