

SUBJECT

WAO Report on accommodation for adults with a Learning Disability - May 2018

In July 2018, the Audit Committee received for consideration a WAO report concerning the strategic commissioning of accommodation services for adults with a learning disability. The report concluded that:

- The approach to commissioning accommodation for people with a Learning Disability is potentially unsustainable
- LA's generally do not have effective arrangements to commission accommodation services for people with a Learning Disability.
- Ineffective evaluation of outcomes for Learning Disability services means Local Authorities are not always able to demonstrate the positive impact of their accommodation choices.

A verbal update was provided in December 2018 regarding the authority's plans to develop accommodation services for adults with learning disability in Carmarthenshire. The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to have an update on these developments at a future audit meeting. The following is an initial summary of Carmarthenshire's current position in response to the WAO report.

It is important to note that developing a range of accommodation options for individuals with a learning disability was a priority for the division before the WAO report. In Carmarthenshire we have had an over reliance on residential care and our vision is to have a range of accommodation to promote choice, independence, and community integration. We believe this is fundamentally the right thing to do.

The Committee will be aware from the previous report that work began during 2017 with the social work teams, to identify those individuals with accommodation needs over the next three to five years. As part of the implementation of the Social Service and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, the West Wales Care Partnership (WWCP) led the development of a Market Position Statement and Area Plan which informed the development of a commissioning strategy for adults with a learning disability in Carmarthenshire. This strategy was published in 2019.

The WWCP, also in 2017, commissioned the Housing Learning Improvement Network (LIN) to undertake an assessment of the housing and accommodation needs of people with a Learning Disability for the next 10-20 years, on a regional footprint. We have since recommissioned the Housing LIN in 2021, to refresh this document in order to reflect the impact of Covid to include individuals with complex needs and mental health issues.

Since the publication of the first Housing Lin report and the Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy, Adult Social Care and the Commissioning Team have been

working to map the accommodation and support needs of individuals with a learning disability and other population groups. We now have a four-year accommodation plan which outlines what accommodation we need and where in the County we need it. This report will be launched at the Regional Commissioning Group on March 25th, 2022. In Carmarthenshire our strategic objective is to develop models of care which promote progression and independence. Therefore, the number of people who require accommodation going forward is likely to increase.

The pandemic has impacted on our progress, but we have we are collaborated with colleagues in housing and commissioning to progress several accommodation projects and utilised external funding such as the Integrated Care (Capital) Fund to progress bespoke housing projects:

Learning Disability and Mental Health is now a priority in the councils' housing strategy. We have been able to access the council's housing stock and new builds for those who are able to live independently. Our housing department have purchased properties and made the necessary adaptations to accommodate those with complex needs.

We have developed several accommodation projects in partnership with our colleagues in housing:

- Carmarthen – four individuals moved from residential into a five bed roomed property.
- Glanamman - a three bed roomed shared accommodation plus two self-contained flats.
- Cross Hands - a three bed roomed property, offering two shared tenancies with support.
- Llanelli - a three bed roomed property, offering two shared tenancies with support.
- (In progress) Llanelli - four shared tenancies for individuals with complex needs, plus four individual flats.
- (In progress) Pembrey - a three bed roomed property offering two shared tenancies with support.

We have been able to increase the independence of several individuals by working with providers to deregister residential settings to supported living. This gives the individuals concerned greater security of tenure and more choice and control, but at the same time they can remain in a setting where they feel settled, maintaining friendships and community links. To date we have been able to do this in three settings which has improved outcomes for 16 individuals. The following is a quote from one individual who was one of the first to move into a scheme:

Feedback from Mr T, via his community nurse- "I just spoke to Mr T. It was so lovely. He is so happy - 'Joyo, Joyo', he said. He has been 'everywhere' he says. He has been playing football outside with the staff. He happily shares chores like drying and washing up with X. He is looking forward to the future and talking about returning to all his jobs and clubs. He is also looking forward to going on holiday"

Our Shared Lives Scheme enables individuals to live with a family. We are part of a regional scheme which is hosted by Carmarthenshire. Over the last year we have restructured the team and developed a marketing strategy to increase the number of 'Shared Lives' carers, which will increase the options for individuals with a learning disability.

It is also important to note that we have several forums which ensure that we are progressing our commissioning intentions and our ambitious programme of change. We have also increased our staff resource in adult social care, commissioning, and housing to support this work.

Carmarthenshire is represented on a **Regional Commissioning Group** supported by the West Wales Care Partnership. This group:

- Considers findings from accommodation needs mapping, to inform strategic commissioning plans.
- Ensures projects are developed in a collaborative way, to meet needs as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- Identifies gaps in provision and remedial action required.

An Integrated Care Fund (ICF) capital group:

- Advises on commissioning proposals and priorities
- Identifies projects for grant funding.

The Head of Adult Social Care chairs a monthly **Accommodation and Efficiency Project Board** which:

- Has oversight of the Commissioning of all accommodation projects.
- Tracks progress and identify issues for escalation.
- Receives regular highlight reports in relation to all commissioned accommodation projects.
- Tracks expenditure and savings targets.

A Project Group is set up for every accommodation scheme, to monitor progress and timelines, and collaboratively resolve any difficulties.

In conclusion, whilst the pandemic has impacted on our progress, I hope this report provides the committee with the reassurance that reducing the numbers of people in residential care and commissioning a range of accommodation options to improve outcomes for individuals with a learning disability and other population groups. This is a key priority and fundamental to the business plan going forward for the Adult Social Care Division.

Avril Bracey
Head of Adult Social Care

25th February 2022