



To:
Councillor Mark Child
Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

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Date 06 December 2017
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Summary: This is a letter from the Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing following the meeting of the Panel on 21 November 2017. It covers Demand Management and an overview of the Western Bay Programme.

Dear Cllr Child

The Panel met on 21 November and looked at Demand Management including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and an overview of the Western Bay Programme including governance. We would like to thank you, Alex Williams and Sara Harvey for attending and answering 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:

Demand Management

We were informed that the current demand for adult services is not sustainable. Demand management has therefore become critical and is a core theme of the Adult Services Transformation Plan and Savings Strategy.

We heard that in Domiciliary Care the number of care hours has increased to unprecedented levels. The department believes that delivery of approximately 67,000 hours of care is sustainable. It is currently approximately 70,000.

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We also heard that an action plan has been put in place and is being regularly monitored and that performance indicators are being developed for the budget and operationally to monitor this. The department feels that the monitoring of performance will now be much clearer. The Panel will continue to monitor this.

We were aware that the recruitment of qualified occupational therapists has been a problem but were informed that this has been resolved, partly due to staff now receiving a market supplement.

In relation to Residential Care we heard that a panel has been set up for residential care admissions and that this should lead to a reduction in the number of placements. It has also helped to challenge Health more in terms of funding cases and consideration of placements.

With Integrated Long Term Care we were informed that it is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority and Health Board to pool funds surrounding care homes on a regional basis. You informed us that you intend to contact the Welsh Government to seek clarity as to why pooled budgets are statutory. The Panel was advised that integrated care could potentially lead to efficiencies. We are concerned that an external consultant is being used to agree each partner's financial contribution.

We also discussed Older People's Continuing Health Care and Mental Health and Learning Disability Continuing Healthcare and heard that the number of people receiving this has significantly decreased over recent years. Funding is dependent on whether an individual has a primary health care need or not. If they do, the Health Authority funds it and if they do not, the Local Authority funds it. The Local Authority is challenging cases where it is clear there is a primary health need. We have concerns about continuing health care and will continue to monitor the issues closely.

We were informed that Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is being brought back into Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU). We would like clarification that the Authority will have input into how this will look.

We heard that for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) a dedicated team is being created to deal with the process and will be in place in early 2018. We also heard that the risks in terms of challenge to the Authority are currently acceptable. We were concerned about legal capacity to deal with this but were reassured that this is not an issue.

Overview of Western Bay Programme

We were informed about the possible change to the footprint of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) which could mean Bridgend is no longer part of Western Bay from April 2019. The Panel would like to be kept updated on this and what this will mean for Western Bay.

We also heard that Western Bay is not a decision making body. Any decisions have to be made by individual Local Authority Cabinets and the Health Board.

In relation to Community Services we were concerned about links with General Practitioners. We were assured that there are the right links in community care so would be aware of any issues.

We were not clear about what was meant by slide on Non-elective Admissions Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions and would like clarification. The Slide on Achievements to date is £2,155,454 annual cashable savings. We felt this was spending avoidance rather than cashable savings.

It is anticipated that Swansea will sign up to the Welsh Community Care Information System in 2018. It is a new integrated computer system for community services. We would be interested to learn more about the system and requested a briefing note on the specification of the system including functionality, data held and what it can do.

As a result of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, Western Bay has undertaken a population assessment. The Cabinet Member recommended to the Panel that they read this document, which is in an accessible format.

The Panel heard that the next step for Western Bay as a result of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act is to produce an Area Plan which sets out the priorities for regional working. We look forward to seeing this once it is available.

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', with a stylized, cursive script.

PETER BLACK
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