
SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & WELL-BEING STATEMENT

Health and Social Care System Pressures

I am pleased to confirm that our new Local Care Development Contracts have commenced. Contracted care providers will work with the Council's Into Work Advice Service, through the Cardiff Cares Academy, to recruit, train and support new carers to deliver additional care to meet the current shortfall in provision. The scheme will provide new opportunities for the Council to work in partnership with care providers to deliver person-centred, locally based services.

And, these developments are essential at a time when Cardiff isn't alone in facing huge challenges in the provision of care services due to the impact of Covid-19 on the whole system. All sectors of social care are facing issues with reduced staffing due to the Omicron variant, combined with ongoing difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff. Despite these issues, both our internal teams and commissioned care providers continue to deliver care and support, demonstrating huge commitment and resilience during an extremely difficult time.

Ageing Well Strategy

The Cabinet approved a new Ageing Well Strategy on 20 January 2022. Alongside our Age Friendly City action plan, this strategy sets out our proposals for supporting older citizens to live well in their homes and communities. At a time when the care sector is already under severe pressure and workforce retention and recruitment are presenting real issues, there has never been a more important time to reflect on our approach to delivering services and how we can support both our older citizens and the care sector more effectively. The new strategy has six key aims:

- Supporting older people to stay active and connected in an age friendly city
- Supporting older people to live independently at home through strengths based preventative services
- Working in partnership to deliver high quality sustainable care
- Supporting informal carers and valuing their role
- Ensuring our services meet the needs of the most vulnerable
- Proactively modernising our services

Cardiff's population is ageing and, whilst it is positive that many of our citizens are living longer; unfortunately, some older people may live with poor health and with ageing associated disease such as dementia. It is projected that, by 2031, the number of people:

- Aged 65+ will increase by 17.8%
- Aged 85+ will increase by 9.2%
- Aged 90+ will increase by 5.9%
- That struggle with activities of daily living will increase by 17% by 2030 – this will apply to 1 in 4 older people (aged over 65).
- Living with dementia will increase by 30.1% by 2030 and 41.1% for severe dementia.

The Ageing Well Strategy sets out our commitment to work together with our partners to support older people to stay well and to live independently in their own home for as long as possible and, when care is needed, to ensure that this is provided to a very high standard.

Social isolation is a growing issue for older people and carers and this has only been made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic. A key part of this new strategy is a commitment to ensure that even the most vulnerable of our older citizens can stay active and connected to their community, through our network of community hubs, our older persons day centres and our support for a range of community and voluntary activities.

There is also a key focus on prevention in the Ageing Well Strategy and, by providing the right support at the right time, older people can be aided to remain independent at home and long stays in hospital can be prevented. We plan to further strengthen our services to support better outcomes for older people.

Day Services

With the recent reopening of Grand Avenue specialist day centre, all three of our older persons day centres are now open. Last month, Fairwater and Minehead Road day centres collectively were attended by 164 service users. Services are also operating at weekends, providing much needed respite for carers and preventing social isolation among older people. Last month, Fairwater and Minehead Road day centres collectively also had 12 Saturday users. Despite the recent rise in Covid-19 cases due to the spread of the Omicron variant, the Ty Canna day centre for people with a mental health diagnosis has continued to provide support in a mixture of face-to-face direct support, small bubble groups and online group activities.

Disabled Adaptations

The Disabled Facilities Service oversaw the completion of their first “green build extension”. This is a pre-formed unit that is manufactured off-site and delivered by a specialist crane company to a terraced property, where the unit was put in place with minimal disruption. There was no need seek permission from utility companies to carry out the works, thereby further reducing the time taken. The full works were carried out within three weeks, which enabled the client to have access to a ground floor shower facility much more quickly and with much less disruption than through traditional building methods. This use of modular extensions is one of the ways that we are improving our delivery of adaptations, equipment and technology to support older and disabled people to stay independent at home.

Supporting People with a Learning Disability

Partnership working between Adult Social Services and Cardiff and Vale College has enabled young adults with complex learning disabilities to access further education locally. As part of a pilot service, four young people are attending the Towards Independence course delivered at the College's Dumballs Road site, with support from Social Services staff. Feedback shows that the young people are enjoying the experience and their families are pleased that they can continue their education locally.

Councillor Susan Elsmore
Cabinet Member for Social Care, Health & Well-being
20 January 2022