

# Public Document Pack

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Cyngor Sir held  
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Dydd Iau, 18fed Ionawr, 2018 at 2.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor M. Powell (Chairman)  
County Councillor P. Clarke (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, D. Blakebrough, V. Smith, D. Dovey, A. Easson, D. Evans, P.A. Fox, R.J.W. Greenland, L. Guppy, R. Harris, J. Higginson, G. Howard, S. Howarth, D. Jones, P. Jones, S. Jones, P. Jordan, P. Murphy, B. Strong, A. Watts, A. Webb, K. Williams, J.Becker, A.Davies, M.Feakins, M.Groucutt, R.John, L.Jones, J.Pratt, R.Roden, T.Thomas and S. Woodhouse

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Kellie Beirne	Chief Officer, Enterprise
Peter Davies	Chief Officer, Resources
Will Mclean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Robert Tranter	Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Claire Marchant	Chief Officer Social Care, Health & Housing

### **APOLOGIES:**

County Councillors R. Edwards, S.B. Jones, F. Taylor, L.Brown, L.Dymock, M.Lane, J.Treharne and J.Watkins

#### **1. Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb**

#### **2. Datganiadau o Fuddiant**

Datganodd y Cyngorydd Sir A. Watts fuddiant personol, nad yw'n rhagfarnu yng nghyswllt eitem agenda 9 gan fod perthynas yn glaf allanol ym Mwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan, Cas-gwent.

Datganodd y Cyngorydd Sir L. Guppy ddiddordeb personol, nad yw'n rhagfarnu yn eitem agenda 9 fel aelod o staff Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan.

#### **3. Cyhoeddiad y Cadeirydd a derbyn deisebau**

Derbyniodd y Cyngor gyhoeddiad y Cadeirydd.

Nid oedd unrhyw ddeisebau.

Cyhoeddodd y Cyngorydd Sir P. Murphy ddatganiad am ansolfedd diweddar Carillion Ccc:

Bydd y Cyngor yn gwybod fel canlyniad i sylw helaeth yn y wasg yr wythnos hon yr aeth Carillion Ccc yn ansolfedd ynghyd â nifer o'i is-gwmnïau yn y grŵp. Deallwn y bydd pob cwmni yn parhau i weithredu, gan ddarparu parhad gwasanaethau cyhoeddus tan rybudd pellach. Fodd bynnag mae'n llai clir ar hyn o bryd sut y bydd hyn yn effeithio ar gadwyn gyflenwi'r cwmni a'r goblygiadau ehangach i'r sector preifat a'r sector cyhoeddus yn ehangach yn y Deyrnas Unedig.

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Nid yw'r cyhoeddiad yn effeithio'n anuniongyrchol ar Gyngor Sir Fynwy ar hyn o bryd ond mae'n cydnabod fod gan y cyhoeddiad oblygiadau eang i'r sector cyhoeddus. Ni effeithiwyd fawr ddim ar y rhan fwyaf o wasanaethau cyhoeddus hyd yma, gan fod gwasanaethau yn aml wedi eu is-gontractio i gyflenwyr llai neu mewn rhai achosion eu cadw mewn partneriaeth gyda chontractwyr mawr eraill. Cydymdeimlwn gyda'r cyrff sector cyhoeddus y mae ansolfedd Carillion wedi effeithio arnynt neu y bydd yn effeithio arnynt. Nid oes gan y Cyngor Sir unrhyw gontractau gyda Carillion Ccc nac unrhyw un o'i is-gwmnïau. Nid oes gennym ychwaith unrhyw gynlluniau ar y gweill gyda nhw ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Gwerthfawrogwn y bydd y sector preifat yn teimlo'r effaith hefyd, ac mae'n amser anodd yn gyffredinol. Dros yr wythnosau a'r misoedd nesaf disgwylwn y bydd mwy o eglurdeb am ystyr y cyhoeddiad hwn mewn gwirionedd wrth i effaith y gadwyn cyflenwi gael ei ddeall yn well. Mae'r Awdurdod yn parhau i gael mynediad i'w rwydweithiau ehangach i gael mwy o ddirnadaeth a gwybodaeth. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru'n gweithio'n agos gyda Swyddfa'r Cabinet i asesu cysylltiad Carillion ar draws y sector cyhoeddus. Mae'r Gwasanaeth Caffael Cenedlaethol yn cynnal ymchwil i ddeall effeithiau ar y gadwyn cyflenwi yn well. Fodd bynnag, mae'r wybodaeth sydd ar gael yn gyfyngedig a sbeciannol ar hyn o bryd.

Mae'r Awdurdod yn croesawu dialog cynnar gyda chwmnïau yng nghadwyn gyflenwi Carillion yn effeithir yn niweidiol arnynt ac a all gael anhawster yn anrhydeddu unrhyw ymrwymadau cyfredol neu'r dyfodol i'r Awdurdod.

Bu sylw hefyd yn y wasg eleni i Interserve Ccc, gyda'i is-gwmni Interserve Construction Limited wedi eu contractio i adeiladu ysgolion cyfun Trefynwy a Chil-y-coed. Adroddodd Interserve Ccc gostau ychwanegol i'w fuddsoddwyr fis Medi diwethaf ar ôl iddo adael y sector ynni-ar-gyfer-gwastraff a arweiniodd wedyn at gwmp ym mhreis ei gyfranddaliadau ar ôl rhybuddio y byddai'n torri cyfamodau benthyciadau banc. Gwelodd hyn y cwmni yn cyhoeddi rhybuddion am lifogydd. Mae'r banciau'n ddilysol wedi ad-drefnu dyledion y cwmni ac mae'r cwmni hefyd wedi cyhoeddi dyfarnu contractau sylweddol ers hynny. Mae mantolen y cwmni wedi gwella erbyn hyn.

Mae gan yr Awdurdod warant cwmni rhiant gyda Interserve Ccc ar gyfer adeiladu'r ddwy ysgol. Cafodd yr Awdurdod hefyd sicrwydd gan gyfarwyddwyr Interserve fod popeth yn iawn a bod y cynllun strategol cywir gan y cwmni ar gyfer symud ymlaen.

Edrychwn ar y wasg yn rheolaidd i gael gwybodaeth am y farchnad a gweithgaredd. Rydym yn monitro prisiau, y rhaglen waith ac yn gwrando ar isgontractwyr am dalu a derbyn tâl ac arwyddion fod y rhaglen adeiladu yn llithro. Ni fu dim o hyn yn amlwg hyd yma ac nid yw swyddogion wedi sôn am unrhyw bryderon cyfredol.

Er bod risg yn parhau bob amser gwelir bod hyn yn isel iawn i'r holl brosiect. Mae Ysgol Cil-y-coed mewn cyfnod diffyg ac mae gan yr Awdurdod ddigon wedi'i gadw i dalu am ymrwymadau pe byddai Interserve yn cerdded i ffwrdd. Fel y gwyddom, mae mwy o waith i fynd yn ysgol Nhrefynwy. Mae gennym bron iawn i 7 mis ar ôl ar y safle, ac felly daw'n brosiect ffio-mas mewn ychydig fisoedd ac ar y pwynt hwnnw gallai sefydliadau eraill gamu mewn i lanw dros unrhyw fethiant gan Interserve i anrhydeddu'r contract.

Cyhoeddodd Swyddfa'r Cabinet ddatganiad yr wythnos yma i ddangos nad yw'r sefyllfa gyda Carillion ac Interserve yn debyg ac yn dilyn sôn eu bod yn monitro Interserve. Dywedodd "Rydym yn monitro iechyd ariannol ein holl gyflenwyr strategol, yn cynnwys Interserve. Rydym yn trafod eu sefyllfa ariannol yn rheolaidd gyda'r holl gwmnïau hyn. Ni chredwn fod unrhyw un o'n gyflenwyr strategol mewn sefyllfa debyg i Carillion."

Mae Interserve hefyd wedi ceisio sicrhau'r farchnad mewn ymateb i adroddiadau fod Swyddfa'r Cabinet yn monitro'r cwmni.

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Dywedodd: "Yr wythnos ddiwethaf fe wnaethom gyhoeddi y disgwyliwn y bydd ein perfformiad 2017 yn unol â'r disgwyliadau a amlinellwyd ym mis Hydref ac y disgwylir i'n cynllun trawsnewid sicrhau £40m-£50m o fudd erbyn 2020. Mae hyn yn parhau felly a disgwyliwn y bydd ein helw gweithredu yn 2018 o flaen disgwyliadau presennol y farchnad ac rydym yn parhau i gael trafodaethau adeiladol gyda benthycwyr am gyllid tymor hirach."

Mae'r Awdurdod yn parhau i gadw golwg ar y sefyllfa, yng nghyswllt yr adladd o ansolfedd Carillon a hefyd statws ariannol presennol Interserve.

Gofynnodd y Cyngorydd Sir Howarth i'r Arweinydd ysgrifennu at y Gweinidog i ofyn pa fesurau diogelu y gall eu rhoi am y prosiect o Frynmawr i Dredegar, gan mai Carillion oedd y contractwr ar gyfer y rhan honno o'r ffordd, ac sy'n awr yn bryder ar gyfer preswylwyr ward Llanelli Hill.

#### **4. Fforwm Agored i'r Cyhoedd**

Nid oedd unrhyw faterion ar gyfer y fforwm agored i'r cyhoedd.

#### **5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2017**

Cadarnhawyd cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Rhagfyr a chawsant eu llofnodi gan y Cadeirydd.

#### **6. To receive the minutes of the Public Service Board meeting held on 8th November 2017**

Derbyniodd y Cyngor gofnodion cyfarfod y Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus a gynhaliwyd ar 8 Tachwedd 2017.

#### **7. Derbyn rhestr weithredu'r cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Rhagfyr 2017**

Derbyniodd y Cyngor restr weithredu'r cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 14 Rhagfyr 2018.

Mynegodd y Cyngorydd Howarth ei siom na all y gynrychiolaeth o'r Cyngor hwn yng Nghymdeithas Tai Sir Fynwy gyfeirio at faterion a godwyd gan y Cyngor. Gofynnodd i Gynghorwyr gael rhestr o gyfrifoldebau ar gyffwrdd allanol a'r hyn y gellir ei ddisgwyl ganddynt yn y rôl honno. Cytunodd y Prif Swyddog Gweithredol baratoi nodyn ar hyn i roi eglurdeb. Ychwanegodd y gall Aelodau gysylltu'n uniongyrchol â swyddogion Tai Sir Fynwy ar gyfer materion seiliedig ar ward.

Nododd y Cyngorydd Batrouni bod y grŵp gweithredu yn ymwneud â thlodi mislif wedi cwrdd ers y Cyngor diwethaf a bod ganddo gynllun gweithredu yn ei le.

#### **8. Report of the Chief Officer, Resources:**

##### **8.1. Cynllun Gostwng y Dreth Gyngor 2018/19**

Derbyniodd y Cyngor adroddiad i gyflwyno trefniadau ar gyfer gweithredu Cynllun Gostwng y Dreth Gyngor a'i gymeradwyo ar gyfer 2018/19 ac i gadarnhau, yn absenoldeb unrhyw ddiwygiadau neu welliannau, y cynhelir newidiadau uwchraddio blynyddol bob blwyddyn heb fod angen mabwysiadu holl Gynllun Gostwng y Dreth Gyngor.

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Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn clywsom fod gennym 5768 yn hawlio gostyngiad treth gyngor ar hyn o bryd, a 39,000 o aelwydydd treth gyngor. Y sefyllfa ariannol yng nghyswllt gostwng y dreth gyngor yw bod gwariant ychydig dan £6m a'r budd o 10% yn golygu colled o £600,000.

Yn nhermau darpariaeth nid yw'r ffigurau'n rhoi ystyriaeth i effaith bosibl ymestyn y credyd cynhwysol.

Yn nhermau sicrwydd mae swyddogion yn gweithio'n ddiflino i ddynodi a helpu'r rhai sydd â hawl i'r gostyngiad.

Penderfynodd y Cyngor i gytuno ar yr argymhellion:

**Nodi gwneud Rheoliadau Cynllun Gostwng y Dreth Cyngor a Gofynion Rhagnodedig (Cymru) ("Rheoliadau Gofynion Rhagnodedig") 2013 gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar 26 Tachwedd 2013.**

**Mabwysiadu'r darpariaethau o fewn y Rheoliadau uchod (y "Rheoliadau Gofynion Rhagnodedig") ac unrhyw reoliadau uwchraddio blynyddol yng nghyswllt y cynllun ar gyfer blwyddyn ariannol 2018/19 yn cynnwys yr elfennau ar ddisgresiwn a gymeradwywyd yn flaenorol fel cynllun lleol y Cyngor o 1 Ebrill 2018.**

#### **9. BWRDD IECHYD PRIFYSGOL ANEURIN BEVAN - AILGYNLLUNIO GWASANAETHAU IECHYD MEDDWL AR GYFER POBL HŶN - DRAFFT YMATEB I'R YMGYNGHORIAD**

Cyflwynodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Ofal Cymdeithasol, Diogelu ac Iechyd ddrafft ymateb Cyngor Sir Fynwy i ymgynghoriad Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan parthed *Ailgyynllunio Gwasanaethau Iechyd Meddwl ar gyfer Pobl Hŷn* er cymeradwyaeth a'i gyflwyno i'r Bwrdd erbyn y dyddiad cau ar gyfer ymatebion o 26 Ionawr 2018.

Mewn ymateb i gwestiynau, cadarnhaodd y Prif Swyddog nad oedd wedi bod ynglŷn â thrafodaethau ar y sefyllfa ar wasanaethau traws-ffin. Yn nhermau'r asesiad o'r effaith ar ansawdd, mae'r ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad yn cyfeirio at y papur bwrdd a ystyriwyd gan Fwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan sy'n sôn fod asesiad o'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb yn cael ei ddatblygu yn hytrach na bod wedi'i orffen.

Cefnogodd y Cynghorydd Easson yr ymateb cryf ond teimlai y dylai adlewyrchu pryderon am anghenion Ysbyty Cas-gwent ac angen cynyddol gofal cymdeithasol.

Hysbysodd y Prif Swyddog yr Aelodau am grŵp llywio i ddatblygu dyfodol cadarnhaol ar gyfer gwasanaethau yn ne'r sir, a gaiff hefyd ei adlewyrchu ym Mardy a Monnow Vale. Soniodd am hanes cryf gwasanaethau integredig o fewn y sir.

Soniodd y Cynghorydd Watts am y problemau'n gysylltiedig â chludiant ar gyfer cleifion gyda dementia yn y sir.

Nododd y Prif Swyddog Gweithredol na thrafodwyd hyn yn y Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus.

Penderfynodd y Cyngor i gytuno ar yr argymhelliad:

**Bod y Cyngor yn cymeradwyo'r drafft ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad a atodir (Atodiad 1) i'w gyflwyno i Fwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan.**

#### **10. Rhestr o Gynigion**

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Nid oedd unrhyw hysbysiadau am gynigion.

### 11. Cwestiynau i aelodau

11.1. **Gan y Cyngorydd Sir M. Groucutt i'r Cyngorydd Sir B. Jones**  
Gohiriwyd y cwestiwn.

11.2. **Gan y Cyngorydd Sir R. Roden i'r Cyngorydd Sir R. John**  
*A all yr Aelod Cabinet ein diweddarau ar gynnydd y gwaith adeiladu yn Ysgol Gyfun Trefynwy a'r cyswllt gyda'r gymuned leol?*

Dywedodd y Cyngorydd Roden ei fod yn falch i ddweud fod y prosiect ar amser a hefyd ar gyllideb. Disgwylir y bydd yr ysgol yn cael ei chwblhau ym mis Medi 2018 a bydd dymchwel a chwblhau rhai gweithiau allanol wedyn. Bydd yr ysgol yn rhoi amgylchedd dysgu hyblyg a digidol-gyfoethog ar gyfer pobl ifanc a'r staff, ac rydym yn hyderus y bydd yn ateb y newidiadau yn anghenion addysg nawr ac i'r dyfodol. Bydd yn adnodd dinesig gwirioneddol i Drefynwy a'r cylch, ac yn rhywbeth y gall y gymuned a busnesau lleol hefyd eu defnyddio er eu budd. Mae'r adeilad yn un cyfeillgar i'r amgylchedd gyda graddiad rhagoriaeth gwyrdd. Mae 80% o'r costau cynhyrchu'n cael eu talu i isgcontractwyr yn seiliedig o fewn cylch 25 milltir o'r ysgol. Fel rhan o'r rhaglen budd cymunedol, mae nifer o brosiectau cymunedol yn derbyn buddsoddiad megis adnewyddu'r danffordd i'r clwb rhwyfo. Mae nifer o brentisiaethau ar y safle yn ogystal â hyfforddiant a phrofiad gwaith ar gyfer pobl leol. Mae cael dau brosiect, yr ysgol a'r ganolfan hamdden, yn rhedeg wrth ochr ei gilydd yn heriol iawn. Talodd deyrnged i'r athrawon a'r tîm arweinyddiaeth a fu'n oddefgar iawn. Yn nhermau cyswllt, mae gan y Tîm Ysgol y 21ain Ganrif dudalen Twitter, cyfrif Facebook, yn gohebu'n rheolaidd gyda phreswylwyr lleol, a hysbysfwrdd a blwch awgrymiadau ar y safle. Gweithredwyd ar geisiadau lle'n bosibl. Mae swyddog penodol ar gyfer cyfathrebu.

Fel cwestiwn atodol, gofynnodd y Cyngorydd Roden pa gamau y mae contractwyr yn eu cymryd i ostwng sŵn a llwch.

Mewn ymatebodd dywedodd y Cyngorydd John y bu sŵn o'r safle ac wrth i'r gwaith fynd rhagddo a bod yr adeilad yn dal dŵr, byddem yn disgwyl i'r sŵn gael ei gynnwys o fewn yr adeilad yn y dyfodol. Fodd bynnag, diolchodd i'r gymuned leol am eu goddefgarwch drwy gydol y gwaith adeiladu. Mae'r cynllun rheoli adeiladu yn nodi oriau creiddiol ar gyfer gweithio ar y safle adeiladu ac mae'n galluogi rhai gweithgareddau i ddigwydd y tu allan i'r oriau hyn os oes angen. Digwyddodd hyn ddwywaith dros y 4 mis diwethaf ac nid oes unrhyw waith pellach ar y rhaglen fydd angen hyn. Mae gorsaf rheoli amgylcheddol ar y safle'n gyson yn monitro rheoli golau, llygredd a swm, gan roi cofnodion manwl. Caiff y ffyrdd eu hysgubo'n rheolaidd a gosodwyd tarmac ar y brif ffordd cludo.

### 12. Nodi dyddiadau'r cyfarfodydd dilynol:

Nododd y Cyngor ddyddiadau cyfarfodydd a phenderfynwyd y cynhelir cyfarfod y Cyngor ym mis Mawrth am 2pm ar 1 Mawrth 2018, oherwydd pwysau'r agenda.

Roedd peth rhwystredigaeth am newid dyddiadau cyfarfodydd.

**The meeting ended at 3.00 pm**

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## Chairman's Report 7<sup>th</sup> December – 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

<b><i>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December</i></b>	<b><i>Citizenship Ceremony</i></b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 4.45 p.m.	Service of Lessons and Carols Priory Church of St Mary, Monmouth
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 7 p.m.	Emergency Service Christmas Carol Service Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 7 p.m.	North Monmouthshire Music Centre Christmas Concert Abergavenny Leisure Centre
<b><i>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January</i></b>	<b><i>Citizenship Ceremony</i></b>

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# Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held  
at Council Chamber - Council Chamber on Thursday, 14th December, 2017 at 10.00 am**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor M. Powell (Chairman)  
County Councillor J. Higginson (as Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, D. Blakebrough, V. Smith, D. Dovey, A. Easson, D. Evans, P.A. Fox, R.J.W. Greenland, L. Guppy, R. Harris, J. Higginson, S. Howarth, D. Jones, P. Jones, S. Jones, S.B. Jones, P. Jordan, P. Murphy, B. Strong, F. Taylor, A. Watts, A. Webb, K. Williams, J.Becker, L.Brown, A.Davies, L.Dymock, M.Feakins, M.Groucutt, R.John, M.Lane, P.Pavia, J.Pratt, R.Roden, T.Thomas, J.Treharne, J.Watkins and S. Woodhouse

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Matthews	Chief Executive
Kellie Beirne	Chief Officer, Enterprise
Peter Davies	Chief Officer, Resources
Roger Hoggins	Head of Operations
Robert Tranter	Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer

### **APOLOGIES:**

County Councillors P. Clarke, R. Edwards, G. Howard and L.Jones

#### **2. Declarations of interest**

#### **3. Chairman's announcement and receipt of petitions**

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Members for their donations to the Chairman's charities this year.

Councillor Thomas presented a petition on behalf of Bring Back Bailey Park Outdoor Swimming Pool Group who requested that MCC consider the needs of Monmouthshire residents in relation to Bailey Park and its facilities.

Councillor Howarth presented a petition on behalf of residents of Dan-Y-Coed, Clydach who requested a full investigation regarding the embankment being constructed behind Dan-Y-Coed bungalows, which had been constructed without consultation.

We noted the change in membership on the Board of Monmouthshire Housing Association. Councillor Batrouni confirmed his membership.

The Chair welcomed Charlie-Jade Atkins from Monmouthshire Youth Service who was in attendance to present to Council information regarding primary school competition, and asked that Members visited schools in their ward areas, along with a youth worker and explain what they do. The children would then be asked to draw them, which would then be entered into a competition. Members were keen to endorse the idea and were willing to get involved.

We welcomed Paul Sullivan, who presented to Council detail of the Primary School Playmaker programme. The Playmaker award is a six hour course focusing on communication, leadership, organisation and resilience, and is aimed at year 5 and 6 children. In response to questions we

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heard that the programme is 100% funded through Sport Wales, and is reviewed annually. The cost per annum £110,000. Where children did not wish to engage, the programme sought to identify ways to support in alternative ways with plenty of activity, finding areas they like, and building confidence. With regards to weather implications the team would consider the best use of space, whether that be school halls or classrooms. Members commended the team and recognised that achievement of being the authority first in the UK to carry out this scheme.

There is an even split of gender through the volunteer programme. In terms of ALN and free school meals children, successful examples were provided in terms of outcomes. The Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health recognised the measures of impact, and noted the connection with the upcoming item.

#### **4. Public Open Forum**

There were no matters for the public open forum.

#### **5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2017**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were confirmed for accuracy and signed by the Chair.

We noted a correction on page 8. The last sentence of 11.4 should read *However in all years there has been an underspend **in out of** county budget which has more than offset those figures.*

Members expressed frustration at the lack of action list on the agenda.

#### **6. Reports of the Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health**

##### **6.1. Safeguarding Presentation**

Members received an awareness presentation emphasising the importance of safeguarding. The Chief Officer thanked those involved with the presentation, and stressed the importance of everyone within the Council to be aware.

##### **6.2. Volunteering Policy**

The Cabinet Member for Finance presented the Volunteering Policy, the purpose of the report being to provide a robust Volunteering Policy position, applicable to all service/business areas including schools.

In response to a comment regarding insurance, Council was advised that this was currently being looked at by insurance officers in order to identify solutions. Volunteer DBS checks are free of charge, with no costs incurred.

The Chief Officer stated that she is confident that the systems are in place that ensure people accessing information are those that should be doing so.

The Leader welcomed the report and commended the Volunteering Lead on the robust and strong policy.

In terms of review, all policies are constantly monitored and updated. The suitability of the policy would be assessed annually, and refreshed every 3-5 years.

Upon being put to the vote, Council resolved to agree the recommendation:

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**That the Volunteering Policy be adopted by Council and circulated to all service/business areas and commended to governing bodies for adoption as soon as possible.**

### **6.3. Safeguarding evaluation report**

The Cabinet Member for Social Care presented the Safeguarding Evaluative Report:

- To evaluate the progress of Monmouthshire County Council's key safeguarding priorities, in the period April – October 2017, using identified measures to highlight progress, identify risks and set out clear improvement actions and priorities for further development.
- To inform Members about the effectiveness of safeguarding in Monmouthshire and the work that is in progress to support the Council's aims in protecting children and adults at risk from harm and abuse.
- To inform Members about the progress made towards meeting the standards in the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy approved by Council in July 2017.

In response to questions we heard that the DBS exception report has been moved from quarterly to periodic due to the importance of the check in terms of the safer recruitment process and it being not appropriate to wait for a quarterly check, and to ensure immediate risks are managed.

In terms of addressing issues surrounding loneliness in adult social care, this would come under the preventative approach to safeguarding and the wellbeing workforce has been introduced who work with people who are lonely and isolated to connect them to certain services and social opportunities.

Councillor Batrouni sought assurance that the framework would identify weaknesses or breaches. The Chief Officer responded that the report aims to be an honest appraisal of where we are. A review report is expected April 2018

Councillor Pratt thanked the social services team, specifically for the work being undertaken in Llanelly Hill.

The External Reference Group had provided helpful point, the minutes could be forwarded to Members.

In response to a question regarding the Faithful and Gould asset survey of Chepstow School, The Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health advised that she would ask the Chief Officer for Children and Young People to provide a response.

There was concern that the Council had been commissioning services without a risk based management and quality assurance process across all providers. In response we heard that the majority of placements made in Children's Services go through the 'Four Cs', a commissioning consortium across South Wales here providers come onto a framework, and accreditation, quality and safeguarding checks are undertaken. In Children's Services a contracts officer does some of that work for the off contract provider. This is being moved in to the commissioning function in Social Care and Health.

In terms of the assessment of safe services having important weaknesses, it is recognised there are a vast array of services around safeguarding and analysis is showing that safeguarding is built in but we do not have a full picture as a Council. There is to be an internal audit of the whole programme to be undertaken in the new year.

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Council resolved to agree the recommendation:

**To note the key safeguarding risks and approve the priority improvement actions as set out at Appendix 2 to this report.**

**To endorse the evaluation of safeguarding progress set out in Appendix 5 to this report.**

### **7. Report of the Monitoring Officer:**

#### **7.1. Update to constitution**

The Cabinet Member for Governance presented a report for Council to consider and adopt the proposed changes to the council's constitution. The proposed highlights were highlighted green in the attached report.

It was expressed that the decisions had been made previously and there was nothing that had not been seen before.

Members were reassured that the updated version would be accessible via the Hub, as well as a central hard copy available at County Hall.

Council resolved to agree the recommendation:

**To adopt the attached document as the council's constitution.**

### **8. Reports of the Head of Policy and Governance:**

#### **8.1. Bryn Y Cwm Area Committee Pilot**

The Cabinet Member for Governance presented a report in order to seek approval of council to a temporary amendment of the constitution which will allow town and community council members voting rights on the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee.

Upon being put to the vote, Council agreed the recommendations:

**That council agree to a temporary amendment to the constitution of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee to allow town and community council members who sit on the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee voting rights for the duration of the area working pilot, ending in September 2018.**

**That the quorum of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee is one quarter of the whole number of members being 23**

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## **9. Reports of the Deputy Chief Executive:**

### **9.1. City Deal**

The Chief Executive presented a report, the purpose being to provide Council with an update on some key elements within the City Deal programme.

Since the formation of the City Deal programme MCC have been hosting the position of Interim Programme Director, performing a pay and rations role. The Joint Cabinet now want to solidify this role and are asking if MCC would be prepared to host the position. The funding will come from City Deal and not MCC. The report does not ask to commit to any financial contribution. As with any posts in excess of £100k there are processes to be put in place where councils are content to proceed, and this report looks to satisfy that requirement. The appointment panel would likely be the Leaders of the 10 councils, and the processes to be followed would largely be those of Cardiff City Council.

The Leader moved the recommendation and stated the importance of a significant person who would be fundamental in shaping the work programme for the City Deal.

Councillor Watts expressed concern that the salary should be based on performance and delivery. The Leader responded that there will be a joint scrutiny function, and outcomes will be expected to be delivered over the three year contract.

If MCC does host the position, it is not likely that the person would be based in Monmouthshire. Councillor Howarth requested that should an MCC officer be successful, that position should be replaced as soon as possible.

Council resolved to agree the recommendations:

**To seek approval for Monmouthshire County Council to host the temporary/ fixed term contract of employment for the City Deal Programme Director post for a three- year period from 1 April 2018. The nature of the contract will be determined by the appointment of the successful candidate and will be via either a secondment basis or a fixed term appointment basis.**

**To report this role to Council and to ratify Council approval for the employment of a post which is in excess of £100,000 per annum.**

**Under The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (Wales) Regulations 2006, as amended in 2014, due to the fact that the proposed remuneration of the City Deal Programme Director will be in excess of £100,000 per annum, there is a necessity for the role to be reported to Council.**

**Due to the secondment / fixed term contract arrangements identified above, the current employer of the successful candidate will not be known until after the recruitment process has been completed, therefore the post needs to be ratified by whichever Council is the employer, and until this takes place only a conditional offer would be able to be made. An update report will be provided to Council following the recruitment & selection appointment process**

## **10. Notices of Motion:**

### **10.1. Motion from County Councillor K. Williams**

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*This council will look to invest in our operations department during the next round of budget talks. We will look to invest around £250,000 in our street scene and highways operations to increase the capacity to carry out highways and grounds maintenance to the level expected of us by council tax payers. The Labour group and Conservative administration will take part in meaningful discussion to achieve this.*

Councillor Batrouni seconded the motion.

During debate the following points were noted:

The Cabinet Member welcomed suggestions from the Labour Group in how to find funds to increase the budget. He added that he would work with the Labour Group in doing so. He reminded that costed suggestions must be made before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

The Leader recognised and sympathised with the issues and asked the opposition to come together and create an alternative budget.

The opposition leader stressed that alternative budgets had previously been ignored.

Independent Member Councillor Blakebrough thought it good for the two parties to work together particularly Westminster and Cardiff have taken the money that the community locally so desperately need. She agreed with the motion in principle and thanked Councillor Williams for raising the issue.

There were concerns amongst Members regarding the budget surrounding highways and infrastructure. Also the delay in implementing the alternative delivery model.

Councillor Webb commended the exemplary service within her ward

Upon being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

#### **10.2. Motion from County Councillor D. Batrouni**

*Since raising the question about period poverty, the Labour group have received anecdotal information that it is an issue in Monmouthshire. Therefore, the Labour group requests that the Council works with local comprehensives and foodbanks in order to ascertain the scale of the need in Monmouthshire and to help, where appropriate, provide sanitary products for women and girls. The council should also consider the current strategy of providing vending machines for sanitary products at schools and the cost per unit that it charges.*

*Additionally, we ask that the council considers the use of sustainable products in the form of reusable and biodegradable products, as the UK produces 200,000 tonnes of oil based waste in the form of discarded sanitary products each year. Finally, that the Council resolutely determines, as a matter of policy and on a cross-party basis, to eradicate period poverty in Monmouthshire.*

Councillor Batrouni presented the motion thanking the Cabinet Member for the response at the previous Council meeting, and stated that following the meeting there had been many messages from the community confirming this to be an issue. He added that he had been told that nurses in secondary schools are handing out sanitary products and have been doing so for

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years, some paying for them from their own pocket. He questioned if the Council should think about the costs and margins of vending machines in the secondary schools.

Councillor D. Evans seconded the motion

In response, Cabinet Member, Councillor S Jones confirmed that she is absolutely committed to eradicating period poverty and proposed an amended motion:

*This Council will continue to work with schools, foodbanks and all relevant agencies to ascertain the scale of the need in Monmouthshire and through working in partnership we will identify how we can support those who are affected by period poverty. As part of this approach we will consider the use of sustainable products in the form of re-useable and biodegradable products and this Council remains committed to working with all of our partners towards eradicating period poverty in Monmouthshire.*

Councillor S. Jones explained that she had included 'all agencies' in her amended motion referring to primary schools and their growing up programme, housing associations and other charities. She confirmed that she has been in touch with the organisation Wings and hoped to provide confidence that she is following up on this issue. It was explained that reference to vending machines had been removed as that is a Welsh Government Policy and not our strategy to consider. We heard that only one comprehensive school in Monmouthshire has a vending machine, yet all schools offer free sanitary products as part of the welfare rooms. Councillor Jones added she would continue to work on this agenda on behalf of women and girls of Monmouthshire.

Council debated the amended motion:

Councillor Batrouni expressed concern at dropping the terms 'provide' and 'policy' as this would be seen as enabling but not acting ourselves.

Members were keen to support the motion and welcomed hard data on period poverty.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the suggestion that Members form a sub group to advance work on this issue.

Upon being put to vote, Council carried the amended motion.

#### **11. Members Questions:**

##### **11.1. From County Councillor S. Woodhouse to County Councillor R. John**

*What assessment has the Cabinet Member made of the implications for schools in Monmouthshire of the Welsh Government's cuts to the Education Improvement Grant?*

Cabinet Member Councillor R. John thanked Councillor Woodhouse for the question and responded that the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) is distributed to schools through the education consortia, EAS, and that money is used for a wide variety of valuable school improvement activities such as teacher training and foundation stage staffing. WG has announced cuts to the fund and have not provided any clarity on which aspects of the EIG are to be cut and there is considerable concern among headteachers in Monmouthshire about the impact of these cuts, particularly on our most vulnerable learners. He added that he had met with the Cabinet Secretary for Education and had expressed the concern, and she had explained that the EIG and a number of grants are to be moved into the revenue support grant, which is also being cut here in Monmouthshire. Councillor John has written to the Cabinet Secretary to reiterate his concerns and request that WG reconsider. Cllr John recognised that

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public money is in short supply but noted that WG have reserves totalling over £300m, and have also received just over £1.2b from the Chancellor's budget and just a fraction of that could protect the EIG, support teachers in delivering the new curriculum, and help support them in their work to drive up standards in schools in Monmouthshire.

As a supplementary Cllr Woodhouse asked that Members are informed of the response from WG and are kept up to date on this item.

#### **12. From County Councillor A. Webb to County Councillor S. Jones**

*Has the Cabinet Member received a response to the motion approved at the September full Council meeting which supported Monmouthshire being prioritised for broadband deployment in the next round of Welsh Government funding?*

Cabinet Member Councillor S. Jones thanked Councillor Webb for the question and responded that in terms of consultation there had been no formal reply but WG had provided a summary of responses from all those consulted. As part of our consultation response we asked that some of the £80m funding be drawn down to this Council. To date there has been no response from WG but we will keep pushing on that. We do know that there will be over 10% of households that won't have access to Superfast Broadband which is below the Welsh average. We don't know if those 1600 properties that were in the AB project will be included in the next round. In terms of whether we will be prioritised we know that we have £80m going forward as part of the WG funding for the whole of Wales. Monmouthshire is in a bid area with Powys, Flintshire, Wrexham, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff and Newport and are at level 3 of 5 levels, so not high priority at this stage. Councillor Jones is keen to work cross party to solve this issue.

#### **13. Report of the Head of Operations:**

**13.1. To resolve to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, on the grounds that it involves the information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act [Proper Officer's view attached].**

#### **13.2. HoV Food Waste Procurement - Evaluation Of Invitation To Submit Initial Tenders & Identification Of Preferred Bidder**

Council were presented with a report the purpose being to brief Council on the process for tender and contract award for the provision of food waste treatment services on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council, Blaenau Gwent CBC and Torfaen CBC and seek approval to identify the preferred bidder and proceed to the final stages of contract award.

Following discussion Council resolved to agree the recommendations:

**That Council receive a report from officers on the tender process to date and what the next steps are to arrive at the contract award.**

**That Council support the identification of the preferred bidder and that officers proceed to negotiation and contract award subject to .Blaenau Gwent CBC and Torfaen CBC also approving the identification of the preferred bidder.**



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**The meeting ended at 1.50 pm**

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**Public Service Board**  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at County Hall, Usk**

**Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Huw Jakeway	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Sharran Lloyd	Monmouthshire County Council
Paul Matthews (chair)	Monmouthshire County Council
David Barnes (minutes)	Monmouthshire County Council
Steve Morgan	Natural Resources Wales
Julian Williams	Gwent Police
Nick Wood	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Steven Tilley (for Martin Featherstone)	GAVO
Eleri Thomas (for Jeff Cuthbert)	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Jeff Scrivens	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Paula Kennedy	Melin Homes
Hazel Clatworthy	Monmouthshire County Council
Peter Fox	Monmouthshire County Council
Sarah Aitken	Public Health Wales
Matthew Gatehouse	Monmouthshire County Council
Catherine King	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Chris Edmondson	Community Member

**Apologies:**

Jeff Cuthbert	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Martin Swain	Welsh Government
Martin Featherstone	GAVO
Lyn Webber	Office of Police & Crime Commissioner
Sophie Howe	Office of Future Generations Commissioner

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

PM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting (8<sup>th</sup> February 2017) & Matters Arising**

No issues or matters arising were raised from the minutes of the previous meeting.

### **3. Sophie Howe – Future Generations Commissioner**

Sophie Howe was unable to attend the meeting. Apologies were received.

### **4. Wellbeing Plan & Next Steps**

MG provided some context to the group, explaining the extensive engagement exercise that was undertaken as part of the Wellbeing Assessment which was signed off in the summer.

In the subsequent months, work has been done around the Wellbeing Objectives and thought has gone into identify the steps needed for the PSB to sign up to in the future. A workshop was held in Cwrt Bleddyn which was well attended by partners, industry experts as well as Town and Community Councils – with the opportunity to discuss some of the things that public services should be working on in the future.

The formal 12 week consultation is now needed, where things may change if more evidence emerges or if suggestions are made that could make a difference.

MG asked whether the PSB thought the Objectives remain the right ones. Are the steps listed under the Objectives correct? If the draft Plan is signed off, we are entering the next phase of the work that is all about putting the actions into place.

SL talked to her paper around the next steps for the PSB. Conscious that the involvement and collaboration is not limited to those partners sat in the room – bodies such as the Town and Community Councils and others need to be involved and to feel ownership on the Plan. It's about having the balance of making real change at a strategic level but it needs to be tangible at a community level.

CK commented that it's looking great, and asked whether advice from the Future Generations Commissioner has been considered in the final draft?

MG responded that we have had a 13 week consultation period with the office of the Commissioner, and was pretty happy that the issues have been taken into account. There is a good dialogue between us, and they (FG Commissioner's Office) have said that some of the feedback is for the longer term and doesn't need to be immediately address in the plan. The points we could address have been captured but there are a number we need to improve – with future trends being a good example, where funding has been commissioned at a Gwent level to access that level of knowledge we are not expert in.

HC added that the steer we are getting is that they are not interested in the minutia of things, but of how the PSB can work differently and how the objectives we chose can be evidenced – although we can really benefit from the signposting Sophie Howe has done in her feedback.

SA commented that it's a really good plan and likes the simplicity of the box providing the clear ambition. Adding that it's an ambitious and achievable response.

NW stated that the plan represents the County well, but the next steps around consultation is done in a way that engages the population, making use of social media elements. Post sign-off the focus needs to be on the doing, for the Plan not to become a dry document.

CE suggested having some examples/case studies of what we are going to be doing in order to make the discussion more open. The idea of an independent chair of the PSB, and independent chairs of working groups from the community might give the using of the plan quite a lot of credibility. There is a lot of content around poverty – we should be pushing every employer in Monmouthshire to be living wage employers.

SM said that the document is excellent and that the hardest part is the next stage of how we are going to do it. We need to be selfish with our time at PSB to commit to getting the 'how' right. With regards to the 3<sup>rd</sup> aspiration "Consider our impact on the environment", SM asked that the wording is more firm than the 'consider' used.

**ACTION: Alter wording of aspiration.**

HJ commented that the plan is evidenced based and that a lot of work has gone into it – but is more interested in what happens next and the difference we make. As an organisation SWFRS have engagement staff that could be made available to contribute.

PK stated the need to work together and that the ethos is pushed down through the partner organisations – and that thinking outside the box is an important point, to try and come up with new solutions. The Plan will only translate into outcome if we commit to that and change some of the behaviours.

MG noted that the consultation is slightly different to last time, initial thoughts are to go out and about with a smaller number of events and to run some mini 'moonshot' sessions – a process used by Google to try and open the mindset in order to solve complex problems, rather than falling back to the same old solutions. The session could also be open to others. Further thought has gone into running a cohort through the Evolve process, which MCC has used recently – where people are brought together for a week to try and tackle the central issue.

SA said that we need to be clear about who our audience is, and to get people who have been working in partnerships in the old way to get them thinking in a new way is important. HC replied that the PSB, FG Commissioner and Welsh Government need to be able to relate to the plan as well as the public. We will be looking to create visual 'Plans on a Page', to effectively summarise.

PM stated that for him, its about community members and generating a willingness to participate and attaching to something. We are about to get to the starting line and we should be excited and full of energy, and is confident we can do good things.

HJ asked PM if it's fair that the Plan is not owned by MCC but the PSB is leaning a lot on them. PM replied that we are approaching the point of looking at that, we haven't discussed in the past as it would have distracted us from the work.

## 5. AOB

HJ explained that SWFRS have a tragic history of Domestic Violence/Domestic Abuse (DV/DA), but 3/4 years ago became White Ribbon accredited and each year a themed event to support the Not in My Name campaign. This year, SWFRS are branding their vehicles with large stickers displaying the White Ribbon.

PM asked whether any other partners are interested in doing something similar, as a PSB we need visibility and this can make a clear statement that public services are together on certain issues.

PF encouraged others to embrace the suggestion, to be proactive on what the White Ribbon means – having the logo is one important message but we need to help people understand why.

JW was happy to receive details and take part.

-END-

Action	Responsible
Alter the wording for the environmental aspiration, replacing the word 'Consider'.	MG
PSB support staff to begin consultation workshops with partnerships to explore the challenges within each of the objectives in more detail	SL & RJ

**ACTION LIST**  
**MEETING OF MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DATE OF MEETING	AGENDA/MINUTE ITEM	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	TO BE ACTIONED BY	PROGRESS
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	<b>Minutes</b>	Contact MHA to ensure Cllr Batrouni is added as a member of the board.	Nicola Perry	Members' Secretary have advised MHA of the update.
Page 17	<b>Action List</b>	Note the absence of action list and ensure this is followed up	Nicola Perry	Action List now available to all through the Hub. Actions list to be updated and forwarded to all involved. Officers able to update accordingly.  <a href="#">Action List</a>
	<b>Safeguarding Evaluative Report</b>	Chief Officer for CYP to provide a response regarding the outcomes of the Faithful & Gould asset survey of Chepstow School to Cllr Pavia	Claire Marchant / Will McLean	CYP officers from the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools team have been working with colleagues in property services and in Chepstow School. The initial and urgent work was to consider the safeguarding issue that was raised in the Faithful and Gould survey (2016). One aspect related to a fencing issue and the other was concerned with the linkage between the

				school and the leisure centre. Both the fence and the linkages have now been addressed.
	<b>Update to Constitution</b>	Clarity requested around the amount of notice required to remotely attend a meeting. To add 'working' days.	Rob Tranter	The constitution has been updated to include the proposed amendment
	<b>Motion from Cllr Batrouni</b>	To form a working group with Members to work with Cllr S. Jones on the issue of Period Poverty	Cllr Jones	Members emailed and invited to a meeting of the working group at 12:30m on January 10 <sup>th</sup> 2018.





**Subject: COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2018/19**

**Meeting: Council**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Divisions/Wards Affected: All**

## **1. PURPOSE:**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- present arrangements for the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to approve it for 2018/19
- affirm that, in the absence of any revisions or amendments, annual uprating amendments will be carried out each year without a requirement to adopt the whole Council Tax Reduction Scheme

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 To note the making of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") 2013 by the Welsh Government on 26 November 2013.

2.2 To adopt the provisions within the Regulations above ("the Prescribed Requirements Regulations") and any 'annual uprating regulations' in respect of its Scheme for the financial year 2018/19 including the discretionary elements previously approved as the Council's local scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

## **3. KEY ISSUES:**

3.1 On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Council adopted the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17, in accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013.

3.2 The Regulations approved by the Assembly are available as follows:

The Default Scheme

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3035/contents/made>

The Prescribed Scheme

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2013/3029/contents/made>

The Amendment Regulations were approved by the National Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 incorporating the uprated benefits from April 2018

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=20675>

- 3.3 A failure to adopt a 'local' scheme by 31 January 2018 will result in the Default Scheme being imposed on the Council.
- 3.4 The Welsh Government's regulations for 2018/19 do not contain any significant changes for recipients of Council Tax reduction. Claimants can receive a reduction up to 100% of their Council Tax bill dependent upon their income and household circumstances.
- 3.5 Annual uprating regulations to increase benefits and personal allowances from April 2018 within the Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been considered by a plenary session of the Senedd of the National Assembly for Wales on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 It was reported to Council on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013 that the Welfare Reform Act 2013 included provisions to abolish Council Tax Benefit on 31 March 2013. From 1 April 2013, the responsibility for arranging support towards paying Council Tax and the associated funding transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to local authorities in England, and to the Scottish and Welsh Governments. The UK Government's policy intention was to reduce expenditure on Council Tax and therefore to implement a 10 per cent funding cut.
- 4.2 The report to Council on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013 referred to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Regulations 2012 and the amending regulations 2013. Those regulations were for implementation during the 2013/14 financial year only and Council resolved to adopt a new scheme for subsequent years in accordance with new regulations approved by the Welsh Government.
- 4.3 The regulations for Council Tax Reduction include provision for support up to 100% of council tax. As noted when presenting this issue in January, the regulations control the implementation of reduction schemes across the whole of Wales and are designed to ensure that each local authority consistently provides support for Welsh taxpayers.

#### **5. The Reduction Scheme and discretionary areas**

- 5.1 Although a national scheme has been approved, within the Prescribed Requirements Regulations there is limited discretion given to the Council to apply additional discretionary elements that are more generous than the national scheme and which provide for additional administrative flexibility. Council approved the discretionary areas to be applied (listed in 5.2) following public consultation. It is not proposed to change them in any way therefore no further consultation is required at this stage.
- 5.2 It is recommended to adopt the Scheme in the Prescribed Requirement Regulations (as per paragraph 3.3 the regulations can be accessed via the link: - <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-business-fourth-assembly-laid-docs.htm?act=dis&id=251458&ds=12/2013>) and to exercise the previously approved discretions as follows:
- The ability to increase the standard extended reduction period of 4 weeks given to persons after they return to work where they have previously been receiving a council tax reduction that is to end as a result of their return to work - it is not recommended to increase the standard extended reduction period;
  - Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions which is to be disregarded when calculating income of the claimant - it is recommended to disregard the whole amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions;

- The ability to backdate the application of council tax reduction with regard to late claims prior to the new standard period of three months before the claim - it is not recommended to increase the backdated period;
- To provide above the minimum level of information to customers in order to ensure they are appropriately notified of their award in accordance with legislation - it is recommended that we maintain the current standard provision.

These discretions were approved by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

- 5.3 There are no additional monies available from the Welsh Government to fund discretionary elements but they are allowed for within our existing budget.
- 5.4 Changes to pensions, benefits and allowances normally take effect every April and sometimes during the year. The scheme has to reflect the changes to benefits in order to adjust calculations of entitlement. This is part of normal Benefits administration. We are advised that the Council need to approve the annual uprating regulations each year without formal adoption of the whole scheme.
- 5.5 As the uprating of benefits is not an area of discretion the Council is not able to consult on it.

## **6 OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

This is not applicable as there are no changes to the scheme that is currently in place. The report has been presented as the uprating regulations are effectively amendments to the main scheme, for which we need to obtain overall approval.

## **7 EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The scheme is largely prescribed by Welsh Government. Previous annual reports, from 2013 to 2017, have reaffirmed the minimal discretions that the Authority can apply. These discretions have been found to be resilient and fair.

## **8 REASONS**

- 8.1 To agree the council tax reduction scheme for the forthcoming financial year as required by legislation.
- 8.2 To affirm the annual uprating prescribed by the Welsh Government

## **9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 From 2014/15 onwards the Council Tax Reduction Scheme was funded through RSG. The Council therefore need to manage the cost of the Scheme within its annual budget.
- 9.2 Any additional costs for growth in caseload and/or increases in entitlement attributable to a rise in the overall level of Council Tax have to be managed and are built into our budget proposals for 2018/19.
- 9.3 The provisional budget allocation, for 2018/19, of £6,277,609 is based on a 3.95% increase in Council Tax. The budget also reflects an anticipated ongoing fall in demand which has released £100,000 savings to the Medium Term Financial Plan. Any subsequent changes in the council tax increase will be reflected in the final budget proposal report.

**10. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

- 10.1 There are no implications for sustainability, safeguarding and corporate parenting.
- 10.2 The scheme to be applied for 2018/19 does not contain any significant changes from the scheme which is currently operational.
- 10.3 The Welsh Government has undertaken a detailed 'regulatory' impact assessment, which includes equality impact assessment, but we understand that the findings reported were in line with their expectations.
- 10.4 Our Sustainability Community Officer has confirmed that under these circumstances there is no requirement to complete a Future Generations Evaluation.

**11. CONSULTEES:**

Cabinet  
Strategic Leadership Team  
Head of Finance  
Head of Legal

**12. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

**13. AUTHORS:**

Ruth Donovan – Assistant Head of Finance: Revenues, Systems and Exchequer

Richard Davies – Head of Benefits (Monmouthshire)

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**SUBJECT: ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD – REDESIGNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE – DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

**MEETING: COUNCIL**

**DATE: 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.0 To present a draft Monmouthshire County Council response to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) consultation *Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People* for approval and submission to ABUHB to meet the deadline for consultation responses which is 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Council endorse the attached draft consultation response (Appendix A) for submission to ABUHB.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 ABUHB approved recommendations at its Board meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to enter into formal public consultation a preferred option for the redesign of older adult mental health services.
- 3.2 The public consultation process was agreed between ABUHB and the Community Health Council to run between November 2017 and January 2018.
- 3.3 The ABUHB consultation document is included as Appendix B to this paper. The consultation sets out a vision for older adult mental health services and describes the challenges faced by the Health Board in recruiting a registered mental health nursing workforce to safely provide quality inpatient services. The consultation advises of urgent changes to services that were made in January 2016 to ensure that safe services could be provided. The consultation then sets out and appraises a number of options for future service provision. There is a preferred option described in the paper, to consolidate the number of older adult mental health wards, to 3 dementia wards and 1 functional mental health ward. This option would mean that dementia inpatient services would no longer be provided from St Pierre Services at Chepstow Community Hospital. This would mean that people from Monmouthshire requiring this service would access either St Woolos Hospital or Ysbyty Tri Chwm Hospital in Ebbw Vale.
- 3.4 Monmouthshire County Council Members have actively engaged in the ABUHB consultation process. In addition to an all Member seminar, there have a number of public engagement meetings well attended by Councilors. At the all Member seminar, and in public meetings, a number of concerns have been raised regarding the consultation proposals, the lack of consideration in the options appraisal to Monmouthshire's demographics – current and projected- and prevalence of mental ill health. Concerns have also been consistently raised

regarding transport and access issues, the impact on carers, lack of detail around investment in enhanced community services and the impact of service withdrawal on the viability of Chepstow Community Hospital. These concerns mean the consultation response is not supportive of the preferred option. It is proposed that Council expresses a view that a more robust option appraisal is undertaken considers fully all relevant information, and puts in place a plan for quality older adult mental health services – community and inpatient- which meet the needs of current and future generations.

- 3.5 Notwithstanding the consultation response, it is important to emphasise the absolute commitment of Monmouthshire County Council to work in partnership to deliver integrated health and social care services. The commitment of the Health Board to a positive future for Chepstow Community Hospital, and the work being taken forward to plan for service provision in South Monmouthshire through the group co-chaired by the Chief Operating Officer, ABUHB and the Chief Officer, Social Care and Health, Monmouthshire County Council is welcome. To instill confidence, it needs to deliver detail of how primary and community health, social care and wellbeing services will be enhanced, making best use of the hospital and other physical assets.

#### **4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 No option appraisal is included in this report as this is a response to a ABUHB consultation which itself includes an options appraisal. The robustness of evidence used to undertake that option appraisal is questioned in this consultation response.

#### **5. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- 5.1 No evaluation criteria are included in this report as it is a response to an ABUHB consultation. The consultation response does highlight the need for clear evaluative measures understanding the impact of the change proposed.

#### **6. REASONS:**

- 6.1 The reason for this paper is to provide an effective consultation response to the ABUHB consultation on the *Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People*

#### **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

- 7.1 This consultation response has no direct resource implication to the Council. The response does request firm commitment from ABUHB that savings realised from the realignment of inpatient services are ringfenced for reinvestment in older adult mental health services and that the priorities for this investment should meet current and future needs.

#### **8. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

- 8.1 As this is a consultation response to a change proposal from another public body no equalities impact assessment has been undertaken by Monmouthshire County Council. The consultation response expresses disappointment at the lack of availability of an impact assessment to scrutinise during the consultation process, and stresses the need for this to be central to the Board's decision on this matter.

#### **9. CONSULTEES:**

Senior Leadership Team  
Cabinet

All Member's Seminar – The views expressed in the all Member seminar form the substance of the consultation response.

Adult Select Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Having carefully scrutinised the draft response to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) consultation *Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People*, Adult Select Committee firmly support Option 1 as the preferred option due to the reasons outlined below:

- Challenging transport issues in the County's rural areas will present significant problems and detriment to older people.
- The process undertaken to reach the decision on options did not sufficiently involve the County Council.
- Previous scrutiny of older person's care needs resulted in the following recommendation for a longer term model: "As a committee, we are in agreement with the principle that the Council should take a lead in providing a future long-term sustainable care model for Monmouthshire. Given the success of the Raglan Project, we understand the advantages of the Council providing care facilities to ensure a high quality service. We recognise that our primary objective remains to support people to live independently for as long as possible, but that a range of services will be needed to support future complex care needs such as dementia, given the increasing ageing population." [*Adults Select Committee: 30th October, 2017*].

As such, bearing in mind the above remarks, the Committee were strongly of the opinion that a poor decision would be made and outcomes could not be supported if the Health Board's preferred option were implemented.

#### **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Draft Consultation Response (Appendix A)

ABUHB Consultation Document *Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People*  
(Appendix B)







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**DRAFT Response to Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Consultation – Redesigning Mental Health Services for Older People**

The consultation into the future of Older Adult Mental Health Services by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board presents some considerable challenges for Monmouthshire County Council.

The Council absolutely supports the commitment of the Health Board to patient safety and quality of care. This is especially important when caring for some of our most vulnerable citizens – older people with mental ill health. We also recognise the challenges facing the Health Board: of recruiting a suitably qualified registered workforce against a backdrop of what appears to be sub-optimal workforce planning over a number of years by the NHS nationally. We also support the vision of the Health Board for older adult mental health services – to enhance community mental health services, particularly to “provide more services closer to where people live”. We also would like to express our sincere thanks to officers of the Health Board who attended an all Member seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> November, presented detailed background to the proposals and responded to questions from Council Members.

We cannot, however, support as a Council the preferred option for the future of older adult mental health services as set out in the consultation document. The Council approved 2 motions (appendix 1) on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 expressing our concerns at the consultation in light of the demographic challenges facing our County. Our duty as a Council is to secure the best possible configuration of health services and outcomes to meet the needs of the people of Monmouthshire. We cannot see evidence in the preferred option within the consultation that this is the best outcome for our citizens. Indeed we are concerned if implemented that it will have a detrimental impact on older adults with mental ill health, their carers and wider services in Monmouthshire. Our concerns are around both the impact on current, and future generations.

Our concerns regarding the consultation proposals and the preferred option are as follows:

**1. The demographic challenges of a high proportion of older people in Monmouthshire are not considered.** The proportion of people aged over 65, 75 and 85 are higher in Monmouthshire than in other Gwent counties set out in **table 1**

County	% over 65s	% age 65-74	% age 75-84	% age over 85
Caerphilly	18.83	10.95	5.92	1.95
Blaenau Gwent	19.75	11.29	6.29	2.17
Torfaen	20.07	11.13	6.4	2.54
Monmouthshire	24.22	13.39	7.58	3.24
Newport	17.4	9.5	5.71	2.2

**Percentage of Population by Age – StatsWales – Mid-year 2016 Population Estimates**

In addition, the number of over 85s in Monmouthshire are projected to rise by 185% by 2039.

As the consultation states, the number of older people with dementia in Gwent will have increased by approximately 11,000 by 2013. It is clear that there will already be a higher proportion of people with dementia in Monmouthshire than other parts of Gwent, and the numbers in our County compared with the rest of the region will continue to be proportionately higher. This is not taking into account the expansion of the population in the south of the County.

Nowhere does the consultation document consider the proportion of older people, and prevalence of dementia, as a significant factor in option appraisal. Our view as a Council is that this means the option appraisal is significantly flawed in considering how best to meet current and future needs.

**2. The considerable challenges of access to services and transport within a rural county are not taken into account with the consultation.** There is no mitigation offered as to how the increased travel time for Monmouthshire carers will be addressed by the Health Board. It is unclear whether travel times have been analysed and informed the options appraisal, although an increase in travel time is highlighted as potentially negative impact. It is unclear from the consultation where people from Monmouth and central Monmouthshire will access services. Without evidence of proper consideration of accessibility issues, we again consider the option appraisal to be flawed and the conclusions can-not be supported. Carers will frequently be old and vulnerable and the consequences of the change will be further travel, over greater distances, compounded by poor public transport and challenges around car parking. The preferred option will mean visiting loved ones will be unrealistic for many Monmouthshire carers. We would hope the Health Board can make real terms commitment to enhanced carer support as a tangible enhancement to the whole older adult mental health service offer. The impact on carers of caring for someone with dementia is considerable and investing in carer wellbeing and support

**3. Whilst recognising this is a consultation into the future of older adult mental health inpatient services the viability of Chepstow Community Hospital as a vibrant community hospital is threatened, as the preferred option would represent withdrawal of another important services.** Chepstow hospital is a fantastic facility, but the potential for the hospital to reduce pressures on acute services is not being realised. The withdrawal of minor injury services was a blow to the south of the county. Further service reductions, unless there are balanced by firm commitments from the Health Board to expand other services, will severely undermine the confidence of the local population, in the Health Board's commitment to services in Chepstow. A really positively articulated purpose for the hospital, and community services, and expanded range of services that can safely be provided is imperative to restore confidence and meet the needs of people for services such as outpatients and diagnostics which should not require an appointment at the Royal Gwent Hospital.

**4. Investment of savings realised through Older Adult Mental service configuration should be ring-fenced for reinvestment in community mental health services and services for carers.** We ask for a firm commitment from the Health Board to this effect. We note that the

Board paper which was approved giving approval to consult, highlighted '*an opportunity to reinvestment in other service priorities within Older Adult Mental Health*'. If the proposed changes are genuinely focussed on improving quality of care and better outcomes for patients, then financially supporting improved integrated community services is an important commitment and the detail of where that investment will be directed, and for us, how it will impact on Monmouthshire is a critical issue which we will continue to ask for assurances on.

**5. There is no meaningful articulation of where older adult mental health inpatient services sit within the overall pathway for mental health.** We have an overarching concern with regard the proposals – they seem to be entirely driven by the workforce challenges, rather than service improvement. There is no substance by which we can understand what is meant by increasing and strengthening community services in Monmouthshire. Monmouthshire is a county which has responded positively to the increasing needs of our population for dementia care – the Council's care at home service which provides high quality dementia care has won accolades for the way it delivers person centred care, based on strong relationships. There is a business case under development for the provision of a leading edge specialist dementia care home at Crick Road. We need to understand that the Health Board is committed to developing, delivering and investing in integrated community pathways to have confidence in the substance behind the commitments. Without detail the proposed changes to older adult mental health services seem reactive and short term. Clear measures of what the changes will achieve should be fundamental in any proposal for significant change.

**6. Equality impact assessment** – We are concerned that there is no equality impact assessment available either as part of the Board paper or are the consultation document. We note that one is in development, and issues of travel and access are likely to be substantive. We also consider that the equality impact assessment should meaningfully address the differential demographic impact described earlier in this response. Given the potentially negative impacts on vulnerable older people this is a critical consideration we would have wished to scrutinise and comment on in formulating this response.

**7. Limited evidence of integrated working** – Underpinning many of our concerns as a Council is the lack of integrated planning evident for older adult mental health services and people with dementia particularly. As a Council, we were not involved in the initial option appraisal. Our overarching view is that the proposals appear a 'quick fix' to an immediate problem – there is no evidence of whole system planning to meet the needs – inside and outside the hospital - of our ageing population. This is our collective responsibility as a Local Authority with you as a Health Board. Genuine co-production and effective engagement with our communities is an essential part of effective planning. We ask that you commit senior officer resource to doing this work with us, and with our communities, in a meaningful way. The outcome we seek is a Monmouthshire Older Adult Mental Health Strategy and Implementation plan which includes: preventative and wellbeing approaches, carer support and respite, day opportunities and care at home, state of the art edge residential provision and high quality in-patient provision. We would also welcome working together to address our collective workforce challenges which clearly are a key driver in the urgency of service change proposals. Any permanent changes to service configuration should only progress

when this whole system strategy has been designed. In- patient provision would then clearly be designed in the context of the whole pathway.

To conclude, as stated at the outset, we understand the considerable challenges which the Health Board faces in providing services against a backdrop of scarcity of workforce. We have always worked closely and productively in partnership with the Health Board, and have been at the fore of developing innovative and creative integrated services to address the needs of our populations. It is a disappointing position for us to find ourselves in as a Council, to have to respond negatively to a formal consultation. We hope that we can learn from this position we find our organisations in and ensure we properly engage and plan together around our most significant services going forward. Our concerns are that the option appraisal itself appears significantly flawed and was not developed in partnership with us. Whilst it is heartening to hear about the commitment to improving out of hospital provision, we are struggling to understand what this enhancement will look like and to understand in granular terms what the detail of investment will look like and how it will benefit Monmouthshire. As a partner public body we understand the necessity for any significant change to model the impact on current and future generations and we can-not see that this has been meaningfully appraised in this set of proposals.

Our response, whilst negative to these particular proposals, also represents a continued commitment to integrated working, and effective partnership and we welcome the opportunity to develop and shape an alternative set of proposals with you. As a consequence of the substantial issues raised in this response we would proposed that:

- The Health Board continues to work to the current configuration of in-patient services described in option 1 in the consultation paper for the foreseeable future. This option provides the best geographical spread of services across the Gwent region;
- The Health Board commits to developing an integrated whole system over adult mental health strategy and implementation plan for Monmouthshire which is co-produced with our communities. We ask the Health Board to commit that no permanent service changes will be implemented until this work has been completed.

**Motion from County Councillor Easson:**

*The Aneurin Bevan University Health Board has started consultations regarding the future of Adult Services across Gwent. The suggestion is to centralise dementia care to hospitals in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Newport and a unit in Torfaen; after the Grange Hospital is commissioned in 2021.*

*This would suggest the closure of St Pierre Ward at Chepstow Hospital which is currently employed for dementia care. Support for dementia care in the north of Monmouthshire would be at Ysbyty Tri Cwm Hospital in Ebbw Vale and from the south at St Woolos in Newport. I move that this Council works in conjunction with ABUHB and the ABCHC to find positive and futuristic ways of removing this threat to Chepstow Hospital which has 10 years of the PFI initiative to complete the contract, and that the use of this facility should be enhanced not reduced.”*

**Motion from County Councillor Pavia:**

*Monmouthshire County Council understands the demographic challenges the county faces over the coming decades. It recognises that the increase in older people will inevitably place more demands on our health and social care system, as an ageing population is more likely to have at least one and often multiple chronic conditions like dementia. Therefore, it is concerned by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board’s proposals to redesign older adult mental health services, which could potentially mean the closure of the St. Pierre dementia ward in Chepstow Hospital and the transfer of patients to Ysbyty Tri Chwm in Ebbw Vale and to St. Woolas in Newport.*

*It calls upon Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to:*

- 1. Enter into ‘robust’ and ‘meaningful’ engagement with patients, stakeholders and local communities in Monmouthshire, regarding its redesign proposals and listen to appropriate concerns that any transfer of care outside of the county will naturally generate;*
- 2. Regularly meet with the Cabinet Member responsible for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health and senior officers, to explore new, coproduced and sustainable models of care for older adults with mental ill health, as part of the Council’s overarching strategic plan to deliver quality integrated social care right across the county.*

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Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

# **REDESIGNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

## **CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

### **NOVEMBER 2017 – JANUARY 2018**

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# 1. PURPOSE

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board wishes to consult with people living or using services in Gwent on the future shape of services for older adults with a mental health need. This paper provides information to people who want to take part in the consultation process.

We have been talking to people for some time about what they believe to be important in the design of older adult mental health services. It is the ideas that have emerged through this process that we are now consulting on. Specifically:

**The re-development of mental health services for older adults with a preferred option of enhancing community based services and consolidating in-patient provision to a smaller number of centres of excellence.**

You can contribute to the consultation by using the questionnaire at the end of this document. You may also wish to offer a more detailed response and can do so through the following arrangements:

**E-mail:** [OAMHEngagement.abb@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:OAMHEngagement.abb@wales.nhs.uk)

**Address:** Ms Sara Kay-Green,  
Administration Officer,  
First Access Building,  
County Hospital,  
Coed-y-Gric Road,  
Griffithstown,  
Pontypool,  
Torfaen  
NP4 5YA.

There will also be a series of consultation events that you may wish to attend.

For your views to be considered as part of the consultation, there is a final date for submission of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## **2. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN GWENT**

### **2.1 Defining Older Adult Mental Health**

Within Wales, we know that people are living longer and that in twenty years time one in four people will be over 65 years of age. The numbers of people aged over 85 will more than double in the next twenty years.

Dementia is more common as people grow older and currently affects 1 in every 14 people over 65 years of age. The likelihood of being affected by dementia increases as you grow older. Within the UK an estimated 750,000 people suffer from dementia and the number is projected to rise to over 1 million people within the next 10 years. In Gwent it is estimated that by 2035 over 11,000 people will have some form of dementia compared to around 7,500 in 2015. Medically, dementia is sometimes known as an 'organic' illness.

Older people can also experience mental health difficulties in the same way as younger people. Examples of these are anxiety, depression and schizophrenia. These are sometimes known as 'functional' mental illnesses.

### **2.2 How are older adult mental health services currently organised?**

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board provides a range of health services for older people with both organic and functional mental illness. Services are provided to people who live in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen. We cannot do this alone and therefore, staff in our services work very closely with GPs, other parts of the health service, social services, housing and voluntary organisations.

Most mental health services are provided locally by staff working as part of teams based in the community and include doctors, nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists and social workers. They provide a range of services to help to support people living at home or in the community.

Each borough also has specialist memory assessment services that provide access to specialist assessment, diagnosis and treatment for individuals with memory loss or dementia.

A smaller number of people may need admission to hospital for specialist assessment or treatment of their mental health condition and we have a number of hospital wards at different locations across the Health Board for this purpose.

In addition we also have a specialist psychiatric liaison service that works within the Royal Gwent, Nevill Hall and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr Hospitals and our other general hospitals to offer specialist assessment and intervention for people identified as having mental health needs while being treated for other physical illnesses.

*Within Gwent:*

- *16,000 visits are made by the Community Mental Health Team per year.*
- *8,000 people visit Memory Assessment Clinics per year.*
- *Approximately 400 people spend time on an older adult mental health ward each year.*
- *2,700 people with mental health needs are seen within a hospital setting by the psychiatric liaison service, each year.*

### **3. WHAT HAVE PEOPLE TOLD US IS IMPORTANT ?**

Asking people what they think is really important to the Health Board. Earlier this year we spoke to many people through a range of public and staff engagement meetings to find out their ideas and priorities for older adult mental health services in Gwent.

We held twelve public road shows and six staff events to gather people's views on what was important to them. The themes that came from that work showed that people want to have care and support in their community, as close to their home and family as possible, and only want to come into hospital when really necessary. Specifically they asked:

- To be seen by the same people with the right skills and experience (*Right People*)
- For services to be available in the right place when they needed to access them (*Right Place*)
- To have services and people working together when planning and delivering care with good communication between everyone involved in providing support (*Right Thing*)
- To have confidence that services are safe and sustainable and fit to meet future challenges (*Right Future*)

We used the information from the meetings to hold two workshops with patients, carers, staff, local authority representatives and the community health council to give some thought to how services could be designed in the future to deliver these aspirations.

## **4. FUTURE VISION**

- Provide the most appropriate and best possible care, treatment and support to older people with mental health problems. To do this we want to attract and retain the best staff possible and ensure that our services are fit for the future.
- Provide more services closer to where people live, and have strong community teams supporting people to remain independent for as long as possible in their homes and community. We want our hospital wards to only be used when really necessary and to develop them to be Centres of Excellence for the people using them.

Our aims are to:

- Help support the development of Dementia friendly communities.
- Support people to make healthy life choices that may reduce the risk of mental illness in older age.
- Help people stay independent for as long as possible; to ensure community teams, memory assessment services and other community based services provide fast and responsive assessment, treatment and care in the community when it is needed.
- Provide the best possible environments and expertise for all people who need to have a hospital stay and to develop all wards as Centres of Excellence.

- Provide services that are focused on delivering the best possible outcomes for all people.
- Support people with the right staff, with the right skills, in the right place, at the right time both now and into the future.

To do this, we want to:

- Increase and further strengthen existing community services to make them stronger.
- Offer better access to information, advice and assistance.
- Improve access to specialist assessment within the community or where people live.
- Reduce the overall number of hospital beds in Gwent and the sites from where they are provided, creating separate specialist dementia friendly assessment wards and a single specialist functional assessment ward, all of which will be supported by highly specialised teams of staff.
- Change how we use our staff and money (our resources) to deliver the vision.

Achieving this vision will help us make our services sustainable into the future and address a number of our more immediate challenges.

## **5. CURRENT CHALLENGES**

Whilst we receive good feedback about the care we provide, there are a number of challenges that older adult mental health services are facing at the current time.

Like other similar services in Wales, we have difficulty in recruiting all of the staff we need to provide the high standards of care we would like. We have particular difficulty in recruiting some doctors and nurses to work on our hospital wards and often have to rely on staff working extra hours or bringing in temporary staff (provided through nursing and locum doctor agencies). This means that we cannot always provide the same staff on the wards to look after patients. Our wards are spread across multiple hospital sites throughout the Gwent areas and we are increasingly facing difficulties in recruiting the number of staff to meet the requirement of providing care in all these wards.

As a result of the changes in staff availability in the past few years we have already made changes to temporarily reduce the number of wards (and therefore beds) open. Specifically this has included the temporary closures of Willows Ward in Ysbyty'r Tri Chwm (Blaenau Gwent) and Tredegar Ward in St Woolos Hospital (Newport) as well as some other changes to the number and type of patients admitted to some other wards.

Making these changes has allowed us to continue providing high quality, safe and more appropriate care both in the community and within our remaining wards in our hospitals. It has also prompted a need for us to review the way our services are organised on a more permanent basis.

## **6. OPTIONS FOR CHANGE**

The focus of our consultation is:

**The re-development of mental health services for older adults with a preferred option of enhancing community based services and consolidating in-patient provision to a smaller number of centres of excellence.**

It is important to remember that the vast majority of services for older people will be provided locally through Community Mental Health Teams and Memory Assessment Services. A specific piece of work is already being planned to explore how community services could look into the future. This work will report within the next year.

The most immediate challenge is to continue to provide good quality and safe services for individuals who are admitted for specialist assessment and treatment in hospital.

Five different options are possible for the future delivery of in-patient services. Individuals attending the workshops previously mentioned were asked to consider these options against what people had previously told us was important. A summary of the five options, together with the list of potential strengths and weaknesses of each option is offered overleaf.



**Option 1:** *Do nothing – Keep the way hospital services are currently provided including the current temporary ward arrangements*

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Minimal disruption to staff working arrangements	Continues to result in staff shortages as staff are providing services across multiple locations
Provides a broad geographical spread of wards across Gwent	Will continue to rely on agency nursing and medical staff
Ward teams have established relationships with current community services	Unstable staffing situation remains and further closure of wards may be necessary in an emergency
Provides separate dementia and functional wards	Less resources available to improve community services and ward staffing

**Option 2:** *Return to the number of wards/beds available before January 2016*

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Good geographical spread of wards across Gwent	Unable to deliver as requires recruitment of an additional 24 qualified nurses
Provides separate dementia and functional wards	Will continue to rely on agency medical staff
	No resources freed to improve community services and ward staffing

**Option 3:** *Change the number of wards to 3 wards for people with Dementia and 1 ward for people with Functional illness (e.g. depression, anxiety and schizophrenia)*

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Enables development of inpatient Centres of Excellence with enhanced staff support and concentration of staff expertise	Increased travel time for a small number of patients and carers for admission to hospital
Improved stability in workforce by further reducing demands for nurses within wards	
Provides separate dementia and functional wards	
Frees up more resources to re-invest in improving community service and ward staffing	

**Option 4:** *Reconfigure all existing wards to be mixed Dementia and Functional wards*

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Good geographical spread of functional and dementia beds	Poor patient experience due to differing needs of patients being nursed in the same environment
	Spreads nursing and medical resources more thinly across 5 wards
	Patient mix likely to increase recruitment problems
	Liable to lead to reactive bed closures due to workforce retention and recruitment.

**Option 5:** *Reconfigure all existing wards to be segregated gender specific wards*

<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Weaknesses</b>
Improves patient experience and dignity through separate male and female wards	Increased numbers of patients will need to travel greater distances out of borough to access inpatient beds
	Reduces flexibility for coping with variation in demand
	No resources free to reinvest in community support
	Spreads nursing and medical resources more thinly across 5 wards
	Liable to lead to reactive bed closures due to workforce retention and recruitment

From the work undertaken through the public engagement and workshops, **the preferred option that emerged was Option 3.**

## **7. PREFERRED OPTION**

***Consolidate the number of wards to 3 dementia wards and 1 functional ward. This would reduce bed numbers from 72 down to 67 beds overall and result in the closure of one additional ward. (Option 3)***

We believe this option would enable the inpatient service to become more stable and continue to offer a good quality service both now and in the future. It would release more resources to develop in-patient wards into centres of excellence. It will also enable the further development and improvement of community services in Gwent.

Consideration has also been given to where these wards would best be located. The following were considered in making this suggestion:

- Where people currently access services
- Transport links
- Areas where it is difficult to attract and keep staff

Based on the above, it is suggested that there should be:

- one functional unit in Ty Siriol, County Hospital, (Pontypool)
- three dementia assessment wards:
  - one sited in North Gwent at Ysbyty Tri Chwm Hospital, (Ebbw Vale),
  - one in South Gwent at St Woolos Hospital (Newport)
  - one in West Gwent at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr Hospital, (Ystrad Mynach).

This option would result in the closure of St Pierre Ward in Chepstow Hospital. We recognise that this will cause concern/alarm to the people who would normally access hospital services for mental health treatment and we would like to have a conversation with you/the local community to determine what community based services we will be providing and what actions we can take to make this change easier for you.

A summary of the current and proposed wards is shown below:

<b>Current Temporary Provision</b>		
<b>Service</b>	<b>Number of Beds</b>	<b>Type of Care</b>
Ysbyty'r Tri Chwm Hospital, Ebbw Vale	13	Dementia and Functional care
St Woolos Hospital, Newport	14	Dementia care
Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr Hospital, Ystrad Mynach	16	Dementia care
Chepstow Hospital, Chepstow	15	Dementia care
County Hospital, Pontypool	14	Functional care
Total number of beds	72	
<b>Proposed Provision</b>		
<b>Service</b>	<b>Number of Beds</b>	<b>Type of Care</b>
Ysbyty'r Tri Chwm Hospital, Ebbw Vale	15	Dementia care
St Woolos Hospital, Newport	14	Dementia care
Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr Hospital, Ystrad Mynach	18	Dementia care
County Hospital, Pontypool	20	Functional care
Total number of beds	67	

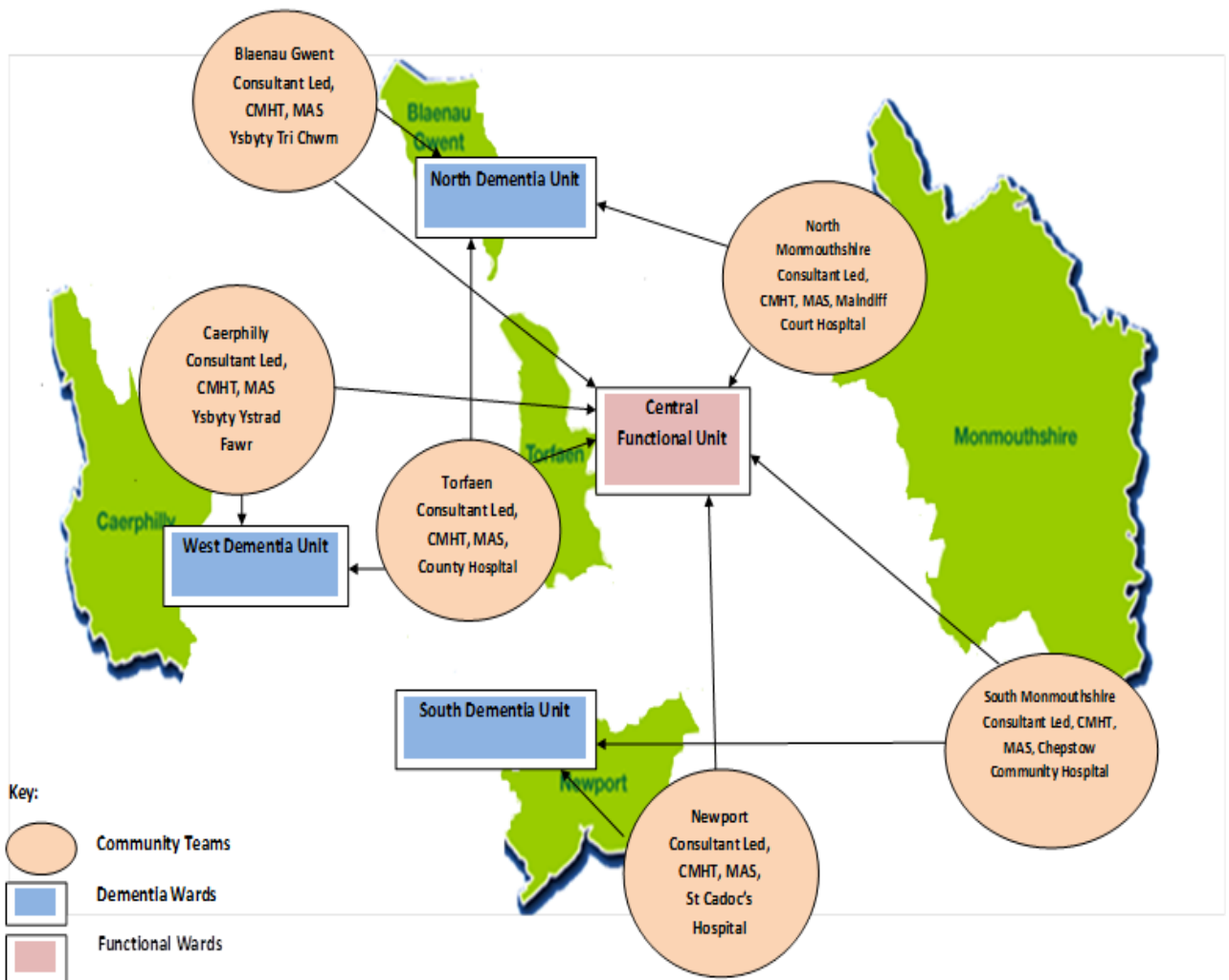
We believe that organising services in this way would be the best option to deliver the range and volume of services that are required safely and sustainably into the future. We also believe that the proposed sites offer the best configuration due to existing road links and public transport and would help people needing care and support access inpatient care in the most equitable way.

This option would mean that a small number of patients with dementia and families/carers (around 30 per year) from South Monmouthshire would need to travel to Newport if they required a hospital stay (a similar journey made by people already to the Royal Gwent Hospital to access most specialist hospital inpatient care for physical illnesses), while a similar number of patients and families from North Monmouthshire would

need to travel to Ebbw Vale if they required a hospital stay (a similar travel time to that currently made to access Chepstow Hospital).

It is important to remember that the vast majority of services for older people will be provided locally through Community Mental Health Teams and Memory Assessment Services. However, the diagram below shows how patients would access one of the wards if a stay in hospital for assessment or treatment is needed.

Option 3



**Key: CMHT – Community Mental Health Team MAS – Memory Assessment Service**

## **8. LISTENING TO YOU**

We have been actively listening to people throughout this process to date and through this consultation we are keen to continue to listen. Your views really are important to us and we would be grateful if you would take the time to be part of this consultation. The document you have read has set out our future vision for older adult mental health services and shared with you some options for the delivery of this, including a preferred option. It has also shared some current challenges in order to provide context for the considerations.

You can let us have your comments by completing the attached questionnaire or by e-mailing us on [OAMHEngagement.abb@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:OAMHEngagement.abb@wales.nhs.uk) We have also arranged a number of consultation events that will support the consultation process and which we hope you will attend. The details of these are given overleaf:

<b>Week Commencing 13/11/2017</b>	<b>Meeting/Venue</b>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 10am-11.30am	Public – South Monmouthshire Chepstow Leisure Centre, Chepstow, NP16 5LR
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 10am-11.30am	Public – North Monmouthshire Shire Hall, Agincourt Sq, Monmouth, NP25 3EA
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2pm-3.30pm	Public – North Monmouthshire Abergavenny Leisure Centre, Abergavenny
<b>Week Commencing 20/11/2017</b>	<b>Meeting/Venue</b>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2pm-3.30pm	Public – Abertillery Llanilleth Miners Institute, Meadow St, Abertillery, NP13 2JH
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 10am-11.30am	Public – Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre, Lime Ave, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6GL
<b>Week Commencing 27/11/2017</b>	<b>Meeting/Venue</b>
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 10am-11.30am	Public – East Newport Lysaghts Institute, Corporation Road, Newport, NP19 0HE
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2pm-3.30pm	Public – West Newport Christchurch Centre, Malpas Road, Newport, NP20 5PP
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2pm-3.30pm	Public – Central Newport Riverfront, Kingsway, Newport, NP20 1HG
<b>Week Commencing 04/12/2017</b>	<b>Meeting/Venue</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 10am-11.30am	Public – South Torfaen The Olive Tree, Cwmbran, NP44 2JJ
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 10am-11.30am	Public – South Torfaen Pontypool Leisure Centre, Pontypool, NP4 8AT
<b>Week Commencing 11/12/2017</b>	<b>Meeting/Venue</b>
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm-3.30pm	Public – West Caerphilly Penallta House, Tredomen Park, Caerphilly, CF82 7PG
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 10am-11.30am	Public – East Caerphilly Newbridge Memo, Newbridge, NP11 4FH
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2pm-3.30pm	Public – North Caerphilly White Rose Information Resource Centre, Elliotstown, New Tredegar, NP24 6EF

Please ensure that you let us know if you are coming along so that we can make all necessary arrangements to meet your needs via email [OAMHEngagement.abb@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:OAMHEngagement.abb@wales.nhs.uk)

## **9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

The consultation will take place between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Council and the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board.

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# REDESIGNING OLDER ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN GWENT

## About You

**1. Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Which of the following best describes you? (Please tick):**

	Patient
	Family member/Carer
	Member of Health Board staff
	Other staff working in health, social care or the voluntary sector
	Other (If other please specify) :

## About This Consultation

**4. From reading this document, are you aware of the current issues facing older adult mental health services in Gwent?**

Yes	
No	

If not, what information would have helped?

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**5. Have you had sufficient information to be able to provide comments on this consultation?**

Yes	
No	

If not, what information would have helped?

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**6. Do you agree/disagree that older adult mental health services in Gwent need to change?**

Agree	
Disagree	

Please tell us why?

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**About Our Services**

**7. Do you agree/disagree with the vision for older adult mental health services shared within this consultation? Specifically:**

*"The redevelopment of mental health services for older adults with a preferred option of enhancing community based services and consolidating in-patient provision to a smaller number of centres of excellence."*

Agree	
Disagree	

Please tell us why?

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**8. Do you agree/disagree with the proposals on how we are planning to deliver this vision? Specifically:**

*8a Strengthening local community services to support older adults with mental health problems.*

Agree	
Disagree	

If you agree, please tell us in what ways you would like us to strengthen our community services? If you disagree please tell us why?

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*8b Developing a specialist unit for the in-patient care of older adults with a functional mental illness such as schizophrenia, anxiety and depression.*

Agree	
Disagree	

Please tell us why?

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*8c Reducing the number of dementia assessment units in Gwent to three wards in order to be able to deliver safer and more sustainable services.*

Agree	
Disagree	

Please tell us why?

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8d Travelling a little further for specialist inpatient services.

Agree	
Disagree	

Please tell us why?

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**9. Based on the information provided, would you agree/disagree with the preferred option (Option 3) outlined in this consultation paper?**

Agree	
Disagree	

Please tell us why?

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**10. Do you agree/disagree with the proposed geographical location of the units?**

Agree	
Disagree	

Please tell us why?

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**11. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?**

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**Thank you for completing this questionnaire**

**Once complete please return it to:**

Ms Sara Kay-Green,  
Administration Officer  
First Access Building, County Hospital,  
Coed-y-Gric Road,  
Griffithstown, Pontypool,  
Torfaen NP4 5YA.

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