

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
28 JANUARY 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held in the Delyn Committee Room, County Hall, Mold on Monday, 28 January 2019.

PRESENT: Councillor Dave Mackie (Chairman)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Ian Dunbar, Mared Eastwood, Dennis Hutchinson, Tudor Jones, Brian Lloyd, Mike Reece, Ralph Small, Paul Shotton, Andy Williams, and David Wisinger

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillor Mike Lowe (for Sean Bibby)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Billy Mullin, Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets. Councillors Janet Axworthy and Geoff Collett

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Mike Allport, Carol Ellis, and Kevin Hughes

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Christine Jones, Cabinet Member for Social Services, Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Social Services), Senior Manager Integrated Services, and ADM and TSS Programme Manager, and Planning and Development Officer. (For minute no.36) Andrew Horner, Director of Operational Projects, Hft Limited, and Jordan Smith, Regional Manager, Hft Flintshire.

IN ATTENDANCE: Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting the Democratic Services Manager explained that a two minute silence would be observed at 11.00 a.m. for pause and reflection for Holocaust Memorial Day.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

35. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2018 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODEL UPDATE – SOCIAL CARE LEARNING DISABILITY DAY AND WORK OPORTUNITIES SERVICE

The Chief Officer (Social Services) introduced the report to provide an update on progress with the Social Care Learning Disability Day and Work Opportunities Service ADM, including delivery of the service post transfer to Hft Limited. He provided background information and advised that in addition to progress on the Authority's partnership with Hft the report included an update on the construction of a new Day Centre in Queensferry which would help to transfer and modernise service for people in Flintshire.

The Chief Officer welcomed and introduced Andrew Horner, Director of Operational Projects, Hft Limited, and Jordan Smith, Regional Manager, Hft Flintshire, and invited them to give a presentation on Hft Flintshire which covered the following main points:

- who are Hft and where we are
- transition
- Glanrafon, Hwb Cyfle, Tri-Ffordd, Rowley's Pantry and Freshfields
- Castle Connections
- Work Options Team
- case studies
- model of support
- people we support – feedback
- challenges
- workforce development
- mandatory training
- staff exchange
- fundraising
- Project Search Flintshire

Mr. Horner and Mr. Smith reported on the progress made since the Authority appointed Hft to run the service from 1 February 2018 and referred to the service model and workforce developments, progress on construction of a new adult day centre, partnership working, fundraising, future business plans and project search. During the meeting a former service user who is now an employee by Hft, spoke to the Committee about her personal experiences of the service during the last 12 months, supported by her Job Coach.

Councillor Ian Dunbar spoke in support of the excellent work achieved at Glanrafon and welcomed the construction of a new community facility (Hwb Cyfle) to replace the existing day service centre which was due to open in June this year.

Councillor Paul Shotton expressed appreciation for the fundraising activities undertaken by Hft which had generated £31,000 for service improvements, investment in equipment, technology, and new activities. He also commented on the Cranfield Trust Business School which had provided a

business planning consultant at no cost. Councillor Shotton welcomed the construction of the new community centre.

Councillor Shotton asked Mr. Horner and Mr. Smith to provide more information on the work of the Job Coach Team. Mr. Horner explained that Hft were reviewing all existing work placements supported by the Job Coach team. He continued that the Job Coaches were exploring options with employers where there were placements that have been unpaid and individuals are fulfilling job descriptions and commented on some of the successes that Hft have had in this task. Mr. Horner also commented on the work undertaken by Hft to recruit and support individuals in volunteer roles.

Mr. Horner reported on the Project Search programme which Hft had successfully delivered across the UK for a number of years and explained that this was a 12 month internship programme for young adults with disabilities. The project worked closely with a host employer to provide work experience for interns and to enable them to learn and develop the skills needed to enter paid or volunteer work roles. Mr. Horner advised that Hft would launch Project Search in Flintshire in September 2019.

Councillor Carol Ellis congratulated Mr. Horner and Mr. Smith on the progress and achievements gained by Hft. She said the enthusiasm and commitment shown was inspirational and looked forward to the opening of Hwb Cyfle and the opportunities it would provide in Flintshire.

Councillor Hilary McGuill suggested that there was an opportunity to expand the activities provided by Hft to include work and care for animals to develop social skills and interaction. She said links could be developed with other organisations who supported disabled people to share the responsibility and costs associated with the care of animals.

Councillor Kevin Hughes reiterated the views expressed by Members and said that the presentation by Hft had been inspirational and offered his personal support if needed. He also commented on the service provided by Arts and Business Cymru which provided live music in venues such as care home settings and said he would send details to Mr. Horner and Mr. Smith for information.

The Chair thanked Mr. Horner and Mr. Smith for their detailed presentation and answers to Members questions.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee expresses its satisfaction at the progress made through the service partnership with Hft following successful transition in February 2018.

37. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic Services Manager presented the current Forward Work Programme for consideration. He drew attention to the items scheduled for the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 18 March 2019, and advised that an additional item to provide an update on the Digital Strategy had been included for consideration at the meeting. The Democratic Services Manager also advised that the item on NEWydd Catering and Cleaning Progress Review which was scheduled for consideration at the meeting on 18 March, had been moved to the meeting to be held on 13 May 2019, to allow for a report on Social Value Strategy to be presented on 18 March.

The Democratic Services Manager referred to the item to be scheduled on Connah’s Quay Swimming Pool – Cambrian Aquatics Mid-Year Progress Report 2018/19. He reiterated that the Board members of Cambrian Aquatics had difficulty attending the meeting of the Committee at County Hall, Mold, on 28 January, and it had been suggested that the time and the venue of the meeting be reconsidered to enable them to attend. Councillor Paul Shotton commented that a previous meeting of the Committee had been held at Cambrian Aquatics, Connah’s Quay, in the morning and asked if this could be considered. Councillor Tudor Jones suggested that a small number of members of the Committee attend a meeting with the Board members of Cambrian Aquatics at a mutually agreed time and report back to a future meeting of the Committee. It was agreed that the Democratic Services Manger would explore the suggestions put forward with Cambrian Aquatics.

Councillor Ian Dunbar suggested that a future visit to Hwb Cyfle be arranged on behalf of the Committee.

Councillor Paul Shotton suggested that the venue for the meeting of the Committee to be held on 18 March, be changed to Deeside Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved; and
- (b) That the Facilitator in consultation with the Chair of the Committee be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings should this be necessary.

38. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press or the public in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 11.35 pm)

.....
Chairman