

MEETING	Services Scrutiny Committee
DATE	26.11.15
TITLE	Report on enablement within new working arrangements
PURPOSE	To scrutinise the Report in question
AUTHOR	Councillor Gareth Roberts Aled Davies, Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 Members have noted their eagerness to look at enablement arrangements as a result of receiving previous reports in the field. The report will focus on the element of service provision. In accordance with Council procedures, it is a matter for the Audit Committee to scrutinise financial aspects that are relevant to this work field. As enablement service provision is only one aspect of the work of Adults, Health and Well-being Department social workers, it is considered important to hold the discussion in light of the changes that are currently underway.
- 1.2 Members will be aware of the projects within the Strategic Plan and that one of them focuses on changing the practice of our workers to coincide with the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being Act. This change is being implemented jointly with Health and the work is currently to be seen in the Eifionydd area. Many of us refer to this change as Ffordd Gwynedd or the Alltwen Scheme. The intention in the medium/long-term is to extend this method of working to all parts of the County.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 As noted in previous reports to the Committee, the enablement service is a way of providing intense response to an individual's problems for a short period, in order to recover the individual's living skills as soon as possible and to avoid creating dependency.
- 2.2 In the recent past, it would be fair to say that enablement was seen as a specific scheme – something new and very specific. It was as if an individual would “go into it” and “come out of it” within a definite period. In one sense, this was needed in order to seek to encourage workers to use it and it was also probably a way of trying to “sell” the mind-set of being able to recover skills and get better.

- 2.3 As noted in previous reports, the success of enablement in terms of seeing individuals recovering their skills and also avoiding dependency was clear to see. The service was praised and service users and partners liked it very much.
- 2.4 In theory there would be a significant saving, that is, had these individuals who had shown improvement not shown that improvement, the cost over the years of supporting and sustaining these individuals could have been significant. Therefore, it was possible to identify, through the scheme, that a future cost saving had been made.
- 2.5 Despite this and, as has been reported previously, national evidence and research brought new information to light. The main lesson that came out of this research from John Bolton was that too many individuals received this intervention when they did not genuinely need it. It is believed that the authorities that adopted the intake model were more likely to have given an enablement service to individuals who did not require it. Here in Gwynedd, we had to review our arrangements as it would not be appropriate for us to provide services to individuals who did not need them.
- 2.6 During the same period, early in 2015, we looked at our working arrangements by using the principles of Ffordd Gwynedd - this is the work at Alltwen. Members will also be aware that this work also addresses the requirements that we now have as a result of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014.
- 2.7 We have seen from this work at Alltwen that we need to look at the interventions that we offer to individuals from the perspective of the individual, and not from the perspective of process. With the arrangements of the enablement services, the Council was in fact guilty of putting individuals "through the process" without giving enough attention to the conversation with the individual.
- 2.8 Therefore, what we currently have is a programme of changing culture and mind-set entirely. The method of working which emanates from the Ffordd Gwynedd work at Alltwen offers a way in which the person is much more central and also addresses the requirements of the Act.
- 2.9 Therefore, our intention as part of this report is to give a presentation by two members of staff (one from Health and one from the Adults, Health and Wellbeing Department) from the team at Alltwen. This will be an opportunity for Committee members to see how this work incorporates the enablement schemes in a much more natural way with greater focus on the individual.

3. Relevant Considerations

- 3.1 The From Hospital to Home Scrutiny Investigation has been accepted recently and has been discussed at the County Forum. Two work-streams have started as a result of the discussion at the County Forum - one in terms of the challenges of recruiting staff to vacant posts and the second involving working arrangements between the acute hospital and the community.
- 3.2 The second piece of work will look at these arrangements whilst also following the Ffordd Gwynedd principles.

4. Reasons for recommending the decision

- 4.1 It is believed that the report and the presentation will offer an overview of the significant change that is underway within the adults field currently in terms of seeking to respond to the requirements of the Act and being person-centred. This includes the aspect of integrating our work and practice with the Health Service.

5. Next steps and timetable

- 5.1 If it is so wished, we could report back to the Committee in time on how the work at Alltwen is being adopted across Gwynedd. However, it is believed that the scrutiny members intend to investigate specific aspects of the work at Alltwen and it might be useful to consider bringing both matters together.

6. List of Appendices/Bibliography

None