

Strategic Efficiency Savings Schemes

Title	Amount £	How it will not affect outcomes for residents
Arfon Area Transport Savings	£267,000	Consistent with the schemes implemented in the Dwyfor and Meirionnydd areas, the savings in question derive from work undertaken (in the Arfon area) to review and re-tender local bus and learner transport contracts in order to formalise and reconcile the arrangements across the County. This has ensured that the provision is more in-keeping with the need and sometimes involves responding to the demand in a different way e.g. developing “on demand” services rather than a traditional bus service.
Cross-departmental Procurement Savings	£118,000	The savings in question derive from a combination of different procurement techniques such as renegotiating contracts, tendering, and reducing demand etc.
Reducing sickness absences	£50,000	The aim of this scheme was to reduce staff sickness absences in the Council’s front-line services (e.g. residential care) which will in turn reduce the need to employ relief staff. In terms of service users there is no impact as the Council continues to provide the same service but using fewer relief staff.

Title	Amount £	How it will not affect outcomes for residents
Assistive Technology Savings (Telecare)	£217,000	With the aim of supporting vulnerable people to live in their homes with the support they require, the Council provides assistive technology (telecare). By mainstreaming the technology in suitable cases it is possible to provide support in an alternative way for example, the use of sensors which offer continuous, automatic and remote monitoring of individuals' care needs in order to trigger human response to the situation, or switch off equipment in order to avoid dangers.
Savings by making more effective use of the Council's fleet vehicles.	£130,000	The purpose of this scheme is to make better use of fleet vehicles to provide the same level of service. These savings will be realised by targeting vehicles making low mileage and changing working procedures.
Redesigning the Council's printing arrangements	£78,000	The savings in question derive from a combination of redesigning arrangements and better use of technology for internal documents. No impact on residents is anticipated.
TOTAL	£860,000	

CONDUCTING AN EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Scheme to Re-model Public Transport and Education – Arfon Area

1) AUTHOR(S) OF THE ASSESSMENT

Ceri Hughes Thomas – Contracts Team Manager (Temporary)

2) PARTNERS

Step 1:

Integrated Transport Unit on behalf of the Regulatory Department and the Education Department

Step 2:

Integrated Transport Unit on behalf of the Regulatory Department and the Education Department

3) ASSESSMENT COMPLETION DATE

4) AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY / SERVICE / FUNCTION

Step 1 –

Step 1 is an opportunity to get to know and tidy up the existing provision. This happens in the context of cuts in transport subsidy from Welsh Government. Combine and formalise the county's "de minimis" contracts and reduce the number of empty seats on school buses in accordance with the education department's current policy.

Rationalise and tidy up historical arrangements, making sure that we make the best use of our resources.

The process in Arfon has not led to any significant cuts to services in terms of frequency or number of buses; however, complying with the education department's current policy means that learners from the Maesgeirchen area are not eligible to receive free transport to a further education placement.

Step 2 - Use the arrangements baseline deriving from Step 1 work to identify priorities and provide a purposeful, suitable public transport network across the County which offers value for money to the taxpayer. The method used for delivering Step 2 will be the 'scoring matrix' which will give consideration to various aspects such as - price per head for completing the journey, number of passengers used by the service.

5) PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

Step 1:

To date, having undertaken the work in Arfon, which is fortunate enough to have commercial competition in the area, no significant change was undertaken to the provision beyond minor adaptations to the timetables. Minor changes which will not affect access to essential services such as hospital appointments or surgeries.

Implementing Step 2 is more likely to lead to significant changes which will require wider engagement.

Step 2:

As part of developmental work, it is intended to identify the need to engage with some specific characteristics e.g. Access Groups, Disability Equality Core Group, and Older People's Forum etc.

6) THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

Step 1 work does not offer any specific evidence but rather creates an understanding of the existing arrangements and sets a baseline for providing services which will be a context to proposals in Step 2. Work to monitor the services established will feed into the assessment matrix used in Step 2.

Any observations arising from the engagement will also feed into the final proposals deriving from Step 2 where the following evidence is available;

- Nomis website – Service provided by the Office for National Statistics.
- Bus Survey.
- The expertise of the Integrated Transport Unit. Revenue and passenger figures provided by the operators.
- Level of complaints about lack / level of service.

7) GAPS IN EVIDENCE

Implementing Step 1 has been designed to enable detailed monitoring work of the services and this will be the evidence which will be the basis for assessment and implementation steps in Step 2. It is not anticipated that there will be significant gaps in evidence; however, if some come to the fore, work will be commissioned to fill those gaps.

8) RELEVANCE AND EFFECT

8a)

Equality Act General Duty	Relevance	The actual or likely effect
Removing illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Likely to be relevant to Step 2 only	Need to ensure that any arrangements or provision put in place in Step 2 do not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics.
Promoting equal opportunities	Likely to be relevant to Step 2 only	It is aimed to ensure that the services provided take full advantage of the opportunity to ensure accessible vehicles and routes and responds to the needs of different groups
Fostering good relations	Likely to be relevant to Step 2 only	There is already a good relationship with providers and users of the services. Any engagement work on Step 2 will be an opportunity to strengthen this. Every effort will be made to ensure that the transport provision in the County promotes social opportunities for vulnerable groups.

8b)

Characteristics	Relevance	The actual or likely effect
Race	None	None, but possible relevance in Step 2
Disability	Relevant to Step 1 and Step 2	The needs of individuals with disabilities will be considered when commissioning services through individual contracts. We will engage directly with the group as part of Step 2.
Gender	None	None, but possible relevance in Step 2
Gender reassignment	None	None, but possible relevance in Step 2
Sexual orientation	None	None, but possible relevance in Step 2
Religion or belief	None	None, but possible relevance in Step 2
The Welsh language	Relevant to Step 1 and Step 2	The contracts set by the Council note the need to provide information bilingually.
Age	Relevant to Step 1 and Step 2	The needs of elderly passengers will be considered when commissioning services based on the individual contracts. We will engage directly with the group as part of Step 2.

Pregnancy and maternity	Relevant to Step 1 and Step 2	The needs of pregnant mothers and families with young children will be considered when commissioning services based on the individual contracts. We will engage directly with the group as part of Step 2.
Marriage and civil partnership	None	None, but possible relevance in Step 2

9) ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS

a)	Note any possible effects from an equality perspective Do not anticipate any impact in relation to Step 1 at present. The equality implications will need to be assessed as part of Step 2.
b)	What steps can be taken to lessen this effect? This will depend on the proposal and the options developed.
c)	Is there a need to reconsider the plan? No - no significant impacts identified to date

CONDUCTING AN EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TELECARE

1) AUTHOR(S) OF THE ASSESSMENT

Dona Griffiths

2) PARTNERS

Galw Gofal (partner organisation)
Care and Repair (partner organisation)
Frontline staff
Service Users
Health

3) ASSESSMENT COMPLETION DATE

1/4/2015

4) AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY / SERVICE / FUNCTION

With the aim of supporting vulnerable people to live in their homes by managing risks facing them, the Council provides assistive technology equipment (telecare). By mainstreaming the technology in suitable cases it is possible to provide support in an alternative way for example, the use of sensors which offer continuous, automatic and remote monitoring of individuals' care needs in order to trigger human response to the situation, or switch off equipment in order to avoid dangers. Using assistive technology can promote the independence of the individual and reduce dependence on social services.

By introducing assistive technology in suitable cases, the need for a home care carer can be reduced or eliminated if it is possible to provide assistive technology equipment which meets the need in question, for example:

Rather than a carer calling into a client's home equipment can be provided etc (e.g. if an individual tends to suffer falls, not provide supervision services to them to monitor them while in the home alone, but, rather, provide equipment which will be of assistance to avoid falls entirely or a falls detector which will identify when the individual suffers falls and calls for assistance immediately).

5) PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION

Consultation work with the care co-ordinators has shown that it is possible to reduce the number of home care hours provided in some cases by introducing assistive technology. The care co-ordinators record on every assistive technology order if there is any reduction to the number of home care hours provided due to the introduction of the technology. This work shows that savings are made with the introduction of technology..

6) THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (the "Act")

The Act comes into force in 2016. The Act reports that it is important to promote the independence of the adult wherever possible (clause 6(3)(b)).

The Act also states that Local Authorities need to provide preventative services which will enable people to live their lives as independently as possible (clause 15(2)(1)). The Act reports that it is possible to use aids and adaptations for the abovementioned purposes (clause 32(2)(h)). Using assistive technology, therefore, meets the requirements placed on us as Local Government under the Act.

Staff Comments

The care co-ordinators report on the reduction in home care hours provided by using assistive technology.

Good Practice

A great number of cases using assistive technology show good practice. For example, if a service user wanders during the night, providing a premises exit detector informs a carer living in the property or contact centre if the door of the property is opened during the night. The carer will be available to respond immediately, or the contact centre can speak with the service user to persuade them not to leave the property or call a member of the family or the emergency services if the person has left.

Consulting with the Service User

The Adults, Health and Well-being Service's Commissioning Schemes have included consulting with a number of the Adults Service and Learning Difficulties Service Users. This consultation work looked at the entire Service provided. No comments about Assistive Technology or the use of it were raised by Service Users.

8) RELEVANCE AND EFFECT

8a)

Equality Act General Duty	Relevance	The actual or likely effect
Removing illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Yes	Assistive technology services will ensure consistency in terms of services for people.
Promoting equal opportunities	Yes	The scheme will not have an impact on equal opportunities and the new system will continue to support and promote equal opportunities
Fostering good relations	Yes	We will continue to ensure reviews of assistive technology equipment with users in some cases in a multi-disciplinary team.

8b)

Characteristics	Relevance	The actual or likely effect
Race	No specific impact for this cohort	Do not anticipate any impact
Disability	Yes	As a result of increasing the use of assistive technology in learning difficulties cases, there might be an impact on the number of hours of support services provided to the individuals using the technology. However, it must be stressed that all the care needs of individuals will be met.
Gender	Side effect	A very high percentage of the workforce which provide home care are female. Providing assistive technology can reduce the number of home care provided and therefore there might be a side effect on these jobs.
Gender reassignment	No specific impact for this cohort	Do not anticipate any impact
Sexual orientation	No specific impact for this cohort	Do not anticipate any impact
Religion or belief	No specific impact for this cohort	Do not anticipate any impact
The Welsh language	Possible impact here	Comment- the service provided is bilingual therefore there will be no language discrimination. 32 of the 34 officers responding to calls in the call centre speak Welsh. Several Welsh-speakers work in the call centre at any one time.

Characteristics	Relevance	The actual or likely effect
Age	Yes	As a result of administrating the use of assistive technology in older people's cases, there might be an impact on the number of hours of home careservice provided to the individuals using the technology. However, it must be stressed that all the care needs of individuals will be met.
Pregnancy and maternity	No specific impact for this cohort	
Marriage and civil partnership	No specific impact for this cohort	

9) ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS

a)	Note any possible effects from an equality perspective Impact noted above will have a positive impact on promoting the independence of individuals who have learning difficulties, physical disabilities and older people.
b)	What steps can be taken to lessen this effect? Reviewing the assistive technology will happen within the reviewing arrangements of packages by social workers.
c)	Is there a need to reconsider the plan? No