



## Report of the Head of Adult Services and Tackling Poverty

Social Care and Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee –  
7 April 2025

### Adult Services Early Help Approach - Update

<b>Purpose:</b>	To inform the STC on an update on the Prevention and Early Help strategic approach in Adult Services. The report is for information purposes only.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Amy Hawkins
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Chris Davies
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>For Information</b>	

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Prevention and Early Intervention is one of the principles of the Social Services and Well-being Act, to increase preventative services in the community to minimise the escalation of critical need.
- 1.2 We define Prevention activity as **support** to maintain well-being and prevent or delay the development of people's need for care and support. This is via open access support.
- 1.3 We define Early Help as **interventions** to help people achieve well-being and what matters to them, removing or delaying the need for managed care and / or support. These are targeted or time-limited interventions.
- 1.4 The demand for Social Care is increasing significantly and exceeding the available resources. This has included a 21% increase in referrals for managed care and 18% increase in domiciliary care and a 7% increase in funded residential care.

1.5 We need to support people earlier to maintain their independence and reduce or delay the need for managed care.

## 2. **Adult Services Prevention and Early Help Strategic Approach**



2.1

2.2 The approach involves increasing the number of people accessing Enabling Communities activity, increasing those accessing Prevention activities and support and increasing short-term Early Help interventions. It is also focused on those currently in receipt of managed care accessing Early Help and Prevention support.

## 3. **Update**

3.1 An update further to the previous report in December 2024. A revised structure of Adult Services team will be in place from 1/4/25 to strengthen the Early Help approach. This includes a new lead officer focusing on developing and leading the Adult Services Early Help offer, ensuring a coordinated approach to delivering front-line services that promote independence, well-being, and prevent recourse into managed care.

3.2 The Early Help lead will be collaborating with various departments, strategic partners, community and voluntary sector organisations, and other stakeholders to build on existing Early Help pathways of support and develop and facilitate additional pathways.

3.3 The lead will oversee a new Early Help team which is made up of existing and new teams, including the Information, Advice and Assistance teams from the Common Access Point, Local Area Coordination and the Third Sector Well-being team.

3.4 Resources have been secured and work is planned to enhance the social value of commissioned contracts to maximise Prevention and Early Help

opportunities. There will also be an additional post in the Third Sector to identify and develop pathways of Prevention and Early Help within community and Third Sector organisations.

- 3.5 Enhanced Early Help output and outcome data is being incorporated into the Adult Services performance reporting and will be developed further during the year.
- 3.6 The existing Tackling Poverty team are being renamed the Tackling Poverty and Enabling Communities team. This combines the existing Tackling Poverty, Participation and Involvement teams, and Community Safety teams supporting Enabling Communities activity within Adult Services and across the Social Services Directorate.

#### **4. Integrated Assessment Implications**

4.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

4.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

4.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

4.4 This is a for-information report. As such an IIA screening is not required.

**5. Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** None