



## **CABINET – 10TH APRIL 2019**

**SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS**

**REPORT BY: DAVE STREET CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To apprise Cabinet of the plans for the case for change for provision of a new centre for children with additional needs to replace the existing Caerphilly Children's Centre at Energlyn, Caerphilly.
- 1.2 To seek Cabinet approval to proceed with a formal consultation exercise with regard to this potential new development.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Cabinet approved the allocation of capital funding to build a new Children's Centre in October 2016 as part of the Capital Programme for 2017/18. Although plans were ready to develop, further discussion with health colleagues around the need to link this to the integrated hubs work and ensure services are future proofed as much as possible delayed the decision to proceed.
- 2.2 We are now in a position to progress with the development as a suitable site has been identified namely the lower plateau of the now surplus Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School. Cabinet is requested to note this opportunity and allow key officers to proceed with a formal consultation exercise with regard to this potential new development.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That Cabinet approve that officers proceed with a formal consultation exercise with regard to this potential new development.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The establishment of a new purpose built Children's centre will provide modern facilities that meet the needs of the relevant children in a more appropriate manner.

### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The current Children's Centre for Caerphilly is based in Energlyn, Caerphilly, which is to the South of the Borough. The building and the site are the property of Action for Children, a national charitable provider of services for children, young people and their families. The Council commissions Action for Children to provide some services and pays for some office accommodation in the Centre. However, the majority of the revenue running costs are funded

by Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) who have a significant number of staff and services based there.

- 5.2 The existing Children's Centre building and facilities are no longer fit for purpose and will become more unsuitable as time progresses. The needs of the children accessing this service are becoming more complex and the numbers of children requiring services of this nature are rising due to advances in medical interventions leading to an increase in life expectancy. Therefore it is vital at this time that we commence plans to upgrade the services before they become completely unsustainable.
- 5.3 The layout of the building is not conducive to the integrated model and partnership working due to the limited office space available and the inability to re-arrange this space to ensure the right people are co-located due to the size of the rooms available and their layout within the building.
- 5.4 The treatment rooms and facilities are limited in size and number. There are a number of other professionals who would benefit from being co-located or from holding clinics at the centre should space be available. This would be of great benefit to families to prevent them needing to visit several different appointments in several different locations.
- 5.5 The hydro-therapy pool facility is ageing and maintenance costs are increasing significantly year on year. When essential works have to be undertaken there is considerable disruption to services.
- 5.6 The preferred site has been agreed, namely the lower plateau of the now surplus Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site which will otherwise be redeveloped for housing.
- 5.7 Negotiations with ABUHB have resulted in a commitment to fund the revenue costs of the new centre to the same level as with the current Children's centre. In addition, whilst the Health Board is unable to commit capital funding to properties they do not directly own, they have committed to fund the installation of specialist equipment for use by Health professionals e.g. tracking and hoisting and potentially a contribution to the hydro-therapy pool.
- 5.9 Cabinet have committed capital of £3.1 million, discussions with Health colleagues have identified we need £4 million to enable the centre to be fully integrated and provide a wider range of services such as contact facilities for children and their families and enable hot clinics/ with other primary care services. The additional funding will provide more space for professional both on a permanent and drop in basis that will extend the range of services that can operate out of the centre. Additional space could also allow the centre to operate on a "hub" basis allowing staff from social care and wider council services to have a presence at the centre.
- 5.10 Should the additional funding not be secured we would need to review the facilities to be provided at the centre.

#### 5.11 **Conclusion**

The reasons outlined above state the case for change as the existing arrangements are not suitable and are not sustainable to meet the needs of children with additional needs within the county borough.

## 6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 The assumptions on the costs are based on current prices and hence could be subject to change based on inflation increases etc.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

7.1 Children's Services Commissioning Strategy 2015-2020

### **7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

8.1 The report contributes to the Well-being Goals which are:-

- A healthier Wales\*

The report is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act. The five ways of working of the sustainable development principle, listed in the Act are:

- Long Term – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability of future generations to meet their long-term needs. The case for change has been outlined to meet long terms needs of individuals
- Prevention – This proposal will look to focus on well-being and prudent health care principles
- Integration – The centre will be a joint venture with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Collaboration – We will work internal with Directorate of Education and other parts of Adults and Children's Services to ensure the centre is fit for purpose
- Involvement –We will work with the third sector to reflect the e model in the other 2 Children's centres.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 An EIA screening tool has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equalities Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and /or low level minor negative impact has been identified; therefore a full EIA has not been carried out.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Total funding of £3.1million has been allocated within the Capital Funding Programme

10.2 As stated above, ABUHB currently provide the majority of the revenue costs for the existing Children's Centre because so many of their staff are based there. The Health Board's Divisional Director has committed to transfer the existing revenue funding and ensure future costs are met as their contribution to the new development. However, it must be acknowledged that it will be difficult to truly predict the running costs until the Centre is fully operational.

10.3 In addition, ABUHB have committed to fund the installation of specialist equipment for use by Health professionals e.g. tracking and hoisting and potentially a contribution to the hydro-therapy pool. Current estimates of the specialist equipment costs are in the region of £400k.

10.4 If additional funding isn't secured we would need to review the facilities offered at the centre.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no HR or personnel implications arising from this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 The report reflects the views of the consultees.

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