

# GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



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| <b>Meeting Date:</b>    | <b>4 June.2019</b>  |
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>  | <b>Councillor Dafydd Meurig</b>   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | <b>Aled Davies</b>  |
| <b>Contact Number:</b>  | <b>01286 679003</b>   |
| <b>Item Title:</b>      | <b>A one time bid for resources from the Transformation Fund to fund the Dementia Support Services in the Community Scheme (which includes Dementia Go) for for one year.</b> |

## **1. THE DECISION SOUGHT**

The main purpose of this scheme is to support the implementation of improvement priority 6 in the Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 - 'Ensure that we have care services which help people to live their lives as they wish'

Following a successful two-year pilot period, it is requested to allocate £97,660 from the Transformation Fund to fund the Dementia Support Services in the Community Scheme (which includes Dementia Go), to fund two full-time posts (in Pwllheli and Porthmadog) and two 7-hour a week posts, located in Tywyn and Caernarfon until 31 March 2020. The equipment and training costs are included in the sum sought above.

## **2. THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION**

The above Scheme's existing funding stream through the Integrated Care Fund ended on 31 March 2019. The Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-23 adopted on 8 March this year notes the intention of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department to work with Gwynedd communities to promote dementia friendly communities and to promote community resilience that will build on the strengths of these communities to prevent demand for Care and Support services.

The Dementia Go element, which is an original programme developed in Gwynedd, has received national recognition for its initiative and the contribution it makes to the lives of people who live with dementia and their carers. It is referred to as good practice in publications, and through presentations at conferences by the Wales' Older People Commissioner. Ceredigion County Council and other authorities have expressed an interest in emulating the Scheme at their Council following an invitation to give a presentation before stakeholders in the dementia field in the County.

By evaluating this project every quarter and presenting reports to the Integrated Care Fund, there is strong evidence to demonstrate that the Scheme is a way for the Department to realise its main principles to:

- Ensure the well-being of those who require care and support
- Attempt to prevent the escalation of people's needs, and to endeavour to
- ensure that the right support is available at the right time.

The scheme's success can be illustrated through the personal stories of the individuals who are part of the groups

Following the success of the initial programme, there is now a need to decide whether the Council will earmark resources to continue with this innovative work which will be a way of empowering people living with dementia, and their carers, by ensuring a specific preventative service for them within the community's Centres.

Whilst the evidence of the scheme's benefit to support the well-being of individuals, families and carers is extremely positive and shows the value of the work as a preventative method, further work is to be done with regard to balancing the financial savings. This is no mean feat as every case is different, and the total expenditure that could be avoided or deferred through preventative support varies greatly. This work is already in the pipeline, and it is hoped that the programme's contribution to managing the demand for more intensive care within six months can be estimated.

It is believed that the Dementia Support Scheme is a programme that breaks down barriers and ensures that people living with dementia have access to a well-being service. It focusses on well-being and on improving the quality of life through physical exercise and socialising. Also, it is a way of providing support to carers and having carers and the families of people with dementia to support each other.

### **3. INTRODUCTION**

The budget requested above is a way of achieving the five following work fields:

- Living well with Dementia: Community physical activity classes
- "Moving Moments" Project - Gwynedd Council Care Homes
- Break down barriers and remove the stigma surrounding dementia
- Support and empower people living with dementia and their families
- Quality of life and connecting people

#### **4. THE REASONING AND JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

Investing in preventative interventions within our communities ensures that we fulfil our commitment to transform care services, from the root. This project is a way of changing society's culture, to better understand the dementia condition and be equipped to cope with the reality that an increasing number of residents in our communities will be living with dementia. The national statistics demonstrate that one out of every 14 persons over 65 years old and one person out of every four persons over 80 years old develop dementia. The effect of dementia spreads to close family, friends in the community and public agencies that serve the residents of Gwynedd. The **Dementia Support Services in the Community Scheme** is a way of supporting this change.

#### **5. NEXT STEPS AND TIMETABLE**

The comprehensive programme planned for 2019-20 is built upon what has worked well over the past two years. It includes new services and uses new technology to deliver.

This developmental work will take place side by side with the work to quantify the benefit of the scheme in terms of managing the demand. After this work is completed, it is intended to consider it along with the well-being benefit. If the results are positive which, based on work so far, they are expected to be, a request for permanent resources will be submitted through the regular annual bidding procedure in autumn.

#### **6. ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

##### **Views of the Statutory Officers:**

##### **Head of Finance:**

I note this is a request for £97,660 of one-off resources from the Council's Transformation Fund. There will be several deserving applications emanating from the Council Plan competing for scarce resources from the Transformation Fund. It is a matter for Cabinet members to prioritise the applications that will make a difference when allocating resources from the Fund. I confirm that there is sufficient provision to finance the plans that have been presented to Cabinet, and that there is further money available from the Fund for some projects that will come to future Cabinet meetings for approval.

##### **Monitoring Officer:**

No comment to add in relation to propriety.