

COMMUNITY & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 NOVEMBER 2018

Present: Councillor McGarry(Chairperson)
Councillors Carter, Ebrahim, Goddard, Jenkins, Kelloway, Lent
and Molik

27 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ahmed and Elsmore.
Councillor Carter advised that he would be late attending.

28 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

29 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

30 : COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE REVIEW

The Chairperson welcomed Claire Marchant, Director of Social Services; Myfanwy Moran, Operational Manager Mental Health in Social Services, Adult Services; Ian Wile, Director of Operations for the Mental Health Clinical Board, Cardiff & Vale UHB; Dan Crossland, Clinical/Project Lead, Cardiff & Vale UHB and Mark Jones, Directorate Manager, Adult Mental Health, Cardiff & Vale UHB to the meeting.

The Chairperson advised that Councillor Elsmore was unwell and unable to attend the meeting. The Chairperson invited Claire Marchant to make a statement in which she said that Community Mental Health Services was in a relatively strong place, patient centred with good quality care and staff supported by management to deliver efficient services. There needed to be integrated work around integrated services and also in prevention and primary mental health services. Internal partnership structures and governance arrangements were provided through the RPB and Cardiff would develop services following the pilot in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Members were provided with a presentation on the Community Mental Health Service Review, after which the Chairperson invited questions and comments from Members;

Members referred to gaps in the service particularly in the old Communities First areas and the BME communities where there were language barriers and asked how this would be addressed. Members were advised that Mental Health services didn't have a very good record with the BME community and it needed to be addressed. Information had been obtained from Diverse Cymru and the biggest issue was considered to be getting understood through primary care at the first point of contact. It was hoped that Diverse Cymru and primary care could work together on this and to address cultural issues. Health promotion was also needed, with the material

targeting the right people in the right areas. Members considered that people that are known and trusted within the community could be trained up to assist with this too.

Members were pleased to see the third sector referenced in the presentation and sought reassurance that this could be resourced properly, because if people were being signposted to a service that later had its funded withdrawn and ceased, this would cause issues. Members were advised that there was an element of protected funding, which would also be increased by £500,000 this year.

Members asked about integration with Housing and Police services and were advised that the Police have powers of arrest for people with mental distress in public. The Police say that levels of mental distress are increasing and consuming lots of police time. There was an agreed model of practice with staff in a joint team in police call centres with advice and information which was a good step forward. The police have an objective in that advice and support should not happen in the police station and this was working well. Issues such as conveyance were being looked at too.

With regards to housing, Members were advised that Social Services and Housing were joined up and work together to consider people's needs. There were many issues such as tenancy, eviction, hoarding etc. to also be considered. There was a need for extra care and sheltered schemes for people of all ages; community support and groups also helped tackle social isolation. Members were advised that things are moving forward and there was also social work support for allocations in Housing.

Members noted that Ely hospital was no longer in use and that its large site could be used for a multipurpose clinic. The Director stated that fit for purpose accommodation such as the CRI site for the Wellbeing Hub was underway but all options should be considered.

Members discussed vulnerable people being 'cuckooed' and were advised of the process that would be followed in relation to reporting the issue and future housing options.

Members noted the reference to cultural changes due to the implementation of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and asked for examples of this. Members were advised that an example would be the information provided at referral, which needed to be more rounded positive and earlier in the process; also the need to carry out an effective assessment, seeing risk differently and changing attitude and culture. Members asked if legislation had made things over complex and if there was a desire to go back to basics. Members were advised that it was important to get it right first time, there was some degree of complexity and further assessment was often needed but it was important to invest more efficiently at the front of the pathway, face to face, with empathy and get to the right point quickly, bringing services in closer and getting to know people.

Members asked, in relation to communication, if case load work was working as efficiently as it should be. Members were advised that there was lots more out in the third sector than had been realised previously and that integrated workers were needed but there needed to be the estate to accommodate them, making it easier for

the third sector partners to share good practice. Members were advised of the new work stream in Cardiff East with community mental health workers based in GP surgeries, therefore providing support at the first point of contact, which was a step forward.

Members noted that the scope of Mental Health is much wider and asked if it was felt that the service is developing at the pace it needs to be, especially as Cardiff is such a diverse city with great need. Members were advised that the investment in primary care was key, the investment was needed for wellbeing in GP practices. The Director added that there were links with transformation proposals, community support, social prescribing and asset based community development which all enable GP's to have somewhere to prescribe people to.

Members referred to the Case for Change document and asked where it sits in regard to the work of the Health Board. Members were advised that at the beginning of the year, the Health Board meets with partners to look at what they all do, with the Health Board assisting in setting the strategic direction. Members asked if there was lots of joined up thinking with partners, and were advised that there was a strong partnership lead from Welsh Government and lots of direction and core services with the Health Board and Local Authorities, adding that it was often up to local partnership arrangements to mesh elements of the strategy together to make sure they are operational. The Director added that the aim was to have the best quality of services in the locality and communities in Cardiff and the Vale, understanding what matters to people and providing a recovery journey and a range of services across the whole pathway.

Members asked where the prevention agenda fits in to community health services and were advised that the Public Service Health Board arrangements oversee this and look at all things such as adverse childhood experiences through to adulthood; family support in the new gateway services; CAMHS being brought back into Cardiff and the Vale to provide provision alongside the gateway and first point of contact - all intending to prevent escalation for issues that are already there. It was noted that there was low level support for everyone through Hubs, Libraries Wellbeing Wednesday's, Film Clubs etc. all providing social interaction and community engagement. Members were reassured by this and asked how these are brought together, and were advised that this would be done through innovation and transformation funding from Welsh Government and also CAMHS. There was a commitment from the Health Board for services for 14-25 year old age group and there would be investment in the service.

Members asked when the roll-out of the programme would be made across Cardiff, and were advised that it would be carried out over the next 18 months.

Members asked for more information on working with the social isolation agenda. It was noted that social isolation has a toxic effect on people and it was important to build resilient communities where people access mental health services but then recover with support and that it shouldn't be a lifelong service. This would be joined up through the transformation fund for the Cardiff cluster. Social prescribing will also be in place across Cardiff and the Vale through this fund, in addition to the services in Hubs etc. Members noted that there was plenty of good practice out there but it was important to connect it all up and for it be sustainable. Early intervention was

crucial in all parts of the service, getting help before social isolation sets in and while people still have social networks.

Members considered that, for young people with mental health issues, it was essential to create a package that works for them and the community, and that trust and continuity was very important. Members were informed of the social dialogue approach where the service user takes back control of their life and to achieve this, early intervention was essential.

Members noted that in relation to premises, the Committee had heard about the issue in 2017 and there seemed to be no change and now this issue was urgent. Members were advised that the issues had recently been escalated via a formal report and the health and safety reports on the buildings had been appended to it.

Members referred to the pace of change and asked if there was an action plan with timelines and dates/milestones. Members were advised there was a project manager who keeps the project to plan, there was also a steering group meeting which was supported by the local authority.

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.

31 : COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Members were provided with an update on correspondence and advised of the responses still awaited.

With regards to the Task and Finish Inquiry on 'Preventing Young People's Involvement in Drug Dealing', Members were advised that the draft report is complete and has been signed off by the Task Group and would be presented to the Committee and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for their consideration and agreement in December 2018.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer advised Members that Committee had previously agreed to carry out 1 inquiry early next year. 'Homelessness and Individual Supported Accommodation' had been the chosen topic to this juncture. At the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, a Member of the Committee raised an issue in relation to the placement of young people/adults in out of county college placements and suggested that the Council's "Closer to Home Strategy" be a potential future scrutiny/inquiry topic.

Members were therefore requested to consider both the "Homelessness and Individual Supported Accommodation" and "Closer to Home" topics and agree a way forward for the consideration of these items.

Members discussed both topics and felt that the Closer to Home Inquiry should be prioritised. Councillors Lent, Goddard, Molik and McGarry agreed to be Members of the Task Group.

Members were provided with an update of the work programme and Members were invited to join the Performance Panel, which meets quarterly, if they wished.

The Principal Scrutiny Officer advised Members that the Head of Democratic Services had suggested Committees have pre-meetings to go through the Committee Papers and discuss lines of enquiry. Members discussed this and it was considered that a room be set aside from 3.30pm on Committee meeting days if there were any issues that needed to be discussed.

Members were advised that on the 18 February 2019, the CASSC meeting would be dedicated to the consideration of the 2019/20 Budget and the Corporate Plan. All Members of the Council would be offered a briefing on these issues.

Members were requested to consider whether they felt they required any further, targeted training on the budget and Corporate Plan. The Head of Democratic Services would be coordinating requests for further training and Members were asked to let the Principal Scrutiny Officer know if they require this.

32 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

33 : WAY FORWARD

Members discussed the information received and identified a number of issues which the Chairman agreed would be included in the letters that would be sent, on behalf of the Committee, to the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers.

34 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

5 December 2018 at 4.30pm

The meeting terminated at 6.40 pm

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