

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** THURSDAY, 26 JULY 2012  
**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES  
**SUBJECT:** SHORT BREAK PROVISION AT AROSFA

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise and inform members of the progress of the shortbreak service at Arosfa which will aim to provide respite care to children with disabilities in the age range 8 – 18 years.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 The Arosfa Unit has been used since the 1970s as a residential provision, with its last usage from 2004 -to its decommission in 2006 as a children's home for young people (11-16 years old).
- 2.02 The Unit was effectively 'mothballed' from 2006 - 2010 when it was agreed to re-open it as a shortbreak provision for children and young people with disabilities (aged between 8-19).
- 2.03 Subsequent reports to the then Leaders Strategy Group and Social Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee (2010) ratified the principle of its future usage. This recognised the increasing demands placed upon our existing two bedded unit (known as Cornel Clyd) and the demand placed upon our shortbreak foster carers and the need to expand the current resource.

During 2011/12 a number of key actions have been initiated.

- (i) Given the budget set for 2012-15 it was confirmed that the Unit would offer a 3 bedded facility for 350 days per year, compared to the current placement (Cornel Clyd) opening for 240 days with two beds. The original intent of a six bedded unit has been suspended pending future budget settlements.
- (ii) A procurement and tendering process for the 'social care' contract has been reached. This was awarded to Action for Children (May 2012) who operate the current facility Cornel Clyd on our behalf.

- (iii) Information and public meetings with the neighbours of Arosfa. Four meetings have been held (see Section 11.00) which have addressed:-
  - Parking concerns
  - Reassurance of needs and support levels of the children and young people in placement linked to historical concerns about the operation of the previous mainstream children's home.
  - Closer co-operation between the neighbours / Action for Children and the Local Authority.
- (iv) A procurement and tendering process resulted in local builders (MPH in Mold) undertaking a full refurbishment of the site, this was completed and returned to the Local Authority (May 2012).
- (v) In the accordance with the National Standards for the operating of a children's home, an application is currently before the Care & Social Services Inspectorate (Wales) for consideration and approval leading to registration of the premises.
- (vi) The parents currently benefiting from the Cornel Clyd resource have been informed of the forthcoming move from Connahs Quay to Mold.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 The need to provide shortbreak care for both children / young people and their parents / carers has been recognised for a number of years. It can provide:-
- Additional social / leisure opportunities for the child concerned
  - Increase social and personal growth
  - For the parents / carers it can alleviate the more demanding aspects of full-time care
  - Enable parents to engage in social / leisure activities
  - Provide parents with the opportunity to spend unrestricted time with other children in their family

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That the committee endorse the proposed opening of the new unit on the 12 September 2012 which will provide an additional resource to meet the needs of children / young people with a range of complex health, social and learning disabilities.
- 4.02 That the committee recognises the value of support and provision for this group of children / young people.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 The refurbishment and annual running costs have been met from all existing budgets.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 Enabling children / young people and families to engage in and utilise a provision which increases life and social opportunities.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 All features and refurbishments were set in accordance with appropriate planning and building regulations.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 This affords children / young people who experience limited social opportunities and exclusion with an effective environment to participate and contribute towards their own development.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 See 11.01.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 A series of public meetings have been held in November 2011 and February, April and July 2012.

11.02 These have addressed the issues of Parking / Residence relationship between neighbours / Action for Children / Local Authority. Further consultation is being undertaken with the CSSIW as part of the registration process.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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