

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2021

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CARMARTHENSHIRE'S ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the report is accepted, and that the immediate and longer-term impact of Covid-19 is considered.

Reasons:

To provide Scrutiny Committee with a position statement regarding how adult social care services have continued to manage during the second wave of the pandemic and highlight the service priorities going forward.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Jake Morgan Report Author Avril Bracey Alex Williams Jonathan Morgan Chris Harrison	Designations: Director of Community Services Head of Adult Social Care Head of Integrated Services Head of Homes and Safer Communities Head of Strategic Commissioning	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses: 01267 248900 AlexWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11TH MARCH 2021

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CARMARTHENSHIRE'S
ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This document is a position statement regarding the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on Adult Social Care services in Carmarthenshire.

The report describes how we have managed the second wave of the pandemic, lessons learnt and how this is informing our priorities going forward.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Yes

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Avril Bracey

Head of Adult Social care

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

We must make sure that we learn from this unprecedented experience as we reintroduce our services and re-set our strategic and operational priorities. We must identify our key learning points at a service and organisational level.

We will need to align our vision and business plans with the revised corporate '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire 5 Year Plan*', *Corporate Strategy* and *Well-being Objectives*.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to inevitable widespread changes to the way in which services are delivered by local authorities. We will need to reprioritise services and our resources in budget setting.

It is critical that Local Authorities involve those who use services and their carers and adhere to equality policies when resetting social care service priorities.

3. Finance

We have continued to draw down financial support from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund, to help offset some of the additional costs associated with Covid. It is difficult to predict at this stage how this crisis will impact on long-term demand and consequently spend, but we continue to monitor.

We have continued to see some challenges in achieving our predicted PBBs this year. This is offset to an extent by reduced costs following changes in service provision such as Day Services.

4. ICT:

Digital solutions will play an ever-increasing role in shaping what we do. Technology and forms of virtual communication have been invaluable through this time

6. Staffing implications:

Staffing has remained relatively stable during the pandemic and staff have demonstrated remarkable resilience. The pandemic has required our workforce to be flexible and adaptive and this will need to continue in the long-term due to future uncertainties.

7. Physical Assets:

Significant implications on current and future use of physical assets, with greater challenges for building based services including reduced capacity, enhanced infection control and safe working practices.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Alex Williams

Head of Integrated Services

1. Local Member(s)- N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Monthly meetings with trade unions ongoing. Corporate staff surveys informing service. Regular team meetings and briefing ongoing via Teams online.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED:**

YES

Cllr J. Tremlett, Executive Board Member for Social Care & Health has been kept up to date regarding how we have managed the pandemic, our recovery plans and priorities going forward. Cllr. Tremlett is fully supportive and thanks staff for their dedication during this challenging time.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None