

**COUNCIL: 24 OCTOBER 2019**

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## **SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELL-BEING STATEMENT**

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### **International Day of Older Persons 2019**

The United Nations International Day of Older Persons was marked by Cardiff Hubs and Libraries with 'Coffee, Cake & Celebrate' events at all venues. The UN General Assembly first designated the International Day of Older Persons in 1990 and this year's theme was 'The Journey to Age Equality'.

Lots of reminisce, nostalgia and conversation took place at events across the city, as well as activities for people to enjoy. These included: Elder Fit & Yoga Pilates at St Mellons Hub, Elderfit at the Powerhouse, an over-50s dance class at Llanrumney Hub, LovELY reading group at Ely & Caerau Hub, Gardening for all Seasons at Rhiwbina Library. Central Library Hub even had a Goldies Bollywood session. In addition, Rhydypennau Community Hub and St Mellons Hub hosted a garden potting shed with gardening items which encouraged conversation and helped to spark memories.

### **Dementia Friendly Cardiff**

In a month when we are focusing on age equality and treating older people with dignity and respect, I am pleased to give an update on the progress of this work. A commitment has been made by the Council to make Dementia Friends training mandatory for staff and online training was launched in May 2019 to help make this happen. It videos that explain the challenges that people living with dementia face and what staff can do to make a difference. To date, 12% of staff have completed the training, which means that over 750 new Dementia Friends have been created so far. We are definitely on course to achieve our target of 100% by April 2021.

### **New Wales Safeguarding Procedures**

The new 'Wales Safeguarding Procedures' have been finalised and will be launched in partnership with Welsh Government and Cardiff & Vale Regional Safeguarding Boards during National Safeguarding Week 2019 (18th–24th November 2019). Welsh Ministers will be in attendance at the launch. An 'app' that will give access to a digitalised version of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures will be released simultaneously.

## **Community Resource Team**

Community Resource Teams are currently working with partners to trial a different way of working to support more people being discharged from hospital through a reablement pathway. The trial commenced at the end of September and consists of a multi-disciplinary team of Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Home Care Managers and Social Workers. The team is based at the South East Community Resource Team (CRT) office and the trial will last for 12 weeks, when it will be reviewed and evaluated.

## **Recruitment and Retention in the Care Sector**

Wales has an ever-growing ageing population and, to meet its needs, we need many more people to work in the Care Sector. Independent care providers and local authorities in Wales already struggle to recruit and retain care workers.

As part of the Cardiff & Vale Care & Support Regional Workforce Partnership recruitment and retention drive for social care workers, an event was held last month at the Aqua Park, Norwegian Church and Pedal Power in Cardiff Bay. As well as providing fun opportunities for care staff, service users and unpaid carers, information was available about careers in care including childminding, nursery practitioners, home care workers, coordinators and care home managers. Interest was positive as passers-by observed participation on the water-based obstacle course, cycle racing, singing, picnics and trips around the Bay in speedboats. Staff from the Independent Sector, both councils and Social Care Wales were also available to answer questions and distribute promotional material.

The Regional Workforce Partnership continues to promote the various careers available in the care sector, as well as celebrating our fantastic staff who are already doing these valuable jobs.

## **Refresh of Member Safeguarding Protocol**

The Cabinet Member for Children & Families and I have written to Members regarding the review and refresh of the Council's protocol on 'The Role of Elected Members in Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults', which was approved in 2016. Mr Phil Hodgson, former Director of Social Services at Blaenau Gwent and Swansea Councils, has been engaged to review and refresh the protocol for presentation to Full Council for consideration early in 2020. He will be seeking to engage extensively with Cardiff Councillors through a combination of personal meetings, attending political group and Whips meetings and focus groups. We recognise how important it is for the revised protocol to be co-produced with Councillors, as well as being fully compliant with all relevant legislation.

## **Do You Remember When...? Story Competition**

I was delighted to speak at the award ceremony recently for the 'Do You Remember When?' story competition at the St Fagans National Museum of History and join the Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, and the Country Director of Alzheimer's Society Wales, Sue Phelps MBE.

The 480-words story competition was launched at Grand Avenue Specialist Dementia Day Centre in May 2019, and is a collaboration between Welsh Libraries, Alzheimer's Society and Welsh Government, with children from across Wales being invited to write stories with the theme of Memories as we work to help children understand what dementia is and how it can affect their loved ones. The competition's 480-word total was chosen as it relates to the number of people diagnosed daily across the UK. Cardiff Council co-ordinated the competition and organised what was a fantastic event at St Fagans.

The winners were chosen by the Still Me group from Church Village. This is a group run by Alzheimer's Society and is attended by people affected by dementia. I'm delighted to be able to say that the winner, Ava Gillespie, is from Cardiff and the runners up were James Miles from the Vale of Glamorgan and Lillie Pattinson from Conwy. Ava brought her whole class from St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School to St Fagans for the prize giving. There were some really emotional performances from Ava's class as they sang to the Still Me group, demonstrating the work the school had already done to ensure the children an insight into dementia. Ava has won 480 books for her school and her story, which was about her Nanny Pip, was incredibly moving indeed. Not only do we have such exciting up and coming Welsh literary talent, but also our work is giving young people the understanding and compassion needed to help make a dementia-friendly city.

**Councillor Susan Elsmore**  
**Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being**  
**18 October 2019**