



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 2022-2027 COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny 2022-2027 Committee held on Monday,  
27 February 2023 at 5.00 pm

This meeting was recorded, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

**County Borough Councillors – The following Overview and Scrutiny 2022-2027 Committee  
Councillors were present online**

Councillor J Edwards (Chair)

Councillor J Brencher	Councillor M Ashford
Councillor J Bonetto	Councillor S Evans
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor C Middle
Councillor K Morgan	Councillor S Morgans
Councillor W Owen	Councillor G L Warren
Councillor K Webb	Councillor G E Williams

**Officers in attendance:-**

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Mr N Elliott, Interim Director of Social Services  
Ms J Nicholls – Principal Democratic Services Officer

**Apologies for absence**

Councillor S Evans

**45 Declarations of Interest**

None

**46 Minutes**

**RESOLVED:**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**47 Consultation Links**

The Principal Scrutiny Officer advised Members of the open consultations and stated that if members had any queries in relation to these to contact the Scrutiny team for advice.

**48 Residential Care Homes for Older People**

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented the report to members which provided a further opportunity for members to pre-

scrutinise the preferred options on the future provision of Residential Care Homes for Older People following the outcome of a public consultation.

The Service Director emphasised the importance and the involvement of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in undertaken pre-scrutiny of such significant decisions and referenced the various stages that Scrutiny has been engaged and provided feedback on the future service delivery model for residential care services through meetings held since 2018

The Interim Director Social Services then presented details of the outcome of the consultation on the preferred options on the future provision of accommodation for older people in each of the Council's nine residential care homes for members to consider before Cabinet took a final decision on the matter. He reminded members that the review into the provision has been taken forward due to the over provision of residential care beds that Rhondda Cynon Taf has had for several years. The review will address the demands rising for placements in nursing and dementia care beds in the Borough.

Following the presentation of the report the Chair invited members to discuss the proposals being put forward.

Members welcomed the proposals which included a capacity for more dementia beds and noted the proposals for care apartments in the Ferndale area and asked if there is sufficient land available in this area to support this proposal. The Interim Director replied that a potential site has been identified that is large enough to accommodate the proposal and he strongly believed that dementia care can be provided within extra care settings as well as in specialist residential care, therefore, he reassured members that the increase of 10 beds in the Ferndale area will meet the needs now, and in the near future when looking at the projected demands for the provision.

Members commented on the strong public opposition to the Garth Olwg proposal raising concerns about losing a facility in a growth area with over 50% disagreeing with the proposal.

The Interim Director responded that as part of the proposals we are responding to serve local need, upon reviewing the analysis we identified that the residents currently residing at Garth Olwg, only one is from this area. As RCT does currently have surplus residential care home places, the proposals set out to reduce the capacity, which can then increase capacity elsewhere, according to demand. The Interim Director continued that the responsibility for the provision for nursing care beds, is with private care home providers. He added that The site in question has been considered too small to be developed into a nursing care provision which is reflected in the recommendations.

In response to members comments the Interim Director advised that it is difficult to project the needs of residents over 20 years. He advised that we are offering a solution for the short and medium term which can be reviewed and new proposals brought forward when required. What has been recognised through analysis is a growing need for people to remain at home for longer to retain their independence. The interim Director also added in response to the member that he will confirm if a response to the consultation was received by the Alzheimer's Society.

A member commented that they are pleased to see the Authority has recognised

the case for change, identifying the need for homes that are fit for purpose in the future and also recognising residents' preference to be cared for in their own homes with support wrapped around them. The member welcomed future proposals to come forward through the scrutiny process to ensure all of the Councils care facilities are fit for purpose

A comment was made by one member in respect of the focus of the report upon capacity rather than addressing a better geographical spread, and local access to such facilities as public transport, to ensure that residents needs are addressed and want to stay close to family is recognised. The member asked for reassurance that the Authority is confident when reducing capacity that there is resilience in the community to support people to live independently for longer.

The Interim Director Adult Social Services advised that within the proposals we have tried to develop a facility in the Rhondda, Cynon and Taf Ely areas. He added that it is recognised that further work needs to be undertaken in this area and they will continue to work with housing providers and residents to identify the provision required and create, where possible considering resources, extra care facilities which are currently more in demand than residential care. He clarified that overall, whilst the proposals reduce the number of residential care beds in the Borough, this follows the reduction in demand for this type of care with the Authority instead having the capacity to provide care to people who wish to remain in their homes and live independently. Further reports will be brought forward to Scrutiny and Cabinet on this matter.

Many members identified the need to see proposals to invest in all facilities come forward as soon as possible to improve the offer to residents with dedicated teams in place to manage the proposed changes. Members welcomed future reports brought forward to members on this.

A Member asked how the Authority compares with the recruitment and retention of staff in the Health and Social care sector in comparison to private care providers.

The Interim Director responded that the Authority is successful in retaining staff but are having issues with recruiting new staff. The report sets out how we will continue to work with staff to create stability in the workforce and how the recruitment process will support existing staff. He continued that officers will work with HR to support and develop the recruitment and retention process and look at the terms and conditions, shift patterns and hours offered and to look at apprenticeship and graduate opportunities and ensure these are competitive when comparing to other Local Authorities. He added that the Council had previously agreed to sign up to the Real Living Wage Policy so all care-workers were now in receipt of this.

Following discussion of the proposals it was **RESOLVED** to:

Authorise the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications to report the Committees comments and recommendations to the Cabinet before a final determination upon the report contained in Appendix A

## 49 Urgent Business

None

**50 Chairs Review and Close**

The Chair thanked all officers and members for attending the meeting and stated that comments will be sent to Cabinet for them to consider before a final decision is taken forward. She also thanked Cabinet Member health and Social Care for his attendance at the meeting also.

**This meeting closed at 6.07 pm**

**Councillor J Edwards  
Chair.**

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg / This document is also available in Welsh