

PARTNERSHIPS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held in Conference Room 1a, County Hall, Ruthin on Monday, 10 June 2013 at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones (Chair), Bill Cowie, Ann Davies, Meirick Davies, Pat Jones, Margaret McCarroll, Dewi Owens, Bill Tasker and Huw Williams

Observers: Councillors Raymond Bartley, Martyn Holland and Bobby Feeley.

ALSO PRESENT

Corporate Director: Modernisation and Wellbeing (Statutory Director of Social Services) (SE); Head of Adult and Business Services (PG); Partnership Project & Development Manager (LG); Service Manager, North Locality (CC-N), Scrutiny Co-ordinator (RE) and Committee Administrator (SLW).

BCUHB Representatives

Neil Bradshaw, Director of Planning; Sally Baxter, Assistant Director of Planning, Strategy and Engagement; Clare Jones, Assistant Director, Primary and Community Services Development; Simon Pyke, Associate Chief of Staff (Operations) Mental Health and Learning Disabilities; Yvonne Harding, Associate Chief of Staff (Nursing) Children and Young People; Andrew Jones, Director of Public Health; Delyth Jones, Principal Public Health Practitioner; Dr Judy Hart, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control, Public Health Wales.

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alice Jones and Merfyn Parry

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chair read out the following statement:-

“It has been brought to the Council’s attention by Denbighshire Home-Start that the minutes of the Partnerships Committee meeting of Thursday 12th July 2012 in relation to the Families First tendering process, give a misleading impression of that organisation. This relates in particular to a statement accorded to the Head of Business Planning & Performance made during the discussion with Members concerning the consortia bids for the Families First programme, of which Home-Start was a partner in two.

It is fully accepted that the minutes create a misleading impression about Home-Start and so I would like to take the opportunity to correct any impression given that Home-Start’s costs are comparatively high; that the organisation only provides services to the under-fives and that Home-Start’s contribution to the consortia bids concerned only work that they carried out already at that time. The Council accepts that these statements are not accurate.

The discussion at the meeting related to the bids put forward by the various consortia and although Home-Start were members of two of these and therefore had a part in two separate bids for different elements of the programme, the focus of Members present was very much on Home-Start itself, and this may have contributed to the misleading impression given in the minutes.

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

In accordance with the Council's Constitution CVs/Statements had been requested from interested parties for the office of Vice-Chair. Two such CVs had been received prior to the meeting and circulated to all Members.

Councillor E.A. Jones was nominated but not seconded for the office of Committee Vice-Chair.

Councillor Huw Williams was nominated and seconded for the office of Committee Vice-Chair.

***RESOLVED** that Councillor Huw Williams be appointed Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.*

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Declarations of personal interest were made by Councillors Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones, Ann Davies and Bill Tasker.

4 URGENT MATTERS AS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

None.

5 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee held on 25 April 2013 were submitted.

Matters arising:

Councillor Meirick Lloyd Davies requested that references be included in the minutes to the flooding incidents in the Lower Denbigh Road/Cefnmeiriadog areas of his electoral division. Particular reference being made to the fact that residents living in the rural part of Lower Denbigh Road had not been alerted of the rising rivers levels and the consequential flooding risk and to the fact that a bridge in the Pont y Ddôl area had been swept away by an uprooted tree which had been washed down the river.

***RESOLVED** that, subject to the above, the minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2013 be approved as a correct record.*

6 UPDATE ON HEALTHCARE RECONFIGURATION

The Chair welcomed the BCUHB representatives to the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting.

A number of questions were asked of the BCUHB representatives by Members as follows:-

Councillor Ann Davies asked if the emergency surgery service was to be transferred from Ysbyty Glan Clwyd (YGC) to Ysbyty Gwynedd (YG) in Bangor, and if so would YG have the capacity to deal with the additional workload? What effect would the transfer have on the A&E at YGC? How many YGC staff would lose their jobs and what would be the cost of transfer of staff from YGC to YG? There were often problems on the A55 which caused long delays, what effect would this have on the emergency surgery service?

BCUHB representatives clarified that no decision had yet been made by the Board to transfer emergency surgery service from YGC to YG. It would be the Board's preference to retain the emergency surgery service at YGC. The Board was currently committed to retaining emergency general surgery on all sites and committed to the recruitment of surgeons and junior doctors.

The Board would require assurances in terms of the capacity of theatres in YG if they were considering the transfer of emergency surgery services. Urgent cases would take precedent but working time targets would also have to be met.

Regarding the cost, the priority would be the provision of a good service and urgent responses by adequately qualified and experienced people, so there would not necessarily be a cost saving move.

Clinicians had been involved with the negotiations regarding the Acute Services Review.

The Director of Planning, BCUHB, clarified to the Committee that the model in the future would be changing for General Hospitals. General Hospitals were to be developed as Specialist Centres. The Centre for Cardiology currently at YGC was intended to remain at YGC and new facilities were being built there at present.

Councillor Dewi Owens raised the issue of recruitment and how this could be safeguarded.

BCUHB responded stating that recruitment was currently taking place. In some areas, it was proving difficult to recruit. Many UK doctors were going to work abroad. There had been a change in training posts for junior doctors. A review was currently taking place. The issue of recruitment was a challenge throughout the UK, not just in Wales. The Deanery was changing the number of training posts and looking at obtaining better training places for prospective doctors. BCUHB was meeting with the Deanery on a regular basis to discuss issues.

Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones requested that a BCUHB Consultant attend future Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting as part of the BCUHB delegation.

The BCUHB representatives agreed but confirmed that Consultants would require a minimum of six weeks' notice due to their work commitments.

Councillor Margaret McCarroll expressed concern regarding the number of ambulances which queue at YGC. On one occasion there had been 13 ambulances queuing with patients waiting to be admitted. Councillor McCarroll enquired as to what impact bed shortages had on the ambulance service waiting times and A&E?

BCUHB were aware of the pressures in A&E at YGC. They were unable to comment regarding the number of ambulances waiting. There was a target handover time of 15 minutes which was a shared target for the Ambulance Service and BCUHB. Again, this was an issue throughout the UK and not specific to Wales. Work was being undertaken to improve the system and to solve this problem.

There had, in the past, been issues regarding infection and some wards had been temporarily closed to enable intense cleaning to take place.

The effect of a growing older generation was affecting all the Health Service. Within BCUHB there were several wards with a large number of patients now aged over 90 years.

Joint Denbighshire Health and Social Care Board

The purpose of the Health & Social Care Board was to shape, agree, measure and monitor strategic health and social care development at county level ensuring a focus on an integrated experience for patients/ service users, including:-

- (i) Driving change and transformation of services, including joint priorities identified in the Integrated Plan
- (ii) Being the vehicle to oversee implementation of joint and integrated services
- (iii) Providing the joint governance arrangement for agreed integrated services.

On the matter of hospital discharge Councillor Ann Davies queried whether patients were being discharged into the community without discharge letters being sent to their GPs. The Assistant Director of Planning, Strategy and Engagement, BCUHB requested details of any particular cases to enable investigations to take place. There had been issues in the past regarding discharge letters and BCU was looking to improve details of discharge letters. BCUHB representative agreed to investigate the matter further and bring an update to a future meeting.

Home Enhanced Care Services (HECS), members expressed concern that to date no locality GP lead had been appointed for the south of the county. BCUHB confirmed that a GP from Denbigh, Dr Matt Davies, was supporting enhanced care in the area.

RESOLVED that subject to the above, the Committee received and noted the update on Health Care Reconfiguration.

7 DEVELOPMENT OF A SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN DENBIGHSHIRE

The Head of Adult and Business Services (H:A&BS) presented a report (previously circulated) to provide information to the Committee, regarding the development of a new Single Point of Access (SPA) for community health and social care services in Denbighshire. This Service was due to go live at the end of October, 2013, but the actual 'go-live' date my slip slightly due to the need to secure and confirm funding sources.

The project was being delivered in partnership with BCUHB and the voluntary sector who had supported the development in a variety of ways.

The costs associated with establishing the Service would be funded by the Regional Collaboration Programme, with the ongoing service costs being met by the partners as would be stipulated in the Section 33 Agreement currently being drafted. In Denbighshire County Council's case, this would be from within existing resources.

RESOLVED that the Committee accept and support the development of a Single Point of Access.

8 INTRODUCTION OF THE MENTAL HEALTH MEASURE WALES IN DENBIGHSHIRE

The Associate Chief of Staff (Operations) Mental Health and Learning Disabilities (ACS: MH&LD) presented a report (previously circulated) to provide information to the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee. The Mental Health Measure for Wales had placed legal responsibilities on Local Health Boards and Local Authorities in relation to the introduction of the four elements of the Mental Health Measure across Adults, Children and Young People:-

- (i) Development of Primary Care Mental Health Service
- (ii) The introduction of care and treatment planning
- (iii) The right for discharge service users to ask for re-assessment
- (iv) Development of Advocacy Services for both detained and informal patients within the service.

Each county now had a dedicated Manager to ensure interface worked correctly.

Single Point of Access (SPA) had been introduced to enable GPs to have a single point of referral for any Mental Health issue.

E-Referrals had been introduced for Mental Health referrals.

A counselling service for GPs had been commissioned to enable GPs to refer into the service straight away.

The Mental Health Measure Wales introduced a new Care & Treatment Plan (CTP) and the transition to this had to be completed by June.

Information regarding the re-assessment for discharged service users was still awaited.

The Mental Health Measure would assist in the managing of people who were at risk. The Measure would enable detailed assessment and to draw up a suitable care plan. The key was to ensure when needs changed, the care plan and service reacted to that change.

All people within the service would have a care plan. Once they were well enough, they would be moved into primary care. If, for any reason, they became ill again, they would be referred straight away and seen very quickly. Occasionally, referrals were received from A&E, out of hours service or the police.

Responding to members' questions BCUHB officials advised that the provisions of the Measure should help ensure that the number of mental health related homicides or suicides should not increase, and provide more flexibility between primary and secondary mental health care. They also confirmed that the Single Point of Access service for mental health services was an entirely different service to the Single Point of Access being developed for Health and Social Care in Denbighshire. Council officers confirmed that there was no evidence to date to suggest that the Measure was placing additional pressures on the Authority's social care services. It was:

RESOLVED that the Committee supported the development of services under the Measure and recognised the good working relationships between Health and Social Care in delivering mental health services in Denbighshire and the associated changes in relation to the full age range.

9 CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (CAMHS)

The Associate Chief of Staff (Nursing), Children and Young People (SCS: C&YP) gave a verbal update on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Waiting times were a concern. The Mental Health Measure Wales applied also to children. Within Denbighshire, capacity was investigated and clinicians were removed from non-clinical work. This increased capacity for the demand. The identification of mental health and the effect of mental health was one which the Board took extremely seriously.

Within Denbighshire, there were between 50 and 70 referrals every month. A majority of the referrals came through GPs. Text reminders had been introduced to reduce the "did not attend" rates. Appointments were offered as close to home as possible. The new Children's Centre in Denbigh, which would open shortly, would be utilised also. An additional 5.5 posts were in place to cover Conwy and Denbighshire.

It was agreed that a CAMHS clinician be invited to attend the next Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss issues relating to CAMHS and that a more

detailed paper would be presented to the next Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting in July.

RESOLVED that a detailed paper would be presented at the next Partnership Scrutiny Committee meeting and also the attendance of a CAMHS clinician would be requested.

10 UPDATE ON LOCALITY WORKING

The Service Manager, North Locality, Denbighshire County Council (SM:NL) and the Assistant Director, Primary and Community Services Development (AD: P&CSD) (BCUHB) gave a presentation, updating the Committee on locality working.

Work was continuing improve service for the local population. The following were the key themes across the service:-

- More care out of hospital
- New technologies
- Local solutions
- Integrated service and teams
- Improving health outcomes
- Maintaining independence
- Efficiency and avoid duplication.

A joint newsletter had been produced in North Denbighshire. (Copies were made available at the meeting). The newsletter had proved to be a useful communication tool.

A PowerPoint presentation was shown and this included the achievements, what locality teams had overcome and the future challenges.

A workshop had previously been held wherefrom key issues had been identified.

An Agreement was in place across the Local Authorities as to what were the priorities. Carers had been flagged up as an important priority.

There was still an issue regarding co-location as finding suitable space was proving difficult.

Councillor Jeanette Chamberlain Jones requested an update of locality working to be presented to the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee in six months with relevant questions to be sent to the Scrutiny Co-ordinator for onward transmission to the AD: P&CSD.

RESOLVED that the Committee receive and note the presentation and an update report to be provided to the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee in six months.

11 UPDATE ON HEALTH PROTECTION ISSUES

The Director of Public Health (D:PH) and the Principal Public Health Practitioner (PPHP) introduced Dr Judy Hart, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control who presented the Health Protection Team Report.

Dr Hart specified that Geoff Lang had wished to make the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee aware of the infection outbreak in Ysbyty Glan Clwyd (YGC) which had been brought under control. It had been recommended the processes at YGC be reviewed. To assist in this matter, an external expert had been recruited to assist the whole Health Board. This was to be led by the Medical Director and the Nurse Director.

Under Health Precaution Regulations 2010, notifications of diseases were received from either GPs or hospital doctors.

An issue was raised at the Committee regarding cross infection for example, nurses wearing uniforms out of the hospital and also doctors not wearing white coats could carry infection on their clothing.

It was recommended by the Director of Planning, BCUHB that representatives from BCU Infection Control attend a future Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting to discuss this issue in more detail.

RESOLVED that the Committee receive and note the presentation and that representatives from BCHBU Infection Control to attend a future Partnerships Scrutiny Committee meeting.

12 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members' review of the Committee's future work programme and providing an update on relevant issues. A draft forward work programme (Appendix 1), Cabinet's forward work programme (Appendix 2) and progress with Committee Resolutions (Appendix 3) had been attached to the report.

18 July 2013 meeting – any questions regarding Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAHMS) to be sent to the Scrutiny Co-ordinator to forward on to BCUHB.

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator reported that representatives from the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee were required for each of the Service Challenge Groups.

RESOLVED that –

- (i) Subject to the above, the work programme as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and
- (ii) The following members be appointed the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee representatives for the Service Challenge Groups:-

*Housing & Community Development – Bill Tasker
Children and Families – Jeanette Chamberlain Jones
Adult & Business Services – Ann Davies
Legal & Democratic Services – Meirick Lloyd Davies*

*Business Planning & Performance – Huw Williams
Education Customers and Support – Pat Jones
Education – Margaret McCarroll
Environment & Highways – Huw Williams
Planning and Public Protection – Meirick Lloyd Davies
Communications, Marketing and Leisure - tbc
Finance & Assets - tbc
Strategic HR – tbc*

and that the three members absent from the meeting at this juncture be contacted to seek expressions of interest in the vacant positions.

13 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

None.

The meeting concluded at 5.10 p.m.