

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Community Coordination and Small Local Enterprise Learning Programme

MEETING: Adults Select Committee

DATE: 8th March 2016

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide members with an evaluation of the Community Coordination and Small Local Enterprise learning pilot that is scheduled to run until the end of May 2016.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Public services are encountering huge pressures brought about by demographic changes coupled with more complex needs and increased expectations set against a backdrop of declining local authority budgets. In 2013 Monmouthshire County Council estimated that it would require an additional £9 million a year by 2025 to deliver like-for-like services.
- 2.2 Two methodologies were piloted to explore potential solutions to these challenges, Community Coordination and the development of Small Local Enterprises. In October 2013 Cabinet agreed to fund a two year learning pilot to test the potential of these approaches to improve outcomes for individuals and mitigate the costs pressures associated with an ageing population.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are invited to scrutinise this report and the accompanying appendix to ensure that they present a robust and evidence-based evaluation that can be used to inform the future development of services.

4 KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 comes into effect on 6th April 2016 and highlights the role of public services in building on individual and family strengths, helping people to have a stronger voice, choice and more control supporting a meaningful contribution to local community life, the co-production of person centred services and the achievement of personal

outcomes. The Act also creates a duty on local authorities to ensure appropriate services to help prevent, delay and reduce the need for care and support.

- 4.2 Community Coordination is based on establishing local coordinators within communities to work with people who may otherwise require traditional social services. By engaging early on, building on strengths and helping people to build local connections they help people find their own lasting solutions. The development of small local enterprises facilitates the promotion of community enterprises whose aim, in general, is to improve the wellbeing of those involved as well the wider impact of improved community integration.
- 4.3 The work was initially presented as a learning pilot. Cabinet decided that the programme would be monitored throughout and the learning used to adapt the work as it progressed. Consequently Adults Select have received reports over the past eighteen months and will be broadly familiar with the evolving nature of the programme but not the precise nature of it.
- 4.4 The learning pilot produced a number of stories that identified improved outcomes for individuals. While there is not yet enough evidence to aggregate the impact of these studies, in some cases practitioners within the integrated teams were clear that without the intervention individuals on their way towards a care package had been diverted towards a more informal community arrangement.
- 4.5 The most significant conclusions highlight the importance of place and in particular the existence of buildings and facilities where individuals and groups can come together to create a sense of community, friendship, reciprocity and belonging that builds lasting connections.
- 4.6 People have a need to be involved in shaping their own future. Many of those who benefitted from the work wanted to be active participants who co-produced their own solutions not passive recipients of services. It is through contribution and involvement that people achieve a greater sense purpose and identity.
- 4.7 This cannot be viewed in isolation from the system-wide transformation taking place in adult social services and it is difficult to separate out the relative impacts of the different transformation strands. The decision to go ahead with the programme back in 2013 has yielded valuable learning that will position the authority well to implement the Social Services and Well-being Act as well as aligning very clearly with the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- 4.8 The programme has facilitated positive outcomes for individuals and enabled the service to be on-budget. There has been no need to make a case for budget increases which could be expected when aligned to the projected rise in demand caused by an ageing population and increased complexity of need.

4.9 There is enough evidence of the positive impact that contribution and participation make to consider how these key aspects of well-being can form part of the future model of service provision. These can be incorporated into the wider transformation of adult services. It is anticipated that this can be delivered within existing budgets by maximising the potential of external funding streams such as the Intermediate Care Fund. Any future proposals that affect the nature of service delivery will be brought forward in a future report as needed.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There are no resource implications from this report

6. FUTURE GENERATIONS, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The programme has clear alignment to the sustainable development principles of being long-term; integrated; collaborative; involving people in its development and focusing on prevention. There are no safeguarding or corporate parenting implications arising from this report.

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