

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

This Integrated Impact Assessment considers the duties and requirements of the following legislation in order to inform and ensure effective decision making and compliance:

- Equality Act 2010
- Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015
- Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Version Control

Version	Author	Job title	Date
Version 1	Andrew Potts	Commissioning Officer	5 th November 2019
Version 2	Andrew Potts	Commissioning Officer	29 th May 2024

1. Details of the initiative

	Title of the Initiative: Social Services Direct Payments Policy (Revised 2024)
1a	Service Area: Adult Services
1b	Directorate: Social Services, Health & Housing
1c	Summary of the initiative: The purpose of this policy is to meet Neath Port Talbot Council's statutory obligations under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and to provide a framework for the assessment for and use of Direct Payments.
1d	Who will be directly affected by this initiative? Current and future service users and their carers.
1e	When and how were people consulted? No requirement for public consultation.
1f	What were the outcomes of the consultation? Not applicable.

2. Evidence

What evidence was used in assessing the initiative?

Social Services routinely collects data as part of the assessment/review process of individuals and carers, which is reported annually to Welsh Government.

In addition to the number of people accessing the services, limited equalities data such as age, disability, ethnicity and sex is also collected, which in turn informs policy development and service provision. The following provides a summary of information known about current recipients of Direct Payments:

Age Group	Female	Male	Grand Total
10 and under	7	13	20
11 to 15	11	11	22
16 to 19	8	17	25
20s	20	50	70
30s	31	28	59
40s	30	11	41
50s	36	19	55
60s	29	24	53
70s	23	16	39
80s	13	8	21
90+	8	1	9
Grand Total	216	198	414

Ethnicity	Female	Male	Grand Total
BANGLADESHI	1		1
BLACK CARIBBEAN		1	1
NOT OBTAINED	11	7	18
OTHER	1	1	2
OTHER MIXED	1	1	2
WELSH	44	34	78
WHITE BRITISH	155	151	306
WHITE IRISH	1		1
WHITE OTHER	1	3	4
WHITE/BL.CARIB.	1		1
Grand Total	216	198	414

52% of current recipients are female. The largest single age group is those in their 20s (17% of total), while around one-in-three (30%) are aged 60+. Some 74% of those we hold information for stated they were White British.

Religion	Female	Male	Grand Total
AETHIEST	1	1	2
BAPTIST	2	3	5
BUDDHIST	1		1
C/SPIRITUALIST	1		1
CH. OF ENGLAND	14	7	21
CH. OF WALES	7	8	15
CHRISTIAN	4	7	11
EVANGELICAL	1		1
JEH. WITNESS		2	2
METHODIST	3	2	5
MUSLIM	1		1
NO RELIGION	30	53	83
OTHER RELIGION	1	3	4
PENTECOSTAL	1		1
PRESBYTARIAN	1	1	2
ROMAN CATHOLIC	3	8	11
WELSH CHAPEL	1		1
Not Stated	144	103	247
Grand Total	216	198	414

Religion	Female	Male	Grand Total
DIVORCED	11	5	16
MARRIED	33	16	49
PARTNERS	3	2	5
SEPARATED	6	1	7
SINGLE	83	84	167
WIDOWED	15	6	21
Not Stated	65	84	149
Grand Total	216	198	414

Of those who stated they have a religion/belief, the largest denomination was Church of England. Some 63% of those whose marital status is recorded stated they were single.

Client Group	Female	Male	Grand Total
CARER	1		1
CHILDRENS	1		1
ELDERLY	1		1
LEARN.DIFF.	45	66	111
MENTAL	3	2	5
PHYSICAL	58	36	94
Not Stated	107	94	201
Grand Total	216	198	414

Of those where a client group is recorded on Oracle, more than half (52%) are recorded as having a learning disability.

3. Equalities

a) How does the initiative impact on people who share a **protected characteristic**?

Protected Characteristic	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Age			X	<p>Data shows that a high number of people receiving adult services care and support have a protected characteristic by virtue of their age.</p> <p>Adult Services provide needs-led, person centred support. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers requiring care and support are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p>

			<p>When commissioning services, the Council will make a determination as to what interventions can best meet the person's identified assessed needs and agreed desired outcomes in a way that is equitable and sustainable, whilst offering maximum choice and control possible in regards to the care they receive.</p> <p>Assessment of need will take into account various protected characteristics including age and disability.</p> <p>Although the policy will mainly affect people with a disability or age related frailty, there is no evidence that the policy would lead to discrimination. All people will be offered a choice from a range of interventions including Direct Payments. In addition, people will be able to contribute to a more expensive provision, which gives more choice to those that wish and can use their own resources.</p> <p>Those people with more limited resources may not benefit from this element of the proposal and there may be a perception that they have less choice and control or see a negative impact to their finances. However, people will only be required to contribute towards the cost of meeting their eligible care needs what they are assessed as being able to as this policy does not change the Council's Fairer Charging Policy and all people will be able to contribute to their assessment and have a choice of interventions that can meet their identified eligible needs.</p> <p>This policy will not change the Council's obligations to ensure people's eligible needs are met. The Council is not, however, bound to meet a need in the way preferred by an individual, particularly where the cost of that preferred way is higher than other reasonable ways.</p> <p>Some people may see a change to services following a review and this may be perceived by those receiving services and their family/carers as having a negative impact. However, any change will be planned with the person. Changes are not necessarily as a result of this policy as reviews take place to assess changes in need. All people will continue to receive services that meet eligible needs and be</p>
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			given choice, and their views and individual circumstances will be taken account of when determining the options available to the person/family/carer to meet their eligible needs.
Disability		X	<p>Data shows that a high number of people receiving adult services care and support have a protected characteristic by virtue of their disability.</p> <p>Adult Services provide needs-led, person centred support. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers requiring care and support are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p> <p>When commissioning services, the Council will make a determination as to what interventions can best meet the person's identified assessed needs and agreed desired outcomes in a way that is equitable and sustainable, whilst offering maximum choice and control possible in regards to the care they receive.</p> <p>Assessment of need will take into account various protected characteristics including age and disability.</p> <p>Although the policy will mainly affect people with a disability or age related frailty, there is no evidence that the policy would lead to discrimination. All people will be offered a choice from a range of interventions including Direct Payments. In addition, people will be able to contribute to a more expensive provision, which gives more choice to those that wish and can use their own resources.</p> <p>Those people with more limited resources may not benefit from this element of the proposal and there may be a perception that they have less choice and control or see a negative impact to their finances. However, people will only be required to contribute towards the cost of meeting their eligible care needs what they are assessed as being able to as this policy does not change the Council's Fairer</p>

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Gender reassignment		X	<p>Access to adult services is unlikely to be solely due to a person's gender identity. However, personal circumstances relating to a person's gender identity may have an impact on how services are delivered.</p> <p>Adult Services provide needs-led, person centred support. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers requiring care and support are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p> <p>When commissioning services, the Council will make a determination as to what interventions can best meet the person's identified assessed needs and agreed desired outcomes in a way that is equitable and sustainable, whilst offering maximum choice and control in regards to the care they receive.</p> <p>Assessment of need will take into account various protected characteristics.</p>

			<p>There is no evidence to indicate that the policy would lead to discrimination due to the person's gender identity.</p> <p>This policy will not change the council's obligations to ensure people's eligible needs are met. The Council is not, however, bound to meet a need in the way preferred by an individual, particularly where the cost of that preferred way is higher than other reasonable ways.</p> <p>Some people may see a change to services following a review and this may be perceived by those receiving services and their family/carers as having a negative impact. However, any change will be planned with the person. Changes are not necessarily as a result of this proposal as reviews take place to assess changes in need. All people will continue to receive services that meet eligible needs and be given choice, and their views and individual circumstances will be taken account of when determining the options available to the person/family/carer to meet their eligible needs.</p>
Marriage & civil partnership		X	<p>Unpaid carers are often family members/partners of the person being cared for, which can have an impact on relationships and cause difficulties in maintaining the caring role as well as their personal relationships.</p> <p>Adult Services provide needs-led, person centred support. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers requiring care and support are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan, and carer's assessment where applicable.</p> <p>When commissioning services, the Council will make a determination as to what interventions can best meet the person's identified assessed needs and agreed desired outcomes in a way that is equitable and sustainable, whilst offering maximum choice and control in regards to the care they receive.</p>

			<p>Eligibility criteria when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of a person's care and support needs take into account individual circumstances of the carer and the cared for person in order to ensure that services provide a needs-led, person centred response. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers, where applicable, are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p> <p>There is no evidence to indicate that the policy would lead to discrimination of individuals due to their marital status.</p> <p>This policy will not change the council's obligations to ensure people's eligible needs are met. The Council is not, however, bound to meet a need in the way preferred by an individual, particularly where the cost of that preferred way is higher than other reasonable ways.</p> <p>Some people may see a change to services following a review and this may be perceived by those receiving services and their family/carers as having a negative impact. However, any change will be planned with the person. Changes are not necessarily as a result of this policy as reviews take place to assess changes in need. All people will continue to receive services that meet eligible needs and be given choice, and their views and individual circumstances will be taken account of when determining the options available to the person/family/carer to meet their eligible needs.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity		X	<p>It is possible that someone providing unpaid care may be, or become, pregnant which can cause difficulties in maintaining the caring role. It is also possible that the cared for person may become pregnant or have a young child, which would need to be taken into account when determining how to best meet any care and support needs.</p>

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Race		X	<p>Access to adult services care and support is unlikely to be solely due to a person's race. However, personal circumstances relating to a person's race may have an impact on how services are delivered.</p> <p>Adult Services provide needs-led, person centred support. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers requiring care and support are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p> <p>When commissioning services, the Council will make a determination as to what interventions can best meet the person's identified assessed needs and agreed desired outcomes in a way that is equitable and sustainable, whilst offering maximum choice and control in regards to the care they receive.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of a person's care and support needs take into account individual circumstances of the carer and</p>

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			given choice, and their views and individual circumstances will be taken account of when determining the options available to the person/family/carer to meet their eligible needs.
Religion or belief		X	<p>Access to adult services care and support is unlikely to be solely due to a person's religion or belief. However, personal circumstances relating to a person's religion or belief may have an impact on how services are delivered.</p> <p>Adult Services provide needs-led, person centred support. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers requiring care and support are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p> <p>When commissioning services, the Council will make a determination as to what interventions can best meet the person's identified assessed needs and agreed desired outcomes in a way that is equitable and sustainable, whilst offering maximum choice and control in regards to the care they receive.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of a person's care and support needs take into account individual circumstances of the carer and the cared for person in order to ensure that services provide a needs-led, person centred response. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers, where applicable, are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p> <p>There is no evidence to indicate that the policy would lead to discrimination due to a person's religion or belief. Some people may feel that there is a reduction in choice as the council will need to take into account if their needs can be met in a more cost effective way. However, all people will be offered a choice from a range of interventions including Direct Payments. In addition, people will be able to contribute to a more expensive provision, which gives more choice to those that wish and can use their own resources.</p>

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Sex		X	<p>Access to adult services care and support is unlikely to be solely due to a person's sex. However, personal circumstances relating to a person's sex may have an impact on how services are delivered</p> <p>Adult Services provide needs-led, person centred support. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers requiring care and support are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p>

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Sexual orientation		X	<p>Access to adult services care and support is unlikely to be solely due to a person's sexual orientation. However, personal circumstances relating to a person's sexual orientation may have an impact on how services are delivered.</p> <p>Adult Services provide needs-led, person centred support. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers requiring care and support are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p> <p>When commissioning services, the Council will make a determination as to what interventions can best meet the person's identified assessed needs and agreed desired outcomes in a way that is equitable and sustainable, whilst offering maximum choice and control in regards to the care they receive.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of a person's care and support needs take into account individual circumstances of the carer and the cared for person in order to ensure that services provide a needs-led, person centred response. Therefore the protected characteristics of those to whom the service is delivered and the needs of carers, where applicable, are considered as part of the needs assessment process and catered for in the individual's bespoke care and support plan.</p>

			<p>There is no evidence to indicate that the policy would lead to discrimination due to a person's sexual orientation. Some people may feel that there is a reduction in choice as the council will need to take into account if their needs can be met in a more cost effective way. However, all people will be offered a choice from a range of interventions including Direct Payments. In addition, people will be able to contribute to a more expensive provision, which gives more choice to those that wish and can use their own resources.</p> <p>Those people with more limited resources may not benefit from this element of the proposal and there may be a perception that they have less choice and control or see a negative impact to their finances. However, people will only be required to contribute what they are assessed as being able to as this policy does not change the Council's Fairer Charging Policy and all people will be able to contribute to their assessment and have a choice of interventions that can meet their identified eligible needs.</p> <p>This policy will not change the council's obligations to ensure people's eligible needs are met. The Council is not, however, bound to meet a need in the way preferred by an individual, particularly where the cost of that preferred way is higher than other reasonable ways.</p> <p>Some people may see a change to services following a review and this may be perceived by those receiving services and their family/carers as having a negative impact. However, any change will be planned with the person. Changes are not necessarily as a result of this policy as reviews take place to assess changes in need. All people will continue to receive services that meet eligible needs and be given choice, and their views and individual circumstances will be taken account of when determining the options available to the person/family/carer to meet their eligible needs.</p>
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What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The policy's intention is to maximise choice in how individuals receive social care and support, whilst also taking the Council's resources into account when determining how to best meet a person's eligible needs to ensure services are provided on a fair and equitable basis as far as possible.

In each case where there is an assessed eligible need, the individual will be offered a care and support package or offered Direct Payments if eligible of a similar amount to be able to meet that need. Social care and support will continue to be met but anything over and above this would be expected to be funded by the individual.

All protected characteristics will be considered in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, by looking at the individual circumstances of the person - and carer(s) where applicable - and how their care and support needs can be best met. As such it is not anticipated that this policy will have a negative impact based on peoples protected characteristics.

Furthermore, this policy enables the Council to make best use of its available resources, supporting the Council to be financially sustainable in order to meet the needs and demands of those requiring care and support. If the commissioned services are not suitable due to a persons protected characteristic then a direct payment can be offered where eligible or where possible an alternative commissioned.

It is acknowledged that some people may receive a change in service provision if this policy is implemented. Although the provision would continue to meet the person's needs as identified through an individual personalised assessment, an individual may perceive this as having a negative impact.

However, it should also be acknowledged that the level of care and support being received by an individual may increase.

In all cases the person will be offered a care and support package proportionate to their individual needs and offered the choice of receiving direct payments. Only those who want and are eligible for direct payments will receive them, maximising choice and control for those individuals.

By taking account of all available resources it is expected that care and support will continue to be available to a greater number of the most vulnerable citizens.

In light of the above this policy should overall have a neutral impact.

b) How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Public Sector Equality Duty**?

Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation			X	<p>The policy's intention is to maximise choice in how individuals receive social care and support, and ensures services are provided on a fair and equitable basis as far as possible.</p> <p>This policy supports the council in taking forward its statutory duties with regards to adult social services, which further it in discharging its Public Sector duties.</p>
To advance equality of opportunity between different groups			X	
To foster good relations between different groups			X	

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The potential impact of the proposed Policy on those with eligible care and support needs on PSED has been fully considered and it has been assessed that overall this policy will have a neutral impact.

This policy supports provision of care and support tailored to meet individual’s assessed needs.

4. Community Cohesion/Social Exclusion/Poverty

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
Community Cohesion			X	<p>The Policy may affect those without sufficient financial resources of their own, who may have less choice and control over the care package they receive than someone who is more financially able.</p> <p>However, we will be ensuring that service users maximise their income by promoting the uptake of benefits to which they are entitled, including Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance / Personal Independence Payments, etc.</p> <p>It must be emphasised that any services received will meet the eligible assessed needs of, and agreed desired outcomes for, the individual and that the individual will have choice in regards to those services that are in line with what the Council has agreed can meet the person’s needs, whilst taking into account the Council’s available resources.</p> <p>This policy does not change the Council’s Fairer Charging Policy. As such, people will only be required to contribute what they are assessed as being able to afford in regards to having their eligible needs met. All people will be offered a service that meets eligible needs.</p>
Social Exclusion			X	
Poverty			X	

				Overall this policy should have a neutral impact as it will support the Council in ensuring that they are financially sustainable in order to be able to continue meeting ongoing demand for services, including community based services.
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What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The Council's Wellbeing Objectives aim to improve the wellbeing of children, young people and adults, as well as the general wellbeing of the area, by developing the local economy and environment.

As noted above the policy should have a neutral impact.

People will be supported to maximise their income, and all people will continue to have their needs met and have a choice in how those needs will be met.

5. Welsh

	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this effect?
What effect does the initiative have on: – people's opportunities to use the Welsh language			X	The Council will continue to offer services in Welsh and English.

- treating the Welsh and English languages equally			X	The Council will continue to offer services in Welsh and English.
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What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

The Council currently has only a small number of staff with Welsh language skills working in the Directorate. However, opportunities for staff to use their language skills are promoted and training made available to those who wish to further develop their skills.

The proposals in the Policy do not include any planned reduction in human resource at the frontline. It is not therefore anticipated that they will have any effect on the service delivered to those who receive care and support from Adult Services and who wish the service they receive to be delivered through the medium of the Welsh language.

The Policy is written on the assumption that there will be no further financial or human resources available to Adult Services throughout the life of the Policy and that therefore, sustaining the current level of equality of treatment, in respect of the Welsh language, is the only realistically achievable aim.

Opportunities for staff to use their language skills will continue to be promoted and training will continue to be made available to those who wish to further develop their skills.

Contracts for commissioned services contain clauses to ensure the provider delivers services in line with the Welsh Language Act.

People will be supported to employ Welsh speaking Personal Assistants in line with their language needs.

6. Biodiversity

How will the initiative assist or inhibit the ability to meet the **Biodiversity Duty**?

Biodiversity Duty	+	-	+/-	Why will it have this impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity			X	It is not expected that the policy will have any adverse effect on biodiversity or ecosystem resilience.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.			X	

What action will be taken to improve positive or mitigate negative impacts?

Not applicable.

7. Well-being of Future Generations

How have the five ways of working been applied in the development of the initiative?

Ways of Working	Details
i. Long term – looking at least 10 years (and up to 25 years) ahead	This is one of a range of policies which aim to improve fairness of access to services, as well as the long term sustainability of service provision in line with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
ii. Prevention – preventing problems occurring or getting worse	Tailoring services to individual's needs will help improve independence and prevent or reduce the need for more complex care.
iii. Collaboration – working with other services internal or external	This policy enables people to have more choice in how and who delivers their care and support.
iv. Involvement – involving people, ensuring they reflect the diversity of the population	Various staff representatives have been involved in the development of the draft policy, including social workers and managers, Finance and Legal.
v. Integration – making connections to maximise contribution to:	The aim of the Direct Payments Policy is to meet individual's assessed needs and maximise their choice and control over how those needs are met.
Council's well-being objectives	To improve the well-being of all adults who live in the county borough. To develop the economy and the environment so that the well-being of people can be improved.
Other public bodies objectives	Create safe, confident and resilient communities, focusing on vulnerable people. Encourage Ageing Well.

8. Monitoring Arrangements

Provide information on the monitoring arrangements to:

Monitor the impact of the initiative on Equalities, Community Cohesion, the Welsh Measure, Biodiversity Duty and the Wellbeing Objectives.

Ongoing consideration of equality impact will continue to be given as the Policy is implemented. This will be monitored through the complaints process, information from social worker reviews and safeguarding referrals.

Any unintended/unforeseen negative impact on those in receipt of care and support services, identified as part of these processes, will be the subject of further impact assessment to understand opportunity to mitigate wherever possible.

We will thereby ensure that any emerging unintended/unforeseen negative impact on those who are in receipt of services, which was not previously considered, is acknowledged and acted upon appropriately.

Any such further completed impact assessment will be brought to the attention of Members, as part of the ongoing review process recommended in the Policy, to ensure these inform decisions which have had due regard to the Council's legal obligations.

The outcome of any such assessment will be routinely included in the next annual progress report to Members, or reported on sooner if the assessment outcome is significant enough to justify doing so.

9. Assessment Conclusions

Please provide details of the conclusions reached in relation to each element of the assessment:

	Conclusion
Equalities	<p>The policy's intention is to maximise choice in how individuals receive social care and support, whilst also taking the Council's resources into account when assessing an individual's eligible needs to ensure services are provided on a fair and equitable basis as far as possible.</p> <p>In each case where there is an assessed eligible need, the individual will be offered a care and support package or offered Direct Payments if eligible of a similar amount to be able to meet that</p>

	<p>need. Social care and support will continue to be met but anything over and above this would be expected to be funded by the individual.</p> <p>All protected characteristics will be considered in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, by looking at the individual circumstances of the person - and carer(s) where applicable - and how their care and support needs can be best met. As such it is not anticipated that this policy will have a negative impact based on peoples protected characteristics.</p> <p>Furthermore, this policy enables the Council to make best use of its available resources, supporting the Council to be financially sustainable in order to meet the needs and demands of those requiring care and support. If the commissioned services are not suitable due to a persons protected characteristic then a direct payment can be offered where eligible or where possible an alternative commissioned.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that some people may receive a change in service provision if this policy is implemented. Although the provision would continue to meet the person's needs as identified through an individual personalised assessment, an individual may perceive this as having a negative impact.</p> <p>However, it should also be acknowledged that the level of care and support being received by an individual may increase.</p> <p>In all cases the person will be offered a care and support package proportionate to their individual needs and offered the choice of receiving direct payments. Only those who want and are eligible for direct payments will receive them, maximising choice and control for those individuals.</p> <p>By taking account of all available resources it is expected that care and support will continue to be available to a greater number of the most vulnerable citizens.</p> <p>In light of the above this policy should overall have a neutral impact.</p>
<p>Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty</p>	<p>The potential impact of the proposed Policy on those with eligible care and support needs on PSED has been fully considered and it has been assessed that overall this policy will have a neutral impact.</p>

	This policy supports provision of care and support tailored to meet individual's assessed needs.
Welsh	<p>The Council currently has only a small number of staff with Welsh language skills working in the Directorate. However, opportunities for staff to use their language skills are promoted and training made available to those who wish to further develop their skills.</p> <p>The proposals in the Policy do not include any planned reduction in human resource at the frontline. It is not therefore anticipated that they will have any effect on the service delivered to those who receive care and support from Adult Services and who wish the service they receive to be delivered through the medium of the Welsh language.</p> <p>The Policy is written on the assumption that there will be no further financial or human resources available to Adult Services throughout the life of the Policy and that therefore, sustaining the current level of equality of treatment, in respect of the Welsh language, is the only realistically achievable aim.</p> <p>Opportunities for staff to use their language skills will continue to be promoted and training will continue to be made available to those who wish to further develop their skills.</p> <p>Contracts for commissioned services contain clauses to ensure the provider delivers services in line with the Welsh Language Act.</p> <p>People will be supported to employ Welsh speaking Personal Assistants in line with their language needs.</p>
Biodiversity	It is not expected that the policy will have any adverse effect on biodiversity or ecosystem resilience.
Well-being of Future Generations	The policy contributes to the long term sustainability of service provision.

Overall Conclusion

Please indicate the conclusion reached:

- **Continue** - as planned as no problems and all opportunities have been maximised
- **Make adjustments** - as potential problems/missed opportunities/negative impacts have been identified along with mitigating actions
- **Justification** - for continuing with the initiative even though there is a potential for negative impacts or missed opportunities
- **STOP** - redraft the initiative as actual or potential unlawful discrimination has been identified

Please provide details of the overall conclusion reached in relation to the initiative

The purpose of the policy is to maximise choice in how individuals receive social care and support, whilst also taking the Council's resources into account when assessing an individual's eligible needs to ensure services are provided on a fair and equitable basis as far as possible.

This is one of a range of policies which aim to improve fairness of access to services, as well as the long term sustainability of services in line with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to meet the outcomes of a growing population with social care and support needs.

10. Actions

What actions are required in relation to obtaining further data/information, to reduce or remove negative impacts or improve positive impacts?

Action	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	How will we know we have achieved our objective?
Put robust digital systems in place to improve data collection against all protected characteristics.	Head of Adult Services	Annually from 2025	Improved equalities data collection systems are in place.
Continue to promote opportunities for staff to use their Welsh language skills	Head of Adult Services	Annually from 2025	There is at least no reduction in the number of staff able to deliver the Council's Adult

and make available training for those who wish to further develop their skills.			Services through the medium of the Welsh language. Enable staff to attend Welsh language training.
As the Policy is implemented, complete further IIAs in respect of any emerging unintended/unforeseen impact and include them in annual monitoring reports to Members.	Strategic Planning Manager	Annually from 2025	The overall impact of the Policy on all those receiving care and support from Adult Services remains positive.

11. Sign off

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Andrew Potts	Commissioning Officer	A Potts	29th May 2024
Signed off by	Angela Thomas	Head of Service/Director	A Thomas	20/08/2024