



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL CARE HEALTH & WELL-BEING  
CABINET BOARD  
16 September 2021**

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

**Matter for Information**

**Wards Affected** All Wards

**GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE DELIVERY OF SHORT BREAK  
RESPIRE PROVISION TO UNPAID CARERS**

**Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members that, pending Welsh Government approval, the Head of Adult Services intends to enter into a grant agreement with Neath Port Talbot Carers Service (“the Carers Service”), for the delivery of short break respite provision to unpaid carers (“Carers”).

**Executive Summary**

Welsh Government notified Neath Port Talbot Council (“the Council”) in July that £87,006 would be made available in the 2021/22 financial year to help meet the anticipated increased demands for Carers respite (“the Fund”).

Officers have worked with the Carers Service to develop a range of innovative additional respite provision. This offer will be in addition to the current statutory Carers respite already commissioned by the Council (for example, overnight residential respite).

Subject to approval by Welsh Government, the Head of Adult Services intends to enter into a grant agreement with the Carers Service to coordinate and develop the provision of short breaks for Carers.

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules' (CPR's) requires the Head of Adult Services to report to the Council when such contracts are entered into.

### **Background**

Welsh Government wrote to the Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 with notification that £87,006 would be made available in the 2021/22 financial year to help meet the anticipated increased demands for Carers respite in Neath Port Talbot.

This Fund could be used to increase traditional forms of respite, such as overnight residential respite, for the period April – September 2021. From October 2021 onwards, Welsh Government's expectation is for the Fund to be used to develop more innovative approaches to short breaks for Carers, such as short breaks.

Officers have been working with the Carers Service to finalise a proposal of how this Fund will be spent. Due to the timescales for implementing the requirements of the Fund and in consideration that traditional forms of respite is already accounted for within the Council's base budget for social care, Officers recommended that the full £87,006 was allocated to support the development and provision of more innovative short break services.

A proposal for how this funding will be utilised has been sent to Welsh Government for their approval. It is proposed that the Carers Service is provided with a grant of £87,006 to coordinate, develop and provide innovative short break services to carers. The range of short breaks to be offered will include trips away, wellbeing activities, gym sessions and vouchers for things such as spa treatments.

Officers believe that the Carers Service is best placed to develop the short break opportunities and coordinate the allocation of short breaks. This is because the Carers Service is commissioned by the Council to undertake Carer Assessments and to provide Information, Advice and Assistance. This, alongside their Carers database and being the central point of contact for Carers, means that the Carers Service can connect with a wide range of Carers in order to promote and allocate these opportunities. In addition, the Carers Service have experience in developing short break opportunities.

Members should note that access to short break opportunities purchased through this Fund will not result in any change to a Carers assessed residential respite allocation. These short breaks will be in addition to any previously assessed respite provision.

Welsh Government require two monitoring reports outlining the use and impact of the Fund. The Carers Service will collate the relevant monitoring information for Welsh Government, including an annual report to be provided by May 2022 on achievement against the aims and impacts of the project. This annual report will also be presented to Members for monitoring purposes.

### **Financial Impacts**

This grant agreement will not have an adverse impact on the Council's base budget, as the services will be financed from the Welsh Government's Fund for Carers respite. The grant agreement with the Carers Service is contingent on the approval of the funding by Welsh Government.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

A first stage impact assessment (Appendix 1) 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.

- Equalities - The indication is that entering into the contract will have a positive impact, however the contract monitoring, outcomes data and analysis of complaints and/or safeguarding referrals will allow us to check that the service is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended negative consequences for people with a protected characteristic.
- Socio-Economic Disadvantage - The indication is that entering into the contract will have a positive impact, however the contract monitoring, outcomes data and analysis of complaints and/or safeguarding referrals will allow us to check that the service is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended negative socio-economic consequences
- Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty - The indication is that entering into the contract will have a positive impact, however the contract monitoring, outcomes data and analysis of complaints and/or safeguarding referrals will allow us to check that the service is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended negative consequences in regards to community cohesion, social exclusion and/or poverty.
- Welsh Language - The indication is that entering into the contract will have a positive impact, however the contract monitoring, outcomes data and analysis of complaints and/or safeguarding referrals will allow us to check that the service is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any

unintended negative consequences for people wishing to use the Welsh Language.

- Biodiversity – Not applicable
- Well-being of Future Generations - The indication is that entering into the contract will have a positive impact, however the contract monitoring, outcomes data and analysis of complaints and/or safeguarding referrals will allow us to check that the service is having its intended outcomes and not resulting in any unintended negative consequences against the aims of the well-being of future generations.

### **Valleys Communities Impacts**

No impact – entering into a grant agreement with the Carers Service has no spatial impact on our valleys communities and does not link to the impacts identified in the Cabinet’s response to the Council’s Task and Finish Group’s recommendations on the Valleys.

Although this proposal is not linked to the above policy, the Carers Service will ensure that it recognises any additional barriers that residents in the Valley Communities may have in accessing short breaks and take this into account by implementing a personalised approach to short break opportunities. For example, offering a choice of gyms/spas.

### **Workforce Impacts**

No implications.

### **Legal Impacts**

The Respite for Unpaid Carers Fund (the Fund) will be subject to Welsh Government grant conditions, with which the Council will be obliged to comply. The process of the award of the Fund to the Carers Service by the Council will be in line with the grant conditions.

The allocation of the Fund will require a grant agreement which will require the Carers Service to comply with the grant conditions. The grant agreement will entail the recipient only being permitted to use the grant monies for the specific purposes for which they are made available by the Council. The Council will have the right to claw back to monies if they are not used or if misused.

Grants are outside of the procurement regime and are excluded from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules under rule 7.1.21.

The Council's Contract Procedure Rules' requires the Head of Adult Services to report to the Council when such contracts are entered into.

### **Risk Management Impacts**

No risk management impacts.

### **Consultation**

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item. Although there is no requirement for external consultation, this proposal has been shaped by feedback from Carers.

As part of developing the proposal for utilising this Fund, the Carers Service sought feedback from Carers on what would make a difference to them. The below opportunities were suggested by Carers and has directly informed the Council's short break offer:

- Short Breaks Caravan/Cottage;
- Spa Treatment;
- Nail Vouchers;
- Coffee Shop/Meal Vouchers;
- Gym session;
- Wellbeing Activity/Event;
- Yoga Sessions;
- Walking Groups;
- Night Away in a reasonable priced accommodation;

- Night Away to themselves.

The Carers Service is asked to obtain service user feedback in order to inform the delivery and performance of the service. The Carers Service provide reports to the Council on what participation events have taken place and how the feedback from Carers has shaped their services. This feedback indicates that Carers appreciate the provision of events and activities and benefit from the provision of respite services.

A significant amount of engagement and consultation took place in the development of the Regional Carers Strategy (Background Paper 1). This identified that the below areas were of key importance to Carers, all of which this proposal will support:

- Peer support.
- Community based support.
- Better range and quality of services to meet Carers needs for a break.
- More flexibility and choice.
- More opportunities to take a break.
- More support for Carers to access social and leisure opportunities.

Furthermore, the consultation process that took place between 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (Background Paper 2), highlighted that Carers wished to have more flexible options for respite, including alternatives to traditional residential respite.

### **Recommendations**

To note the contents of this report.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

To note the contents of this report.

## **Implementation of Decision**

To note the contents of this report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: First Stage Impact Assessment.

Appendix 2: Integrated Impact Assessment.

## **List of Background Papers**

Background Paper 1: Regional Carers Strategy (Item 5) -

<http://moderngov.npt.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=322&MId=9952>

Background Paper 2: Consultation Report on Respite Allocation Policy (Item 7 appendix 4) -

<http://moderngov.npt.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=322&MId=9101>

## **Officer Contact**

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