

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	10 MARCH 2026
Report Title:	SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT FOR DEMENTIA TRAINING
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING
Responsible Officer:	KELVIN BARLOW – HEAD OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	This report is proposing a suspension of the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	This report seeks Cabinet 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.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Cabinet approval to enter into a partnership agreement with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) with the objective of supporting effective collaboration of the health and social care workforce through joint learning and development activity in order to improve outcomes for people affected by dementia. This partnership agreement requires a suspension of the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs).

2. Background

- 2.1 In March 2021, Cabinet approved entering into a Partnership Agreement with CTMUHB, and suspending the Council’s CPRs, in respect of the requirements relating to the procurement of the dementia training and development provision which CTMUHB provide through the Partnership Agreement.
- 2.2 The Partnership Agreement for Dementia Training expired in March 2025 but training has continued to be provided in line with the terms and conditions of the Partnership Agreement to ensure continuity of support to people living with dementia by a well-trained health and social care workforce.
- 2.3 A review has been undertaken which has concluded that the current relationship arrangement provides value for money, through delivering:
- training to assessment teams and care providers

- ongoing support to care providers
- opportunities to develop future joint training and support to informal carers.

2.4 Such a range of benefits, in their entirety, could not be secured by formal tendering for a commissioned training provider. Neither would it be possible to secure the training element alone at the same level of service at a comparative cost. Market analysis has been undertaken indicating it has not been possible to identify a provider who would be able to deliver the required model. The partnership approach supports the principles of co-operation, partnership and integration which are key requirements of Welsh Government legislation and codes of practice.

2.5 A formal partnership arrangement supports effective collaboration for integrated health and social care solutions for priority population groups under Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. Converting the current arrangement to a formal partnership will secure the quality of care delivered, cost benefits, added value, and maintain consistency. This is therefore a strategic approach to supporting workforce development activities 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.

2.6 The proposed partnership is underpinned by the principles of co-operation, partnership and integration embedded in the following:

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 – which provides for core principles including prioritising individual voice and control, focusing on prevention and early intervention, and promoting well-being, co-production, and multi-agency collaboration.

The principles of the Good Work Framework - Dementia Learning and Development Framework for Wales 2016 – provides a structure to promote the wellbeing of people with dementia, carers and the people who support them through a person-centred, strengths-based and outcomes focused approach.

Dementia Action Plan for Wales 2018-22 and the Draft Dementia Strategy 2026-2036 – 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. Currently, the Welsh Government are consulting on a new Dementia Strategy 2026-2036 designed to succeed the 2018–2022 Action Plan. Its vision is for Wales to be a nation where people living with dementia are respected, empowered, and supported to live independently with dignity.

2.7 The proposed Partnership Agreement will provide a cohesive approach within the principles of co-operation, partnership and integration embedded, within the above policy approaches, to:

- improve care and support, ensuring people have more say and control;
- improve outcomes and health and well-being;
- provide co-ordinated, person-centred care and support;
- make more effective use of resources, skills and expertise; and
- improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

3. Current situation/proposal

- 3.1 The proposed arrangement will ensure that there is high quality, effective learning and development for the health and social care workforce supporting individuals living with dementia.
- 3.2 The proposed arrangement is delivered as a public sector partnership and will provide a cost effective, sustainable collaboration which ensures that BCBC and CTMUHB workforce have a consistent approach to dementia delivery to the residents of Bridgend County Borough and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.
- 3.3 The Dementia Care Training Team staff are highly qualified and experienced dementia care practitioners, experienced trainers, and their knowledge and expertise is informed by research.
- 3.4 BCBC continues to work with the Positive Approach to Care (PAC) model to enhance the quality of dementia care provided by staff across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region.
- 3.5 As part of the collaboration agreement with CTMUHB, the health board will be providing training and development to support and develop the dementia care workforce in Bridgend through a partnership agreement. Entering into the partnership agreement requires the suspension of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Cabinet should be aware that in entering into this collaboration agreement the Council is exposed to the risk of potential challenge from other providers of such services. Legislative provisions exist that allow local authorities to collaborate to provide services but they do not overrule the procurement obligations. They do however reduce the overall potential for a challenge, as collaboration is a commonly used tool for the provision of services.
- 3.6 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 2026 for a term of 3 years at a cost of £20,173 per annum equivalent to £60,519 over the Agreement duration.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions.
- 4.2 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 A summary of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment is listed below:

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.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 There are no specific implications of this report on climate change or nature.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 A multi-disciplinary approach will reduce risk and enhance safeguarding.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 The anticipated cost of the contract over a three year period is estimated to be £60,519 for the proposed partnership agreement duration of three years. The budget is within the core budgets for the service and provides value for money.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Notes the informal arrangement and approves entering into the partnership agreement with CTMUHB 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 collaboration agreement with CTMUHB on behalf of the Council and to arrange execution of the collaboration agreement on behalf of the Council, subject to such delegated authority being exercised in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal & Regulatory Services and HR & Electoral.

Background documents:

None