

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5TH OCTOBER 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 are continuing to be sustained and highlight the demand and pressures that are emerging as a result of the pandemic.

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

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

Directorate:	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses:
Communities		
Report Author: Avril Bracey	Head of Adult Social Care	01267 228849 / ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Alex Williams	Head of Integrated Services	01267 248900 / AlexWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes and Safer Communities	v.uk 01554 899285 / JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Chris Harrison	Head of Strategic Commissioning	01267 228085 / Chris.harrison@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
5th OCTOBER 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 our Covid response is now very much business as usual, and how we are responding to the emerging demand and pressures particularly in relation to assessment and domiciliary care demand.

As Covid Recovery is now very much business as usual these bespoke Covid updates will no longer continue to be provided. However, items that would ordinarily go through Cabinet can be added to the forward workplan as and when needed.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Yes

IMPLICATIONS

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: Alex Williams

Head of Integrated Services

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. Under this scheme, Welsh Government has confirmed that the additional hardship payment to the domiciliary care sector to pay for an uplift of £1 per hour will continue until the end of March by way of recognition of the particular challenges faces, whilst other elements of the Hardship payments will taper. We have recently been awarded £2.4million from Welsh Government as part of the Covid Recovery Fund. We are using this funding to help us address issues relating to demand and pressures.

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 both within in-house and external domiciliary care is significantly compromised currently, which is impacting on our ability to deliver the required number of hours. In addition,

we are experiencing significant pressures in social work recruitment which is having an effect on our ability to pick up social work referrals as quickly as we would like. We are actively addressing the recruitment and retention challenges through a number of actions detailed in the report.

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.

CONSULTATIONS

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.

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED:**

YES

Cllr J. Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Social Care & Health has been kept up to date regarding how we have managed the pandemic, and the demand and pressures that we are currently experiencing and how we are managing them. 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:**

There are none.