



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

Please ask for: Scrutiny
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Date 09 October 2018
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 25 September 2018. It covers Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme and Overview of Supporting People Programme Grant.

Dear Cllr Child

The Panel met on 25 September and discussed the Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme and received an overview of the Supporting People Programme Grant. We would like to thank Kelly Gillings, Anita Evans, Alex Williams and Dave Howes for attending to present the items and answer the Panel's questions. We appreciate their 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:

Public Question Time

A number of questions were asked and as you were not present, officers responded to the factual questions at the meeting. The questions asked are noted below and we ask that you provide a written response directly to the member of the public and copy in Panel Members:

Question 1 – Lack of Public Communication and Participation

- a) Why are the Western Bay Board Agendas/ meetings not published on the Swansea Councils Website?

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- b) The Western Bay Quarterly Newsletters are not printed and distributed, nor published on Swansea Council Website, Twitter/ Facebook etc to inform the public. Why?
- c) Similarly, the Western Bay Citizen Panel public meetings are not advertised by Swansea Council to provide a suitable venue for wider public participation. Why?
- d) Contrary to the open, transparent accountability of Swansea Council, repeated requests made to Western Bay Board to permit Public attendance at Board meetings have all been denied. With the previous Programme Manager and the Western Bay Chairman, Cllr Rob Stewart, recorded as seeking legal advice upon the issue of allowing public attendance. A recent Freedom of Information request made to Swansea Council to request the content of the legal advice obtained by Cllr Rob Stewart regarding public access to Western Bay Board meetings being refused a response! Please could you advise why it was considered necessary to subsequently request the opinion of an external consultancy body as to the issue of allowing public attendance at Western Bay Board Meetings. And do the Swansea Councillors attending the Western Bay Board Meetings agree and support the external Consultant advice obtained that “public admittance at Western Bay Board Meetings is not considered necessary”? Please could you suggest what content/elements of Western Bay Board meetings should suggest the total exclusion of the Public from attending?
- e) Does the Swansea Adult Services Scrutiny Panel agree with, and consider as reasonable, the early recorded Western Bay Board minutes entry that “It is not considered appropriate for any elected Welsh Assembly Member to attend and engage with the Western Bay Citizen Panel meetings?

Question 2 – Review and Reassessment of Complex Needs Care Cases

Since the Programme’s inception in 2014, there has been a saving of £4,527,053!

- a) Please will you advise how the advance savings target of £1 million / annum was determined.
- b) Please indicate how many complex needs care cases have been reviewed to date, and how many remain to be completed in the Swansea Council area?
- c) Please indicate which typical elements of the existing complex needs care packages that have been reduced following reassessment, have produced the greatest cost savings.

Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme

Kelly Gillings presented an overview of the Programme and answered our questions.

We felt it was good that there had been savings but want to know how much has been spent and how it was split between the Authorities and the Health Board. Please provide a complete breakdown of this information.

The Panel felt re-branding of Western Bay is not necessary as it will still be the western part of the bay after Bridgend has left.

We would like to know the cost to both Swansea Council and the Health Board of the changes to ABMU and the loss of Bridgend to Cwm Taf. Please provide a full breakdown of the budgets.

It was confirmed that tangible savings in complex care are based on packages of care so we know exactly what the savings are.

We heard that there are still pay differences between staff employed locally and working regionally and that generally teams performed well regionally.

We expressed concern about two aspects of the arrangements for the Western Bay Partnership. One was the sheer confusing complexity of the management chart on page 38 of the papers and the lack of clear lines of accountability. Another was the imprecision of the roles of the various task groups cited in the lowest levels of the chart. The Panel also suggested that it might have been useful to apply learning from network theory to the development of these arrangements. Officers confirmed that it is not clear that there is an overall vision and that the chart needs to be made simpler. It was agreed that it would be useful for the Panel to see the review of Western Bay arrangements. Therefore 'Update on Western Bay Arrangements following the Review' will be added to the Panel's work programme early in the next municipal year. Please confirm the earliest possible date this will be ready.

The Panel queried whether we would have the same results if the Local Authorities had been given the money instead of the region. We heard that some things would have been completed quicker or better but not overall. Also it has forced the Health Board and the Authorities to work together on some difficult issues. Another positive of the regional arrangement is that there is equity of service across the region.

We were informed that work plans are being completed in December and the Panel would like to have sight of these please.

Panel members have a number of further questions on this item and these will be put in a letter to Western Bay.

Overview of Supporting People Programme Grant

Anita Evans went through the report focussing on the main issues and answering our questions.

The Panel felt probation should be doing more and wanted to know what was being done to make them facilitate their role. We were informed there is a review at national level. Please provide information on this review to the Panel.

We were pleased to hear that the flexibility scheme should help the Council with joint commissioning.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised but would ask that you respond to the following by 30 October 2018:

- Provide a written response to members of the public who asked questions in Public Question Time and copy in Panel Members.
- In relation to the Western Bay Programme, please provide a complete breakdown of how much has been spent and how it was split between the Authorities and the Health Board.
- And also provide a complete breakdown of the cost to both Swansea Council and the Health Board of the changes to ABMU and the loss of Bridgend to Cwm Taf.
- Clarify the earliest possible date an 'Update on Western Bay Arrangements following the Review' can come to the Adult Services Panel.
- Provide the work plans which are due to be completed in December to the Panel.
- In relation to Supporting People, provide information on the review at national level.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Black', with a stylized, cursive script.

PETER BLACK
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