

LIVING INDEPENDENTLY IN BLAENAU GWENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

In November 2006, Blaenau Gwent Council agreed the implementation of a major new strategy for the care of older people.

“Living Independently in Blaenau Gwent in the 21st century” has been developed between the Council, health services, the voluntary sector, and private providers.

The main aim of the strategy is to develop community based support, which will allow older people to live as independently as possible for as long as possible.

The strategy underwent an extensive consultation process involving over 300 stakeholders, public meetings, meetings with residents and their families, and fact-finding visits to other, similar projects.

The first part of the strategy will include the closure of four of the Council's five residential care homes, which are now over 40 years old, and are struggling to meet the standards required. The homes have been carrying a high number of vacancies for some time as we have become more successful in supporting people in their own homes. The first home, Hafod Dawel, in Nantyglo, will close as soon as practicable, and work is underway with residents, families and staff to make transition to new care settings for the residents in the home as sensitive as possible. The Council is committed to ensuring all residents have their needs met before the home closes, and for this reason no final date has been agreed for closure.

The money saved from closure of the home will be reinvested in new services, including additional adaptations to people's own homes, 24-hour home care and support for preventative services from the voluntary sector.

The other three homes (Plas y Coed, Crawshay House and Cartref Aneurin Bevan) will close as the council develops alternative services which will include extra care sheltered housing and services in the community.

The Council's fifth home, Cwrt Mytton, was built later than the others, and is more able to meet required care standards. This will be developed to meet some of the specialist needs of frail older people.

The Council has already made a bid to Welsh Assembly Gov thA3wkRHRSEWEWJS3rkqEHPJWr

had notable success in supporting people and enabling people to return to