



Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Response by the Portfolio Holder:

1. **An updated position statement on the provision and operation of Day Centres in Powys;**

Day centres and day services remain closed up to 12th February 2022. This acknowledges the inability of opening up day settings to previous levels during the pandemic. Considering the various dynamic factors that must be considered (e.g. case rates in Powys; staffing sufficiency; Welsh Government and Public Health Wales guidance), this position is being reviewed on a monthly basis. More detail behind this position can be found in the most recent portfolio holder report below.

[Agenda for Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Welsh Language on Tuesday, 3rd August, 2021 Cyngor Sir Powys County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Many of our staff who were working in these settings are not in a position to return to their substantive roles, due to not being able to deliver care/support within 2 metres. We have and are continuing to do all we can to support these individuals back to work, but we must abide by occupational health advice and Welsh Government workforce risk assessment outcomes. Other staff have been redeployed to what we call our business critical activities such as domiciliary care, supporting care homes, home based respite and the Council's COVID-19 track and trace team. Ultimately, this means that at the moment, we do not have the same levels of staff provision (both in terms of premises and transport) that we had for day care settings compared to pre-pandemic.

It should also be noted that we are also supporting PTHB to undertake critical population health tasks to keep people safe and well during the pandemic. This means that some of our day centre buildings have been used for vaccination and community testing clinics.

2. **a copy of the most recent risk assessment and Equality Impact Assessment undertaken in relation to the continued closure of our Day Centres;**

A copy of the most recent risk assessment can be found in p10-18 of the portfolio holder report as mentioned in Q1 above. An equality impact assessment was not undertaken at the point that our day centres were closed as the closure was as a response to the service moving into business continuity measures on the 16th March 2020. The formal guidance from the UK and Welsh Government at this point with regards to a national lockdown was clear, with the public only

being allowed to leave their house once per day for exercise/grocery shopping. Our rapid impact assessment at the time was that such a closure was needed and indeed mandated by Welsh Government to protect our residents.

3. evidence about the assessment and consideration given to the continued closure on the wellbeing of service users and their carers

What matters conversations have been had with those residents that were attending day centres prior to the pandemic. We know that being connected to your community and having opportunities to socialise contribute greatly to wellbeing and this is a theme that has emerged through our conversations.

As a service, we have wherever possible deployed staff to an outreach model and in October 2020, this progressed to a planned service for people with disabilities. As part of our ongoing commitment to learning and improvement, we contacted people who were receiving this outreach to find out more about their experiences. The responses provide further intelligence on what good quality day opportunities should look like. All the respondents were happy with the Outreach support being provided and complimentary about the staff providing the support. Overwhelmingly, respondents were happy to have the opportunity to get back out in the community, doing some of the things that they like to do. The responses to our conversations with both older people and people with disabilities have revealed different views on the effect of day centre and service closures. Some have found other ways to spend their time, and are not planning on returning to these centres, whereas others miss the day centre environment. This in many ways is to be expected considering that each person has their own unique views as to what makes for meaningful ways to spend their time during the day. Our Shared Lives service is also developing sessional support which can provide further opportunities for people.

The ongoing task for Adult Services is to work in partnership with residents, and in partnership with other organisations to replicate, and enhance the positive outcomes gained from attending day centres/services through focussing on other assets and opportunities in the wider community. A recent example of this is the work that Credu have undertaken in Ystradgynlais, facilitated by NESTA. We are one of three Welsh Authorities who are being supported by NESTA as part of their community action work. The work to date has seen carers, those who draw upon care and support, PTHB, PCC and the local third sector come together to determine new day opportunities for the area. Already this has resulted in a self-organised community walking group, and the rejuvenation of the community garden in Ystradgynlais community hospital.

We would encourage anyone who feels they may need more support to contact their allocated worker in the service, or if not already known to us, our information and advice service, Assist. By listening and understanding what matters to our residents, we will work in partnership with others to link our residents into other opportunities.

4. a road map for the safe re-opening of Day Centres.

Welsh Government have provided Local Authorities with an Adult day activities (social care) action card. The guidance is designed to help minimise the risk of coronavirus in adult day activities. Any re-opening of day centre provision will need to consider the below, in addition to a revisiting of the risk assessment as seen in the most recent portfolio holder report.

[Adult day activities \(social care\): potential reasonable measures action card \(coronavirus\) \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)