

Notes of the Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel 5th April 2017

Attendees

Peter Black (Chair)
Paxton Hood-Williams
Gloria Tanner
Tony Beddow (Co-opted member)

Mark Child, Cabinet Member for Healthy City and Wellbeing

Officers

Phil Roberts, Dave Howes, Alex Williams

1. Apologies

Chris Holley, Sue Jones, Uta Clay

2. Meeting Notes 8 March

Noted

3. Objective Setting for Senior Officers

Phil Roberts, Chief Executive, gave a presentation to the Panel (circulated separately).

Discussion points

- Relationship with Cabinet structure and the difference between national government (civil service accountable to ministers) and local government (officers accountable to council)
- Political objective setting via policy commitments agreed by Council
- When things go wrong? Chief Executive holds officers to account as head of paid service, Chief Executive is held to account by members.
- Relationship between senior officers and cabinet still very important and requires trust and respect
- Importance of scrutiny in accountability framework and importance of council chamber as ultimate level of scrutiny
- Need for scrutiny to be properly resourced albeit in the context of reducing resources – essential for scrutiny to be focussing on right things
- Importance of having specific objectives and being able to say when something has been achieved (targets cannot include the word 'ongoing')
- Plans to make Chief Executive objectives public in future

4. Local Area Coordination Evaluation Report

Alex Williams, Head of Adult Services, and Councillor Mark Child, gave a presentation to the Panel (circulated separately)

In summary: The evaluation shows the preventative benefits of the programme and the Council is planning to fund two additional coordinators. The council will be asking the Public Services Board to fund a further two.

Discussion Points

- The credibility of the monetary case for the programme particularly the lack of 'cashable' benefits that could be applied to specific budgets as savings
- The value, nevertheless, of the well-being benefits of the programme
- The difficulty generally of evaluating prevention programmes balanced against the need to take action in the face of rising demand and potential future crises for services as a result
- The robustness of the evaluation and the corroboration from other areas
- The piloted, cautious approach to implementation
- Whether this investment could be better spent on other prevention programmes?
- The potential for the programme to stimulate 'hidden need' that might otherwise not require services
- The importance of partner funding / involvement
- The importance of having the right indicators of success – and of continuing monitoring by scrutiny – will be incorporated into Adult Services Performance Report

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- Overall a good report and a good start but further work needed on developing performance measures in particular

5. Update of Western Bay Intermediate Care Services Model

Karen Gronert, Head of Nursing, ABMU, attended for this item and gave a presentation along with Alex Williams (circulated separately).

Discussion Points

- The staffing and opening hours of the acute clinical response service
- Swansea hospital admissions for those 80+ and whether more research would be useful
- Accommodation issues in Gorseinon – a solution is being sought to this problem
- Disparity in pay scales for Occupational Therapists between council and health staff – Local authority staff are paid a market supplement to address this – the aspiration is to have common terms and conditions for all health and social care employees at some point
- The importance of ensuring the right performance indicators – these are included in the Adult Services Performance Framework

6. Review of the Year

Issues for improvement:

- Number of agenda items / length of presentations
- Work planning / early involvement of officers

Topics for future scrutiny:

- Local Area Coordination
- Intermediate care
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- Focus on Performance Framework for Adult Services – at least quarterly

7. For Information – Convener’s Letter (8 march Meeting)

Noted

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Letter to be sent to the Cabinet Members covering the main points.