

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JULY 2023

Present: Councillor Taylor(Chairperson)
Councillors Ahmed, Ahmed, Ash-Edwards, Boes, Lent, Lewis
and Littlechild

1 : CHAIRPERSON & COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Noted

2 : TERMS OF REFERENCE

Noted

3 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr McGarry

4 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

5 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 24 April 2023 and 15 May 2023 were agreed as correct records and signed by the Chairperson.

6 : HOSPITAL PATIENT DISCHARGE IN CARDIFF FOR THOSE WITH CARE NEEDS

Members were advised that this item enabled them to consider how Cardiff Council facilitates hospital patient discharge for adults with care needs.

For this item, the Chairperson welcomed:

- Cllr Norma Mackie, Cabinet Member for Adult Services
- Jane Thomas, Cardiff Council's Director for Adults, Housing & Communities
- Carlyne Palmer, Cardiff Council's Operational Manager, Independent Living Services
- Lisa Wood, Cardiff Council's Operational Manager, Adult Community Services
- Dawn Harries, Cardiff Council's Operational Manager, Local Community & Wellbeing
- Rebecca Knapp, Social Worker - Hospital Team Manager
- Diane Walker, Interim Head of Integrated Discharge Service, NHS
- Stephen Allen, Regional Director Cardiff & Vale – Llais (Advocacy Organisation)
- Demi Barnard, Advocacy Support Cymru

The Cabinet Member was invited to make an opening statement, after which Officers provided a presentation. Members were then asked for their questions, comments and observations.

The Committee discussed the complexities and interdependencies that can lead to delayed discharge, acknowledging that it can take varying lengths of time depending on the individual's needs and circumstances. While understanding the reasons for delays, the Committee expressed concern about the impact of prolonged hospital stays on an individual's health and wellbeing, urging the Cabinet Member to support efforts to mitigate deconditioning.

Members noted that delayed discharge also has significant implications for health services' accessibility and availability in Cardiff. The Committee was reassured by health colleagues' efforts to balance front door pressures and discharge demands and commended the proactive steps taken by the Council and Health in winter planning.

Overall, Members considered the partnership between the Council and Health appeared strong, but there were areas identified for improvement in refining communication channels and adopting shared terminology. The Committee supported the shift towards preventative community-based models and hoped it would lead to increased independence for individuals as the population ages.

The Welsh Government's suspension of delayed transfer of care data during the pandemic was a concern for the Committee. However, they were pleased with the co-produced Action Plan for addressing delays and the development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to identify reasons for delays and improve community provision. The Committee looked forward to reviewing these KPIs as part of their performance monitoring work.

Sustainable funding was highlighted as crucial for preventing delays and mitigating their impact. The Committee urged continued lobbying of the Welsh Government for secure and committed financial support to address the challenges posed by an aging and growing population.

AGREED: that the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, writes to the Cabinet Member conveying the observations of the Committee when discussing the way forward.

7 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

8 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18th September 2023 at 4.30pm

The meeting terminated at 6.50 pm