



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP TWO NEW RESPITE FACILITIES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks the views of Members regarding the proposal to develop two new purpose-built respite facilities in Pontllanfraith, one for adults and one for children, prior to the report be presented to Cabinet.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 At present respite accommodation is provided in 3 separate houses:

- Ty Gwilym, Caerphilly (Adults) 4 beds
- Montclair, Blackwood (Adults) 5 beds
- Ty Hapus, Blackwood (Children) 4 beds

- 2.2 These 3 respite buildings are becoming unfit for purpose to meet the increasing needs of the children and adults that attend. There are a significant number of children and adults who have autism and associated behaviours who need much more space than the present buildings and gardens offer. Monies have been spent on the refurbishment of the buildings in previous years, however needs cannot continue to be met long-term in the present buildings even with further refurbishments.

- 2.3 The former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site has become available and would be ideal to co-locate this service in 2 separate houses. The proposed new site is central to the county borough.

- 2.4 The services are all registered with CIW and although they can be co located, there cannot be one facility as children and adult services require separate management and staff support.

- 2.5 Approximately 100 individuals access respite at Ty Gwilym and Montclair and 30 children access Ty Hapus, to enable support to be provided to their families/unpaid carers.

- 2.6 Cabinet has made the decision previously to allocate £4.3million of funding for the development. However, due to an element of this funding being subsequently redirected to the Trinity Fields expansion, increases in construction costs since the original decision, and the cost of equipping the new facilities, a further £1million of Social Services reserves will need to be earmarked for the proposed Respite facilities development.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are asked to: -
- 3.1.1 Consider and comment upon the proposal to develop two new respite facilities, one for adult and one for children co-located in Pontllanfraith.
- 3.2.1 Endorse a recommendation to Cabinet that a further £1,001,436 be allocated to the project from Social Services reserves.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Provision of short stays/overnight respite is an essential service to support families and unpaid carers to continue with their caring role.
- 4.2 The current respite facilities are no longer suitable to meet the needs of individuals and cannot be adapted any further.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Caerphilly CBC has successfully provided residential respite for adults since 1996 and prior to this the service was provided by Mid Glamorgan and Gwent County Councils.
- 5.2 Respite for Children was provided by Action for Children until 2016, at which point the service was brought in-house and managed by Children's Services, at that time it provided weekend respite only. In 2018 Ty Hapus transferred to Adult Services and subsequently service was increased to 6 nights a week. Additional Welsh Government grant funding is being sought in 2021/22 to increase service to 7 nights per week at Ty Hapus.
- 5.3 Feedback from families is very positive, the service is used very well with occupancy rates in Adult Services being 92%. It supports families to continue to live together within the community.
- 5.4 However, despite refurbishments through the years the buildings are becoming increasingly unfit for purpose and the Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated this further. The buildings not being Covid-19 compliant necessitated the reduction of individuals who can be supported at any one time safely.
- 5.5 The previous Pontllanfraith Comprehensive School site has become available and would be ideal to co-locate this service in 2 houses whilst still independent of each other. The proximity of the 2 houses will also support transition from children to adult services.

- 5.6 The new adult facility would have 9 beds which corresponds to the current provision, hence no loss of capacity. However, the design would enable more segregation of areas should it be required.
- 5.7 The new children's property would increase bed capacity from 4 to beds 6 to meet the increased demand that is being experienced and is predicted to be required longer-term.
- 5.8 The properties would benefit from a specific increase in designated outdoor space which is essential moving forward to meet the needs of individuals with autism .There will be designated safe play areas for children and garden areas to be enjoyed by all.
- 5.9 Ongoing discussions are taking place with Building Consultancy and drawings have been produced for the external requirements. Discussions are ongoing regarding specifications for internal layouts learning lessons from the pandemic.
- 5.10 A letter was sent to Individuals and their families who use this service in February 2021 informing them of this proposal, as it is part of the Council's place shaping strategy. Overall, this news was received positively with several families contacting the managers stating this was good news.
- 5.11 Staff meetings were also arranged in February 2021 and the proposal was received positively by all staff who will transfer to the new buildings.
- 5.12 In respect of the existing properties it is proposed that Montclaire is returned to council housing stock, creating two family homes. In respect of Ty Gwilym usage will be reviewed closer to the time as it may be suitable for emergency extended stay accommodation for children with disabilities. Ty Hapus will be sold which will generate a capital receipt.

5.13 **Conclusion**

The development of two purpose-built respite facilities in the centre of the borough is a key element of the Council's place shaping agenda. This provision will provide essential respite services to support parents/families and unpaid carers and meet the increasing needs of individuals.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions made in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 The completion of the IIA has not identified any negative impacts. Please see full assessment in the link as follows – [Integrated Impact Assessment](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The latest financial position is summarised below: -

Current estimated cost of project		£4,635,000
Funding originally earmarked for Children's Centre	£3,100,000	
Less expenditure incurred on Children's Centre	-£31,436	
Less contribution required for Trinity Fields	-£647,000	
Add additional funding approved for Respite Centre	£1,212,000	
Total funding currently available		£3,633,564
Current funding shortfall		£1,001,436

8.2 As of 30th July 2021, the Social Services unallocated service reserve balance stood at just under £2.1million. Therefore, the current funding shortfall for the development can be met by earmarking £1,001,436 of unallocated service reserves.

8.3 The combined revenue budgets of the 3 existing facilities amounting to £1,110,300 would transfer to the 2 proposed facilities:-

	Ty Gwilym	Montclair	Ty Hapus (6 nights)	Total
Staff Costs	£337,490	£339,118	£356,978	£1,033,586
Premises Costs	£11,506	£8,979	£14,234	£34,719
Food	£6,155	£9,164	£10,872	£26,191
Travelling Expenses	£101	£703	£486	£1,290
Other Costs	£1,551	£8,728	£4,235	£14,514
Total	£356,803	£366,692	£386,805	£1,110,300

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no HR implications associated with this report as staff will transfer to the proposed new facilities.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 All comments have been included in this report

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