

Dewch i
siarad RhCT
Let's talk
RCT

HAVE YOUR SAY!

on the

Review of Residential Care for Older People

The Consultation **STARTS** on:

1ST OCTOBER 2024

and will **CLOSE** at 5pm on:

30TH NOVEMBER 2024



For further information and to complete the survey please scan the QR code or visit:

www.rctcbc.gov.uk/consultation

where you can find out the detail of the proposals

If you require further information or a hard copy of the survey please get in touch via:

☎ **01443 425014** ✉ **residentialcare@rctcbc.gov.uk**

✉ **FREEPOST RUGK-EZZL-ELBH**
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AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGES OR FORMATS ON REQUEST
Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.

If you require our advocacy service please let us know.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

INTRODUCTION

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council is reviewing its adult social care provision to ensure it continues to meet the needs of all its residents, while addressing the operational and financial challenges it faces, including an increased demand on services and reduced funding.

In September 2024, the Council provided an update report on the Council's plans for accommodation with care and outlined proposals to support anticipated future changes in the needs of the population, with the view to develop more cost-effective accommodation with care solutions.

The proposals were considered by the Council's Cabinet and it was agreed that a public consultation on recommended options for the Council's Residential Care Homes should be carried out during the period **1st October 2024 to 30th November 2024**.

The details of the recommended options considered by Cabinet for the Council's Residential Care Homes are outlined within this booklet.

The Council invites you to submit your views and make any comments that you may have on the recommended options, as well as to provide any alternative options or changes you wish to be considered.

Please take this opportunity to have your say!



To complete the questionnaire online please scan the QR code
or visit www.rctcbc.gov.uk/consultation

BACKGROUND

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, requires local authorities to ensure that there are sufficient, quality services available in Rhondda Cynon Taf to support the range of population needs and that these services are sustainable. Rhondda Cynon Taf Council continually reviews its adult social care provision to make sure it remains fit for purpose.

Modernising and improving adult social care services is a key priority for Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and it has transformed the way in which it delivers adult social care over the last few years, to provide more options for people to be independent and to remain in their own homes for longer.

In February 2023, Cabinet agreed the future provision of accommodation with care for older people. For residential care homes the table shows a summary of the Cabinet decisions in February 2023 and, where applicable, includes a brief update on the current position of each care 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 Council's housing partner. Therefore, the option is to develop the former Chubb Factory site for residential dementia only.
Pentre House	Retain	
Ystrad Fechan	Build new care accommodation in Treorchy: 40 extra care & 20 residential dementia care beds. Permanently close the home.	Ystrad Fechan closed. Proposed development site for new care accommodation has not yet progressed – awaiting final 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 off Darren Road in Mountain Ash. Full Planning application agreed.
Cae Glas	Retain	
Garth Olwg	Redevelop for learning disability care accommodation. Close Garth Olwg	Garth Olwg has closed, and demolition has begun. Scheme proposal in development – seeking expressions of interest from a Registered Social Landlord.
Parc Newydd	Retain	Refurbishment of a 10 bed unit suitable for residential dementia has been completed.

CURRENT POSITION

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.

As of 9th August 2024, the Council’s residential care homes were supporting 156 permanently occupied beds.

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 is the main reason for the continued low occupancy and the surplus of residential beds.

Care Home	Number 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%

Over recent years, further analysis shows that the number of residents in care homes 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 a 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%

Lower levels of demand for general residential care are expected to continue alongside higher demand for other care need categories, in particular dementia.

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.

EXTRA CARE HOUSING

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:

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 February 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 Council’s housing partner.
TOTAL	290	

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.

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS

Following the further review of the Council's residential care homes for older people, further recommendations relating to the future provision of residential care at Ferndale House and Cae Glas are proposed below.

The options Cabinet have determined to consult upon are:

PROPOSAL 1:

1 Permanently decommission (close) Ferndale House in Ferndale in 2024/25

The proposed decommissioning (closure) of Ferndale House, if agreed would mean the loss of 26 residential care beds, this includes, 16 general residential and 10 residential dementia beds.

In September, the Council's Cabinet also agreed to develop a new 32 bed residential dementia care home on the former Chubb Factory site in Ferndale. Site preparation works are already underway and designs have been agreed for the development.

Those affected in the short term would be accommodated within our current in-house homes or in other independent homes on a temporary basis until the new care home development at the former Chubb Factory site in Ferndale is available. This will depend on the needs and choice of the residents and their families.

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, the Council will consider any extended travel that families of current residents of Ferndale House may incur as a result of the decision to close the home, prior to the availability of the new care home.

Ferndale House has 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 contributed to the low resident numbers and levels of occupancy. In addition, the current Council net budget (level of subsidy) for Ferndale House is £1.16M per annum, which adds significant additional cost pressures to the Council. This is not sustainable, particularly at a time when there is an over supply of residential care beds across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

PROPOSAL 2:**2 Permanently decommission (close)
Cae Glas in Hawthorn in 2024/25**

The proposed decommissioning (closure) of Cae Glas, if agreed this would mean the loss of 39 residential dementia care beds.

Those affected would be accommodated within our current in-house homes or in other independent homes, depending on the needs and choice of the residents and their Families.

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.

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 and no new providers have moved into the area since.

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 provide permanent and respite capacity in the short term whilst awaiting the start of the proposed Ferndale and Mountain Ash care accommodation developments. Tegfan care home in Aberdare is in the process of transitioning to a dementia residential only home to provide 46 beds.

In addition, the current Council net budget (level of subsidy) for Cae Glas is £1.61M per annum, which overspends annually adding significant additional cost pressures to the Council. This is not sustainable, particularly at a time when there is an over supply of residential care beds across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

OVERALL

If the Council decides to close both Ferndale House and Cae Glas, the 44 current residents would be transferred within Rhondda Cynon Taf, which would reduce the number of residential care vacancies to 40, based on current reported occupancy.

The Council understands that the proposals to close Ferndale House and Cae Glas will cause anxiety for residents, families and staff. We are aware that sensitive support and prompt engagement is required and the sharing of information is a priority. All residents at Ferndale House and Cae Glas (if decommissioning/closure is agreed following consultation), would be offered bespoke care and support arrangements to assist them in their safe transfer to another care home of choice that would meet their needs.

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. There will be no compulsory redundancies.

The Council determined to initiate a programme of consultation on the proposals to decommission/close Ferndale House and/or Cae Glas and, as a result, has agreed to 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 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.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

It must be stressed that NO DECISIONS have yet been taken other than to begin a consultation.

The consultation runs for **8 weeks**, so there is plenty of time for people to have their say. Those directly affected, their carers and families will be offered support to make sure that they have the opportunity to know what the proposals are about and have the chance to comment on them.

All views will be taken into account before a report goes back to the Council's Cabinet for a final decision to be made.