

# GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET



## Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council Cabinet

<b>Date of meeting:</b>	17 January, 2017
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor W. Gareth Roberts
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ann Pari Williams
<b>Contact Telephone Number:</b>	01286 682815 Ext. 34815
<b>Title of Item:</b>	Report on the Ageing Well Action Plan

### 1 THE DECISION SOUGHT

To approve the Gwynedd Ageing Well Plan as an operational document to promote preventative and cross-departmental working in the Older People field, and contribute towards the well-being agenda. .

### 2 THE REASON FOR THE NEED FOR A DECISION

Following the report of the Wales Audit Office: "Supporting the Independence of Older People: Are Councils Doing Enough?", it was realised that the Gwynedd Ageing Well Plan needed to reflect the contribution of services other than that of the Adults, Health and Well-being Department to the ageing well preventative agenda.

The Plan ties in with the emphasis placed on well-being in the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, and focuses on the corporate responsibility to satisfy the well-being of our residents by giving examples of more imaginative ways of providing services. The Plan also addresses the main themes of Welsh Government's Older People Strategy and the five priorities of the Older People's Commissioner for Wales. The Commissioner expects every local authority to develop a work programme and formally approve its implementation.

### **3 INTRODUCTION**

Despite the current challenges, opportunities exist for the Council to look at the range of its services and responsibilities and to attempt to identify the potential to achieve more with less. The aim would be to maximise the benefit and value by making the best use or different use of all existing resources. After visiting various Council Departments, their views were sought on three questions:

- What services does your Department provide for older people?
- What is the potential to develop services for older people in the future as part of the preventative agenda?
- Are there opportunities for cross-departmental/agency working in the older people field?

A Work Programme based on the observations presented to me in response to the above-mentioned questions is submitted.

Consequently, the Plan notes good practice established in fields such as dementia. It also reports on exciting and new developments to prevent loneliness by organising activities that bridge the generations.

In general, the Plan seeks to show the potential of each Department to make a positive contribution to the Ageing Well agenda by adapting/developing more flexible social, environmental and financial resources to meet the needs of our older residents. The Plan encompasses a broad range of fields where the Council's services can make a difference to the well-being of its older people. Hopefully, the Plan will be a means to motivate more activities between the Council and its external partners and that the actions noted can be built upon by reviewing and developing them on an annual basis.

The Council are expected to undertake the above responsibilities within existing resources and to take advantage of opportunities to work collaboratively across departments. The aim will be to facilitate matters for older people and to ensure that we do not place older people at a disadvantage.

**APPENDIX 1:** Draft Gwynedd Ageing Well Plan.

### **4. ANY CONSULTATIONS HELD PRIOR TO RECOMMENDING THE DECISION**

#### **Chief Executive:**

Clearly, there is an obligation to publish this plan. The important thing, therefore, is that the attached plan is positive, realistic and achievable. I note that the report states that it will all be done within the existing resources of the Council but, doubtless, the work will involve some re-prioritization or at least bring the element of aging well into the decision processes.

**Chief Financial Officer:**

I note that the last paragraph in the report states: "It is expected that the Council will carry out the Ageing Well Plan within existing resources." I understand that the Plan reflects a number of current activities and promotes the need for different departments and external organizations to work together. The author has confirmed that approving the plan does not mean additional financial commitments, and I support the recommendation.

**Monitoring Officer:**

No comment regarding propriety.