

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

9 MARCH 2021

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT FOR DEMENTIA TRAINING

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval to enter into a partnership agreement with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board with the objective of collaboration to support the health and social care workforce through joint learning and development activity in order to improve the lives of people affected by dementia, which will require a suspension of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs).

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

- 3.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) entered into a funding relationship with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMUHB) Region over 10 years ago to support the development and delivery of dementia care training and support to the social care sector. The core budget for this service originally funded two full time equivalent posts, based in ABMUHB's Dementia Care Training Team. However due to a reduction in the annual budget for this service BCBC now contribute £23,500 per annum to fund half a post in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) Dementia Care Training Team, with 1.5 full-time equivalent posts funded by CTMUHB.
- 3.2 During the transition period of re-alignment from ABMUHB to CTMUHB in 2019-20, BCBC entered into a temporary contractual agreement with CTMUHB agreed via the Scheme of Delegation. The purpose of securing a previously informal arrangement was to ensure business continuity and continuity of support to dementia care service

providers to allow for a period of review of dementia care training and support requirements. The pandemic and its impact on the service has delayed progress to date.

- 3.3 The review concluded that the current relationship arrangement provides value for money training, through the provision of additional aspects, in assessment teams and direct care services, ongoing support to care providers beyond training, monitoring the quality of care involving the BCBCs Contract Monitoring team, and developing and extending that support to include future joint training opportunities and support to informal carers. Such a range of benefits, in their entirety, would not be able to be secured by formal tendering for a commissioned training provider. Neither would it be possible to secure even the training element at the same level of service at a comparative cost when compared to other dementia training providers' costs.
- 3.4 A formal partnership arrangement will support effective collaboration for solutions to support health and social care challenges faced by priority groups for integration under Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Converting the informal arrangement to a formal partnership will secure the quality of care delivered, cost benefits, added value, and maintain consistency in delivering skills based training to health and social care staff in the Bridgend area. There is therefore a strategic approach to supporting workforce development activity and training in order to guide and inform local delivery of care and support to people living with dementia and their carers, whether supported at home, in a care home, or in hospital.
- 3.5 The proposed partnership is underpinned by the following:

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

The Council has the statutory duty to make arrangements to promote co-operation with the health board in the exercise of its functions relating to adults with needs for care and support under section 162 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. For those purposes the Council and health board may provide staff, goods, services, accommodation or other resources to one another, establish and maintain a pooled fund and share information with each other.

The principles of the Good Work Framework

“This framework is intended to support what matters most to the people of Wales as well as the spirit and requirements of Welsh policy, legislation and guidance regarding the care, support and empowerment of people with dementia, carers and the health and social care workforce”. *Good Work. A Dementia Learning and Development Framework for Wales 2016*

The Framework is intended to support the learning needs of anyone coming into contact with people living with dementia, including the public in communities, informal carers, health and social care direct care staff, ancillary staff, and managers of care services.

Dementia Action Plan for Wales 2018-20

The Action Plan set out a clear strategy for Wales to become a dementia-friendly nation that recognises the rights of people with dementia to feel valued and live as independently as possible in their communities. The Welsh Government's expectation is that the Action Plan is delivered by regional partnerships.

Bridgend County Borough Council joined the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Dementia Workforce Development Sub Group in 2019, reporting to the Regional Dementia Board.

The key objective from the Action Plan for the sub-group is that 'Staff in Cwm Taf Morgannwg have the skills to help them identify people with dementia and to feel confident and competent in supporting individuals' needs post-diagnosis. While this Regional initiative has not progressed further since the pandemic impacted in March 2020, this proposed partnership arrangement would continue to develop the dementia care workforce locally in line with this objective.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The proposed arrangement will ensure that collaborative working arrangements are effective, co-ordinated and comprehensive to encourage closer cooperation, liaison and information exchange between the parties with a shared aim of providing high quality local authority and independent care and support service provision through ensuring the workforce is better trained and better informed which will ensure consistent service delivery to people with dementia in the borough.
- 4.2 The proposed arrangement will be delivered on a not for profit basis and will provide a cost effective, sustainable collaboration that will ensure a joint approach to developing the workforce to deliver dementia care and ensure that BCBC and CTMUHB have access to wider opportunities for a consistent approach to dementia delivery to the residents of BCBC and CTMUHB.
- 4.3 The Dementia Care Training Team staff are qualified and experienced dementia care practitioners, experienced trainers, and whose knowledge and expertise is informed by research.
- 4.4 As part of the partnership agreement with CTMUHB, the health board will be providing training and development to support and develop the dementia care workforce in Bridgend to ensure the approach to supporting people with dementia in Bridgend is consistent with CTMUHB. That aspect of the collaboration would ordinarily be subject to the requirements of our CPRs but the preferred approach being recommended to Cabinet is that this be dealt with through the collaboration with CTMUHB and as such the requirements of the CPRs would need to be suspended. Cabinet should be aware, that in entering into this partnership agreement the Council is exposed to the risk of potential challenge from other providers of such services, as the Council is entering into a contract without any competition, which breaches the requirements of procurement legislation. Legislative provisions exist that allow local authorities to collaborate to provide services but they do not overrule the procurement obligations. They may however reduce the overall potential for a challenge, as collaboration is a commonly used tool for the provision of services between public bodies.
- 4.5 Subject to the Cabinet's approval, it is intended that the Council enter into a partnership agreement with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board for the provision of dementia training from 1st April 2021 for a term of 3 years with the option to extend up to a further 6 months.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 This report is requesting a suspension of the Council's CPRs.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken. It was found that a full EIA is not required as there would be no changes to the level of service received by individuals supported should the Council enter into a partnership agreement with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 Approval to enter into a partnership arrangement for dementia training supports the five ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, as follows:

Long Term – will enable continuity of the service to provide consistent skills based support to care staff who will be supporting an increasing number of people living with dementia.

Prevention – the service supports and encourages staff to deliver care that enables people to continue to live as independently as possible within their environment.

Integration – service providers will continue to work with individuals to enable continuation of support in their environment.

Collaboration – the service will continue to support and encourage staff to collaborate with individuals whom they support.

Involvement – the service supports and encourages staff to work with individuals to be involved in decisions about the delivery of their care and support.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The anticipated cost of the contract estimated to the end of the contract term, including the potential extension period should Cabinet decide to utilise this option is £82,250. The annual contribution is line with the current core budget available for this service.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approves entering into the partnership agreement with CTMUHB in order to bring about the positive benefits for those living with dementia as set out in the report, and suspends the relevant parts of the Council's CPRs in respect of the requirements relating to the procurement of the dementia training and development provision which CTMUHB shall fulfil;
- Delegates authority to the Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing, to approve the final terms of the partnership agreement with CTMUHB on behalf of the Council and to arrange execution of the agreement on behalf of the Council, subject to such delegated authority being exercised in consultation with the Chief Officer - Legal, HR and Regulatory Services and Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change.

Claire Marchant
Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
February 2021

Contact Officer Jacqueline Davies
Head of Adult Social Care – Social Services and Wellbeing

Tel: (01656) 642121

E. Mail: Jacqueline.davies@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend

Background documents

None