

AWELON, RUTHIN

Awelon is a 26 capacity, Local Authority residential care home for older people, situated in the heart of Ruthin, Denbighshire. It currently has 20 residents of whom 10 use Welsh as their first language. It has been serving the people of the local community since 1972. The manager is Vivienne Barlow. Services provided at Awelon, in addition to residential placement, are planned and emergency respite care and a focused outcome reablement service. As regards the respite admissions, since January 2014, we are advised that there have been 18 planned and 10 emergency admissions for a variety of reasons.

Awelon used to have a well-attended day centre, which began a phasing out process some 2 years ago, following which an outcome focused respite programme was introduced. This allowed service users to be admitted for up to 6 weeks, on a reablement type programme. We were advised, as with Dolwen, that the take up of this service has been lower than was hoped for.

Residents are encouraged to participate in joint activities with residents of the adjoining Extra Supportive Living complex (Llys Awelon) who also attend Awelon for hot meals and socialisation. There are plenty of activities available and several residents still access the local community with support as time allows.

Awelon appears well supported by District Nursing and GP services. They have a higher number of very dependent older residents than in the other 2 local authority homes however the residents' needs are being met well. Although the needs of several of these service users are met, they receive such a high level of support that alternative comparable placements are unlikely to accept them as new residents. This was confirmed in a discussion with the manager of Llanrhaeder Hall who advised they already had several of their own and would not have the resources to accept people with high dependency residential needs.

We met with 20 service users and their families or representatives at Awelon. Of these, 20 residents/family were opposed to closure for a variety of reasons, some gave more than one reason (See Appendix 2). 1 service user did not want to move but would consider an alternative placement if they had to. The reasons for objecting to closure, as listed in appendix 2, show that the location of Awelon and their access to the wider community was the main reason with access for visitors, relationship with staff and concerns regarding age and frailty also being a priority.

We looked at alternative venues that could meet the needs of residents within a reasonable distance (around 10 miles) and their current bed vacancies for general residential care (See Appendix 3) The data shows 8 available General Residential beds in a reasonable (Around 10 mile) radius of Awelon Care Home. Within the actual community of Ruthin there are only 3 vacancies (Trosnant) who currently have only female residents but there is a strong emphasis on the use of Welsh language.

We looked at the impact an enforced move would have on service users within the care of Awelon and have summarised below. An enforced move due to closure would mostly have a moderate impact on the current service users. It should be noted there appears to be a higher proportion of residents who have high dependency needs and many are in advanced years (90+) which would also need to be considered. For some in the severe impact group it would be extremely unwise to move at this stage due to their physical frailty.

Awelon

Move with little impact		Move with moderate impact		Move with severe impact	
Name	Language	Name	Language	Name	Language
		EW	WELSH	NE	WELSH
		SD	WELSH	RC	ENGLISH
		BP	ENGLISH	SE	WELSH
		DJ	WELSH	GM	WELSH
		WN	ENGLISH	DF	ENGLISH
		CJ	WELSH	JE	ENGLISH
		GB	WELSH	SR	ENGLISH
		RR	ENGLISH	JW	ENGLISH
		AH	NK		
		EG	WELSH		
		CE	ENGLISH		
		MD	WELSH		

NB: This is merely a guide

Conclusion

There is clearly not enough alternative provision in the private sector within the area of Ruthin. Should service users have to move further afield due to the lack of local provision, this will impact on service users access to their own communities and access of friends and the wider community to them and may be open to challenge under Article 8 HRA1998.

There is a lack of suitable and quality Nursing care in the area, general residential care is also very limited and would be unlikely to accept the more dependent service users from Awelon.

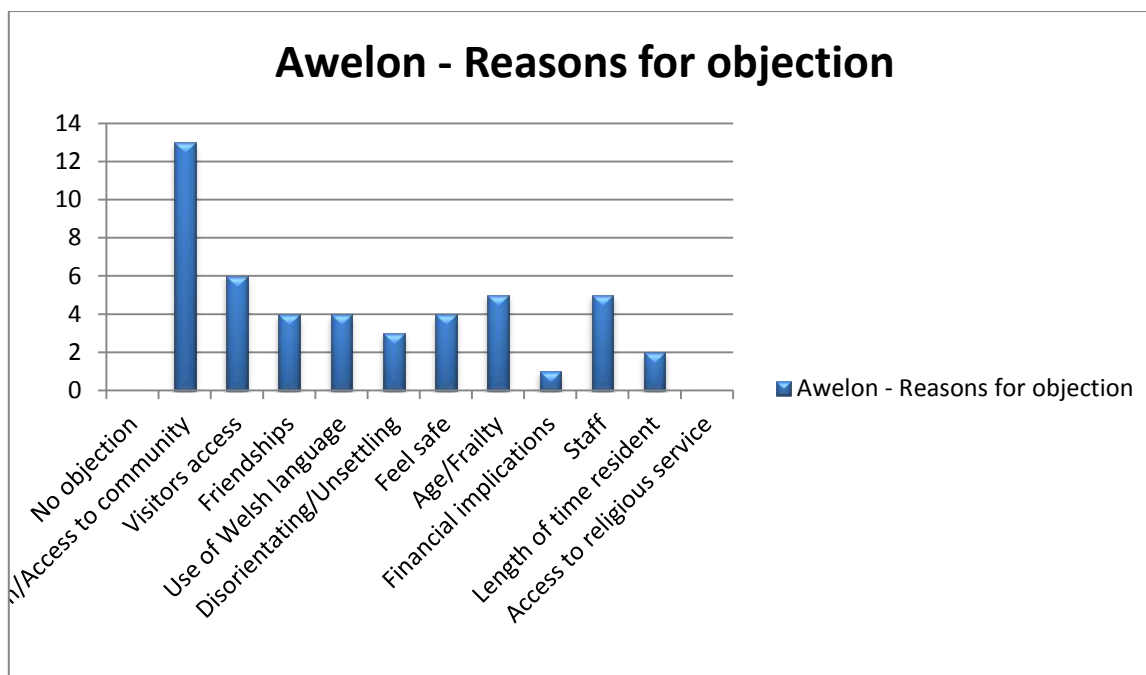
Considerations

There is a clear need for quality nursing care within the local community of Ruthin. There is not enough suitable general residential vacancies to meet the needs of the service users in Awelon should they be required to move at this stage.

In other areas we have worked, Intermediate care has been a priority and many local authority care homes became intermediate care hubs. Consideration could be given to this around this area.

There are not enough general residential placements in the locality to provide placements for residents currently in Awelon, particularly when one factors in the use of emergency admissions, respite and other such uses Awelon currently provides.

There are a number of very elderly and very frail residents in Awelon that would be unwise to consider moving until their needs could no longer be met and they required 24 hour nursing care.



The main objections for residents at Awelon was location and the access to the wider community, access of visitors, relationship with staff and concerns regarding age and frailty.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISIONS IN RUTHIN AREA

Trosnant

Trosnant is a small registered general residential home, with up to 12 residential beds and presently mostly female residents. This home is on a main road through Ruthin town. Parking space is limited. The most recent CSSIW was carried out January 2014 & there were no non-compliance orders raised, however, the report did highlight the prominence of the Welsh language, and made a recommendation for more attention to be made with regards to activity plans for individual residents. It would be a viable alternative to some residents of Awelon.

Llanrhaeder Hall

Llandhaeder Hall is a dual registered EMI & General residential home situated off the A525 road near to the village of Llanrhaeder. The road has a speed limit which reduces from 60 to 40mph about 50 yards before the turn off. The nearest bus stop is at the garage 600 yards away however some bus drivers will stop opposite the entrance on request. Any visitor arriving on public transport would need to cross that road at least once – a potential risk especially to elderly visitors, particularly on dark winter nights. This might impact on residents visits.

There is a long, uneven driveway leading to the old manor house type building with EMI residential on one wing and general residential on another. In discussion with the manager, she indicated the EMI unit rarely has vacancies, often a waiting list and just occasional vacancies for general residential needs.

For service users with visitors who drive it is an option. However they have very few Welsh speaking staff.

The last CSSIW review listed took place November 2013, where concerns were raised giving rise to 2 non-compliance orders. One related to staff training, the other inconsistencies in service user plans.

Plas Gwyn

Plas Gwyn is a 30 capacity General Nursing Home in the Northern end of Ruthin. The home is situated in a very rural location and does not own any transport so consequently access to the wider community is greatly limited for service users.

Recent CSSIW inspection highlighted ongoing non-compliance with recruitment and retention and no registered manager in post since Sept 2014. There were serious concerns around the robustness of the recruitment process which has the potential to place service users at risk, such as no DBS checks being carried out on some staff or evidence of RGN's PIN. One assessor called to arrange a visit and was informed there was no manager and the owner was away on holiday just prior to Easter. A Non Compliance order from CSSIW states they must have a registered manager in post by 28/2/15, however clearly that wasn't the case (Information passed to Alan Roberts)

Valley Lodge

Valley Lodge is a 35 capacity EMI dual registered Residential and Nursing home sited near to Mold in a rural area and is sister home to Llanrhaeder Hall. There have been issues of non-compliance over the recruitment of a suitable manager but this is in process.

Like Llanrhaeder Hall, the home has a variety of pets and a full time activities co-ordinator and does have its own transport. They also have a purpose built day care centre on site. This home would be suitable for residents who have EMI needs at Awelon however consideration would need to be given to its location and access for visitors who do not drive or have their own transport.

Appendix 4

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION - AWELON

HOME	DISTANCE FROM AWELON (Miles)	RES	EMI RES	NURSING	EMI NURSING
Plas Gwyn	2.5			30(8)	
Trosnant	0.3	12(3)			
Llanrhaeder Hall	5.1	23 (2)	13 (0)		
Valley Lodge	5.4		13(0)	21(0)	
Vale View	7.9	10 (3)			
TOTAL		8		8	

Brackets denotes actual current vacancies

*Data compiled 30th April 2015

Awelon CASE STUDIES

MOVE WITH SEVERE IMPACT

NE is 104 years old and has lived at Awelon since she was 98. Prior to this she lived alone, was very independent and outgoing, driving and going on trips but had an accident, tripped over a kerb and sustained an injury which eventually led to her admission to 24 hour care.

She is now very frail, requires 2 carers for all interventions and the use of a hoist, needs help with feeding and is totally dependent on staff for all aspects of daily living. District Nurses provide a complimentary service. They visit monthly for a wellbeing check, give advice to staff and check progress notes or do more as often required such as if she has any wounds that require dressing. Her needs are largely anticipated by staff who are familiar with her and maintain a regular regime to help prevent deterioration.

Due to her overall frailty it would be very unwise to consider moving ME unless her needs could no longer be met in Awelon.

It is also very unlikely another general residential home would accept ME due to her high levels of need.

MOVE WITH MODERATE IMPACT

BP is 98 years old and has lived at Awelon since early 2013. She has lived in the Ruthin area for 20 years. She has a number of physical health problems and a recent fractured hip which has reduced her mobility. She has bouts of depression and low mood.

In terms of alternatives, BP would potentially lose contact with her local visitors if she lived anywhere other than Awelon, with the exception of Trosnant. This would be a suitable alternative to maintain her community contact and lessen the impact. A move further afield, for instance to Llanrhader Hall, would be unacceptable to her and impractical due to its access problems.