

Monmouthshire Scrutiny

Feedback to Cabinet

Report Subject Matter: Review of My Day My Life Service

1.0 **Context:**

1.1 On 18th July 2023, the People Scrutiny Committee was asked to scrutinise the findings of the My Day My Life Service Review undertaken by Practice Solutions and the feedback from the consultation process. The scrutiny committee's role is to offer views to the cabinet and make any recommendations, which the Cabinet can accept or reject as part of their future decision-making.

1.2 The scrutiny committee was presented with the following recommendations:

- a) That the People Scrutiny Committee considers the findings of the Practice Solution's review, the review recommendations, public feedback received and the implementation plan, and offers views to the Executive.
- b) That the People Scrutiny Committee notes that it is the Cabinet Member's intention to recommend to Cabinet that the recommendations from the Practice Solution review report should be accepted in full.

1.3 The following formal summary has been prepared to capture the views of the scrutiny committee, together with some additional comments for the Executive to consider. The Committee requests the Cabinet Member consider the findings, to assist future decision-making.

Public Open Forum

1.4 There was a large public presence at the scrutiny meeting, the public highlighting the need for services for people with learning disabilities (aside from those who access My Day My Life, in particular, the need for:

- A base where people feel safe, feel like they belong, without feeling different, helping them to gain confidence and offering them a sense of purpose and a quality of life.
- A base that is centrally located in the community, not on the periphery.
- Accessible toilets and changing facilities, including changing beds.
- A place in which they can undertake in-house well-being activities.
- A kitchen and a garden.
- A sensory room.
- Balanced communal areas and quiet spaces.

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- 1.5 There was a strong feeling amongst members of the public that Tudor Street Day Centre was the only building that could provide the right facilities, and many spoke of it being their preference. One member of the public stated that this was “not just a local issue, but a matter of public interest” and called for the council to act with “compassion and foresight” and “consider the true cost of the decision, not just in monetary terms, but in terms of the well-being of citizens and community cohesion”.

Key points raised by the Committee Members

- Numerous Members were dissatisfied with the scoring process, and the individual scores allocated to the buildings and gave examples of what they felt was a lack of consistency in the application of scores. The Cabinet Member asked whether the right buildings had been shortlisted. Members didn't disagree and there were no views put forward that any other buildings should feature on the shortlist. The Cabinet Member offered to hold a session with members to explain the criteria, which can be arranged at the committee's discretion. He also stressed that following this initial sift each building would be looked at again with the involvement of current and potential service users.
- Members consider the Integrated Impact Assessment could have been stronger in terms of the age category, but also in respect of sex (not gender), in recognition that many carers will be female and therefore, there would be consequential impacts on their ability to work and their well-being. Members highlighted that people with learning disabilities may also have other co-morbid health issues, which should be recognised. Members felt the assessment needed to accurately reflect the need of carers, in addition to service users.
- The Committee noted that the eligibility criteria for the service had changed, which suggests a lower numbers of service users than the Committee expected. This raised a concern as to whether people are being adequately supported.
- Several Members suggested Tudor Street Day Centre was their preferred choice of location for a base in Abergavenny. Members advocated the need for a kitchen and a garden to enable people to continue those activities they really enjoy in any future buildings.
- Members heard that unpaid carers also used the Tudor Street Day Centre as a place to have some respite. Transport to services was also highlighted, members reflecting that some carers had found that the time taken to transport those cared for to services, meant that there was only a short period of respite for them, before needing to collect them.

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- Members felt strongly that people with learning disabilities are vulnerable members of the public who should be supported and should not have to fight for services.

Formal Outcome of the Scrutiny

- 1.6 There was broad support from the committee for the recommendations of the review and a strong desire to see the work progress at a pace.

The Cabinet Member stated that he would hold workshops service users over the summer to seek their preferences and gather further information on the three shortlisted buildings, which was supported by the Committee. Members were requested to identify any other suitable buildings they felt were suitable for consideration.

The Committee requests that the Cabinet Member takes into account the points provided in this summary when making further decisions on the My Day My Life Service.