

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE  
4<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**REPORT AUTHOR: Michael Gray  
Head of Adult Services**

**REPORT TITLE: Increasing the capacity to review care and support  
packages in Adult Services**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 This report is presented to Cabinet to ensure that the Cabinet is sighted on the current demand and capacity pressures being faced by Adult Services and in particular, the ability of the service to undertake timely reviews.
- 1.2 The report sets out the impact of being unable to manage this review backlog, in terms of residents' wellbeing, ability to contribute to efficiency savings and ability to discharge statutory duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.
- 1.3 The report proposes an investment of additional reviewing capacity so to remove this backlog, manage future reviews in a timely manner and right-size packages of care that will contribute to service efficiencies.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 Part 4 Code of Practice (Meeting Needs) is clear that a local authority must keep care and support plans under review to understand whether the provision of that care and support is meeting the identified needs of the individual. In the case of an adult, the date of review must not exceed 12 months<sup>1</sup>
- 2.2 As of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022, there are 639 overdue reviews in older peoples' teams, 197 overdue reviews in disabilities teams, and an additional 384 reviews that we know will need to be undertaken before the end of March 2022.
- 2.3 It is not possible to deal with this review backlog alongside the undertaking of new reviews given current demand and capacity

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<sup>1</sup> 113 and 121. [part-4-code-of-practice-meeting-needs.pdf \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/part-4-code-of-practice-meeting-needs.pdf)

pressures within the service. The lack of reviewing capacity also compromises our ability to amend or end services involved, as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that the level of care people receive is proportionate to needs.

- 2.4 The Health and Social Care Capacity: Modelling and Monitoring Group (jointly led by the NHS Wales Delivery Unit and the Welsh Government) has also modelled that the impact of long COVID could mean that the tail of demand for intermediate care and longer-term social care may be even longer than the demand faced by the NHS. Even if a prompt and robust supported recovery model is implemented for individuals, we can still expect to see a Covid-related additional increase in demand for longer-term packages of care and care home placements, into 2022.
- 2.5 The S151 officer has confirmed that when making any decisions that present an additional financial pressure, services should first review its spending across all budget heads and identify any budgets that are not fully committed. Secondly, all other sources of funding should be explored including grants and the WG hardship fund.
- 2.6 A new “one off” Welsh Government ‘Winter Pressures and Social Care overspends’ grant has just been made available and will be directly utilised to fund the proposal if the grant terms and conditions allow. Or budget displaced from utilising the grant funding elsewhere in the service will be released to meet this cost.
- 2.7 This report is submitted for Adults Services.

### **3 Advice**

- 3.1 The Statutory Director of Social Services has a responsibility to ensure councillors have clear advice on the level of resources required for a local authority to effectively deliver its social services functions. At the end of Quarter three Adult Services is reporting a forecast end of year position of an overspend of £49,000.
- 3.2 Mitigations being delivered include maximisation/utilisation of any grant underspends, if within the grant terms of and conditions for previously budgeted and funded baseline costs, as well as continuation of our strength-based approach to care assessments to mitigate pressures.
- 3.3 Staff wellbeing is of significant concern. Staff in adult services are fatigued and the emotional toll of over 21 months working under business continuity is reflected in the sickness absence seen in the service. This emotional toll is compounded by the need for remaining staff to undertake more work than ever before, leading to unsustainable caseloads.

- 3.4 There are significant risks associated with an increasing backlog of reviews. Packages of care for residents may not be proportionate to need and it will become increasingly difficult for the service to ensure that care remains appropriate, well targeted and relevant.
- 3.5 The undertaking of strengths-based reviews, with the opportunity to right-size packages of care as and when appropriate is directly linked to proposed financial efficiencies within Adult Services for 2022/23
- 3.6 It is the advice of the Director of Social Services that the appropriate funds are vired to the appropriate cost centres in Adult Services to ensure that the Council complies with the financial regulations and discharges its statutory duties under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

#### **4 Proposal**

- 4.1 £497,040 of a new “one off” Welsh Government ‘Winter Pressures and Social Care overspend’ grant is made available and will be directly utilised to fund the proposal if the grant terms and conditions allow. Or budget displaced from utilising the grant funding elsewhere in the service will be released to meet this cost. The £497,040 is to assist the service in eliminating the backlog of current reviews and to support the undertaking of additional reviews due to be undertaken before the end of the financial year.
- 4.2 It is proposed that Xyla health and social services undertake this work for Powys Adult Services. Xyla specialises in managed service solutions and already have assignments with Swansea Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. The Head of Adult Services has undertaken due diligence of the provider through seeking and having received positive references from these two Authorities with regards to quality of work and professionalism, skills and expertise of staff.
- 4.3 Research suggests that when undertaking statutory reviews, approximately two thirds of these reviews will result in identifying no significant changes in circumstances. One third of reviews may result in identifying a change in circumstances which will prompt Adult Services to undertake a re-assessment and revision of care and support plan.
- 4.4 On the basis above, the investment in 4.1 will enable the following examples of activity in the table 1 and table 2 below to commence within the financial year 2021/22.
- 4.5 Table 1 provides an example of both reviews and any re-assessments resulting from these reviews being undertaken by a managed service. Table 2 provides an example of only reviews being undertaken by a managed service, with any resulting re-assessments being undertaken by internal staff.

**Table 1**

Area	Additional investment required	Cost (including on costs)
Older Peoples' and Disabilities Reviews	660 reviews @£353 per review	£232,980
Older Peoples' and Disabilities reassessments (where there is a change in need and support plan required)	340 reassessments @ £533 per reassessment	£181,220
Total investment exclusive of VAT at 20%		£414,200
Total investment inclusive of VAT at 20%		£497,040

**Table 2**

Area	Additional investment required	Cost (including on costs)
Older Peoples' and Disabilities Reviews	1173 reviews @£353 per review	£414,069
Total investment exclusive of VAT at 20%		£414,069
Total investment inclusive of VAT at 20%		£496,882

## **5 Resource implications**

- 5.1 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) has considered the report and can support the proposed use of the new Welsh Government 'Winter Pressures and Social Care overspend' grant as set out in section 4.1 of the report.
- 5.2 Confirmation has been received from commercial services that it is permissible to award this work on a single company basis subject to an exemption form for sign-off by the Section 151 Officer. This form will provide a full explanation for the direct award and how the offer represents value for money for the Authority.

## **6 Legal implications**

- 6.1 The recommendations can be accepted from a legal point of view.

6.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal and financial comments and have nothing to add to the report.”

**7 Data protection**

7.1 There are no data protection issues within this report.

**8 Comment from local member(s)**

8.1 This report relates to a service delivered across the whole County.

**9 Impact assessment**

9.1 No impact assessment required.

**10 Recommendations**

10.1 That Cabinet notes and approves the proposals set out in section 4.1 of the report to utilise additional grant funding to resource the additional capacity .

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