

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 APRIL 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Friday, 22 April 2016

PRESENT: Councillor Carol Ellis (Chair)

Councillors: Andy Dunbobbin, Dave Mackie, and David Wisinger

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillors Ian Dunbar (for Councillor Ian Smith) and Paul Shotton (for Councillor Mike Lowe)

APOLOGIES: Councillors: David Healey, Hilary Isherwood, Brian Lloyd, and Hilary McGuill

Mr. Rob Gifford, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (Inspector CSSIW)

CONTRIBUTORS:

Cabinet Member for Social Services, Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Social Services), Senior Manager Safeguarding and Commissioning, Senior Manager Children's and Workforce Services, and Senior Manager Integrated Services, Lead Adults, (for minute no.70) Dawn Holt (ADM & TSS Programme Manager), Nick Kenealy (Contract Team Manager) Lyn Hawtin (Community Manager), Peter Regan (Haulfryn Care), Claire Mather (S&S Care UK Limited), Ged Fitzpatrick (Care at Home), Adrian Ward (Care Co. Health Care Limited) Nicola Hopwood-Clarke (Premier Care Plus Limited), and Reena Cartmel (BCUHB)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Social & Health Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Carol Ellis declared a personal interest in the following agenda item as a family member attended Marleyfield House. Councillors Dave Mackie and Paul Shotton also declared a personal interest as members of the Community Health Council.

Agenda item 4 – Residential Care Review

69. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 2016 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.

Matters arising

The Social & Health Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator advised that as soon as the new Children's Services structure was completed the names of offices confirmed in post would be circulated to Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

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

70. CARE SECTOR REPORT

The Chief Executive welcomed the representatives from the Health Board to the meeting. He commented on the changes taking place within the care sector in Wales and England and the subsequent challenges in Flintshire. The Chief Executive referred to the need to for a collaborative approach, working constructively and strategically, to find creative solutions to the challenges with the Welsh Government (WG) and key partners such as the Health Board.

The Chief Executive, gave background information and a joint presentation with the Chief Officer (Social Services) and Senior Manager Safeguarding and Commissioning on the care sector. The main points of the presentation were as follows:

- background (national and local)
- local context
- fragility of the Sector
- immediate cost pressures
- changes coming over the next 5 years
- Flintshire residential care review
- Care Homes in the Independent sector
- a positive approach to Care
- potential solutions
- conclusions

The Chair invited Mr. Ged Fitzpatrick, representative of Flintshire Care providers, to report on the issues concerning maintaining domiciliary care services in Flintshire. Mr. Fitzpatrick reported on the impact of the implementation of the “national living wage”, and increases in national insurance, holiday pay and pensions, and the need to pay travel time for care workers. He welcomed the Flintshire fee increase of 4% but said this gave a 16% shortfall. Mr. Fitzpatrick referred to the loss of quality care provision, the delayed transfer of care, the economic loss in terms of Flintshire jobs and businesses and the issue of recruitment, retention and training of staff. He stated that a third of all providers of domicillary care services were predicted to leave the industry in 2016/17 due to lack of funding. Mr. Fitzpatrick commented on the shared vision of reablement and referred to the need to support people at home for as long as possible. He raised concerns around the issue of delayed assessments.

In concluding his comments Mr. Fitzpatrick emphasised the importance of recognising the valuable role that the small business sector undertakes in providing care to the most vulnerable people in society. He commented on the future demands of an ageing population and on the dilemma faced by current providers to sustain a viable business for the future.

Reena Cartmel, Betsi Cadwaladr Community Health Board representative, acknowledged the need to work together in partnership to find local solutions. She commented on the need to commission a quality service and to determine what services were required with a view to making further efficiencies together. She referred to the comments made by Claire Mather around training requirements across the health and care sector and suggested that the domiciliary care sector and Health could join together to offer training opportunities and support and referred to 'safeguarding' as an example. Referring to school leavers she commented on the need for organisations to find local creative solutions and said that BCUHB were very much 'around the table' with a commitment to work together to find solutions.

Councillor Aaron Shotton commented on the false economy of insufficiently funding social care and emphasised the case for a radical overhaul of the funding formula and said he intended to make representations to get this message across to the Welsh Government.

Councillor David Wisinger expressed concern at the poor attendance at the meeting and added that if Members could not be present they should arrange a substitute. The Chair also expressed her disappointment at the low number of Committee members present and said she intended to follow this up.

Councillor David Wisinger spoke in support of a delegation to the Welsh Government to lobby the case for funding for social care and demonstrate the potential 'crisis' in the independent sector.

Councillor Ian Dunbar raised concerns around the increase cost of fees in residential care homes.

Councillor Paul Shotton commented on the additional financial pressure on care home providers in the private sector due to the increase in the national living wage which was not funded by local government. He said he wished to see greater promotion of the career opportunities in social care in schools and through further education.

In summary the Chief Executive and Chief Officer thanked the representatives from the Independent sector and Health for their attendance and comprehensive input at the meeting. They commented on the need to keep positive dialogue open and to work in partnership to make residential and domiciliary services sustainable for the future.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the immediate and longer-term challenges faced in Flintshire be noted;
- (b) That the need for national reform in the funding of the social care sector in Wales be supported, and the position to engage with a new Welsh Government to develop solutions as a matter of urgency be endorsed;

- (c) That the Committee accepts the Residential Care Review and the recommendations within the report be endorsed;
- (d) That Councillor Aaron Shotton contacts all local authorities in Wales to invite them to press the Welsh Government for adequate and sustainable funding for social care; and
- (e) That Councillor Aaron Shotton makes contact with the new Minister for Health and Social Services to present the case for additional funding for the care sector.

71. 2015/16 Q3 IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING (SOCIAL & HEALTH)

The Chief Officer (Social Services) introduced a report on the monitoring of progress for the third quarter of 2015/16 focusing on the areas of under performance relevant to the Committee. He referred to the detailed sub-priority report which was appended to the report and advised that there was only one significant high level risk for the Committee to note which concerned the dementia, respect, empathy and dignity project within GP surgeries. He explained the reason for the risk and reported that the overall strategy around dementia was well underway and up to speed.

Councillor Dave Mackie commented on the format of the sub-priority report. The Chief Officer acknowledged the points made and agreed to take 'on board' for future reports.

RESOLVED:

That the Quarter 3 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report be received.

72. ROTA VISITS

There were no reports on visits undertaken by Members.

73. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the Forward Work Programme of the Committee. She advised that the next a meeting of the Committee would be held on 19 May 2016 to consider the following items:

- Comments, compliments and complaints
- Draft Improvement Plan 2016/17

The Facilitator advised that immediately following the above meeting the Annual Council Reporting Framework workshop would be held.

Referring to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 9 June 2016 with representative of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and

the Welsh Ambulance Service, the Facilitator said she would be writing to all Members prior to the meeting to seek questions to submit to BCUHB.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

74. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 11.00 am and ended at 1.03 pm)

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Chair