



City and County of Swansea

Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Adult Services**

Committee Room 5, Guildhall, Swansea

Tuesday, 19 November 2019 at 4.00 pm

Present: Councillor P M Black (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)
J W Jones

Councillor(s)
P R Hood-Williams

Co-opted Member(s)
T Beddow

Other Attendees
Mark Child

Cabinet Member - Care, Health & Ageing Well

Officer(s)
Liz Jordan
Deborah Reed

Scrutiny Officer
Interim Head of Adult Services

Apologies for Absence
Councillor(s): C A Holley, S M Jones and G J Tanner

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

No disclosures of interest were made.

2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips

No declarations were made.

3 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

The Panel agreed the minutes of the meeting on 29 October 2019 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Convener informed Panel Members that Katrina Guntrip had stepped down from her position as co-optee on the Panel. Panel Members expressed their thanks for the contribution she had made and wished her well for the future.

4 Public Question Time

No members of the public were present at the meeting.

5 Telecare and Community Alarms Mini Commissioning Review

Deborah Reed, Interim Head of Adult Services attended to brief the Panel on this project and the revised timescale and scope.

Discussion Points:

- Community alarms are cost neutral. Options appraisal will identify how assistive technology will be funded in future.
- Anyone can have a community alarm as it is paid for by the individual. However need is assessed to have assistive technology provided by the Authority.
- Options appraisal will look at options for need and options for providing it.
- Current contract with Carmarthen for community alarms finishes at the end of 2020. There is a possibility of a regional service with Neath Port Talbot in the future.
- There needs to be some joined up thinking between Social Services and Housing on the way forward.
- Convener's letter will ask the Head of Housing to engage with Social Services as two commissioning reviews are being undertaken which affect each area.
- The Authority needs to look at how assistive technology and community alarms are paid for
- Panel feels assistive technology would be a good subject for the integrated care fund.
- Cabinet Member confirmed there is an increasing desire to work more closely with the Health Board and Neath Port Talbot on this.
- Options appraisal should be completed by end of this financial year and will be brought to the Panel in the summer 2020.

Actions:

- Include in convener's letter to Cabinet Member, request for Head of Housing to engage with Social Services as two commissioning reviews are being undertaken which affect each area.
- Add to work programme for August 2020 – 'Options Appraisal for Assistive Technology and Community Alarms'.

6 Workforce Development Plan

Deborah Reed briefed the Panel on this issue including the structure of Social Services Development and Training Unit, purpose and function of the project group and a briefing on the plan, and answered the Panel Member's questions.

7 Discussion Paper on Improving Performance Data

Tony Beddow, co-optee on the Panel briefed Panel Members and Cabinet Member on this proposal for improving performance data for Social Services.

Discussion Points:

- Understood that Welsh Government may be willing to undertake work with some authorities to obtain this information.
- Cabinet Member confirmed he has no problem with the principle of it but the research would have to be fully funded, as it is a very large piece of work.
- Panel referred this formally to the Cabinet Member for him to have further discussion with the Director of Social Services and decide whether to take this forward and apply for funding from Welsh Government.

8 Work Programme Timetable 2019-20

Work Programme received and considered by the Panel.

Panel Members informed Deborah Reed is finishing in the role in a couple of weeks and Alex Williams is returning to the post. Convener thanked Deborah on behalf of the Panel.

9 Letters

Letters received and considered by the Panel.

The meeting ended at 5.15 pm.



To:
Councillor Mark Child
Cabinet Member for Care, Health and
Ageing Well

Please ask for: Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:
Scrutiny Office 01792 637314
Line:
Llinell
Uniongyrochol:
e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:
Date 09 December 2019
Dyddiad:

Summary: This is a letter from the Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Care, Health and Ageing Well following the meeting of the Panel on 19 November 2019. It covers Assistive Technology, Workforce Development Plan and Improving Performance Data.

Dear Cllr Child

The Panel met on 19 November to discuss the Assistive Technology and Community Alarms mini commissioning review and the Workforce Development Plan and to discuss a paper on Improving Performance Data. We would like to thank you and Deborah Reed for attending to present the items and answer the Panel's questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learnt from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response. The main issues discussed are summarised below:

Telecare and Community Alarms Mini Commissioning Review

Deborah Reed briefed the Panel on this project and the revised timescale and scope.

We were informed that Community alarms are cost neutral and that the options appraisal will identify how assistive technology will be funded in the future. We were pleased to hear that the options appraisal will look at options for need and well as the options for providing it.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU
SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE
www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

We heard that anyone can have a community alarm as it is paid for by the individual. However need is assessed to have assistive technology provided by the Authority.

We were informed that the current contract with Carmarthen for community alarms finishes at the end of 2020 and that there is a possibility of a regional service with Neath Port Talbot in the future.

We heard that Housing and Social Services are both undertaking commissioning reviews which affect each area. We stated that there needs to be some joined up thinking between Social Services and Housing on the way forward. We will copying the Head of Housing into this letter so that he is aware of our request for him to engage with Social Services on this.

We expressed our view that the Authority needs to look at how assistive technology and community alarms are paid for. The Panel feels assistive technology would be a good subject for the integrated care fund and you confirmed that there is an increasing desire to work more closely with the Health Board and Neath Port Talbot on this.

We were informed that the options appraisal should be completed by the end of this financial year and will be brought to the Panel in the summer 2020.

Workforce Development Plan

The Panel was briefed on this issue including the structure of the Social Services Development and Training Unit, the purpose and function of the project group and a briefing on the plan. We asked a number of questions on this and were satisfied with the response.

Discussion paper on Improving Performance Data

Tony Beddow briefed you and Panel Members on this proposal for improving our understanding of the agreed range of adult care services and of the performance and budgeting data.

We told you that it is understood that Welsh Government may be willing to undertake work with some authorities to obtain this information.

You confirmed that you have no problem with the principle of it but the research would have to be fully funded, as it is a very large piece of work.

We referred this formally to you for you to have further discussions with the Director of Social Services and to decide whether to take this forward and apply for funding from Welsh Government.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised but please note that in this instance a formal response is not required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Black', written in a cursive style.

PETER BLACK
CONVENER, ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
CLLR.PETER.BLACK@SWANSEA.GOV.UK