

Report

Cabinet

Part 1

Date: 17 October 2018

Item No: 9

Subject Independent Living Strategy 2017-2022

Purpose To approve the Independent Living Strategy 2017-2022

Author Head of Adult and Community Services, Newport City Council

Ward General

Summary The purpose of this strategy is to identify the means by which we will meet the eligible needs of adults with learning disabilities in Newport, while developing opportunities for independence and community resilience. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 places emphasis on the local authority to offer advice and assistance. This strategy therefore needs to account for the requirement of the local authority to act as a signpost to other aspects of community support. In tandem with this approach, we will also consider the emerging focus of our approach to the commissioning of services, based on our evaluation of those services that are likely to be needed in the future.

Proposal The Cabinet is asked to authorise approval of the Independent Living Strategy 2017-2022.

Action by Head of Adult and Community Services, Newport City Council

Timetable Select this text and type in timetable action e.g. immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Newport City Council Strategic Leadership Team
- Representative Groups of Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Registered Social Landlords (RSL's)
- Social Care Providers
- Newport City Council NCN Social Work Teams

Signed Chris Humphrey, Head of Adult and Community Services, Newport City Council

Background

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, compels local authorities to promote a greater choice of services, to reduce dependency, and to focus on preventative services. The Act also requires local authorities to develop new service models and user-led initiatives, such as co-production and social enterprises. Rather than looking at accommodation needs as merely bricks and mortar, we need to continue to consider the care and support models in the context of these priorities set out in the Act.

The following are key principles of the Independent Living Strategy:

- To reflect significant changes in legislation, policy and planning
- To reflect changing demographic pressures
- To ensure effective partnership working with key stakeholders
- To make effective use of diminished resources and working within budget constraints
- To identify a range of approaches to promote independence
- To encourage creativity and innovation

The Independent Living Strategy identifies a series of actions to develop community services and an extensive range of benefits which will accrue. The expected benefits include reduced reliance on the Council, increased diversity of support and more sustainable, cost effective provision, and supporting people to achieve better outcomes as they become more independent.

The challenges facing the Council are significant, with many of the young adults with learning disabilities presenting complex needs and conditions. Alongside this, there are a significant number of older adults with learning disabilities who continue to be supported by their families. The Strategy highlights the importance of planning for those future needs by ensuring that Social Services and Strategic Housing continue to work together to develop appropriate accommodation and support models. This will require further partnership working with Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) and will enable the Council to access vital capital funding streams.

The Strategy is aimed at delivery over the period 2017-22, but it is anticipated that it provides an effective blueprint for future planning and partnership working in the years ahead.

Some of the proposed service developments may require formal tendering processes to commission the care and support services.

There are no direct staffing consequences arising from the Strategy.

SLT has indicated support for the Independent Living Strategy and sanctioned issue of it to Cabinet for approval.

Financial Summary

- The costs and financial implications: You must discuss financial implications with the Head of Finance and the report must identify from where your proposals will be funded, together with any impact on budgets or any opportunity costs

	Year 1 (Current) £'000	Year 2 £'000	Year 3 £'000	Ongoing £	Notes including budgets heads affected
Costs (Income)	500	465	1265	315	
Net Costs (Savings)	0	0	0	0	
Net Impact on Budget	500	465	1265	315	

The Strategy proposes continued partnership working internally between Social Services and Strategic Housing, and externally with Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) to plan and develop models of accommodation and support to meet the current and future needs of adults with learning disabilities. This will encompass a range of provision, including models where the focus is on enabling people to live more independently. Plans are also in place to meet the anticipated demand from people with learning disabilities currently supported at home by older carers. There is also a need to provide the right type of accommodation and support locally to meet the complex needs of young adults with learning disabilities as they transition from Children's services.

Finance Comment:

A detailed analysis has been carried out to ascertain the number of placements which will be required over the period 2019/20 to 2022/23. This includes provision for service users reaching the age of 18 who will move into the care of Adult services from Children & Young People's services and those currently living with aging carers. This analysis has shown that the demand for independent living placements will increase over this period and the additional cost of these placements shown in the table above has been included in the council's medium term revenue plan.

There is no obligation on the council to make placements in accommodation developed by registered social landlords and the accommodation will be used only where this is the appropriate placement to meet the needs of the service user.

Risks

The following key risks have been identified:

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
The authority will be unable to fill the tenancies in the proposed developments, resulting in payment of void rents to RSL's.	H	L	Applying the lessons learnt from previous developments, we have identified the benefits of a Project Management approach. This ensures that appropriate planning processes are in place to ensure that vacancies are filled as seamlessly as possible. A Voids Protocol between the Council and NCC has been developed to manage this risk.	Head of Adult Services
There will be not enough capacity in the local provider market to meet the anticipated demand.	H	L	The Council has been effective in managing the market for support provision for adults with learning disabilities, ensuring that there is a good choice and range of services available. A Framework of Approved Providers of Community Opportunities was established in 2017-18. As developmental opportunities arise, the Council will facilitate formal provider events to	Head of Adult Services

			explain our direction of travel and to discuss potential support models.	
The authority will be unable to access capital funding streams.	H	L	Internally, the Council has a robust partnership arrangement between Social Services and Housing. This has led to successful funding applications to Social Housing Grant and ICF. This continued partnership working is integral to the Independent Living Strategy and helps ensure that all available opportunities for capital funding are planned for accordingly.	Head of Adult Services Head of Housing

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The strategy has synergy with the Newport City Council Corporate Plan 2017-2022, particularly with the commitment to providing opportunities for development of skills and education, community cohesion, fairness and equality and a sustainable and vibrant Newport.

Options Available and considered

Option 1

The Council continues to commission traditional models of care, and declines the opportunity to develop more modern models of support.

Option 2

The Council fulfils its statutory responsibilities to develop creative and innovative approaches to promoting independence.

Preferred Option and Why

Option 2 is the preferred option for a variety of reasons. Under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014, the Council is required to promote more independent models of support and reduce dependency. By adopting the Strategy, Newport City Council will ensure that we promote a greater choice of services, including a focus on preventative services which reduce the risk of long-term dependency. As the Act also requires local authorities to develop new service models and user-led initiatives, such as co-production and social enterprises, under the Strategy we will continually consider the care and support models in the context of these priorities set out in the Act.

Option 2 will also ensure that we are able to match current and future demands with existing resources. The Independent Living Strategy is set in a context of continued austerity in public expenditure, and fully acknowledges the need to plan to meet future needs in the most cost-effective ways. By continuing to work strategically across the Council with Housing, we will ensure that capital funding opportunities are fully maximised. This will enable us to develop models of support and accommodation that are cost effective through economies of scale. The Ty Eirlys development, opened in April 2017, provides an excellent example of this type of successful model. Other specialist accommodation and support for those with complex care needs will realise cost avoidance through capital funding from RSL'

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

I confirm that the increase in demand for independent living placements has been identified and quantified over the medium term and that the costs associated with this have been included in the medium term revenue plan. These will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The proposed Independent Living Strategy meets the Council's statutory obligations under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, to promote more independent models of support to meet the eligible needs of adults with learning disabilities. The Strategy will require the Council to develop new models of service delivery, with a focus on early intervention and prevention, greater choice for service users and targeting resources to those in greatest need.

Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The purpose of this strategy is to identify the means by which the Council will meet the eligible needs of adults with learning disabilities in Newport, while developing opportunities for independence and community resilience. Through the use of data and feedback the strategy has ensured that it has balanced a commitment to current service users whilst also reflecting on and adapting the probable needs of future generations. As such it is in line with the Council's Well-being Objectives and in keeping with the sustainable development principles. Whilst there are no specific staffing implications associated with the Strategy, the changing demands and needs of service users and on-going budgetary pressures will require the continuation of a flexible and skilled workforce.

Comments of Cabinet Member

The Cabinet Member has approved the report for consideration by cabinet.

Local issues

Should your report impact on one individual ward or two wards, you **MUST** invite comments by local ward members. Add any comments received from ward members to this section, together with any responses.

NB: Do not circulate for ward member comments until the report is drafted in accordance with the wishes of your Head of Service or Corporate Director and with the knowledge of the relevant cabinet member.

Scrutiny Committees

Please include a record of any consultation with scrutiny committees. Please add here details of any consultation and the outcomes.

Equalities Impact Assessment and the Equalities Act 2010

The Equality Act 2010 contains a Public Sector Equality Duty which came into force on 06 April 2011. The Act identifies a number of 'protected characteristics', namely age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership. The new single duty aims to integrate consideration of equality and good relations into the regular business of public authorities. Compliance with the duty is a legal obligation and is intended to result in better informed decision-making and policy development and services that are more effective for users. In exercising its functions, the Council must have due regard to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act is not overly prescriptive about the approach a public authority should take to ensure due regard, although it does set out that due regard to advancing equality involves: removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the need of other people; and encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

The Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is submitted as supporting documentation.

Children and Families (Wales) Measure

Although no targeted consultation takes place specifically aimed at children and young people, consultation on planning applications and appeals is open to all of our citizens regardless of their age. Depending on the scale of the proposed development, applications are publicised via letters to neighbouring occupiers, site notices, press notices and/or social media. People replying to consultations are not required to provide their age or any other personal data, and therefore this data is not held or recorded in any way, and responses are not separated out by age.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Independent Living Strategy is consistent with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and sets out explicitly a pathway towards greater independence for adults with learning disabilities, underpinned by a collaborative approach with key stakeholders to develop more sustainable models of accommodation, support and care.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

The Independent Living Strategy identifies ways of collaborative working to develop models of accommodation, support and care that take into account the need to safeguard adults with learning disabilities.

Consultation

The feedback from consultation to date with key stakeholders has been very positive.

Background Papers

Dated: 25/9/2018