



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 4TH FEBRUARY 2020

SUBJECT: REBALANCING OF THE SOCIAL CARE MARKET

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of work currently being undertaken between local authorities and Welsh Government (WG) with a view to determining if the balance in the social care market between local authority directly provided services, services commissioned from the independent sector and services from the third sector is currently fit for purpose.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 As part of his manifesto pledge in 2018 the First Minister stated his intentions to “Re-energise efforts to create cooperative suppliers of social care services in Wales, rebalancing the sector, and bring such services back closer to the public realm.”
- 2.2 This report explains the current position in Caerphilly CBC with regard to the current balance of the social care market and the work done to date alongside WG officials and colleagues at the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru (ADSSC).
- 2.3 The report also seeks Members views on the issue of the balance within the market for social care services and the current position within Caerphilly CBC.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the work being done alongside Welsh Government with regard to the need for rebalancing of the social care market.
- 3.2 Members comments are sought with regard to the issue of the balance within the market for social care services and the current position within Caerphilly CBC

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The issue of rebalancing the care sector was a manifesto pledge by the First Minister. The views of Scrutiny Committee on the subject will assist officers in on-going discussions.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 As referenced above, in his manifesto the First Minister pledged to examine the current position with regard to the social care market and proposed to;

- Recognise that future services will continue to be a mixture of local, regional and national provision, and will continue to draw on public, private and voluntary effort.
- Re-energise efforts to create cooperative suppliers of social care services in Wales, rebalancing the sector, and bring such services back closer to the public realm.
- Support those local authorities in Wales, seeking to bring social care services back under their direct control.

5.2 As result of the above officers have been working with staff from WG, data Cymru and ADSSC to;

- Establish the current balance of social care provided in-house by local authorities, by the private sector and by organisations in the Third Sector.
- Help identify an optimal balance of provision of social care for the future.
- Help inform development of regulations and guidance on market stability assessments under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care Act.
- Support the Welsh Government in identifying what type of support to local government would be most successful in supporting/incentivising such change, what types of support/at which sectors of provision should support be targeted.

5.3 The emergence of the social care market followed the implementation of the Community Care Act in 1990. This gave authorities a contractual relationship with Independent sector care and domiciliary care providers and local authorities in Wales have taken different approaches with regard to the extent they directly provide services and / or commission services from the independent sector and Third sector.

5.4 In Caerphilly CBC the current position is broadly as follows;

Service	% In House	% External
Domiciliary care (£)	28	72
Residential Care Older People (no of beds)	19	81
Residential Care Children (places)	20	80
Foster Care (places)	71	29

5.5 The opportunity to participate in this exercise is welcomed. Over past three years we have seen an increasing fragility emerge within the independent care market. A number of domiciliary care agencies have encountered difficulties with a significant number of care packages handed back which have had to be re commissioned. In terms of residential and nursing care there have been issues of quality in some homes and concerns with regard to the financial viability of others.

5.6 In terms of Children's Services the position is somewhat different. Members will be aware of the lack of placements in the borough to accommodate Children Looked After and children with complex needs. This has led to instances where children have been placed out of county and on occasions out of country. To rectify this position the authority has increased its provision of local authority managed children's homes from one to three.

5.7 Like most local authorities in Wales, Caerphilly CBC has always sought to increase its number of foster carers with numerous initiatives, past and present, having been undertaken. Despite this we continue to be reliant on Independent Fostering Agencies for a substantial number of

our placements.

5.8 In terms of moving this agenda forward there are still a number of key issues that need to be clarified. These include;

- The term “re-balancing” has not been defined and could mean different things e.g. re-balancing back to Councils, to social enterprises, the 3rd sector, towards Direct Payments and Person-Centred Care, to smaller homes, Extra care etc.
- Resources, and especially capital investment for some types of care, could be a significant issue.
 - The risks and opportunities of rebalancing need to be fully understood for Councils, providers and service users including funding of social care, the workforce implications, costs and contracting, quality of care and well-being of the individual, local economies, market stability and growth etc.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions contained in this report.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 Corporate Plan 2018-2023

The content of this report contributes towards Well Being Objective 6: Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being

8 WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The content of this report contributes to the following Well Being Goals:

- A resilient Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities

8.2 The report is consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act as follows:

- Long Term – the provision of safe care and accommodation for children and vulnerable adults is, and always will be, a key strategic priority for the Council.
- Improving outcomes for children Looked After will deliver longer term improvements for them individually.
- Prevention – Children’s Services is committed to preventing the escalation of need and subsequent demand on higher tier statutory services through the delivery of early intervention and family support services. We continue to strive to keep older people in their own homes for as long as their needs allow.
- Integration – Service developments across the Directorate region are increasingly integrated with Health and other professionals

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only, therefore the Council's full EIA process does not need to be applied.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This report is for information and consequently there are no financial implications. Should any work be done to rebalance our current market there will undoubtedly be financial implications and these will be factored in any future reports to Scrutiny containing definitive proposals in this area.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into this report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

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