

# HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

## SUBJECT:

### DOMICILIARY CARE STRATEGY UPDATE

#### Purpose:

The Committee has requested a report surrounding the current pressure on domiciliary care and the impact that this is having on hospital discharges. They are seeking assurance that patients are being safely supported to leave hospital despite the challenges. This report seeks to outline the pressures and how Carmarthenshire County Council is responding to those pressures.

#### THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

Consider the approach that Carmarthenshire County Council is taking to respond to the pressures on domiciliary and ensuring within this context patients are safely discharged from hospital.

#### Reasons:

To seek assurance that Carmarthenshire residents are being safely discharged from hospital with the appropriate level of support.

#### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

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| <b>Directorate</b><br><b>Communities</b><br><b>Name of Director:</b><br><b>Jake Morgan</b><br><b>Report Author:</b><br><b>Jake Morgan</b> | <b>Designations:</b><br><b>Director of Community Services</b> | <b>Tel Nos.</b><br><b>01267 224697</b><br><b>E Mail Addresses:</b><br><b>jake</b><br><b>morgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</b> |
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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**SUBJECT:**  
**DOMICILIARY CARE STRATEGY UPDATE**

## 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The Committee has requested this report following concern raised that due to the extreme pressure facing the NHS, hospitals may be seeking to discharge patients without adequate care arrangements being in place.

This report seeks to outline the current pressures facing domiciliary care in Carmarthenshire and provide assurance surrounding the approach that is being taken to ensure that residents are discharged from hospital safely with appropriate care arrangements in place. It also seeks to provide assurance that residents are able to access support in the community in a crisis when they need it to avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital.

**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: Jake Morgan

Director of Community Services

| Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities | Legal      | Finance     | ICT         | Risk Management Issues | Staffing Implications | Physical Assets |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>NONE</b>                             | <b>YES</b> | <b>NONE</b> | <b>NONE</b> | <b>YES</b>             | <b>NONE</b>           | <b>NONE</b>     |

## 2. Legal

Carmarthenshire County Council has a legal duty under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act to assess a person's need and provide appropriate care and support to meet an eligible need. Therefore, on leaving hospital, the Council has a duty to assess whether there is an eligible need that needs to be met and put appropriate care arrangements in place to meet that need.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

Due to the significant workforce challenges in the domiciliary care sector, Carmarthenshire currently has more people assessed as needing care than care hours available. Therefore, Carmarthenshire is currently risk assessing all those waiting for care and prioritising the care that becomes available based on those with greatest need. On leaving hospital, all options are being explored if the optimum care package is not available to see whether needs can be safely met at home through other means, such as family support funded via a direct payment until a package of care becomes available, a step-down bed in a residential care setting and Delta Connect as a way to provide reassurance that help is at hand for families. Through this approach, nobody is discharged from hospital unless arrangements are put in place to allow this to safely happen.

### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

YES

### Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

**NONE.**

| Title of Document | File Ref No. | Locations that the papers are available for public inspection |
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