



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Social Care, Health & Well-being Cabinet Board**

19th December 2019

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All wards

ADULT SERVICES RESPITE ALLOCATION POLICY

Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the outcome of the public consultation on the revised Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy ('the Policy') [see Appendices 1 – 2] and seek approval to implement the Policy.

Executive Summary

Respite is essential in helping carers to maintain their caring role and have a life outside of caring. The Policy proposed 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 also recognises that buildings-based respite is not for everyone; therefore alternatives such as sitting services and Direct Payments will allow greater choice and control rather than individuals fitting into one form of service provision. It is expected that this will provide more flexibility and be fairer in that it will take into account individual circumstances.

Background

On 10th June 2019 the Social Care, Health & Well-being Cabinet Board approved a 90 day public consultation of the Policy (see Background Papers).

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 a need for 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.

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'.

The Policy also takes into account any existing support the service user is receiving, for example Direct Payments, as well as whether the carer is a lone carer or has health related problems of their own.

It also recognises 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 and allows greater choice and control rather than individuals fitting into one form of service provision.

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.

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.

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.

A range of engagement and consultation activities took place between 17th June and 15th September 2019 to help inform the Policy, and consisted of:

- Overarching public consultation;
- Stakeholder consultation, including linking with existing partner groups;
- Formal written responses.

The purpose of this was to:

- Ensure the consultation was available to as many residents and stakeholders as possible;
- Ensure the consultation documents were available in appropriate formats;
- Provide a mechanism for people to contribute their views on the Policy;
- Find out whether people agreed or disagreed with the proposals and the reasons why;
- Provide a mechanism for people to make comments and suggestions;
- Enable people to suggest alternative proposals.

In light of the consultation responses, it is proposed that amendments be made which:

- Removes the terms ‘substantial level’ and ‘regular basis’ when defining an unpaid carer, bringing it in line with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014;
- Includes an addition under ‘Transition Period’ which states that people who have had an assessment will be able to book up to 14 days respite for the next year whilst awaiting their reassessment in order to remove any uncertainty over ongoing support;
- Removes reference on the allocation tool to home care support when considering any other services the client may be receiving.

It should be noted that the essence of the original Policy remains intact, i.e. it sets out the Council’s proposal that each individual and carer will receive an assessment of respite needs taking account of individual circumstances, and ensures those with an assessed need will receive respite in whichever form and level is most appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances.

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.

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 3, for the purposes of the meeting.

It is concluded that overall the policy will have a neutral impact on protected characteristics. The purpose of the policy is to help protect 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.

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

None.

Consultation

On 10th June 2019 Members approved a 90 day public consultation in respect of the Policy. During this period, 17th June to 15th September 2019, a number of consultation and engagement activities took place. The outcome of the activity is detailed in Appendix 4, and has helped confirm the content of the final Officer draft of the Policy which is the subject of this report.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members grant permission for Officers to implement the Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy attached as Appendix 1 and 2 to this report.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To enable the Council:

- To take into account the social care resources and other care and support available to individuals when undertaking an assessment or reassessment of carers' 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
- To 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 – Easy Read Policy Document.

Appendix 3 – Integrated Impact Assessment.

Appendix 4 – Consultation Report

List of Background Papers

Revised Adult Services Respite Allocation Policy permission to consult:

<http://modern.gov.neath-portalbot.gov.uk/documents/s51302/Respite%20Policy%20Committee%20Report%20-%2010%20June%202019.pdf>

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