

REPORT TO THE CABINET

14 July 2015

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Roberts

Subject: The future of Y Frondeg Registered Residential Home, Maesincla, Caernarfon and consider developing accommodation for adults with Learning Disabilities.

Contact officer: Olwen Ellis Jones

Decision sought

This report is presented to the Cabinet in order to gain decisions on the following:

- Permission to undertake a formal consultation on the future of Y Frondeg home, and identify option 5 as the favoured option within the consultation.
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Local member's views – Cllr. Glyn Thomas (Cadnant)

Thank you for the opportunity to respond. For many years the residents of Y Frondeg have lived in accommodation that is below standard of living in today's society. I believe this would be the best step forward to give the residents a good standard of life, also the staff to work in a modern environment

Introduction

We are continuing with the direction set by the Council, to improve the quality of life of individuals with a Learning Disability. This will be carried out by implementing Gwynedd Council's accommodation model transformation programme for adults with a Learning Disability, in accordance with the 2011-16 Learning Disabilities Commissioning Plan and the Welsh Government Strategy – 'Policy and Practices for Adults with a Learning Disability' 2007, which notes:

Everyone who has learning disabilities is a complete citizen; they are equal with other citizens of the same age in terms of status and value. They have the same rights to:

- live healthy, productive and independent lives and to develop to their full potential;
- be individuals who make their own decisions on day to day matters
- live their lives within their community.

The North Wales Strategic vision: 'Mobius UK Developing 'Citizen Centred' Services for People with Learning Disabilities (2008)' gives a similar message:

'Propose reducing the use of residential and nursing home care; and an increase in the use of community living schemes, but with significant changes to how such schemes are managed.'

In North Wales, our vision for the future is that people with a learning disability will have a better lifestyle locally, where they feel safe and healthy, have access to effective personal support which promotes independence, choice and control.

There is a need for a different model of care in order to respond to the needs of existing and future users as well as responding to the national strategy.

Reasons for recommending the decision

The current accommodation at Y Frondeg is a traditional model, which does not comply with CSSIW regulations, and does not conform to the Wales Strategy, and Gwynedd Council's vision. The current situation is not sustainable for the future.

The Council has a responsibility to secure the best facilities possible for present and future service users. It is important that the facilities are of the highest standard possible, comply with the principles of the Learning Disability Strategy, are cost effective and sustainable for the future. Consideration also needs to be given to the financial challenges facing Gwynedd Council.

Six options have been identified (see Appendix 1.)

The first 4 options presented offer various adaptations to the current building at Y Frondeg, despite significant expenditure, these options do not comply with the Welsh Strategy and the Council's long term vision.

Whilst option 5 and 6 conform to the Strategy and Council vision, option 5 offers a modern, purpose built provision for present and future service users. Option 5 responds to the financial challenges facing Cyngor Gwynedd.

The main stakeholders, namely the residents of Y Frondeg, their families and the staff have been part of an engagement process in order for them to have an opportunity to add or propose different options to be included in this report.

The stakeholders have not been asked formally to give observations as yet. There will be an opportunity to give observations and voice opinion if the Cabinet asks the service to consult formally on the future of Y Frondeg home and the way forward regarding new developments on the site.

The service users, their families and the staff of Y Frondeg were asked to respond by 10 June 2015. A positive feedback was received from those who had responded stating that the options noted were comprehensive, and no different options were proposed.

Further work has been undertaken noting the advantages and disadvantages of the six options. (This work is included in Appendix 1.)

Relevant considerations

Based on the analysis of the six options up to now, it is apparent that option 5 is in accordance with the Strategy and the Council vision and provides the most benefits. (See Appendix 1) It is therefore recommended that option 5 is identified as the favoured option for consultation.

The consultation will be with a range of stakeholders to include service users, their families and carers. Appropriate support will be offered as required, to include advocacy service.

The final decision on the future provision at Y Frondeg will not be made until the results of the consultation have been received and evaluated by the Cabinet.

The Equality Act 2010 places a duty on the Council to evaluate the effect of the decision on individuals and groups affected. A comprehensive Equality Assessment will be drawn up during and following the assessment,

and will be part of the report and recommendations to the Cabinet in order to make a decision on the way forward.

Next steps and timetable

Timetable for consultation, analysis and submitting the findings to the Cabinet

Consultation –September and October 2015

Analysis – November 2015

Report to the Cabinet – December 2015

Views of the statutory officers

The Chief Executive:

As the report suggests, there is a clear need to improve the provision for individuals who have learning difficulties in Caernarfon. By now, this requires a different care model which is more suitable for modern times.

The Head of Finance has addressed the financial issues connected with the development in his remarks and the investment, and the repayment period for that investment has been highlighted there. The decision of the Cabinet at this time is an important step in the process which will require further consultation on those options which the Cabinet wishes to be addressed in the consultation.

The Monitoring Officer:

The report identifies the need to review the provision at Y Frondeg and includes information on the range of options which have been assessed. When undertaking a consultation of this kind a favoured option may be identified in order to highlight the Councils initial views on the situation and the possible directions. Nevertheless it is also a requirement when conducting a consultation that this takes place when options are under consideration and that the results of the exercise form part of the considerations when coming to a final decision on the way forward.

The Head of Finance Department:

I confirm that due consideration has been given to the relevant business case and there are obvious financial advantages to choosing Option 5,

with savings of £143,000 of the investment as prudent assessment. We must venture in order to ensure savings, and this will require substantial capital investment by Gwynedd Council to develop a new supported accommodation close to Cartref Y Frondeg, and there is a financial risk involved.

Achieving the savings will depend on the Learning Disabled Service filling the new units (16 places in all, with 10 already in Y Frondeg). Doubtless the Cabinet will want to ask the Adult Section to take appropriate steps to reduce the risk of empty spaces. Also, because the asset will be owned by our 'partner' in the venture, an investigation should be made into the possibility of a legal charge on the property to ensure its proper use as a condition of the 'grant' to the 'partner'.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of Options for Y Frondeg

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment