



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

5th DECEMBER 2022

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH CLLR G CAPLE,
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet with preferred options on the future provision of accommodation with care for older people in each of the Council's nine residential care homes and seeks approval to consult, where relevant, with the current residents and their families, staff and other stakeholders to enable the Cabinet to make informed decisions on the preferred options for each home.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Considers the information in this report and the comments and feedback arising from the pre-scrutiny of the draft report undertaken Overview & Scrutiny Committee (which will be circulated following the committee meeting held on the 29th November).
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1 above, agrees with the preferred options, as set out in Section 6, to retain the current service provision at the five Council residential care homes listed below:
- Clydach Court (Trealaw)
 - Pentre House (Pentre)
 - Tegfan (Trecynon)
 - Cae Glas (Hawthorn)
 - Parc Newydd (Talbot Green)

- 2.3 Subject to 2.1 above agrees to initiate public consultation with the individuals and their families and staff who were relocated from Ystrad Fechan Care in August this year, and other relevant stakeholders on the preferred option to permanently decommission Ystrad Fechan care home and continue to explore with Linc Cymru and the Health Board the development of land near the existing care home to provide new accommodation with care provision, including 40 extra care apartments and 20 residential dementia care beds, along with other health and social care accommodation options depending on available development space and need, as set out in Section 6 of this report. Ystrad Fechan care home is currently temporarily closed and has no residents living there.
- 2.4 Subject to 2.1 above agrees to initiate public consultation with the current residents and their families, staff and other relevant stakeholders on the preferred option to work with Linc Cymru to explore options to develop land near the existing Ferndale House care home to provide new accommodation with care provision, including 20 extra care apartments and 10 residential dementia care beds and decommission Ferndale House care home when the new proposed alternative accommodation with care for older people provision is developed, as set out in Section 6 of this report.
- 2.5 Subject to 2.1 above agrees to initiate public consultation with the current residents and their families, staff and other relevant stakeholders on the preferred option to work with Linc Cymru to explore options to develop land near the existing Troedyrhiw care home to provide new accommodation with care provision, including 25 extra care apartments and 15 residential dementia care beds and decommission the Troedyrhiw care home when the new proposed alternative accommodation with care for older people provision is developed, as set out in Section 6 of this report.
- 2.6 Subject to 2.1 above agrees to initiate public consultation with the current residents and their families, staff and other relevant stakeholders on the preferred option to redevelop Garth Olwg care home to provide alternative accommodation with care to support people with learning disabilities in adulthood and decommission Garth Olwg care home for older people when suitable alternative placements are found for existing residents in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs.
- 2.7 Subject to 2.2 to 2.6 above agrees to receive a further report following conclusion of the proposed consultation, including an updated full Equality Impact Assessment prior to any final decision being made in relation to the preferred options on the future provision of accommodation for older people in the Council's residential care homes.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 imposes market shaping duties upon the Council and guidance requires local authorities to ensure that there are sufficient, quality services available in the area and that these services are sustainable.
- 3.2 In line with these duties, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council continues to review the residential care home provision that it delivers. Officers consider that doing nothing is not a viable option and without re-designing the way that the service is provided, it will not be possible to meet people's changing expectations and needs within the resources available. However, retaining some residential care homes would ensure that the Council meets its commitment to maintaining an in-house offer of provision in the local residential care home market.
- 3.3 Proposals to make changes in the service provision of some of the Council's residential care homes requires consultation with the public and those directly affected, including service users, their families, staff and stakeholders to ensure that their views can be taken into account when a final decision is made. Consultation is proposed to ensure compliance with the Council's legal obligations.
- 3.4 A further report following the conclusion of a consultation is recommended to ensure that the Cabinet is fully informed of the outcome of the consultation and Equality Impact Assessment when it decides on the future of the Council's nine residential care homes.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The need to modernise and continually improve adult social care services is a key priority for Rhondda Cynon Taf and over the last six years the Council has transformed the way in which it delivers adult social care; with the focus shifting to supporting independence so that people are supported to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.
- 4.2 The Cwm Taf Joint Commissioning Statement for Older People's Services (2015-2025) (the 'Commissioning Statement') approved by the Cabinet in February 2016 acknowledged that care needs and expectations are changing and that there is a need to ensure that services are safe, appropriate and fit for purpose. The Commissioning Statement identifies the need to make very different choices and avoid over reliance on residential care settings and the development of extra care housing is identified as a key alternative model of community-based accommodation with care and support in order to enhance the health, wellbeing and independence of older people. Without modernising our

offer increasing demand, changing expectations and financial pressures will challenge the ongoing viability and suitability of Rhondda Cynon Taf's model of adult social care provision.

- 4.3 In response, the Council developed its Strategy to modernise accommodation options for older people and deliver extra care housing in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This was approved by Cabinet in November 2016, and it gave a commitment to review and reshape the care market to increase the options available for people needing accommodation with care and support and deliver a viable alternative for people who can remain independent with support.
- 4.4 In September 2017, Cabinet approved a £50m investment plan to develop, in total, 300 extra care apartments across Rhondda Cynon Taf and to deliver modern accommodation options to meet the needs and changing expectations of the growing older population. At this meeting, Cabinet also approved a comprehensive review of residential care homes (and day care services) for older people to determine future improvement opportunities for service delivery in line with the Council's strategy for accommodation for older people.
- 4.5 The future of the Council's residential care homes for older people has been subject to ongoing review since September 2017. In December 2020, Cabinet agreed, following consideration of three separate stakeholder consultations the future provision of the Council's residential care homes and to receive a further report setting out a comprehensive modernisation programme.
- 4.6 In making their decision, the Cabinet considered the outcomes of the three stakeholder consultations, together with the rationale and drivers shaping the preferred options for the future provision of the Council's residential care homes for older people and supporting information relating to capacity and demand, and are summarised below:
 - The Council's residential care homes have served their communities well and are popular homes with good standards of care, provided by committed staff.
 - There is a need to retain Council residential care homes to ensure that the Council meets its commitment to maintaining an in-house offer of provision in the local residential care home market.
 - The difficulty of existing Council's residential care homes to accept the range of referrals and complexity of need being presented unless the current facilities are upgraded to the modern standards identified for dignified care delivery.

- The demand for traditional residential care is decreasing and less residential care will be needed in the future, as more people will receive care in their own homes, including extra care housing and other supported housing schemes. This is consistent with national and regional priorities and the Council's aim of providing care and support to people in their own homes wherever possible
- The over provision of residential care beds and sufficient alternative provision of the required type and quality in Rhondda Cynon Taf to meet current and forecast demands - less residential care will be needed in the future geographical market share across Rhondda, Cynon and Taf areas.
- The current and forecasted need is for more complex care (including dementia care), reablement, respite care or short breaks for carers and nursing care.
- The impact of older people exercising choice now on the occupancy levels in our care homes.

4.7 In July 2022, Cabinet agreed, following a further review of the Council's residential care home provision to address ongoing pandemic related issues and challenges, including reduced demand and low occupancy, staffing shortages and quality of care issues, to:

- temporarily close Ystrad Fechan (Treorchy) and transfer the eight residents to Pentre House (Pentre) or another home of their choosing which meets their needs; and,
- temporarily provide up to 10 new step up step down beds at Parc Newydd (Talbot Green), in partnership with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, to support hospital discharge.

4.8 In July 2022, a copy of The Regional Market Stability Report (2022) was presented to Council. The report which is based on regional analysis of current data and trends and the feedback from resident and stakeholder engagement carried out in 2021/22, highlighted that:

- people are continuing to choose to live at home for longer and that people are entering care homes later in life and with more acute needs, which has resulted in a reduction in the demand for traditional residential care and an increased demand for nursing care and homecare.
- residential care home providers are reporting that they are now supporting people with more complex needs who would have previously had their needs met in a nursing home.

- current provision is unable to meet the increasing need for nursing with dementia care and respite care, particularly dementia care.
- 4.9 The above highlights from the Market Stability report reinforces the recent trends seen within Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Council's residential care home service and also reflects on the trends in the national picture.
- 4.10 There are currently 34 care homes for older people in Rhondda Cynon Taf, offering a total of 1308 registered beds. Of these, the Council operates 9 residential care homes offering 267 registered residential beds, which makes it one of the largest local authority providers of residential care in the country. The remaining 25 care homes are provided by independent providers contracted by the Council, offering 1041 registered residential and nursing beds.
- 4.11 As previously reported, Rhondda Cynon Taf has had a surplus of care home beds for several years, across the Council's care homes and those in the Independent Sector, as shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Care home occupancy and vacancies

	Council care homes		Independent care homes	
	% Occupied	Vacancies	% Occupied	Vacancies
Nov 2022	60%	103	91%	81
May 2022	50%	145	86%	159
Sep 2021	55%	131	81%	206
Sep 2020	53%	157	79%	206
Feb 2020	69%	102	94%	63
Aug 2019	77%	71	96%	46
Mar 2019	79%	76	93%	81
Mar 2018	83%	57	88%	135
Mar 2017	89%	27	88%	67
Mar 2016	98%	8	95%	75

- 4.12 Whilst occupancy in the Council's residential care homes increased in November 2022, due to the previous Cabinet decision, mentioned in paragraph 4.7, to temporarily close Ystrad Fechan and temporarily provide up to 10 new step up step down beds at Parc Newydd, Table 1 above shows that local demand is following national trends with a period of decline in residential care home placements prior to the pandemic and thereafter. Occupancy across the independent sector, whilst still below pre-pandemic levels, has now started rising, primarily due to increased placements in nursing and dementia and the Council's decision in September 2022 to stop contracting with Pontypridd Nursing Home.

- 4.13 Lower levels of demand are expected to continue for an extended period and research by the Institute for Public Policy Research found that there is a lower demand for residential care and that 1/3 of people are now less likely to seek residential care for an elderly relative, while 40% of over 65's are less likely to consider it for themselves.
- 4.14 Over recent years, long term admissions to care homes has fallen in Rhondda Cynon Taf despite an expanding population. Conversely, demand for homecare services for people who live in their own homes and are aged 65 and over has been increasing.
- 4.15 Current vacancies, as at 1st November 2022, broken down by geographical area, market sector and care category are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Current care home vacancies, as at 1st November 2022, by geographical area, market sector and care category.

Area	Sector	Res	Res Dementia	Nursing	Nursing Dementia	Total
Rhondda	Independent	0	10	2	4	16 (5%)
	In-house	20	11	-	-	31 (34%)
	Sub Total	20 (21%)	21 (13%)	2 (2%)	4 (22%)	47 (12%)
Cynon	Independent	23	11	8	3	45 (12%)
	In-house	29	0	-	-	29 (40%)
	Sub Total	52 (37%)	11 (13%)	8 (6%)	3 (4%)	74 (17%)
Taf	Independent	6	2	11	1	20 (6%)
	In-house	24	19	-	-	43 (45%)
	Sub Total	30 (18%)	21 (19%)	11 (7%)	1 (8%)	63 (14%)
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Independent	29	23	21	8	81 (8%)
	In-house	73	30	-	-	103 (40%)
	Total	102 (25%)	53 (15%)	21 (5%)	8 (7%)	184 (14%)

- 4.16 As shown in Table 2 above, there are still 184 bed vacancies as at 1st November 2022 in Rhondda Cynon Taf, despite previous decisions to temporarily reduce the Council's care home provision at Ystrad Fechan and Parc Newydd and stop contracting with Pontypridd Nursing Home - amounting to 14% of total registered care home beds. This represents a

significant oversupply of beds, especially in residential care - 155 bed vacancies (20%) in all three geographical areas, as follows:

- 41 bed vacancies (16%) Rhondda
- 63 bed vacancies (28%) Cynon
- 51 bed vacancies (18%) Taf

4.17 As a result, some care homes are carrying a high number of vacancies and in November 2022, 100% of the Council's Care Homes and 14% of the independent providers reported occupancy rates below 85%.

4.18 The Council's nine residential care homes have the potential to offer 257 care home beds and currently 103 of these are vacant, this excludes the 24 beds from the temporary closure of Ystrad Fechan and new 10 bed step up step down facility at Parc Newydd. This represents a current occupancy level for the Council's Care Homes of still just 60%. Half of the Council's Residential Care Homes still have occupancy below 60% as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Current occupancy, as at 1st November 2022, in each of the Council's nine residential care homes

Area	Care Home	Location	Bed Numbers	Permanent Residents Numbers	Temporary Resident Numbers	Overall Occupancy %
Rhondda	Clydach Court	Trealaw	35	22	4	74%
	Ferndale House	Ferndale	26	11	1	46%
	Pentre House	Pentre	29	20	1	72%
	Ystrad Fechan	Treorchy		Temporarily closed		
Cynon	Tegfan	Trecynon	46	25	4	63%
	Troedyrhiw	Mountain Ash	26	14	0	54%
Taf	Cae Glas	Hawthorn	39	17	3	51%
	Garth Olwg	Church Village	30	14	2	53%
	Parc Newydd	Talbot Green	26	14	2	62%
	Total		257	137	17	60%

4.19 The pandemic has had a profound impact on the market, in particular the Council's residential care homes and has increased the vacancy rate in the Council's homes. Inevitably, the prolonged high number of vacancies has affected the living environment and experience for residents, increasing the risk of a detrimental impact on their wellbeing.

- 4.20 While the pandemic has created considerable uncertainty about future demand for care home placements, there is still a lot more capacity available in the Council's residential care home market, and in addition to the extra care developments, it is clear that there are sufficient residential care home places for people. As previously reported, there remains clear evidence that there is an over provision of care home beds in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 4.21 It is therefore important that the Council continues to review its current residential care home provision to ensure it addresses the ongoing challenges resulting from the recovery from the pandemic, including the greater demand for nursing and specialist care home placements and domiciliary care for people who wish to continue to live in their own homes.
- 4.22 As Cabinet will be aware from previous reports, the Council's residential care homes are in dated buildings, and whilst the quality of the care provided by staff is very good, they were mostly built over 40 years ago and were not designed to meet the current expectations of care accommodation. This became even more apparent in managing infection control during the Covid-19 pandemic, making isolation more difficult, particularly in dementia care units due to the layout, room sizes and shared toilet facilities. However, the Council continues to maintain each home in accordance with normal industry practice and requirements and each home is routinely inspected by Care Inspectorate Wales who independently validate ongoing compliance with requirements.
- 4.23 As previously reported, modern purpose built care homes are designed to be dementia friendly and have a larger space standard to support mobility and hoisting needs. They also have en-suite facilities, so people are more able to toilet themselves or with support.
- 4.24 The Council's long term aim, subject to available funding, is to provide an environment where people living in a Council residential care home live in comfort and in a home where the design of the building, with support from staff, maintains someone's sense of dignity and independence.
- 4.25 At its meeting 3rd December 2020, Cabinet agreed to receive a further report setting out a comprehensive modernisation programme for the Council's nine residential care homes to be retained.
- 4.26 As a result, the Council commissioned Quattro Design Architects "Quattro" to undertake an independent review of each of the Council's nine residential care homes to explore options for the refurbishment and new build of each home at their current location in line with modern fit for purpose standards.

- 4.27 In terms of design, Quattro were commissioned to create plans for the provision of high quality modern residential care homes, with up to 60 beds, to support people with dementia, including those requiring respite care by refurbishing or rebuilding each of the Council's nine care homes.
- 4.28 The new care homes have been designed to feature individual "households" for up to 6 – 8 residents with en-suite showers and toilets for everyone, along with other communal facilities - all designed to ensure the people who live there enjoy life as much as possible.
- 4.29 The Quattro review outcomes for the refurbishment of each of the Council's residential care homes are summarised in Table 4 below:

Table 4: Quattro refurbishment review summary outcomes










Home	Current beds	Refurbished bed spaces	% Bed reductions	Estimated cost	Refurbishment potential
Clydach Court	35	24 en-suites	31%	4.1M	✗
Ferndale House	26	18 en-suites	31%	3.2M	✗
Pentre House	29	14 en-suites	52%	2.6M	✗
Ystrad Fechan	24	14 en-suites	42%	2.7M	✗
Tegfan	46	31 en-suites	33%	5.8M	✗
Troedyrhiw	26	13 en-suites	50%	2.5M	✗
Cae Glas	39	25 en-suites	36%	4.0M	✗
Garth Olwg	30	18 en-suites	40%	2.9M	✗
Parc Newydd	36	16 en-suites	56%	3.0M	✗
Total	291	173 en-suites	41%	30.8M	

- 4.30 If refurbished, six of the Council's nine residential care homes would have a new occupancy of below 20 registered beds.
- 4.31 Quattro's review concluded that the Council's residential care homes could not be refurbished to meet the modern day standards required of residential care in a way that represents value for money and leaves the homes financially unsustainable in the longer term, because:

- due to the age, size, and design of the Council's residential care homes, significant investment (at least approx. £30M) would be required to make each home fit for the future and in line with CIW new home standards
- making the Council's residential care homes fit for the future reduce the number of places available due to different facility requirements, such as en-suites.
- reduced capacity would mean the Council's residential care homes would be more expensive to run. Good provision is already available which would not result in these additional on-going costs
- the Council's residential care homes would require major alternations resulting in residents and staff having to move to alterative accommodation for a considerable period of time whole the refurbishment is completed.

4.32 The Quattro review outcomes for a new build option on the sites of the Council's existing residential care homes are summarised in Table 5 below:

Table 5: Quattro new build option review summary outcomes

Home	Current bed spaces	New build bed spaces	Estimated cost	New build potential
Clydach Court	35	56 en-suites	11.6M	
Ferndale House	26	42 en-suites	8.7M	
Pentre House	29	30 en-suites	6.1M	
Ystrad Fechan	24	None	n/a	
Tegfan	46	63 en-suites	14.9M	
Troedyrhiw	26	26 en-suites	5.7M	
Cae Glas	39	None	n/a	
Garth Olwg	30	45 en-suites	8.8M	
Parc Newydd	36	61 en-suites	10.0M	
Total	291	323 en-suites	65.8M	

- 4.33 Under the new build option, Quattro recommends that 3 of the 9 Council's care homes have the potential to be redeveloped to provide purpose built care home facilities for older people with dementia; with one in each geographical area of Rhondda Cynon Taf, namely
- Clydach Court in Trealaw (Rhondda)
 - Tegfan in Trecynon (Cynon)
 - Parc Newydd in Talbot Green (Taf)
- 4.34 In all the above options, it would be necessary for the current residents living in these homes to move to alternative accommodation on a temporary basis for a period at least up to 18 months, whilst the building work was undertaken.
- 4.35 Redevelopment of the above care homes will require significant capital investment to achieve the standard of care expected. There will also be a need for additional revenue funding to provide the day to day management and running of these larger home options.
- 4.36 Whilst Garth Olwg in Church Village does not have the potential to be redeveloped as a sustainable residential care home in the longer term, the site has potential to be redeveloped into supported accommodation for working age vulnerable adults requiring care. This option would need to be further developed in a feasibility study, including potential opportunities to work in partnership with housing associations and service care providers.
- 4.37 In terms of Ferndale House, Pentre House, and Troedyrhiw the existing locations and sites do not lend themselves to new purpose built care homes in a way that leaves the home financially sustainable and fit for purpose in the longer term.
- 4.38 Both Ystrad Fechan and Cae Glas care homes are in flood zones and any new care home development for vulnerable people would not be permitted.
- 4.39 As needs change the Council will need continue to work with partners to ensure the development of accommodation with care and services that will meet these changing needs and the demands of the integrated health and social care system.

5. EXTRA CARE HOUSING

- 5.1 As referenced in paragraph 4.4 above, the Council is committed to developing modern fit for purpose accommodation to support older people with assessed needs and set out in September 2017 an ambitious programme to deliver 300 extra care apartments as part of its

Strategy to modernise accommodation with care options for older people. An update on the programme is provided below:

Extra Care Housing Development	No of apartments	Additional Comments
Ty Heulog Talbot Green	40	Opened in June 2016. Scheme full and with waiting list.
Maesyffynnon Aberaman	40	Opened in May 2020. Scheme full and with waiting list.
Cwrt Yr Orsaf Pontypridd	60	Opened in November 2021. All apartments allocated following assessment. Waiting list.
Former Danymynydd Care Home, Porth	60	Construction started, but temporarily halted due to the current contractors, the Jehu Group, entering administration. We are working with Linc Cymru to plan for the continuation and completion of works at the Danymynydd extra care scheme.
Treorchy Proposal	60	Currently exploring with Linc Cymru and the Health Board the development of land near the existing Ystrad Fechan care home to provide accommodation with care . Further detail provided in Section 6 below.
Mountain Ash Proposal	40	Currently exploring with Linc Cymru the development of land near the existing Troedyrhiw care home. Further detail provided in Section 6 below.

6. PREFERRED OPTION - FUTURE SERVICE MODEL FOR THE COUNCIL'S RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

- 6.1 Officers consider that doing nothing is not a viable option. Without continuing to explore the potential for re-designing the way in which adult care is provided, it will not be possible to meet people's changing expectations and increasing demand within the resources available. It is imperative, within the context of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014, that the Council continues to reduce reliance on traditional services such as residential care homes and moves to a model that is sustainable for the future, and effectively meets the needs of an ageing population with more complex needs, whilst focusing on preventative services, which promote choice, independence, and wellbeing.
- 6.2 However, Cabinet will recall that it has previously agreed to:

- retain a level of provision for residential care homes which were focused on providing complex care, short term residential reablement and respite; and
- base the level of provision retained on a determination of the market share and need required in each of the Rhondda, Cynon and Taf geographical areas.

6.3 Having regard to the outcome of previous consultations and Cabinet decisions, and the further updated supporting information included in this report, the preferred options for the revised future service delivery model for the Council's residential care homes are outlined in Table 6 below, which is in line with current policy direction and current and future need in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Table 6: Recommended preferred options for the Council's residential care homes

Care Home	Recommended Preferred Option	Rationale
Clydach Court Trealaw	Retain Clydach Court care home = no change to existing service provision.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Care home site redevelopment potential 2. Geographical presence for Rhondda 3. Larger care home facility 4. Higher level of current residents and all dedicated dementia capacity
Pentre House Pentre	Retain Pentre House care home = no change to existing service provision.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geographical location in Rhondda Fawr 2. Higher level of current residents
Tegfan Trecynon	Retain Tegfan care home = no change to existing service provision.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Care home site redevelopment potential 2. Geographical presence for Cynon 3. Larger care home facility 4. Higher level of current residents and some dedicated dementia capacity
Cae Glas Hawthorn	Retain Cae Glas care home = no change to existing service provision.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Geographical presence for Taf 2. Larger care home facility 3. Higher level of current residents and all dedicated dementia capacity
Parc Newydd Talbot Green	Retain Parc Newydd care home = no change to existing service provision.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Care home site redevelopment potential 2. Step down step up unit to support hospital discharge 3. Larger care home facility

<p>Ystrad Fechan Treorchy</p>	<p>Permanently decommission care home.</p> <p>Continue to explore with Linc Cymru and the Health Board the development of land near the existing Ystrad Fechan care home to provide new accommodation with care provision, including 40 extra care apartments and 20 residential dementia care beds, along with other health and social care accommodation options depending on available development space and need.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Care home currently closed temporarily and has no residents living there 2. Quattro findings conclude due to age and condition of the care home, that extensive refurbishment to achieve modern fit for purpose accommodation is uneconomical 3. Care home in flood zone 4. Current over supply of residential care home beds and therefore capacity to meet need
<p>Ferndale House Ferndale</p>	<p>Work with Linc Cymru to explore options to develop land near the existing Ferndale House care home to provide new accommodation with care provision, including 20 extra care apartments and 10 residential dementia care beds.</p> <p>Decommission Ferndale House care home when the new proposed alternative accommodation with care for older people provision is developed near the existing care home.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building not of a standard of a modern care home 2. Quattro findings conclude due to age & condition, that extensive refurbishment, or redevelopment to achieve accommodation that is fit for purpose is uneconomical. 3. New accommodation with care to be developed near existing care home in Rhondda Fach, subject to approval 4. Residents and staff move once new accommodation developed. 5. Over supply of residential care beds and lack of extra care beds in Rhondda Fach
<p>Troedyrhiw Mountain Ash</p>	<p>Work with Linc Cymru to explore options to develop land near the existing Troedyrhiw care home to provide new accommodation with care provision, including 25 extra care apartments and 15 residential dementia care beds.</p> <p>Decommission Troedyrhiw care home when the new proposed alternative accommodation with care for older people provision is developed near the existing care home.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building not of a standard of a modern care home 2. Quattro findings conclude due to age & condition, that extensive refurbishment, or redevelopment to achieve accommodation that is fit for purpose is uneconomical. 3. New accommodation with care to be developed near existing home in lower Cynon, subject to approval 4. Over supply of residential care beds and lack of extra care beds in lower Cynon
<p>Garth Olwg Church Village</p>	<p>Redevelop Garth Olwg care home to provide alternative</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building not of a standard of a modern care home

	<p>accommodation with care to support people with learning disabilities in adulthood.</p> <p>Decommission existing residential care home for older people when suitable alternative placements are found for existing residents in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Quattro findings conclude due to age & condition, that extensive refurbishment, or redevelopment to achieve care home accommodation that is fit for purpose is uneconomical 3. Although, site size and location support the development of supported accommodation 4. Over supply of residential care beds and lack of modern supported accommodation in Taf. 5. Increased need and demand for accommodation with care for people with learning disabilities in adulthood. 6. Residents would be offered to transfer to two nearby Council residential care homes or another home of their choosing, which meets their needs. 7. Staff will also be offered to transfer from the home to accompany residents and enhance staffing levels in other Council residential care homes.
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7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 7.1 The Council must satisfy its public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations based on protected characteristics.
- 7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared and is attached as Appendix A. The Assessment will be published on the Council's website, together with a consultation document that outlines the proposals in further detail and in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 7.3 The Council has a duty to recognise and mitigate the impact of any changes it proposes upon people in protected groups. The proposals in

this report affect older and disabled people living in the Council's residential care homes.

- 7.4 The Council will take account of the challenges which the people affected by the proposals in this report face, both in terms of participation in the consultation and in ensuring that the impact of any changes is mitigated as detailed in the impact assessment, if they are to be implemented.
- 7.5 Subject to Cabinet agreeing to initiate a consultation on the proposed preferred options, the impact assessment will be reviewed and updated to include any further mitigated risks following the consultation process.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no immediate Welsh Language implications relating to the proposals within this report. The Council will ensure compliance with Welsh Language Standards if a consultation process is initiated in relation to the proposals outlined within this report. All recommended proposals if implemented will comply with Welsh Government's "More Than Just Words" Strategic Framework in Health and Social Care.

9. CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Subject to approval, it is proposed that formal public consultation will take place between 12th December 2022 and 27th January 2023. A single consultation exercise would be carried out covering all nine homes which are the subject of this report.
- 9.2 We will support individual residents and their families to understand and engage with the consultation process and the potential implications for them by offering face to face consultations, where requested, and creating an information pack for residents to ensure the relevant information is presented in an accessible and clear format. We also propose engaging with the staff members of each home as part of the consultation exercise to share their experiences and views on the proposals.
- 9.3 Subject to this report being approved and the consultation exercise undertaken it is anticipated that, once the consultation responses have been considered and an Equality Impact Assessment completed, a further report will be presented to Cabinet regarding the proposed next steps.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 10.1 The proposals set out in this report have the primary focus of delivering improved quality of care and support outcomes for Rhondda Cynon Taf residents.
- 10.2 Notwithstanding this, the pandemic has had a significant financial impact on the Council's residential care home provision and continues to result in overall increased cost pressures for Adult Services and these proposals would provide more cost-effective solutions to the current arrangements and reduce cost pressures. The financial impact of these proposals will be further modelled alongside the consultation and decision making process.
- 10.3 The capital funding requirements to deliver the proposals for investment in new facilities would be considered by Cabinet, if approved, in due course. This will include reviewing all opportunities to secure any available external (Welsh Government) sources of finance to support the timely delivery of the strategy.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 11.1 There is a legal requirement to publicly consult and consult with staff affected by proposals resulting in changes to current and future provision of services.
- 11.2 Where consultation is undertaken it should be done when proposals are at a formative stage; give sufficient reasons for any proposal so that respondents can make an informed response and allow adequate time for consideration and response. Cabinet would then be required to give consideration to the outcome of the consultation process prior to any decision(s) being made on any proposals.
- 11.3 Any future provision of services would need to be considered in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Local Authorities have a general duty under the Act to promote wellbeing. This duty applies when considering decisions in respect of an individual but also when considering broader strategic issues that do not relate to an individual. In doing so, the overall purpose is to produce a sustainable and diverse range of care and support services to deliver better, innovative and cost-effective services and support and promote the wellbeing of every person, and carer, with the need of care and support. The recommendations made in Section 2 above and consideration of future options aims to deliver the highest standards of care and support and is consistent with the above duty.

11.4 In addition, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and accompanying Part 4 Code of Practice sets out that where an Authority has carried out an assessment which has revealed that the person has needs for care and support then the local authority must decide if those needs meet the eligibility criteria, and if they do, it must meet those needs. The recommendations put forward in this report will allow the Council to ensure that going forward Rhondda Cynon Taf can meet all eligible needs.

11.5 Any workforce implications arising from the proposals will be the subject of further reports on the conclusion of public consultation. Staff will be included in the public consultation and separate engagement with, and support for, all staff of the Council's residential care homes that are the subject of this report will be carried out as part of any consultation exercise.

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

12.1 This report supports two of the Council's corporate priorities, namely:

- People - promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.
- Living within our means - where services are delivered efficiently to achieve value for money for the taxpayer.

12.2 The proposals in this report, subject to approval, would allow the Council to meet the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. They meet the needs of an ageing population, including those with more complex needs, are more sustainable and increases focus on wellbeing and independence, resulting in the wellbeing goals of a Wales of cohesive communities, a healthier Wales and more equal Wales being supported

13. ELECTORAL WARDS AFFECTED

13.1 Subject to approval, the recommended preferred options set out in this report for the Council's residential care homes would directly impact the following wards:

Care Home	Electoral Ward
Clydach Court	Trealaw
Ferndale House	Ferndale and Maerdy
Pentre House	Pentre
Ystrad Fechan	Treorchy

Tegfan
Troedyrhiw
Cae Glas
Garth Olwg
Parc Newydd

Aberdare West and Llwydcoed
Mountain Ash
Hawthorn and Lower Rhydyfelin
Church Village
Llantrisant and Talbot Green

- 13.2 Although, the proposals will also most likely impact on residents, families and staff from across the County Borough.

14. CONCLUSIONS

- 14.1 The Council's in-house residential homes no longer meet the standards expected for modern care homes and due to sustained reductions in demand leading to under occupancy are no longer viable and most importantly no longer provide the best possible environment for care and support of the elderly. The proposals set out in the report, alongside the ongoing successful delivery of the Council's extra care strategy will lead to the development of a more sustainable model of residential services providing the best possible care and support.