

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 23 March 2020
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Healthy Living and Social Care
Report Title:	Adult Placement Service – Partnership Agreement
Purpose of Report:	To determine whether to extend the partnership arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council in delivery of its Adult Placement Service
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member – Social Care and Health
Responsible Officer:	Director of Social Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Operational Manager, Legal Services; Operational Manager, Accountancy.
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
Executive Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek Cabinet approval for the Vale of Glamorgan to extend the Partnership Agreement with Bridgend County Borough Council to manage their Adult Placement Service (also known as “Shared Lives”) commencing 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2025. 	

Recommendations

1. Cabinet endorses the proposal as outlined in this report, which is for the Vale of Glamorgan Council (the “Vale”) to extend the Adult Placement Service partnership arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council (“Bridgend”) for a period of five years, subject to the approval of Bridgend County Borough Council’s Chief Legal Officer and the Chief Officer of Social Services.
2. Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Social Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, Managing Director and the Head of Finance/S.151 Officer to agree the principles of the Partnership Agreement and undertake all necessary actions and delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to agree the terms and execute the necessary Partnership Agreement with Bridgend County Borough Council.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To ensure that the process for taking forward this proposal is undertaken lawfully, effectively and in accordance with the Council's policies and procedures.
2. To ensure that the process for delivering this proposal as outlined in this report is undertaken in a timely manner.

1. Background

- 1.1 Shared Lives/Adult Placement is a scheme where adults with learning disabilities, mental health problems, physical disabilities and dementia are offered short term, long-term or emergency care and support in a family environment. The Adult Placement model aims to promote people's independence, self-esteem and confidence within a safe and supportive community setting. Adult Placement 'hosts' are assessed and trained by the Adult Placement Service and approved by an Independent Panel. Adult Placement services are bound by legislation as set out in the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.
- 1.2 Adult Placement hosts can accommodate up to three individuals at any one time.
- 1.3 The Adult Placement Scheme in the Vale of Glamorgan is managed within the Learning Disability Service but is available to teams across the whole Adult Services division. The Adult Placement Scheme in the Vale currently has 62 self-employed 'hosts' (37 addresses) who support 31 people on a long-term basis and 41 people for short-term, respite breaks. In Bridgend County Borough Council, 35 self-employed hosts (25 addresses) currently support 22 long term placements and 7 people for short term respite breaks.
- 1.4 The Vale Adult Placement Scheme has increased the number of placements available over the last three years and has developing expertise in the area of respite and emergency provision. This was delivered as part of a wider strategy to provide high quality support allowing individuals in the scheme requiring placements greater levels of independence and reducing costs to the Council.
- 1.5 In November 2018, Bridgend County Borough Council commissioned Shared Lives Plus - The UK Network for Shared Lives - to conduct an options appraisal for the future delivery of Adult Placement. One of the three options identified was to establish a partnership arrangement with a neighbouring authority and an approach to Adult Services in the Vale of Glamorgan was made.
- 1.6 In the same month the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Bridgend County Borough Council established a project group (the "Project Group") to discuss partnership arrangements for the management of Adult Placement Services in line with Part 9 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2016. The discussions drew upon the learning from other Adult Placement collaborations in Wales and specifically from the South East region's partnership scheme.
- 1.7 On May 1st 2019 the Vale of Glamorgan Adult Placement Scheme took over the management of Bridgend Shared Lives Scheme from Ategi (the previous external provider) and has been providing the Adult Placement (Shared Lives) Service for

Bridgend (The “Service”) for an initial 11-month period (this period is due to end on the 31st March 2020).

- 1.8** During this period the Project Group has had regular meetings to discuss the partnership arrangements. Commissioners and Operational Managers from both Councils have attended these meetings.
- 1.9** At the Project Group meeting held on December 11th 2019, it was agreed that appropriate senior manager and cabinet approval should be sought, to extend the partnership for a 5 year period in accordance with the terms set out in the Partnership Agreement.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The Partnership Agreement would extend the arrangement currently operating from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2025, subject to review.
- 2.2** The Vale of Glamorgan would continue to charge Bridgend County Borough Council for the Service at an annual cost following a review in each year (agreed at £103,347 for the Financial Year 2020/21).
- 2.3** Bridgend County Borough Council agree that costs would increase in accordance with the proposed expansion of the Service over the five-year period not exceeding the cost to the Vale of providing the Service.
- 2.4** Two additional staff currently employed by the Vale on a temporary contract until March 31st 2020, would be extended for a five year period.
- 2.5** The Vale would maintain management responsibility for the Service, including acting as the Registered Manager and Responsible Individual under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016.
- 2.6** Year one (May 2019 - March 2020) has involved transferring and stabilising the Service and maximising the number of placements provided through the existing hosts. Year two will work towards alignment of provision across the two Councils, recruitment of hosts and develop of a management performance framework in accordance with Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act legislation. Years three to five will see full alignment and increased long-term and respite capacity within the Adult Placement Service.
- 2.7** As is current practice, the placing authority will maintain responsibility for funding their own placements.
- 2.8** Full consideration has been given to ensuring the partnership between the authorities does not destabilise the quality and good practice within the Vale Adult Placement Service.
- 2.9** The Partnership Agreement between Bridgend County Borough Council and the Vale of Glamorgan will provide the framework upon which governance of the partnership will be delivered. The Project Board will report to their respective senior managers on a bi-monthly basis. Senior managers will meet at three and six months to review the partnership.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 Long-term:** A continued partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council is expected to provide: greater sustainability for the Service, attract hosts from a wider geographical area and a range of life experiences increase opportunities for people. In maximising the number of hosts the Service is able to offer high quality alternatives to expensive residential and supported accommodation placements. Through extending the Service and increasing capacity across two authorities the opportunities for meeting the increasing demand for accommodation and care for older people with dementia can also be developed, alongside other innovative ways of working. A partnership model will allow for the sharing of good practice across local authorities and health boards.
- 3.2 Prevention:** The increased provision of Adult Placement allows for support to be provided in the community promoting an individuals' well-being, positive risk taking and independence preventing the need for more restrictive, and costly residential care provision.
- 3.3 Integration and Collaboration:** Entering into a longer-term partnership arrangement with Bridgend County Borough Council reflects the aims and ambitions of both the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2016 and The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the details of which are covered in this report.

Involvement: Consultation and engagement of hosts and people receiving the current service was undertaken prior to the May 2019 and the transfer of the service to the Vale of Glamorgan. As part of the Responsible Individual's role and in accordance with their responsibilities under RISCA legislation, six monthly consultation and engagement events are held with hosts, people living in Adult Placement and their advocates/families.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** The Vale of Glamorgan will recover all additional costs via a charge to Bridgend County Borough Council for managing their Adult Placement Scheme. The cost includes two project workers, a charge for the Registered Manager's time - which covers the cost of employing a social care officer to support the manager cover her other workload commitments- four days of the Operational Manager's time for acting as Responsible Individual and transport costs. Administrative support will be provided by Bridgend County Borough Council.

Employment

- 4.2** Additional Staff resources are required to manage the Bridgend County Borough Council Adult Placement Service as outlined above.

- 4.3** Additional staff have been employed by the Vale on a temporary contract for the initial 11 months. If it is agreed that the partnership can be extended these posts will be extended for a five-year period.
- 4.4** No TUPE implications arose from the provision of the Service by the Vale for Bridgend as no employees were transferred. Prior to the Vale providing the Service for Bridgend, an external organisation (Ategi) were providing an adult placement service for Bridgend and it was confirmed that no TUPE implications arose from that arrangement.
- 4.5** Liabilities in respect of employees form part of the Partnership Agreement drawn up between Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend County Borough Council, drawing upon the Vale's experience of Shared Regulatory Service and Audit Partnership Agreements.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.6** The partnership arrangement is underpinned by a Partnership Agreement between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Bridgend County Borough Council.
- 4.7** Consultation between legal officers in both Councils has taken place.

5. Background Papers

Proposed Partnership Agreement between Bridgend County Borough Council and Vale of Glamorgan for the next 5 years