



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Council held on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 at 4.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Council Members in attendance-

Councillor S Powderhill (Chair)

Councillor S Trask	Councillor R Williams
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor M Powell
Councillor H Boggis	Councillor J Bonetto
Councillor S Bradwick	Councillor R Bevan
Councillor A Calvert	Councillor T Williams
Councillor A Crimmings	Councillor D Williams
Councillor G Davies	Councillor L De Vet
Councillor S Rees	Councillor S Evans
Councillor S Evans	Councillor A Fox
Councillor M Norris	Councillor E Webster
Councillor M Webber	Councillor M Griffiths
Councillor A Roberts	Councillor M Weaver
Councillor L Walker	Councillor G Hopkins
Councillor P Howe	Councillor K Morgan
Councillor R Yeo	Councillor J James
Councillor P Jarman	Councillor R Turner
Councillor G Thomas	Councillor A Morgan
Councillor M Adams	Councillor J Rosser
Councillor G Stacey	Councillor R Lewis
Councillor C Leyshon	Councillor J Brencher
Councillor S Powell	Councillor D Owen-Jones
Councillor S Morgans	Councillor S Belzak
Councillor W Lewis	Councillor G Jones
Councillor W Treeby	Councillor W Jones
Councillor L Jones	Councillor L Hooper
Councillor J Harries	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor E George	Councillor M Fidler Jones
Councillor J Davies	Councillor A Cox
Councillor A Chapman	Councillor E Griffiths
Councillor G Caple	Councillor J Edwards

Officers in attendance

Mr C Bradshaw, Chief Executive
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr B Davies, Director of Finance & Digital Services
Mr P Mee, Group Director Community & Children's Services
Mr A Wilkins, Director of Legal Services
Mr R Evans, Director of Human Resources
Ms A Lloyd, Service Director, Children's Services

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Professor Marcus Longley, Chair
Paul Mears, Chief Executive
Anthony Gibson, Director Bridgend Integrated Locality
Kate Burton, CAHMS Team

22 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillors J Cullwick, A Davies-Jones, J Elliott, M Forey, H Fychan, K Jones, G Holmes, W Owen, S Rees-Owen, S Pickering, E Stephens, M Tegg and J Williams.

23 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of Personal interest were made pertaining to the agenda:

County Borough Councillor G Caple – "My son is a doctor at the Princess for Wales Hospital in Bridgend"

County Borough Councillor G Caple – "I am a member of the Community Health Council"

County Borough Councillor Sheryl Evans – "I work for the NHS"

County Borough Councillor P Jarman – "I am a former member of Cwm Taf LHB"

County Borough Councillor R Yeo – "My wife works for Cwm Taf UHB in Prince Charles Hospital"

County Borough Councillor J Davies – "I work for Cwm Taf UHB"

County Borough G Jones – "I am a member of the Community Health Council"

County Borough Councillor M Norris – "My niece works for Cwm Taf UHB"

County Borough Councillor S Morgans – "My daughter is a nurse at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital"

County Borough Councillor R Lewis – "I have a family member who works for the Health Board"

County Borough Councillor L M Adams – "My nephew is a doctor in Bridgend"

County Borough Councillor L M Adams - "My wife is in receipt of an NHS pension"

County Borough Councillor M Fidler Jones – "I am a public affair professional with responsibility for lobbying the Cwm Taf Health Board inclusive of Mental Health Services"

County Borough Councillor P Howe – "My daughter is a Doctor of Psychology and Research and works for the NHS"

County Borough Councillor G R Davies – “I worked for Cwm Taf UHB 3 years ago”

County Borough Councillor K Morgan – “I work for Cwm Taf UHB”

County Borough Councillor S Trask – “My wife is an employee of NHS Wales”

County Borough Councillor Sera Evans “I am Head of UK Recruitment at the University of South Wales”

24 CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

The Chairman of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, Professor Marcus Longley thanked RCT Council for inviting the Board members to address Full Council. He paid tribute to the staff at the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and Rhondda Cynon Taf Council for their commitment and dedication over the last 15 months coping with the pressures of work.

Through the aid of Power point slides the Chief Executive of the Cwm Taf University Health Board., Mr Paul Mears, presented an overview of key matters under the following headings:

- **Covid update – Response to Covid Update**

An update on three key matters, testing, vaccinations and Covid rehabilitation

- **Elective recovery programme**

Details in respect of the Planned Care Recovery and Urgent Care Improvement Programmes

- **Primary Care focus**

Emphasis on a number of key areas such as the adoption of e-consult and the proposal for a ‘Flow Centre’ known as ‘to navigate callers to NHS 111.

- **Maternity & Neonatal services**

An update on the Maternity and Neonatal Improvement Programme and continued close working with the Independent Maternity Services Oversight Panel (IMSOP)

There followed a further Power Point presentation in respect of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg CAMHS, specifically regarding how the service has progressed over the past year and consideration of the challenges ahead, including the partnership work with the Local Authorities.

- **CAMHS in CTM**

- **New Investment 2021/22**

To include an update on both WG and ICF funding

➤ **Key Improvements – Early Intervention**

Renewed focus on joint working opportunities and building relationships with partner agencies

➤ **Key Improvements – Covid**

Maintaining the service throughout Covid and ongoing face to face Crisis services 7 days a week

➤ **Key Improvements – CAMHS**

An update on the single point of access provision, staffing and service redesign

➤ **Future Vision & Plans**

An overview of future plans to include the need for continued rapid response and flexibility over the next 12-24 months and embedding new models and pathways.

The Leader of the Council

County Borough Councillor A Morgan thanked members of Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB for their attendance and updates on the CAMHS and wider issues. He suggested that further update sessions would be arranged to address issues around Covid recovery and Primary care services such as elective surgery. The Leader acknowledged that CAMHS has previously been under pressure and with the return to full time education he envisaged that the support would be greatly needed.

The Leader asked whether there are still vacancies and pressures on staff and how is recruitment to the service?

Councillor P Jarman – Leader of the Opposition

Councillor Jarman highlighted the need for the CAMHS service and asked how many children are on the CAMHS waiting list?

Is there a similar arrangement in RCT to that in Merthyr Tydfil where ophthalmic services have recently been supplemented by an arrangement with Specsavers and the Trust?

Councillor M Powell – Leader of the RCT Independent Group

Councillor Powell asked whether the high rates of Covid referred to in the presentation represented a move upwards on the curve?

The planned care has had an injection of £16M and queried whether that is enough?

How many members of staff have returned to the EU and left Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and how is the Board filling those vacancies?

Is the lack of a Minor Injuries Unit in Pontypridd/Taff Ely having an impact on the Royal Glamorgan Hospital?

Ambulance figures-can you provide an update on the data?

The following responses were provided as follows:

- Staff vacancies with CAMHS – Currently there are no issues with recruitment as professionals with a variety of backgrounds such as social workers, therapists and other core professions are being appointed as CAHMS practitioners. Good relationships with partners is also key to recruitment into the service.
- CAHMs Services within Schools- Services are tailored to individual areas and discussions with schools and social services determine the packages of support to each individual school. The level of support dovetails with that offered by the local authority.
- CAHMS waiting lists –There are 170 young people waiting for CAMHS in RCT and young people are being seen within 3 weeks. Demand has increased and this is expected to remain the case for some time.
- Ophthalmology - The Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB is working closely with high street optometrists such as Specsavers to develop these services and treat patients outside of a hospital setting and in specialised areas such as glaucoma.
- Covid rates – The current rates in RCT is 47 per 100,000 patients which shows there is an increase. RCT is below the Wales average of 64.8
- Funding from WG – The message is that there will be more funding for elective operations in the future, but it concerns more than funding, there is a finite number of people that can work in this area.
- Recruitment – The Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB is working closely with the University of South Wales to recruit newly qualified students and is looking at overseas recruitment, however this is challenging due to current travel restrictions
- Minor Injuries Unit in Pontypridd – Currently looking at alternative options to the A&E unit. A large number of healthcare issues that present themselves to the A&E department are more suited to a minor injury unit.
- Data on the Ambulance Service- Interlinked with how quickly ambulance handovers are undertaken and are able return to emergency calls. The Health Board is currently working closely with colleagues in the Ambulance service

Further questions were put forward:

- Councillor T Leyshon – Families requiring neurodevelopmental assessments are waiting up to 26 weeks. RCT Council has introduced many initiatives to help reduce the waiting lists through its own social services in areas such as Resilient Families. These initiatives are helping to reduce the waiting lists and masking the reality;
- Councillor M Weaver - When will surgery for Orthopaedic patients be back to some normality;
- Councillor S Belzak – Why in respect of the vaccines has the principle of giving full consent been abandoned? Why aren't people told about antibody dependent enhancements? That these substances are in clinical trial for the next few years, that there have been more than 1,000 deaths so far, more deaths than in the previous 30 years from all vaccines, why aren't patients being told;

- Councillor T Williams – I have concerns about the waiting times for CAMHS;
- Councillor J Brencher- Do we have the same staffing challenges in the Princess of Wales Hospital as there are in the Royal Glamorgan Hospital and are we tackling the recruitment in Breast services as in Central London the waiting time for Breast Cancer is less than a quarter than if you developed it in this area;
- Councillor D Owen-Jones – Are there plans to develop a unit in Bridgend specifically for females rather than families having to travel further as discussed in Scrutiny recently;
- Councillor L M Adams – CAMHS is failing our young people, the waiting lists are going up and children are ending up in hospital as a result of mental illnesses such as incidents of self-harm.

Responses were provided by the Chief Executive, Mr Paul Mears and Kate Burton from the CAMHS team as follows:

- Historically there were long waiting times for CAMHS services but now the average waiting time is 3 weeks, the longest any young person has to wait is 6 weeks;
- Neurodevelopmental services are managed by the Children and Young People section of the Health Board not CAMHS but CAMHS are working closely with them to improve the service to reduce the waiting lists;
- Inpatient care for those young girls who need the highest level of support is provided at Ty Llidiard;
- There are significant numbers of patients and it will take a year or more to get the waiting lists back on track;
- There is no compulsion on people to have the vaccine, but the Health Board can answer any queries regarding the vaccine, and has been doing so throughout the process
- There are comparable staffing issues across all the sites currently;
- We are seeing a large volume of referrals into our Breast services, but the Health Board is looking to improve by creating a central service to provide a much better and quicker access into the service.

The Chief Executive advised that should Members have any further queries or questions; they should forward them to the Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB for clarification and response.

The Presiding Officer thanked members of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board for attending and providing the overview of CAHMS services and wider issues.

This meeting closed at 4.59 pm

**Cllr S Powderhill
Chairman.**