

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION
by
COUNTY COUNCILLOR MYFANWY ALEXANDER
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE**

12 August 2020

REPORT AUTHOR: Dylan Owen, Head of Commissioning

REPORT TITLE: The Impact of COVID-19 on Provision of Daytime Opportunities in Powys

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This report considers the impact of COVID-19 upon the provision of day services in Powys. An assessment of the opportunities to re-open day centres and day services is attached in Appendix A, which concludes that:
“it is not possible to re-open day centres safely in Powys at this time. This outcome will remain the position while the physical/social distancing and PPE/hygiene legislation remain in place.”
- 1.2. This report requests the Portfolio Holders agreement to support service users to utilise different methods of achieving what matters to them while the day centres remain closed.
- 1.3. This report requests that the Portfolio Holder considers the implications of maintaining closed day centres in the longer term (recognising that physical distancing will be required for some time) and to agree whether further work should be undertaken to consider the longer term sustainability of the services.

2. Background

- 2.1. Powys County Council’s Social Services invoked business continuity on the 16th March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within a week all day care centres/services for adults and older people were closed in order to minimise the risk of infection and in response to the national government’s ‘lockdown’ and request to people to remain at home where possible.
- 2.2. Five months later the day centres remain closed with service users living at home either with redeployed support, or with family support.
- 2.3. There is an array of new legislation, guidance and public health requirements which are relevant to consider in the context of provision of care, staff support, and social gatherings. While the immediate situation suggests that gatherings of individuals within one room for a

period of time would be unwise, it is noted that there are plans to re-open schools in September with the intention of returning classes to near business as usual.

- 2.4. Relatives of individuals who attended the day services have been asking day centre staff about the Council's intentions with regards to re-opening.
- 2.5. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 requires that individuals and their carers are supported to achieve what matters to them and to support people to live independent of care services where possible.
- 2.6. The majority of individuals who attend day services do so in order to attain social interaction while receiving care during the day. It is not currently possible to provide such a service due to the requirements of guidance to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.
- 2.7. The assessment undertaken by the Adult Social Care Senior Managers' Team on the 29th July concludes that it is not possible to re-open the day services safely at this time and that this should remain the case while the legal physical distancing requirements are in place.
- 2.8. Individuals who were attending the day services have either been supported in different ways (e.g. supported living, care at home, family support) or have chosen to not receive further support.

3. Advice

- 3.1. There is no specific guidance for day services in relation to COVID-19. However, there are examples of good practice. One of these is work undertaken by Worcestershire Council who have placed guidance and a checklist online for day care providers to implement when considering the potential for re-opening their day care facilities.
- 3.2. The checklist provided by Worcestershire has been adapted for the purpose of the assessment completed in Appendix A.
- 3.3. The conclusion reached results in further work required for social workers to work with all individuals who made use of the day services previously in order to understand what matters to them and how they can achieve that. This could result in individuals being supported through care and support to access the community or to make use of technology to interact with friends.
- 3.4. Many of the staff who worked in the day services are redeployed to provide support to service users in their own homes and in the community. If the Cabinet were to agree to a longer or permanent closure of the day services, then there would need to be a full consultation with these staff and support to redeploy permanently into community support services.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1. The service is currently fully funded, even though it is not open. The different options available to the service area will have different resource implications. Closing day services permanently would make financial savings within that service area, but could create further service demand and costs to provide support to individuals within the community or in their own homes. Any further investigation would require a full evaluation of costs.
- 4.2. The Deputy Section 151 Officer on behalf of the Section 151 Officer supports the approach to review the current and future arrangements of day centres with regard to continuing with the closures, with regard given to affordability of the potential alternative options and the need to remain within the current budget levels.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. There are no legal requirements to provide day services, as such. The needs of individuals can be met in different ways according to what matters to those individuals.
- 5.2. There are a number of legislation and guidance that are relevant to the physical distancing and PPE use in Wales and the UK. These include the:
 - 5.2.1. Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020
 - 5.2.2. The Welsh Government's Unlocking Our Society and Economy
 - 5.2.3. The Welsh Government's guidance on PPE and working within closed settings
 - 5.2.4. Health and Safety guidance:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>
- 5.3. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: "I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report".

6. Data Protection

- 6.1. The proposal does not involve the processing of personal data.

7. Comment from Local Members

- 7.1. Not applicable, as this service is across the county.

8. Integrated Impact Assessment

- 8.1. An impact assessment is attached. This considers the impact on all stakeholders. However, the impact upon individual service users will be considered and mitigated through individual assessments with social work staff.

9. **Recommendation**

9.1. For the Portfolio Holder to agree:

9.1.1. For social workers to work with individuals and their carers to support them to utilise different methods of achieving what matters to them while the day centres/services remain closed.

9.1.2. For Adult Social Care to undertake an evaluation of the implications of maintaining closed day centres/services in the longer term (recognising that physical distancing will be required for some time), including listening to the views of day centre users, and to return to Cabinet with the findings in order to enable informed decision making about the future of day services across the county.

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Appendix A

Powys County Council Day Care Services

Assessment of Opening to Service Users During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Title	PCC Day Services – Assessment of Opening to Service Users During the COVID-19 Pandemic	Date	29 July 2020
Version	1.0	Status	Draft
Distribution	Confidential – for Social Services Leadership Team	Authors	ASC Joint-SMT

Introduction

Powys County Council's Social Services invoked business continuity on the 16th March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Within a week all day care centres/services for adults and older people were closed in order to minimise the risk of infection and in response to the national government's 'lockdown' and request to people to remain at home where possible.

Four months later the day centres remain closed with service users living at home either with redeployed support, or with family support.

This paper considers whether, under the current guidelines for physical distancing ('social distancing'), it is possible to re-open day centres to provide services in the manner undertaken up to March 2020.

Purpose and Background

Purpose

- To advise the Social Services Leadership Team whether it is possible to re-open day care centres for adults and older people in Powys under the current physical distancing requirements and associated context, such as vulnerable service users and staff shielding and isolating.
- If it is deemed impractical to open the day centres: To recommend further actions and consideration in order to ensure that the service users are supported appropriately to achieve what matters to them.

Background

There is an array of new legislation, guidance and public health requirements which are relevant to consider in the context of provision of care, staff support, and social gatherings. While the immediate situation suggests that gatherings of individuals within one room for a period of time would be unwise, it is noted that there are plans to re-open schools in September with the intention of returning classes to near business as usual.

Relatives of individuals who attended the day centres have been asking day centre staff about the Council's intentions with regards to re-opening.

Methodology

Having searched for relevant guidance, it has become apparent that there is no specific guidance for day services. However, there are examples of good practice. One of these is Worcestershire who have placed guidance and a checklist online for day care providers to implement when considering the potential for re-opening their day care facilities. The guidance can be found online – [HERE](#).

The checklist provided by Worcestershire has been adapted for the purpose of this assessment. The completed checklist assessment can be seen in Appendix I.

Results and Recommendations

The assessment, as shown in Appendix I, has shown that it **is not** possible to re-open day centres safely in Powys at this time. This outcome will remain the position while the physical/social distancing and PPE/hygiene legislation remain in place. This will almost certainly be for at least the next six months.

It is recommended that this decision is considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee's Working Groups.

Actions

Further actions required as a result of the outcome of the assessment are:

1. For the appropriate social work teams to undertake 'What Matters Conversations' with day care centre service users and their carers in order to enable those individuals to make informed decisions about how to achieve what matters to them. The carers assessment could be undertaken separately if appropriate.
2. For this paper to be considered by the ASC Scrutiny Committee's Working Group.
3. For the Head of Service to advise the Council's Senior Leadership Team.
4. For the Head of Service to advise Cabinet on the decision and possible implications and to request their ratification.
5. For the Provider Services managers to consider the staffing implications of the decision in the short, medium and long term (assuming ongoing physical distancing measures remain in place) and to work with the trade unions and Human Resources to support staff in re-aligning their work where possible.
6. For the Health and Care Change Managers (Live Well and Age Well) to liaise with external day care providers to support an informed decision on their services and realigning support, as appropriate.
7. For a Communication Strategy to be developed to ensure that all service users and staff understand the situation fully.
8. For an Impact Assessment to be undertaken to ensure that all potential implications have been considered and mitigated fully.

Appendix I

Below are areas which day services need to consider as the risk assessment for re-opening of services. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and that this checklist is for guidance only. Decisions around re-opening and appropriate risk assessments remain the responsibility of providers and will also need to take into account the most up to date government guidance and rules around physical distancing (please see links at the end of the document).

This service-wide risk assessment may also be accompanied by appropriate risk assessments on an individual basis for those adults who may be considering returning to day services, in discussion with social work teams where appropriate.

Area	Factors to Consider	Yes / No	Potential Mitigation
Outdoor and community-based day services	Can the service ensure social distancing rules are met, including legal requirement for 2 metre distancing?	No	Potential use of PPE could mitigate
	If yes, will this require changes in the way people attend e.g. reduced days/ reduced hours?	N/A	
	If yes, will there be a need for increased staffing/changing patterns of staffing /consistency of staffing?	N/A	
	Would the service be able to ensure social distancing rules are met, including legal requirement for 2 metre distancing in bad weather?	No	
Day Centre environment without personal care	Is it possible to provide a service in a different way which doesn't involve individuals coming to the centre?	Yes	Further assessments of need required
	Are there other ways to meet individual need without attending the centre?	Yes	Further assessments of need required
	If government guidance confirms that centred-based services can re-open are the centres big enough to zone and allocate a space dedicated to small number of individuals compliant with social distancing guidelines to remain two metres apart?	In part	Some can, but a small number can not (4/12 centres)
	Is it possible to minimise the time individuals spend indoors?	In part	Dependent upon the centre if numbers reduced
	Will this require changes in the way people attend e.g. reduced days/ reduced hours/ extended opening times but staggered hours?	Yes	As above
	Will there be a need for increased staffing/ changing patterns of staffing?	Yes	
	Can indoor places be kept well ventilated?	No	

	Is it possible to operate a one-way system for entering and leaving the buildings?	In part	Some can, but a small number can not (4/12 centres)
	Can the service implement policies for administering first aid or non-expected personal care and ensure appropriate PPE is available.	Yes	If numbers reduced
More specialised day centre environments e.g. with personal care or for people behaviours which may challenge services	Are service users vulnerable and at high risk of increased impact from COVID-19?	Yes	
	Is it possible to provide a safer service of reduced hours in or from the individual's home?	In part	Requirement for further assessments and possible increased staffing requirement
	Is it possible to adhere to PPE and relevant guidance specifically for personal care?	Yes	
	Does the service have access to a robust supply of PPE?	Yes	
	Are there measures in place to manage people with behaviours which challenge services such as spitting, biting, hitting or kicking or people who may not be able to observe social distancing rules?	No	Individual assessments and plans would be required
Safe Travel – how will people get to your service?	Can individuals travel safely to use services? (including physical distancing)	No	Alternative transport may be required
	Can individuals avoid public transport? (including all shared transport)	No	As above – in part
	If not, is it possible to ensure any shared transport provided meets physical distancing guidelines?	No	Would require reduced numbers
	Is third party transport available if required?	-	Would need to assess availability
	Can the service ensure the use of face coverings if using public or shared transport? Can the service support service users, where possible, to adhere to this?	No	
Meals	Will the service be preparing meals for attendees?	Varies	Younger Adults day centres – no Older persons' day centres - yes

	If preparing food, are any additional precautions needed (such as use of PPE)?	Yes	Meal preparation guidance required
	If providing drinks, is it possible to do so and to wash up without breaching distancing requirements?	No	Would require reduced numbers
Good hygiene	Are there sufficient and appropriate handwashing facilities?	No	
	Are tissues and lidded bins available in all appropriate areas?	No	
	Is it possible to teach use of arm not hand to catch cough/sneeze if no tissue available?	No	
	Can hand washing be repeated at every possible opportunity?	No	
	Can attendees wash their clothes each day and wear fresh ones the next day?	In part	
	Is it possible to provide appropriate signage and easy read materials?	Yes	
Use of shared areas e.g. toilets and kitchens	Is it possible to ensure social distancing when using these facilities?	No	Dependent on layout of buildings
	Is it possible to provide signage relevant to service user group?	Yes	
	Is it possible to ensure areas are kept clean during the day?	No	Would require additional cleaning staff
Maintain ing clean environ ments as evidence suggests that the virus can exist for up to 72 hours on surfaces	Are there plans for a daily deep clean/increased frequency of cleaning? (Frequent cleaning is particularly important for communal surfaces like door handles or lift buttons and communal areas like bathrooms, kitchens and tea points)	Yes	Would require additional resources
	Is it feasible to clean communal resources or learning aids (remove items that cannot be effectively cleaned) regularly?	Yes	As above
	Can room layouts be changed to facilitate cleaning and/or social distancing (e.g. reduce clutter, remove unnecessary furniture/resources etc)?	Yes	Would require reduced numbers
	Are there sufficient supplies of PPE for cleaning use and cleaning products, sanitisers etc. to cope with the increased cleaning demands that will be required?	Yes	
	Can cleaning be supervised and checked?	Yes	Additional resources required

Checks and testing (staff and service users)	Is it possible to identify individuals who are symptomatic?	Yes	But no temperature checks in place
	Are there policies for managing symptomatic attendees/ staff?	Yes	
	Can all potential contacts with COVID-19 be reviewed prior to every visit to the service?	No	
	Are there systems in place to ensure someone attending doesn't have COVID-19? • Pre-arrival checks? • Temperature checks?	No	
	Are there measures in place if someone starts to exhibit Covid-19 symptoms whilst in the service and are there agreed steps to be taken to ensure they are isolated from other people until they can be collected from the service?	Yes	
PPE for all settings?	Is there sufficient PPE in line with guidance?	Yes	
	Is there a robust supply chain for any PPE the centre will require?	Yes	
	Is there adequate PPE before re-opening?	Yes	
Staffing safety and staffing levels	Note that as an employer, you also have a legal responsibility to protect workers and others from risk to their health and safety. This means you need to think about the risks they face and do everything reasonably practicable to minimise them (recognising you cannot eliminate the risk of COVID-19). More guidance at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19	N/A	
	Have you conducted a risk assessment for your staff?	Yes	WG Workforce Assessment undertaken for all
	Are there sufficient staffing levels?	No	
	If staff need to be moved from other services to support re-opening of settings, will this impact on our ability to deliver business critical services?	Yes	
	Are there staff who are shielding or isolating?	Yes	
	Will there be a requirement for return to work discussions with any staff advised to self-isolate?	Yes	
	Are there clear reporting systems for staff with symptoms / positive test results?	Yes	
	Can staff get to work?	-	Would require further assessment
	Are there issues re childcare for some staff?	Yes	

	Are there specific staff training required?	Yes	
	Can information be cascaded effectively from management?	Yes	