



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	16 th September 2022 *
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Service Area	Adult Social Care
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	5 th October 2022

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

Regional 1,000 Beds & Step Down Bed Proposal

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report outlines the current pressures experienced by social care and health services within the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region.
- 1.2 The report highlights the expectations placed by Welsh Government on the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region to create the additional capacity of 188 beds as a proportion of the overall expectation that an additional 1,000 beds be made available across Wales.
- 1.3 The outline of the proposals to meet this requirement across the region are contained within section 4 of the report.
- 1.4 As outlined in paragraph 3.10 a report was taken to Cabinet in September and they agreed in principle with the process and this report is therefore specifically to consider the financial element.
- 1.5 The costs and associated benefits and risks for MTCBC of the Merthyr specific elements of the potential development of Step-Down beds are contained within section 6 of the report. Council would need to approve these proposed plans due to the costs associated with it.
- 1.6 Whilst we are supportive of the plan and proposals, we are not able to meet the financial commitment without additional resources. Unfortunately these resources are not included within existing budgets.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The plans as set out in the report for Step-Down beds be approved.
- 2.2 The funding of the financial costs associated with the plan are not approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following the pandemic members will be aware of the continued pressures on health services across Wales. These pressures are presenting as people waiting longer for planned care and increased demand for emergency care services.
- 3.2 Due to the additional demands on health services, there have been increasing pressures on social care especially community domiciliary care services as significant numbers of staff have left employment and recruitment into these posts has been extremely difficult. Social Care Wales has been undertaking a recruitment campaign across Wales to attract people into the sector however this is not yet translating into filling the current vacancies across the sector.
- 3.3 The pressures within the domiciliary care sector at this time are significant and at the time of writing this report the numbers of people waiting for packages of care in the community has risen from 2 or 3 to a current waiting list of 30 (as of 26th August 2022). This is the highest number that we have ever experienced over a prolonged period.
- 3.4 Traditionally the request for health & social care services increases during the winter period, however the current demand is exceeding what we would normally experience during the winter months.
- 3.5 Understandably Welsh Government is concerned that should these demands continue at this pace the impact on services during the winter period will be unsustainable.
- 3.6 In response to this concern a ministerial group has been established to review what actions can be taken to relieve some of the pressures before we approach the winter months. This group is being supported by the data unit who are working with the regions to identify local plans.
- 3.7 One of the key actions is to increase the equivalent of a 1,000 beds or additional community capacity across Wales. This number is based on the number of delayed discharges reported. This has been aggregated to each region and the anticipated extra capacity required for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region is 188.

3.8 In addition to this, as part of the unscheduled care agenda significant work is being taken forward through the “6 Goals” program set out below:



3.9 Work streams have been established to take forward the 6 Goals with varied implementation timescales though not all will be implemented in time to achieve significant reduction in demand in time for the anticipated winter pressure.

3.10 A report was taken to Cabinet in September outlining the pressures on health and the need to explore the step down facility across Wales. As the report highlights discussions are taking place about identifying 1000 beds across Wales for the Winter Period. Cabinet agreed in principle that Social Care should assist health where they can through this current crisis but noted there were considerable financial risk to the Local Authority in the setting up of step down beds within our in house provision. Also risks in whether we are able to recruit the appropriate workforce required to staff such a facility.

- 3.11 You will see outlined in Section 6 of this report the financial risk that this would be for the authority.
- 3.12 Social care officers are meeting with health Colleagues on a regular basis to discuss how working together can assist the winter pressures. There are plans in place to look at preventative work, i.e. people having support within the community to prevent hospitalisation and looking at capacity of domiciliary care to try and reduce waiting lists for packages of care. There are also discussions about what step up/down beds we have in the system as there are vacancies within the care home sector and looking at capacity within the community hospitals.
- 3.13 Chief Executives and Directors met with Health colleague on the 15th September to consider the winter crisis and came up with various actions to take forward on an urgent basis. This was to review the current list of people waiting for packages of care and those waiting for care homes placements in the first instance.

4.0 PROPOSED REGIONAL ACTIONS

- 4.1 Regional meetings have taken place around the 6 Goals and there are now working groups established to take the work forward against each of the goals. In addition, there are dedicated leads at a national level to drive implementation across Wales.
- 4.2 Work is also taking place on a regional level in establishing a plan to meet the additional community capacity that is equivalent to the extra 188 beds in the region. It was anticipated that additional revenue funding would be available to support these developments however we have now been advised that no funding will be available, and any plans will need to be resourced from existing core funding.
- 4.3 The regional proposals discussed so far include:
- The development of step-down beds from hospital for those who require additional support to enable them to return home. These in the main involve the reconfiguration of vacant beds in Local Authority homes in each of the 3 Local Authorities.
 - The provision of additional beds on the health board sites and additional capacity for early stroke rehabilitation beds.
 - The block purchase of beds in an independent care home.
- 4.4 Further detail will be included in a regional plan, which is currently being drawn up by Health colleagues following a multi-agency meeting in the last two weeks. Once available this can be shared with Cabinet members.
- 4.5 There are 2 potential options for the provision of step-down beds in Merthyr:
- The re-commissioning of the beds located in a separate wing at Ty Gurnos, which can accommodate 8 people.
 - The block booking of beds within an independent care home within the Merthyr area.

- 4.6 A provisional business plan was developed earlier in the year around utilisation of the vacant beds at Ty Gurnos to ensure that we had a costed option in anticipation that potential funding would be available via the Regional Integrated Care Fund. This business case did not progress as the revenue funding was not available.
- 4.7 As the facility already exists with associated running costs the additional costs to commission the use of the beds as step down beds would be the staffing costs to provide the care element and the funding required is outlined in the financial section.
- 4.8 Staffing levels are set at 2 staff per shift and 1 staff overnight to take into account the level of support individuals require. As this would be a separate area of the home these are the minimum safe staffing levels required regardless of whether the occupancy was lower than 8.
- 4.9 Potentially further work may be undertaken to review whether the 8 beds could be utilised to accommodate individuals from both Merthyr and RCT however as RCT is already developing step down beds in one of their care homes this may not progress.
- 4.10 Whilst discussions have taken place with Care Inspectorate Wales around the potential to utilise the beds further detailed discussions would need to take place to finalise the registration arrangements.

5.0 RISKS & BENEFITS

5.1 The benefits of providing a step-down facility would be:

- That people who are medically well enough are not waiting in a hospital bed waiting to move to the next stage of their care.
- That the risk of hospital acquired infections is minimised.
- That capacity within the hospital will be released to support people who require acute medical support.
- That people receive further rehabilitation in a safe environment that will enable them to return home rather than be admitted to a care home.

5.2 The risks of providing the step-down facility would be:

- Additional costs to the Local Authority should additional revenue funding not become available.
- People who are supported in the step-down facility are unable to move to the next stage of their care & support and there is no throughput.
- There would be insufficient people who were suitable to be supported in this facility.
- Inability to recruit staff if option of Ty Gurnos is progressed.
- Inability to block book the beds from the care home sector.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 As noted above we have been advised that there is no additional funding available to support these options and the costs identified below would need to be met through existing Local Authority budgets at risk if they are to progress.
- 6.2 Elements of the in-house service at Ty Gurnos such as the running costs would be met through the existing budget and the costs outlined below would be additional costs in respect of staff so does not show the full costs of the scheme.
- 6.3 The costs associated with Ty Gurnos are based on minimum staffing hours and an assumption that occupational therapy costs will be met through health.

In House Service Delivery Ty Gurnos full year costs:

Staffing	£379k	2 staff by day and 1 by night
Running Costs	£0k	Initially integrated within current running cost of In-House provision
Ancillary Client Costs	£25k	This would include food and personal equipment costs
Total	£404k	

Commissioning within Independent Sector - full year costs:

2 Beds	£105k	Including FNC rates (£7.48pw LA and £184.32pw Health)
3 Beds	£157.5k	Including FNC rates (£7.48pw LA and £184.32pw Health)
4 Beds	£210k	Including FNC rates (£7.48pw LA and £184.32pw Health)
Reablement Worker	£70k	2 x 30hr posts

7.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Neutral / Not Applicable	
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	1 of 4	0 of 4	3 of 4	
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 	3 of 5	0 of 5	2 of 5	
3. Protected Characteristics <i>(including Welsh Language)</i>	2 of 10	0 of 10	8 of 10	
4. Socio-economic Disadvantage	3 of 6	0 of 6	3 of 6	
5. Consultation and Engagement	Undertaken	Due to be Undertaken	Not Required	
	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1	
6. Data and Evidence to inform the proposal	Yes		No	
	0 of 1		1 of 1	
7. Biodiversity and the resilience of Ecosystems	Maintained	Enhanced	Reduced	Neutral / N/A
	0 of 1	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
Summary				
The main positive impacts are:	The main positives are around promoting and maintaining independence of older people and increased employment opportunities.			
The main negative impacts are:	No specific negative impacts have been identified.			

LISA CURTIS JONES
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COUNCILLOR JULIA JENKINS
CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.