



NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL SERVICES HEALTH AND WELLBEING CABINET BOARD

5th September 2019

**Report of the Director of Social Services Health and Housing –
Andrew Jarrett**

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Glynneath and Blaengwrach

TREM Y GLYN RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME FEASIBILITY STUDY

Purpose of the Report:

To seek permission to review the options of keeping Trem y Glyn residential care home open post 2022.

Executive Summary:

On 25th July 2017, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council entered into a deed of variation with Pobl, instructing them to close Trem y Glyn care home in Glynneath on 31st March 2022. This decision was based upon the need for additional works to be completed to modernise the home but mostly on a prediction that demand for residential care home beds would fall over the coming years.

Occupancy at Trem y Glyn remains high and future predictions are that demand will for residential beds is unlikely to diminish over the coming decade. An undertaking was made to review the planned closure in 2020 but given the demand for beds and the need for certainty for the residents and staff, officers recommend that this is resolved over the coming months.

Background:

In 2012, following a decision to tender all Council run older peoples care homes, the Council entered in to a 25 year contract with Gwalia (now Pobl). The contract allows for both parties to enter into contract re-negotiations every 5 years.

The original agreement was for Pobl to build four “super homes” in locations across the County Borough, with each one catering for up to 60 people. The sites identified for the project were Neath, Port Talbot, Glynneath and Cymmer. Llys y Seren in Baglan Moors was the first to be built in 2015, followed by Plas Bryn Rhosyn in Caewern, Neath in 2016.

Following contract re-negotiations in 2017, a decision was taken not to proceed with building the remaining two care homes in Glynneath and Cymmer. The decision at that time was based on the lack of demand for long term beds across the County Borough and subsequently the amount of money being paid for empty beds (based on 95% occupancy) which formed part of the original contract.

Further, Pobl were instructed to close Trem y Glyn by 31st March 2022.

Trem y Glyn is situated in Glynneath, it provides residential care and support for up to 30 people aged 65 and older, including people with dementia.

Following the decision to keep the home open until 2022, it underwent a refurbishment which included a new roof, upgraded bedrooms and communal areas. The quality of the refurbishment was noted by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) on the 11th December 2017, who stated that the environment was “homely, comfortable, clean and personalised”.

Occupancy levels in Trem y Glyn remain high, with any vacancies filled promptly. Over the last 12 months, occupancy levels across the wider older people’s care home sector are reported as being between 90% and 100%.

Given the high occupancy rates in Trem y Glyn and the care market in general, it is proposed to undertake a feasibility study into the potential for Trem Y Glyn remaining open post 2022. The feasibility exercise will look at what further works would need to be completed to ensure that the home is able to meet regulatory requirements and who would be best placed to run the home in the future. The Council owns the building and possibilities would include the Council or a third party operating the care home facilities.

For the avoidance of doubt, this report is not definitively recommending at this stage that Trem Y Glyn should remain open. This decision would be the subject of further advice to Members once the feasibility study is complete”

Financial Impacts:

None in relation to the feasibility study. A further report will be brought back to members setting out the options alongside any financial impacts.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

No assessment has been taken in order to request permission to undertake a feasibility study as this in itself will not result in any change to service that would impact on people with a protected characteristic. If a feasibility study is undertaken then an integrated impact assessment will be undertaken on any proposed recommendations.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

Trem y Glyn is a well-regarded local resource and also provides employment for people in the area; however, there are no impacts in the development of a feasibility study as this in itself will not change the current position.

Workforce Impacts:

There are no workforce impact relating to undertaking a feasibility study as this in itself will not change the current position. Any impact of the proposed options will be considered when making recommendations following the study.

Legal Impacts:

There is no legal impact relating to the undertaking of feasibility study. Legal advice will be sought regarding any legal impacts relating to any potential change of contract following the feasibility study.

Risk Management Impacts:

None.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

That the Council works with the provider to undertake a feasibility study into the potential for Trem Y Glyn Residential Care Home to remain open post 2022.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The Council would want to reassure residents, future residents, families and staff of the position as soon as is possible

Implementation of Decision:

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

Appendices:

None.

List of Background Papers:

None.

Officer Contact:

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