

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAFEGUARDING, COMMUNITIES AND
WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE/CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE HELD IN MEETING ROOM 1, GUILDHALL ON
WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2018**

MEMBERS

Councillor Derek Wright, Chair
Councillor Beverley Parry-Jones, Vice-Chair

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|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Councillor | Trevor Bates | Councillor | Ronnie Prince |
| “ | I David Bithell, MBE | “ | John Pritchard |
| “ | Brian Cameron | “ | * Rondo Roberts |
| “ | Krista Childs | “ | Nigel Williams |
| “ | * Russell Gilmartin | “ | Vacancy |
| “ | Gwenfair Jones | | |

*Absent

Also Present – Councillor Joan Lowe, Lead Member, Health and Adult Social Care.

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Russell Gilmartin and Rondo Roberts.

17 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS, IF ANY

There were no declarations of personal interest.

18 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Correction to Minutes:

Minute14, Domiciliary Care Staff Survey: Amend sentence to: a Member expressed concern that 49% of staff felt they have insufficient time to read and understand Staff Delivery Plans.

AGREED – That subject to the above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July be assigned as a correct record.

Matter Arising:

Minute 15, Police and Community Support Officers: A Member requested an update on the progress made by North Wales Police on the implementation of a dedicated e-mail address for Councillors and members of the public to report policing issues within their communities. The Chair agreed to follow up this matter.

19 WORK PROGRAMME

The Head of Finance submitted a report (HF/103/18s) to assist the Committee in considering its Work Programme for the coming year.

The Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the report and advised Members that the items identified for further scrutiny at the previous meeting had been provisionally scheduled into the draft Work Programme, a copy of which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Representatives of Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board will be attending the October 2018 meeting of this Committee. Areas for discussion at the meeting have already been agreed and therefore the Committee would not be submitting additional questions in advance.

The Chair reported that following the tour of HMP Berwyn on Monday, 17 September, 2018, the Project Director of the HMP Berwyn had indicated a willingness to attend a meeting this Scrutiny Committee and discussions were taking place to facilitate such a meeting.

AGREED – That the report be noted and the draft Work Programme attached at Appendix 1 to report HF/103s be approved.

20

REVIEW OF DAY AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DISABILITY SERVICES

The Lead Member for People – Health and Adult Social Care submitted a report (HASC/08/18s) which provided Members with the feedback received and learning from the formal consultation with individuals, their families / carers and staff in regard to Phase 1 and 2 of a three phase approach on the reshaping of day and work opportunities.

The Lead Member introduced the report and commented that the proposed modernisation of day and work opportunity services, including investment in community based services, is required to deliver more flexible and sustainable person centred quality services that are fit for purpose and make more effective use of available resources. It will also support the Adult Social Care reshaping agenda and respond to new statutory duties for the Local Authority to provide more focussed support for individuals with disabilities. Formal consultation on the option has been undertaken with individuals, their families / carers, staff and Trade Union representatives and the feedback obtained will help to shape the transition plan should approval be given to proceed with the proposal.

During the discussion that ensued, Members raised the following points in particular and the Lead Member, together with the Head of Adult Social Care, the Service Manager - Disability and the Commissioning and Contracts Manager responded accordingly:

- The Service Manager – Disability provided further information on the methodology used in conducting the consultation exercise on the proposed options outlined in Phases 1 and 2 of the review. Information on the number of questionnaires returned was not available at the meeting.
- The Head of Adult Social Care confirmed that individuals currently attending any of the projects under review as part of their care and support plan, will continue to receive the same level of support whilst alternative opportunities were being considered to meet their assessed needs.

- A Member sought confirmation that during the consultation process all recipients of the existing service provision had been informed of their entitlement to appoint an advocate to assist them in completing the consultation questionnaire as set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.
- In response, the Service Manager – Disability commented that there was a duty under the Act to provide an advocacy service if required and two generic advocates had been present at the consultation workshop. Many of the service users had chosen family members or nominated representatives, including friends or their supported living provider, to attend and represent them at the consultation meetings. In addition to representing the service users some of these representatives had submitted their own views on the proposed options.
- A Member requested an update on the review of the Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) business project.
- The Service Manager – Disability reported that the PAT business presently supported one individual and an alternative commercial provider was available via the Council's approved procurement scheme. Changes in legislation have removed the requirement for PAT testing to be undertaken on an annual basis. The Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) board have determined that it would not be a viable option to undertake the service, therefore, it will cease to operate following the identification of other options to meet the individual's assessed needs. Members requested a copy of the business case undertaken by LATC be provided to them following the meeting.
- With reference to the Alyn Waters café, Members suggested that the procurement process should include a requirement that training / work / volunteering opportunities for people with disabilities or other disadvantaged groups should be included as part of the tender specifications.
- A Member referred to the feedback contained within the consultation response pack and that many service users had expressed strong opposition to the proposed changes. Several carers had also identified the potential negative impact that the proposed changes may have on their ongoing caring responsibilities.
- A Member expressed concern on the 'cherry-picking' of projects for review and that this approach would reduce work opportunities for future users of the service. He suggested that the Council follows the example of some neighbouring local authorities and safeguard future service provision by outsourcing all Day and Employment Services (Disability Services) to a single provider.
- In response, the Service Manager – Disability provided further information on the new service model and the proposed timescale for the completion of the three stage review. The model will focus on providing all new service users with individual person centred plans to identify individual outcomes. Work will then be

undertaken with the individual to identify suitable opportunities to meet these outcomes within the proposed timescales. The outcomes may include providing social / leisure facilities in addition to work opportunities. The department will also retain a monitoring role to ensure that individual clients continue to be supported.

- The Lead Member together with the Head of Adult Social Care referred to pressures on the Social Care budget and that this review was being undertaken as part of a re-shaping programme to make better use of limited resources. The service will retain the current level of support workers and these staff will provide the resources required to support the delivery of an increased range of community based services and work with clients to identify outcomes and develop support plans that reflect these outcomes. Alyn Waters café was the only project proposed to be transferred to a business or social enterprise.
- Several Members continued to have concern on the ability of the Adult Social Care service to ensure that individual person centred plans could be developed for all existing service users within the proposed timescales. In addition, there was not sufficient information available on the future service model proposals.

AGREED

That the Safeguarding Communities & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, makes the following recommendations to the Executive Board::

- (i) To ask the Lead Member, Officers and the Executive Board to defer the decision on Phases 1 and 2 of the Review of Day and Employment Services (Disability Services) until the Safeguarding Communities and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has seen the future service model proposals;**
- (ii) That service users and carers are included in the process of selection of service models available;**
- (iii) That the Safeguarding Communities and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to consider proposals for Phase 3 of the Review prior to consultation.**

Councillor Derek Wright
Chair