



COUNCIL – 16TH NOVEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – DAY CENTRES

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Council is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report and make an appropriate recommendation. In accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution, the Notice of Motion was first considered by the Social Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 1st November 2021.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor Colin Mann and is supported by Councillors A. Angel, P. Bevan, C. Bishop, D. Cushing, M. Davies, J.E. Fussell, R.W. Gough, S. Kent, M. James, T. Parry, J. Roberts, M.E. Sargent, S. Skivens, J. Taylor, L. Whittle.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and is in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure now referred to Scrutiny for consideration.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Council are asked to consider the Notice of Motion outlined in paragraph 5.1 and make an appropriate recommendation.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Notice of Motion

The motion asks that: -

In view of significant public concern about suggested changes to the council's day care services, the Plaid Cymru group calls on the council to return to providing a full service of hours at day centres, pending an extensive review. We also call on CCBC not to withdraw previous transport arrangements for service users.

The proposals, as they stand, have caused immense distress and anxiety for carers and some of the most vulnerable members of our society which is having a detrimental effect on their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We are concerned that the existing consultation exercise has not gone out to all Carers and those vulnerable individuals they care for. The consultation seems to be merely window dressing with social services officers determined to drive through changes, whatever the short and long-term impact on carers and their family members. A better system of communication with service users and families is badly needed so that they are a proper part of the decision-making process

In the meantime, there should be a moratorium on any changes taking place for at least 12 months with a final decision on any changes being considered by the full council.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 As a notice of motion is a procedural matter and must be dealt with in accordance with Council's Constitution, no assumptions have been made.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as it relates to a procedural matter under the Councils Constitution.
- 7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The Notice of Motion was considered by the Social Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 1st November 2021.
- 10.2 Councillor Mann outlined his notice of motion and the reasons for bringing it

forwarding for consideration. Councillor Mann acknowledged that some of the provisions within the motion had been superseded since its submission, however he still felt that it should progress as submitted. The Scrutiny Committee were asked to note the views expressed to Councillor Mann from Carers that they had lost a vital lifeline and were unable to cope with the reduced day services provision, placing stress and anxiety on families.

10.3 The Acting Chief Executive addressed the committee in relation to the second sentence in paragraph 3 of the motion and although he would not usually pass comment on the content of a motion, he felt that he should do so in this instance as he fundamentally disagreed with the view expressed. The reference projected an entirely unfair appraisal of Officers who had worked with the best of intentions in relation to the consultation process and having seen the work they had done throughout the pandemic to safeguard service users he felt no other option but to challenge the comments made. He accepted that the reduced provision had consequences for families, but the high infection rates levels, the risks associated for very vulnerable services users and the need to safeguard the public health could not be underestimated.

10.4 A Member expressed his disappointment that the motion had progressed as submitted despite his attempt to work with fellow Councillors on this issue as he would have preferred a collaborative approach, and endorsed the comments from the Acting Chief Executive in relation to Social Services staff. To this end Councillor Kevin Etheridge proposed an amendment to the motion to read: -

“ In view of those recent concerns raised by users and carers at a public meeting and a petition of over 1000 names and the worry, distress, anxiety upset and stress caused for many in our communities we are pleased that the authorities have recognised that the original consultation exercise was withdrawn, and a more effective robust exercise will be undertaken by an Independent person with all stakeholders; users, carers and families.

We therefore call for all parties to work together, and in order to work in partnership a working group is set up with specific terms of reference to monitor and evaluate progress to ensure fairness and consistency. The Group would therefore be Chaired by the Cabinet Member, Cllrs from this Scrutiny limited numbers 2/3, Carer and Users, Officers from Social Services and Union representative. A report will be produced with recommendations for evaluation and consideration with options going forward ensuring regular engagement with all parties.”

10.5 The Chair sought clarification as to whether Councillor Etheridge could propose such an amendment as his was not a signatory of the original motion and it was confirmed that this would need to be accepted by the proposer or one of the signatories and the Chair would need to consider how significant the change to be. The Chair confirmed that as this was on a similar theme she did not consider this to be a significant change and sought confirmation from Councillor Mann as to whether he was prepared to accept this as the motion to progress on to Council.

10.6 Councillor Mann confirmed that he would be prepared to remove the previously referred to sentence from his motion and take this forward. This amendment was then moved and seconded by the Committee.

10.7 Members then debated the current risks around service provision and infection rates and concerns were expressed that a return to full service would go against Welsh Government Guidance, Risk Assessments and place vulnerable people at an

increased risk of infection. A Co-opted Member updated the Committee on the robust nature of the risk assessment they had in place and how increased infection rates made it impossible for them to run their services at original levels in order to safeguard service users and felt that everyone must be mindful of doing the upmost to reduce infection rates. Another Cop-opted Member advised Members that the way in which day services had adapted their provision in light of the pandemic were popular with service users, getting them out and about.

10.8 A Member expressed concern regarding the negative impact on physical and mental wellbeing caused by the reduction of service but felt that consideration must be given to the wider range of implications and service provision.

10.9 Councillor Mann was then asked to reconsider the wording of his motion in line with the amendment proposed by Councillor Etheridge and Councillor Mann agreed to a combined motion which was moved and seconded to read: -

“In view of significant public concern about suggested changes to the council’s day care services, the Plaid Cymru group calls on the council to return to providing a full service of hours at day centres, pending an extensive review. We also call on CCBC not to withdraw previous transport arrangements for service users.

The proposals, as they stand, have caused immense distress and anxiety for carers and some of the most vulnerable members of our society which is having a detrimental effect on their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We are concerned that the existing consultation exercise has not gone out to all Carers and those vulnerable individuals they care for. A better system of communication with service users and families is badly needed so that they are a proper part of the decision-making process

In the meantime, there should be a moratorium on any changes taking place for at least 12 months with a final decision on any changes being considered by the full council.

In view of those recent concerns raised by users and carers at a public meeting and a petition of over 1000 names and the worry, distress, anxiety upset and stress caused for many in our communities we are pleased that the authorities have recognised that the original consultation exercise was withdrawn, and a more effective robust exercise will be undertaken by an Independent person with all stakeholders; users, carers and families.

We therefore call for all parties to work together, and in order to work in partnership a working group is set up with specific terms of reference to monitor and evaluate progress to ensure fairness and consistency. The Group would therefore be Chaired by the Cabinet Member, Cllrs from this Scrutiny limited numbers 2/3, Carer and Users, Officers from Social Services and Union representative. A report will be produced with recommendations for evaluation and consideration with options going forward ensuring regular engagement with all parties.

10.10 Councillor Etheridge expressed his reservations in relation to the proposed combined motion and emphasised the need for elected members, officers, and partners to work together.

The matter then progressed to vote by rollcall, verbal confirmation.

- 10.11 Amendment 2 – The Combined Motion from Councillor Mann and Councillor Etheridge having been moved and seconded proceeded to the vote and by way of verbal confirmation was declared lost by the majority present.
- 10.12 Amendment 1 – The Amended Motion from Councillor Mann with the removal of sentence 2 of paragraph 3 having been moved and seconded proceeded to the vote and by way of verbal confirmation was declared lost by the majority present.
- 10.13 Substantive Motion – The Original Motion from Councillor Mann was not moved or second and was therefore declared lost.
- 10.14 The Social Services Scrutiny Committee therefore RECOMMENDED to Council that the Notice of Motion not be supported.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Emma Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Appendices: Appendix 1 Signed copy of Notice of Motion.