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RCT

THE MODERNISATION OF  
RESIDENTIAL CARE  
FOR OLDER PEOPLE

## Consultation Report

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC

January 2023



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report presents the findings of the consultation on the modernisation of Residential Care for older people.
- The consultation was conducted in-house and ran from the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- Views were sought on a number of proposed options for the future of Residential Care in Rhondda Cynon Taf as follows:

OPTION 1: Retain the current service provision at five current Council care homes. This includes - Clydach Court in Trealaw, Pentre House in Pentre, Tegfan in Trecynon, Cae Glas in Hawthorn and Parc Newydd in Talbot Green.

OPTION 2: New accommodation with 40 Extra Care apartments and 20 residential dementia beds in Treorchy. This development would be explored with Linc Cymru and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. It would be located on land near the existing Ystrad Fechan Care Home. The care home is currently temporarily closed with no residents living there and would be permanently decommissioned.

OPTION 3: New accommodation with 20 Extra Care apartments and 10 residential dementia beds in Ferndale. This development would be explored with Linc Cymru. It would be located on land near the existing Ferndale House Care Home. The care home would be decommissioned when the new accommodation is developed.

OPTION 4: New accommodation with 25 Extra Care apartments and 15 residential dementia beds in Mountain Ash. This development would be explored with Linc Cymru. It would be located on land near the existing Troedyrhiw Care Home. The home would be decommissioned when the new accommodation is developed.

OPTION 5: New accommodation with care to support people with learning disabilities in adulthood, in Church Village. This would be achieved by redeveloping the existing Garth Olwg Care Home. The care home would be decommissioned when suitable placements are found for its residents, in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs.

- The following methods were used to consult with stakeholders;
  - An online and paper survey which was built using Snap XMP.
  - A consultation booklet was provided to all care home residents and their relatives, which included the survey, and an easy read document.
  - Promotion on the [Councils online consultation webpage](#) to encourage engagement.
  - An email was sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation on the Snap XMP survey.
  - 3 public drop-in sessions were held.

- Respondents were encouraged to write in using a dedicated email address [residentialcare@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:residentialcare@rctcbc.gov.uk)
- A telephone consultation option was in place, through the Council's contact centre. This option allowed people to discuss their views or request consultation materials. Individual call backs were available on request and a consultation Freepost address was available for postal responses.
- Through coproduction and with the support of RCT People First, 1 online information session and 15 in-person sessions were held across the Rhondda, Cynon and Taff Ely areas to gain views from members of the public with a Learning Disability.

### Summary of Feedback

- 255 responses were received to the survey, and a further 74 responses were received from the Easy Read surveys and accompanying sessions. A selection of comments are provided in the full report and the full list of the comments will be provided to Cabinet and senior officers to assist with decision making.
- Respondents were asked whether they were responding as a resident of a Council Residential Care Home, a relative/friend, an advocate, a staff member, or a member of the public. The largest proportion of respondents were members of the public (43.6%).
- Respondents to the primary survey were asked what Council Care Home their views related to. Most of the responses related to Garth Olwg Residential Care Home (42.3%) or were not related to any home in particular (27.8%).
- Overall, the majority of respondents agreed with option 1, to retain the current service provision at the 5 current care Council homes (69.4%).
- The respondents who disagreed with the proposed option 1 were asked why they disagreed. A common theme throughout the analysis were views relating to Garth Olwg residential care home and disagreement with that proposal (proposal 5). This continued through the other options in the comments received.
- Finally on option 1, the respondents were asked how the recommended proposal would impact them or their families. In addition to those respondents who said there would be no impact, the themes identified included positive impacts, such as keeping a local service and providing a variety of options. The negative impacts are reported to be upheaval for families, a sense that that relatives will have further to travel and concerns for the residents themselves of any change. There is also continued mention of the Garth Olwg proposal, option 5.
- There were a number of concerns for the future impact of the proposals, with people seeing no impact now, but looking to the future for themselves and family, when they may need the care themselves.
- Overall, the majority of respondents agreed with option 2 (53.1%).
- Overall, 46.0% agreed with option 3 for Ferndale House Care Home, and 29.5% disagreed. There was a relatively high number of respondents who were unsure on this option, with 24.5% of respondents stating that they "didn't know".

- With option 3, a common theme were views relating to the Rhondda area, particularly in relation to the Ferndale residential care home and the perceived need for more dementia care in the area.
- Overall, 46.5% of respondents agreed with option 4, with 30.0% disagreeing and 23.4% stating that they “didn’t know”.
- The respondents who disagreed with the proposed option 4 were asked why they disagreed. The comments received were similar to those already received for the other options, in terms of distance to travel from other care homes if relocated to Mountain Ash, and support for the new accommodation, including further suggestions that the old home should also be kept or that additional capacity is needed.
- Overall, the largest proportion of respondents did not agree with option 5 (50.5%). The respondents who disagreed with the proposed option were asked why they disagreed. The comments received were largely similar to other options, with additional concern about the location of the new accommodation being near a school. Many comments focused on there not being alternative provision in the locality and the perceived distress that residents would suffer if uprooted from their community. A lot of comments also praised the current staff and atmosphere at Garth Olwg and expressed worry that this would not be continued or recreated elsewhere.
- Finally on option 5, respondents were asked how the recommended proposal would impact them or their families. In addition to those respondents who said there would be no impact, the themes identified included travel barriers, distress to current and potential future residents and the impact on existing staff.
- When asked for other suggestions or alternative options, the following themes were identified and mainly mirrored the comments that had already been made.
  - Objections to option 5 Garth Olwg.
  - Keep everything the same, why change?
  - Perceived need for more capacity in care homes and to build new ones where appropriate.
  - Upsetting for the residents of the care homes.
  - Need for more dementia care in Ferndale.
- 3 public drop-in sessions provided an opportunity for the public to raise any concerns they may have regarding the consultation and to ask questions directed towards the Director of Adult Social Services and the Head of Service for Accommodation regarding the future of Care Homes in Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- Overall, those in attendance in Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Centre were concerned with the impact the closure would have on the residents as well as the local community. However, they agreed that modern facilities need to be built which will meet the care needs of the public in the future, including both Extra Care provision and accommodation with care for those with a learning disability. An acknowledgement was given that although the staff provide outstanding levels of care within our homes, there is now a need for more tailored facilities to meet different requirements of care into the future. Transportation issues were also

discussed during the meeting, with those in attendance raising concerns regarding the public transport accessibility to other homes within RCT.

- Overall, there was general support for the proposals outlined for Ferndale. Reassurance was provided to those in attendance that Ferndale House would be decommissioned when the new facility is developed. Those in attendance provided concern for current staff at the home regarding how they would be impacted by these proposals and the role of the housing association. Moreover, it was discussed that although the staff provide excellent quality of care at the home, the home itself is outdated to meet future need and modernisation of the facility is required, especially given change in care needs. The investment in the local community is welcomed.
- A total of 2 petitions were received in relation to option 5 and were against the proposed closure of the Garth Olwg Care home.
- **Overall, 329 survey responses and 7 emails were received to the consultation, along with 1 call to the customer services phone line and 2 petitions.**

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of the consultation on the modernisation of Residential Care for older people.
- 1.2 Section 2 outlines a brief background to the consultation process.
- 1.3 Section 3 details the methodology.
- 1.4 Section 4 provides the results of the survey.
- 1.5 Section 5 outlines the responses received from the public drop in sessions.
- 1.6 Section 6 presents the feedback from the written responses.
- 1.7 Section 7 outlines the petitions that were received.



## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Modernising and improving adult care provision is a key Council priority. This is important due to an ageing population, lower demand for ‘traditional’ care homes and changing expectations of people to remain at home in their local communities for as long as possible. The Council believes people should be able to access residential care accommodation which is modern and meets their needs. As a Council, we have a duty to reflect on our current model and ask ourselves whether we think it reflects the needs and aspirations of not only our current population, but the generations to come.
- 2.2 A Council commitment to modernise accommodation with care options, for older people, including residential care was approved in 2016, while a £50m investment plan to provide 300 Extra Care beds in Rhondda Cynon Taf was agreed in 2017. Extra Care delivers modern accommodation to meet the needs and changing expectations of the growing older population, allowing them to live as independently as possible in their own homes. They are modern, built-for-purpose buildings, catering for a range of needs.
- 2.3 Extra Care residents also receive targeted on-site support for their assessed needs, in an environment which provides an alternative to a care home. This care and support is available 24/7 for the residents. Extra Care facilities also offer dedicated day services for older people, as well as a community resource providing community opportunities. Two new modern, state of the art, Extra Care Housing schemes have been opened in partnership with Linc Cymru in Aberaman and Pontypridd in May 2020 and December 2021 respectively, delivering 100 new beds.
- 2.4 In July 2022, Ystrad Fechan Care Home was temporarily closed, and 10 new beds were provided at Parc Newydd Care Home, to support hospital discharge. This change, in response to falling occupancy rates and immediate pressures in the care sector, ensured residents continued to access quality support and care. As a direct result, occupancy levels at other Council care homes increased as the affected residents were supported to access suitable alternative provision.
- 2.5 [In December 2022, Cabinet considered](#) and determined to consult on major proposals to invest and modernise residential care services in Rhondda Cynon Taf– including three new facilities offering Extra Care and residential dementia care, a fourth new accommodation for adults with learning disabilities, and the retention of five Council care homes.

### Current Position

- 2.6 The Council runs nine residential care homes, offering 267 beds, making it one of the largest Local Authority providers in Wales. It has had an increasing surplus of beds over many years – with 184 beds vacant as of November 2022, rising from just eight vacant beds in 2016. It is unlikely that demand for residential care will increase substantially in the near future. Overall, the Council currently has 60% of its residential care beds occupied, and a third of its care homes have at least one in two beds empty.

- 2.7 An independent review found that none of the nine Council care home buildings can be sufficiently refurbished to meet modern standards. It also found that only three of the nine Council's care home locations would be suitable for a new-build provision. In each of those three homes, it would be necessary for the current residents living in these homes to temporarily move to alternative accommodation on a temporary basis for a period at least up to 18 months, whilst the building work was undertaken.

### **Preferred Options**

- 2.8 Following the review of the Council's Residential Care Homes for older people, five preferred options are being consulted upon. These preferred options focus on preventative services, choice, independence, well-being and future needs. The proposals would increase options for people who need accommodation and care and offer a viable alternative for those able to remain independent with support in their local communities.
- 2.9 The options on which Cabinet have determined to consult upon are set out below:

**OPTION 1: Retain the current service provision at five current Council care homes.** This includes- Clydach Court in Trealaw, Pentre House in Pentre, Tegfan in Trecynon, Cae Glas in Hawthorn and Parc Newydd in Talbot Green.

**OPTION 2: New accommodation with 40 Extra Care apartments and 20 residential dementia beds in Treorchy.** This development would be explored with Linc Cymru and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. It would be located on land near the existing Ystrad Fechan Care Home. The care home is currently temporarily closed with no residents living there and would be permanently decommissioned.

**OPTION 3: New accommodation with 20 Extra Care apartments and 10 residential dementia beds in Ferndale.** This development would be explored with Linc Cymru. It would be located on land near the existing Ferndale House Care Home. The care home would be decommissioned when the new accommodation is developed.

**OPTION 4: New accommodation with 25 Extra Care apartments and 15 residential dementia beds in Mountain Ash.** This development would be explored with Linc Cymru. It would be located on land near the existing Troedryhiw Care Home. The home would be decommissioned when the new accommodation is developed.

**OPTION 5: New accommodation with care to support people with learning disabilities in adulthood, in Church Village.** This would be achieved by redeveloping the existing Garth Olwg Care Home. The care home would be decommissioned when suitable placements are found for its residents, in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The Residential Care consultation was conducted in-house. The consultation period ran from the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and ended on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023. This section presents the methodology which was utilised to promote and collect the data.
- 3.2 The consultation used an online and paper survey which was built using Snap XMP. The survey aimed to gain feedback on the proposals.
- 3.3 A consultation booklet was provided to all care home residents and their relatives, which included the survey, and an easy read document.
- 3.4 To ensure wide outreach and involvement of the wider community the consultation was promoted on the [Councils online consultation webpage](#) to encourage engagement. An email was also sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation on the Snap XMP survey.
- 3.5 3 public drop-in sessions were held as follows:

Location	Date	Time
Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Centre	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	5-7PM
Mountain Ash Library	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	5-7PM
Ferndale Hub	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	5-7PM

- 3.6 Respondents were encouraged to write in using a dedicated email address [residentialcare@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:residentialcare@rctcbc.gov.uk), in order to allow them to share their views.
- 3.7 A telephone consultation option was in place, through the Council's contact centre. This option allows people to discuss their views or request consultation materials. Individual call backs were available on request and a consultation Freepost address was available for postal responses.
- 3.8 Overall, 255 survey responses and 7 emails were received to the consultation, along with 1 call to the customer services phone line and 2 petitions.
- 3.9. In addition, through coproduction and with the support of Cwm Taf People First, 1 online information session and 15 in-person sessions were held across the Rhondda, Cynon and Taff Ely areas to gain views from members of the public with a learning disability. Overall, there were a total of 74 easy read surveys completed.

## 4 QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

- 4.1 The following section outlines the results from the online and paper questionnaires, which received 255 survey responses and 74 easy read surveys through Cwm Taf People First.
- 4.2 A selection of comments are provided and the full list of the comments will be provided to Cabinet and senior officers to assist with decision making.
- 4.3 Respondents were asked whether they were responding as a resident of a Council residential care home, a relative/friend, an advocate, a staff member, or a member of the public. Table 1 shows that the largest proportion of respondents were members of the public (43.6%).

*Note: tables including type of respondent do not add up to 100% as this was a multiple response question. The base is the total number of respondents, some of whom will have provided more than one response.*

Base	<b>329</b> <b>100.0%</b>
<b>Are you a:</b>	
<b>Resident of a Residential Care Home</b>	25 7.6%
<b>Relative/partner/friend of a resident in a Council Residential Care Home</b>	37 11.3%
<b>Advocate for a resident</b>	2 0.6%
<b>Member of the public</b>	143 43.6%
<b>Staff member</b>	34 10.4%
<b>Other</b>	20 6.1%
<b>Respondent to Easy Read survey</b>	74 22.6%

*Table 1: Respondent Type*

- 4.4 Respondents were asked what Council Care Home their views related to, and the results are shown in Table 2. Most of the responses related to Garth Olwg Residential Care Home (42.3%) or were not related to any home in particular (27.8%).
- 4.5 This question was not asked of the 74 respondents to the Easy Read survey.

<b>Base</b>	<b>248</b> <b>100.0%</b>
<b>Ystrad Fechan (currently staying at Pentre House)</b>	4 1.6%
<b>Pentre House</b>	3 1.2%
<b>Clydach Court</b>	3 1.2%
<b>Ferndale House</b>	50 20.2%
<b>Tegfan</b>	4 1.6%
<b>Troedyrhiw</b>	12 4.8%
<b>Cae Glas</b>	5 2.0%
<b>Garth Olwg</b>	105 42.3%
<b>Parc Newydd</b>	6 2.4%
<b>No home in particular</b>	69 27.8%

*Table 2: Care Homes*

- 4.6 Respondents were asked whether they agreed with a number of options for service change.

#### 4.7 **OPTION 1: Retain the current service provision at five current Council care homes.**

This includes:

- Clydach Court in Trealaw,
- Pentre House in Pentre,
- Tegfan in Trecynon,
- Cae Glas in Hawthorn
- Parc Newydd in Talbot Green.

	Total	Do you agree with option 1?		
		Yes (agree)	No (disagree)	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>200</b> <b>69.4%</b>	<b>63</b> <b>21.8%</b>	<b>25</b> <b>8.7%</b>
<b>Respondent Type:</b>				
<b>Resident of a Residential Care Home</b>	<b>12</b>	9 75.0%	2 16.7%	1 8.3%
<b>Relative/partner/friend of a resident in a Council residential care home</b>	<b>32</b>	19 59.4%	11 34.4%	2 6.3%
<b>Advocate for a resident</b>	<b>2</b>	1 50.0%	1 50.0%	0 0.0%
<b>Member of the public</b>	<b>140</b>	88 62.9%	35 25.0%	17 12.1%
<b>Staff member</b>	<b>16</b>	11 68.8%	5 31.3%	0 0.0%
<b>Other</b>	<b>20</b>	12 60.0%	7 35.0%	1 5.0%
<b>Respondent to Easy Read survey</b>	<b>66</b>	60 90.91%	2 3.03%	4 6.06%

Table 3: Agreement with Option 1

- 4.8 Overall, the majority of respondents agreed with option 1, to retain the current service provision at the 5 current Council Care Homes (69.4%), with 62.9% of the public agreeing with option 1.

#### **If no, why do you disagree? - Option 1**

- 4.9 The respondents who disagreed with the proposed option 1 were asked why they disagreed. The comments received can be summarised as follows;

#### **Perceived need for more care homes**

*“New, bigger and better accommodation is needed in the area”*

*“It would not provide extra facilities to meet growing demand”.*

*“The demographic of the population is getting older and more, not less places will be needed in the future.”*

- 4.10 A common theme throughout the analysis were views relating to Garth Olwg residential care home and disagreement with that proposal (proposal 5).

#### Garth Olwg Views

*“Garth Olwg should also be retained as a Council care home.”*

*“Garth Olwg is a local care home for local people where they can go and be near family and friends. They would probably know people there from the area which would help them in the long term.”*

*“Why shut Garth Olwg it has a brilliant reputation and all we have in our local community.”*

- 4.11 Another common theme are views relating to the Rhondda area, particularly in relation to Ferndale residential care home. Later in the report, under option 3 (section 4.23), the views include the perceived need for further dementia care in the area.

#### Rhondda / Ferndale Views

*“More supported care is required in the Rhondda to enable people to remain in the locality. we need to encourage older people to remain independent for as long as possible with some support rather than shut away in a home.”*

*“Your proposal to restructure care provision in the Rhondda Fach locality is inadequate and poorly informed. There is no competitor to absorb the residential care element.”*

- 4.12 Finally on option 1, respondents were asked how the recommended proposal would impact them or their families.

In addition to those respondents who said there would be no impact, the themes identified included:

#### Positive Impact

*“Would maintain ongoing care for parent.”*

*“Keeping a local service.”*

*“Provides a variety of options.”*

#### Negative Impact

- 4.13 The negative impacts are reported to be upheaval for families, a sense that this option means that relatives will have further to travel and concerns for the residents themselves of any change. There is also continued reference to the Garth Olwg proposal and the comments reflect this.

*“Too far to visit residents.”*

*“Making residents and family having to be placed outside of the area they were born. Forced to move out of the place where they know so many people and have families faces.”*

*“It would have a dramatic implication on my mother’s health as visitors would be less. She is already stressed over the thought of being moved.”*

#### Future Impact

- 4.14 There were a number of concerns for the future impact of the proposals, with people seeing no impact now, but were looking to the future for themselves and family when they may need the care themselves.

*“At this time no impact but looking to the future could effect myself and my wife.”*

*“No impact at present but I am getting older and wish to stay as independent as possible for as long as is practical so some supported accommodation may help in future.”*

- 4.15 Respondents to the Easy Read survey raised the following comments:

*“One person’s mother is in a residential home, and she is going to be moved, it is very confusing and unfair. The home does need to be modernised but is difficult for people to adjust especially with dementia. The care she gets at the home is very good and people have access to health care services much quicker.”*

*“Older people should have freedom of choice. No one should be forced into homes older people with a learning disability may want to stay at home with their parents.”*



#### 4.16 **OPTION 2: New accommodation with 40 Extra Care apartments and 20 residential dementia beds in Treorchy.**

This development would be explored with Linc Cymru and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. It would be located on land near the existing Ystrad Fechan Care Home. The care home is currently temporarily closed with no residents living there and would be permanently decommissioned.

	Total	Do you agree with option 2?		
		Yes (agree)	No (disagree)	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>147</b> 53.1%	<b>71</b> 25.6%	<b>59</b> 21.3%
<b>Respondent Type:</b>				
<b>Resident of a Residential Care Home</b>	<b>6</b>	3 50.0%	0 0.0%	3 50.0%
<b>Relative/partner/friend of a resident in a Council Residential Care Home</b>	<b>31</b>	13 41.9%	9 29.0%	9 29.0%
<b>Advocate for a resident</b>	<b>2</b>	1 50.0%	1 50.0%	0 0.0%
<b>Member of the public</b>	<b>135</b>	72 53.3%	36 26.7%	27 20.0%
<b>Staff member</b>	<b>14</b>	7 50.0%	5 35.7%	2 14.3%
<b>Other</b>	<b>20</b>	10 50.0%	8 40.0%	2 10.0%
<b>Respondent to Easy Read survey</b>	<b>69</b>	41 59.4%	12 17.4%	16 23.2%

Table 4: Agreement with Option 2

4.17 Overall, the majority of respondents agreed with option 2 (53.1%), with 53.3% of members of the public agreeing. A relatively high 21.3% of all respondents said they didn't know.

#### **If no, why do you disagree? - Option 2**

4.18 The respondents who disagreed with the proposed option 2 were asked why they disagreed. The comments received can be summarised as follows:

#### Positive

*"It would seem to provide the most extra facilities."*

*"It would be good to have extra beds while still being close enough to visit."*

*"How many dementia beds are there now? If this increases the number of beds then it's good."*

- 4.19 A number of respondents provided views on this option in terms of distance and travel time from existing homes, mainly Garth Olwg.

Transport / Distance

*“People from other valleys might have difficulty getting there.”*

*“Too far away for people living elsewhere in RCT. Families won’t be able to visit, people lose their friends / community links. Staff having to travel miles without public transport links.”*

*“Not quite sure how relatives and friends would get there to visit as there are no direct or quick transport links from Church Village and their relatives would become isolated and confused very quickly.”*

Geography /Location

*“Why should this facility only be in the Rhondda and not in the south of the area? Yet again the Taff area is neglected by the Council.”*

*“I am unsure as it seems the focus here is yet again on the valleys, not here in Talbot Green, Pontyclun, Miskin area.”*

*“We need a care home in the Pontypridd area.”*

No change to Treorchy

*“It should be retained for the future of the valley.”*

*“There should be no closures but more care homes.”*

*“It's lovely to have new care homes, but you don't have to close the existing good ones!”*

- 4.20 Finally on option 2, the respondents were asked how the recommended proposal would impact them or their families.

In addition to those respondents who said there would be no impact, the themes identified included:

Positive Impact

*“Still able to visit regularly.”*

*“Treorchy should be utilised for the residents living in the area of Rhondda as long as there is enough spaces for the residents living in the area then I agree with this option.”*

*“My dad is currently in hospital and needs a dementia care home, Treorchy is close for family to visit daily.”*

### Impact on Travel

*“Having to travel to the Rhondda to visit. No direct bus route and cost of travel to visit.”*

*“Why would I want to go to a home in Treorchy when I live in Tonteg? It would make my condition worse!”*

*“If anyone needed dementia care it would be difficult to get to Treorchy to visit them.”*

- 4.21 59.4% of respondents to the Easy Read survey agreed with option 2, as the new facilities will be able to meet the evolving care needs of older people. The below comments were raised:

*“Think it will be good for people with dementia as they will get their support needs met.”*

*“It is good to have the Extra Care support as long as they get it!”*

*“It will help the older people get the right care and support.”*

*“It needs to be local for relatives to be able to visit this is important.”*

*“It will be safer for them.”*

*“More flats are needed for older people especially those with dementia.”*

- 4.22 17.4% of respondents to the Easy Read survey disagreed with option 2, and raised this comment:

*“I am not happy to move into a residential home – I like living in supported living.”*

#### 4.23 **OPTION 3: New accommodation with 20 Extra Care apartments and 10 residential dementia beds in Ferndale.**

This development would be explored with Linc Cymru. It would be located on land near the existing Ferndale House Care Home. The care home would be decommissioned when the new accommodation is developed.

	Total	Do you agree with option 3?		
		Yes (agree)	No (disagree)	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>137</b> <b>46.0%</b>	<b>88</b> <b>29.5%</b>	<b>73</b> <b>24.5%</b>
<b>Respondent Type:</b>				
<b>Resident of a Residential Care Home</b>	<b>15</b>	4 26.7%	5 33.3%	6 40.0%
<b>Relative/partner/friend of a resident in a Council residential care home</b>	<b>32</b>	19 59.4%	7 21.9%	6 18.8%
<b>Advocate for a resident</b>	<b>1</b>	0 0.0%	1 100.0%	0 0.0%
<b>Member of the public</b>	<b>134</b>	58 43.3%	41 30.6%	35 26.1%
<b>Staff member</b>	<b>28</b>	8 28.6%	16 57.1%	4 14.3%
<b>Other</b>	<b>19</b>	10 52.6%	5 26.3%	4 21.1%
<b>Respondent to Easy Read survey</b>	<b>69</b>	38 55.1%	13 18.8%	18 26.1%

Table 5: Agreement with Option 3

4.24 Overall, 46.0% of respondents agreed with option 3 for Ferndale House Care home, with 29.5% of respondents disagreeing. There were a relatively high number of respondents who were unsure on this option, with 24.5% of respondents stating that they “didn’t know”.

#### **If no, why do you disagree? - Option 3**

4.25 The respondents who disagreed with the proposed option 2 were asked why they disagreed. The comments received can be summarised as follows:

4.26 A number of responses that could be perceived as positive were placed in the comments box as to why they disagree with the option 3.

#### **Positive**

*“This is a better option for the residents.”*

*“Home is run down in places but would like the new building to stay in Ferndale.”*

*“This particular area of the Valley really needs this, if it moved elsewhere such as Treorchy, family will find it extremely difficult to visit due to very poor transport links.”*

*“As a staff member of Ferndale House for the last 20 years and also 7 years as a home care worker, I feel this proposal is very much needed in this valley as an EMI and elderly, as there is a great demand for these places. Extra care, I feel, would be invaluable against EMI residential.”*

- 4.27 Once again, a number of respondents provided views on this option in terms of distance and travel time from existing homes, mainly Garth Olwg.

#### Transport / Distance

*“Can’t see how relatives and friends will now be able to visit as no direct transport links from church village to Ferndale so visiting would stop.”*

*“Middle of nowhere.”*

*“Same reason- too far away. No transport links.”*

#### No Change

- 4.28 Some of those in disagreement said they were in favour of the new Extra Care facilities, but not at the expense of the existing residential care home.

*“If this option would be possible while retaining the current provision within RCT I would support it but clearly it involves the closure of facilities currently providing services to the detriment of their local residents.”*

*“There are not enough care facilities across RCT as it stands. I’m not against this new accommodation but think it should be built as well as keeping the existing Ferndale House Care Home open.”*

#### Dementia Care

- 4.29 Some of the respondents provided views on dementia care in the area, in particular the need and demand for the service.

*“Need more support in the area for dementia needs.”*

*“I agree with the extra care scheme, however, how much thought has gone into the fact, of 10 beds will cover Ferndale and surrounding areas for Dementia care.”*

*“The proposed dementia care provision is inadequate for the Rhondda Fach locality when there is no private competitor. Doubling the proposed dementia care provision would be a more suitable idea when demand for the provision currently out demands what we can supply.”*

*“I think there is more of a demand for residential dementia residents.”*

- 4.30 Finally on option 3, the respondents were asked how the recommended proposal would impact them or their families. In addition to those respondents who said there would be no impact, the themes identified included:

Positive Impact

*“At least some provision would be in the Rhondda Fach near family.”*

*“The development of new accommodation will offer many opportunities for the future both in quality of the accommodation on offer and independence.”*

Impact on Travel (Garth Olwg)

*“Too far to travel and lack of continuity in care which would severely affect residents.”*

*“Too far away for family to visit loved ones.”*

Impact on Residents

*“I am a member of the public who visits care homes through singing and have witnessed the bond between staff and residents! To break this would be dreadful!”*

*“Most of my family live local and my family would prefer me to stay here I live currently until the new build is finished.”*

*“If the care home closed and I need care for mobility issues etc. send would have to leave the area.”*

Impact on Staff

*“I could possibly lose my job. A job that I love doing. I am the main breadwinner in the home as my partner is now disabled. Ferndale new build is going to be the smallest building. Yet again something taken from the people of the Rhondda.”*

*“As a domestic member of staff, it is not known whether jobs will be available. I think all staff from Ferndale House should be kept together. I waited for a contract so I could have stability and consistency for me and my young daughter.”*

*“Impact my employment currently on a 0 hour contract. Is there work for me or am I going to be offered a position.”*

- 4.31 55.1% of respondents to the Easy Read survey agreed with option 3, and 18.8% of respondents disagreed. The following comments were made:

*“Keep it the same.”*

*“Feel sad for older people who have to leave.”*

#### 4.32 **OPTION 4: New accommodation with 25 Extra Care apartments and 15 residential dementia beds in Mountain Ash.**

This development would be explored with Linc Cymru. It would be located on land near the existing Troedyrhiw Care Home. The home would be decommissioned when the new accommodation is developed.

	Total	Do you agree with option 4?		
		Yes (agree)	No (disagree)	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>127</b> <b>46.5%</b>	<b>82</b> <b>30.0%</b>	<b>64</b> <b>23.4%</b>
<b>Respondent Type:</b>				
<b>Resident of a Residential Care Home</b>	<b>6</b>	3 50.0%	0 0.0%	3 50.0%
<b>Relative/partner/friend of a resident in a Council residential care home</b>	<b>31</b>	14 45.2%	13 41.9%	4 12.9%
<b>Advocate for a resident</b>	<b>1</b>	0 0.0%	1 100.0%	0 0.0%
<b>Member of the public</b>	<b>133</b>	58 43.6%	42 31.6%	33 24.8%
<b>Staff member</b>	<b>14</b>	7 50.0%	5 35.7%	2 14.3%
<b>Other</b>	<b>19</b>	8 42.1%	5 26.3%	6 31.6%
<b>Respondent to Easy Read survey</b>	<b>69</b>	37 53.6%	16 23.2%	16 23.2%

Table 6: Agreement with Option 4

4.33 Overall, 46.5% of respondents agreed with option 4, with 30.0% disagreeing and 23.4% stated that they “didn’t know”.

#### **If no why do you disagree? - Option 4**

4.34 The 30.0% of respondents who disagreed with the proposed option 4 were asked why they disagreed. The comments received were similar to those already received for the other options, in terms of distance to travel from other care homes, if relocated to Mountain Ash and support for the new accommodation, but some suggestions that the old home should also be kept or that additional capacity is needed. A selection of comments are provided below:

*“Too far away and difficult to visit on public transport.”*

*“Again miles away from where we live.”*

*“The existing care facility should remain open alongside the new facility, to provide even more accommodation.”*

*“Again need to have additional capacity, ‘closing the ‘old’ home would be counterproductive.”*

4.35 There were a number of positive comments:

*“It provides extra facilities to meet growing demand & would be more convenient personally.”*

*“Better option for existing residents.”*

4.36 Finally on option 4, the respondents were asked how the recommended proposal would impact them or their families.

In addition to those respondents who said there would be no impact, the themes identified included:

#### Positive Impact

*“This would be a wonderful opportunity for residents living in the lower Cynon Valley.”*

*“Easy to access via A470.”*

*“Good to look ahead for future residents as long as it does not affect the day-to-day normality for the dementia patients that are settled and happy.”*

*“Although difficult to get to for my family, a larger dementia facility might benefit other residents of the Cynon Valley.”*

#### Family / Resident Impact

*“Far less visits and little or no interaction with home.”*

*“It would be detrimental to my wellbeing in the future if I needed a care home to be moved from my area to go and live somewhere I didn't know or be with people I didn't know or have anything in common with!!”*

*“Less visitors which would be detrimental to my mother's health.”*

4.37 53.6% of respondents to the Easy Read survey agreed with option 4, commenting:

*“When people can no longer cope living on their own, it is good to have somewhere safer for them to go.”*



#### 4.38 **OPTION 5: New accommodation with care to support people with learning disabilities in adulthood, in Church Village.**

This would be achieved by redeveloping the existing Garth Olwg Care Home. The care home would be decommissioned when suitable placements are found for its residents, in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs

	Total	Do you agree with option 5?		
		Yes (agree)	No (disagree)	Don't know
<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>101</b> <b>34.5%</b>	<b>148</b> <b>50.5%</b>	<b>44</b> <b>15.0%</b>
<b>Respondent Type:</b>				
<b>Resident of a Residential Care Home</b>	<b>12</b>	0 0.0%	11 91.7%	1 8.3%
<b>Relative/partner/friend of a resident in a Council residential care home</b>	<b>31</b>	9 29.0%	14 45.2%	8 25.8%
<b>Advocate for a resident</b>	<b>2</b>	0 0.0%	2 100.0%	0 0.0%
<b>Member of the public</b>	<b>140</b>	45 32.1%	76 54.3%	19 13.6%
<b>Staff member</b>	<b>19</b>	6 31.6%	11 57.9%	2 10.5%
<b>Other</b>	<b>20</b>	5 25.0%	12 60.0%	3 15.0%
<b>Respondent to Easy Read survey</b>	<b>69</b>	36 52.2%	22 31.9%	11 15.9%

Table 7: Agreement with Option 5

4.39 Overall, the highest proportion of respondents did not agree with option 5 (50.5%).

#### **If no why do you disagree? - Option 5**

4.40 The respondents who disagreed with the proposed option 5 were asked why they disagreed. The comments received were largely similar to those already made in the report, with additional concern about the location of the new accommodation being near a school. Many comments focused on there not being alternative provision in the locality and the perceived distress that residents would suffer if uprooted from their community. A lot of comments also praised the current staff and atmosphere at Garth Olwg and expressed worry that this would not be continued.

#### Praise for existing provision

*“Management are amazing here and will be missed.”*

*“Garth Olwg Means More to families than just a care home.”*

*“To close this care home would be a travesty, these residents have already had to move out of their homes because they are no longer able to care for themselves they are settled and happy with their fellow residents and staff who are like family to them. How awful would this be to uproot them and leave their friends and familiar surroundings behind.”*

#### Local community impact

*“This care home is needed in the community to support the NHS and vital care needed.”*

*“I disagree because there are no other care homes in the area and it’s the residents home. I believe it’s not appropriate for the community as well as all the hard working staff at Garth Olwg.”*

*“This care home is imbedded into our community. We need to maintain and grow the support in the area.”*

#### Location

*“Church Village isn’t a location where individuals with learning disabilities would obtain the most stimulation, what’s here for them?? Where are the clubs etc?? Individuals where you have a physical or learning disability need to feel valued and be stimulated within their community what is going to be provided for them in those terms??”*

*“Ridiculous idea when Comprehensive School is a stone throw away. Both are vulnerable and are at risk of each other. The care home is a home for settled residents and children in the community go there and learn about the elderly members there. The home has a great reputation and good links to the local businesses and societies.”*

*“Because we need a care home to serve the local area. I also don’t agree with this being right by schools.”*

- 4.41 Finally on option 5, the respondents were asked how the recommended proposal would impact them or their families.

In addition to those respondents who said there would be no impact, the themes identified included travel barriers, distress to current and potential future residents and the impact on existing staff.

#### Travel

*“Would have to travel distance to visit and that is not easy with public transport.”*

*“Able to visit residents easily. No public transport to proposed valley locations.”*

*“This would impact upon my family were my parents need to go into care in the future as those of us who care for them would have great difficulty in visiting anywhere further afield than Talbot Green as we are dependent upon public transport.”*

### Resident and Family Impact

*“It would be a travesty to close this home as the people in the surrounding area love having their relatives there as it is a really good home. Local, convenient for family to visit and if I needed a home, I would choose this one and my son who has Asperger’s would be able to visit me as he knows the area and would feel safe getting there to see me!!”*

*“It would make a very vulnerable old lady confused, upset, disorientated, anxious. She would regress in her health and the decision would shorten her life expectancy.”*

*“Massively. This is the third care home my Nan has been a resident at in just two years. The constant closures and disruptions are taking their toll on her mental well-being.”*

*“The loss of the only local care home would mean that me or my family would be able to stay as part of our local community when we need care in the future.”*

*“I would be placed somewhere else and it would put upset to my life the not knowing where I would work, putting upset in my family also.”*

### Staff Impact

*“Why should I as a carer who’s been working at garth olwg for 18 yrs loving every minute be moved on to another home or be made jobless just to suit these top nobs who havent got a heart or clue about feelings just disgusting.”*

*“I have worked here since I came straight from school (YTS). I only live 5 minutes away and would find travelling very difficult and I’ve known no difference.”*

### Positive Impact

- 4.42 The only positive comments were from respondents who have family that would benefit from the increased support for adults with learning disabilities:

*“This would be welcomed, we have a adult daughter with learning difficulties and recognise the need for additional accommodation to support these adults.”*

*“My son has learning disabilities and will need support in the future when we are no longer around to care for him.”*

*“It would mean losing a job in a place that I love working as it has been my job for the last few years on my doorstep. I am nearing 60 years old and it saddens me that I have to move elsewhere.”*

- 4.43 52.2% of respondents to the Easy Read survey agreed with option 5, and made the following comments:

*“It is good to build independence with support and make new friends.”*

*“Fantastic for people with LD to have more places to live.”*

*“It is good to have a new Extra Care facility for people with learning disability in Taff Ely.”*

*“People with learning Disabilities will get the support with medication and with health needs.”*

*“They can have a lifeline and there will be someone there in case of an emergency.”*

*“It is a good thing to have it, but not for older people to move out.”*

*“More supported living is needed.”*

4.44 31.9% of respondents disagreed with option 5, with concerns regarding staff and older people. The following comments were raised:

*“I don’t think it is a good idea for older people to have to move out.”*

*“It can be difficult for older people to get to know new places especially if they are confused.”*

*“It is hard to settle in when there is change.”*

*“I don’t like the sound of residential care for anyone. Lots of people living together is not a good idea.”*

*“What about the staff that work there- these homes create employment.”*

*“It is important to have same staff.”*

#### 4.45 Other Suggestions or Alternative Options

The following are a selection of comments received and mainly mirrored the comments that had already been made.

##### Garth Olwg Responses

- 4.46 The responses that related to Garth Olwg were against the proposal for that care home, with suggestions that the home should be kept and improved.

*“There are many areas that could be considered to build a new accommodation without the need to decommission garth olwg. Tonteg hospital has been derelict for Years , spend money on doing this up !!!”*

*“Keep garth olwg open it’s a wonderful care home with fantastic staff.”*

*“Keep garth olwg open.move residents to 1 side of building then do work that needs to be done new windows new roof as promised, make bedrooms bigger with ensuite it can be done.”*

- 4.47 A number of the responses on Garth Olwg were against the proposal for new accommodation to support people with learning disabilities in adulthood, in Church Village.

*“Why would this home be suitable for adults with learning disabilities? That could be developed elsewhere as I assume the adults will not be local to the area.”*

*“People with learning disabilities wouldn't know where they are anyway. Very blunt yes but it’s true. The older generation will.”*

*“Keep Garth Olwg open and use existing provision across RCT for the support for adults with Learning disabilities.”*

- 4.48 There were calls from some respondents to keep everything the same:

*“Do nothing and leave it as it is.”*

*“Why change for the sake of change especially with the state of the country as it is we have no money but you are looking to spend money we don't have.”*

- 4.49 A number of respondents felt that there was a need for more capacity in care homes and to build new ones where appropriate.

*“With an aging population, RCT needs to far more proactive in planning for the future. Many more care and nursing homes need to be built and they need to serve all areas, not just the depths of the valleys.”*

*“Provide more local care homes and staff them accordingly.”*

*“More residential and nursing home placements not less! Put money where its needed and not throwing it down the drain.”*

- 4.50 Some of the responses noted that the service change would be upsetting for the residents of the care homes:

*“This has been my home for 18 months. If there is no residential element, where will I be placed. When moving to Ferndale House was meant to be my forever home, now I am threatened with a further move. This deeply upsets me. All staff are my family.”*

*“I like it at Ferndale House and the thought of moving from Ferndale where I spent all my life is very distressing to me. There is no other home or facilities in this valley for us to go. I feel like the decision where I live will be taken out of my hands if a new plot will not be found. This should not be your decision to make but mine.”*

*“I am so pleased that I am in residential care. I love all the staff as they look after me well and they will do anything for me. It will upset me if any of this will change and to move on.”*

#### Ferndale

- 4.51 There were a number of comments and concerns about the services available in the Rhondda Fach and Ferndale:

*“The proposals are unfair for the Rhondda Fach as you plan to build bigger care homes in the other areas which makes it more favourable for them.”*

- 4.52 In particular with respect to the need for dementia care in the area.

*“The proposed dementia care provision is inadequate for the Rhondda Fach area. There is no provision for residential or dementia care between Rhondda Fach and Cynon valley. Current demand for dementia care in the Rhondda Fach is high.”*

*“Is there a need for extra care when there is a higher need for dementia care and I feel that everyone who works at Ferndale House should also work in the new build including cleaners, cooks, care staff.”*

*“In my opinion, the biggest new build with the most best should be built in the Ferndale area as it is the only care home in the Rhondda Fach area and maybe there should be more than 10 dementia beds as this is the illness on the increase and a lot of younger people are having it and families have to struggle to look after them. It is vital that this is built in the Ferndale area as being the only one in the Fach, as residents' families could struggle to travel to other areas to see their loved ones as local transport is very poor.”*

#### 4.53 **Preferred Accommodation**

The 74 respondents to the Easy Read survey were asked to provide comments on the type of accommodation which would suit their needs. The following comments were received:

*“I want a place where I got someone else, where I can get to know people. I would like to share to start with then move out to live on my own.”*

*“Elderly residential for when I get older.”*

*“I would like a new build and I would like to be able to have a partner stay overnight at my flat and for family Members to visit.”*

*“I would like to live in extra care as I can be more independent but there is staff there.”*

*“Extra Care is good as you can meet new people but it is important that mam and dad can visit.”*

*“I like a kitchen where I can do my own cooking.”*

*“I need my pets, to do volunteering and the things I like to do.”*

*“There should be CCTV 24/7 and someone should monitor it.”*

*“More staff need to be available.”*

*“Having friends in the communal room when they visit.”*

### **About you**

4.54 Under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duties, the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on people because they may have particular characteristics. Respondents were asked how the proposals affecting them would relate to any of the below.

1. Gender
2. Age
3. Ethnicity
4. Disability
5. Sexuality
6. Religion / belief
7. Gender identity
8. Relationship status
9. Pregnancy
10. Preferred language

4.55 The following are a selection of the comments received.

*“Difficulty of visiting due to disability.”*

*“The ageing process brings some mobility and activity problems. A little support and suitable housing could help keep residents independent.”*

*“As I’m getting older I don’t know what the future holds as to care I may need! I therefore worry that if or when I need residential care, the home i choose could be closed and I moved in somewhere else! Such uncertainty in the future is worrying!”*

*“If you closed our local home I would not be able to visit family members who need care due to distance, finances and my disability.”*

*“I am 93 years of age and I would find it very traumatic if I was moved around before the new build.”*

*“The proposals do not have an effect on me personally but I believe as the general population is becoming older ie living longer we will need more care homes and also sheltered accommodation. Or even social housing for over 60s.”*

4.56 Under the Welsh Language Standards, with regards to the proposals, and the impact they may have, respondents were asked how they could impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language (Positive, Negative or Neutral) and if, in any way, it treats the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language. Respondents were further asked how neutral effects could become positive, how positive effects could be increased, or how negative effects be decreased.

4.57 Most of the comments received said that there would be no impact and questioned how this related to residential care. The following are a selection of the comments received.

*“My school education for Welsh was very limited. For those who wish to learn to speak Welsh it should be available free of charge.”*

*“Not sure I can answer as you didnt explain how care is provided and how you make sure language choice is addressed. Where would be best to be cared for in a welsh speaking care home?”*

*“(a) The council should ensure that the care provision is provided using both Welsh and English, according to the resident's preferences (b) Staff should receive appropriate training in both languages, signage should be bilingual and there should be no discrimination according to language in treatment or care, and staffing should be arranged so that there should always be a Welsh speaker working.”*

*“More opportunities should be provided for staff to learn welsh and provide incentives to do so.”*

**The detailed comments received for the above 2 questions have been made available to officers for the development of the associated Impact Assessments.**



## 5. PUBLIC DROP-IN MEETINGS

- 5.1 To ensure public engagement with the consultation, 3 public drop-in sessions were advertised via the [Council's website](#) and [social media](#). In total 29 members of the public took part.

The drop-in sessions were arranged at the following locations:

Location	Date	Time	Number of people in attendance
Garth Olwg Lifelong Learning Centre	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	5-7PM	6
Mountain Ash Library	24 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	5-7PM	0
Ferndale Hub	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	5-7PM	23

*Table 8 – Public Drop-in Locations*

- 5.2 The drop-in sessions were arranged as an opportunity for the public to raise any concerns they may have regarding the consultation and to ask questions directed towards the Director of Adult Social Services and the Head of Service for Accommodation regarding the future of Care Homes in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Along with this, consultation booklets and easy read documents were supplied, both in English and in Welsh, to ensure the public were fully informed and had the opportunity to participate and have their say by completing the survey.
- 5.3 The following comments and themes were identified from each drop-in session:

### **Garth Olwg Learning Centre**

Theme	Comment Raised
Sadness at the closure of the home.	"With Garth Olwg closing we feel like we are losing something in the Community. "
Concern for residents in the home.	"It will be difficult to move residents in a care home who have been there for 10 years as they are already used to their surroundings. This might affect their health overall."
Continuity of Care in the new home.	Noted that continuity of care has been a pertinent theme so far during the consultations, residents would like staff to accompany them when moving homes – families also think this is important
Staffing	Concerns were raised regarding what will happen to the staff following Garth Olwg's proposed closure. Further comments were raised regarding care workers being undervalued nationally.
Consultation held again surrounding the future of Garth Olwg	Those in attendance raised questions surrounding why once again there is a proposal to change Garth Olwg, following the previous consultation outcome.

- 5.4 Overall, those in attendance were concerned with the impact the closure would have on the residents as well as the local community. However, they agreed that modern facilities need to be built which will meet the care needs of the public in the future, including both Extra Care provision and accommodation with care for those with a learning disability. An acknowledgement was given that although the staff provide outstanding levels of care within our homes, there is now a need for more tailored facilities to meet different requirements of care into the future. Transportation issues were also discussed during the meeting, with those in attendance raising concerns regarding the public transport accessibility to other homes within RCT.
- 5.5 They felt reassured that the Council will look after the residents of Garth Olwg care home and provide support for the families.

**Mountain Ash Library**

- 5.6 There were no members of the public in attendance.

**Ferndale Hub**

Theme	Comments Raised
Concern around the number of dementia beds to meet future need	Although there was a general consensus that Extra Care was a positive proposal for the area, concerns were raised by those in attendance that the proposal outlined for Ferndale has only 10 residential dementia beds. Members of the public discussed the suitability of this in the future, given current dementia projections.
Concern for residents	Concern for current residents of Ferndale House. Members of the public felt reassured that the care home would be decommissioned when the new accommodation is developed.
Staffing	Staffing concerns were raised regarding their future with the proposals for Extra Care and the role of the housing association. Broader issues were also raised surrounding staff pay and casual contracts. Members of the public noted that carers nationally are undervalued.
The need for residential care in the future	The need for residential care provision in the long term was raised for the Ferndale/Rhondda Fach area.
Current NHS pressures	Comments were raised regarding the suitability of the current home to support those currently in hospital.
Modernisation	General consensus was that there is a need to modernise provision within Ferndale/Rhondda Fach area and members were happy with the prospect of investment into their local community.

- 5.7 Overall, there was general support for the proposals outlined for Ferndale. Reassurance was provided to those in attendance that Ferndale House would

be decommissioned when the new facility is developed. Those in attendance provided concern for current staff at the home regarding how they would be impacted by these proposals and the role of the housing association. Moreover, it was discussed that although the staff provide excellent quality of care at the home, the home itself is outdated to meet future need and modernisation of the facility is required, especially given change in care needs. The investment in the local community is welcomed.

## 6 WRITTEN RESPONSES

- 6.1 The following section outlines a summary of the written comments received from residents within the local community.
- 6.2 A total of 7 emails or letters were received. The table below highlights and summarises the responses received:

Date Received	Email/Letter/ Contact Centre	Information received
19/12/2022	Email 1	<p>I am a member of Sally's Angels, a group of singers based in Pontyclun!</p> <p>We have visited Gartholwg on many occasions and have been overwhelmed by the kindness and fantastic care given to the resident!</p> <p>It was with much sortie to be told on our recent visit about the pending closure of this incredible home! Both Staff and Residents were in tears as they told us of this awful news! This has been the home for many years of the residents and therefore cannot comprehend the rational of closing a place where they feel is their home!</p> <p>Please try and get the powers that be to reconsider this decision!</p> <p>We were all deeply upset to hear from the residents and the affect it will have on their mental health!</p>
13/12/2022	Email 2	<p>I object to this proposed closure, its vital for locals to have access to the facility , which is needed, travelling to other areas isn't easy especially in poor weather. Constant threat of closure results in poor morale for the staff at the home . With regards to your plan for housing children with learning disabilities in Church Village, so close to Garth Olwg school, not sensible. Remember, the social services history of " caring" in the children's home, which used to exist in Church Village, which lead to the death of xxxxx , that home was demolished,</p>
28/12/2022	Email 3	<p>Please note that I am not happy that RCT intend to disinvest this care home (Garth Olwg). It has provided homes for very needy people for many years and is a valuable asset.</p> <p>Please reconsider the closure.</p>
05/01/2023	Email 4	<p>Dear Sir/Madam</p> <p>I am just reading your booklet on the proposed changes for residential care in RCT</p> <p>Please could you clarify whether options 2-5 are in <b>addition to</b> the existing care homes remaining open or whether they will <b>replace</b> those facilities (which will be decommissioned).</p> <p>Also, please could you explain why the number of Extra Care apartments and residential beds proposed differ from site to site.....is this down to the cost of land purchase or something else?</p>

16/01/2023	Email 5	<p><u>Residential Care Home Consultation – Submission from Mick Antoniw MS and Alex Davies-Jones MP</u></p> <p>We have been contacted by constituents and a small number of Councillors in respect of RCT County Borough Council’s (RCTCBC) proposed modernisation of residential care services and specifically, the proposal for the Garth Olwg residential home in Church Village.</p> <p>We recognise that RCTCBC has a duty to provide sufficient quality residential care options to meet the needs of older people. We recognise also that the care of older people is an issue that matters to many constituents, and we wish to contribute to the consultation in order to register our view.</p> <p>We welcome RCTCBC’s programme of investment to modernise and improve residential care provision, which reflects both the continuing trend is for people to remain in their homes for longer (and where necessary, receive their care package at home) and the growing demand for specialist provision, including for adults with learning disabilities.</p> <p>Taff Ely is currently well provided for in respect of residential care and this will continue as a result of RCTCBC’s plan for additional capacity and modernised facilities at both the Parc Newydd home in Talbot Green and the Cae Glas home in Hawthorn (which will also have facilities to provide for dementia, mobility and hoisting). In contrast the facilities at Garth Olwg are clearly not fit for purpose. We understand that only one of the existing fourteen residents at Garth Olwg is from the local area, so the proposal’s impact on visiting families is likely to be minimal.</p> <p>The proposal for a new facility at Garth Olwg to accommodate adults with learning difficulties is an important step in increasing specialist provision. We understand that the new facility at Garth Olwg will be a c£10m investment and that as a result of the closure of the existing Garth Olwg facility there will be no staff redundancies.</p> <p>Care needs are changing. In our view, RCTCBC’s investment in this programme of modernisation and improvement will ensure that the best facilities are available, without reducing capacity. In respect of the proposal for Garth Olwg and taking all factors into account, we believe that replacing the current care home with a new, specialist home is appropriate to the care needs in Taff Ely and RCT more widely and therefore also has our full support.</p>
16/01/2023	Email 6	<p>Our Cllrs discussed the consultation at our meeting last week and have asked me to advise you that they thought that the wording on the website was not that clear in what you were asking.</p>
18/01/2023	Customer Care Call	

		<p>Garth Olwg Consultation - regarding the potential closure of the residential care home. Customer called regarding those who are not able to complete consultation via the website, is there any way they can complete a physical copy and hand it in? Customer referred to the local library and if there was any potential for them to be distributed to them for residents. Would it be possible to contact back regarding this please.</p>
25/01/2023	Email 7	<p>Helen Fychan - MS</p> <p>Dyddiad   Date: 26.1.2023</p> <p>Pwnc   Subject: Ymgynghoriad Gofal Preswyl Cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf</p> <p>Annwyl Cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf</p> <p>Mae nifer o etholwyr wedi cysylltu a mi yn datgan pryderon am y cynnig sydd gennych parthed cau cartref preswyl Garth Olwg yn Ton Teg.</p> <p>Rwyf yn croesawu'r buddsoddiad newydd a amlinellir i greu cartrefi preswyl modern sydd yn gallu diwallu anghenion nifer o bobl, ac yn deall yr angen i symud gyda'r oes ac i foderneiddio. Serch hynny mae rhai cwestiynau dilys wedi cael eu codi gyda fi am y cynlluniau arfaethedig ac wedi eu nodi isod:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rydych yn nodi yn y rhesymeg dros y penderfyniad bod llai o alw am lefydd mewn cartrefi gofal yn gyffredinol, ond bod cynnydd mewn galw am lefydd nyrsio ar gyfer pobl a dementia a phobl sydd a phroblemau iechyd dwys. Yn sgil hyn pam ydych chi am gau cartref sydd yn darparu gofal nyrsio i'r grwp yma o'r boblogaeth? Gwyddom fod gwasgiadau difrifol ar y sector iechyd ar hyn o bryd, yn rhannol oherwydd diffyg lleoedd ar gyfer gofal cymdeithasol yn y gymuned i'r rheiny sydd ddim eto yn ddigon iach i ddychwelyd i'w cartrefi. Oni fyddai'n synhwyrol i ddatblygu'r capasiti gofal nyrsio a llenwi yr holl lefydd allai fod ar gael yn Garth Olwg fel datrysiad i hyn? Mae'r penderfyniad i'w gau yn llwyr er mwyn ei ail-ddatblygu i fod yn ganolfan ar gyfer oedolion gyda anabledau yn mynd i waethygu'r sefyllfa o safbwynt diffyg opsiynau ar gyfer henoedd sydd angen gofal nyrsio.</li> <li>2. A ystyriwyd os oedd modd defnyddio y gyllideb a glustnodwyd ar gyfer ail-ddatblygu cartref Garth Olwg i ddatblygu sgiliau'r gweithlu a chael cyfarpar addas i gymryd mwy o bobl sydd angen gofal nyrsio gan gynnwys rheiny sydd angen cyfle i wella ac ad-ennill cryfder ar ôl cyfnod yn yr Ysbyty?</li> <li>3. Mae'n ymddangos o'r ffigyrau a rannwyd yn yr ymgynghoriad mae pendraw y trywydd hwn fydd gwaredu pob gwely nyrsio o ofal Rhondda Cynon Taf yn uniongyrchol. A oes asesiad risg wedi ei wneud o goblygiadau hyn i'r dyfodol? Rydym wedi gweld yn y sector tai yn ddiweddar mewn rhai awdurdodau nad yw'r sector tai cymdeithasol yn gallu bodloni gofynion yr awdurdodau lleol am niferoedd digonol o dai i gwrdd a'i dyletswyddau statudol. Mae'r system honno bellach yn creu heriau sylweddol i</li> </ol>

		<p>bobl sydd angen cartrefi, ac awdurdodau wedi colli'r hyblygrwydd a fyddai wedi bod ganddynt yn y gorffennol i adeiladu unedau newydd a rheoli'r farchnad tai cymdeithasol. Oes perygl y gwelwn farchnad rydd yn datblygu yn y maes gofal nyrsio henoed a fydd yn gadael pobl bregus iawn mewn perygl am na fydd gan yr awdurdod lleol ei cartrefi eu hunain i gynnig llety ar fyr rybudd pan bo angen?</p> <p>4. Dengys adroddiad diweddaraf Arolygaeth Gofal Cymru fod y cartref preswyl yng Ngarth Olwg yn ddiogel, yn glud ac yn llwyddo i fodloni preswyliaid, eu teuluoedd ac yn meddu ar tîm profiadol o ofalwyr sydd wedi bod yno am flynyddoedd. Mae lleoliad fel hyn yn bluen yng nghap yr awdurdod lleol a byddai'n drasiedi ei weld yn diflannu gyda thrigolion yn cael ei hail leoli gan golli eu cynefin a'u cymuned yn hwyrnos eu bywydau.</p> <p>5. Mae nifer o bobl gydag anwyliaid yn Garth Olwg yn nodi mai dim ond newydd symud yno mae rhai, yn dilyn cartrefi gofal eraill yn cau. Maent yn pryderu am symud anwyliaid unwaith eto, o leoliad mae nhw wedi setlo ynddo. Yw'r awdurdod wedi ystyried pa ddarpariaethau eraill sydd mewn perygl o gau, yn sgil yr argyfwng costau byw a beth fydd opsiynau gofal amgen os bydd y cartref hwn yn cau?</p> <p>Gobeithiaf y byddwch yn rhoi sylw teilwng i bob un o'r ymatebion a ddaw i law, ac y byddwch yn ystyried sylwadau pawb wrth gynllunio i'r dyfodol.</p> <p>Yn gywir</p> <p>Dyddiad   Date: 26.1.2023 Pwnc   Subject: Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's</p> <p>Residential Care Consultation Dear Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, A number of constituents have contacted me to express concerns regarding your proposal to close Garth Olwg Residential Care Home in Ton-teg. I welcome the new investment outlined to create modern residential care homes that can meet the needs of a number of people, and I understand the need to move with the times and modernise. However, some valid questions have been raised with me regarding the proposed plans, and are noted below:</p> <p>1. You have noted that the reason for the decision is that there is generally less demand for placements in care homes, but there is an increase in demand for nursing care placements for people with dementia and people with profound health problems. As a result of this, why do you want to close a home that provides nursing care to this group of the population? There are serious pressures on the health sector at the moment, partly because of the lack of places for social care in the community for those who are not yet well enough to return to their homes. Would it not be sensible to develop the capacity within nursing care and fill all of the spaces that could be available in Garth Olwg as a solution to this? The decision to close the home in its entirety in order to redevelop it to become a centre for adults</p>
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		<p>with disabilities is going to make the situation worse with regards to the lack of options for older people that need nursing care.</p> <p>2. Have you considered whether it is possible to use the budget that has been earmarked for redeveloping Garth Olwg Care Home in order to develop the skills of the workforce and getting appropriate equipment to take on more people who need nursing care, including those that need to get better and regain strength after some time in a hospital?</p> <p>3. It seems from the figures shared in the consultation that this course of action would ultimately lead to getting rid of all nursing beds from Rhondda Cynon Taf's care. Has a risk assessment been conducted in relation to the future implications of this? We have seen recently in the housing sector in some authorities that the social housing sector can't meet the requirements of local authorities with regards to the number of houses needed to meet its statutory duties. That system is now creating significant challenges for those people who need homes and authorities have lost the flexibility that they would have had in the past to build new units and control the social housing market. Is there a risk that we will see the development of a free market in the nursing care sector for older people that will leave very vulnerable people at risk as the local authority won't have their own homes to offer accommodation at short notice when needed?</p> <p>4. Care Inspectorate Wales' recent report shows that the care home at Garth Olwg is safe, cosy and manages to satisfy its residents, their families and also has an experienced team of carers that have been there for years. A setting like this is a feather in the cap of the local authority and it would be a tragedy to see it disappear with residents being relocated from their homes and their community in the latter stages of their lives.</p> <p>5. A number of people who have loved ones in Garth Olwg have noted that some have only just moved there, following the closure of other care homes. They're concerned about moving their loved ones again, from a setting where they have settled. Has the authority considered what other provisions are at risk as a result of closing the home, in light of the cost of living crisis, and what the alternative care options would be if this home was to close?</p> <p>I hope that you will give each of the responses submitted the attention they deserve and that you will consider everybody's comments when planning for the future.</p> <p>Regards, Heledd Fychan MS</p>
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*Table 9 - Email Responses*



## 7 PETITIONS

- 7.1 A total of 2 petitions were received in relation to option 5 and the proposed closure of the Garth Olwg Care home. The full Petitions will be provided to Officers and Cabinet Members, along with the full comments from the survey.

	<b>Information received</b>	<b>Number of signatures</b>
Petition 1	Garth Olwg Care Home in Church Village has served our community well for nearly sixty years. We call on Rhondda Cynon Taf Borough Council Cabinet to rethink their latest decision to close the facility as a residential care home, which would reverse their previous judgement that the home would stay open. The home has been invaluable for residents who are no longer able to manage in their own homes. This move is cruel for residents, particularly for those recently moved from other care homes, along with the loyal dedicated staff.	189
Petition 2	We, the under signed oppose the proposed closure of the Garth Olwg Care Home in Church Village and ask Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to reject this proposal.	364