

**TAFLEN BENDERFYNIAD AELOD CABINET
CABINET MEMBER'S DECISION NOTICE**

PWNC/SUBJECT:

Adolygiad o Strategaeth Gofal yr Adran Blant a Chefnogi Teuluoedd
Review of the care strategy of the Children and Family Support Department

AELOD CABINET/CABINET MEMBER
Y Cyngorydd/Councillor Mair Rowlands

PENDERFYNIAD/DECISION

Cymeradwyo penderfyniad i ddad-gomisiynu uned breswyl Drws y Nant gan arwain at arbedion ariannol blynyddol o £687,000 a fydd yn cyfrannu tuag at arbedion ffeithlonrwydd yr adran o £1.25 milliwn.

Decision to decommission Drws y Nant residential unit leading to annual savings of £687,000, which will contribute to the department's efficiency savings of £1.25 million.

RHESYMAU DROS Y PENDERFYNIAD/REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Fe gynhaliwyd adolygiad systematig o ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau'r adran yn 2013-14 trwy brosiect Dechrau i'r Diwedd. Mae'r penderfyniad yn ymateb i'r her o drawsnewid y gwasanaeth mewn hinsawdd economaidd anodd er mwyn datblygu ymyrraeth gynnar a rhaglen waith ataliol, ac yn ogystal i yrru perfformiad amserol ar gyfer y plant hynny sydd angen bod yng ngofal y Cyngor.

A systematic review of the current structure of the provision of Services was undertaken in 2013-14 through the End to End Project. This decision is a response to the challenge of transforming the Service in a difficult economic climate to develop early intervention and prevention, as well as delivering a timely Service to those children who need to be looked after by the Council.

YSTYRIAETHAU PERTHNASOL/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

Fe gomisiynwyd y ddarpariaeth bresennol trwy Gweithredu Dros Blant yn 2008 ac mae wedi ei leoli yn yr adeilad presennol ers 2009. Yn flaenorol roedd y ddarpariaeth yn cael ei redeg yn uniongyrchol gan y Cyngor.

Mae'r uned yn darparu gofal ar gyfer plant 11-17 oed ac nid yw'n darparu ar gyfer gofal arbenigol neu unrhyw angen penodol. Cost flynyddol y cytundeb presennol yw £687,000 (cost uned o £2650 pan yn llawn). Mae cyfradd llenwi dros y 5 mlynedd diwethaf ychydig dros 60% ac felly mae cyfartaledd cost y pen dros yr un cyfnod yn £4300 yr wythnos. Golyga hynny felly bod cost gyfartalog unai'n cyfateb, neu ychydig yn uwch na lleoliadau preswyl allsirol, sydd fel arfer yn darparu ar gyfer lefel o anghenion uwch.

The residential unit currently was originally commissioned through Action for Children in 2008 and has been located in the current building since 2009. The unit was previously directly run by Gwynedd Council.

The unit provides care for 11-17 year old children and does not cater for any specialist or specific need. The annual cost of the agreement is £688,000 (unit cost of £2650 per week at full occupancy). The average occupancy level over the last five years is just over 60% and therefore the unit cost in terms of actual usage over this period is £4300. The unit cost therefore is either equivalent or higher than out of county residential placements, which usually cater for a higher level of need.

Mewn cyd-destun cynnal ystod o ddarpariaeth, nid yw'r uned yn darparu gofal ar gyfer anghenion arbenigol, ond mae'r costau yn cyfateb i, neu'n uwch na lleoliadau a archebir yn unigol ar gyfer pobl ifanc gyda lefel uwch o anghenion.

In terms of a continuum of provision, the unit does not cater for specialised needs, but costs are equivalent or higher than individual spot purchased placements for young people with a higher level of need.

Ar lefel cenedlaethol mae yna farn gynyddol y gellir diwallu anghenion plant yn well trwy leoliadau teuluol, sydd yn ei dro wedi arwain at gynnydd yn y defnydd o leoliadau maethu, ac sydd erbyn hyn yn cyfrif am dros dri chwarter o holl leoliadau plant mewn gofal.

On a national level there has been a growing view that family placements are better able to meet children's needs which has led to an increase in the use of foster care, and now accounts for nearly three-quarters of all care placements at any point in time.

Rhan greiddiol o waith yr adolygiad fu edrych ar system Gwasanaethau Plant yn ei gyfanrwydd, gan gymharu wedyn fesul y prif brosesau gwaith, y costau, perfformiad, niferoedd cleientiaid, a'r defnydd o'r gwahanol wasanaethau gydag awdurdodau eraill. Mewn cyfanswm, mae gwariant ar y Gwasanaeth Plant fesul pen o'r boblogaeth dan 18 oed tua 8% yn uwch na chanolrif cynghorau Cymru, a bron 30% yn uwch na chanolrif y "teulu". Mae'r gwahaniaeth yma rhwng lefel gwario Gwynedd a'r "teulu" yn gyfystyr â £3.5m. Mae gwariant ar ofal preswyl fesul pen o'r boblogaeth dros 70% yn uwch na chanolrif Cymru a dros dair gwaith yn uwch na chanolrif y "teulu"; mae'r gwahaniaeth yma rhwng Gwynedd a'r "teulu" yn gyfystyr â £2.2m.

A key component of the end to end review was to look at systems in childrens Services as a whole, comparing the main work processes, costs, performance, number of Service users and use of the various tyoes of Service with other local authorities. In total, children's Services expenditure per head of population under 18 years old was 8% higher than the median for Welsh local authorities, and almost 30% higher than the median for the "Family". The differential between Gwynedd's expenditure and the "Family" equates to £3.5 million. The expenditure on residential Services per head of population was

over 70% higher than the median for Wales and three times higher than the median for the "Family". This equates to a differential in expenditure of £2.2 million.

Mae'r uchod yn cadarnhau fod lefel gwariant Gwynedd ar Wasanaethau Plant yn sylweddol uwch na'r "teulu" o gynghorau tebyg a hynny ers nifer o flynyddoedd. Er hynny, nid yw'n ymddangos (o leiaf yn nhermau'r hyn adlewyrchir gan ddangosyddion perfformiad) fod y buddsoddiad uwch yma yn arwain at ganlyniadau sylweddol gwell i'r plentyn nag mewn awdurdodau eraill.

The above explains that Gwynedd's expenditure on children's Services is significantly higher than the "family" of local authorities for several years. Despite this it does not appear (at least in terms of what is demonstrable in performance indicators) that this higher level of investments has led to significantly better outcomes for children than in other local authorities.

Cadarnhawyd mai prif yrrwr y costau uwch yn y maes yma ydi niferoedd y plant mewn gofal, yn hytrach na chostau'r lleoliadau unigol. Yn y maes gofal preswyl y gwelir y gwahaniaeth mwyaf yn niferoedd Gwynedd o'i gymharu ag awdurdodau eraill. Mae'n ymddangos fod y nifer mewn lleoliadau preswyl yng Ngwynedd tua dwywaith neu deirgwaith yr hyn ellid ei ddisgwyl mewn awdurdodau eraill cyffelyb. Mae dadansoddiad anghenion plant sydd wedi eu lleoli mewn gofal preswyl yn dangos amrywiaeth yn natur yr anghenion sydd felly yn ei wneud yn anodd ystyried ail ddylunio datganiad o bwrsas y ddarpariaeth bresennol gan na ellid lleoli'r plant o fewn yr un uned breswyl. Yn ogystal, byddai cynllunio ar gyfer comisiynu mwy nag un uned yn golygu costau uwch na'r costau cyfredol.

It was confirmed that the main driver for higher costs in children's Services was the number of looked after children, rather than the cost of individual placements. The biggest difference can be seen in the number of residential placements. It appears that the number of children in residential placements was two or three times the number that could be expected in similar local authorities. A needs analysis of those children currently placed in residential care demonstrated a variety of different needs that could not be catered for within one residential unit, and it was not therefore possible to consider redesigning the statement of purpose of the current unit. In addition, planning for more than one residential unit would cost more than the current expenditure on residential care.

Yn sgil adolygu strategaeth gofal Gwasanaethau plant, ynghyd ag adolygiad Dechrau i'r Diwedd o fewn y gwasanaeth, mae angen canolbwyntio ar y canlynol er mwyn trawsnewid y gwasanaeth a chyfarfod a'r her a wynebir mewn cyfnod ariannol anodd:

- Lleihau'r nifer o blant mewn gofal.
 - Sicrhau gwasanaeth amserol ac effeithiol i blant sy'n dod mewn i ofal y Cyngor.
 - Datblygu gwasanaeth dwys i gefnogi teuluoedd.
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- Rhoi pwyslais ar ofal maeth fel y brif ffynhonnell o ddarpariaeth lleoliadau i blant mewn gofal.
 - Oherwydd cost uned uchel ynghyd a'r niferoedd, lleihau'r nifer o blant mewn gofal sydd mewn darpariaeth breswyl. Golyga hynny felly y bydd y Cyngor yn dod a'r cytundeb presennol gyda Gwithredu Dros Blant i ben.

The review of Gwynedd's care strategy, in line with the End To End Review of Children's Services, concludes that to transform the service and to meet the challenges faced in a difficult financial climate, there is a need to:

- *Reduce the number of looked after children.*
- *Ensure an effective and timely service to those children who become looked after.*
- *Develop services to provide an intensive provision of family support .*
- *Place an emphasis on foster care as the main source of provision of placements for looked after children.*
- *Due to the number of children looked after in residential care, combined with the high unit cost of residential care, the council will cease to commission its current residential service through Action For Children.*

Y Cyngor yw perchennog yr adeilad a phe bai'r penderfyniad yn cael ei gadarnhau, bydd trafodaethau'n cymryd lle gydag adrannau eraill o fewn y Cyngor er mwyn sicrhau defnydd o'r adeilad i'r dyfodol.

The Council owns the building and discussions with other departments within the Council will take place to ensure future use of the building should the decision be confirmed.

BARN Y SWYDDOGION STATUDOL/VIEWS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

1. Y Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive:-

Mae'r daflen yn glir iawn am y rheswm dros y symudiad hwn. Mae angen cyfarch anghenion y gwasanaeth mewn ffordd gwahanol yn awr a nid oes angen ar gyfer y sefydliad hwn yn y patrwm hynny. Mae hyn felly yn galluogi'r adran i gyfarch cyfran sylweddol iawn o'u arbedion effeithlonrwydd a sicrhau y bydd yr adnoddau sydd yn weddill yn cael ei gyfeirio yn ôl angen yn hytrach na'i fod ynghlwm â gwasanaeth neu sefydliad nad oes ei angen mwyach.

Yn amlwg, mae penderfyniad fel hyn yn gadael gwaddol o ran adeilad y mae angen gwneud defnydd ohono ac mae gan y Cyngor drefniadau ar gyfer delio â sefyllfaoedd o'r fath.

The decision notice is very clear about the reason for this move. The needs of the service now need to be addressed in a different way and there is no need for the current establishment within these arrangements. This will therefore enable the department to meet a very significant proportion of their efficiency savings and ensure that the remaining resources are directed according to need rather than being tied to a service or establishment that is no longer needed.

Clearly, such a decision leaves a vacancy in terms of a building that

needs to be made use of and the Council have arrangements for dealing with such situations.

2. Swyddog Monitro/ Monitoring Officer:-

Mae'r argymhelliad yn adlewyrchu canlyniad adolygiad o'r gwasanethau dan sylw mewn modd priodol ac yn amlygu ystyriaeth o ddefnydd amgen hefyd.

The recommendation reflects the outcome of a review of the service which was undertaken appropriately and also highlights consideration of alternative use for the building.

3. Prif Swyddog Cyllid/Chief Finance Officer:-

Bydd gweithredu'r penderfyniad hwn yn gam mawr tuag at wireddu rhan sylweddol o strategaeth cyflawni arbedion ariannol yr Adran Plant a Chefnogi Teuluoedd. Hefyd, bydd cyfanswm costau perthnasol y Cyngor yn gostwng, gyda'r dulliau mwy cost-effeithiol o ddarparu gofal i blant.

Implementating this decision will be a major step towards realising a significant part of the financial savings strategy for the Children and Family Support Department. In addition, the total relevant costs for the Council will decrease, with more cost-effective methods of providing care for children

BARN YR AELOD LLEOL/VIEW OF LOCAL MEMBER

Mae'r adeilad yn eiddo i'r Cyngor ac nid yw'n adeilad hen. Mae'n bwysig ei fod yn cael ei gynnal a'i gadw tra'n penderfynu ei ddefnydd hir dymor. O ystyried sefyllfa ariannol y Cyngor dylid gwneud yn siwr bod opsiynnau i ddefnyddio'r adeilad yn y dyfodol yn cael y sylw priodol cyn meddwl am y posibilrwydd o'i werthu.

The Council owns the building and it is not an old property. It is important that the building is maintained whilst its future long term use is decided. Given the Council's financial position it needs to be ensured that all options for its future use are considered prior to thinking about any possible sale of the building.

LLOFNOD /SIGNED

Mair Lawlands

DYDDIAD/DATE

15/01/16
