



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

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Response by the Portfolio Holder:

Advice and evidence portfolio holder considered in making the decision to continue with the closure of Day Centres in Powys

The previous portfolio holder decision determined that day services in Powys remain closed until February 12th 2022. A detailed risk assessment could be found in that report.

The most recent portfolio holder determination to maintain closure was reached with reference to the following considerations:

- The County, and Adults Services has had to contend with the newer Omicron variant. At the time of the report, Powys was experiencing the highest COVID infection rates since the beginning of the pandemic. More detailed incidence rates can be found in the most recent portfolio holder report.
- The variant has resulted in increased staffing absences across the service, and in particular provider services. In addition, staff who were formerly shielding have been contacted by Welsh Government and instructed to stay 2 metres, or three steps away from people they don't live with. Whilst Adult Services remains in business continuity, it has to focus its efforts on maintaining mission critical activities. You may recall that other staff have been redeployed to domiciliary care, supporting care homes, home based respite and the Council's COVID-19 track and trace team. It is not possible at this point in time, to move a depleted staffing resource away from these mission critical activities back to day centres in a safe way.
- It should also be noted that we have also been 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.

Consideration as to the wellbeing impacts of the continued closure on service users and their carers

Wellbeing of people who draw upon care and support, as well as carers is of paramount importance for the service. That's why we must be assured that if day centres are to re-open they must be able to do so in a safe way. This means not placing residents or staff in a position that makes them more vulnerable than usual to contracting Coronavirus. Whilst the decision to maintain closure of day centres is clearly disappointing for some, we have continued to deliver an outreach service to those that would benefit from it, as well as working in partnership with others to find other meaningful day opportunities for individuals. We have also recently invested

further in our Shared Lives model in the County so that we are in a position to expand sessional support opportunities.

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.

Plan to safely re-open our Day Centres; and a commitment to reviewing the situation every 30 days

Adult Services understands and wants to do all it can to promote meaningful day opportunities for older adults in Powys. Safe and effective day care provision is part of this. From the start of the pandemic, our decisions around day centres have been informed by Welsh Government guidance. This guidance is fluid. For example, on the 28th January 2022 for example, the First Minister announced that Welsh Government will be completing their plan to move to alert zero. This means that the two metre social distancing rule will no longer apply to premises open to the public and workplaces. We will be reviewing our decision on a monthly basis as before, with reference to latest Welsh Government guidance and staffing capacity.