

Report To: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 18 July 2013

Lead Member/Officer: Lead Member for Social Care, Adults and Children's Services/ Head of Adults and Business Services

Report Author: Service Manager: Business & Carers

Title: Domiciliary Care, Potential for Collaboration

1. What is the report about?

The report provides Elected Members with information regarding the potential for collaboration in respect of domiciliary care, particularly in rural areas.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

Members asked for a report to consider the potential for collaboration in respect of domiciliary care, particularly in rural areas. This report provides information about the demand and provision of domiciliary care in Denbighshire.

3. What are the Recommendations?

That Members consider the report and support the on-going work to find alternative ways of meeting the small demand for domiciliary care in rural areas.

4. Report details.

4.1 Domiciliary care is more difficult to find and can be costly to commission in rural areas, particularly in the South of the County. It has been suggested that collaboration with neighbour Authorities would be a solution to the perceived problem. Alternatively, it has been suggested that block contracts could be tendered.

4.2 Whilst data has always suggested that the above options may be unlikely to resolve the issue, the information has now been properly mapped and can be better understood. The maps in appendices 1 and 2 show that there are areas where demand is so low that no block contract could be reasonably created. The maps also show that there is very little demand for domiciliary care close to the actual County borders.

4.3 Neighbours have been consulted about their own areas of low demand or low provision. Gwynedd have produced a map (appendix 3) which demonstrates a similar picture. Conwy have not yet mapped their own provision but previous comparison has shown no joint areas of difficulty. Flintshire use a map and we are in the process of obtaining a copy. There are no known joint

areas of demand at this time. Wrexham have also been asked whether they use a mapping system for comparison.

- 4.4 Where there are difficulties in finding an appropriate care package, a Care Broker contacts providers that cover neighbour authorities. However, due to the distance they would be required to cover, it is rare that they are able to assist. The maps show that demand is rarely on the borders but usually a distance away from other authorities.
- 4.5 Work has been carried out locally and is being undertaken regionally to compare costs of domiciliary provision and to consider a regional cost setting model. Market Position Statements are also being produced which will demonstrate the areas of demand and the direction of travel in each Local Authority. All of this is intended to provide intelligence to inform future business plans for providers and to encourage development in particular areas. However, demand in some rural areas is so low that the viability of businesses in those areas would always be questionable.
- 4.6 Collaboration with other Authorities does not seem to be an appropriate solution at this time – though regional market position information will be updated on a regular basis and the situation may change. In the meantime, alternative solutions need to be sought.
- 4.7 Direct Payments to fund Personal Assistants can be a suitable service for some people. However, Personal Assistants have historically been difficult to find in those same areas. It is proposed that work is carried out with the Rowan Organisation to advertise the opportunities and encourage people to apply for this type of work.
- 4.8 Another potential solution proposed has been a Social Enterprise model. However, Social Enterprise too has to be a viable business. The maps demonstrate just how small the demand is in some areas. That being the case, a Social Enterprise solution might need to include other areas such as low level activities or services which are not currently funded by Social Services. This will require joint work with other Services within the Authority and work with interested organisations.
- 4.9 In the meantime, it is appropriate to indicate that, despite suggestions to the contrary, domiciliary care provision when required is usually found, even in the most rural areas. Delayed transfers of care are particularly low in Denbighshire and the time taken to find domiciliary care is usually extremely quick – frequently only two days from request to provision.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The provision of domiciliary care directly supports the Corporate Priority to ensure that vulnerable people are protected and are able to live as independently as possible

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

It is anticipated that developing alternative provision for domiciliary care in rural areas will be cost neutral. All such development work is being approached on a basis of long term sustainability in the face of increasing demand and reducing resources.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.

As there is no change proposal at this time, no Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. The EqIA will be completed as and when changes or new service proposals are considered.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

As above, no consultations have been carried out as there is currently no change proposed. Discussions have taken place regionally to measure and illustrate demand.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The detail and cost implications of any alternative proposals emerging would need to be thoroughly assessed before implementation.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

It is possible that alternative solutions will not be found and that commissioning appropriate care packages in rural areas will become more difficult. The Market Position information, Commissioning Strategies and continued regional work will continue to provide information in this respect.

11. Power to make the Decision

Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.

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