

CYSGOD Y GAER, CORWEN

Cysgod y Gaer is a 23 bed, Local Authority residential care home for older people. This includes 6 beds given over to a reablement service for individuals requiring physio and occupational therapy input; generally such individuals come from the hospital setting, with the goal of a return home. The home was opened in 1970. The manager is Sian Owen.

Of the 3 local authority establishments, Cysgod y Gaer is the more remote in setting, and seems to offer the most services to its users and community. Standard residential placement and respite care (emergency and planned) are available. There remains an active day centre facility, which provides bathing facilities and support to those who would otherwise struggle in their own homes, whilst good nutritious meals are assured. The reablement beds appear to be well used, ensuring blocked hospital beds are avoided (from all Denbighshire hospitals).

Cysgod y Gaer has been able to assist isolated members of the community in the past, during times of severe difficulties – for example when individuals have found themselves without services or utilities due to severe winter weather. There are also occasional events which interact with the community such as raffles and concerts/choirs on site. They also provide hot meals which are collected by some local residents who are not able to manage their own.

There are currently 11 service users in permanent placement at Cysgod Y Gaer. Of these, 6 use Welsh as their 1st language. Two service users are due to be assessed when family are visiting and another 1 was not suitable for assessment at the time and have ongoing issues.

Of those currently assessed, all except 1 objected, see the appendix for breakdown of reasons. The main reasons for objecting were based on location and the access to the wider community, access of visitors, friendships within the home and length of time they have been resident.

Of the 1 holding no objection, the recommendation was to refer for reassessment as they may be more suited to Extra care.

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. There are no independent sector 24 hour care options within Denbighshire, of any registration in the immediate area of Corwen. The nearest towns having such options are Llangollen and Ruthin.

The only alternative in Llangollen is dual registered and they stated they have a preference for CHC funded service users to the assessor. This is sited in a rural location which would not be easily accessible to people without transport.

We looked at the impact an enforced move would have on service users within the care of Cysgod y Gaer and have summarised below. An enforced move due to closure would have a moderate impact on most of the current service users. Most of the service users were from the immediate Corwen area or surrounding villages/hamlets. The main impact would be on the access of friends and visitors. Although service user could move to alternative sites, the longer term implications in terms of the access to their community and visitors could have a pronounced detrimental effect on many residents.

We have included 2 case studies in relation to the impact on service users in the appendix.

CYSGOD Y GAER

Move with little impact		Move with moderate impact		Move with severe impact	
Name	Language	Name	Language	Name	Language
NN	ENGLISH	MB	WELSH	DJ	WELSH
		GW	WELSH	AB	ENGLISH
		MH	WELSH		
		GJ	WELSH		
		GW	WELSH		

NB: This is merely a guide

In addition to the permanent residents, there are 5 service users that attend day care services. Of these, all were assessed and all objected to the closure. All of these were also Welsh 1st language and most attended for carer relief with carers providing a very high level of day to day support.

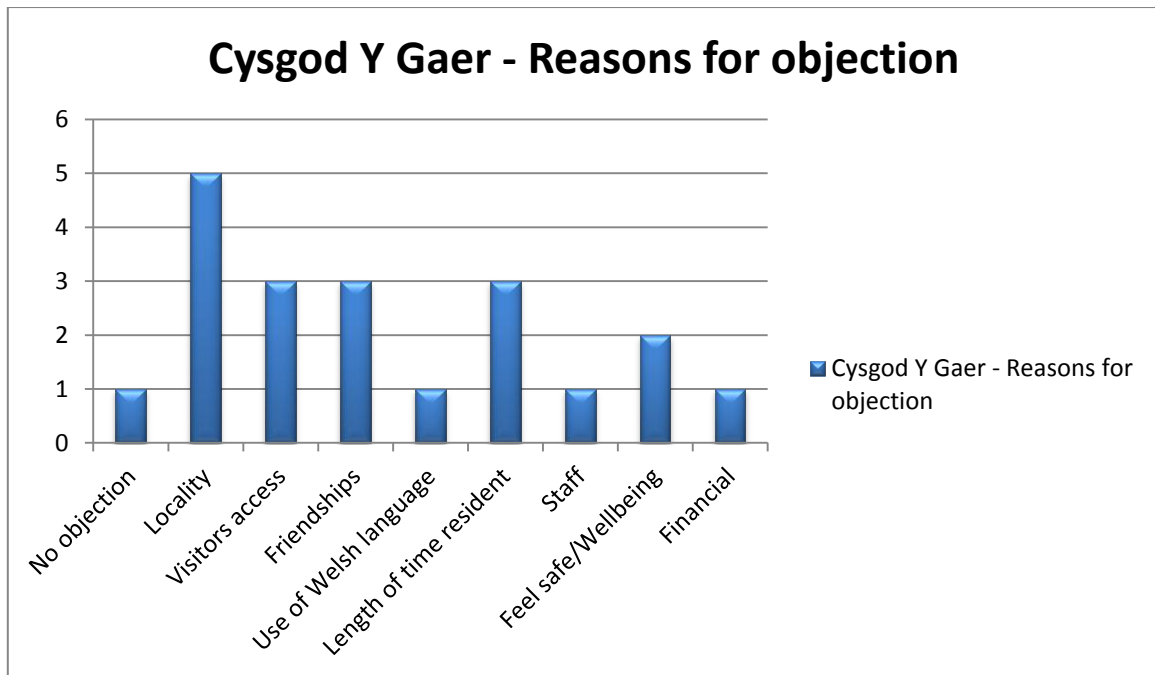
Conclusion

There is no alternative provision in the private sector within the area of Corwen or surrounding villages. 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 Nursing care in the area, the only alternative is in Llangollen. Service users in Cysgod Y Gaer are supported very well by District Nursing services and local GPs.

Considerations

There is a clear need for general residential care to service Corwen and the outlying villages. Although Cysgod y Gaer is not at maximum capacity currently there is no alternative suitable for the current or future residents from the area.



The main objections for residents at Cysgod Y Gaer was location and the access to the wider community, access of visitors, friendships within the home and length of time they have been resident.

Of the 1 holding no objection, the recommendation was to refer for reassessment as they may be more suited to extra care provision.

Cysgod y Gaer CASE STUDY

MOVE WITH SEVERE IMPACT

Mrs J is an 87 year old who has been resident at Cysgod y Gaer (CyG) since 6 September 2010. Mrs J was born 3 miles from Corwen and has lived all her life in that area. Prior to admission, she was living for a while with a sister in law, though now her present level of assessed needs are outside the ability of family to meet, even with a substantial care package.

Mrs J has full mental capacity to make her own decisions and plans with regards to her future. Her medical history includes angina, periodic urinary tract infections, diet controlled diabetes, thyroid issues, arthritis, bi-lateral leg oedema (indicative of heart problems), and leg ulcers. Her leg ulcers are regularly monitored (and redressed as needed) by a District Nurse, she mobilises with the use of a wheeled zimmer frame (wheelchair for anything other than short distances) and requires carer assistance with bathing/showering, dressing of lower half of her body.

Her first language is Welsh and an interpreter was needed to assist with the assessment. She is recorded as having periodic episodes of anxiety and depression. She has made friends with both staff members and other residents, and has family and (outside) friends including chapel goers visiting, all of whom would find it greatly restrictive for visiting, if Mrs J was to move out of the Corwen area. It is felt that the impact on her would be highly likely

to affect her health and wellbeing. If CyG were to close, then a move away from Corwen would be inevitable.

MOVE WITH MODERATE IMPACT

Mr H is a 75 year old gentleman who has been resident at Cysgod y Gaer (CyG) since 27 April 2009. Prior to this, he was living on his own in Corwen, where he has resided since birth. He has 2 brothers and 2 sisters, and 4 grown up children, all of whom live in Corwen. Welsh is his first language.

Mr H's medical history included alcoholism and depression, he also has hip and back arthritis, tablet and diet controlled diabetes and anaemia. In 2013, he had a significant heart attack. Prior to admission, he was self-neglecting particularly with regards to personal care and activities of daily living. Since admission, it is recorded that his physical and medical conditions have greatly improved, his confidence and self-esteem risen significantly, his alcohol intake no longer presents difficulties or concerns and (given prompting) he is independent with all aspects of personal care and hygiene.

Should CyG close, and Mr H be obliged to move, then he might lose something of his Welsh language communications (which mean a lot to him), his family members would not be able to continue visiting as they have, and he would find himself out of the area in which he has lived all his life.