

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 14TH NOVEMBER, 2016

REFERENCE FROM HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE: 10TH OCTOBER, 2016

“ ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND DEMENTIA CARE TASK AND FINISH
GROUP (DSS) –

The Head of Adult Services presented the report, the purpose of which was to update Members on progress made in delivering the action plan developed through the Assistive Technology Task and Finish Group.

The former Scrutiny Committee (Social Care and Health) set up a Task and Finish Group to examine the potential contribution that Assistive Technology could make in developing a dementia-supportive community in the Vale of Glamorgan and to help enable people to live independently and with a better quality of life. The Group comprised six Members and was politically balanced.

During the course of the review, the Task and Finish Group was able to complete a thorough investigation and to make well considered recommendations for improving the responsiveness of the service. The Group also recognised that further work was needed before major decisions could be taken in relation to longer-term planning.

Overall, the Group concluded that Assistive Technology could be of considerable help to people experiencing dementia and also to their carers. However, national research, information from partners and data from existing services did not provide conclusive evidence that it was likely to deliver significant savings. Given the budgetary pressures that the Council faced, the Group made recommendations for improvements which it regarded were realistic and measured and which identified the further work required to develop the service for the future. A detailed action plan was agreed, to ensure that the recommendations were implemented and that progress could be measured.

The plan contained 15 action areas. An updated version was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The report advised that the progress made against each action indicated that the majority were either complete or had become part of ongoing business.

In terms of staffing arrangements, the report advised that due to the small size of the Telecare team, an ongoing review was being undertaken to ensure that the Directorate had a resilient and effective team model fit for future delivery.

Since the plan was agreed, the numbers of people receive Telecare had grown for service users of both Tele V and Tele V+. As of August 2016, there were 730 active Tele V users and 137 Tele V + users. Committee noted that the rate of growth had slowed during this financial year, with an additional five Tele V+ users and no increase in the number of Tele V users.

The Committee was advised that the service had purchased equipment to support people with dementia. This included bespoke decoration and two reminiscence pods for use at Rondel House day service. Tablet computers were also made available for the care homes managed by the Council and the older people's day service, to support communication and provide additional activities. Specifically they were being used to allow video contact with relatives living in other countries, choosing items of clothing, accessing games and to store photos at events that would be viewed by residents and their families.

The Chairman commented that one of the main challenges was in relation to staff resilience and the size of the Telecare team and he queried whether this had resulted in the low take-up of Telecare services seen so far during the current financial year. In reply, the Head of Adult Services stated that this had had a small impact but there were other challenges such as issues around the Supporting People grant. He also alluded to the opportunity of working on a regional basis with Cardiff Council, and that there was a need to regroup and consider future possibilities.

In terms of identifying savings, the Head of Adult Services explained that during the review it was recognised that Telecare was unlikely to provide real savings but it did provide a lot of reassurance. Detailing savings was a complicated undertaking, and he alluded to the possible savings within the area of domiciliary care.

The Committee agreed that as a document, the action plan could be closed off and it was also agreed that the Committee would receive an update on an annual basis.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the report be accepted and referred to Cabinet for consideration.
- (2) T H A T an update report be provided in 12 months' time.

Reason for recommendations

(1&2) To apprise Members of the progress made.”

Attached as Appendix – [Report to Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee: 10th October, 2016](#)