

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Adults Select Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Tuesday, 8th December, 2015 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: County Councillors: P. Farley (Chairman)

R. Harris, R. Chapman, R. Edwards, M. Hickman, P. Jones,
P. Watts, A. Wintle and D Hill

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Hazel Ilett	Scrutiny Manager
Claire Marchant	Chief Officer Social Care, Health & Housing
Colin Richings	Implementation Lead
Tyrone Stokes	Accountant
Nicola Perry	Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

Councillors P. Jordan and D Husdon

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2015

We confirmed and signed the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th October 2015.

3. Scrutiny with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

We welcomed representatives from the ABUHB:

G. Evans	Director of Workforce
B. Bolt	Deputy Chief Operating Officer
P. Buss	Medical Director
D. Jenkins	Chair of ABUHB
J. Paget	Chief Executive
A. Davies	Director of Planning and Performance
A. Brace	Deputy Chief Executive and Finance Director

We received a presentation from the Chief Executive in order for Members to scrutinise, with ABUHB, the following areas:

- A Performance Update on Health Developments in Monmouthshire.
- Discussion on 'Dying Matters' as a possible future area for scrutiny work with the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.
- Scrutiny of an Evaluation of the Choose Wisely Programme.

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Following the initial presentation on Health Developments in Monmouthshire, Members were invited to comment and discuss. In doing so the following points were noted:

Members sought clarification on the review on the GP out of hours scheme. In response we were advised that a challenge to the Health Board had been recruiting GPs to the out of hours service. The service relied on being able to recruit salaried GPs or Sessional GPs, which had become increasingly difficult over the past 12 to 18 months. In order to address the issue the Health Board had recruited more nurses to work alongside GPs and increased payment rates for GPs, which had not been particularly effective. A complete route and branch review of the service had been conducted, which would have been carried out with the introduction of a new telephone number, the 111 service, to ABUHB in 2017. The review had looked at the number of calls coming in, the types of calls, if a different response could be provided. The Health Board were focussing on a primary care approach to the out of hours service. It was noted that the service was not being reduced, but enhanced.

Members referred to problems with car parking facilities at Neville Hall hospital. In response we heard that a meeting had been attended which confirmed that planning permission had been applied for to extend the facility, but had been appealed against by National Resource Wales. The Health Board confirmed they were committed to resolving car parking issues at both Neville Hall and Royal Gwent Hospitals.

A Member questioned the Health Boards policy surrounding smoking electronic cigarettes and it was confirmed that their smoking policy covered the ban of all types of cigarettes.

A Member raised concerns surrounding the role of the Community Health Council for the future. It was a concern that the future service may be more in-house. The Chair of ABUHB expressed that there was a good relationship with the CHC and the CHC provided a much better informed service. As far as the Health Board were concerned, the work of the CHC in Gwent was greatly valued, as was the support.

A Member questioned if the scrutiny process was a hindrance to progress. The Chief Executive of ABUHB considered the scrutiny process important and useful to test out views and plans. It was thought to be essential that plans were tested through scrutiny and general discussions. It was confirmed that ABUHB wanted to further develop engagement work which was welcomed by Members.

In response to a question regarding the availability of interpreters we were informed that there was an allocation to bring in interpreters or to use language line. There was often help from family members in these instances. Literature was copied into utilised languages.

A Member questioned if ABUHB had reviewed their management structure across the Health Board. In response we heard that there was regular benchmarking of management costs. There had been a similar structure in place for the last 5 years and early in 2016 there would be the commissioning of a fundamental review of structures. With regards to clinical structures we were informed that doctors employed and deployed in the right way. There was a plan over time to get to a fully functioning 7 day service providing 7 day, twice a day ward rounds.

Following a query relating to ambulance waiting times the Director of Planning and performance at ABUHB explained that there were several areas to take into consideration being:

- That ambulances were not unnecessarily delayed in the emergency department.
- Welsh Ambulance Service Trust staffing levels.
- Working with the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust to organise services effectively.

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We heard there was a much better foundation going forward.

Following a request for clarification on Welsh Government statement on improved funds, we heard that there was a growing need from the population and therefore a need to invest more. There had been a struggle over the last 4 years to get a good balance. The last comprehensive spending review had shown that the Welsh Government would be protecting other services such as Social Care. It was important to consider how to get serious about integration and how best to pool services together.

The Chief Officer for Social Care and Health added that in terms of integrated services we were building on a strong position, but noted there were always next steps and more to do. Part 9 of the Social Care and Wellbeing Act requires us to pool more budgets and officers were looking at integration within those networks as challenge but exciting opportunity.

A Member questioned, with regards to patients nutrition, what was the policy on assisted feeding, and if appropriate people would be welcomed. We heard that all staff encourage adequate nutrition as part of the policy. A review of the nutritional standard had been undertaken and the Health Board were working at a high level. There were some ongoing activities, and family members were encouraged to assist where possible. We heard that some hospitals were using volunteers.

The Chairman thanked the ABUHB members for the discussion and introduced the Deputy Chief Operating Officer of ABUHB, who was presenting a report on 'Dying Matters'. Following the presentation Members were invited to comment, during which time the following points were noted:

Members felt that if the programme was to be implemented in Monmouthshire the name should be Live Well, rather than a Welsh name that would not be understood in many areas.

A Member expressed that it was important to make people comfortable for end of life care, and to avoid the trauma of going into a hospital situation at that stage. In response we heard that we were very lucky to have 2 hospices in Gwent who were very responsive. St David's Hospice Response Service were renowned across Wales and parts of the UK as being an extremely responsive service.

The Chairman noted that the Committee were invited at this time to participate in discussion and would welcome the endorsement for further opportunities to work together. The Committee accepted, in principle, the invitation and would welcome participation as, possibly, the first in Wales.

Lastly, we heard about the Choose Well campaign and the services were highlighted to the Committee. Following the presentation Members were invited to comment.

The Chairman clarified that this referred to Monmouth rather than Monmouthshire, and Members would be happy to see the scheme move into the other areas of Monmouthshire. Members were keen to note that they would be willing to help to engage, and felt it was important for many reasons, especially as a way of changing forms of services which had previously been bones of contention.

A Member stressed that we should never assume that all people have access to the internet, or know where to turn when help is needed. Leaflets should be distributed to individual

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households. It was suggested that where possible the information could be added to Members newsletters.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from ABUHB for their attendance and the full and frank discussion. The courtesy shown by the Health Board was fully appreciated. The Committee wished to note the hope that for future meetings we would receive paperwork in advance for scrutiny purposes.

The Committee welcomed the invite to take part in the 'Live Well' programme.

The Committee would have like to have been more involved in the Choose Wisely programme and have asked that local County Councillors are given an opportunity to shape what is being done for local communities.

4. Performance Management Report on Improvement Objectives and Outcome Agreements

Context:

We received a report in order to present quarter 2 performance data for the Improvement Objective and Outcome Agreement objectives which were under the remit of Adults Select Committee:

- Improvement Objective 2 "We will safeguard people, whether young or old, while reducing people's dependence on social care".
- Outcome agreement theme "Ensuring people receive the help they need to live fulfilled lives".

Key Issues:

The Outcome Agreement and the Improvement Objectives have a different focus:

- Improvement Objectives were set annually by the council to deliver on priorities. Despite objectives being focused on the long term the specific activities that support them were particularly focussed for the year ahead
- The Outcome Agreement is an agreement with the Welsh Government for a three year period, where the council needs to deliver on performance activity and associated targets that contribute to the Programme for Government. The current agreement covers the period from 2013 to 2016. The council has previously been awarded full payment each year.

In the summer of 2015 the Welsh Government announced the final year of funding for performance in 2015-16 would no longer be attached to performance in the Outcome Agreement and would be rolled directly into the Revenue Support Grant for

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2016-17. This means that payment for performance against the targets in the agreement for 2015-16, being discussed by members today, is assured. However given the importance placed on the agreement as part of the council's performance framework to contribute to delivering the outcomes set it is important to continue to monitor performance against the agreement for its final year.

Member Scrutiny:

A Member commented that Children's Services were behind target, which could be attributed to staffing issues and an outcome of inspection reports. It was questioned if officers expected this to improve. We heard that last year had shown incredibly good performance in Children's Services. There had been a difficult start to this year with staffing issues and agencies workers causing added pressures. Staff were now looking closely at the measures, with frequent discussions with the leadership team being fed through to the Directorate Management Team on a monthly basis.

A report regarding Children's Services Performance Indicators would be brought to Joint Select Committee which would try to address all the issues in one coherent plan.

Members raised a concern surrounding Community Coordination and the decision not to roll out across the whole county without pilot work. On the face of it there was a different feel to the services and way of working in Abergavenny and Caldicot to Chepstow and Monmouth. It was questioned if the evaluation proved that it was not as effective as expected what would be the course of action.

The Chief Officer for Social Care and Health explained that in terms of taking forward local area community coordination in those two areas, it would be evaluated against the original criteria and business case. It was important to get the hard evidence of what this has told us. In terms of the future direction of travel and the performance measures the plan B around giving more services to people would not be sustainable from a service or financial point of view.

Recommendations:

The report recommended that members scrutinise the performance achieved and impact made to assess progress and performance against the objectives, and that members identify and explore any areas of underperformance or concerns, and to seek assurance from those responsible for future activity where they conclude that performance needs to improve.

Committee Conclusion:

Chair's Summary:

The Chair concluded that the Committee were broadly content and resolved to accept the report

5. Revenue & Capital Monitoring 2015/16 Month 6 Outturn Forecast Statement

Context:

We received a report from the Finance Manager to provide Adults Select Committee Members with information on the forecast revenue outturn position of the Authority at the end of reporting period 2 which represents month 6 financial information for the 2015/16 financial year.

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The report would also be considered by Select Committees as part of their responsibility to:

- Assess whether effective budget monitoring is taking place,
- Monitor the extent to which budgets are spent in accordance with agreed budget and policy framework,
- Challenge the reasonableness of projected over or underspends, and
- Monitor the achievement of predicted efficiency gains or progress in relation to savings proposals.

Member Scrutiny:

Members expressed thanks to all involved and the efforts made to the positive outcome, especially in the challenging position of the Authority. The Chief Officer and Finance Manager were asked to convey the message to staff involved.

We were informed there were no particular areas of concern going forward but it was recognised that it would remain challenging.

Committee Conclusion:

Chair's Summary:

The Chair concluded that it was pleasing to see how well different areas sit together. There were occasions where officers had advised that outcomes were dependant on IT and it was clear to see how this appears to have been achieved.

The Committee resolved to note and accept the report.

6. Work Programming

We received the work programme from the Scrutiny Manager, in doing so we noted that:

- Joint meeting to be held on 16th December 2015 with Children and Young People Select Committee.
- 19th January 2016 meeting to cover the Raglan Project and the Social Care and Wellbeing Act.
- A special joint meeting with Children and Young People Select to be held – no confirmed date.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm