

# CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 5 March 2025

**Title:** Specialised Disability Services

**Purpose of the report:** Update following report to Cabinet 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:**

- Update

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:**

**Cllr. Alun Williams Cabinet Member for Through Age Wellbeing**

## **Background**

On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Cabinet approved a wide-ranging engagement and consultation process focusing on the re-design of Respite and Day Opportunities. The approach encompassed key principles from the Through Age Wellbeing (TAW) Strategy alongside National and Regional Strategies relating to Learning Disabilities, Children Looked After and Respite services.

The review focused on the following areas:-

- Day Service opportunities for older Adults, including those living with a diagnosis of dementia
- Day Service opportunities for individuals living with a learning disability, autism, and profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD)
- Through age transition pathways for those living with a learning disability and/or autism
- Respite provision (day and residential) on a through age basis

An extensive public engagement and consultation took place between March – August 2023, undertaken by an independent Company (Practice Solutions Limited); funded through the Regional Integrated Fund (RIF).

In December 2023 Cabinet approved eight proposals, summarised below:

1. Revise the provision of day and respite services drawing upon the report and its accompanying action plan.
2. Develop the role of a transformation lead to oversee and drive the change management and implementation processes.
3. Work with its partner agencies including the NHS and third sector service providers in delivering solutions
4. Review the person-centred planning processes to ensure they genuinely capture and promote service user voices and choices
5. Ensure service reform still meets the needs of families and other unpaid carers

6. Consider adopting a hub & spoke model, placing service centres as community hubs whilst drawing upon a range of community facilities, supporting and enabling people to access paid employment and formal learning
7. Develop a transport strategy that ensures that the most efficient methods are used to provide access to day and respite services
8. Engage with service users, carers, council staff and those working in other agencies via formal and informal consultation
9. Recanvas opinion on the proposal to rename day centres recognising that a fundamental element of delivering the action plan, is to ensure that the Welsh language is an integral element

### **Current Situation**

Guided by these recommendations, in July 2024 the Council's Leadership Group (LG) was made aware of further analysis showing how traditional Day Services in Ceredigion lacked reach, depth and specialism (especially for citizens that need support most), whilst trials of 'open access' day provisions had provided little direct benefit to the client (or value to the Authority).

To overcome this the report outlined how the Through Age Wellbeing division proposed to create a suite of Specialised Disability Services, accessed by clients as part of a care & support plan, where they are not already in receipt of other residential or supported accommodation provision, e.g., shared lives, supporting living.

The core focus of the new service is for specialists to support individuals with high levels of learning disabilities, physical disability, complex needs, and behaviours that challenge.

For ineligible clients, an awareness programme will be run (in parallel with the launch of the new service) to ensure they, alongside their families, carers and networks understand the breadth of universal services available across the wider Through Age Wellbeing (TAW) estate. This will develop the hub and spoke model recommended in the engagement & consultation report.

There will be three new core services, in descending order of complexity:

- **Complex Eligible Needs & Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties** (PMLD) - scaled education & transition services
- **Community Employment & Volunteering** - guiding and connecting clients to long term employment opportunities
- **Intermediate Eligible Needs** - connecting clients, their families & networks with universal & community-based services; often via a Direct Payment element

With TAW Board direction, the division has been developing service specifications and staff profiles including:

- renewed Job Descriptions with re-evaluation of gradings and salaries
- reviews of all existing clients' care & support plans and likely eligibility for new hub and spoke services
- review of out of county placements to establish if any would qualify for more localised services

- redevelopment of policies and procedures; including person centred planning, positive behavioural support and restrictive practices guidance being developed in conjunction with BILD.

In parallel, the corporate body has been supporting the development of a staff consultation programme on the new services and operational structures, with an aim to launch before the end of March 2025. Unions have been briefed at key stages and will again be a central partner in the consultation exercise.

Additionally, the Team Manager for Specialised Disability Services has been appointed as the transformational lead and is currently onboarding with a target start date of 1st March. Having the Manager onboarded before the staff consultation starts will ensure they are able to contribute to and tailor the messages for the service.

It is envisaged that the current estate of Day Services buildings is largely retained given the geographical spread of the three key sites

- Canolfan Padarn - Aberystwyth
- Canolfan Meugan - Cardigan
- Canolfan Steffan – Lampeter

It is likely that the Aberystwyth Adult Day Centre building, beneath the library, will be returned to the corporate estate for review.

Further briefing slides supporting the proposed new Service can be found in the report *2025.01.07 Direct Services: Specialised Disability Services*

### **Next Steps**

Subject to further direction from the Scrutiny Committee it is intended to pursue the consultation exercise with staff in early Q1 2025/6 before returning with final proposals for the launch of the service and a communication programme with Clients, families, carers and the wider community.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.**  
Yes, and will be reviewed as we progress.

### **Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

**Long term:** INSERT TEXT  
**Collaboration:** INSERT TEXT  
**Involvement:** INSERT TEXT  
**Prevention:** INSERT TEXT  
**Integration:** INSERT TEXT

### **Recommendation(s):**

Update only

### **Reasons for decision:**

Update only

**Contact Name:** Nerys Lewis

**Designation:** Corporate Manager Direct Services

**Date of Report:** 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025

**Acronyms:**

TAW - Through Age Wellbeing

PMLD – Profound Multiple Learning Disabilities