
SOCIAL SERVICES STATEMENT

ADULT SERVICES

Age Friendly City and Independent Living Services

The Council's Independent Living Services (ILS) work towards improving the health and wellbeing of older people in Cardiff, no matter how high level their needs might be. The overarching aim is to support older people so that they remain in their own homes and are able to live well within the community. The service also delivers a wide range of events and festivals (both virtually and in person) that bring together partner organisations to help support older people to stay healthy and live independently.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, services were transformed and delivered online to provide support to older people and enable them to stay connected to their communities. This can be a lifeline to those who may otherwise feel socially isolated and lonely. Loneliness can also have a huge impact on the mental and physical health of older people.

Age Friendly Cardiff is committed to ensuring that older people are able to access and enjoy all aspects of city life, as well as being provided with opportunities to participate in activities and events that help to improve their wellbeing and enrich their lives. It was fantastic to see what is being delivered at the Powerhouse Hub on a recent visit. I was so impressed and even more so when I discovered that the Tai Chi instructor was one of the older people who had previously been isolated and lonely with health conditions. As a result of the support provided by ILS, she now runs not only Tai Chi sessions, but also leads book groups and a lunch club in her local pub.

Technology Enabled Care

This year, Independent Living Services has begun its journey to improving the use and implementation of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) and assistive technologies. This will enable alternative or complementary solutions to be provided to enhance the quality of a person's life and support them to remain at home longer. To support this, a working group has been established consisting of both local authority and health colleagues to remove barriers and improve confidence in the benefits TEC can bring. The Council is now in the process of commissioning products to support citizens. By utilising some of the Regional Integration Fund to recruit a specialist, who will work alongside Occupational Therapy staff in the Joint Equipment Service, the aim is to embed the TEC approach into the assessment process for both social care and health colleagues.

Dementia Friendly City

A Dementia Friendly Volunteer Coordinator has been in post since mid-June 2022 and is currently in the process of setting up a volunteer scheme to recruit, train and manage Dementia Friendly Ambassador volunteers. The Volunteer Coordinator is also able to run Dementia Friends sessions, having recently undertaken Dementia Friends Champion training.

It is so important that local businesses and organisations across the city are supported to become Dementia Friendly, because it is those cafés, hairdressers, local supermarkets and shops where people living with dementia go to enjoy social activity and retail therapy just like everybody else.

Volunteers will highlight the benefits and the importance of being Dementia Friendly to businesses. They will support businesses to work through Dementia Friendly environment checklists and will help them identify actions to become more welcoming, accessible and able to better support their customers who are living with dementia and their carers. Volunteers will signpost businesses and organisations across the city to the Dementia Friends sessions and will provide information, resources and advice to businesses on how to receive official recognition as Dementia Friendly from the Alzheimer's Society by engaging with their newly launched pledge scheme.

Locality Working

Working in partnership with the Integrated Health and Social Care Team, the Council continues to develop the @home programme with the consolidation and redesign of access points into care and support in Cardiff. Work is ongoing towards an Occupational Therapy-led triage at the First Point of Contact in partnership with social care colleagues who will take on the most complex cases. This will provide the foundation for delivering services within the community, with staff working in a geographical setting aligned to the clusters. In developing this, the GP clusters of Multi-Disciplinary Teams have been expanded to include the Southwest, Northwest, and Southeast areas of the city. The trial of the first integrated working hub on the site of the former St Isan care home in Llanishen is also being finalised, with health colleagues and local providers working together to meet the holistic needs of individuals within the locality setting.

Supported Living

The Supported Living Team has worked very hard to enhance the move-on experience for people with learning disabilities and their families this year. A huge amount of work is carried out to support people to identify the right type of accommodation and ensure good compatibility with co-tenants. The team has supported a wide range of people to move this year, including supporting two friends to move in together, enabling a person to move from a long-stay hospital admission into her own flat, and supporting a person to find the right home after their carer sadly passed away. The team has also enabled two residential homes to be transferred into supported living when a provider gave notice, which enabled the people living there to remain local and together. The team is working with colleagues from Housing to develop more accommodation to meet the growing local need and there are a number of schemes in development.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Ministerial Visit to Cardiff Children's Services

The Council was pleased to welcome the First Minister of Wales, Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS, the Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan MS, and the Chief Social Care Officer for Wales, Albert Heaney, to County Hall on 29 June. The visit provided an opportunity for the Council to showcase the work being undertaken to shift the balance of care, and to hear directly from Welsh Government Ministers about their proposals to transform children's social services in Wales. This includes the safe reduction in the number of children looked after, the growth of in-house provision, and a proposal to reduce the use of "for profit" providers of placements for children looked after.

Promotion of Fostering in Cardiff

Foster Wales Cardiff was represented at the Food & Drink Festival in Cardiff Bay earlier this month, with many visitors coming to talk with members of the team. It was encouraging to hear that some visitors had seen our recent campaigns on social media and had visited the festival with the purpose of speaking to the Fostering and Supported Lodgings Teams. Foster Wales Cardiff and Supported Lodgings representatives will also be represented at Pride Cymru 2022 in Cardiff next month where they will be available to answer any queries about pursuing a fostering journey.

Positive Parenting

As part of Welsh Government's "*Parenting. Give it time*" campaign, a series of parenting information roadshows are being held across Wales between June and September 2022. The first roadshow was on 30 June at Asda in Cardiff Bay and the Cardiff Parenting Team participated, sharing information with over 60 families. The Deputy Minister for Social Services, Julie Morgan MS, was also in attendance and spoke with families and the Cardiff Parenting Team. The roadshows offer informal public drop-in sessions at supermarkets and public events, providing practical advice on positive parenting techniques. They also coincide with a new national advertising campaign, 'Not here', which raises awareness of the fact that the physical punishment of children, like smacking, is now illegal in Wales.

Summer of Fun

Children's Services staff have been working with the Child Friendly City Team to hold an exclusive one-day summer festival specifically for young people known to Children's Services. Members of the Bright Sparks group have helped to develop and plan the event, which will include a range of activities, food, and games to help create precious memories for our young people.

Crosslands Residential Home

Crosslands, one of the Council's in-house residential homes, recently received an unannounced, but very welcome, visit from a member of the public who had been looked after there 30 years ago. One of the members of staff that they remembered is now the manager of the home and, as luck would have it, was on shift at the time of

the visit. The visitor shared his fond memories of his time growing up there and it was lovely for the manager to hear that he has moved abroad and has a successful career in Australia.

Holidays for Children Looked After

An opportunity has been created for 10 children looked after to attend a five-day residential trip to Jamie's Farm in Monmouth during the school summer holidays. The farm uniquely combines farming, family and therapy, with a focus on giving children time and space to not only reflect and renew, but also to determine a new path for themselves. It is hoped that this trip will be the first of many that Cardiff children looked after can attend. Children's Services are also working with colleagues from Education to offer similar opportunities for children looked after at Storey Arms.

Youth Justice Service and Peer Mentors

The Youth Justice Service has been approached by St. Giles Trust via their Aspire Hub to potentially host some of their trainee Peer Advisors. The peers linked to the Aspire Hub are those who have previously been supported by St Giles and want to use their lived experience to support and help people who may be going through similar experiences. The Peer Advisor project is a programme of training, placement, professional development and support around the Level 3 Advice & Guidance qualification and gives peers the confidence, skills, and qualifications required to move onto paid employment. St Giles will provide full oversight of the placement which will last 6-8 months. The Peer Advisors will be used to assist with delivery of one-to-one work, group work, constructive activities, travel training, and some restorative panels with young people.

Councillors Norma Mackie & Ash Lister
Cabinet Members for Social Services (Job Share)
15 July 2022