

Agenda Item:



Name of Committee:	<b>Cabinet</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>04/02/2019</b>
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	<b>Adult Placement Service - Collaboration Agreement</b>
Purpose of Report:	<b>To determine whether to enter into a collaborative arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council in the delivery of its Adult Placement Service</b>
Report Owner:	<b>Cllr Gordon Kemp</b>
Responsible Officer:	<b>Suzanne Clifton</b>
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	<b>Director of Social Services</b>
Policy Framework:	<b>This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet</b>

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### Executive Summary:

- To seek Cabinet approval for the Vale of Glamorgan to enter into a Collaborative Agreement with Bridgend County Borough Council to manage their Adult Placement Service (also known as "Shared Lives") commencing 1st May 2019.

## **1. Recommendation**

- 1.1 Cabinet endorses the proposal as outlined in this report, which is for a Collaborative Agreement to be entered into by the Vale of Glamorgan Council with Bridgend County Borough Council for the management by the Vale of Glamorgan Council of their Adult Placement Service, subject to the approval of Bridgend County Borough Council's Chief Legal Officer and the Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing.
- 1.2 Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Social Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health and Leisure, Managing Director, and the S.151 Officer/Head of Finance to agree the principles of the proposed collaboration and undertake all necessary actions.
- 1.3 Cabinet delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to agree the terms and execute the necessary Collaborative Agreement with Bridgend County Borough Council.

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## **2. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2.1** Recommendation 1 & 2 : To ensure that the process for taking forward this proposal is undertaken lawfully, effectively and in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures.
- 2.2** Recommendation 3 : To ensure that the process for delivering this proposal as outlined in this report is undertaken in a timely manner.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1** Shared Lives/Adult Placement is a scheme where adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems, physical disabilities and dementia are offered short term, long-term or emergency care and support in a family environment. The Adult Placement model aims to promote people's independence, self-esteem and confidence within a safe and supportive community setting. Adult Placement 'hosts' are assessed and trained by the Adult Placement Service and approved by an Independent Panel. From April 2019, Adult Placement services will be bound by legislation as set out in the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.
- 3.2** Adult Placement hosts can accommodate up to three individuals at any one time.
- 3.3** The Adult Placement Scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan is managed within the Learning Disability Service but is available to teams across the whole Adult Services division. The Adult Placement Scheme has 65 self-employed 'hosts' (39 addresses) who support 31 people on a long-term basis and 38 people for short-term, respite breaks.
- 3.4** The Vale Adult Placement Scheme has increased the number of placements available over the last three years and has developed expertise in the area of respite and emergency provision. This was delivered as part of a wider strategy to provide high quality support allowing people greater levels of independence and reducing costs to the Council.
- 3.5** Bridgend County Borough Council is currently in a four year Western Bay regional Shared Lives (Adult Placement) contract with an independent provider. The contract is led by Bridgend County Borough Council and includes Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. The contract ends on the 30th April 2019.
- 3.6** In November 2018, Bridgend County Borough Council commissioned Shared Lives Plus - The UK Network for Shared Lives - to conduct an options appraisal for the future delivery of Adult Placement. One of the three options identified was to establish a collaborative arrangement with a neighbouring authority and an approach to Adult Services in the Vale of Glamorgan was made.
- 3.7** Since November 2018, a project group has been established comprising of Commissioners and Operational Managers from both councils meeting on a fortnightly basis to discuss future collaboration arrangements in line with Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2016.
- 3.8** Other Adult Placement collaborations exist elsewhere in Wales, for example, in the South East region five local authorities operate a successful collaboration scheme. The project group has arranged a meeting with the lead officers of this scheme to discuss 'lessons learned'. This will be used to inform and shape the

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Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend County Borough Council Collaboration Agreement.

**4. Key Issues for Consideration**

- 4.1** The Collaboration Agreement would operate from 1st May 2019, initially for 11 months (to the end of financial year 2020), subject to review. If the Agreement operates positively then extension of this arrangement would require further consideration by Cabinet.
- 4.2** The Vale of Glamorgan would charge Bridgend County Borough Council for the service at a cost of £96,886.00 per annum (pro rata 11 months) plus an initial transition fee of £4,423.00.
- 4.3** Bridgend County Borough Council's current provider has confirmed in writing to Bridgend County Borough Council that TUPE does not apply.
- 4.4** Two additional staff would be employed on a temporary contract for one year and would be employed by the Vale of Glamorgan who would maintain management responsibility for the service, including acting as the Registered Manager and Responsible Individual under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.
- 4.5** Year one would involve transferring and stabilising the service, maximising the number of placements provided through the existing hosts. It would not involve expansion and active recruitment in Bridgend County Borough Council. Currently Bridgend County Borough Council have 24 people in a long-term Adult Placement and 13 people accessing Short-term placements, collectively supported by 27 approved hosts with additional existing capacity.
- 4.6** As is current practice, the placing authority maintains responsibility for funding their placements.
- 4.7** Full consideration has been given to ensuring that any collaboration does not destabilise the quality and good practice within the Vale Adult Placement Service.
- 4.8** Cabinet members should be aware that another Council has also approached the Vale of Glamorgan in respect of managing their Adult Placement Service from October 2019. Bridgend County Borough Council is aware of this approach and an extended collaboration has been discussed as part of Phase 2 development. It is, therefore, important that any collaborative arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council (Phase 1) is able to extend to a further Council if this is required. Any expansion, whether with one or both authorities, would be subject to a funding review.
- 4.9** A Collaboration Agreement between Bridgend County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan will provide the framework upon which governance of the collaborative will be delivered. The Project Board will report to their respective senior managers on a bi-monthly basis. Senior managers will meet at three and six months to review the collaboration and determine whether to progress on a longer-term basis.

## **5. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?**

- 5.1** Long-term : A collaborative with Bridgend County Borough Council is expected to provide greater sustainability for the service, attract hosts from a wider geographical area and a range of life experiences increased opportunities for people. In maximising the number of hosts the service is able to offer high quality alternatives to expensive residential and supported accommodation placements.  
Through extending the service and increasing capacity across two authorities the opportunities for meeting the increasing demand for accommodation and care for older people with dementia can also be developed, alongside other innovative ways of working. This collaborative will allow for the sharing of good practice across local authorities and health boards.
- 5.2** Prevention : The increased provision of Adult Placement allows for support to be provided in the community promoting an individuals' well-being, positive risk taking and independence preventing the need for more restrictive, and costly residential care provision.
- 5.3** Integration and Collaboration : Entering into a collaborative arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council reflects the aims and ambitions of both the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2016 and The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the details of which are covered in this report.
- 5.4** Involvement : Bridgend County Borough Council will lead on the consultation and engagement of hosts and people receiving the current service. Although there will be no direct impact on hosts and people receiving Adult Placement Services in the Vale of Glamorgan, if the collaborative arrangement is endorsed by elected members, hosts and people receiving services will be informed.

## **6. Resources and Legal Considerations**

### **Financial**

- 6.1** The Vale of Glamorgan will recover all additional costs via a charge to Bridgend County Borough Council for managing their Adult Placement Scheme. The cost includes appointment of two project workers. Also a charge will be made for the Registered Manager's time and four days of the Operational Manager's time for acting as Responsible Individual. It also includes set up costs, transition costs and transport costs. This will fund the cost of employing a social care officer to support the manager cover her other workload commitments. Admin support will be provided by Bridgend County Borough Council.

### **Employment**

- 6.2** Additional staff resources would be required to manage the Bridgend County Borough Council's Adult Placement Service.
- 6.3** Additional Staff would be employed on a temporary contract in the first instance. If continuation after one year, posts will be appointed to permanently. Liabilities

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in respect of employees will form part of the Collaboration Agreement drawn up between Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend County Borough Council, drawing upon the Vale's experience of Shared Regulatory Service and Audit Partnership Agreements.

- 6.4** The current provider in Bridgend County Borough Council has confirmed in writing to Bridgend County Borough Council that TUPE will not apply.

**Legal (Including Equalities)**

- 6.5** The arrangements will be underpinned by a Collaboration Agreement between the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend County Borough Councils.

**7. Background Papers**

None applicable