



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

20TH MARCH 2023

**REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF
SOCIAL SERVICES**

Agenda Item No. 4

**LEARNING DISABILITY DAY
SERVICES OFFER**

Author: Alex Beckham, Head of Service for Learning Disability, Mental Health, and Substance Misuse

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report has been prepared to provide the Community Services Scrutiny Committee with an update on the engagement and co-production activity undertaken in the development of a new draft Day Services operating model and Strategy for people with a learning disability in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Community Services Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 acknowledges the information provided in the report and the presentation attached;
- 2.2 scrutinises and comments on the engagement and co-production activity undertaken in the development of a new draft Learning Day Services operating model and Strategy.
- 2.3 undertake pre-scrutiny of the strategy when it is available.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To provide the Community Services Scrutiny Committee with an update on the engagement and co-production of a new draft Day Services operation model and strategy for people with a learning disability.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 At its meeting on 20th July 2021, Cabinet considered a report on the Council's Learning Disability Day Service Offer. A copy of the Cabinet report is attached for information at Appendix 1.

4.2 The report provided key information, including feedback from engagement activity already undertaken by Cwm Taf People First, which evidences the need to transform the Council's Day Service Offer for people with a learning disability. This information included:

- The current offer appears to be service focused and based on the existing services available, including where the person lives with less focus on the specific aspirations and outcomes of the individual.
- There is a sense of a lack of progression for people with a learning disability and a sense of risk aversion and a culture of paternalism that can impact the opportunities for people and their family progression.
- Whilst there have been efforts to transform the Council's Day Service offer this has been challenging and slower than anticipated - it has also been in isolation from the rest of the health and social care system.
- Within the Council's Day Service, the current high numbers of people supported in groups will often translate to a lower focus on individual skills development and progression – there is also a need to be mindful of repetitive processes that can result in fatigue and time wasting for the person and duplication of resources for the organisations concerned.

4.3 As a result, Cabinet agreed:

- the on-going engagement with people with a learning disability, their families and carers, staff and partners and the proposals to co-produce a new day opportunities strategy to transform the Council's current Day Service offer and future service provision in Rhondda Cynon Taf
- to receive a further report that presents the co-produced draft Day Services Strategy for people with a learning disability for approval prior to formal public consultation

4.4 Through the work of Learning Disability Transformation Programme established during the Covid Pandemic, the need to focus on what the Council's Day Service does well has been identified in ongoing engagement activity, i.e. focusing upon specialist support for those with complex need. Having embraced the opportunities presented by the Covid Pandemic, this has allowed the Council to consider how it reshapes and redesigns its Day Service offer and operating model to focus on specific groups of people with higher support needs and complexities, including autism. This preferred option has started to develop in a smaller area and will be key proposed change in how we deliver services moving forward,

coupled with supporting the development of the wider market to support those who not require specialist support.

4.5 A key focus of Learning Disability Transformation Programme is the commitment to working in partnership with other key stakeholders and with people with a learning disability, their families and carers to support the delivery of people's identified outcomes through co-production. This has included the implementation and development of:

- a Multi-Agency Transformation Partnership "Governance" Board to be joint chaired by an individual with a learning disability and the Director of Adult Services; and
- a Citizens Panel to engage with the wider learning disability community (RCT Transformers)

4.6 Whilst the focus to date has been in respect of a review of Council's Day Services offer, there is a need to review the Council's wide care and support offer for people with a learning disability.

4.7 In November 2020, Cwm Taf People First started working on their "My Day My Way" project, in response to the Covid Pandemic and this work highlighted that people were ready for a change of support during their day:

"87% of people with a learning disability engaged in the project indicated that they would like to change something about their day as things move out of lockdown and back to some form of normality"

4.8 Spending time with family and friends were key priorities identified by people and whilst some of them advised that they wished to return to day services to see their friends', others advised that the break from traditional day services allowed them to consider alternatives such as volunteering or working opportunities.

4.9 Building upon the engagement work of People First, the Council continued with the "My day My Way" theme and started a new engagement process, as agreed by Cabinet, which ran from August 2021 to November 2021. The new engagement process involved young people aged 16+ and adults with learning disabilities, their parents/carers, and a range of other key stakeholders, including care staff, Health, commissioned and Third Sector providers, and members of the RCT Transformers.

4.10 On 20th September 2021, the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee were provided with the opportunity to contribute to the engagement process and development of a new draft Learning Day Services operating model and Strategy.

4.11 In total, there were 858 responses received during the engagement process.

- 4.12 Listening to the views of people with learning disabilities and their parents/carers through the various events and surveys on what is good, what is missing and what could be done to improve the Council's offer further reinforced the need to change. Some examples of what people were telling us are shown below:

"I'd like to get out of the house more and get involved in more groups. I like to take lots of opportunities and to try new things. I'd like to meet and get to know more people from different walks of life. I like to make friends and arrange to go out for meals with them. I'd like to try some woodwork."

"More organised group activities in my local area for me and my friends to take part in"

"Finding the right job to suit my interest and skills, interview support, job searching support"

"Meet new people to build more friendships so I have a wider circle of people to socialise with"

- 4.13 Examples of other issues raised, include:

- A lack of social situations outside of day centre and daytime opportunities meant people with a learning disability can sometimes find it difficult to maintain friendships and relationships outside of these times.
- Parents, carers, and staff feel that more accessible situations would mean people with learning disabilities could build friendships and relationships outside of daytime provision
- Parents and carers feel they would like more activities and opportunities for the person they care for which involves more socialising in the community, to meet people and build relationships (social or romantic).

- 4.14 Staff were actively involved in the "My Day My Way" engagement process and they are best placed to deliver its outcomes. We were able to learn about their ideas which offered sustainable and effective support for people with learning disabilities. Furthermore staff are supportive of the programme and wish to achieve change for the people they support to achieve their potential and outcomes, as identified below

"My aspirations as a staff member would be to work together to provide a more community-based service rather than sat in day centres under stimulated."

"My idea of how the service should be is where each and every individual has control and choice in what happens in their lives."

“I think the transformation programme is well overdue and needed for individuals, the old ways of working are not suitable for today’s lifestyles.”

- 4.15 The feedback received from the engagement process will inform the day services offer that people really want, resulting in more community opportunities and help to promote independence and social inclusion. The outcomes from the engagement process re-enforced the need for change, to offer better outcomes and opportunities for people enabling them to have more choice, control and autonomy.
- 4.16 Following the engagement process a series of workshops and activities were held during July and August 2022, for people involved in the engagement process to share their thoughts on the themes, and to give ideas on how the Council’s Day Services operating model and Strategy could look for Rhondda Cynon Taf in the future.
- 4.17 The draft co-produced Day Services operating model is broken into three distance areas as shown below:

Proposed Model of Daytime Opportunities:



- 4.18 The Council’s draft Day Service operating model will be supported by a new Draft Learning Disability Strategy that sets out the Council’s priorities for people with a learning disability and support the way in which we commission services for the future.

Draft Strategy



- 4.19 In line with Cabinet’s decision at its meeting on 20th July 2021, the draft co-produced Day Services operating model and Strategy for people with a learning disability will be presented to Cabinet for consideration and, subject to Cabinet approval, formal public consultation.
- 4.20 A full summary of the Learning Disability Transformation Programme and the engagement and coproduction activity undertaken to date to inform the development of a draft Day Services operating model and Strategy for people with a learning disability is included at Appendix 2 and will be presented at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 20th March 2023.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity or socio-economic implications arising directly from this report. However, an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed and included in the report to Cabinet for consideration prior to any future decision being made to the Council’s Day Services offer for people with a learning disability.

6. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no Welsh Language implications arising directly from this report. However, a Welsh Language Impact Assessment will be completed and included in the report to Cabinet for consideration prior to any future

decision being made to the Council's Day Services offer for people with a learning disability.

7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 7.1 Engagement activity undertaken as part of our co-production approach is outlined within the report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.
- 9.2 The co-production of a new Day Services offer that meets the current and future assessed needs of people with learning disability and their families and carers allows the Council to meet its statutory duties as set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.
- 10.2 The co-production of a new Day Services offer for people with a learning disability supports the Council's People corporate priority - promoting independence and positive lives for everyone. It also contributes to the following wellbeing goals, namely: a Wales of cohesive communities, a healthier Wales and more equal Wales and due regard has been made to the five ways of working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.