



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

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

9th December 2021

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

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected All Wards

**IMPLEMENTATION OF A QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK
FOR THE PROVISION OF LEARNING DISABILITY AND MENTAL
HEALTH SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES IN NEATH PORT
TALBOT**

Purpose of the Report

To present Members with the draft Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) and the associated consultation report in order to request permission to implement the QAF.

Executive Summary

The Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) (Appendix 1) sets out the proposed criteria against which providers of Supported Living Schemes for adults with learning disabilities and/or mental health conditions in Neath Port Talbot will be assessed.

On 1st April 2021, Members agreed for Officers to undertake a 90 day public consultation on the proposed QAF (Background Paper 1). This public consultation is now completed and an evaluation of the responses (Appendix 2) has been used to further improve the QAF.

Subsequently QAF has been brought back to Members to approve its implementation.

Background

The provision of good quality and responsive adult social care support remains a priority of the Council. The Council also has a responsibility to ensure that public funds are spent efficiently and effectively.

The purpose of the QAF is to provide the Council and its partners with a methodology for assessing the quality of service provision against various criteria affecting the day to day life of those adults placed in Supported Living Schemes.

To further strengthen the impact of the QAF, Officers undertook a 90 day public consultation. The aim of this consultation was to:

- Make sure that all interested parties are aware of the Council's proposed QAF.
- Make sure that people have all the information they need to come to an informed opinion.
- Encourage people to give their views on the QAF.
- Make sure people know how to submit their views.
- Collect feedback and consider this before a final draft QAF is submitted for approval.

This consultation ran for the period 27th July 2021 to the 19th September 2021. The consultation documents included easy read versions in both English and Welsh (Background Papers 2-5).

An evaluation of the consultation responses has now taken place and the feedback incorporated into the final draft QAF. As such, the draft QAF has been brought back to Members for approval.

Financial Impacts

There are no financial impacts arising from this report. It is not expected that implementation will likely incur any additional

expenditure, nor will any additional income flows likely be received as a consequence.

Integrated Impact Assessment

An Impact Assessment was undertaken on 18.02.21 (Background Paper 6). This concluded that:

“Overall the QAF will have a neutral impact on protected characteristics. The purpose of the QAF is to set out the criteria against which providers of Supported Living Schemes for adults with learning disabilities and/or mental health conditions in Neath Port Talbot are assessed. Should any negative impacts come to light these will be addressed and brought to Members’ attention.”

In light of the consultation exercise and additional considerations placed on Local Authorities since the previous assessment, a new impact assessment was undertaken in order 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.

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.

- Equality Impacts - Will have a positive impact on people with protected characteristic as the QAF will support the continuous improvement and best practice in Supported Living Schemes and help identify changes that would make it easier for providers to enable service users to achieve their personal outcomes. The consultation process did not indicate that any further action

needed to be undertaken to improve positive impacts or mitigate negative impacts.

- Socio-Economic Disadvantage Impacts - Will have a positive impact on mitigating socio-economic disadvantage as there are a number of themes that help positively improve socio-economic factors. The consultation process did not indicate that any further action needed to be undertaken to improve positive impacts or mitigate negative impacts.
- Community Cohesion/ Social Exclusion/Poverty Impacts - Will have a positive impact on community cohesion, social exclusion and poverty, as a number of themes that help positively impact on these areas. The consultation process did not indicate that any further action needed to be undertaken to improve positive impacts or mitigate negative impacts.
- Welsh Language Impacts - Neutral impact as will not have any impact on a person's ability to have a service in their language of choice. Contracts for commissioned services contain clauses to ensure the provider delivers services in line with the Welsh Language Act.
- Biodiversity Impacts – Not applicable
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Impacts - This will have a positive impact on meeting the five ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generation Act as a number of themes in the QAF help positively impact on these areas. The consultation process did not indicate that any further action needed to be undertaken to improve positive impacts or mitigate negative impacts.

Valleys Communities Impacts

Supported Living Schemes are located across Neath Port Talbot and there was no indication in the development of the QAF or the

consultation process that the proposed QAF would have a different or disproportionate impacts (whether that be positive or negative) on Valley Communities.

Workforce Impacts

The QAF will be undertaken by Contract Monitoring Officers, it is not anticipated that this work will have any workforce impacts on the relevant Officers, as this will replace the current system for monitoring Supported Living Schemes. In addition, the Monitoring Officers played a fundamental role in the development of the QAF.

Legal Impacts

The QAF 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

There are no risks associated with this item.

Consultation

This item has been subject to external consultation, the consultation report can be found at Appendix 2.

Feedback from this consultation process has directly influenced the draft QAF and the additional areas included as a result of the consultation have been highlighted in red on the QAF (Appendix 1).

Recommendations

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment and the consultation report, it is recommended that the Quality Assurance Framework, as set out in Appendix 1 is approved for use by Officers.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To ensure sustainable and good quality Supported Living Schemes are available to meet the needs of adults in Neath Port Talbot with learning disabilities and mental health needs.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Appendices

Appendix 1: Quality Assurance Framework

Appendix 2: Consultation Report

Appendix 3: Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers

Background Paper 1: Cabinet Report of the 1st April 2021

<http://moderngov.npt.gov.uk/documents/s68660/Quality%20Assurance%20Framework%20for%20the%20Provision%20of%20Learning%20Disability%20and%20Mental%20Health%20Supported%20Liv.pdf>

Background Paper 2: Consultation Document (English)

Background Paper 3: Consultation Document (Welsh)

Background Paper 4: Consultation Document Easy Read (English)

Background Paper 5: Consultation Document Easy Read (Welsh)

Background Paper 6: First Stage Equality Impact Assessment dated 18.02.21

<http://moderngov.npt.gov.uk/documents/s68663/App%203%20-%20Quality%20Assurance%20Framework.pdf>

Officer 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