

Agenda Item:



Name of Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	05/02/2019
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	An Overview of Meals Provision for Adult Residents within the Vale of Glamorgan
Purpose of Report:	To update Members regarding the provision of meals within internal services used by people accessing Adult Social Services within the Vale of Glamorgan
Report Owner:	Director of Social Services
Responsible Officer:	Operational Manager - Locality Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Head of Adults Services, Business Improvement Partner, Accountant, Legal Services
Policy Framework:	Matter for Executive Decision

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Executive Summary:

Meals are available for people in the community through a variety of mechanisms such as luncheon clubs and through deliveries of individual meals.

In addition a hot mid-day meal has traditionally been an integral part of the day service provision, especially within the day centres. This is particularly important for older people who might not have an alternative option of a hot meal. The provision of day-time opportunities for older people and adults living with physical disabilities or learning disabilities remains an important part of the adult social services provision. Day-time opportunities take many forms and offer support to people to engage with their local community, develop social networks as well as providing valuable respite to family carers

Vale of Glamorgan Adult Services operates four in house day services that provide a hot mid-day meal which is subsidised by the department by between £7.99 and £10.13 per paid meal.

The subsidy of the meal provision has been subject to a Reshaping Services review and received a savings target of £50,000 p.a.

An Options Appraisal has highlighted options for the provision of meals at the day centres that takes into account the requirement to make £50k savings but maintains the Council's commitment to offering day time opportunities with a meal.

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee note the content of this report.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 To ensure that the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee are aware of the work underway to ensure services remain responsive to the needs of those using them and are consistent with the Council's Reshaping Services agenda.

3. Background

- 3.1 Scrutiny Committee has received reports previously (12th February 2018) updating Members on how residents were now receiving meals from a Social enterprise - the Food Shed - following the Council's decision to no longer provide Meals on Wheels Service from April 2017. This arrangement continues and is independent of the Council.

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- 3.2** A number of third sector organisations continue to provide luncheon clubs and/or meal provision. These are listed on DEWIS Cymru and our third sector broker signposts people to appropriate services.
- 3.3** Vale of Glamorgan Adult Services remains committed to providing day time opportunities for older people and adults living with a physical disability or learning disability. The department currently operates four day centres. One based at Rondel House for older people, two at Hen Goleg (New Horizons for adults with physical disabilities and Woodlands for adults with learning disabilities), and another based at the YMCA Hub, Trysor O Le (for adults with learning disabilities).
- 3.4** While the centres remain a highly valued service provision for many people, citizens are increasingly choosing alternative ways to engage with the community, meet friends and give family members respite.
- 3.4.1** To keep up with the changing expectations of people using day-time services, the department undertook a review of day services for adults with learning disabilities in 2017 and have recently initiated a review of day services for older people and adults with physical disabilities. The changes brought about as a result of the review has enabled more people to choose to engage in activities away from the day centres, meaning that they are supported to have meals at local cafes.
- A consultation exercise was undertaken with members of the day centres in September 2018 and found that people valued the meals but this was not integral to the social element of attending and they would continue to do so, for example, if they were required to bring a packed lunch or an alternative option was provided.
- 3.5** Meals are prepared and cooked at two sites, Rondel House and Hen Goleg and provided between 12 noon and 1.15 p.m. Meals are made at Hen Goleg and delivered to Trysor O Le as required.
- 3.5.1** There were 7,220 paid meals provided at Hen Goleg during 2017/18 which is 736 fewer than 2016/17. This is in contrast to numbers of paid meals being provided in Rondel House where there has been an increase from 3,091 in 2016/17 to 3,393 2017/18; an increase of 10%.
- 3.6** The day centres employ care staff, (Support Workers / Day Services Officers) who provide personal care to people at the day centre which can include feeding, providing refreshments and preparation for meal deliveries. However, they may also be required to assist directly with food related duties such as delivering / serving of meals, clearing away etc. We do not have the resources to employ people to solely undertake these tasks and therefore these tasks are included in other roles incidental to supporting people with meal times.

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- 3.7** Day care staff in Woodlands are provided with a free meal when supporting people to eat their meals. It is noted that while the number of day centre attendees eating meals has declined, the number of staff continuing to be provided with meals is not declining at the same rate.
- 3.8** Staff within New Horizons and Rondel House do not have free meals, they either bring in their own packed lunches or purchase a hot meal.
- 3.9** From 1st August 2016, meals were charged at a rate of £5.35 which includes hot and cold drinks throughout the day. A break-down of the costs per paid meal are shown in the following table and highlights a significant subsidy made by the department. The cost of day centre staff supporting people to eat their meals has not been included in this calculation as this support would remain constant with any of the identified options for meal provision.

Activity	Rondel House 2016/17 £	Rondel House 2017/18 £	Hen Goleg 2016/17 £	Hen Goleg 2017/18 £
Staff costs per paid meal*	8.52	8.94	7.85	9.47
Food costs per paid meal	4.29	4.14	3.48	3.65
Other costs per paid meal	2.45	2.09	2.01	2.36
Total Costs Per Paid Meal	15.25	15.18	13.34	15.48
Price Per Paid Meal	5.35	5.35	5.35	5.35
Subsidy Per Paid Meal	9.90	9.83	7.99	10.13

4. Key Issues for Consideration

- 4.1** A number of different options for the provision of meals at the day centres have been considered by the Project Group overseeing this project. These options need further work regarding costings and feasibility but are options that the groups overseeing this project are currently exploring.
- 4.2** In order to reach the Reshaping Services savings target associated with this project the 'Do Nothing' option is not possible.
- 4.3** The remaining options that require further consideration and analysis of costs include:

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- Offer hot meals at actual cost.
 - Cook Meals for all day centres from one base.
 - Outsource meal provision to external provider.
 - Ceasing the provision of hot meals in the day centres.
 - Offer cold meals/sandwiches/soup.
- 4.4** An additional measure to make savings to the cost of meals at day centres irrespective of the above options includes the stopping the availability of paid meals for staff even when supporting people to eat. This will be unpopular with the staff group, because they will say that the social aspect of sharing a meal will be removed from day centre attendees. This would need to be part of a staff consultation exercise, involving Trade Unions.

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

5.1 Long Term

- 5.1.1 The Council's commitment to developing day time opportunities represents a focus on the long term wellbeing of individuals using the service and also the sustainability of social care by supporting carers and reducing demand on alternative care and support at home.

5.2 Integration

- 5.2.1 Day services provide venues for health professionals to offer interventions with people where a more clinical setting is not appropriate.

5.3 Involvement

- 5.3.1 Progressive day care allows people to take more control over their lives by providing information so people are more informed to make care and support decisions.

5.4 Collaboration

- 5.4.1 Day services offer a collaborative approach between staff and day centre members in the planning of activities and the day to day operation of the service.

5.5 Prevention

- 5.5.1 Day services support an Active and Healthy Vale by promoting healthy lifestyles, reducing loneliness and enhancing wellbeing.

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6. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 6.1** Adult day services are required to present a £50,000 saving from reshaping the offer of mid-day meals within the day centres.

Employment

- 6.2** Change to any service can bring about anxiety for staff and service users. However, this project is at an early stage and we are unable to predict what the likely impact will be until full feasibility of the options has been undertaken and where appropriate consultation with staff.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 6.3** There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report.

7. Background Papers

Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Report - An Overview of Meals Provision for Adult Residents within the Vale of Glamorgan 12th February 2018.