



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2017/18**

**HEALTH & WELLBEING SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

20TH FEBRUARY 2018

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Agenda Item No: 2

**REPORT OF THE CABINET
MEMBER FOR ADULT AND
CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY
SERVICES, COUNCILLOR G.
HOPKINS, IN DISCUSSION WITH
THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL
SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the progress made in advancing the portfolio responsibilities of the Cabinet Member.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members note and scrutinise the content of the report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To challenge any arising matters or issues with the relevant Cabinet Member and to ensure that the appropriate mechanisms are in place to effectively scrutinise the Executive.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On the 22nd January, 2018, the [Overview & Scrutiny Committee](#) considered a report regarding the engagement of the Executive at future scrutiny Committees going forward.

- 4.2 At the meeting Members agreed to receive Cabinet Members at future Scrutiny meetings on a quarterly basis to present relevant information relating to their portfolio areas, alongside the relevant Director.
- 4.3 Such an approach will provide Scrutiny Members with the opportunity to further challenge the Executive as the Cabinet Members can provide details (both verbal and written at the meeting) relating to the potential challenges facing the services, opportunities and policy changes currently being considered. This approach would allow each Cabinet Member the opportunity to update Scrutiny Members on the delivery of their respective areas of the Corporate Plan, reference Key Performance Indicators and important details of policies being considered for future decisions, which are referenced for future business, or those which have been developed since the last publicised Work Programme

5.0 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A total of 8 Indicators fall under the remit of the portfolio. As of Quarter 2, two of the Indicators are performing above target, two are within 5% of their target; two are performing below the annual target, and the final two do not have a target.

It is proposed that the performance data section of future engagement reports will be enhanced to include further content and context around applicable performance information to support these sessions. This will improve the involvement of all members in the performance monitoring of key services.

5.1 Performing Above Target

The rate of delayed transfers of care for social care reasons per 1,000 population aged 75 or over (All people 75+) – Wales average for this Indicator will be available later in the year. Improvements in social work assessment timescales and arranging care placements, together with the commencement of Stay Well @ Home initiative have already started to show a positive impact in this area, with the actual rate at 4.10 against the target of 4.50.

Average no. of calendar days taken to deliver a DFG – Performance comfortably exceeds target (Actual 240 days against target of 280 days).

5.2 Performing Within 5% of Target

% of adults who completed a period of reablement & have no package of care & support 6 months later - Reablement and intermediate care continues to be key strand of our early intervention and prevention

approach. Our performance continues to be good at over 70%, albeit slightly below target at present.

Proportion of people assessed by adult social care in receipt of care and support plan - Reasons for the slight increase in the proportion of people assessed and requiring ongoing care and support are being investigated and performance monitored.

5.3 **Performing Below Target**

% of clients choosing their own service providers through Direct Payments - The number of people in receipt of a direct payment fell from 442 to 339 during the Quarter due to changes in assessed need. Work is ongoing to better understand the reasons behind this and formulate the appropriate action plan.

The average length of time older people (aged 65 or over) are supported in residential care homes - Below target for Quarter 2. Reason for the increase in average length of stay is uncertain as it is influenced by a number of factors outside of the control of the Council. Performance in this area will continue to be monitored going forward.

5.4 **No Annual Target**

% of adults who completed a period of reablement & have a reduced package of care & support 6 months later – Baseline year for this Indicator, although the Welsh average will be available at a later date.

No. of people admitted to residential or nursing care – this Indicator will be reported against the target at the end of the financial year.

6.0 **WINTER PRESSURES**

Due to an increase in people needing health care services over recent weeks, significant pressures are being placed on the health care system across Cwm Taf, relating in particular to staffing and bed capacity issues at both District General Hospitals and Community Health facilities. This has resulted in the Cwm Taf UHB enacting “Gold Command” on Monday 5th February 2018, in line with its agreed Winter Planning and Preparedness Plan, and a Strategic Planning Group of Senior Officers established to oversee and manage resources in order to restore sustainable operational flow across the whole Health and Social Care system.

The Council is working closely with the Health Board to ensure that discharges are expedited safety from hospital, whilst still ensuring that we continue to respond to the needs of those individuals in the community.

7.0 EXTRA CARE HOUSING

The decision to invest approximately £50m in transforming the provision of social care in Rhondda Cynon Taf reflects the increasing pressures brought about by a longer living and more independent population, and also conforms to the legislative requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 by offering more choice and independence to service users.

Progress continues to be made on the delivery of this commitment, which remains on target, with planning permission recently granted to commence construction of a 40 bed extra care scheme on the former Maesyffynnon Care Home site in Aberaman.

Work is continuing with Linc Cymru Housing, the Council's extra care development partner, to develop the appropriate business cases and work programmes to take the agreed extra care strategy forward.

It is intended that Extra Care facilities can offer wider benefits to other health and social care services by using apartments for intermediate care accommodation in facilitating hospital discharges or avoiding emergency admissions. This is already being trialled at the Ty Heulog facility in Talbot Green.

8.0 STAY WELL @ HOME SERVICES

The Stay Well @ Home Service, developed in partnership with Cwm Taf University Health Board (UHB) and Merthyr Tydfil Council, and funded through the Welsh Government's Intermediate Care Fund, commenced in April 2017

This new integrated Health and Social Care Service operates at both Prince Charles and the Royal Glamorgan acute hospital sites in A&E and on wards from 8.00 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week to minimise hospital admissions and facilitate timely discharges.

Initial performance is very positive, evidencing that the new service is having a significant impact on reducing hospital admissions and the length of stay at both hospital sites, as evidenced in 5.1 above.

9.0 RESIDENTIAL CARE

Monthly performance monitoring reviews continue to be undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the new residential care service.

Rhondda Cynon Taf has traditionally placed a greater proportion of people aged 65 or over in residential care than any other Welsh Local Authority, and consequently spends a higher proportion of its budget on residential care than on domiciliary and extra care housing.

However, in recent years the Council has focused on supporting more people to live independently in the community and ensure that residential care options are only used for those people who cannot be effectively supported in their own home. As a consequence the number placed in residential care has reduced by approximately 13% over the past three years. The opening of the Council's first extra care housing scheme (Ty Heulog) in Talbot Green in 2016/17 also contributed positively to this shift in performance.

Implementation of the Council's commitment to deliver more Extra Care housing is expected to result in further reductions in care home admissions. This will require existing residential (and day services) for older people to be reviewed as agreed by Cabinet In September 2017. The review is underway and the findings will be reported back to Cabinet later this year.

In 2017, the Council has maintained Dementia Care Matters "Butterfly Status" in two of its Dementia Specialist Care Homes: Clydach Court and Dan-Y-Mynydd Care Home. Within these homes a range of techniques are used to suit the individual resident, and communicate via imagery, music, verbal conversations, touch, and memory boxes.

10.0 HOME CARE SERVICES

There is an increasing demand for home care as we support more people to live at home, and securing the right capacity in some areas of the county at "peak call" times within the homecare market remains a challenge (as is the case in the rest of Wales). On occasion, this has resulted in a number of performance and quality of care issues.

We are actively supporting and working with external homecare providers to build capacity and resilience to improve the stability of the market and ensure that we can meet the demand and ensure good quality care to all individuals at all times. Additional support is provided by the Council's in-house service as a short-term measure if there is a lack of capacity in the independent sector.

Recruitment and retention issues in the care profession, and in particular homecare, is also a challenge and the Council is working with Regional Health and Social Care partner agencies in 2018 to develop and launch a major workforce programme for the care sector to positively promote the opportunity to work in care, linked to career pathways and fair terms and conditions.

11.0 DAY SERVICES

11.1 ST. MAIR'S COMMUNITY HUB PROPOSALS

In line with the recommendations made to the Cabinet in September 2017, a letter was sent in support of Age Connects Morgannwg's application for the award of a Big Lottery CAT 2 Fund Capital and Revenue Grant, totalling £1.1 million.

A decision is expected shortly on the status of this bid, and, providing that the application is successful, then the Council will proceed with plans to engage in a 99 year leasehold transfer of the facility to ACM.

The progression of the community hubs model represents a key priority for the Council, as an innovative means of increasing the efficiency of service provision and the creation of focal points within local communities that act as a facilitator for social interaction by encouraging integration and tackling isolation across all ages.

8.2 MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE

The Cabinet recently approved changes to the Meals on Wheels service that will deliver an estimated efficiency saving of £258,000 per annum, at the expense of a one-off capital cost of £180,000.

Whilst the current Community Meals Service will remain, operational changes were agreed by the Cabinet, such as the change of preserving weekend meals from a "blast chilled" to a "frozen" method. The frozen method has been used previously with no negative feedback from service users.

12.0 LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES

12.1 REGIONAL STATEMENT OF STRATEGIC INTENT FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council has collaborated with our partner agencies – Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Cwm Taf UHB – to develop a Joint Statement of Strategic Intent for Children, Young People, and Adults with Learning Disabilities. This Statement outlines the shared commitment to deliver a new model for health and social services, centred around an emphasis on early intervention and prevention to build and develop the independence of individuals. This statement was approved by Cabinet in November 2017.

13.0 CONCLUSION

The Council is responding to the challenges presented by health and social care issues across the County Borough, with the promotion of independence and well-being continuing to be at the forefront of considerations.

The performance of social services in RCT is continuing to improve, although some areas of service provision require further attention, and the Council is continuing to work with partners to provide solutions in these areas.

Progressing the delivery of further Extra Care facilities across the County Borough represents a step toward the remodelling of adult social care services that shifts the emphasis towards minimising intervention and promoting independence for an increasingly aging population.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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