

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

**Please ensure that you refer to the 'Equality Impact Assessment Guidance' when completing this form. If you would like further assistance please contact the Equality & Diversity Team.**

### Details

Name of initiative to be assessed: The Future of Community Day Centres

Name of responsible officer: Paul Mee

Group/Directorate: Community & Children's Services

Service Area: Public Health, Protection & Community Services

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**a) What are you assessing for impact?**

Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal	Information/ Position statement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**b) Please name and describe below:**

The Council currently has four remaining open access Community Day Centres in the County Borough. These provide daily hot meals and a programme of activities for people over 50 years of age. These are open from Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

The average number of meals provided per day varies from one centre to another and ranges from, on average 11 meals per day (Teifi House, Maerdy) to 34 per day (Gilfach Goch). Numbers of meals provided are low and either declining slowly each year or remaining static. The net subsidy per meal ranges from £7.03 (Gilfach Goch) to £20.96 (Teifi House, Maerdy) and the cost to the Council is gradually increasing as usage remains low or static and costs increase. The costs to the Council in calculating the net subsidy per meal are inclusive of all direct costs; employees, premises, supplies & services and management. There is limited scope to make further efficiencies in respect of these costs.

There is a programme of activities held at Teifi House, Alec Jones, Brynna Jones (one afternoon each week) and Gilfach Goch although these programmes are generally quite limited. There are no activities held at Nazareth House in Williamstown. The Council has learning disability satellite services based at both Brynna Jones and Gilfach Goch Day centres.

The Local Authority does not have a statutory duty to provide a Day Centre service with subsidised meals and activities for people over the age of 50. there is limited demographic data on the service users due to the open access nature of the provision.

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The repair and maintenance requirements for each building have been assessed by Corporate Estates and it is estimated that over the next five years repair requirements of all four buildings would cost the Council approximately £500k. The estimated repair costs for each building are all significant; the greatest cost being in respect of Nazareth House, Williamstown estimated at approximately £165k and Teifi House, Maerdy, estimated at £193k.

The Council has undertaken a six week focussed consultation with service users and the local communities on the future of the remaining four Community Day Centres, exploring opportunities for alternative service delivery models either through the developing Community Hub model where appropriate or through existing third sector organisations located in the communities concerned.

- c) **Is the delivery of this initiative affected by legislation or other drivers such as codes of practice?  
If so, please identify what and how**

The Council has no statutory duty to provide open access community day centres. The Council must continuously review and challenge its service delivery to ensure it is costs effective, remains fit for purpose and is meeting the council's commitment to deliver the best possible services for our communities.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places an emphasis on the principle of sustainable development. This proposal makes a direct contribution to the seven national well-being goals, in particular a prosperous Wales, a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities. Making better, more cost effective use of our community assets and reinvesting resources in new or remodelled, fit for purpose buildings will enable services to be sustainable in the longer term.

The development of community hubs are identified as strategic priorities in the following plans and projects:

Cwm Taf Well-being Plan 2018- 2023 - the Public Service Board's aim to promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets can be achieved through the development of community hubs. The proposed hub at Mountain Ash can help to reduce loneliness and social isolation by creating a town centre venue where a wide range of activities and events can be facilitated and a programme developed in partnership with all of its users.

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The Cwm Taf Regional Plan 2018-2023 - This five year plan sets out how the Cwm Taf Social Services and Well-being Partnership Board will respond to the findings of the Population Needs Assessment completed in 2017.

Evidence gathered from talking to people for the Population Assessment demonstrated that the following are important to the wellbeing of people with care and support needs:

- Making connections with others
- Access to Information and advice
- Organisations working better together
- Stopping problems before they start or get worse

The needs of vulnerable people and families can sometimes escalate into statutory services because there are limited opportunities available for people to seek help earlier. Good practice research has identified that strong community based initiatives are effective in providing low level support options and these are usually available from a community hub or open access facility.

It is intended that the proposal to create Community Hubs in up to ten town centres across the County Borough will provide wellbeing opportunities for those who are most vulnerable in the community as well as providing a wider range of activities for our communities.

Our Valleys, Our Future - this plan's priorities for ensuring better public services includes an action to use existing, and create new, community hubs as well as a range of actions that will improve the health and well-being of communities.

**d) Does the initiative directly affect service users, employees or the wider community?**

Yes   
No

Continue assessment

No need to continue screening or carry out an EqIA

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Screening/Relevance Test: Is an equality impact assessment required?

Screening is used to decide whether the initiative you are responsible for has a high or medium impact on any of the protected groups and will require a full EqIA.

Please provide details of the possible impact your proposal may have on the following groups, this may not necessarily be negative, but may impact on a group with a particular characteristic in a specific way.

You should also identify whether this constitutes a high, medium or low impact.

Please refer to Equality Impact Assessment Guidelines for further information.

Protected Characteristic	Impact
Age	High. Overall there is a disproportionately higher risk of impact on adults aged over 50 and they have shared their specific anxieties around the proposed changes to existing services. In particular older customers of the Day Centres who attended the consultation events and completed the customer surveys expressed concerns regarding the potential impact on their well-being. Some Day Centre users indicated that they would be unable to access alternative provision if the day centres were closed. See mitigations in the full Equality Impact assessment below for how this will be addressed.
Disability	Medium. There are potentially negative and positive impacts on people with disabilities. Two of the centres currently have satellite bases for learning disability services and should the day centres be closed the clients would need to be relocated elsewhere.  The existing day centres also have varying degrees of accessibility to people with disabilities.
Gender Reassignment	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Pregnancy and Maternity	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Race	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Religion or Belief	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.

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Sex	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
Sexual Orientation	Neutral - there is no evidence to suggest that an impact is likely.
<b>Other Characteristics</b>	
Welsh Language	Low positive - access to additional training rooms at Community Hubs will facilitate the delivery of Welsh language classes or other community learning classes in the medium of Welsh if there is a demand for these locally.
Carers	Neutral - any decision to relocate service for learning disability clients would be in full consultation with carers and the individual. Alternative provision would be identified.
Armed Forces Community	Positive - access to additional meeting rooms at Community Hubs will enable Veteran advice services to be delivered at the venues.

**If after completing the EqlA screening/relevance test, you determine that this service/function/policy/project is not relevant for an EqlA you must provide adequate explanation below. (Please use additional pages if necessary).**

**Are you happy that you have sufficient evidence to justify your decision?**

Yes

No

Signed: Paul Mee  
Community Services

Position: Director - Public Health, Protection &  
Date: 09/04/2019

**N.B. If the initial screening process has identified actual or potential high or medium negative impact on a particular group or groups then you MUST carry out a full EqlA.**

Approved by Head of Service or Director

Signed: Gio Isingrini  
Services

Position: Group Director - Community & Children  
Date: 10/04/2019

### **Full Equality Impact Assessment**

You should use the information gathered at the screening stage to assist you in identifying possible negative/adverse impact and clearly identify which groups are affected.

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In terms of any disproportionate/negative/adverse impact that the proposal may have on a protected group, what steps (if any) could be taken to reduce that impact for each group identified. Attach a separate action plan if necessary.

### Age

Concerns were raised by Day Centre users about potential changes to the meals provision specifically the possible loss of 'cooked dinners'. There was also a concern that the activities supported at the day centres would be lost.

Some service users indicated that they would not be able to access alternative provision due to transport/mobility barriers and that this would lead to social isolation and loneliness.

When St George's Day centre closed in 2018, the service users were signposted to Gilfach Goch. These service users may be affected by any further changes.

Actions to address the issues:

Relevant Council Officers will continue to engage with customers about the current proposals to allay their anxieties. Ways in which a hot meal can be accessed elsewhere will be explored to address the concerns of Day Centre users.

In order to address anxieties relating to the loss of Day Centre activities, continued engagement will take place with relevant stakeholders and customers to develop an agreed programme of activities provided either at nearby third sector facilities, public libraries or at the newly developed Community Hubs that will meet the needs of the majority of service users.

In relation to service users that were displaced from Tonyrefail, a small number now use Gilfach Goch instead, but all are able to travel independently and make use of a number of facilities across the County Borough.

Service users over 60 would be eligible for bus passes and the Community Hub developments are located in town centres with good transport links.

### Disability

A concern for service users is the potential impact on clients of learning disability services at both Brynnar Jones and Gilfach Goch day centres should they close. Care would be necessary to minimise any distress to service users should they need to be re-located to other facilities to receive ongoing support. Learning disability service users access a range of opportunities within their wider community. The satellite base is a small part of the service provision overall. Alternatives to the day centres would be identified.

If a decision is made to close the day centres a full consultation with learning disability clients and their families would be undertaken regarding alternative provision. The aim would be to ensure the individual remained

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within their existing locality with minimal impact on travelling distances. The majority of individuals are supported with contracted travel by the Council.

Legislation stipulates that provision should be made for car parking spaces for Blue Badge holders wherever conventional parking spaces are provided. According to 'Inclusive Mobility' where 'the provision of designated parking spaces close to a building is not possible, a setting down point for disabled passengers should be provided on firm and level ground close to the principal entrance to the building.' These requirements will be an important consideration in the development of the Community Hubs.

If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible, please explain why they are not possible.

Should the four remaining day centres be closed, every effort will be made to provide alternative provision either through the new Community Hubs/Neighbourhood Networks and to signpost service users accordingly. However it may not be possible to identify alternative provision that suits the needs and expectations of all service users in every location.

### **Evidence Sources**

(i) Give details of any data or research that has led to your reasoning above, in particular, the sources used for establishing the demographics of service users.

Service usage and financial data held with Adult Services was used to ascertain service level and activity data for the Day Centres and the cost to the Council. Demographic data was collected throughout the consultation exercise.

(ii) Give details of how you have engaged with service users on the proposals and steps taken to avoid any disproportionate impact on a protected group and how you have used any feedback to influence your decision.

A consultation exercise ran for a period of six weeks from the 21st January 2019 to the 4th March 2019. The consultation exercise involved eight drop in events; two held at each of the four day centres. An online survey was created and placed on the Council's website. Consultation events took place on the following dates:

Teifi House - 30<sup>th</sup> January & 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Brynnar Jones - 6<sup>th</sup> February & 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019

Nazareth House - 13<sup>th</sup> February & 1<sup>st</sup> March

Gilfach Goch - 15<sup>th</sup> February & 27<sup>th</sup> February

Full details of the consultation are provided in the Consultation Report produced by the Consultation team.

Key feedback from the consultation were as follows:

In total, 331 responses were received to the consultation survey. The drop in sessions at each day centre were also well attended by service users and in some instances residents of the local communities.

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89.4% of the respondents to the survey attend one of the four days centres.  
 82.7% of the respondents said that the main reason for using the day centres was to meet friends and socialise.  
 17.4% of respondents said they would access alternative community facilities if the day centres were not available.  
 Respondents identified a number of potential adverse impacts should the centres close: difficulty in travelling further; no alternatives nearby; social isolation; loss of hot meals and a loss of activities.  
 Concern was also expressed on the potential impact any closure would have on learning disability services provided at both Brynnar Jones and Gilfach Goch day centres.  
 When asked for suggestions to improve the centres or alternative proposals, respondents suggested more promotion; broadening the use of the facilities, including intergenerational uses.  
 A petition was received in support of Gilfach Goch Day Centre with 488 signatures.  
 A letter from Councillor

Are you satisfied that the engagement process complies with the requirements of the Statutory Equality Duties?

Yes

No

**Decision Log** - detail how Elected Members and Senior Managers have been involved in the decision process (give dates of key meetings and decisions made).

Cabinet decision to initiate a consultation process on the future of the community day centres - 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018

### Review

**Date of Next Review:**

**If review is not required, explain why:**

**Completed by:**

Paul Mee

**Signature:**

**Job Title:**

Director - Public Health, Protection & Community Services

**Date:**

9<sup>th</sup> April 2019



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**This assessment must be approved by an appropriate Head of Service or Director**

<b>Approved by:</b>	Gio Isingrini
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Job Title:</b>	Group Director, Community & Children Services
<b>Approval date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Please return a copy to:**

Equality & Diversity Team  
The Pavilions  
Cambrian Park  
Clydach Vale  
CF40 2XX

Email: [equality@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:equality@rctcbc.gov.uk)