

COUNCIL: 21 OCTOBER 2021

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELL-BEING STATEMENT

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

I am pleased to report that the first of the 40 Afghan families being resettled in Wales has been matched with their long-term home, with many more families due to be matched with property offers from across Wales this month. To facilitate a smooth transition into their new lives and communities, the Council is providing a range of support to these families, including access to healthcare, setting up bank accounts, education for primary and secondary age pupils, play services, weekly women's meetings, English and Welsh classes, wellbeing activities and employment support. With regard to employment, some of the arrivals are keen to fill vacancies in the HGV driving sector and are already taking the initial steps to obtaining their licences, bringing timely and much-needed skills to Wales. I am very proud of the quality of support we have been providing to the Afghan families. The Cardiff offer is recognised as the gold standard of welcome and reception support, providing a platform of essential support to help families thrive, and I have no doubt that they will achieve their full potential in their new life here in Wales.

Partnership Working

Given the pressures on our public services continue apace, it is pleasing to witness the partnership working underway to address the issues facing the health and social care system. Officers from Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, and Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Councils have come together to develop a joint plan aimed at increasing care capacity in the region. Joined-up advertising and recruitment is being considered with an ambition for shared apprenticeships, working across local government and health.

Our newly established Cardiff Cares Academy got off to a good start with the employment of a dedicated care mentor to support new staff into the sector, and an employee liaison officer to help care providers with the recruitment and vetting of staff. Accredited courses will run fortnightly, and regular meetings with the care providers are arranged to ensure the service meets their needs.

Older Persons Day Centres and Community Hubs

A successful working partnership has been developed between the Older Persons Day Service and the Community Hubs. Since July 2021, the Hubs Team has been working closely with the Day Service and together successfully re-opened Minehead Road Day Centre in Llanrumney, providing a safe, welcoming environment for service users and essential respite for their clients. Using the Hub approach, activities within the day centre have been enhanced with greater variety, including painting, chair yoga,

gardening and reminiscence sessions, including a “RemPod” (reminiscence pod) sweet shop filled with old-time sweet favourites. Feedback has been really positive with clients looking forward to visiting. Important services such as nail cutting are also now available every fortnight. Future activities include pet therapy, disco days, and read-aloud sessions including poetry.

Work is now ongoing to prepare for the re-opening of Fairwater and Grand Avenue Day Centres. The centre at Grand Avenue provides services for people with dementia and operates in partnership with health services. This new working partnership between Hubs, social care and health will help with the further development of Hubs ensuring that the needs of our most vulnerable citizens are at the heart of all local services.

Age Friendly Cardiff

I am delighted to announce that Cabinet recently approved an application to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for Age Friendly City status for Cardiff. Services from across the Council and wider public service partnerships collaborated to develop an action plan covering a range of subjects important to older people, such as transport and planning, as well as independent living advice, health and care provision.

I was privileged to attend both the digital and in-person consultation events on the Age Friendly Plan and was able to see first-hand how well the approach is being received. The action plan will now be submitted for WHO approval and, I will, of course, keep members informed of progress.

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being
14 October 2021