



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Tuesday,
1 December 2020 at 5.00 pm.

County Borough Councillors - Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor M Adams (Chair)

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| Councillor W Lewis | Councillor J Bonetto |
| Councillor P Jarman | Councillor H Boggis |
| Councillor J Brencher | Councillor E Stephens |
| Councillor L Walker | Councillor G Caple |
| Councillor M Griffiths | Councillor W Jones |
| Councillor A Cox | Councillor G Hughes |
| Councillor M Forey | |

Cabinet Member in attendance

County Borough Councillor G Hopkins, Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Members

County Borough Councillor R Yeo, Chair
County Borough Councillor G Stacey
County Borough Councillor A Roberts

Officers in attendance

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Mr Gio Isingrini, Group Director Community & Children's Services

Mr Neil Elliott, Director Adult Services

Older People's Advisory Board (OPAG)

Ms A Tritchler (Chair of OPAG)
Ms L Corre (Secretary of OPAG)

4 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee welcomed members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as well as members of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

He welcomed representatives of the Older Persons Advisory Group, Ms A Tritchler (Chair of OPAG) and Ms L Corre (Secretary of OPAG) as well as the Cabinet Member for Adult Community Services & Welsh Language.

5 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interests were made pertaining to the agenda:-

- County Borough Councillor W Lewis – “I worked on the Extra Care Provision in Ty Heulog”
- County Borough Councillor J Brencher – “I am a ward member where the Extra Care provision is being developed in the Graig”
- County Borough Councillor S Evans – “I am a ward member where the Extra Care provision Maes Y Ffynnon is located”
- County Borough Councillor A Cox – “Dan Y Mynydd is situated just outside my ward”
- County Borough Councillor G Caple – “Dan Y Mynydd is within the Cymmer ward and Bronwydd House is in the Porth Ward”

6 Pre Scrutiny - Modernisation of the Council's Residential Care Home Services for Older People

The Service Director Democratic Services & Communications advised that the purpose of the report is to provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to consider the outcome of the consultation on the preferred options for the future of the Council's eleven residential care homes for older people and to pre-scrutinise the recommendations to be considered by Cabinet on December 3rd 2020.

He added that members of this committee have had opportunities to contribute to these discussions throughout the process during previous consultations both in 2018 and 2019 on the future direction of the Council's Residential Care Home Services for Older People. The Service Director alluded to the presence of the Group Director Community & Children's Services and the Director of Adult Services at the meeting to answer any queries.

The Group Director Community & Children's Services referred to the report which requests that Cabinet considers the outcome of the consultation on the preferred options for the future of the Council's eleven residential care homes for older people and to make further recommendations that, if agreed, will increase the number of retained Council residential care homes to **nine**, including Garth Olwg and Ystradfechan and redevelop Danymynydd and Bronllwyn to meet identified need for additional accommodation with care and support, including extra care housing. It was confirmed that a further report will be presented in due course which will set out the refurbishment requirements for those facilities. The Group Director also acknowledged the opportunity for scrutiny to respond to the outcomes of the consultation in advance of Cabinet considering the recommendations.

Following his presentation of the report the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and the Welsh Language advised that he was in attendance to listen to the comments of scrutiny and reflect on their feedback in advance of the Cabinet meeting on the 3rd December.

Both Ms Tritschler and Ms Corre from the Older People's Advisory Group (OPAG) were provided the opportunity to address Committee with a number of comments such as how can the provision of learning disability/autism day services and older people day services currently being delivered at these sites

continue and how to distinguish between complex and standard needs?

They acknowledged the hard work that had been invested into the consultation processes and reports to date and eagerly anticipated the development of the Extra Care Housing in Pontypridd.

In response to the queries regarding day services at Danymynydd and Bronllwyn and as set out within the report it was confirmed that the redevelopment of both sites would require the re-provision of learning disability/autism day services and older people day services currently being delivered at these sites respectively and the Cabinet would receive further reports setting out proposals for revised day service offers as reflected in the recommendations.

Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and raise queries as follows:-.

A Member asked whether the proposed Extra Care developments in Bronwydd House and Mountain Ash were part of the forward planning on the Council's agenda and a query was also raised in respect of the date on the plans within the appendices attached to the report showing February 2020 and whether the failure to develop Bronwydd House had determined the future of Bronllwyn. Both the Group Director and Director of Adult Services responded to the query and explained that initially a number of sites were identified in 2017 looking at facilities near town centres although other options were also to be considered based on costing models. Danymynydd had presented the Council with the opportunity to create a facility in the Porth area and a more appropriate site to develop than Bronwydd House.

The Director of Adult Services confirmed that a response regarding the date on the afore-mentioned plans would be provided to the committee member.

In response to the query as to whether the proposals, from a financial and human resources perspective are sustainable and are viable options for the future, the Group Director confirmed that the schemes are sustainable from a financial perspective and should the recommendations be agreed by Cabinet, the council would provide the care and support on site.

In respect of whether the 203 care home vacancies is a realistic number or due to family not wanting elderly relatives going into care due to Covid-19, the Group Director Community & Children's Services advised that although Covid-19 has impacted on the vacancy numbers, the trend has shown a significant number of vacancies across homes for some time so there is value in focussing on complex care, developing the Extra Care model as an alternative and making better use of the independent sector where needed.

The Group Director suggested that in terms of lowering the age limit for those with complex needs, the facilities are considered more of a provision for older people and reflect the needs of older people although there does now exist a greater flexibility with admissions to homes particularly with the Extra Care model.

The Group Director confirmed that management of the market is a regional requirement so have been working with Cwm Taf colleagues to identify where the needs are. There is a Regional Market Position Statement and a Commissioning Plan is being developed that will identify risk areas such as

those that require nursing care with dementia care which the council is unable to provide so private care colleagues are encouraged to undertake this area of care. He assured committee that the council has a good relationship with external providers to ensure the fees are reasonable and fair. The Group Director confirmed that the staffing needs for Danymynydd will be managed internally and there are already staff available and in place to transfer.

The Director of Adult Services added that the fee models are being reviewed for next year and information is being circulated to providers. Discussions are underway with Welsh Government around the provision of a Hardship Fund to support Care Homes and other providers with additional payments during the pandemic which will support staff and fund facilities. The Director confirmed that an additional £3.5m had been provided to Care Home Providers since March 2020 as a result of the Hardship Fund which provides some sustainability.

The Group Director confirmed that with the larger Extra Care facilities such as Pontypridd and Porth, the Council will be responsible for the staffing whereas in other smaller facilities, domiciliary providers would be brought in. In Maesyffynon the Council has a partnership with a Provider. The Council remain the commissioners so it has ultimate responsibility whilst ensuring a strong local authority presence in council run facilities.

The Director of Adult Services advised that the Pontypridd scheme has a dedicated Day Centre within the facility for which the Council has 100% nomination rights. The Extra Care also has the ability to integrate with the local community day schemes. Housing providers and care staff will be encouraged to support functions and activities for those living within the scheme and the local community. He added that the council is responsible for contract monitoring which is important for the quality of services provided but the Director also referred to the Council's Regional Development Workforce Unit which provides training for the independent sector and in some cases training alongside council staff and learning shared across providers. Good practice and learning is shared across all sectors.

A response was provided to a query regarding the provision at Bronllwyn and how it differs from that which was previously available.

Many members of the committee praised the report and acknowledged that the proposals are adaptable solutions to a growing aged population. Particularly as the Extra Care provision accommodates couples and can adapt to their needs as they grow older. Members also praised the consultation process which had listened to the wishes and needs of local residents and considered the forecasted challenges.

A member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee stated that she had voted in favour of the lost motion on the 22nd July 2019 "...that Cabinet retains the present level of residential care provision" At the time the Cabinet's preferred choice was to retain 7 and decommission four others, today the committee is scrutinising retaining 9 homes which demonstrates the public spirit dominating the agenda, making the case for their retention. The Member added that the change in position will never be realised if the funding is not available to deliver it.

In conclusion, the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was afforded the opportunity to comment on the proposals and recommendations

and did so by welcoming the comprehensive report which promotes independent living at home for residents so that more complex needs can be catered for. He also acknowledged the value and depth of the consultation process which had resulted in a set of worthy proposals.

Following consideration of the recommendations it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Acknowledge the opportunity to undertake pre scrutiny on the contents contained within the attached Cabinet Report, prior to consideration by the Cabinet;
2. Request the Service Director – Democratic Services & Communications to facilitate the feedback of the comments, observations and/or recommendations of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to the meeting of the Cabinet scheduled to consider this matter on the 3rd December 2020; and
3. Continue to receive regular progress updates in relation to this matter and where required provide feedback to the Cabinet to ensure that Scrutiny continues to contribute to these proposals.

This meeting closed at 6.20 pm

**Cllr M Adams
Chairman**