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Health and Care Scrutiny Committee – 13 January 2020

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL ON MONDAY, 13 JANUARY 2020

PRESENT

County Councillors G I S Williams (Chair), J Charlton, D E Davies, A Jenner, S McNicholas, G Morgan, K M Roberts-Jones, D Rowlands, A Williams, J M Williams and R Williams

Cabinet Portfolio Holders In Attendance: R Powell

Officers: Dylan Owen, Head of Commissioning, Joanna Harris, Senior Partnership Manager and Anne Marie Davies, Strategic Commissioning and Project Manager

1.	APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors E Jones and E Vaughan

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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There were no declarations of interest.

3.	DISCLOSURE OF PARTY WHIPS
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There were no disclosures of party whips.

4.	MINUTES
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Documents:

- Minutes of the last meeting – 29 November 2019

Discussion:

- Data regarding abandoned calls to Assist was awaited but expected shortly

Outcome:

- **The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 29 November 2019**

5.	CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING GROUP
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Documents:

- Report of the Corporate Director, Childrens and Adults

Discussion:

- A report would be presented to the Committee every 6 months to update Members on work being undertaken

- Members were reminded that this was a *corporate* update and was intended to raise the profile of themes across the county
- A member questioned whether County Lines was considered and was advised that it was, but there had been no major activity within the period and therefore had not been included in the report
- A further question regarding home education was raised and discussed. Detail would need to be provided by the Portfolio Holder for Education and an invitation could be extended to him to attend a future Committee.
- It was suggested that the Health Board may have a register of children who were home educated but there was currently no requirement to register. The issue may have been discussed at Learning and Skills Scrutiny Committee and enquiries would be made whether this was the case.
- Further questions regarding training for Governors would also be for the Portfolio Holder for Education to respond to

Outcomes:

- **The Portfolio Holder for Education would be invited to a future meeting**

6.	GLAN IRFON UPDATE
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Documents:

- Analysis of Glan Irfon Occupancy – December 2019

Discussion:

- A regular update would be provided to Committee on occupancy at Glan Irfon
- Glan Irfon was an Intermediate Care Facility to provide reablement with the vast majority of clients being stepped down from hospital
- Occupancy had dropped in July 2019 at the time of the handover to the Shaw Healthcare Trust
- Since Shaw has taken over there has been a review of the needs of the service and recommendations have been made. This included a review of both the building and equipment to ensure the facility is fit for purpose.
- The most recent data shows that Glan Irfon has full occupancy
- The challenge is to ensure a flow through of clients and that care is available for those clients to return home
- Winter pressures funding has been received and shared with the Health Board. The Health Board have used this funding to increase the therapy input at Glan Irfon.
- Members have previously asked whether end of life care or palliative care can be provided at Glan Irfon. Palliative care is provided but not end of life care although if a client becomes end of life during their stay, then they will continue to receive care. End of life care requires access to nursing provision which can be challenging to provide. A recent development has provided end of life care at Llandrindod Hospital.
- Discussions are ongoing with Brynhyfryd Residential Home, the GPs, Shaw and the Health Board regarding provision at Glan Irfon.

- The Committee noted that some clients had exceeded the expected maximum length of stay and were concerned that they may become institutionalised. It was recognised that it only takes two weeks to become institutionalised and every effort is made to ensure that clients can return home. Proactive reablement is provided.
- Members asked if it was intended to repeat the model in other areas and if such facilities could be used to improve delayed transfers of care or increase respite provision. The Head of Commissioning indicated that Glan Irfon would not be appropriate for respite care. However, one respite care bed has been allocated in each residential home and further beds were being block booked in new, private homes. It was suggested that respite could be a topic for future scrutiny. Credu are working on a project which is looking at innovative solutions to provide bespoke respite care.
- It was suggested that reablement was the responsibility of the Health Board, but this changed under the Community Care Act. The Social Services and Wellbeing Act clearly sets out that the Authority and the Health Board have a joint role in supporting people to live independently. Rehabilitation would be the responsibility of the Health Board but reablement is a lower level of rehabilitation which can be provided by domiciliary carers who have had additional training.
- Arranging home care is not the only challenge to the service. Demographics is also an issue with increasing demand for more acute services. Although there are fewer clients coming into the system due to early intervention policies, those that do access services tend to be older and have more acute needs.
- Both Health and Social Care need to adopt a recovery model. A consultant has recently undertaken a study in the County and his initial findings question whether the right model of community hospitals etc is currently provided.
- The service must make the best use of what is available to increase capacity, including increasing the role of community connectors. The Head of Commissioning indicated that the work programme for the Adult Services Working Group had been designed to look more closely at these issues.
- Direct Payments were continuing to increase – this topic would be discussed in depth at the Adult Services Working Group
- Members asked if there was a catchment area for Glan Irfon – there was no designated catchment area although the reasonableness of travelling times and distances was likely to have an influence
- It was suggested that the Committee consider one or two anonymized case studies to satisfy themselves of the distribution of work between the Authority and the Health Board

Outcomes:

- **Anonymised case studies would be provided at a future date for consideration**

7. APPOINTMENT TO JOINT SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP

County Councillor Roger Williams was appointed to the Joint Scrutiny Working Group.

8.	WORK PROGRAMME
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Documents:

- Forward work programme for 2020

Discussion:

- A recent newspaper article indicated that £14M was needed to upgrade community hospitals in Montgomeryshire
- It was acknowledged that this was a question for the Health Board and that consideration could be given to asking the Chief Executive of the Health Board to attend a future meeting

Outcomes:

- **The work programme was noted**

9.	EXEMPT ITEM
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RESOLVED to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under category 3 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).

10.	CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLACEMENTS AND ACCOMMODATION
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Documents:

- Report of the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture

Discussion:

- An overview of work currently being undertaken was presented to Members
- Current demand for placements exceeds supply
- A number of proposals were outlined for Members which would meet the needs of Children Looked After
- The proposals would lead to greater capacity for the Authority in line with the Sufficient Supply of High-Quality Care Placements Strategy

Outcomes:

- **The Committee commended the report and endorsed the contents and direction of travel for Children's Services Placements and Accommodation**

11.	EARLY HELP HUBS
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Documents:

- Report of the Portfolio Holder for Young People and Culture

Discussion:

- Members noted the award of capital funding to create a Flying Start Childcare, multi agency office space and a training contact room in Brecon
- The Committee was briefed on the options available and the preferred option to take the project forward
- Members suggested that Flying Start be a topic at a Member Development session

Outcomes:

- **The Committee supported the preferred option, Option 3**

12.	CHILD EXPLOITATION
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This item was withdrawn.

County Councillor G I S Williams (Chair)

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