



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022-23**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023**

**PRE SCRUTINY - LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES TRANSFORMATION  
PROGRAMME (DAY SERVICES)**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &  
COMMUNICATIONS**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. To pre-scrutinise the co-produced draft Day Services Strategy and operating model proposal for people with a learning disability prior to the undertaking of targeted consultation on the proposals to enable the Cabinet to make informed decisions on the future of the Council's Day Services in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1. Undertake pre scrutiny on the report (attached at **Appendix 1**), thus providing Scrutiny with an opportunity to contribute to this matter; and
- 2.2 To Authorise the Service Director Democratic Services and Communications to provide the comments and observations of the Committee to Cabinet, prior to their consideration of the matter on the 15th May 2023.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1. The need for Cabinet to be aware of the comments and observations of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee prior to their consideration of the Learning Disability Day Services Offer.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. At its meeting on 20th July 2021, Cabinet considered a report on the Council's Learning Disability Day Service Offer.

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

## **5. PRE SCRUTINY**

5.1. Members are referred to section 5 of Appendix 1 which details the draft strategy and operating model. A summary of which is outlined below:

5.2. The strategy and operating model propose that there are three levels of support taken forward in acknowledgement that some people require a relatively short period of support to realise their aspirations whereas others may need longer term specialist intensive support. Provision of support will be built around the strengths of the individual, in a person-centred manner within an inclusive society where mainstream community based activities and employment support is accessible to people who access care and support. Support will be responsive to changes in personal circumstances.

5.3. The 3 levels of support are identified as:  
Level 1: Community and Employment Offer  
Level 2: Maximising Community Connects  
Level 3: Council's Offer

5.4 Members are asked to scrutinise the draft strategy before them before it is presented to Cabinet. As part of pre-scrutiny Members may wish to take into consideration the following aspects:

- Will the proposals meet people's changing expectations and needs, whilst working within the resources available of the Council?
- Are the levels of support identified appropriate and will they provide the best form of support for service users and their families?
- Are the commissioning intentions presented within 5.8 of the report appropriate?
- At the meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held in March 2023, Members discussed the use of Community Hubs and the importance of access to travel. Do Members feel the draft Strategy before them adequately addresses the points raised at the meeting?

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of this report are for information purposes only.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1. The involvement of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in the pre-scrutiny exercise will contribute to the quality and robustness of Cabinet decision-making.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1. The report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph Part 4 of the Constitution (Overview & Scrutiny Procedure)

## **10. CONCLUSION**

10.1. The undertaking of pre scrutiny by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in respect of the Learning Disability Day Services Offer, will ensure that the Community Services Scrutiny Committee fully evaluates the effectiveness of its overview and scrutiny function.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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