

COMMITTEE	The Council
DATE	21 June 2012
TITLE	Assessment of Accommodation Needs and Older People's Care in the Porthmadog Catchment Area
PURPOSE OF REPORT	Report back to the Council following the decision made in its meeting on 15 December 2011 regarding the future of Hafod y Gest Residential Home, Porthmadog
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor R H Wyn Williams

1.0 **Background**

1.1 In its meeting on 15 December 2011 the Council considered a report regarding the future of Hafod y Gest residential home, Porthmadog. It was resolved *“to refuse the current recommendations and return to hold transparent and thorough discussions to secure a suitable provision for the needs and aspirations of the community, and to return a full report to the Council in six months’ time”*.

1.2 This report reports back to the Council on what has, and will, happen in response to that decision.

2.0 **Actions which have taken place**

2.1 In looking back at what happened in the previous consultation which took place between March and July 2011 it was obvious that:-

- a) there were lessons to be learnt regarding the consultation arrangements,
- b) differing opinions regarding accommodation and older people's care requirements in the Porthmadog catchment area.

Specifically:-

- a) Lessons to be learnt:- specific work was undertaken to gather opinion by residents and friends of Hafod y Gest, Councillors and also staff and officers of the Provider and Leisure and Social Services Departments. An independent facilitator was appointed to hold the sessions with Hafod y Gest's stakeholders and councillors.

The report received notes a number of matters including:-

- weaknesses in the engagement arrangements, communication and effective listening
- lack of identifying additional options.

Whilst noting this there was appreciation of the work undertaken by the Engagement Manager and also the support given to the residents and their families by the staff and managers of the Home.

The following were proposed as lessons to be learnt:-

- fully plan the process from the start and to be inclusive giving everyone a chance to contribute
 - adequately research the needs and aspirations of the area's residents
 - identify clear options
 - ensure specific project arrangements.
- b) The Area's Requirements – the proposal made as part of the consultation was to build a new development of approximately 40 extra care houses. This was consistent with the strategic vision of the Council and the decision made as a result to the Residential and Nursing Strategic Review where the number of traditional residential beds should be reduced, number of dementia beds increased and the number of extra care houses increased.

The response expressed to the consultation on the future of Hafod y Gest differed with the intention to reduce the number of residential beds and the opinion was voiced that a small 'residential' unit should be provided as part of the extra care development.

2.2 In considering how to move this on specific attention was given to these two aspects endeavouring to learn from lessons identified and planning operationally in accordance with the comments made.

2.3 It is clear that a much more complete picture of the needs and aspirations of the area is required. With this in mind it is intended to discuss locally a general consultation in the area to establish needs and aspirations of older people for the future as regards accommodation and care support. For this purpose the catchment area of Porthmadog extends from Llanystumdwy, Garndolbenmaen, Beddgelert, Llanfrothen to Penrhyndeudraeth.

2.4 The purpose therefore would be to have local discussion regarding:-

- a) assessing accommodation (housing) and care needs and considering the range of options available. These would extend from offering support to individuals to live in their own homes to options of moving to a more suitable accommodation until the need to consider a residential or nursing home. This includes smaller homes, older people's bungalows, sheltered housing, extra care housing and also care homes. The range of care support includes assistance around the house, equipment and adaptations, telecare equipment, reablement and home care and day care. As living circumstances change the care support would change depending on individuals' needs.
- b) the results of this initial assessment will feed in to options to be considered when formally discussing the future of Hafod y Gest. This would be much

more specific to the home's stakeholders and to be completed over a much shorter period than previously took place.

The first step in the work programme would be to hold meetings with local members in the catchment area to receive input to the consultation document and also plan the remainder of the work programme in more detail.

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 The Council's decision asks for further discussion in the Porthmadog area considering the aspirations of the community. The suggestion to hold a wide discussion to identify the aspirations of the inhabitants regarding their accommodation and care needs offers a comprehensive means of receiving local opinion which would then inform discussion regarding the area's needs for the future.

3.2 The Council is asked to accept the report.