

## **Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 2 November 2021

**LOCATION:** Council Chamber, Penmorfa

**TITLE:** Feedback from the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding Domiciliary Care Provision

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To provide feedback from the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 October 2021

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered an update on the current provision re Domiciliary Care in the Authority.

Donna Pritchard, Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal, presented the report. Heather West, Corporate Manager, Porth Gofal, was also present to answer any questions from Committee Members.

In Ceredigion the Domiciliary Care provision has over a number of years continued to be met through the Commissioning Framework for Procurement for the provision of care to individual service users. This process is known as E Tender. All providers in Ceredigion are registered to the Framework having passed through a series of Procurement requirements, are then able to contract for services with Ceredigion County Council.

Once a Social Worker has identified eligible care needs following a Social Services and Wellbeing Act Assessment, a service request is made. Once confirmed the notice is placed on the E Tender Procurement Portal on Sell2Wales. The providers who are registered to deliver care within Ceredigion are then able to look at the packages of care that are required in the community and submit offers to deliver that care. These offers are made to the family and once accepted care will be arranged to commence. If a family refuse the offer (for example if care times do not meet their personal preference and a compromise is not possible), then the care request will remain on procurement pending an alternative offer. The care needs for a care and support package for highly complex care needs may require 2 care staff up to 4 times a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, and others care needs will also range throughout the spectrum of needs through to lower level interventions once or twice a week to assist with bathing/showering as an example. Care and Support at home has a focus on delivering skills to provide personal care and wellbeing needs.

Throughout the Covid 19 pandemic the Domiciliary Care Providers have worked tirelessly to sustain the care and support needs of our communities. Their staff continued to deliver to those vulnerable individuals in the face of increased risks to themselves and their families, in maintaining close contact care and support and their efforts have been and continue to be recognised as exceptional in unprecedented times.

Following a lengthy discussion, a Committee Member put forward a recommendation to Cabinet seconded by another Member. Some Members were not comfortable with this recommendation for various reasons and it was therefore put to a Committee vote. The outcome of the vote was 4 in favour, 1 against and 8 abstained from the vote.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

As there were 4 in favour, it was agreed to recommend that Cabinet:

- investigate the possibility of making use of Council reserve funding to provide an innovative funding package to support much needed recruitment in the Domiciliary Care Provider Sector.

There was also discussion and an example provided by a Committee Member of a Bonus Referral Scheme used in a Residential Care home to encourage recruitment. Committee Members are supportive of Officers undertaking further exploratory work in this regard.

**Councillor Bryan Davies**  
***Chairman of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee***