

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Social Care, Health & Well-being Cabinet Board

10th June 2019

Report of the Head of Adult Services – Ms A. Thomas

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All wards.

Report Title Revised Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy

Purpose of the Report:

To inform Members of the proposed revised Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy and seek approval to undertake a 90 day public consultation.

Executive Summary:

Respite is essential in helping carers to maintain their caring role and have a life outside of caring. The policy proposes removing existing 'arbitrary' bandings and allocating exactly the number of nights agreed under a Carer's Assessment and approved by the Resource Allocation Panel. It is expected that this will provide more flexibility and be fairer in that it will take into account individual circumstances.

Background:

The existing Respite Allocation Policy was approved by Members and implemented with effect from 1st April 2014.

Set against a background of increasing demand for our services and economic pressures requiring budgetary savings, the provision of

good quality and responsive adult social care support remains a priority of the Council.

However, in doing so it is necessary to review what services are provided and how we deliver them.

Welsh Government guidance sets out a clear expectation that direct support for carers, including respite services, should be delivered so that carers are able to take a break, supporting them as carers and in their life alongside caring.

It is important to recognise the crucial role that informal carers have in preventing the need for additional care and support for the individuals they care for. Provision of services to prevent carers from developing need for care and support themselves is a Directorate priority. Respite care is one intervention for carers that contributes to preventing, reducing or delaying the need for additional carers support.

Planned respite is provided if it is determined from a carer's assessment that they have eligible support needs and that support can only be met by the provision of a respite care service.

Adult Services provided around 7,000 nights planned respite in the last year, to 175 older people (2,900 nights) and 129 people with complex disabilities (4,100 nights). *Source: Social Services Client Index.*

It is important to recognise the difference between planned respite and emergency (unplanned) respite care when determining eligibility via an allocation system. Clearly, if someone needs care and support in an urgent or emergency situation it remains in everyone's best interest to be able to provide that short term provision rather than look at more costly and life changing longer term / permanent residential or nursing care or possibly an unnecessary hospital admission.

Respite care can be provided in a number of different ways but in Neath Port Talbot planned respite for older people is provided at Plas Bryn Rhosyn; at Trem-y-Mor for adults of working age with a long term condition such as a learning disability; while for those with nursing care needs it is Gnoll Nursing Home.

Current Allocation System - There are three bands against which the allocated service provision is currently determined – up to 16 nights; up to 36 nights; and up to 56 nights over one year. Social Services data also shows that in the last year 175 people had an assessed need for general respite. During that period, those assessed received a total allocation amounting to over 5,500 nights per annum, while analysis shows that the number of nights actually used was just over 2,800. This means that uptake was approximately 51% of assessed entitlement.

In addition, 129 people had an assessed need for complex respite services (typically adults with learning disabilities accessing Trem Y Mor) in the last year. During that period, those assessed received a total allocation amounting to over 5,200 nights per annum, while analysis shows that the number of nights actually used was nearly 4,100. This means that uptake was approximately 79% of assessed entitlement.

Furthermore, annual reviews do not take account of previous years' uptake, such that people continue to be 'slotted' into bands rather than being allocated the number of nights that would meet their individual requirements.

Proposed New Allocation System - The proposed revised needs based allocation system would remove the current bandings which will provide greater flexibility over booking and will tailor allocations to an individual's needs. For example, if a carer requires seven nights respite it will be recorded as such, instead of the current 'up to 16 nights'. It also takes into account any existing support the service user is receiving, for example attendance at a Day Service or in

receipt of Direct Payments, as well as whether the carer is a lone carer or has health related problems of their own.

Whilst removal of the current banding scheme would imply no upper limit in number of nights available to an individual, it is worth highlighting that an amount greater than 56 nights per year can adversely affect certain benefits such as Carer's Allowance.

Applying eligibility criteria robustly will ensure that only those people who have identifiable needs will receive help and support from the Council. This will ensure that all people will be treated fairly and equitably according to the needs that they have. People who have needs that are not deemed eligible will be offered advice and signposted to other organisations who may be able to help.

The new policy also recognizes the wider choices available that are considered respite. The current model is largely a traditional, buildings-based approach. However, carers often want more flexibility in how they have a break from their caring role. For example, this might include a sitting service to provide a regular afternoon break. The new policy therefore puts greater emphasis on flexibility of service provision, including via the use of Direct Payments, and allows greater choice and control rather than individuals fitting into one form of service provision.

Over time, it is expected that this will help improve planning both in terms of demand for overnight respite accommodation, and in the provision of alternatives to buildings-based respite, such as sitting services.

The Council also has a responsibility to ensure that public funds are spent efficiently and effectively and all services that are provided to meet identified eligible needs should represent the most cost effective solution possible. In doing this, the way that services are identified to meet individual needs should be done in as transparent and equitable a way as possible.

Achievement will be measured by various means, including the number of people in receipt of respite, the occupancy rate of beds across the various categories, and achievement of Forward Financial Plan savings.

Financial Impacts:

The Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy has been developed on the basis of the Directorate's budgetary savings for 2019-20.

It is not expected that implementation of this policy will likely incur any additional expenditure, nor will any additional income flows likely be received as a consequence.

Given that there is a savings target of £150,000 against the proposed policy in the Forward Financial Plan for 2019-20, not implementing the recommendation would mean that savings of that level would need to be found by other means.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016). The first stage impact assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment was required.

An overview of the Integrated Impact Assessment has been included below in summary form only and it is essential that Members read the Integrated Impact Assessment, which is attached to the report at Appendix 2, for the purposes of the meeting.

It is concluded that overall the draft policy will contribute towards positive outcomes for age and disability equalities characteristics as clients typically have services which are age and/or disability related. The purpose of the policy is to help protect the Neath Port Talbot's most vulnerable citizens, including unpaid carers. The policy's

intention is to make access to respite services for unpaid carers to be as fair and equitable as possible for all those with an eligible assessed need. It will also ensure long term sustainability of services in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

With Members' permission, the draft will be subject of a 90 day public consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. Should any negative impacts come to light, these will be addressed and brought to Members' attention.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications.

Workforce Impacts:

No implications.

Legal Impacts:

The draft policy has been developed in line with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Regulations and Codes of Practice that set out the Council's duty to assess an individual's need for care and support, as well as the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) Act 2015 which includes responsibility for ensuring sustainability of services.

Risk Management Impacts:

Failure to implement the policy will require equivalent financial savings to be made by other means.

Consultation:

The draft policy is required to be subject to public consultation.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members grant permission for Officers to undertake a 90 day public consultation on the proposed Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To take into account the social care resources available when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of individuals' needs, to ensure a sustainable range of good quality adult social care services are available to meet the needs of the most vulnerable citizens of Neath Port Talbot, and contribute towards the budgetary savings identified in the Council's Forward Financial Plan.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy (revised 2019).

Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment.

Appendix 3 – Easy Read Policy Document.

Appendix 4 – Consultation document.

Appendix 5 – Adult Services Respite Allocation Assessment Tool

List of Background Papers:

Respite Allocation Policy 2014

First stage Impact Assessment.

Officer Contact:

For further information on this report item, please contact:

Angela Thomas, Head of Adult Services

Telephone: 763794

Email: a.j.thomas@npt.gov.uk

Chelé Zandra Howard, PO for Commissioning

Telephone: 685221

Email: c.howard@npt.gov.uk