



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

19th SEPTEMBER 2024

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Council's care accommodation provision for older people agreed by Cabinet in February 2023 and to set out further recommendations to reflect changes in need and develop more cost-effective care solutions which are sustainable for the future. The report also seeks approval to consult, where relevant, with the current residents and their families, staff, and other stakeholders to enable the Cabinet to make informed decisions on the preferred options for the Council's care accommodation provision for older people.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Considers the information in this report and updated position regarding care home capacity in Rhondda Cynon Taf, the Equality Impact Assessment (including Socio-Economic Duty) and Welsh Language Impact Assessment.
- 2.2 Notes that commitments made by Cabinet for investment into new accommodation with care facilities for older people are progressing, as outlined in Section 5 of this report, with construction making good progress at the extra care facility at Danymynydd in Porth and at the new extra care and residential facility in Mountain Ash.
- 2.3 Subject to 2.1 above, agrees the proposal to develop a new residential dementia care facility home on the former Chubb Factory site in Ferndale, as outlined in Section 6 of this report. NOTE: This would be an amendment to the preferred option agreed by Cabinet in February

2023 which was to provide new accommodation with care with 25 extra care apartments and 15 residential dementia care beds and would increase the care provision in the Rhondda Fach.

- 2.4 Subject to 2.1 and 2.3 above, agrees to initiate consultation with the individuals and their families, staff and other relevant stakeholders on the preferred option to decommission the current Ferndale House Care Home for older people when suitable alternative placements are found for existing residents in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs on a temporary basis until the new care home development at the former Chubb Factory site in Ferndale is available at which time the affected individuals will be offered the opportunity to return to the new care home in Ferndale, subject to their assessed needs and wishes at that time.
- 2.5 Subject to 2.1 above, agrees to initiate consultation with the individuals and their families, staff and other relevant stakeholders on the preferred option to permanently decommission Cae Glas Care Home for older people when suitable alternative placements are found for existing residents in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs.
- 2.6 Subject to 2.4 and 2.5 above, agrees to restrict admissions to the Council's residential care homes, other than in exceptional circumstances where an appropriate alternative placement that can meet the assessed need is not available. This is in order to minimise any potential impact on service users until such time as Cabinet considers the results of the consultation exercise and any decision it may take in relation to the recommended proposals.
- 2.7 Subject to 2.4 and 2.5 above, agrees to receive a further report following conclusion of the proposed consultation, including an updated full Equality Impact Assessment and Welsh Language impact Assessment prior to any final decision being made in relation to the recommended options for the Council's care accommodation provision for older people.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 imposes market shaping duties upon the Council and guidance requires local authorities to ensure that there are sufficient, quality services available in Rhondda Cynon Taf and that these services are sustainable.
- 3.2 In line with these duties, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council continues to review its adult social care provision to ensure its current care and support offer continues to meet assessed need whilst addressing ongoing significant operational and financial challenges resulting from increased demand and complexity and shortfalls in funding.

- 3.3 The proposals recommended will ensure that Adult Services:
- 3.3.1 maintains a sustainable care home market that maintains sufficient availability of placements within the care categories required to meet the current needs of older people in the County Borough.
 - 3.3.2 anticipates the long-term needs of accommodation with care for the older people population, including changes to the care home categories.
 - 3.3.3 supports more efficient service delivery and best use of resources to contribute to the Council's budget strategy and medium-term financial plan.
- 3.4 Proposals to make changes in the provision of some of the Council's residential care homes requires consultation with those directly affected, including service users, their families, staff and stakeholders to ensure that their views can be taken into account when a final decision is made. Consultation is proposed to ensure compliance with the Council's legal obligations.
- 3.5 A further report following the conclusion of a consultation is recommended to ensure that the Cabinet is fully informed of the outcome of the consultation, updated Equality Impact Assessment and updated Welsh Language Assessment when it decides on the future of the Council's care accommodation provision for older people.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The need to modernise and continually improve adult social care services is a key priority for Rhondda Cynon Taf and as Members will be aware from previous reports to Cabinet over recent years the Council has transformed the way in which it delivers adult social care; with the focus shifting to supporting independence so that people are supported to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.
- 4.2 In February 2023, Cabinet agreed the future provision of accommodation for older people across the Council's residential care homes. Table 1 overleaf provides a summary of the Cabinet decisions in February 2023 and, where applicable, includes a brief update on the current position of each home.

Table 1: Summary of the Cabinet decisions in February 2023 and, where applicable, includes a brief update of the current position of each home.

Care Home	Cabinet Decision February 2023	Update
Clydach Court	Retain	
Ferndale House	Build new care accommodation in Ferndale: 25 extra care & 15 residential dementia care beds. Close Ferndale House once the new accommodation is available.	The extra care offering as part of wider care accommodation development in the Rhondda Fach is considered not viable and sustainable by the housing partner. Option to develop former Chubb Factory site for residential dementia only. See Section 6 below for more details
Pentre House	Retain	
Ystrad Fechan	Build new care accommodation in Treorchy: 40 extra care & 20 residential dementia care beds. Permanently close Home.	Ystrad Fechan closed. Proposed development site for new care accommodation has not progressed – awaiting decision from Health for site availability.
Tegfan	Retain	Tegfan transitioning to a dementia residential only home.
Troedyrhiw	Build new care accommodation in Mountain Ash: 25 extra care & 15 residential dementia care beds. Troedyrhiw to close when new accommodation opened.	Scheme design agreed for proposed site on land of Darren Road in Mountain Ash. Full Planning application pending.
Cae Glas	Retain	
Garth Olwg	Redevelop for learning disability care accommodation. Close Garth Olwg	Garth Olwg has closed, and demolition planned for Summer 2024. Scheme proposal in development – seeking EOI from RSL's to progress.
Parc Newydd	Retain	Refurbishment of a 10 bed unit suitable for residential dementia has been completed.

4.3 There are currently 30 care homes for older people in Rhondda Cynon Taf, offering a total of 1224 beds, compared to 34 care homes and 1308 beds reported to Cabinet in February 2023. Of these:

- the Council currently operates 7 residential care homes offering 237 residential beds, compared to 9 care homes and 267 beds reported to Cabinet in February 2023.
- independent sector providers contracted by the Council currently operate 23 care homes, offering 989 residential and nursing beds,

compared to 25 reported care homes, and offering 1041 residential and nursing beds in February 2023.

- the Council's market share is approx. 19% of the total market. The other Local Authorities in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region have a lower in-house market share with Bridgend at 10% of their total 907 care home beds and Merthyr Tydfil at 13.6% of their total 352 care home beds (based on figures received in August 2024).

4.4 As of 9th August 2024, the Council's residential care homes were supporting 156 permanently occupied beds – 2 more than reported to Cabinet in February 2023. This represents a current permanent occupancy of 65.8%, and whilst admissions to some care homes have been affected, for example, due to staffing and accommodation related issues it is noted that over a third of the registered beds are vacant. There continues to be a decline in demand for residential care home placements and this remains the principal reasons for the continued low occupancy and the surplus of residential beds.

Table 2: Council's residential care home occupancy

Care Home	No. of Beds	Permanently Occupied Beds	% Permanent Occupancy
Clydach Court	35	28	80%
Ferndale House	26	16	61.5%
Pentre House	29	18	62%
Tegfan	46	25	54%
Troedyrhiw	26	21	80.7%
Cae Glas	39	28	71%
Parc Newydd	36	20	55.5%
Total	237	156	65.8%

4.5 Independent sector care homes reported supporting 936 occupied beds as at 9th of August 2024 – 16 less than reported to Cabinet in February 2023. This represents a current occupancy of 95% across contracted independent sector providers.

4.6 Overall, there are, as at 9th August 2024, 14 less residents supported in the care homes across Rhondda Cynon Taf compared to those reported to Cabinet in February 2023.

4.7 Over recent years, further analysis shows that the number of residents in care home at the end of each financial year has fallen in Rhondda Cynon Taf despite an expanding older population – between 2016/17 to 2023/24, care home placements have reduced by 8% overall. Over

the same period, there has also been change of care category of residents, in particular between general residential and residential dementia as shown below.

Year end	General Residential	Residential Dementia	General Nursing	Nursing Dementia
2016/17	33%	29%	31%	6%
2023/24	24%	35%	33%	8%

4.8 Lower levels of demand for general residential care are expected to continue alongside higher demand for other care need categories, in particular dementia. Members will also be aware that demand for homecare services and extra care housing for people who live in their own homes and are aged 65 and over has been increasing.

4.9 A summary of the care home beds and vacancies, as at 9th August 2024, broken down by market sector and care category is shown below in Table 3.

Table 3 Summary of care home beds and vacancies

	Residential		Residential Dementia		Nursing		Nursing Dementia		Total	
	Beds	Vacant	Beds	Vacant	Beds	Vacant	Beds	Vacant	Beds	Vacant
Independent	205	12	268	12	421	24	95	5	989	53
In-house	100	33	137	48					237	81
RCT Total	305	45	405	60	421	24	95	5	1226	134

4.10 There are still 134 bed vacancies across Rhondda Cynon Taf, despite an overall reduction of 182 care home beds in the last 5 years and a continued oversupply of beds, especially across residential care with a current combined total of 105 vacant beds as shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Oversupply of beds capacity by care category

Residential	Residential Dementia	Nursing	Nursing Dementia	Total
45	60	24	5	134

4.11 The above analysis shows that there continues to be sufficient overall capacity available, and in addition to the proposed extra care developments, there is sufficient residential care provision to meet current and future demand.

- 4.12 There continues to be evidence that the oversupply of residential care beds remains. However, as Members will be aware from previous reports to Cabinet the analysis also highlights the need to stimulate the market to provide nursing and nursing dementia care home services, with Health and other regional local authorities, if shortfalls in nursing provision are to be avoided to meet anticipated future needs.
- 4.13 In addition to long term placements the Council commissions respite care to support unpaid carers, particularly those looking after people with dementia. The Council commissions planned respite care that is relied on by many carers, frequently urgent, and offered as a place of safety at short notice when care arrangements have broken down. The Council's residential care homes offer respite more reliably and flexibly than the independent sector as funding is available to provide 16 respite beds, 13 of which are dementia residential. These are counted as part of their total bed numbers. It is important therefore that respite provision continues to be commissioned in the future despite its impact on the availability of permanent bed capacity and the associated reduction in income. Table 5 below illustrates the respite beds currently available:

Table 5: in-house residential respite beds split.

	Residential	Residential Dementia
Residential Respite bed	3	13
Extra Care respite facility	2	-

5. EXTRA CARE HOUSING

- 5.1 As Cabinet will be aware, the Council is committed to developing modern fit for purpose accommodation to support older people with assessed needs and set out in September 2017 an ambitious programme to deliver 300 extra care apartments as part of its Strategy to modernise accommodation with care options for older people. An update on the programme is provided below is Table 6 below.

Table 6: Extra Care Housing Developments

Extra Care Housing Developments	No. of apartments	Comments
Danymynydd	60	Construction underway. Planned opening: towards the end of 2025

Maesyffynon	40	Scheme open
Mountain Ash	25	As part of proposed care accommodation development agreed by Cabinet in Feb 2023 - scheme design agreed for proposed site on land off Darren Road in Mountain Ash. Planned opening: Winter 2027
Ty Heulog	40	Scheme open
Cwrt Yr Orsaf	60	Scheme open
Treorchy	40	As part of proposed care accommodation development agreed by Cabinet in February 2023 - proposed development site has not progressed as expected – awaiting decision from Health regarding site availability.
Rhondda Fach	25	As part of proposed care accommodation development agreed by Cabinet in February 2023 – however an extra care offering as part of wider care accommodation development in the Rhondda Fach is considered not viable and sustainable by the housing partner. See Section 6 below for more details.
Total	290	

5.2 Extra care has been a successful and sought after development and is offering more choice to people who previously would have had to consider residential care placement to meet their needs. The future extra care facilities at Danymynydd and Mountain Ash will have a positive impact on care accommodation capacity in the future as will the planned new development in Treorchy when a suitable site becomes available as an alternative accommodation with care option for people.

5.3 As previously mentioned, there remains some spare capacity for residential care, and this is anticipated to increase when the planned extra care developments are available as an alternative accommodation with care option for people.

6. PREFERRED OPTIONS - FUTURE PROVISION FOR THE COUNCIL'S RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES

6.1 Having regard to the outcome of previous Cabinet decisions and the further updated supporting information included in this report, further recommendations relating to the future provision of residential care at Ferndale House and Cae Glas are proposed below.

- 6.2 It is important that the Council reviews its current residential care home provision to ensure it addresses the challenges accounted for in this report, including the greater demand for nursing and specialist care home placements as well as low occupancy, staffing absence, reduced demand, and ongoing over supply of residential care beds to meet current and future need in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Ferndale House Residential Care Home

- 6.3 In line with the Cabinet decision made in February 2023, the Council remains committed to developing new accommodation in the Rhondda Fach. It has become apparent however, following feedback from the Council's appointed Housing Partner, that an extra care offering as part of wider care accommodation development in the Rhondda Fach is simply not viable and sustainable. Work has been ongoing within Adult Services to assess the most appropriate accommodation in terms of need and demand which has concluded that a new residential dementia care home would be the most appropriate provision for the area.
- 6.4 This option has been explored further to determine deliverability with a site identified (former Chubb factory site in Ferndale) Whilst noting of course that it will remain for Cabinet to determine whether to progress, the care home design is established, and contracts authorised to ensure the groundwork required at the site has been able to proceed.
- 6.5 With regard to Ferndale House, it remains a poor physical environment with a problematic layout and does not provide residents with the high level and quality of accommodation which we would wish. This has doubtlessly contributed to the prolonged low resident numbers and levels of occupancy at one of the lowest across our care homes. Additionally, it is overspending its budget considerably and is not financially sustainable, adding significant cost pressures to Adult Services.
- 6.6 It is therefore proposed that the Council consults to permanently decommission Ferndale House in Ferndale in 2024/25, once suitable alternative accommodation is found for current residents in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs on a temporary basis until, subject to Cabinet approval, the new care home development at the former Chubb Factory site in Ferndale is available. All current residents of Ferndale House will be offered the option to move back to the new care home when it opens subject to their assessed need at that point. As a result, consideration will be given during the consultation period to any extended travel that families of current residents of Ferndale House may incur as a result of the decision to decommission the home prior to the availability of the new care home.

- 6.7 However, it is worth noting that only 39% of existing residents at Ferndale lived in Rhondda Fach prior to their admission and the remaining residents lived in other areas across the County Borough.
- 6.8 Decommissioning of Ferndale House, if agreed, would result in the loss of 26 residential care beds (16 general residential and 10 residential dementia beds, including 2 respite), which could be mitigated in the short term through the current reported residential vacancies of 95 (105 less the 10 reported vacancies at Ferndale House), pending development of the new care accommodation proposals, including new residential dementia care in Ferndale and extra care developments at Danymynydd in Porth and over the longer term, in Treorchy.

Cae Glas Residential Care Home

- 6.9 Occupancy levels at Cae Glas are primarily due to delays associated with refurbishment of a wing at the home (linked to closure of Garth Olwg in 2023) and staff shortages, including long-term absence of a Registered manager. As a result, Cae Glas is not reaching its full capacity and, like Ferndale House is significantly overspending in what continues to be a challenging financial climate.
- 6.10 It is proposed that Cabinet considers whether to consult on the permanent decommissioning of Cae Glas in Hawthorn in 2024/25, once suitable alternative placements are found for existing residents in a home of their choice which meets their assessed needs.
- 6.11 If agreed, decommissioning of Cae Glas, would result in the further loss of 39 residential dementia care beds – a total of 65 residential care beds (16 general residential and 49 residential dementia beds, including 5 respite), should the decommissioning of Ferndale house also be agreed. Whilst this could be mitigated in the short term through the current reported residential vacancies of 84 (105 less the 10 reported vacancies at Ferndale House and 11 reported vacancies Cae Glas), pending the previously mentioned new care accommodation developments.
- 6.12 Of the current reported residents at Cae Glas 70% lived in the Taf East Locality prior to their admission and the remaining residents lived in other areas across the County Borough.
- 6.13 Should the decommissioning of both Ferndale House and Cae Glas be agreed, and the 44 current residents transferred within Rhondda Cynon Taf this would reduce the number of residential care vacancies to 40, based on current reported occupancy.

6.14 Whilst the surplus capacity in the market is acknowledged there are some risks associated with the decommissioning of this larger care home resource at Cae Glas that include:

- The independent sector is currently operating at 95% capacity. Rhondda Cynon Taf has experienced 3 independent sector care home closures over the past three years but of note no new providers have moved into the area during this period either. Regulatory changes to the specification of a care home now create a barrier for the transfer of registration to a new owner and substantial capital is required for any new entrant into the local market to replace any further home closures that could arise. Due to the complexity of meeting the needs of people with dementia the risk of further closures in this category of care are greater for the local authority than those presented by the general residential care category. The decommissioning and deregistration of Cae Glas, can be mitigated in part by increasing the residential dementia capacity in the newly refurbished area of Parc Newydd care home in Talbot Green by 10 beds to flex permanent and respite capacity during the short term whilst awaiting the proposed Ferndale and Mountain Ash care accommodation developments to become operational.
- The sustained pressures on hospitals have meant adult services requires surge capacity arrangements to purchase interim placements in residential care homes to support people whilst the availability of their home care service is secured. Whilst this is unfunded, it is a necessary action to manage the overall pressures in the health and social care system as they escalate. Short term placements of this nature are unpopular with the independent sector as they offer no long-term funding commitment and accentuate the up-front costs associated with an admission. The Council's residential care home service is however able to be more flexible but as available beds reduce the opportunity to access surge capacity will be diminished. Purchasing this from the independent sector can be pursued with additional cost but the decommissioning of Cae Glas will impact on flexibility and available capacity.
- Adult Services have recently awarded new contracts to home care providers and whilst we are content with the outcome of the tender process the transfer period is always challenging due to the nature of the service and the numbers of people and staff affected and this time, we have to manage the transfer of the Council's in-house service which brings with it additional challenges. Whilst the transfer period will be completed by 1st October 2024, the home care service and its service users will take time to settle, and this may create further demand on our ability to manage our surge capacity going into the winter pressures.

- Increased complexity of care managed at home by primary carers has raised demand for respite care both for crisis intervention and planned / regular arrangements. Whilst admission periods vary, they are generally short term and independent providers are reluctant to accept the crisis admissions and will not accept planned respite bookings. Respite is a particular need for carers of people with dementia and therefore the permanent loss of the 4 respite beds at Cae Glas and Ferndale house will reduce the overall availability of respite care. This could be managed by negotiating respite capacity in the independent sector, but this would be at additional costs and will affect the overall capacity available for permanent residents. In addition, there is potential to designate one of the 10 planned new dementia residential beds at Parc Newydd for respite care.

6.15 It is acknowledged that the proposals to decommission Ferndale House and Cae Glas will cause anxiety for residents, families and staff and require sensitive support and prompt engagement and sharing of information as a priority. In addition, all residents at Ferndale House and Cae Glas if decommissioning is agreed following consultation, would be offered sensitive care and support arrangements to assist in their safe transfer to another care home of choice that would meet their needs.

6.16 In terms of the staff that will be impacted by a decision to proceed, the Council has long standing and agreed HR processes in place with our trade union colleagues that will be applied. These processes include options for voluntary early retirement (VER), Voluntary Redundancy (VR) and redeployment. As part of the redeployment stage this may also include the Council utilising the bump redundancy process which has previously been used to enhance redeployment opportunities.

6.17 Should Cabinet determine to initiate consultation on the proposals to decommission Ferndale House and/or Cae Glas it is recommended the Council restrict admissions to in-house residential care homes, other than in exceptional circumstances where an alternative placement that can meet the assessed need is not available. This is in order to minimise any potential impact on residents until such time as Cabinet considers the results of the proposed consultation exercise and any decision(s) it may take in relation to the proposals.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and the main findings are as follows:

- 7.1.1 If the proposal to de-commission the two care homes will result in disproportionate impacts on people who are older, have disabilities, are carers, women and staff on low income with regards to the people affected in the two care homes..
- 7.1.2 If Cabinet agrees to proceed with a period of engagement and consultation for the proposals the consultation programme will consider further detail with regards to the impact on people with protected characteristics and advise on any further actions required to mitigate in addition to those already considered which are summarised here.
- 7.1.3 For service users many of the mitigating actions to support the identified concerns will be addressed through an effective engagement programme that will focus primarily on
- Good quality and timely information and communications to make sure people are aware of how the process will affect them and when.
 - Specific consideration to carers, Veterans, unbefriended people and the most vulnerable (e.g., who lack capacity) and those with specific communication needs.
 - Individual consideration and support by skilled and experienced staff to ensure the onward care and support supports What matters to the individual service user and their families.
 - The co-ordination of the process according to an established home closure protocol.
- 7.1.4 For staff the mitigating actions to support identified concerns will be addressed through:
- The engagement and communication plan with staff to ensure good access to information and advice regarding their rights and entitlements, their options and the expected timescales of key events.
 - Access to wellbeing, cost of living etc. advice and support throughout the process.
 - The co-ordination of the process according to an established management of change process

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been completed and the main findings are as follows:

- 8.2 If Cabinet agrees to a period of consultation and engagement with service users, we will support the Welsh Language Standards in our approach to consultation particularly with regards to the principles of:
- All Communication and will be produced in both Welsh and English.
 - The Welsh Language will not be treated less favourably than the English Language in our Communication in terms of:
 - presentation, e.g. use of font, size, colour and format
 - position and prominence.
 - when and how material is published made available or exhibited.
 - Communication output in Welsh will be of an appropriate quality and standard.
- 8.3 There are currently no recorded staff or service users that have stated a preference to use Welsh in their communications with us or with regards to their care and support - there may of course be family members that will be involved with their loved ones during this process whose preference is currently unknown and we will ensure that we actively offer the opportunity to communicate with us in Welsh and keep this under review throughout.
- 8.4 ONLY If following a period of consultation and engagement the Cabinet agrees to decommission the care homes Service users will make their own choices regarding their onward residence. Our requirement would be that they chose a Regulated setting and this will ensure the provider is subject to (and inspected against) the statutory guidance that service providers deliver or work towards actively offering a service in the Welsh language to individuals whose first language is Welsh. This requirement is re-enforced in our contractual terms and conditions.
- 8.5 Where possible the council will actively promote services that have enhanced Welsh language services available.
- 8.6 ONLY If following a period of consultation and engagement The Cabinet agree to decommission the care homes staff will be subject to a management of change process. It is noted the staff have transferable skills in care and some have developed Welsh language skills. These skills and experience will be of interest to prospective employers in all care provider markets.
- 8.7 The management of change if required for staff would seek to support the staff with Welsh language skills to remain in the social care sector, Where redeployment opportunities are available in the Council the guaranteed interview scheme for Welsh speakers of L3 or above would apply where appropriate criteria for the opportunities are met.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 Subject to approval, it is proposed that formal consultation will take place over an 8-week period during October/November 2024. A single and independent consultation exercise will be carried out covering the homes which are the subject of recommendations set out in Section 2 of this report.
- 9.2 We will support individual residents and their families to understand and engage with the consultation process and the potential implications for them by offering face to face consultations, where requested, and by creating an information pack for residents to ensure the relevant information is presented in an accessible and clear format. We also propose engaging with the staff of each home as part of the consultation exercise to share their views on the proposals.
- 9.3 The report will be subject to pre-scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18th September 2024 and feedback will be presented to Cabinet.
- 9.4 Subject to this report being approved and the consultation exercise undertaken, it is anticipated that the consultation responses will be considered, and the Equality Impact Assessment updated. A further report will be presented to Cabinet regarding the proposed next steps.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 10.1 The total in house residential care service budget for 2024/25 totals £9.237M - a breakdown of the budget allocation for each Council care home and management for 2024/25 is summarised below:

Care Home	Expenditure 2024/25	Income 2024/25	Net Budget 2024/25
Clydach Court	2,001,650	405,680	1,595,970
Ferndale House	1,503,670	342,060	1,161,610
Pentre House	1,136,780	307,100	829,680
Tegfan	2,130,770	601,040	1,529,730
Troedyrhiw	1,385,830	342,290	1,043,540
Cae Glas	2,095,320	476,510	1,618,810
Parc Newydd	1,305,320	433,190	872,130
Management	586,510	-	586,510
Residential Total	12,145,850	2,907,870	9,237,980

- 10.2 In 2023/24, the Council's residential care home service significantly overspent, attributable mainly to under achievement of income due to low occupancy levels – this is likely to continue in 2024/25 and the proposals set out in Section 6 above would provide more cost-effective solutions to the current arrangements and reduce cost pressures.
- 10.3 The direct (gross) cost per average occupied bed in 2023/24 for each of the Council's residential care homes is shown below.

Care Home	Registration	Direct (gross) cost per average occupied bed in 2023/24
Clydach Court	Residential Dementia only	£1,767
Ferndale House	Residential and Residential Dementia	£2,105
Pentre House	Residential only	£1,607
Tegfan	Residential and Residential Dementia	£1,525
Troedyrhiw	Residential and Residential Dementia	£1,222
Cae Glas	Residential Dementia only	£2,006
Parc Newydd	Residential only	£1,215

- 10.4 The unit cost is significantly higher for Ferndale House and Cae Glas compared to the other Council care homes and was significantly higher than the weekly fee paid to the independent sector in 2023/24 of £772 and £818 for residential and residential dementia care home placements respectively.
- 10.5 Subject to the agreement of the recommendations in Section 2 above, the proposals would provide more cost-effective solutions to the current arrangements and generate estimated revenue savings in a full year, dependent on the individual transfer outcome of existing residents of £2M.
- 10.6 The financial impact of the proposals will be further modelled alongside the consultation and decision-making process.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 11.1 The Council's residential care service is provided as part of the Councils service provision to meet assessed needs under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, but the direct provision of residential care it is not a specific statutory requirement.

- 11.2 The Care and Support (Choice of Accommodation) (Wales) Regulations 2015 set out the Local Authorities' Legal responsibilities associated with enabling a person to express preference for a particular care home. The Regulations include requirements around criteria and circumstances where choice must be offered, the conditions to be met, additional costs payments, and refusal to provide preferred care home. The proposed closures would not prevent the Council's meeting its obligations under these Regulations.
- 11.3 Further guidance relating to choice of accommodation is set out in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 Part 4 and 5 Code of Practice (Charging and Financial Assessment) The proposed closures would not prevent the Council's meeting its obligations under this code of practice.
- 11.4 Subject to the agreement of the recommendations in Section 2 above, all existing service users will continue to be offered support on an individual basis to transfer to another care home setting that can meet their needs within an appropriate category of care in line with our statutory obligations.
- 11.5 Any workforce implications arising from the proposals will be the subject of further reports on the conclusion of any consultation. Staff will be included in the consultation and separate engagement with, and support for, all staff of the Council's residential care homes that are the subject of the proposals in this report will be carried out as part of any consultation exercise.

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

- 12.1 The proposals in this report align the Council's new corporate well-being objectives outlined in Working with Our Communities and in particular the people and Communities objective. Subject to approval, they will allow the Council to meet the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. They meet the needs of an ageing population, are more sustainable and support achievement of a healthier Wales and more equal Wales wellbeing goals and five ways of working.

13. ELECTORAL WARDS AFFECTED

- 13.1 Whilst the proposals set out in Section 2 of this report will affect people across multiple wards, the two care homes recommended for decommissioning are located in the Ferndale and Maerdy ward and the Hawthorn and lower Rhydyfelin ward.

14. CONCLUSIONS

- 14.1 It is important that the Council reviews its adult social care provision to ensure its current care and support offer continues to meet assessed need whilst addressing ongoing challenges resulting from increased demand and budget pressures.
- 14.2 Through the implementation of the recommended proposals in Section 2 above, adult social care will continue to meet assessed need through alternative care and support arrangements, whilst providing more efficient and effective service delivery to contribute to the Council's budget strategy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

19TH SEPTEMBER 2024

RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION
WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

Author: Sian Nowell, Director of Adult Services

Background Papers

Cabinet reports: [September 2017](#); [November 2019](#); [December 2020](#); [July 2022](#) and [February 2023](#).

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