

## **Health Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee**

### **Scrutiny Observations to Cabinet – Daytime Activities for Older People**

The Health Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee met on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 and considered the following document:

- Update: Review of Day Time Activities for Older People (including Day Centres) – version provided on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Committee thank the Head of Adult Services Transformation and the Senior Manager Social Care Provision for attending the meeting to provide an update and answer questions from Members.

#### **Observations**

The report is one of the new four page reports which have been adopted for Cabinet but scrutiny found it was necessary for some verbal explanation to be provided in order for the report to be fully understood. This information included that the 2016 Cabinet decision to reinvest £1.1million in the service resulted from a proposal to cut the funding from £1.6million to £300k but, that whilst this had been consulted on, it had become apparent that alternative provision for those clients attending day centres would cost in the region of £800k thereby not achieving the savings expected.

In 2016 when Cabinet took the decision to reinvest £1.1million in daytime activities this money was provided to support daycentres until community based support/early intervention services had been properly trialled and evaluated. The Head of Service advised that Cabinet had requested an update in two years which was the purpose of the report to Cabinet. This is in the context of an expectation that the day centres would, by March 2019 be either run by alternative providers or supported by other means to remain open, or, if no solution had been found by March 2018 they would close in March 2019. (Report to Cabinet 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016)

In the meantime, the service has been implementing the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act which commenced in 2016. This requires people with assessed needs to be offered support in terms of what matters to them rather than only given the option of attending a day centre. Since 2016 there has been a fall in the number of people attending day centres despite a rise in the elderly population.

Scrutiny members acknowledge the value of daycentres for those people who are using them and their carers', particularly in respect of the respite they provide, but also acknowledge that many older people would prefer to be supported to take part in alternative activities such as the WI, Chapel or Pub rather than a day centre. This appears to be borne out by the falling attendance at day centres.

Across Powys there is a mixture of provision with centres run by a variety of third sector organisations and a town council. Since before 2016 all day centre provision was available for interested parties to run and whilst some provision has been taken over by other organisations there have been a number of conversations with different parties regarding certain day centres which have failed to reach a conclusion.

During this period attendance has decreased and the report outlines the actions that are being taken in respect of the six day centres that the Council run. These actions include:

- A reduction in the days that a centre is open (Arlais Llandrindod, Arosfa Brecon, Maes y Ffynon Crickhowell and Canolfan Ystradgynlais)
- Consideration of moving to alternative locations (Park Centre, Newtown, Arlais Llandrindod)

The reduction in opening times will result in some savings with regard to staff and cleaning costs but property costs will remain. The alternative locations may also result in some savings but the extent of these cannot yet be confirmed

It was difficult at the scrutiny session to be able to consider costs, as whilst the cost of provision is contained with the report, the number of attendees and sessions was not provided until after the meeting.

Those settings which are run by partners under contract or grant have not been considered as the costs for these settings amount to £354,200 and are under contract until at least 2020. The remaining 6 day centres are projected to cost £1,069,620 in 2018/19. The service has identified potential savings of £116,940 which will reduce the annual cost to £952,680.

Examination of the attendance of the six Council run settings shows that between 2016 and 2018 there was a decline in the number of older people attending day centres from 306 people to 181 people a drop of 41%. Over the same period there was a decline in the number of sessions from 20,670 in 2016 to 17,940 in 2018 a drop of 13%. This would indicate that whilst there are fewer older people attending day centres those that are attending are attending more often.

At present the number of people attending day centres over the course of a week varies from between 1 and 8 in the centre with the lowest number of clients (14), to between 13 and 17 in the centre with the highest number of clients (53). The highest attendance on any one day is 22. It appears that most if not all centres would have the capacity to close for at least one day and the plans outlined in the report regarding opening days are noted.

## Conclusion

Scrutiny welcome the actions taken to date which have resulted in older people receiving more support in the community to live independently thereby reducing attendance at day centres. The actions taken to manage the falling attendance by relocating, co-locating, reducing opening days is welcomed. However, it appears that whilst the numbers of people attending the centres is declining those who do attend

are attending more frequently. The 2016 decision suggested that all day centres should have moved to third party providers by now. This has not happened and the Portfolio Holder will need to ensure that the adult social care budget is sufficient to fund provision in this way in light of the 2016 decision.

Scrutiny's Recommendation	Accept (plus Action and timescale)	Partially Accept (plus Rationale and Action and timescale)	Reject (plus Rationale)
<p><b>1 Detail regarding the original savings required are included to understand why the update on daytime activities is coming to Cabinet now</b></p>	<p>The financial information and the savings over the past few years have now been included.</p>		
<p><b>2. Include and attribute the contribution made by Llanidloes Town Council to support Maes y Wennol</b></p>	<p>The contribution made by Llanidloes Town Council is included in the report.</p>		
<p><b>3. Include information on the capacity of each setting</b></p>	<p>The report has been amended to explain why providing service capacity is difficult because it is not a regulated service and therefore, has no minimum standards set.</p>		
<p><b>4. Include information on the number of places booked at each provision</b></p>	<p>Where this is known (mostly in-house services) this information has now been provided.</p>		

<p><b>5. The Portfolio Holder and Service continue to work towards providing and commissioning an appropriate mix of day time activities that support older people who are assessed to be in need of support and carers who are assessed to be in need of respite. Day centres should remain part of this mixed provision whilst a need for this kind of care is required</b></p>		<p>While this recommendation is accepted in part and the work continues in order to develop and commission appropriate services and daytime activities, this does not necessarily require a 'day centre' and support may be provided through other means where appropriate.</p>	
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In accordance with Rule 7.27.2 the Cabinet is asked to provide a written response to the scrutiny report, including an action plan where appropriate, within 2 months i.e. by 15.03.19

Members of the Health Care and Housing Scrutiny Committee present on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018: County Councillors Gwilym Williams, Sandra Davies, Dai Davies, Emyr Jones, Gareth Morgan, Phil Pritchard, Kath Roberts-Jones, Daniel Rowlands, Elwyn Vaughan, Jon Williams, Michael Williams.