COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REPORT SUBJECT: UPDATE ON INTERMEDIATE CARE FUND PROJECTS (ICF) 2014/15 AND 2015/16

REPORT AUTHOR: ALYSON HOSKINS – SERVICE MANAGER (ADULT SERVICES)

LEAD OFFICER/DEPARTMENT LIZ MAJER – CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Summary Report

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report has been developed to:

- Provide an update on the projects that were developed in 2014/15 as initial ‘pilot’ projects funded in the initial year of the Welsh Government Intermediate Care Fund (ICF).
- Outline the outcome of the pilot projects and the planned development for the continuation of this funding in 2015/16 following the announcement in February 2015 that the funding would be recurring in future years within the Adult Services budget settlement.

2. LINK TO CORPORATE STRATEGIES

2.1 Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014)
- Gwent Frailty Programme
- Supporting People Commissioning Plan (local and regional)
- Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010

3. SUMMARY/PROPOSALS

3.1 To summarise, this report outlines both the current and future use of Welsh Government Intermediate Care Funding (ICF) including details of the outcomes achieved for 2014/15 and proposals for continuation of 3 of the 4 pilot projects for 2015/16.

This report has been considered by Social Services Scrutiny Committee who fully support the recommendations.
4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 That Executive Members consider the report and endorse the achievements made through the development and outcomes of the pilot phase of the projects in 2014/15.

Agree to the planned continuation of the selected projects during 2015/16 following confirmation of recurring funding from 2015/16 onwards.
Detailed Report

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 In early 2014 Local Authorities and Health Boards across Wales were notified that a funding allocation of £50 million had been identified by Welsh Government with the intention of developing services that supports the introduction of new and/or proven ways of working so that public services become more efficient and effective. The grant aimed to achieve greater integration of social services, health and housing services delivering lasting and sustainable change. The purpose is to support people to maintain their independence and remain at home. The fund helps prevent unnecessary hospital admissions or inappropriate admission to residential care and to prevent delayed discharges from hospital.

The fund targeted strategic projects, in particular those that:

- Improve care co-ordination between social services, health and housing to prevent hospital admission and delayed discharge for older people;
- Promote and maximise independent living opportunities in response to referrals from health and care services;
- Support recovery and recuperation at home or through the provision of convalescence beds in the community setting.
- Across the former Gwent area a total of £8,094,888 bids both capital and revenue were submitted and subsequently approved by Welsh Government for a 12 month period to March 2015.

For Blaenau Gwent Social Services, this included the following new services for development:

1. Intermediate Care Scheme (Step Up/ Down) – 4 beds plus support posts and domiciliary care hours.
2. Community Connector / Coordinator posts – 2 posts followed by 2 further posts following some slippage to support carers
3. Enhanced Social Work Support in Community Resource Team (CRT) – 2 posts
The funding was both capital and revenue in nature and was initially designed for a 12 month period. For Blaenau Gwent the funding secured was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>£ Capital Funding</th>
<th>£ Revenue Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARIAD Beds</td>
<td>£67,000</td>
<td>£152,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRT social workers</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£78,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Connectors</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>£100,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHC training posts</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td>£80,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.2  **CARIAD Intermediate Care Scheme (Step Up/ Down) Beds:**

The CARIAD scheme saw the development of 4 intermediate care units in Blaenau Gwent within our existing 2 Extra Care Schemes and 1 Care Home (Red Rose, Ebbw Vale) where we use 2 bedrooms. The service provides an opportunity to support service users in the Community as opposed to hospital settings with:

- Short term reablement programmes which do not require hospital supervision and facilitate early hospital discharge / avoid hospital admission.
- Assessments for telecare, equipment and therapeutic interventions
- Assessments for long term accommodation solutions i.e. return home/ care home placements/ extra care facilities.
- Support during carer breakdown
- Support during periods of increased needs / dependencies where hospital admission is not required.

The rehabilitative support for the project is provided via the existing pathways to the Community Resource Team (CRT) with specific programmes of intervention being case managed via a Community Resource Team support workers and the in house home care domiciliary care provider. Additional benefits in relation to assessment and management of risks are promoted via telecare/tele-health provision. Night time cover in Extra Care is provided by existing Extra Care Night Home Care Team.
1.3  2. **Community Connector Posts**

The overall purpose of these posts are to support the Adult Services Division of the Social Services Department develop innovative strategies that enable citizens to enjoy more independent lives in their communities. The posts are aligned to the two Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCN's) in Blaenau Gwent and are part of the wider network of similar posts that have developed across the Gwent wide NCN locations. The posts are located within the Community Resource Team as an integral approach to the development of preventative services in Blaenau Gwent and have included 2 Community Connectors who have worked specifically to support family carers. Staff were recruited via internal secondments within BGCBC with an additional member of staff seconded to the department from Age Cymru.

1.4  3. **Enhanced Social Work Support in Community Resource Team (CRT)**

Historically we have never had social workers within Community Resource Team within Blaenau Gwent although from May 2014 we have had a senior practitioner for social work. As part of the ICF bid we have developed additional social work capacity to facilitate timely assessment, service commissioning and intervention for older people at a time of crisis/ deterioration in condition during the operational hours of the Community Resource Team including weekends, via a rota with therapy staff.

The aim of Social Work posts have been to:

- Prevent unnecessary admission to hospital or long term care via social care and / or third sector support to maintain people in their own homes outside of normal office hours.
- Provide support to carers during periods of crisis and increased caring responsibilities.
- Facilitate timely discharge from hospitals.
- Ensure multi-disciplinary team methods of working within the working hours of CRT and District Nursing Services.

During 14/15 this pilot included support to those hospitals within Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) (mainly Nevill Hall and Ysbyty’r Aneurin Bevan (YAB)) and those Blaenau Gwent residents in hospitals outside ABUHB footprint e.g. Prince Charles and University Hospital of Wales.
4. Social Work Training posts to support the implementation of the New Continuing Health Care Framework

These two training (social worker) posts were employed by Blaenau Gwent Social Services but were seconded to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (Complex Care Team) to assist in the training and implementation of the new Continuing Health Care (CHC) framework across the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board footprint.

On 16th December 2014 – Mark Drakeford (Minister for Health and Social Care) visited the Blaenau Gwent ICF projects and met with both staff and users of the services. The visit was extremely positive enabling us to showcase the creative solutions we had introduced using the investment from Welsh Government.

In February 15 Welsh Government announced that a further investment of £20 million would be available to keep people out of hospital and in their own home for 15/16. Of this figure £17.5m has been invested in the Intermediate Care Fund to continue projects from 14/15 which have proven to be successful in helping older and vulnerable people remain in their own homes, with the remaining £2.5m in the Intermediate Care Fund being used to identify those areas of good practice within the regional partnerships and ensure they are spread across Wales.

The regional allocations are for the ICF were:

- North Wales - £4.78m
- Mid and West Wales - £3.76m
- Western Bay - £3.46m
- Cwm Taf - £1.94m
- Gwent - £3.6m
- Cardiff and Vale - £2.46m

The allocation for Blaenau Gwent has been as follows and has enabled us to continue the following 3 projects on a permanent basis (funding was not continued for the CHC training posts as this was a one year training programme):
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2.0 **PRESENT POSITION**

Following confirmation of the recurring funding for these projects we have begun the process of transition from that of a ‘pilot’ project in 2014/15 to that of an embedded service within the developing prevention agenda in Adult Services. The permanent nature of the funding has enabled us to secure the temporary/secondment posts on a permanent basis and we are currently recruiting staff to:

- 4 Community Connectors posts
- 1 Occupational Therapist Post
- 2 Social Work posts CRT

In addition to this the previous providers of the CARIAD beds in the two extra care schemes and Red Rose Care Home are continuing working in partnership with us to provide step up/step down beds. This will build on the success of the pilots in 2014/15.

Work streams are currently in place reviewing the contact/front door arrangements for Adult Services Department and it is envisaged that the Community Connector posts will be integral in the screening and signposting of people who contact the department via our current C2BG arrangements. This will ensure that vulnerable people in Blaenau Gwent are provided with accurate and appropriate information to address their personal wellbeing outcomes.

3.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Continuation funding for these pilot projects has been secured via ongoing Welsh Government Intermediate Care (ICF) monies for 2015/16 and will not require any additional Social Services funding at the present time.
We have utilised additional Supporting People funding to provide a 4th community connector post in addition to the 3 that were funded via the ICF monies. This ensures that we have equity across the 2 NCN (Neighbourhood Care Networks).

4.0 RISK IMPLICATIONS

The ongoing development and support for these preventative services are critical in ensuring that we fulfil our strategic duties within the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 as they promote Service Users independence and ultimately reduce long term reliance on more traditional health and social care services.

5.0 PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Evidence to support the need to continuation of funding for the projects was based upon information collated during 2014/ including:

1. CARIAD – Step Up/Step Down

The 4 Step Up/Step Down beds funded via the Intermediate Care Fund during the last year have assisted to reduce the lengths of stay of some patients in Ysbyty'r Aneurin Bevan as well as avoid Delayed Transfers of Care’s (DToC) and prevent admissions. Although the project took some time to establish itself, from June 2014 the beds began to be increasingly used:

Activity

Between the 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015:

31 people have accessed the Project, (33 in total as of May 20th 2015). Of these:
- 11 people have accessed the beds for further assessment. 6 of these people were discharged from YAB and 5 were ‘stepped up’ from home.
- 4 people have accessed the beds to await re-housing or for home adaptations to take place. 2 of these were admitted from home, 1 person was admitted from YAB and 1 person from NHH.
• 9 people were admitted to avoid hospital admission. Of these 7 were admitted from their own homes due to not being able to cope. 2 were admitted directly from A & E in NHH.
• 7 people were admitted from YAB to reduce DToC. 1 of these was to await the outcome of a CHC dispute.

Outcomes achieved

Of the 31 people admitted to Step Up/Step Down beds between 1st April 2014 and 1st April 2014: -

3 were admitted to Nursing or Residential Care at the end of their stay.

• 14 people were admitted from hospitals – increasing the capacity of the project utilising the under spend on beds from the beginning of the project allowed additional capacity to be created to during the winter to alleviate pressure though utilising other Care Homes (3 people), utilising the guest bedroom in Llys Nant Y Mynydd (3 people) and utilising 3 additional beds within Red Rose Care Home.
• 1 person was discharged from CHC to EMI Nursing Care, then to Extra Care and now has a tenancy in an extra care scheme in her own right with 3 care calls per day.
• 20 people were discharged home. Some of these used the opportunities of living in extra care to apply for their own tenancies.
• 3 people were re-admitted to hospitals
• 2 people used the project twice – stepped down from Red Rose to Extra Care

2. Community Connectors

During 2014/15 the Community Connectors became a popular and effective service resource within Social Services. Again the project was delayed in starting due to recruitment timescales but all posts were filled by September 14 with the majority of staff time since then being apportioned between gathering information to support the community to meet needs, signposting of information, creation of new community groups and also direct Service User contact following referrals. During 2014/15 the following were received:

- Number of referrals – 117
- Number of carers referrals – 126
6.0 **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

We are currently recruiting permanent staff to the posts of:

- Community Connectors x 4 posts
- Social Worker Community Resource Team
- Support Worker Community Resource Team

This is due to the previous post holders being seconded members of staff due to the one off nature of funding for the initial pilots in 2014/15.

7.0 **PROPOSALS**

That Executive Members endorse the achievements made through the funding of the ICF grant for the initial year (2014/15) during its ‘pilot project’ phase.

Agree the utilisation of the continued funding for future years to assist the department in the development of preventative services as defined by the forthcoming Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014).

8.0 **SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

See attached case studies in *Appendix 1*.

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**LIZ MAJER**
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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