

**Extract of Minutes of the  
ACCESS FOR ALL MEETING**

**Held on**

**25 JANUARY 2018 at THE USK MEMORIAL HALL**

**Overview**

The meeting comprised 3 presentations. These were from

- 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

**Proposed budget for 2019/20**

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

- 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 in this 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

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”.

### **Changes to the delivery of Social Care and Health related issues**

Julie Boothroyd gave a presentation titled “Adult Service Budget 2019/20” with the sub-title of “Transforming practice in Social Care and Health”. Much of Julie’s presentation took this sub-title as it’s theme.

Amongst the things that we were told included the following

- That there has been a fundamental change in service delivery since 2011
- That the trend in hours of Community Care delivered which, if maintained at 2006-08 levels, would see the County having to find over 25,000 hours per month has been addressed so that only around 12,500 hours were required in 2016
- 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
- That this year there will be a reduction of £1.2M in the Adult Services Budget (a significant increase over last year’s reduction) – no operational details were given as to how this saving would affect those needing Adult Services
- That there would be a £536k practice change (saving or extra?)

- That significant sums were being spent on Older People (around £5.9M) which included Severn View, Domiciliary Care, Community Meals, Mardy Park, Monnow Vale and Severn View Day Services
- That significant sums were being spent (although the exact amount was not disclosed) on the needs of disabled people which included ISS, Budden Respite Care, “My Day, My Life”, Budden Respite Opportunities support for people with learning or physical disabilities and resettlement (in concert with Aneurin Bevan UHB)

Although not specifically mentioned in the questions following the presentation, the following issues were raised in informal discussions after the meeting closed.

- Does the Council take into account the trends of increasing numbers of disabled and older people living in the County when showing reductions in the care hour provision?
- Does the County know how many disabled people live in Monmouthshire; and, if so, what percentage does the County assist / has the County assisted?
- How does the County propose that disabled and older people will be enabled to take advantage of community resources given the rural nature of much of the County?
- How does the amount available for disabled facility grants compare to the requests for help from disabled people?
- Why didn't the presentation include more practical examples of changes rather than lots of graphs and pretty pictures?