

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Adults Select Committee held at Mardy Park, Abergavenny on Monday 20th July 2015 at 10.45 a.m.

PRESENT: County Councillor P. Farley (Chair)

County Councillors: R. Edwards, M. Hickman, P. Jones and A. Wintle.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

County Councillors G. Burrows, D. Dovey and V. Smith

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Mrs. D. Hudson
Mr. D. Hill

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

S. Burch	-	Chief Officer, Social Care and Health
J. Boothroyd	-	Head of Adult Services
N. Needle	-	Changing Practice, Changing Lives Lead
H. Ilett	-	Scrutiny Manager
C. Richings	-	Team Manager, Direct Care Services
B. Boniface	-	POVA Team Manager
A. MacBean	-	Integrated Services Manager
N. Perry	-	Democratic Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors R. Chapman and R.G. Harris.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests made by Members.

The Chairman agreed to receive a question from a member of the public as it was considered relevant to the meeting being held at Mardy Park Resource Centre.

3. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

The Chairman welcomed Mr. D. Haswell to address the Committee. Mr. Haswell informed Members that he was attending the meeting as a representative for the Bryn y Cwm Steering Group, and presented the Committee with the following questions regarding Mardy Park Resource Centre:

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- The issue of the loss of beds at Mardy Park had raised concerns that people leaving Neville Hall Hospital, in need of rehabilitation, were being referred to Chepstow Hospital and Monnow Vale, Monmouth. Mr. Haswell questioned if Members and Officers were satisfied that the issue was not a problem to the community.
- Regarding the site of Mardy Park, there were concerns that there was no strategic plan for the development of the building and the service. It was queried if the location of the planned car park would cause restrictions should an extension of the building be considered.
- Queries were raised regarding the building plans for the building. It was questioned who had approved the plans for the café area, car park and mezzanine area. Information was relating to the following items:
 - i. Would Monmouthshire County Council be covering the cost of the café area?
 - ii. Had plans for a mezzanine area been withdrawn?
 - iii. Who would be funding the planned car park?
- Would the Authority/Health Board consider suggestions for skilled nursing staff to be allowed to provide a nursing service at the site?

The Chairman confirmed that the Committee would take the comments on board and ensure that any replies were communicated following discussions with the Chief Officer and relevant officers.

4. TOUR OF THE RESOURCE CENTRE

Members received a thorough and informative tour of Mardy Park Resource Centre. The Chairman expressed the appreciation of the Committee to the staff and service users at Mardy Park for being so accommodating and the illuminating tour.

The Committee agreed on the importance of communication being a key aspect in promoting the service. It was noted further information for members of the public would avoid misconceptions.

It was suggested that a visit be arranged for the Abergavenny Action 50+ group.

5. REVIEW OF MARDY PARK

The Chairman expressed the congratulations of the Committee to the Adults Services team on recent awards received.

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Context:

Members received an interim report from the Team Manager, Direct Care Services regarding the work in progress on the review at Mardy Park. It was noted that an update providing further information could be expected in September 2015.

Member scrutiny:

Following the presentation Members were invited to comment.

Members thanked the Officer for the enlightening report and were enthused by the face to face aspect. We heard that there was increasing involvement with the Health Board. The Team Manager explained that there was close involvement with the hospitals, and flexibility to ensure people could leave hospital sooner. Staff were working in Neville Hall Hospital to support the transition of patients, and to provide consistency of care.

Members noted that the quality of care provided was evident, and despite reduction in budgets, there was still increased benefit to service users.

The Chairman suggested that the naming of such places could be important as to how the service may be viewed, for instance, Chepstow Hospital could be disadvantaged due to expectations. The Chief Officer for Social Care and Health agreed that communication and publicity were important.

A Member suggested that officers could use the local shows to improve communications.

Committee's Conclusion:

Chair's Summary:

The Chairman expressed thanks to the officers present and confirmed that the Committee were pleased to receive the interim report.

Members looked forward to a full report later in the year.

The Chairman noted that the Committee stressed the importance of communication and wished to see further work on the communication aspect in order to help people to better appreciate and understand the service.

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6. PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

Context:

Members received a report presented by the POVA Team Manager in order to receive statistical data for Protection of Vulnerable Adults for 2014-2015, and to set out key issues for adult protection services for the coming year.

Key Issues:

The statistical returns for POVA for 2014-2015 had been validated by the Welsh Government.

The Social Services and Well-Being Act, to be enacted in 2016 would put adult protection work on a statutory footing for the first time and would bring major changes to the policies and procedures.

Member Scrutiny:

It was explained that the figures in Table 1 had been placed in the incorrect columns, and the figures had actually shown a considerable rise. The rise may signify better reporting of data.

We heard that the figures for Hospital - Independent related to private, secure psychiatric hospitals.

With regards to the figures relating to neighbours as alleged persons responsible for abuse, we were informed that the figure related to people who prey on vulnerable people in the area, who would be classed as a neighbour. Also neighbours may take on the role of carer.

Members questioned if the issue of prisons was a concern as it would involve the older population. The Head of Adult Services explained that it was not yet clear how POVA would apply in the prison setting.

A Member raised concerns that the only way to access the Multi-Agency Service Hub was via the internet. Officers explained that they were not yet aware of the details, and the Police were leading the service.

The Chairman suggested there should be parallels between POVA and child safeguarding. It was explained that the review had considered joint safeguarding but it had been decided not to take it forward at this time.

We heard that the Older Person Commissioner had appointed a lead who was attending the Abergavenny Action Fifty+ group on Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 10.00am.

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Members requested that they be provided with the opportunity to attend future POVA training events. It was noted this should be made available to all Members.

Recommendations:

The Adults Select Committee were recommended to note the contents of the report.

Committee's Conclusion:

Chair's Summary:

The Chairman thanked officers for the report and expressed that the Committee appreciated the forward looking dimension of the report, and would welcome frequent updates.

The Committee recognised the change in legislation requiring more training programmes, and would look forward to Members being involved.

Members noted the potential of how Childrens and Adults Safeguarding could come closer together.

The Committee resolved to note the report.

7. COMMUNITY LEARNING UPDATE

The Committee heard that a new paper had been submitted for consideration and agreed that it was appropriate to defer the item.

It was agreed that a Call-In be arranged for Friday 31st July 2015.

The meeting ended at 13:10 pm.