

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Full Council</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>6th March 2025</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Adaptation to projects under ‘A Caring Gwynedd’ – Cyngor Gwynedd Plan</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>To seek approval of the modification proposed to the priority ‘A Caring Gwynedd’</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	<b>Councillor Dilwyn Morgan</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Aled Davies, Head of Adults, Health and Wellbeing</b>

## **1 Decision sought/purpose of report**

- 1.1 To approve the addition of the below project to the areas to be prioritised at a strategic level as part of Cyngor Gwynedd’s Plan 2023-28.

***Ensuring that full and timely support is available to support people to live at home***

*To ensure that people can live their best lives, we must make prompt and easily accessible support available for individuals and their families.*

*We will implement plans to:*

- *ensure we acknowledge the value of family and unpaid carers by making sure that we can easily identify them and offer them full support with caring*
- *reduce our waiting lists for new home care packages, ensuring no one in Gwynedd waits longer than 28 days following a care assessment*

## **2 Introduction**

- 2.1 The purpose of the Cyngor Gwynedd Plan is to set out the Council's vision and priorities for the period between April 2023 and the end of March 2028. It shows why the Council wishes to focus its energy and resources in certain areas and includes a series of projects for the 5-year period under seven priority areas.
- 2.2 While the plan sets priorities for the full 5-year period, its preparation and monitoring includes an annual review regime. The process of reviewing the scheme and making adjustments to it for 2025-26 is underway.
- 2.3 At its meeting on 11th February 2025 the Cabinet approved the recommendation to ensure that home care is addressed as a priority in the Council's Plan, with a view to presenting it to the Full Council for adoption at its meeting on 6th March 2025.

### **3 Reasons For Recommending the Decision**

- 3.1 One of the seven priority areas in the scheme is A Caring Gwynedd. The ambition for this area is to support the residents of Gwynedd to live full and safe lives in our communities'.
- 3.2 The plan clearly sets out how it will achieve this and identifies eight priority projects/programmes to improve provision and strengthen the Council's ability to achieve the ambition on behalf of Gwynedd residents.
- 3.3 During Autumn 2024 Care Inspectorate Wales and Audit Wales carried out audits of care services provided by Gwynedd Council's Department for Adults, Health and Wellbeing. During the same period a support audit of the department's older people's services was undertaken by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). The audit was commissioned as a follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the Llechen Lân report. The conclusions of these audits include references to home care services provided or commissioned by the Council and raise a question about the priority given to the field in the Council's strategic plans. Hand in hand were references to the Council's promotion of support for unpaid carers. Of course, the invaluable contribution of the county's unpaid carers goes a long way towards reducing the demand for home care.
- 3.4 Following discussions with WLGA and Audit Wales, it was noted that including the field as a priority under the heading of A Caring Gwynedd in the Council Plan is a key first step in responding to their findings by placing an appropriate and necessary emphasis on a matter that represents one of the biggest challenges facing the Council. The department has produced wording for the project that will address this field and this may be found in paragraph 1.1 of this report.

### **4 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The act imposes a welfare duty on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 of wellbeing goals which are a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Wales with cohesive communities, a vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives and that is responsible at a global level. The recommendations have been prepared with attention to these requirements and in line with the 5 ways of working.

### **5 Equality Act 2010**

- 5.1 There is a statutory requirement to prepare and consider the findings of an equality impact assessment when preparing the plan in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 as implemented in Wales. The assessment on the plan as a whole finds no impact that would justify

deviating from the recommendation and envisages elements that would have a positive impact.

## **6 Next steps and timetable**

- 6.1 To publish the amendments to the Council's Plan on the Council's website. Progress against the above project will be discussed as part of the Department for Adult, Health and Wellbeing's Performance Challenge and Support arrangements and therefore will also be scrutinised by the Care Scrutiny Committee.

## **7 Views of Statutory Officers**

### **i. Head of Finance**

I have no objection to the decision sought. Evidence, including work by the Finance Department amongst others, shows that the Home Care area is one that needs priority and attention. On the other hand, projects in the Council's Plan are already competing for extremely limited resources and as highlighted when the Plan was adopted in 2023, the resource requirements of all improvement priorities in the Plan already exceed the funds available to them.

### **ii. The Monitoring Officer**

As the Council Plan is a Full Council decision it is appropriate that the decision sought is brought forward on the recommendation of Cabinet. I have no other observations in relation to propriety.

## **8 Local Member's Views**

Not a local issue.