

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Extract of Minutes of a meeting held on 11th September, 2017.

SERVICE FIT FOR FUTURE: QUALITY AND GOVERNANCE IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CONSULTATION (DSS) -

The Director of Social Services presented the report the purpose of which was to allow Elected Members to have an opportunity to consider the proposed consultation response from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in relation to Welsh Government's proposals to change quality and governance arrangements in health and social care.

The report advised that the White Paper - Services Fit for the Future sought views on the proposals covering a number of health and social care issues which may require future legislation. Welsh Government's aim of any new legislation would be to enable organisations and empower citizens. Proposals included the strengthening of local health boards so that they function as integrated, accountable, population based organisations; new duties of candour and quality; areas where health and social care could act more collaboratively; and more effective inspection, regulation and capture citizens' voices.

The White Paper covered four key areas: Effective Governance; Duties to Promote Cultural Change; Person-Centred Health and Care; and Effective Citizen Voice, Co-production and Clear Inspection.

The proposed consultation response drafted by the Director of Social Services was provided at Appendix A.

In summarising his response, the Director began by referring to the area of effective governance. The Director stated that a Director of Social Services and an Elected Member would be required to sit on a governance board, but it was important for their role and responsibilities to be made clear. The Director added that as robust arrangements were already in place through the Regional Partnership Board, queried whether membership of another board necessary.

With regard to duties to promote cultural change, the Director's response indicated support to ensure that all health and social care organisations were under similar duties to be transparent, which would be consistent with a more person centred approach. However there were some reservations as Social Workers would have a different code of practice to other health professionals and so it was not clear how all the different policies and procedures would fit together.

Around person-centred health and care, the Director advised that in terms of Social Services and funding, there was an aim to give people choice, for example through Direct Payments. This was something that was not currently available within the NHS. Furthermore, there was a proposal for a single complaints process, which the Director stated would make sense.

In terms of co-production and clear inspection, there was a proposal to ensure citizens were more involved. The Director advised that following the introduction of

the Social Services and Well-being Act, citizens were already involved in the planning of services, so there was some uncertainties as this could cause confusion.

The Director also made specific reference to the replacement of Community Health Councils (CHCs). The Director stated that there were reservations and so it was considered that an analysis of what may be lost and what may be gained needed to be undertaken. The Director added that there was also no reference to the role of Scrutiny Committees. Members agreed that Cabinet should be informed of the Committee's concerns regarding the lack of recognition for the role of Scrutiny Committees.

A Committee Member, as a Member of a CHC, stated that CHCs were in a difficult position because they were meant to consider the views of patients, but patients were never informed of their role.

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the proposed consultation response (attached at Appendix A) in relation to Welsh Government proposals to change the quality and governance in health and social care, be noted.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet be advised of the Scrutiny Committee's concerns regarding the lack of recognition around the role of Scrutiny Committees.

Reason for recommendations

- (1) To provide Elected Members with an opportunity to contribute to the consultation process for this key area.
- (2) To advise Cabinet of the Committee's concerns regarding the role of Scrutiny Committees.