

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

PRESENT: County Councillor KF Tampin (Chair)

County Councillors MC Alexander, GR Banks, RG Brown, JH Brunt, LV Corfield, KW Curry, AW Davies, DE Davies, ER Davies, LRE Davies, S Davies, MJ Dorrance, VE Evans, WJ Evans, WA Fitzpatrick, RI George, SM Hayes, JC Holmes, GG Hopkins, DC Jones, DR Jones, EM Jones, Eldrydd Jones, GM Jones, JR Jones, WT Jones, FH Jump, DJ Mayor, MC Mackenzie, S. McNicholas, PJ Medicott, RH Mills, JG Morris, WD Powell, WJT Powell, DR Price, GD Price, PC Pritchard, GW Ratcliffe, KM Roberts-Jones, JG Shearer, KS Silk, AG Thomas, DG Thomas, WB Thomas, TJ Van Rees, GP Vaughan, GIS Williams, SL Williams and A York.

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>CC73 – 2015</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors PJ Ashton, D Bailey, G Bowker, MJB Davies, SC Davies, DO Evans, EA Jones, H Lewis, PE Lewis, DW Meredith, ET Morgan, G Morgan, DA Thomas, DH Williams and JM Williams.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>CC74 – 2015</b>
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

<b>3.</b>	<b>CSSIW INSPECTION OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>CC75 – 2015</b>
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Council considered the CSSIW inspection report of Adult Social Services, the improvement plan approved by Cabinet to address the recommendations in the CSSIW report and the observations of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group on the improvement plan.

The Leader acknowledged the need to improve performance and restore public confidence in the service. He advised Council that he had asked for monthly monitoring reports on the implementation of the improvement plan to be brought to the Cabinet / Management Team meetings and for County Councillor Dawn Bailey, who had led the Scrutiny review, to be invited to those meetings.

The Chief Executive said that he and the Management Team recognised the impact on service users and their families. He was appreciative of the efforts of staff who had worked hard to rectify problems but he also noted that challenges over resourcing the service lay ahead. Cabinet and Management Team had taken ownership of the improvement plan and were focused on ensuring that it was delivered. He advised Council that he had ordered a review of commissioning.

The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Children's Services again put on record his apologies to those people who did not receive the quality of care that they deserve and had been let down. He welcomed the involvement of Scrutiny in

monitoring delivery of the implementation plan and hoped that this would help give reassurance to Council.

The Strategic Director – People also acknowledged that it had been a deeply distressing experience for service users and their families. She noted that the service had made good progress in addressing many of the recommendations in the CSSIW report as it had already put in place actions in addressing similar recommendations made in the Institute of Public Care (IPC) report on domiciliary care that Cabinet had considered in January 2015. She gave an assurance that the position described in the CSSIW report was not the current position because of the actions taken to put things right. Together with the Head of Adult Social Care she outlined the actions taken to work with Powys Teaching Health Board on integrated delivery, to improve engagement with stakeholders including service users and to develop capacity within the service to undertake commissioning work as well as build the domiciliary care market in partnership with providers.

The Chair of the People Scrutiny Committee advised Council to concentrate on the robustness of the improvement plan. Members had to be confident that it would deliver the improvements the CSSIW report identified as being needed.

The Portfolio Holder and officers took questions from Members. Members noted the serious impact on service users, providers and the reputation of the Council. A number of Members asked whether accountability lay with the Cabinet and Portfolio Holder or officers. The Portfolio Holder asked to be judged on whether he delivered the improvement plan and its effectiveness in light of the history associated with this project and the number of changes at both cabinet and officer level that have occurred over a number of years. The Strategic Director – People confirmed that she and the Head of Adult Services fully accepted the recommendations within the report and were working with continued determination to improve quality, capacity and the delivery of the improvement plan within the context of a challenging financial and modernisation agenda for the service. It is anticipated that the Strategic Review that the Strategic Director of People and Resources jointly commissioned in June 15 will assist with these challenges. A number of Members related problems experienced by their constituents. The Strategic Director – People advised that service users had been contacted and received an apology where they had not received the quality of care they deserved. All Members were encouraged that where they had concerns to raise these with the Head of Service

Members asked about the working relationship with service providers and Powys Teaching Health Board. Officers explained that monthly domiciliary care provider forums has been established and were helping to build good relationships. The service was also developing integrated older people's teams with Powys Teaching Health Board and was working with them on the development of a rapid hospital discharge service to prevent delayed transfers of care but further investment was required to establish this. Members also asked about the commissioning process. The Strategic Director explained that this had been strengthened with Adult Social Care having its own dedicated commissioning unit with staff undergoing training so the service could "grow its own" procurement and commissioning specialists.

The Leader thanked Members of Council for their comments. He gave an assurance to Council that the Cabinet and Management Team would, with the assistance of the lead member of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group, closely monitor the implementation of the improvement plan.

Council adjourned for lunch from 12.48 until 14.00.

PRESENT: County Councillor KF Tampin (Chair)

County Councillors GR Banks, RG Brown, LV Corfield, KW Curry, AW Davies, DE Davies, MJ Dorrance, VE Evans, WJ Evans, WA Fitzpatrick, SM Hayes, JC Holmes, DC Jones, DR Jones, EM Jones, Eldrydd Jones, JR Jones, WT Jones, FH Jump, DJ Mayor, MC Mackenzie, S. McNicholas, PJ Medicott, RH Mills, JG Morris, WJT Powell, DR Price, PC Pritchard, GW Ratcliffe, KM Roberts-Jones, JG Shearer, KS Silk, AG Thomas, DG Thomas, WB Thomas, TJ Van Rees, GP Vaughan, GIS Williams, SL Williams and A York.

<b>4.</b>	<b>REFUGEE CRISIS</b>	<b>CC76 – 2015</b>
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The Chief Executive briefed Council on the local authority response to the refugee crisis and on the Wales Refugee Summit hosted by the First Minister the day before when the WLGA proposal for the creation of a Syrian Refugee National taskforce was agreed.

The following motion, which had been accepted by the Chair and Vice Chair as an urgent motion, was proposed by County Councillor John Morris and seconded by County Councillor James Gibson-Watt.

“Powys County Council

- believes that we all have a moral responsibility to resettle many more refugees and that it is the duty of the Welsh and Westminster governments and this council to react accordingly to this humanitarian crisis
- notes that other Local Authorities have already agreed to take action and help by making a contribution to assisting the current plight of refugees by offering to help shelter families classified as refugees under 1951 Refugee Convention
- further believes the Welsh and Westminster governments have a moral responsibility to resettle many more refugees and that it is the duty of the governments and this council to react accordingly to this humanitarian crisis

This council resolves

1. To also help refugees as defined above and recognises that urgent action is needed.
2. To set up and empower a politically balanced group of councillors, working with the Housing and Regeneration departments, senior officers and others to take action and help families settle and find a home in Powys.

3. This group is expected to carry out this action without delay and to complete its work within a very short timescale.
4. A report of the actions taken will be presented to the next Cabinet meeting, the relevant Scrutiny Committees and to the next full Council meeting.
5. This Council also instructs the Leader to write to all our AMs, MPs, the First Minister and the Prime Minister to remind them of their moral responsibility to resettle many more refugees.
6. To work closely with organisations and neighbouring authorities, including the BBNPA, Town and Community Councils, the LSB and the voluntary sector in order to achieve the goals outlined above.”

In speaking to the motion Councillors Morris and Gibson-Watt stressed the urgent need for a co-ordinated response to the refugee crisis in which Powys County Council played its full part.

County Councillor Wynne Jones moved the following amendment, seconded by County Councillor Graham Brown:

“That Powys County Council:

- Supports the Cabinet in its positive and speedy response by agreeing to work with Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association on this matter, in order that Powys can fully play its part in the co-ordinated response.
- That Powys County Council will endeavour to make sure that refugees who come to Powys are given a warm welcome and will do everything possible to assist with their resettlement and integration into our society.
- That the Council call on Cabinet to set up the relevant structures and organisation required, including working with the relevant partner organisations.

It is further resolved that the Cabinet be asked to keep all Members of the County Council fully informed of developments as this matter proceeds.”

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was passed.

A further amendment moved by County Councillor Aled Davies and seconded by County Councillor Gwilym Williams to add the words “Supports the current positive approach being taken by both the UK Government and Welsh Government in response the refugee crisis” was lost upon being put to the vote.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and it was

**RESOLVED that Powys County Council:**

- **Supports the Cabinet in its positive and speedy response by agreeing to work with Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association on this matter, in order that Powys can fully play its part in the co-ordinated response.**
- **That Powys County Council will endeavour to make sure that refugees who come to Powys are given a warm**

**welcome and will do everything possible to assist with their resettlement and integration into our society.**

- **That the Council call on Cabinet to set up the relevant structures and organisation required, including working with the relevant partner organisations.**

**It is further resolved that the Cabinet be asked to keep all Members of the County Council fully informed of developments as this matter proceeds.**

**K.F. Tampin  
CHAIR**

County Council  
18 September 2015  
10.30 – 14.55