

Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny

Minutes of the meeting of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Friday, 7 February 2020 at 2.00 pm at the Lido Pontypridd, Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Pontypridd CF37 4PE.

County Borough Councillors - Cwm Taf Public Services Board Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor J Bonetto (Chair)

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Councillors

Cllr D Sammon

Cllr C Davies

Cllr K Gibbs

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Councillors

Councillor W Jones Councillor A Cox

Officers in attendance

Dr Kelechi Nnoaham – Director Public Health Cwm Taf Health Board

Ms W Edwards, Service Director – Community Services

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Mr A Mogford - Head of Corporate Services Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Ms K Smith, Cwm Taf PSB Support Officer

Ms L Toghil PSB Support Officer

Mrs S Daniel Senior Scrutiny Officer

Mrs S Handy Graduate Scrutiny Officer

Co-opted Members in attendance

M A Lewis

M J Maguire

1 THE 5 CORE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE CWM TAF JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

2 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

3 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 27 September 2019 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

4 Forward Work Programme Report

The Service Director Communications and Democratic Services presented the report to members and asked Members to consider and discuss items to include on their FWP taking into consideration the draft Forward Work Programme that was appended to the report.

He added that as previously agreed the Committee would have a particular focus on thriving communities.

A Member asked if it was possible to schedule a visit in and possibly hold a meeting at the Gurnos Hub once the works had been completed

The Chairperson agreed that it could be added to the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED: Members considered the Forward Work Programme and noted the items due to be considered at the next meeting.

5 Live Lab Update

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board provided members with an update of the role and work undertaken by the Board in relation to ACE's in Cwm Taf

Following agreement from the PSB two and a half days of workshops were held in Rhondda Fach sports centre on 8, 9 and 11 July. The event was opened with a key note address from Dame Louise Casey.

He informed members that there were discussions held around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and how it is a complex problem that affects many aspects of life. The group focussed on how communities experience it and how they challenge it and access the right services to prevent and tackle ACE's.

Following the workshops a Task and Finish group was created and endorsed by the PSB to identify the best ways of undertaking community development as a mechanism for preventing and mitigating the impact of ACE's. He advised that they had already met twice and will be meeting again on 3rd March 2020.

A Member commented that in Treherbert ward they have a "create your space project" where they work in partnership with community and they become part of the voluntary hub, he stated that the project is designed for the community and they become partners. He stated that the project were always looking for support from partnership organisations to play a part in the project.

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board stated that there were lots of experience of this way of working within our communities and Communities were learning how to improve their mental health and wellbeing within their environments instead of being prescribed traditional medicines.

A Member stated that there is a need to look at the underlying structures as short term and community initiatives were great but there was a need to ensure that access was available to those that need it to the gyms and playing fields etc.

The PSB Support Officer stated that this would be discussed in the next item on social prescribing.

A Member welcomed the bottom up approach and noted the need to do things differently and asked how this would be resourced through the PSB and how will we deliver our commitments.

The Director of Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board advised that Regional Partnership Boards (RPBs) receive Integrated Care Funding (ICF) to undertake their work whereas the PSB does not have dedicated resources which is a risk for the initiatives they have set out. The PSB Support Officer added that detailed on pages 28 and 29 of the report was a broad wish-list of the initiatives that they would like to be undertaken. Some of these had been explored with partnership organisations but some had not.

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board added that the role of the PSB was to create a more enabling environment and moving away from consultation and into engagement with communities by recognising what we can do better and owning the problem and therefore enabling to create solutions.

A Member added that his opinion was that the public sector were adverse to change and not good at listening to their communities. He said this needed to change so we all work together as partners to support each other.

RESOLVED: Members noted the content of the report

6 Social Prescribing Update

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board presented the report to Members which detailed the concept of Social Prescribing and how it could contribute towards the reduction of social isolation and loneliness and improve individual emotional and physical wellbeing. He advised that social prescribing was a referral to something other than traditional medication.

Social prescribing was a different way of thinking and a move away from socially and environmentally conditioned thinking to thinking that people's problems are always medical and a way of recognising that there are more options available than what the doctor can prescribe. He added that Social prescribing had been considered by the RPB with consultation from the PSB and Community representatives.

He described community gyms as one way of contributing to the community staying healthy and a preventative measure of illness. However one of the issues that communities faced with this option was the availability of these assets. He explained that in Cwm Taf one of two Health boards put in place health checks in GP practices where a risk assessment of patients was undertaken of those that were at a higher risk of developing heart disease in the next 10 years and those were invited in for further evaluation. Those that attended underwent further evaluation to determine their risk and were referred on to relevant schemes where necessary. When the programme was evaluated it identified that a number of people would have only been identified further down the line when they had a stroke or heart attack etc. Once the patients risk was evaluated, there were many community assets that they were able to be referred into. He added that in order to ensure these programmes were sustainable that

significant resources would be invested from the early prevention fund to invest in the sustainability of the assets.

The Chairperson agreed that traditional methods of prescribing medications such as antidepressants with no further intervention needs to be reviewed.

A Member stated that investment was needed in this area to enable the sustainability of the resources such as exercise facilities which are proven to have excellent physiologic benefits and were great initiatives that should be available to all and not just those that were able to afford membership to traditional gyms.

A Member commented on the absence of these assets in some of the more deprived areas and stated that we need to tackle this problem, particularly in isolated communities.

Another member added that if you look back at the coal mining era there were social activities made available for the workers as colliery owners didn't want people to have physical and mental health issues so they put assets in place such as Social and workingman's clubs, OAP Halls. He stated that whilst these still exist, they lack support and financial injection needed. He added that social prescribing needs to be local so all people could access them and not just those that had the privilege of access to a vehicle etc.

A Member stated that as an alternative treatment, a 5 week physiotherapy course was given to a constituent in their ward which progressed well but when the course ended he had to reapply for further sessions. By the time he was given more sessions his condition had worsened to the point it was when he first started the sessions so there had been no overall improvement to his condition, he questioned whether there were sufficient resources in place to support these initiatives to have the desired outcomes.

The Director Public Health, Cwm Taf University Health Board stated that in some areas there is no take up of such initiatives but there was concern over diverting resources out of one community and directing them to another and the potential consequences this would have and the public perception this would receive.

A Member stated that he was unaware of social prescribing until receiving the report and stated that better communication was needed so people were made aware of initiatives that are available to them. He also raised concern that in Merthyr Tydfil there used to be 30 football teams but due to the increase in fees for using pitches and playing fields they were now down to just 7 teams.

RESOLVED: Members noted the contents of the report

7 Progress Update- Ferndale Hub

On behalf of Cllr Gareth Caple, The Service Director Community Services gave an update on the informal visit to the Ferndale Hub that took place on the 22 November 2019

She advised Members that the tour of the hub was interesting and engaging and part of the visit included the visiting the childcare facility, the outdoor area was undercover. The sensory room was great and has been booked out since the facility opened. There was recognition that there was nothing similar available

locally and therefore there was a demand for it. She added that members also had an opportunity on the day to meet with the employment services team, Fern Partnership, South Wales Police who held a Cyber-Crime Stand and the Arts Factory

There was now a library facility available in the hub after a consultation revealed that many were not happy with the library as it was as there was no meeting room and the small children's area did not meet demands. She added that the book prescription scheme works very well there.

Since the opening of the library it has seen a 30% increase in visitors and different providers were using the facilities such as resilient families, creative writing and gardening groups. She advised there was a community programme available detailing all the classes and groups that were available for people to participate in which could be circulated to members. She stated that the Hub was providing an environment where the community can thrive.

The Scrutiny officer informed members that at the visit to the Hub she met with a young business person who runs her debt management company from the hub which had given her opportunity to work locally and engage with people in the area. She advised members that there would be a further opportunity to visit the hub again at the end of February where all members would be invited to attend.

8 To consider any items, which the Chair deems appropriate.

None

9 Information Reports

The Scrutiny Officer advised members of the links made available to members on the information reports which were the Wales Audit Office Review of Public Service Boards and the minutes of the Cwm Taf Public Services Board. She advised that if members had any queried in relation to the reports can be directed to scrutiny@rctcbc.gov.uk

Meeting closed 15:30

**J. Bonetto
Chair**