



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

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#### **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.