

Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny 2022-2027 Committee

RE: 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 Residential Care Homes for Older People report, which was considered at its meeting on the 27th February 2023.

Present:

County Borough Councillors J Edwards (Chair), J Brencher (Vice-Chair), M Ashford, J Bonetto, Sheryl Evans, G Hughes, C Middle, K Morgan, S Morgans, W Owen, G Warren, K Webb, G E Williams

Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care, County Borough Councillor G Caple

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sera Evans.

The following points were raised:

- Many members acknowledged the strong public opposition to the Garth Olwg proposal raising concerns about losing a facility in a growth area with over 50% disagreeing with the proposal
- A Majority of members have recognised the case for change, identifying the need for homes that are fit for purpose in the future and also recognising residents' preference to be cared for in their own homes with support wrapped around them.
- Many members have identified the need to see proposals to invest in all facilities come forward as soon as possible to improve the offer to residents with dedicated teams in place to manage the proposed changes.
- A comment was made by one member in respect of the focus of the report upon capacity rather than addressing a better geographical spread, and local access to such facilities as public transport, to ensure that residents needs and want to stay close to family is recognised.
- A member asked for reassurance that we are 'confident' when reducing capacity, there is 'resilience' in the community to support people to live independently longer and being mindful of the public perception around closing care homes when there is much discussion around 'bed blocking' and patient flow.
- A majority commented upon the need for greater capacity for dementia as part of the proposals and for this care to be local to those in need.
- And plans for staff recruitment and retention to support the delivery of the proposals and for this to be offered in a different way in order to attract people into the caring profession as a career.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Hanagan', written in a cursive style.

Christian Hanagan

Service Director - Democratic Services and Communication