

Monmouthshire Access For All Meeting

25 JANUARY 2018, The Usk Memorial Hub

Overview

Access for All is a meeting for people with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, older people and interested organisations. The meeting is chaired and coordinated by Tony Crowhurst and provides information and advice to vulnerable residents.

Monmouthshire Budget Engagement was one aspect of the meeting.

Cllr Phil Murphy, Cabinet Member for Finance provided a presentation which included a comprehensive overview of the budget pressures and savings.

Engagement was tailored to provide relevant and appropriate information for the relevant groups and individuals. Julie Boothroyd Chief Officer for Social Care and Health and Eve Parkinson Head of Adults provided information and talked about issues that affect the group.

Agenda:

- Councillor Phil Murphy on the Council's proposed budget for 2019/20
- Julie Boothroyd, Chief Officer for Social care and Health (together with a colleague) on changes to the delivery of Social Care and Health related issues by the County Council
- Pauline Jones, the Director of the Disability Advice Project on a recent United Nations report on care in Britain.

Invitations were sent to a wide range of people:

Monmouth Visually Impaired Club
Monmouthshire People First, Monmouthshire ASD, MAGIC
Abergavenny 50+ Group, Monmouth 50+ Group, My Mates, Monmouthshire Family Information Service, Disability Sports Officer, Crafty Women, The Bridges, MCC
Well being leads, Volunteering for Wellbeing, Action for Children, MCC
Volunteering, Home start, Monmouthshire Housing Association, SNAP Cymru,
Building Bridges Project and
ISCA Probus group for retired professionals.

Attendance at the meeting included:

Representatives from

- Abergavenny 50+
- Monmouth 50+
- Monmouthshire People First,
- Parents from MAGIC support group for parents of children with disabilities
- Building Bridges Project – Monmouthshire County Council
- Mind Monmouthshire
- Derwyn Cymru
- Elected members from Monmouthshire County Council
- Officers from Monmouthshire County Council.

Apologies were sent from

- Monmouth Visually Impaired Group



Cllr Phil Murphy - Proposed budget for 2019/20

Councillor Murphy highlighted the key issues that affect the entire budget setting process for the County Council. In summary:

- The extremely low funding received from Welsh Government (per head of population MCC receives £1,002 per head against a Welsh average of £1,352 and £1,600 for Blaenau Gwent) despite the fact that many services cost the same amount to provide
- The long-term trend is poor funding settlement
- The desire of the Council to keep services in place even if in a changed form rather than close them
- The need for extra expenditure in some areas in order to comply with Council commitments in the field of, for instance, the Living Wage and pension provision
- The need to invest in the future to ensure the relevance of changing service provision
- The need to increase council tax by 5.95% due to the long-term depletion of Council reserves

Within his presentation, Councillor Murphy stated several issues that are of interest to or are likely to affect disabled and older people. These included

- The high level of spending on Social Care and Health (£45M) out of a total of £151M
- The extra expenditure needed in the provision of Social Care and Health due to
 - An increase in the capital threshold in social care (£501k)
 - An increase in the salaries of social care providers to comply with the Council's commitment to pay the Living Wage (£434k)
- The Council's desire to enable people to live independently
- The savings of £1.246M in the Social Care and Health budget which may arise as a result of practice changes and transformation in Adult Social Care
- Approaches to generate increased income such as charging for parking in "disabled car parking bays"
- The provision of a replacement to Severn View
- The inclusion of the "Disabled Facility Grant" budget in the (diminishing) programme for Highway maintenance, property maintenance and County Farm associated expenditure
- The backlog of maintenance work to enable access by disabled people to buildings etc

Blue Badge parking charges

Subsequent debate on the issues raised in the presentation, with respect to the quality of lives of disabled and elderly people centred on the issue of charging for parking in "disabled parking bays".

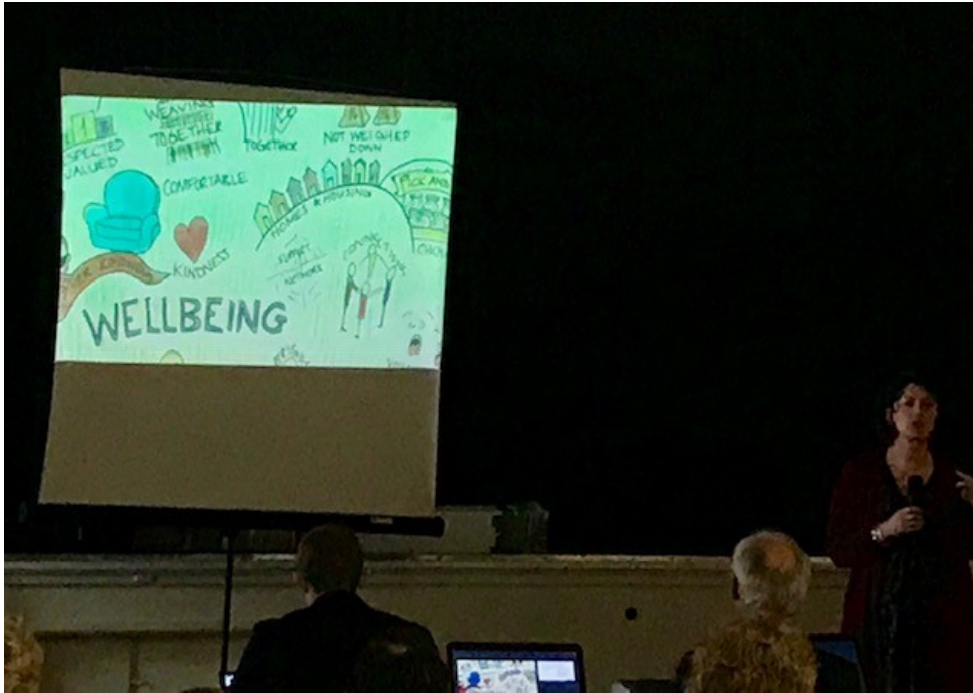
Social Care and Health Presentation

Julie Boothroyd provided a presentation titled “Adult Service Budget 2019/20” with the sub-title of “Transforming practice in Social Care and Health”.

The presentation shared information on the changes that have taken place to transform the delivery of Adult Services in Monmouthshire.

- That there has been a fundamental change in service delivery since 2011
- That there is now a focus on the needs of the individual and the exploration of what are the important issues for people seeking care and support.
- That the lives of disabled and older people can be changed by considering issues such as
 - Work and learning
 - Information provision
 - Relationships with other people
 - Internal resources both of the Council and of the people themselves
 - A better understanding of finance, both income and expenditure
 - The importance of an improvement in physical health
 - Improvements and adjustment to the home environment
 - Provisions from and by the Community

Eve Parkinson shared case studies of some of the people that have been helped by Monmouthshire and the impact it has had on their lives.



Julie Boothroyd talking through her presentation

Feedback from the session:

Severn View - The group were interested in what is happening to Severn View in Chepstow. Discussion with Julie Boothroyd confirmed that Crick Road site will be the location and that the new buildings will replace Severn View. It is a three year programme and will help support individuals with dementia, providing caring support using learnings that the council has gained in recent years to make it person centred, It is not a nursing home.

Blue Badges – Introducing charging for parking is not fair, especially for people with complex needs.

Mouton House – Group discussed the proposed changes at Mouton House and were interested in finding out if it would become a special school for children and young people.

Abergavenny Hub – Questions were asked about the progress of the new hub will the library facility be included in the new building. Cllr Phil Murphy confirmed that the library would be included in the hub as in all our community hubs across the county.

Waste and Recycling, Introduction of Permits – Suggestion that MCC could work with neighbouring authorities and ask them to pay a charge so their residents could use the centre in Llanfoist.