



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

15TH MAY 2023

PRE-SCRUTINY – LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES OFFER

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the feedback and comments of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee following its pre scrutiny of the Learning Disability Day Services Offer at its meeting on the [24th April 2023](#).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the comments and observations of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee as advised within section 5 of the report; and
- 2.2 Subject to any further comment by Cabinet Members, endorse the recommendations outlined within the Learning Disability Day Services Offer as attached to the report as Appendix A, and for ease of reference listed below
 - 2.1 considers the information provided in this report and, in particular, the feedback from the engagement activity undertaken in the development of a new co-produced Day Services Strategy and operating model proposal for people with a learning disability;
 - 2.2 approves to undertake targeted consultation on a new co-produced draft learning disability Day Services Strategy and operating model proposal, as set out in Section 5 of the report, with people who use day services, their families and carers, staff and other associated stakeholders;
 - 2.3 approves to undertake targeted consultation with service users, their families and carers, staff and other associated stakeholders on a proposal to permanently decommission Treforest Day Centre with the continuation of the existing current provision received by people who previously accessed the Centre prior to its temporary closure in February 2020, as set out in paragraph 5.7 of the report;

- 2.4 subject to 2.2 and 2.3 above, agrees to receive a further report detailing the outcome of the proposed targeted consultation, including an updated full Equality Impact Assessment prior to any final decision being made in relation to the future of day services for people with a learning disability in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need for Members 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 OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY DAY SERVICES OFFER.

- 5.1 The Community Services Scrutiny Committee met on the [24th April 2023](#), to consider the Learning Disability Day Services Offer.
- 5.2 At the meeting Members welcomed the draft strategy outlined in the report acknowledging the extensive engagement carried out to date and the need to move away from the current model considering the powerful feedback provided from service users, staff, parents, and carers to provide more meaningful activities and opportunities
- 5.3 Some Members expressed concern that Children transitioning into adult services sometimes can 'slip through' and with limited contact. Members looked for reassurance of how the proposed strategy would ensure inclusion for all.
- 5.4 Members discussed the impact of Community Hubs and the opportunities they can provide for activities, employment, and volunteering. Members were pleased to see the addition of this aspect following discussion at the previous meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee on [20th March 2023](#) and felt it was important to utilise the links available in the community.
- 5.5 Members considered the impact of the strategy and felt it was important to have processes in place to monitor the success and progress of individuals within the service area. Members welcomed the opportunity to be kept up to date with progress and the results of any future engagement.
- 5.6 Some Members spoke of the importance of ensuring individuals are supported with travel as part of the strategy, noting how this can be a barrier to accessing employment, activities, and volunteering opportunities.
- 5.7 Engagement with employees was also another area identified by the Committee. Members discussed the process for ensuring employers are engaged with and supported highlighting the significance meaningful employment appeared as a theme from previous consultation results. Members felt the strategy should seek to break down barriers in all areas of employment and be inclusive.
- 5.8 In conclusion, Committee highlighted several local community groups and sought assurance that the strategy would be able to utilise projects like this who are already recognised and well trusted in community.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

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

7. CONSULTATION/INVOLVEMENT

- 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 IMPLICATION(S)

- 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 It is recognised that scrutiny is a vital component of good governance and improves Councils' decision making, service provision and cost effectiveness.
- 10.2 The undertaking of pre-scrutiny by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee in this area will strengthen accountability and assist Cabinet Members in taking any future decisions on these matters.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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Background Papers

[Community Services Scrutiny Committee Minutes – 20th March 2023.](#)