



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

# Independent Living Hub



## Consultation Paper

*Building Safe and Resilient Communities*

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## 1. Background

Bspoked Enterprises is a training and employment centre the purpose of which is to provide people who have low to moderate learning disabilities the opportunity to develop employment and training skills which they can use to move on to other training and employment opportunities.

However, Bspoked has evolved over the years for some people to become a long term day service despite the aim of Bspoked being to support people to transition to other opportunities.

The current building, which is located at Neath Abbey, will be adapted to include areas where people can be supported by staff to develop new and build on existing skills as well as skills which will enable them to progress to other training opportunities or employment.

The newly created areas will include two training flats each with a kitchen, bathroom, living room and bedroom (although these areas will not provide accommodation for people to live in but will be a training facility). Use of assistive technology will be facilitated by including up to date equipment within the training flats to enable people to try this equipment and devices and develop the skills to use this technology within their own environment.

## 2. What is Independent Living?

Independent Living empowers you to have greater choice and control in directing your own life, having the same range of choices as a non-disabled person to make informed decisions about any practical support you require to go about your everyday life. For some people, that can be:

- using the bus
- attending an activity in their community centre

- making lunch
- having someone to help you pay your bills
- doing the weekly shop
- connecting online with friends, using online bank or finding information

Independent living is not about people living alone or being without support that they need, but making sure that the barriers that stop you being able to choose what you would like to do are reduced and/or where possible removed.

The disabled community tells us that the 12 basic rights of disabled people are:

1. Appropriate and Accessible Information
2. An adequate income
3. Appropriate and accessible health and social care provisions
4. A fully-accessible transport system
5. Full access to the environment
6. Adequate provision of technical aids and equipment
7. Availability of accessible and adapted housing
8. Adequate provision of personal assistance
9. Availability of inclusive education and training
10. Equal opportunities for employment
11. Availability of independent advocacy and self- advocacy
12. Availability of peer counselling

### **3. What is the aim of the Independent Living Hub?**

We want to develop Bspoked into an Independent Living Hub that works with you to hear what is important to *you* and your independence. We are proposing that we no longer focus *only* on work, training and employment and that we develop our service to include supporting you achieve your goals in all aspects of your life.

At the Independent Hub, we will aim to:

- deliver task focussed activities that enable people to develop the skills they require to live as independently as possible such as looking after the home, shopping and meal preparation and managing money etc.
- facilitate group and individual activities that support positive contributions to local communities e.g. volunteering, work and training
- support individuals to find travel solutions via the use of various methods of independent travel, including the use of public transport, cycling or walking.
- prepare people [who wish to move to their own accommodation] with necessary life skills to move on to more independent accommodation and to support them with this process.
- support people to utilise every day and advancing assistive technology to aid them live more independently
- (wherever possible) follow structured competency based training and educational opportunities that the service provides.
- ensure that each individual within the service has a specific outcome/s identified that they wish to achieve, in consultation with their network of support and to monitor their progress
- encourage naturally occurring relationships, support and resources, so that an individual's network within their community is maximised
- provide a 'drop in' service to the community to enable them to access support to manage activities of daily living.

#### **4. What are the aims of this consultation?**

The aims of the consultation are to:

- Make sure that all interested parties are aware of the Council's idea to develop Bspoked into an Independent Living Hub
- Make sure that people have all the information they need to come to an informed opinion
- Encourage people to give their views on the document (outlined in section 2)
- Make sure people know how to submit their views
- Collect feedback and consider this before a final decision is made

#### **5. When will the consultation take place?**

The Council will be collecting feedback for 90 days from 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and finish on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (see Section 6 for how to give your views).

After the consultation ends, all of the feedback will be analysed and a report will be presented to the Council's Cabinet. That report will set out the proposals and recommendations taking into account the feedback from the consultation.

#### **6. Questions & Answers**

There are a number of ways that you can submit questions and comments about the Independent Living Hub during the consultation period (see Section 6). However, here are answers to some questions you may have:

**Q:** What is the reason for developing Bspoked into an Independent Living Hub?

**A:** We want to enhance what we already offer. We know that many people want to develop their independence, and we feel the introduction of two training flats will support people develop these skills. We would like to develop the existing workshops to be more focused on building your independent living skills; we know that supporting people to build their confidence and independent living skills can be achieved in many ways, and developing the existing workshops is another way to do that.

**Q:** What does the Council hope to get out of this consultation?

**A:** We want to know if you think the development of Bspoked into an independent living hub is a good idea, and if there's anything you think we've missed.

## **7. How will the Council collect views and opinions?**

There are a number of ways that the Council will be collecting views and opinions on the draft strategy:

### **i. Consultation Portal**

The "Have Your Say" section on Neath Port Talbot Council's website will allow you to view all supporting documents, make comments and provide feedback via the Internet.

### **ii. Meetings with partner agencies, groups and forums**

We will be discussing the proposal at meetings with key partner agencies, service user groups, carer forums and other stakeholder forums.

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 11.00am for families and carers

25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 14.00pm for service users

### iii. In writing

You can write to us or complete the Feedback Form at the end of this booklet. Letters and forms can be put into the suggestion box or can be posted to:

Independent Living Hub Consultation  
Neath Port Talbot Council  
Social Services Commissioning Unit  
Civic Centre  
Neath  
SA11 3QZ

Or email [bspoked@npt.gov.uk](mailto:bspoked@npt.gov.uk)

## 8. Explanation of terms used in the context of this document

**Advocacy** is a service that represents others or helps them to represent themselves. The advocate will put a person's views forward, make sure that they are kept fully informed and that they have all the information they need to make an informed decision or choice.

**Independent Living** enables disabled people to achieve their own goals and live their lives in the way they choose.

**Partner agencies** - these are organisations who work together to provide services, e.g. the Council, Local Health Board, Carers Service, etc.

A **Stakeholder** is a person, group or organisation with a direct interest, involvement, or investment in something, e.g. staff, owners and customers/ service users of a business or service.

<b>Alternative Formats</b>
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This information is available in a range of formats including Welsh. All documents can also be accessed via the Council's website. To make a request for another format, please ask one of the Respite or Day Centre Staff who will pass your request on to the Commissioning Unit, or email us directly at: [bspokedenterprises@npt.gov.uk](mailto:bspokedenterprises@npt.gov.uk)

## 9. Feedback form

Neath Port Talbot Council

**Independent Living Hub Consultation**

# Feedback Form

If you would like to comment on this proposal, please complete this form and post it in the questionnaire box or post it to:

Independent Living Hub Consultation  
 Neath Port Talbot Council  
 Social Services Commissioning Unit  
 Civic Centre  
 Neath  
 SA11 3QZ

If you wish to receive a response to any questions raised on this form please supply your name and address:

Name:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	

Please indicate your interest in this strategy (please ✓):

I am a Service User	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I am related to a Service User	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I am a carer for a Service User	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I am a member of staff at a Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Other (please specify)	

### Independent Living Hub

How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal to develop Bspoked into an Independent Living Hub? Please tick ✓ one box only:

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments in the box below:

### Importance of approach

How much do you agree or disagree with the Independent Living approach? Please tick ✓ one box only:

Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree or disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or suggestions in the box below:

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**Independent Living Hub Impact**

Do you think that the Independent Living Hub would have a positive or negative impact on you? Please tick ✓ one box only:

Positive	Negative	Don't know

Please give reasons for your answer or provide further comments or suggestions in the box below:

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**Gaps**

Is there anything you feel we have missed that should be included in the Independent Living Hub?

Please provide further comments or suggestions in the box below:

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**Any other comments**

Please provide further comments or suggestions in the box below:

## About You

The Council operates equality policies that aim to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equally. To make sure that people are not discriminated against when accessing our services we carry out monitoring and therefore would be grateful if you could answer the following questions. The information you provide is strictly confidential.

**Age:** (please ✓ one answer)

- |                                   |                                |                                |  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 | <input type="checkbox"/> 60-74 | <input type="checkbox"/> 86+               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24    | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75-85 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-29    | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-59 |                                |  |

**Welsh Language** – are you: (please ✓ one answer)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent speaker & writer        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fluent speaker        | <input type="checkbox"/> Learner                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly fluent speaker & writer | <input type="checkbox"/> Fairly fluent speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Little or no knowledge |

The Equality Act 2010 defines a person as disabled if they have a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term (i.e. has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months) adverse effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability?** (please ✓ one answer)

- |                              |                             |  |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

**Ethnic origin:** (please ✓ one answer)

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed: White & Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Black: African    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian               | <input type="checkbox"/> Black: Caribbean  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed: White & Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi          | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed: White & Black African   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani            | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):        | <input type="text"/>                          |  |

**Sex** (please ✓ one answer)

- |                               |                                 |                                      |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|

say

**Religion/Belief:** *(please ✓ one answer)*

Christian    Buddhist    Hindu    Jewish    Muslim  
 Sikh    No religion    Prefer not to say    Any other religion

Any other religion *(please specify):*

**Sexual Orientation** *(please ✓ one answer)*

Heterosexual    Lesbian    Gay    Bisexual    Prefer not to say

**Nationality** *(please ✓ one answer)*

Welsh    Scottish    English    British  
 Irish    Prefer not to say    Other

Other *(please specify):* |

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME***

***END.***