

Dear Mrs Williams,

Please find below the response to the question you submitted for inclusion on the agenda for the Council meeting to be held on 9th September, 2015.

Day Care is an excellent and beneficial service for people who need support and care along with enjoying the opportunity for socialising, as well as for providing essential respite for carers. In Carmarthenshire people are assessed as to their care needs and, if eligible, are supported to meet those needs in a variety of ways, including day care provision. The eligibility criteria for services in Carmarthenshire has not changed over the past few years, but it is clear that fewer people are attending the day services for older people that are provided. The needs assessment undertaken considers people's lifestyle choices and preferences in order to identify the most appropriate support opportunities for them.

Over recent years fewer people are accessing day care services and social workers are supporting more people to access clubs and societies within their own communities. There are excellent examples of people being supported to access community groups with care and support provided to them in the community and this type of service is often preferred by individuals. These groups include informal societies and hobby groups, as well as more formal luncheon clubs, such as the ones at St John's Court (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and Woods Row Court (Wednesdays).

There are also other organisations, such as the WI who provide senior citizens groups, exercise opportunities at leisure centres and at St Mary's Church in Carmarthen, and MIND convene lunch groups during week days. Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to supporting the development of community based services and has recently supported permanent appointment of three Community Resilience Coordinators to work alongside health and social care community practitioners.

There are also more formal services such as the Carmarthenshire Council commissioned Hafan Glyd Day Centre for people who have a cognitive impairment and a 'Singing for the Brain' group at Carmarthen Leisure Centre.

The largest Day Centre facility in Carmarthen is the council run Myrddin Day Centre. With population needs changing and the public's expectations also changing it is important to us to ensure that services are fit for purpose and meet the needs and requirements of the people of Carmarthen, as well as the whole county. I have asked the Director to ensure services are developed to reflect changing needs.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for submitting your question.

Regards,

Councillor Jane Tremlett
Executive Board Member for Social Care & Health