

## SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2019
<b>Report Subject</b>	Arosfa Refurbishment: Update
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Social Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Social Services)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

'Arosfa' is a well-established service providing short term breaks / respite for children with disabilities. There are plans to refurbish an unused wing of the building to provide two additional bed spaces at the facility. These beds bring capacity to accommodate two permanent long-term residents, and provide a quality local services as an alternative to out of county placements. This would be in addition to the current short break, respite provision for up to three children. Together the plans would enable us support a maximum of five children at any one time.

ICF (Integrated Care Fund) money has been identified for the additional revenue costs for the extended service.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Scrutiny consider the plans and support the refurbishment plan
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXTENDING PROVISION AT AROSFA
1.01	Arosfa is a registered Children's Homes situated in Mold. It provides a short break facility for children and young people (5-19) with disabilities/their parents. The facilities provide overnight stays for those who require specialist care. Action for Children have successfully operated the project on behalf of Flintshire County Council for many years in its current and previous locations.
1.02	The facility underwent significant refurbishments during 2011/2012 with the disused wing remaining unused since the opening in 2012.
1.03	In August 2017 a comprehensive physical assessment was undertaken to determine the potential refurbishment of the wing to offer additional care arrangements.
1.04	On completion of the assessment comprehensive work was undertaken on the model of support that could be offered through an extended provision, and the associated revenue arrangements.
1.05	A model of provision for the additional two beds has been agreed with Health, alongside revenue funding secured through the ICF. The beds bring capacity to accommodate two permanent long-term residents. This would be in addition to the current short break, respite provision for up to three children. Together the plans would enable us support a maximum of five children at any one time.
1.06	The Service model would be provided for two additional highly dependent young people who will require support throughout the night. This will require a high staff ratio to support the young people in placement and enable them to undertake individual or group activities according to their specific needs and abilities.
1.07	Both wings will have their own living room, and this will allow a quiet sitting area and or separate games room. The existing Sensory room would be accessible to both groups of children as would the garden. The refurbished wing would also have its own separate external access to the grounds, allowing children and staff to come and go without disturbing others in the main building.
1.08	Discussions have taken place with the registering body CIW. The initial guidance has been that as provider we must demonstrate that a mixed provision wont impact negatively upon the needs of any of the children and that there are suitable facilities and staffing arrangements in place to meet the needs of the children cared for, which must be clearly reflected within the statement of purpose.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	A capital allocation of £150k has been allocated to fund the work. A recently refreshed assessment for the refurbishment work has identified an anticipated build cost of £177,162.43. A requested has been submitted for regional ICF capital funding to be redirected to fund the £27,162.43. If this funding is not forthcoming there is a Corporate commitment to realigning funding to enable the completion of the work. The revenue implications is £200k per annum, and that will be completely funded by the ICF.
2.02	The current management arrangements would continue, the present Registered Manager would remain in post with extended responsibility across both elements of the service. A larger staff team would be recruited with all staff being required to work across both units but with staff identified as having a primary link to each child. We are proposing as a minimum that staff would occupy accommodation in both wings overnight therefore ensuring staff are on hand close to the young people.
2.03	The new model proposes the use of two waking night staff and is considered a safer option in terms of safeguarding the young people and staff and will provide adequate emergency cover when needed this will be supported by an Action for Children on call manager. We believe that the needs of children returning from out of County will be complex and they are likely to require additional support.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	At the time of the original refurbishments, extensive local neighbourhood events were conducted. Work will be needed to ensure the community is advised of the plans but it is not expected that extensive consultation will be required given no additional demands will be placed on local amenities or parking demands.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Potential additional costs not included within the budget estimate could emerge as work progresses. Areas identified as potential additional cost risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) costs to remove additional (unknown) asbestos</li> <li>ii) an assumption that the existing fire alarm system within the building can be altered to suit the proposed layout</li> <li>iii) Boiler</li> </ul> <p>This areas will be reviewed at the detailed design stage.</p>
4.02	The provision of an additional 2 beds for long term residents forms part of our strategic intent to reduce reliance on expensive out of county placements, and to support children and young people within County.

	Failure to undertake the work and to offer more respite and care provision with impact on our strategic ambition.
4.03	Educational arrangements for two long term residents will need to be identified before placements are agreed

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	None.

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	None.  <b>Contact Officer:</b> Peter Robson <b>Telephone:</b> 01824 701028 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:peter.robson@flintshire.gov.uk">peter.robson@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	<b>Short break respite:</b> This is the provision of overnight care and support and is determined by the needs of the child.  <b>Integrated Care Fund (ICF):</b> A regional grant allocated by Welsh Government which is administered by a regional partnership board. Local authorities, Health and other partner agencies work in partnership to support older people, people with a learning disability and children with complex needs.