



30th November 2022

Cabinet – 5th December 2022

Re: Pre-Scrutiny of Residential Care Homes for Older People

I have been instructed by this Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee to convey the comments and observations of Members in relation to the **Residential Care Homes for Older People.**

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertook pre scrutiny on the preferred options on the future provision of accommodation with care for older people in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the modernisation and investment proposals at its meeting on the 29th November 2022. The following points were raised:

- A number of Members sought assurances upon how the proposals outlined would impact on this valued workforce and encouraged the avoidance of compulsory redundancies through any change management processes. Members questioned what the involvement of Extra Care Providers, such as Linc Cymru, would mean for potential redeployment or voluntary early retirement options if these proposals were progressed.
- Members welcomed the commitment to ensure that no decommissioning of existing occupied care homes would be undertaken before the development of new accommodation (particularly in the event of new locations not being identified) has been completed. A number of Members felt it was important for information on site locations to form part of the consultation and conversations with residents on these proposals as soon as practicably possible.
- A number of Members noted that following previous Cabinet decisions upon this matter, that there was an expectation from the public that the Garth Olwg Care Home would remain open and therefore noted their disappointment that the future role of this facility would now change. The local member for this specific home, noted that this comment would be reflected in the public consultation exercise, citing the local opposition which was already apparent and asked for further statistical detail, as part of future engagement, to demonstrate the need for the proposed new provision to support people with learning disabilities in adulthood at this location.

- Members welcomed the focus upon Dementia Care and the increased capacity to support this need which would be created with these proposals. Some Members queried how the proposal for residential dementia care beds would support those families who find themselves between requiring nursing care but cannot access the appropriate funding for their nursing needs. A Member questioned how the Council is providing additional dementia care beds, to reduce the wait for those living with dementia at home who have nursing needs;
- The majority of committee members spoke positively in respect of the Extra Care model, and the greater opportunity this provides for older generations to living independently for longer. The Committee also welcomed the proactive approach of the Council in responding to the changing needs of older generations. A number of Members noted excellent provision already created through this model and encouraged the Council to design future accommodation for older residents to support more complex needs;
- Members understood and acknowledged 'that doing nothing is not a viable option' and that there would be a need to make difficult decisions for the benefit of achieving good quality, fit for purpose, modern accommodation for residents. They acknowledged that the demand for residential care has reduced, with more residents wishing to remain independent and to be cared for within their own homes;
- Committee spoke of the importance of consulting on the proposals with residents, and families at every stage of the process;
- Further clarification on the proposals to potentially redevelop Clydach Court in the future were sought, with an understanding for the need for the current provision to meet modern day standards.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Hanagan', written over a faint, light-colored circular stamp or watermark.

Christian Hanagan
Service Director - Democratic Services & Communications