

## CABINET

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019
<b>Report Subject</b>	Arosfa 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. This will provide a good quality, cost effective and local service, as a clear alternative to out of county placements.

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

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Cabinet to consider the plans and support the refurbishment plan.
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## REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE 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.
1.02	Since 2012 Action for Children have successfully provided a short breaks service for disabled children at Arosfa. Young people who attend the project have a severe learning disability / complex health needs with need for specific procedures such as Gastrostomy, Peg feeding / challenging behaviour / autism / communication issues / physical disability with need to have use of specialist equipment. It has three bedrooms; two of which are suitably designed and equipped for wheel chair use. Currently the project can accommodate up to a maximum of 3 children at any time plus two rooms for staff to use as sleeping in rooms.
1.03	This service meets a wide range of purposes. It gives young people an opportunity to spend time away from home, preparing them for future independent living and it gives them an opportunity to socialise outside of school with friends in a way that disabled children rarely get a chance to do. It provides an opportunity for parents and carers to get a much-needed break and spend quality time with other family members, in fact this provision for some families is crucial in keeping families together.
1.04	The Service has received consistently positive CIW reports and is a strong provision securing positive outcomes for children, young people and their families.
1.05	There is real potential for Arosfa to be expanded both in terms of the type of service it offers and the physical space it provides. Arosfa opened in 2012 following significant refurbishment. At the time of refurbishment there was not sufficient funds to complete the whole building and as a consequence the left wing of the building consisting of two bedrooms, one bathroom and two living areas is unused.
1.06	A physical assessment was undertaken to determine the potential refurbishment of the wing to offer additional care arrangements. This work has informed a Capital allocation from our Council to fund building/refurbishment work.
1.07	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.
1.08	A demand and needs analysis was undertaken to identify the type of support that could be appropriately provided at Arosfa to better meet the needs of our young people, secure better outcomes and financial efficiency. This task included a desk top review of the needs of disabled children who have been placed in out of county residential provision, coupled with profiling the anticipated needs of young children already

	known to us, who are likely to require high cost, intensive packages of care in the future.
1.09	There is a clear need to both extend the respite provision at Arosfa as well as a need to offer support to highly dependent young people. Currently there are 9 children who are waiting for respite support at Arosfa. Additionally, we know that there is a cohort of children aged 5/6 who have profound and complex support needs and are likely to require respite within the next 2 years. There are 4 disabled children placed in out of county residential care and 3 children currently known to us who will potentially need residential support over the next 2 years. Insuring there is more than sufficient demand for the 2 additional beds.
1.10	A service model has been designed to respond to the increased demand placed on the Children's Services and to ensure we can appropriately respond to the assessed needs of children and their families. The Service model provides support for two additional highly dependent young people who will require support throughout the night.
1.11	Extending the service offered in Arosfa to include permanent placements for two looked after children provides opportunities to also enhance our existing respite provision. The provision would be open for 365 days a year which would enable us to increase the number of nights open in the short breaks facility to 360 nights per year in comparison to our current contracted 324 nights open. Therefore this gives us the option to increase the number of young people using the service to fully utilise the increased number of nights.
1.12	If Arosfa opens for 360 night's respite, potentially for 3 young people, the offer of visits would be up to 1080 visits a year. This compares to the current contract of 324 nights offering up to 972 visits. This would represent an increase of up to 108 visits a year.
1.13	The proposed model has been agreed with Health. Given the high level needs of the young people who will be supported through the provision an allocation of £200k revenue funding has been secured through the ICF. This allocation will fund the extended service provision at Arosfa i.e. supporting 2 looked after children in permanent placements and providing an increase of 108 respite visits a year.
1.14	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.
1.15	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.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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.
2.02	The revenue implications is £200k per annum, and that will be completely funded by the ICF. The arrangements will support two young people as an alternative to out of county residential placements. The proposal will enable young people to remain in Flintshire, enhancing opportunities to facilitate family and friend connections. The minimum annual cost for a residential placement is £182k with many placements exceeding this. Supporting two young people through the open market would therefore cost a minimum of £364k per year, and so this is a minimum anticipated cost avoidance for the council.

<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
3.01	Potential additional costs not included within the budget estimate could emerge as work progresses. Areas will be reviewed at the detailed design stage.
3.02	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.
3.03	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.
3.04	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.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
4.01	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.
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<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>7.00</b>	<b>CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS</b>
7.01	<p><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></p>

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
	<p><b>SHORT BREAK REPSITE:</b> This is the provision of overnight care and support and is determined by the needs of the child.</p> <p><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</p>