



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Swyddfa'r Cyngor
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 1ST JULY, 2021

NOTE: A BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD FOR MEMBERS AT 10.00 AM

Location

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 23/06/21)

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (10)

Councillors

Menna Baines
Annwen Daniels
Gareth Tudor Morris Jones
Olaf Cai Larsen
Berwyn Parry Jones

Beca Brown
Alan Jones Evans
Linda Ann Jones
Dafydd Owen
Linda Morgan

Independent (5)

Councillors

Richard Medwyn Hughes
Beth Lawton
Angela Russell

Eryl Jones-Williams
Dewi Wyn Roberts

Llais Gwynedd (1)

Councillor
Anwen J. Davies

Gwynedd United Independents (1)

Councillor
Vacant Seat - Gwynedd United Independents

Propel (1)

Councillor

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

Other Invited Members

AGENDA

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair for 2021/22

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

To elect a Vice-Chair for 2021/22

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declarations of personal interest.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

6. MINUTES

6 - 9

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on the 18th March, 2021 be signed as a true record. (attached)

7. SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA IN GWYNEDD

10 - 14

To consider an update to a report submitted to the committee in January 2020, which raised awareness of dementia and provided an overview of what is in progress to support the individuals living with Dementia in Gwynedd.

8. HOUSING PROVISION IN THE COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

15 - 19

To scrutinise the programme that the Learning Disabilities Service has put in place to ensure a sufficient provision of suitable housing across Gwynedd for Adults with Learning Disabilities, now and in the future.

9. SCRUTINY DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

20

To submit the scrutiny draft work programme 2021/22 for adoption

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18/03/2021

Present: Councillor Dewi Roberts (Chair).
Councillor Beth Lawton (Vice-chair).

Councillors: Menna Baines, Annwen Daniels, Anwen J Davies, Alan Jones Evans, Berwyn Parry Jones, Gareth Tudor Morris Jones, Linda Ann Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Olaf Cai Larsen, Dafydd Owen, Peter Read,

Ex-officio Member: Councillor Edgar W Owen

Officers present: Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor), Einir Rhian Davies (Democracy Services Officer), Natalie Lloyd Jones (Democracy Services Officer), Llywela Haf Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor)

Present for item 5:

Councillor Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member - Adults, Health and Well-being and Relationship with the Health Board), Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department), Arwel W Owen (Assistant Head of Housing and Well-being), Councillor Craig ab Iago (Cabinet Member - Housing and Property), Dafydd Gibbard (Head of Housing and Property Department)

Present for item 6:

Councillor Craig ab Iago (Cabinet Member - Housing and Property Department), Dafydd Gibbard (Head of Housing and Property Department), Carys Fôn Williams (Senior Housing Operational Manager), Hedd Morlais Tomos (Housing Supply Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor R Medwyn Hughes and Councillor Linda Morgan

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following members declared a personal interest in item 5 on the agenda for the reasons noted:

Councillor Cai Larsen as he sat on the Board of Adra

Councillor Berwyn Parry Jones as he sat on the Board of Adra

The members were not of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they did not withdraw from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

The following members declared a personal interest in item 6 on the agenda for the reasons noted:

Councillor Cai Larsen as he sat on the Board of Adra

Councillor Berwyn Parry Jones as he sat on the Board of Adra

Councillor Linda A Jones as she was a Director of Seren Ltd

The members were not of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and for this reason they did not withdraw from the meeting during the discussion on the item. Councillor Linda A Jones left at the start of the discussion.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 14 January 2021 as a true record.

5. EXTRA CARE AND HOUSING PROVISION ON THE PENRHOS SITE, PWLLHELI

The Cabinet Member gave an update on developments at the Penrhos site. It was confirmed that this would not be a like-for-like development, but an opportunity to look at the needs of the people of Gwynedd. He confirmed that sessions had already been held in an attempt to gain an understanding of those needs.

The Assistant Head of Housing and Well-being guided members through the report, expanding on certain matters as noted below.

It was noted that the aim of the development was to create a housing site with care elements by internal partnership between the Housing and Property department and the Adults department.

In response to a question regarding collaboration with Clwyd Alyn, it was noted that the scheme had been discussed with all Gwynedd housing associations. The other housing associations felt they had insufficient experience for a project of this scale. There had been good collaboration with Clwyd Alyn; its staff had committed to the language policy and held discussions in Welsh and Polish. It was confirmed that Clwyd Alyn had considerable experience in the care field.

A concern was noted regarding the situation in terms of the lack of nursing care and dementia care facilities in Pen Llŷn and the south of the county. An intention to move forward to prepare plans and attract funding for the site in 2021 was highlighted, with the hope of commencing with the work in 2022. It was confirmed that reflecting on the situation of rural areas was an important part of the discussion. It was also confirmed that the Council had invested in dementia beds, but that it was very difficult to attract significant investment in the field. It was noted that the situation with Penrhos Home had created an opportunity to build something special in this part of the county.

The Assistant Head of Housing and Well-being confirmed that a need analysis was underway as a number of nursing beds had been lost at Penrhos.

In response to a question regarding the cost of the development, it was expressed that this could be between £5m and £20m for such an innovative care model.

The vision for the site was noted, namely a sizeable care home, which would include nursing and residential bed, surrounded by sheltered housing, with the concept of a 'care community'. Discussions were underway regarding opportunities to co-locate services and resources.

In response to a question about the main challenges, it was highlighted that the condition of the current building was a big problem, but that the development offered a number of opportunities.

An enquiry was made as to whether contacting Mark Drakeford and Vaughan Gething should be considered, to draw their attention to the problems with staff shortages, so that they could boost the development. It was confirmed that the Penrhos site had been a huge employer of local people and that such a development would be a significant boost to the labour market.

Attention was drawn to the need to give attention to matters such as cycle paths and the public transport provision.

The Cabinet Member thanked the committee members for their observations, emphasising that he would update them regularly.

The Chair noted that the project was like a spider's web. He confirmed that care and the culture around care was changing. He noted this opportunity as one to do something that would set an example for the rest of the county, and it was promised that the community would be involved in the development.

RESOLVED: To accept the report, noting the observations made during the meeting.

6. USE OF THE HOUSING SUPPORT GRANT TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS IN GWYNEDD

The report was submitted by the Cabinet Member, who noted that there had been an increase in homelessness in Gwynedd. He emphasised that housing individuals in bed and breakfast accommodation was unacceptable, stressing the need to support individuals rather than only offering shelter.

The Head of Department confirmed that the situation had worsened since COVID, with an increase of 71%, which corresponded to 900 individuals, in the number referred to the service during the past year. He referred to the fact that the team dealing with homelessness was a very small team, but that they had a vision to transform the service. It was reported that two new managers had been appointed, which had reduced the burden on the rest of the team, but that the pressure remained. He highlighted his desire to expand the current team in order to offer the best service.

An update was received on the current situation, as well as the intention to develop units across the county. Emphasis was placed on the need to consider possibilities within specific areas. Reference was made to the possibility of using existing buildings in some areas, and converting hostels as support units. The importance of keeping individuals within their own areas and communities as much as possible was noted. The Head of Department noted that he did not wish to use bed and breakfast

accommodation other than in cases of emergency, and that he wanted to develop accommodation across the county.

Gratitude was expressed for the report, noting that one type of service was not likely to be suitable for everyone. The importance of collaborating with agencies and local members who knew the area and its people was noted.

In response to an enquiry regarding maintaining better contact with individuals facing homelessness the Head of Department noted that currently, a single member of staff supported 60 individuals. His desire to reduce this to 25 individuals per member of staff was emphasised. The need to appoint new officers in order to realise this aim was expressed, adding that they were currently receiving applications from suitable individuals.

In response to a question regarding future funding, it was confirmed that there was no definite certainty regarding the grant funding, but the instructions highlighted the need to plan on a long-term basis. It was also confirmed that an audit would be undertaken within the year, to ensure that the grant funding was appropriately spent, and to determine whether the sum was sufficient.

The Cabinet Member made the following observations in bringing the discussion to a close –

1. Collaboration with communities was important and imperative to success.
2. There was a need to work with the funding available, setting the funding within its context
3. Gratitude was expressed for the positive response, which was very encouraging.

Everyone was thanked for the discussion, and it was agreed to share those thanks with the officers.

RESOLVED: To accept the report, noting the observations made during the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 10:30 and concluded at 12:45

CHAIR

Agenda Item 7

Meeting	Care Scrutiny Committee
Date	1st July, 2021
Title	Support to Individuals living with Dementia in Gwynedd
Author	Mari Wynne Jones, Senior Manager, Adults Health and Wellbeing
Member	Dafydd Meurig, Cabinet Member, Adult, Health and Wellbeing

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This report is submitted to the Care Scrutiny Committee to provide an update to a report submitted to the committee in January 2020, which raised awareness of dementia and provided an overview of what is in progress to support the individuals living with Dementia in Gwynedd.

2. To remind us, what is Dementia?

2.1 *The word 'dementia' describes a group of symptoms that could include memory loss, difficulties with memory, problem solving or language difficulties. These changes usually start small, but for someone living with dementia, they have become serious enough to affect daily life.*¹

2.2 Because of its nature (symptoms more prominent over time as the condition worsens, and low diagnosis rate), it is difficult to know exactly how many people are living with the condition. National studies estimate the proportion of the population of different age groups who have the condition, and based on this and the age profile of Gwynedd, it can be estimated that there are 2,049² individuals with dementia in Gwynedd, i.e. 1.67% of the population (122,864).³

3. Dementia Action Plan for Wales 2018-2022.

3.1 The vision contained in the plan is "for Wales to be a dementia friendly nation that recognises the rights of people with dementia to feel valued and to live as independently as possible in their communities."

1 www.alzheimers.org.uk

2 Alzheimer's Research UK Statistics 2015

3 2015 mid-year estimates - Office for National Statistics - are used in order to have a year that is consistent with the Alzheimer's Research UK Statistics figure

3.2 The Adults, Health and Well-being Department is committed to fulfilling the requirements of the plan and reports back to the Dementia Delivery Assurance and Implementation Group in regard to successes and barriers.

4 Support and Services in Gwynedd.

4.1 As the population ages, our vision is to continue to enable people to live at home as independent as possible, for as long as possible. There is a need to ensure that the correct care and support provision is available at the right time and in the right place in order to meet a range of needs.

4.2 The Covid-19 Pandemic and our experiences over the past year has highlighted the importance of practical support in the community and a regular break for informal carers to support individuals with dementia and their carers. We have seen a deterioration in the health of individuals with dementia and their carers over the year of shielding, which has led to urgent requests for long-term specialist care. Although we have adapted and provided services in an alternative way (one-to-one care provision and virtual advice and support) because it was not possible to provide traditional respite and day care support; there has been increasing pressure on informal carers to support individuals with dementia. We have seen a deterioration in the general health of individuals living with dementia and their carers during the year of shielding. This has led to crisis requests for specialist long term care.

4.3 The Department is in the process of reviewing risk assessments and remodelling day and respite services, in order to plan to re-open services gradually when the Government's guidelines allow. This is not an easy task and it cannot be done quickly due to the need to balance risks and practical barriers that arise whilst ensuring that buildings are suitable and can adhere to the rules regarding social distancing. Circumstances can change very quickly if there is a surge in local cases or a new strain of the virus spreading.

4.4 Dementia Actif has adapted to respond to the COVID-19 restrictions. Although it was not possible to meet face-to-face, the services kept in contact with individuals regularly via:

- phone calls, text messages, e-mails and video calls.
- supporting individuals to learn and use technology to keep in contact.
- keeping a record of the calls in order to understand the impact of the lockdown on the individual.
- producing a regular newsletter with information about support services
- holding Virtual 'Dementia Friends' sessions.
- holding a virtual support and well-being group for individual carers who live with dementia.

4.5 Dementia Actif has collaborated with Byw'n Iach to raise awareness about dementia and how to create dementia friendly facilities and has trained over 100 members of staff.

4.6 Dementia Actif have been holding virtual light exercise classes since September 2020, in response to the pandemic. From the outset, it was obvious how much the members enjoyed and benefitted from the classes. Some of the classes were recorded and shared on the Facebook page

4.7 In January 2021, the new Gwynedd Dementia Actif website was launched.

4.8 Funding from the Welsh Government ICF fund has been used to enhance the 'Dementia Connect' support provided by the Alzheimer's Society. This service provides a simple point of contact which puts service users and their carers in touch with practical support to empower them to cope with the condition and remain active within their communities. The Dementia Connect service has been providing virtual support over the period of the pandemic. Temporary funding pays for this service and a regional review of the service will be held during 2021.

4.9 Welsh Government ICF funding has also enabled us to appoint Dementia support workers as part of the Community Resource Teams, in order to support individuals with dementia and their carers to remain independent in their communities. The challenge for the Department will be to ensure a long-term budget for the services which are funded on a short term basis. It is likely that this will lead to presenting bids for permanent monies to the usual bidding cycle to fund these valuable services on a permanent basis.

4.10 It is acknowledged that it will not always be possible for people to remain in their own homes. Gwynedd is eager to ensure that people with dementia receive suitable care as locally as possible.

4.11 The demand for dementia provision continues to rise significantly and although we have invested to increase the supply of beds, waiting lists for specialist dementia care is more often the same, if not higher, than the waiting lists for standard residential beds.

4.12 In 2020, a new unit was opened at Plas Hedd residential home to provide care for 7 individuals, which adds to the existing specialist residential provision at Plas Maesincla, Bryn Blodau, Llys Cadfan and Plas Hafan Homes. We are currently preparing to open a new Unit at Bryn Blodau home for 8 individuals and it is expected for building work on Hafod Mawddach home to be completed by the end of the summer 2021, which will provide care for 8 individuals. By the end of 2021, we hope that we will have 69 dementia beds out of 315 beds across 11 of the Council's residential homes in Gwynedd. These beds are used flexibly to support individuals who require long term care and to provide regular respite care to carers.

4.13 However when considering the National data and local information, it is likely that we will need to consider the possibility of increasing the Units further in the future or to amend the registration of homes in order to increase the provision. Consideration will need to be given to the regulations of Care Inspectorate Wales in order to ensure that there are appropriate staffing requirements in the units to meet the need. There is also a need to consider the implications of funding the adaptation costs to the care homes to ensure that the environment is suitable as well as funding the care element in the long term.

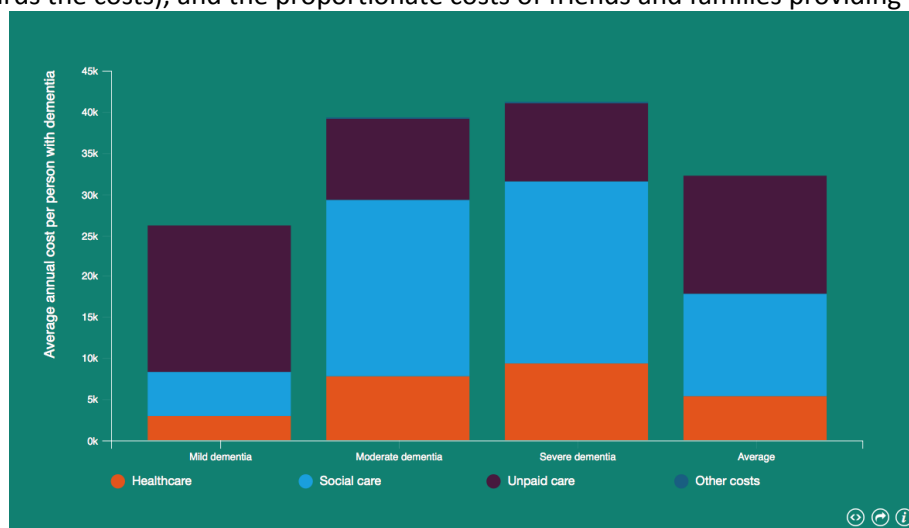
4.14 Plans are being developed to invest further in more of the Council's care homes. Gwynedd's Population Needs assessment will be updated over the coming months and will give direction regarding local needs and the wishes of the people of Gwynedd regarding Dementia services. We foresee that the emphasis will be on local services and practical support with regular respite care for carers to enable them to continue to care for individuals living with dementia.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 National studies estimate the cost of the condition per case. The chart below shows⁴ that costs vary according to the seriousness of the condition, from around £26,200 per annum for the less serious

4 Prince, M et al (2014) Dementia UK: Update Second Edition report produced by King's College London and the London School of Economics for the Alzheimer's Society

cases, to £39,300 for moderate cases, to £41,200 in the most serious cases. These costs include health care, social care (whether or not it falls on local authorities or a contribution from the individual / family towards the costs), and the proportionate costs of friends and families providing unpaid care.



5.2 If you then consider that the pattern of the seriousness of the condition in Gwynedd (i.e. the proportion of less serious / moderate / most serious cases), follows the pattern seen across the whole of Britain⁵, we can then estimate the total annual cost of dementia in Gwynedd, and how much of this cost is likely to fall on the Council, as follows:

5.3 The estimate cost of dementia in Gwynedd

Category of seriousness	Estimated total cost *		FROM THIS - AN ELEMENT THAT FALLS ON THE COUNCIL (ESTIMATE)	
	£ per year	Total £ per year	£ per year ⁶	Total £ per year
LESS SERIOUS 55.4% I.E. 1135 CASES	£26,212	£29.75m	£2,343	£2.66m
MODERATE 32.1% I.E. 658 CASES	£39,293	£25.85m	£9,376	£6.17m
Most serious 12.5% i.e. 256 cases	£41,187	£10.54m	£9,691	£2.48m
Total cost		£66.14m		£11.31m

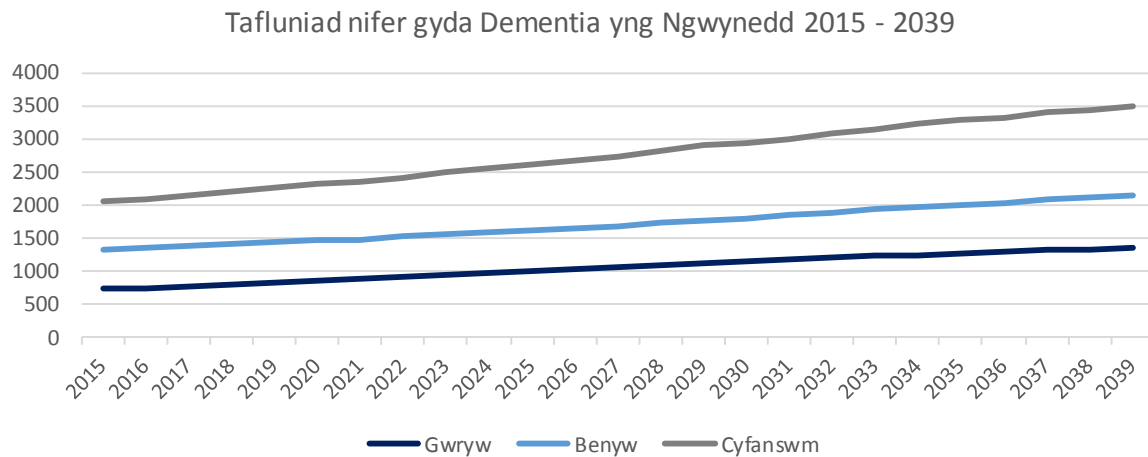
* Total cost = health, social care (funded by councils + privately), value of unpaid care

5.4 Therefore, it can be seen that it is estimated that the cost of the condition is around a total of £66 million in Gwynedd, and that approximately £11m of this cost falls on the Council in order to provide social care.

5 see https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/sites/default/files/migrate/downloads/dementia_uk_update.pdf (page 38)

6 Having estimated that 43.7% of social care costs falls on local authorities, and that this proportion is consistent across the categories of seriousness (in the absence of more detailed information per seriousness). And that based on the division on p. 104 of the above report

5.5 In the future, as the older population increases, the numbers who suffer from dementia will also increase. Dementia UK estimates that the current number with dementia in Britain will increase from 850,000 to 1,683,000 by 2039. Presuming that the prevalence of dementia (per age group) remains the same, we project that the number with dementia in Gwynedd will increase from 2,049 to 3,494 by 2039 - an increase of more than 70%. The projection given here is driven by demographic ageing.



5.6 This increase will increase pressure on health and community care services to support those living with dementia and their carers.

6 Next steps

6.1 We will maintain our commitment to fulfilling the requirements of the Dementia Action Plan for Wales by working together with individuals, their families and friends, and our partners in the third sector and the Health Board.

6.2 We will scrutinise the findings of the Population Needs Assessment to ensure an overview of the needs of each area in Gwynedd. These findings will be the basis to redesigning and recovering support services.

6.3 We rely on temporary funding to support many of the developments in care provision for individuals with dementia. We will revisit our investment programme to secure long term funding to ensure the sustainability and continued development of existing services and new developments.

REPORT TO THE CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- Committee:** Care scrutiny committee
- Date:** July 1st, 2021.
- Title:** Housing provision in the Community for individuals with a Learning Disability.
- Purpose:** To scrutinise the programme that the Learning Disabilities Service has put in place to ensure a sufficient provision of suitable housing across Gwynedd for Adults with Learning Disabilities, now and in the future.
- Contact Officer:** Alun Gwilym Williams – Senior Manager for Learning Disabilities (South Gwynedd).
- Cabinet Member:** Adult, Health and Wellbeing Department - Councillor Dafydd Meurig
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1. Introduction / Background

In line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, we know that the Council has adopted wellbeing objectives as part of the Gwynedd Council Plan, which includes, amongst other objectives, ensuring that Gwynedd residents are able to *'live in quality homes within our communities'*, and *'live with dignity and independently as long as possible'*. This is relevant to everyone, including individuals with a Learning Disability.

The objective of the Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department is to enable Gwynedd's Adults to *'live my life as I want to live my life'*. Often this means living in a house in the community as independently as possible with support. Additionally, the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 places a duty on us as a Service to give individuals with Learning Disabilities a voice and control over their lives, and to promote their wellbeing – this very often includes supporting individuals to live independently.

In order to ensure that the need of individuals with Learning Disabilities are being met in full, to give choice and security to every adult with a Learning Disability, and to enable them to live as independently as possible, we need to ensure that there is sufficient provision of suitable housing available across Gwynedd. The demand for supported housing is increasing – recent research by PSSRU/LSE on behalf of DWP predicted that the demand for supported housing in England and Wales was likely to increase from 38,500 units in 2015 to 59,800 units by 2030. The early signs suggest that this predicted trend is consistent with what is happening in Gwynedd.

2. The Challenge

Our starting point as a Service is to find out what is important to individuals with Learning Disabilities and their parents/carers. More often than not, this will involve discussions around living arrangements – where do individuals wish to live in the future, in what town/village, what sort of accommodation, with whom etc. The challenge facing the service is ensuring that we can achieve what matters to individuals and their families in respect of accommodation. Often, suitable housing is not available as a home for individuals with Learning Disabilities as and when needed.

As a Learning Disability Accommodation Project Group, we have collected data around the housing needs of the individuals supported by the Service. We have a database of individuals' needs now and in the future. The database is split into categories of priority – Green, Amber and Red;

Red – Individuals that need a home immediately or within the next year.

Amber – Individuals that will need a home within the next few years.

Green – Individuals that will need a home in the long term (5 years+), including children approaching 18 years of age over the next few years.

Currently, there are approximately 30 individuals in the red category (needing a house immediately, or within the next year). The database is constantly changing as individuals' situations change, but the database gives us as an idea of the gap that needs to be addressed. The reasons behind individuals appearing on the list vary, but the main reasons are:

- Living at home with parents/family, and the situation becoming fragile/braking down. Individuals eager to move on to live independently, but no suitable housing available.
- Individuals with Learning Disabilities living in supported accommodation, and the accommodation has become unsuitable because of safety concerns or a change in need (for example deterioration in physical health).
- Individuals in unsuitable locations such as residential homes or secure units, looking to move to their own accommodation with support in order to maximise independence, but no suitable housing available.

Generally, the biggest challenge we are facing is the provision of single floor/accessible accommodation such as bungalows, for individuals with Physical Disabilities as well as Learning Disabilities. Such housing provision does not become available on the housing register often, so we need to look at alternative ways of meeting the need. Other accommodation types (for example terraced housing, flats etc) are also in demand, but generally as there is more supply of this type of housing across the county, there are more options to meet the need.

The Population Needs Assessment will be compiled over the next few weeks in co-operation with our partners. This will give us an understanding of the needs of the residents of Gwynedd and North Wales over the coming years, and will include any housing needs. The population needs assessment will give us a chance to ensure that the work programme below meets the demand and that we invest suitably where needed.

3. Work Programme

In order to get to grips with the waiting list, and to ensure provision of suitable housing for individuals with Learning Disabilities, the Project Group are working on the following as part of the work programme. A number of the schemes are part of Gwynedd Council's Housing Action Plan:

3.1 Prioritising Voids

When empty rooms become available within Gwynedd's supported housing, the Service gives more thought to who will be offered the tenancy. If the accommodation is specialist/suitable for individuals with Physical as well as Learning Disabilities, priority is given to those adults that require this specialist accommodation, taking into consideration the opinions/aspirations of the individuals in terms of location, co-tenants etc, working in collaboration amongst the social work team.

3.2 Y Frondeg, Caernarfon (Housing Action Plan – 5dd)

The Learning Disability Service has been working with Grŵp Cynefin housing association and the Council's Housing and Estates Department on developing plans for a new provision on the site of Y Frondeg Care Home, Maesincla. The plan is to develop 17 independent living units, where the residents of Y Frondeg as well as 7 other individuals with Learning Disabilities will be able to live in suitable accommodation which will be accessible, and with the appropriate support to maximise their independence. Discussions have re-started on the project with Grŵp Cynefin, in the hope of going out to consultation again soon and moving on with the development within the next year following cabinet approval.

3.3 Penrhos Scheme (Housing Action Plan – 2b)

The Council is working with Clwyd Alyn Housing Association on the provision that will be developed on the Penrhos site in Llanbedrog. The Learning Disabilities Service has been part of the discussions regarding the brief for the site, and the hope is that suitable and accessible accommodation for adults with Learning and/or Physical Disabilities will be included within the new provision, approximately 6 units spread over two houses.

3.4 Purchasing Accommodation on the Open Market (Housing Action Plan – 5ch)

The scheme in question involves buying houses on the open market and making any adaptations required to make them accessible. Discussions have begun with the Housing and Estates Department around moving the scheme forward, but in the meantime, we as a Service are working with the Housing Associations to buy property in partnership. A 4 bedroom bungalow has been identified in Arfon in co-operation with Grŵp Cynefin, and the purchase process is on-going. The intention is to identify similar suitable accommodation in the Dwyfor and Meirionnydd areas as a pilot. If the pilot scheme is successful, it is a scheme that can be expanded to provide a significant number of units in a comparatively short time period.

3.5 Closer working with Housing Associations

During the last year we have developed a closer working relationship with the relevant officers within Grŵp Cynefin and Adra housing associations. Both associations have worked closely with the Service where emergencies have arisen, for example safeguarding cases where accommodation is needed in an emergency. This is despite restrictions on the housing associations in terms of what they can do because of the Housing Register. The housing associations are aware of the need for specialist accommodation, and the hope is that they will take this into account when looking at their developments in the future.

3.6 Working with the North Wales Regional Transformation Team

The North Wales Learning Disability Transformation Team, which is financed by Welsh Government, is looking at housing provision for individuals with Learning Disabilities across North Wales. The transformation team are concentrating specifically on individuals with Learning Disabilities who live Out of County. There is a comparatively small number of individuals with Learning Disabilities open to Gwynedd Social Services living outside of Gwynedd at the moment. Only 4 live outside of North Wales, and all four adults are happy in their current locations and have no aspirations of returning to Gwynedd. We will therefore be working with the transformation team, but the work programme will concentrate on individuals who currently live in specialist accommodation across North Wales, and are looking to return to Gwynedd to live, including children coming up to transition age.

3.7 Suitable Respite Provision

Whilst there is still a waiting list for suitable housing in Gwynedd for individuals with Learning Disabilities, it is essential that the Service is able to offer a respite Service to adults and their families/carers to ensure that the situation at home remains sustainable. A new suitable, modern and accessible respite provision has been developed in Pwllheli, which will be able to offer respite to 4 adults at a time. Covid restrictions have meant that we have not been able to make full use of the unit, but we have been able to offer a respite Service throughout the lockdown period to emergency and priority cases, a Service which has been essential in order to maintain a sustainable environment at home for individuals with Learning Disabilities and their families/carers.

4. Next Steps

As well as following the work programme above, the following steps need to be taken as part of the project over the coming months:

- Create closer links with North Wales Housing Association.
- Further discussions with Adra's housing development team.
- Closer working with the Housing Options Team, to ensure that individuals with Learning Disabilities are recorded fully and accurately on the housing register, and that they are prioritised appropriately and fairly.
- Ensure that our work programme is in line with the needs identified as part of the population needs assessment over the coming weeks and months.
- Learn lessons from the development of Y Frondeg, and look at the possibility of developing a similar provision in Dwyfor/Meirionnydd.

- Revisit the respite provision in the Arfon area. Work with First Choice Housing Association, looking at the current provision at Brookfield, Bangor and evaluating whether the service needs to invest in the current provision/building, or look at alternative provision in the area. The population needs assessment will feed into this decision.
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Agenda Item 9

CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Draft work programme

01/07/2021
Dementia Care Housing provision in the community for people with learning disabilities
30/09/2021
Adult Services – Quality Assurance Well-being Assessment - population needs Help desk for all enquiries regarding housing matters
25/11/2021
Autism Strategy
03/02/2022
Progress Update: Occupational Therapy Service Housing Allocation Policy Effect of Covid on Well-being
17/03/2022
Housing Strategy - risk of delivery (including Empty Homes) Fostering Strategy in Gwynedd