

Reshaping Services – Review of Respite Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Appendix A – Minutes of Healthy Living and Social Care Committee – 12 September 2016

HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 12th September, 2016.

Present: Councillor R.L. Traherne (Chairman); Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Ms. R.F. Birch, S.C. Egan, E. Hacker, J.W. Thomas, S.T. Wiliam and Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson.

309 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors R.J. Bertin and H.C. Hamilton.

315 RESHAPING SERVICES – REVIEW OF RESPITE CARE FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES (REF) –

On 25th July, 2015, Cabinet received a report which sought approval for the undertaking of a review of the Council's residential respite care services for adults with learning disabilities, including a programme of consultation on the way that services were delivered.

The report advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council offered respite care to approximately 82 adults with learning disabilities and their carers in order to meet their presenting needs. On average service users had approximately 28 days respite service per year, which was used by them over a number of occasions.

Historically, the respite care needs of adults with learning disabilities in the Vale were met through the use of both the Council's Respite Residential Care facility, based at Rhoose Road, and the spot purchasing of residential home placements where required.

More recently, it had been recognised that there was a demand by service users and their families for increased flexibility in the way that respite care was provided. People had chosen to either have this delivered through direct payments, the Council's Adult Placement Service or through continued use of Rhoose Road. The spot purchasing of residential home placements for respite use by clients had reduced to single figures.

As part of the Reshaping Services Programme, all areas of Adult Social Services were being reviewed. As part of the first set of service reviews, Respite Care for adults with learning disabilities had been included in this work and a savings target had been assigned. This target had initially been set at £60,000 for the 2017/18 financial year.

Reshaping Services – Review of Respite Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Appendix A – Minutes of Healthy Living and Social Care Committee – 12 September 2016

The report advised that the demand for Rhoose Road had decreased in recent years which had impacted on the unit cost per occupying night at this facility. In 2015/16 the average unit cost per occupied night was approximately £391 (gross) and £343 (net of income). If the facility had been at full capacity the average unit cost per night would have been reduced to £301 (gross) and £265 (net of income).

In terms of future needs, an analysis had been carried out to ascertain the number of young people with complex needs who were currently not known to Respite Care Services but who would possibly require respite care in the future. Current data showed that there were on average three or four people transitioning into the service each year who would require overnight respite care. Some of these people received funding from the Health Board and others would access the Long Term Care service in due course, due to physical disabilities. In each year, approximately eight service users would exit the service.

It was therefore proposed to offer an alternative to the respite care provision that was offered at Rhoose Road in order to better meet presented needs. This would be achieved in two ways. Consultation with users of Rhoose Road and their families would therefore be on the basis of two elements.

Consultation Element 1 – where an assessment showed that respite care services should be provided and services users chose not to receive direct payments, the Vale of Glamorgan's Adult Placement Service would be offered to people and their carers as a default option. This service currently had capacity to hose additional placements and offered greater flexibility and opportunities to people and their carers. 24 of the 36 listed users of Rhoose Road could have all their respite care needs met by the Adult Placement Service. Eight of these people access Rhoose Road and the other 16 could access the Adult Placement Service. The service had the capacity to accommodate this level of growth as it currently stood.

Consultation Element 2 – for those who had particularly high level care needs (12 of the 36 current users of Rhoose Road) who had been assessed as requiring residential respite provision, the Council's Adult Placement Service would not be suitable and it was proposed that the Council would look to provide the required 24 hour high level of support to meet the needs of this client group through an external provider.

The Chairman, in querying the future use of Rhoose Road, was advised that there were a number of aspects to consider, including how the use of the service had changed and that new opportunities for service users existed, such as Direct Payments and the Adult Placement Service. Both these areas had grown and had left the Council with a situation in which the Vale

Reshaping Services – Review of Respite Care for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Appendix A – Minutes of Healthy Living and Social Care Committee – 12 September 2016

was struggling to make best use of the facility. At present, the proposal was for consultation to begin as the Council was keen to learn the views of the service users.

A Committee Member queried whether the reduction in the number of nights, reported during 2015, represented an actual trend or if this drop could be explained by other factors. The Member asked for a further analysis to be undertaken and he also requested more information in relation to the Adult Placement service. The Committee noted that any proposals would have to be clearly set out and that these would form the part of any future business case.

In reply to a question relating to Direct Payments and whether there was enough domiciliary care provision, the Head of Adult Services stated that the use of Direct Payments may enable the service to access carers or personal assistants, who in many cases would already be known to the individual.

The Committee queried the timescales around the consultation exercise. In reply, the Head of Adult Services stated that the timetable could be achieved but any business case could not be written without consultation being undertaken. He added that throughout last year there were 36 individuals that utilised the service at Rhoose Road. These individuals were well known and the Council was already working with them.

The Committee was in agreement that a site visit to Rhoose Road would be arranged after the consultation with services users had been completed.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the decision to undertake a review of the Council's residential care service for adults with learning disabilities, including a programme of consultation on the way services are delivered, be endorsed.

-

Reason for recommendation

To enable a consultation exercise to be undertaken with service users and their families to inform proposals as to how the Council can best meet relevant respite care needs.