
SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELL-BEING STATEMENT

Service Pressures

As reported previously, the pressures on our health and social care systems remain extremely high which reflects the position nationally. Officers are working hard to balance the demands being made on services and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met. However, this is increasingly challenging.

Funding is being made available to care agencies to help them address the issues of recruitment and retention of care workers. Also, ahead of what is likely to be a most difficult winter, a communication plan is being developed which will call on the people of Cardiff in terms of how they can help; this will include a relaunch of Together for Cardiff that was so successful during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in galvanising the city into action to support others.

The continuing pressure on services is having a major impact on our already overstretched hospitals. Officers are working with care home providers to identify convalescent beds to support discharge for people from hospital. A video has been created, which will be used by Hospital Social Work teams and shared with patients in hospital, highlighting the benefits of the convalescent beds. A short stay in a care home would provide the opportunity for patients to recuperate in a more restful environment outside of hospital, while their home care is being arranged. The impact of this approach will be monitored to identify and highlight further benefits to recovering individuals.

Joint Working to Support Reablement

The Council's social workers and community occupational therapists are working more closely than ever together to support reablement. A recent workshop for team managers was really productive in identifying different ways to support people to remain independent at home or to return home from hospital. Occupational Therapists have been reviewing clients waiting for care, either at home or to support discharge, and because of their particular skills have been able to find alternative solutions, such as equipment, aids or adaptations, to reduce or remove the need for care.

To build on this success, and support the unprecedented demands on services, a further five Occupational Therapist posts have been created, two of which will be placed in hospital to work hand-in-hand with social care and health colleagues to support timely discharge.

Expansion of Work with GP Clusters

The Council has received the excellent news that the Accelerated Cluster Project is to be expanded. The current project is based in the Cardiff Southwest cluster. Our Independent Living Service is involved as part of the Multi-Disciplinary Team, discussing individual cases and identifying support for people staying well at home and within their communities.

As part of the @home locality project, two new clusters are to build upon this successful approach, and work is starting with Cardiff North and Cardiff East. Workshops will take place over coming weeks to capture the important learning from the initial project in the Southwest:

- Successful key elements of the current project
- Quick wins
- Interventions with the biggest impact
- What didn't work so well, and why
- New ways of working – taking into consideration the different demographics and community needs, and current resources available in other areas
- Investment requirements and availability

The workshop outputs will be used to create a menu of options for the new clusters to select from and tailor to their needs.

This provides another opportunity for the Regional Partnership Board Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership to work together for the benefit of local communities with support from our newly-formed Older People Services Programme Team.

Older Persons Day Centres

Fairwater Day Centre re-opened on 2nd November. It was extremely pleasing to see how well service users have settled into the centre, especially as some were new to the service. Individuals have been busy making new friends, and participating in quizzes, reminiscing about holidays and shops in the city centre, plus sharing cake recipes inspired by the Channel 4 TV programme, Great British Bake Off. They also enjoyed an outing to Victoria Park in the sunshine, with some commenting that they hardly ever get a chance to feel fresh air on their faces. Excellent feedback has been received from individuals and their families about the re-opening, and many more activities are planned for delivery by our own Hub staff or external partners.

Community Engagement

During November the Community Engagement Team has supported the setting up of two new lunch clubs: on Wednesdays, the Over-50s Lunch Club at the Ty Nant Inn, Morganstown; and on Tuesdays, at the Church Inn, Llanishen. Both groups will help local people get together over coffee or lunch every week. At a recent lunch club meeting at the Church Inn, the group were joined by researchers from the University of Birmingham to talk about their ACTIF Project. This helped them gain insights into what physical activity means for older people, and how they can be supported to stay mobile and active.

Ethnic Minority Engagement Co-ordinator

A new Ethnic Minority Engagement (EME) Co-ordinator, funded by Public Health Wales, has joined the Health and Wellbeing Team within the Hub & Library Service. The EME Co-ordinator will help deliver Age Friendly City workstreams and improve health outcomes for people from ethnic minority communities. Following initial discussions with Public Health Wales and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, this work will initially focus on childhood immunisations and bowel cancer screening. An action plan has been developed for the next seven months, which includes developing a toolkit of information resources and promotional materials; identifying and overcoming barriers for participation by the community in taking up immunisations; and screening opportunities.

Contact has already been made with a range of organisations including Cardiff & Vale College, South Riverside Community Development Centre, Friends and Neighbours (FAN), The Mentor Ring, Women Connect First, Race Equality First, Oasis, Kiran Cymru, Hindu Council, Sikh Council, the Chinese Community and Faith centres, Cardiff Third Sector Council and Glamorgan Voluntary Services. Next steps will include the development of a new survey to investigate and identify potential barriers to engagement in bowel cancer screening programmes among ethnic minority communities. Visits to activities attended by young parents from ethnic minority communities will take place shortly, together with a survey designed to find out more about barriers to childhood immunisation.

BAFTA Cymru Awards 2021

The BBC One Wales factual series, 'Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience', recently won two British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Cymru Awards: Rhod Gilbert received the Presenter award; and the programme won for Factual Series. In accepting the awards, Rhod Gilbert made specific reference to the episode on care work, thanking "*Cardiff Council and the care community who allowed us in and made it happen*", as well as "*the wonderful carers, Ceri-Ann, Lizzie, Emma and the rest of the crew who allowed us to highlight the wonderful job that they do*".

When the idea for the episode was first put forward, the Adult Services Contracts Team was keen to help and made all the arrangements with the agency All Care who were filmed as part of the programme. The episode was extremely well received, both within and outside of the care sector, and reflected the wonderful work that care workers undertake in supporting vulnerable people in our society. This is a timely reminder of the importance of our care workers and agencies, who having worked tirelessly through the Covid-19 pandemic are now struggling to meet the increases in demand.

In this regard, Cardiff Cares Academy, a new branch of our Into Work Service, is leading on the recruitment and training of new care workers. A campaign including social media, radio and bus adverts has commenced, and the Academy has already signed up and trained 25 new carers.

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