

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the special meeting held on 25 February 2020

- PRESENT:** Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Chair)
- Councillors K P Hughes, Vaughan Hughes, R LI Jones, Alun Roberts, Dafydd Roberts and Margaret Murley Roberts.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Social Services,
Head of Democratic Service (for Item 6),
Scrutiny Manager (AD),
Scrutiny Officer (SMR),
Committee Officer (MEH).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Glyn Haynes.
Councillor Llinos M Huws – Leader of the Council.
- Mr Dafydd Gruffydd – Menter Môn.
- Mr Keith Roberts – The Roman Catholic Church,
Mrs Anest Frazer – The Church in Wales,
Mr Dyfed W Jones – Parent Governor – Primary Schools Sector.
- ALSO PRESENT:** Mr Jonathan Sweet – Welsh Ambulance Service NHS – Operations Manager (for item 4),
Mr Stephen Sheldon – Welsh Ambulance Service NHS – Locality Manager (for item 4).
- Mrs Sian Purcell – Chief Officer Medrwn Môn (for item 5),
Mr Andrew Hughes – Chair of the Management Board of Medrwn Môn (for item 5).
- Manager – North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NC) (for item 6),
Emergency Planning Officer (GH) (for item 6).
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1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were confirmed as correct:-

- Minutes of the special meeting held on 24 October, 2019 subject to the name of Councillor Dafydd Roberts being included to the list of apologies;
- Minutes of the special meeting held on 21 January, 2020.

4 WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICE TRUST

The Chair welcomed Mr Jonathan Sweet, Welsh Ambulance Service NHS – Operations Manager and Mr Stephen Sheldon – Locality Manager to the meeting

Submitted - a report on the relationship between the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust and the Council.

The Operations Manager gave a presentation to the Committee and said that the ambulance service has changed significantly over the years from predominantly a transport service to one which provides clinical care and clinically focused transport service across Wales. He said that there are 3 ambulance stations on Anglesey with 41 staff. He further gave statistical information as to the priority of categories of red, amber and green incidents to the Committee. However, during 2019/20, the pattern of demand for services continues to change, particularly in the 'red' demand area which has shown a significant increase; this, together with a range of other factors has led to a deterioration in response times. He noted that it has been a challenging year across the health system in Wales and since the introduction of the new clinical response model in October 2015, the service's response to red category calls has fallen below the target of 65% but the ambulance service is working in collaboration with the health boards to address this issue. However, the service has undertaken action to improve performance and transform the service and in particular to:-

- Taking a system leadership role in respect of unscheduled care, with support from Welsh Government;
- Advanced Paramedic Practitioners (APPs) are able to treat patients, without the need for hospital care;
- Investment in services to support patients who have fallen, or patients who have dementia or mental health;
- Improved 'hear to treat' rates;
- Continue to work with health boards on referral pathways for a number of conditions, which allows the service to refer to community based services with clinical decision made by a SICAT GP;
- Increasing the number of staff on shifts during the winter period;
- Demand and capacity review has addressed roster efficiency.

However, the service is continuing to look at longer term, sustainable solutions to address complex issues.

The Operations Manager further reported that the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust has been working in partnership with the local authority and he referred specifically to the Anglesey Night Owls Services scheme which responded to 115 patients due to 'falls within the home' with only 11 patients having to be admitted to hospital. He noted that there was a scheme, funded by Welsh Government', with the Fire & Rescue Service assisting the 'Falls in the Home' scheme to support the Ambulance Service when the service is under high demand. However, Welsh Government has ceased the funding towards the 'Falls in the Home' scheme but ongoing negotiations are taking place to reinvest in the scheme.

The Operations Manager referred to the work with the third sector and specifically to the St John's Ambulance Service in respect of 'Falls' response service. However, the St John's Ambulance Service are limited with only been able to provide additional resources during peak periods at the weekends across North Wales due to their own capacity issues; negotiations are still ongoing with the St John's Ambulance Service as to them been able to increase their capacity issues. The main examples of working in partnership with the County Council was reported as follows:-

- Support was afforded to the Welsh Ambulance Team during negotiations regarding the proposed Wylfa Newydd project to mitigate the pressure on the service during construction and thereafter;
- Night Owls scheme – meetings held bi-monthly with the local authority and the Welsh Ambulance Service to discuss opportunities to improve community resilience. Training is afforded to local authority staff in first aid course to respond to 'red' calls and to be able to use community defibrillators;
- The work of the Safety Advisory Group and the Local Resilience Forum is paramount to inform the Ambulance Service on activities held on the Island to ensure that if an incident occurs the Ambulance Service can respond efficiently to such incidents. The adverse weather conditions has tested these plans recently with the closure of the Britannia Bridge.

He further said that Welsh Ambulance Service within its Integrated Medium Term Plan for 2021/23 commissioned an Independent Review to address the fall in response time and it has identified that there is a requirement for an additional 537 front-line staff by 2024/25; workforce planning is currently been undertaken to deliver the recommendations within the review. He noted that there has been challenges in recruiting staff within the rural areas of North Wales and the Ambulance Service is addressing the issue by affording recruitment sessions.

The Committee considered the information presented and made the following points:-

- Reference was made to the requirement to increase the number of ambulance staff and appoint additional front line staff by March 2021. Questions were raised whether it will be a challenge to recruit staff as with other medical professions. The Operations Manager responded that the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust has made a commitment to increase its

workforce with an additional 131 extra staff across the North Wales area by March 2021. A significant proportion of those staff will be Emergency Response Technicians which can be recruited and trained internally by the Ambulance Service. The recruitment of Paramedics will be more challenging as they will have to be trained through the college systems. Further questions were raised that whilst the increase of staff within the Ambulance Service is welcomed there is a backlog when patients are transferred to Ysbyty Gwynedd with Ambulance Service staff having to wait for patient to be transferred to the medical staff. The Operations Manager responded that negotiations are undertaken with the Health Board to have a more efficient transfer process in delivering patients to hospital; the Ambulance Service is trying to treat patients within the home environment and to afford services within the Community;

- Questions was raised whether the Ambulance Service is robust enough in Anglesey and North Wales to be able to cope with a potential of a serious outbreak of Coronavirus. The Operations Manager responded that all the Ambulance Service staff have been trained appropriately in the use of protective equipment and deep cleaning processes in place should such an outbreak of Coronavirus occur;
- Reference was made to the potential traffic congestion issues travelling to the Port of Holyhead on the A55 as a result of Brexit. Questions were raised as to the potential effect on the Ambulance Service. The Operations Manager responded that it can be an issue when there are traffic issues on the A55 and delay to the response times can occur;
- Reference was made to the 'Falls in the Home' scheme and the work of the Night Owls team to be able to help people when a fall happens within the home environment. A Member of the Committee suggested that a leaflet would be advantages to give guidance to people when falls happen at home. The Operations Manager said that the Ambulance Service attends Community Engagement Events to share the awareness of services provided. He said that the 'Galw Gofal' scheme from the 1st March, 2020 will be able to transfer calls through the call-line system to the Ambulance Service;
- Reference was made to the success of the Night Owls service which is provided by the Isle of Anglesey County Council in order to respond to individuals who fall. Questions were raised as to what other partner projects are in place between the Ambulance Service and the County Council. The Operations Manager responded that to improve the response to 'red' call out incidents, especially within rural areas', discussion have been undertaken with the local authority to use 'smart phone' provisions to enable Beach Wardens during the Summer months to be enable have access to Community Defibrillators to attend the scene of accidents that might occur in rural communities.

The Chair thanked the representatives from the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust for attending the meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the Partnership and Scrutiny Committee receives annual reports on the work of the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust.

ACTION: As noted above.

5 PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH MEDRWN MÔN

The Chair welcomed Mrs Sian Purcell, Chief Officer – Medrwn Môn and Mr Andrew Hughes – Chair of the Management Board Medrwn Môn to the meeting.

Submitted – a report by the Chief Officer – Medrwn Môn on the work undertaken by Medrwn Môn during 2018/19 and progress on developing the partnership work with the Council. A copy of the Annual Report for 2018-19 was attached to the report.

The Chief Officer - Medrwn Môn reported that the aim of Medrwn Môn is to promote and support voluntary and community organisations by working with individuals, groups and communities on Anglesey to ensure they play a full and prominent role in developing the potential of the Island. Medrwn Môn is part of Third Sector Support Wales (TSSW), a partnership between the County Voluntary Councils and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and is one of 19 County Voluntary Councils in Wales. The arrangements for the national partnership, Third Sector Support Wales, were reviewed during 2017-18 and 2018-19. 2018-19 was the second year of the ambitious Third Sector Support Wales change programme, which focused on improving the impact Medrwn Môn has as a partnership in supporting the third sector in Wales to flourish.

She noted that Medrwn Môn has been working in partnerships with the County Council to develop the 'Place Shaping Programme' for the Island. 'Place Shaping' looks at how to make communities stronger and more resilient in the future through understanding what those communities have in terms of assets – buildings, green spaces, skills & knowledge, community groups, and public services. She referred to the support given by Medrwn Môn in the establishment of the Seiriol Alliance and work is now undertaken within the Twrcelyn Ward as part of the 'Place Shaping Programme'.

The Chief Office - Medrwn Môn referred to the Môn Community Link scheme which Medrwn Môn acts as a single access point for people to gain information on third sector organisations. Community Link accepts direct contact from individuals, but also accepts referrals from partners at the County Council and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. Medrwn Môn has also been involved in the 'Early Action Together' programme which aims to facilitate the transformation of policing into a multi-agency, Adverse Childhood Experiences informed approach that enables early intervention and root cause prevention.

The Chair of the Management Board said that Medrwn Môn has now establish new ways of working and engaging with residents of the Island to enable public engagement within local communities.

The Committee considered the information presented and made the following points:-

- Reference was made within the Annual Report to the requirement to recruit additional trustees to the membership of the Management Board of Medrwn Môn. Questions were raised as to what extent the organisation ensure that individuals with specific skills are appointed. The Chief Officer – Medrwn Môn responded that volunteer groups within communities nominate a representatives to be considered on the Management Board but she emphasised that some individuals may not have the required skills levels requirements. There is a requirement to promote the skills levels of individuals i.e. HR, IT, financial and management skills;
- Reference was made to the Community Resources Teams within the three identified areas within the Island. Questions were raised as to the role of Medrwn Môn within the Community Resources Teams. The Chief Officer – Medrwn Môn responded that Medrwn Môn staff have received training to support residents within the identified areas to gain access to facilities available to them;
- Questions were raised as to the main risks Medrwn Môn faces over the coming years. Reference was made that there will be added pressure on the Third Sector to support organisations within local communities. The Chief Officer – Medrwn Môn responded that financial resource is the main risk factors as projects have reduced from 3 years to 1 year. She noted that this can put pressure on project management of schemes. She further said that the uncertainties are regards to Brexit is an added pressure on voluntary organisations;
- Questions were raised regarding as to how Medrwn Môn is promoting people to volunteer and especially difficulties in people being able to volunteer within unsociable hours and during weekends. Reference was made that younger people need to be encouraged to volunteer within the communities. The Chief Officer – Medrwn Môn responded that people do volunteer within their communities but a balance is required of the work people are able to undertake;

The Chair thanked the representatives from Medrwn Môn for attending the meeting.

It was RESOLVED to request Medrwn Môn to attend this Committee on an annual basis in order to report on their work on the Island in order to be able to scrutinise its partnership with the Council.

ACTION: As noted above.

6 NORTH WALES REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE

The Chair welcomed Mr Neil Culff, Regional Manager, North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning and Service and Mr Gwyn Hughes, Emergency Planning Officer to the meeting.

Submitted – a joint update report by the Regional Manager and the Head of Democratic Services on Emergency Planning issues.

The Head of Democratic Services reported that the purpose of the report was to provide an update regarding the regional work programme for emergency planning and response, and those within the Council itself. He noted that it was necessary to test the robustness of emergency planning and business continuity

arrangements via exercises. Emergency exercises are undertaken to gauge the preparedness of the Authority when dealing with for example severe weather.

The Regional Manager, North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning and Service gave a presentation and reported that the Council meets its obligations by collaborating with the other North Wales local authorities through the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS), for which Flintshire County Council is the lead authority. It was noted that the NWC-REPS reports to an Executive Board, comprising an office representative of each of the Local Authorities that are partners to the service. Regional work programmes are reported to the Board and monitored. It was noted that the Council has duties for emergency planning and response under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001, and the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996. He noted that the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations was revised in 2019. This Authority had a duty to prepare an off-site plan for Wylfa Power Station but this was no longer a requirement.

The Regional Manager reported on work streams undertaken by the Emergency Planning Service:-

- **Pandemic Flu** – work is undertaken across the region together with the Health Service and local authorities as regards to preparedness arrangements for pandemic flu which is classed as ‘very high’ on the National and Community Risk Registers.
- **Memorandum of Understanding 4x4 Response Wales** – work with the third sector provides transport cover during severe weather.
- **Ffordd Glandwr, Llangefni Emergency Plan** – work undertaken with NRW to prepare a specific emergency plan;
- **Project EXODUS (sharing information about vulnerable people)** – identifying vulnerable people in flood risk areas if there was a need for evacuation due to flooding

The Head of Democratic Services referred to recent emergency planning activities within the Authority as follows:-

- **Testing of BCM Plans – Exercise Synergedd April 2019**
- **BCM Service Plans** – updated annually;
- **Internal Audit Report – BCM** – which had been reported to the Audit Committee on 18th February, 2020;
- **Wylfa** - a multi-agency desk top exercise in September 2020;
- **Staff Training** – training programme for Council staff organised by the North Wales Local Resilience Forum.

The Regional Manager referred to the future activities as follows:-

- **Plan validation** – a new or revised plan will need to be validated;
- **North Wales Councils Coastal Pollution Plan** – taking account of lessons learnt from the Holyhead Marina Incident 2018;

- **Recovery planning** – focus on plans for the recovery process following major incidents.

The Committee considered the information presented and made the following points:-

- Reference was made to the recent focus on Coronavirus and questions were raised whether the authority would be able to address such an outbreak on the Island. It was noted that a number of cruise ships visit the coast of Anglesey. The Head of Democratic Services responded that the authority would work with Welsh Government together with Public Health Wales and would follow necessary guidance for dealing with this issue;
- Reference was made that coastal pollution is to be address within the three year plan of the Regional Emergency Planning Service. It was considered that coastal flooding and areas at risk. The Head of Democratic Services responded that he acknowledged that there are areas on Anglesey that are more susceptible to high risk of flooding. Multi agency procedures were in place in the event of severe weather and depending on severity.

The Chair thanked the Regional Manager and the Emergency Planning Officer from the North Wales Regional Emergency Planning Service for attending the meeting.

It was RESOLVED that the Committee receives future reports on the preparedness of the Council to plan for emergencies and specific follow-up reports to any major local or regional emergency events to which the Council has had to respond.

ACTION: As noted above.

7 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Submitted – a report by the Scrutiny Officer on the Committee’s Forward Work Programme to April 2020.

The Scrutiny Officer reported that arrangements have been made to reschedule the meeting on the 10th March, 2020 to take place on the 11th March, 2020. She noted that the item – Collaboration with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board will now be scheduled to take place at the 16th June, 2020 meeting.

It was RESOLVED to note the Work Programme to April, 2020.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 am

**COUNCILLOR GWILYM O JONES
CHAIR**