Support to regain independence in a Dementia Assessment Unit

☎ 01792 636519

Introduction
Most of us want to remain living at home, being as independent as possible. In recent years Social Services has seen an increase in the number of people with dementia who are admitted into a care home after a crisis. Whilst the initial plan is often to return home, this may not happen without the right kind of support. People can quickly lose their confidence and independence whilst in a care home and end up staying there long term.

Social Services have developed an Assessment Unit at Ty Waunarlwydd, which aims to help more people with dementia to continue to live at home.

What is an Assessment Unit?
The Assessment Unit is a specialist residential unit located in, but separate from, Ty Waunarlwydd residential care home. There, a specialist enablement team consisting of occupational therapy staff, social worker and care staff will work with you to help you regain lost abilities or learn new ways of doing things for yourself. All efforts will be concentrated on returning you home with ongoing support as appropriate.

Who is the service for?
The service is for adults aged 60+ living with dementia or cognitive impairment who wish to remain in or return to their own home and need a short period of specialist care and support to make this a possibility. This can include people who are currently at home, but in need of extra support. It could also be for someone who is medically fit to be discharged from hospital but who needs specialist support to regain skills and confidence to be able to return to live safely at home.

How will the Assessment Unit help?
The Assessment Unit will provide professional care and support that is needed to maximise your independence from the minute you arrive at Ty Waunarlwydd, with the clear purpose of getting you home as soon as possible.

Staff at Ty Waunarlwydd have considerable experience and expertise in working with and supporting people living with dementia. In Ty Waunarlwydd you will be encouraged and expected to do as much for yourself as possible, this is in order for staff to be able to assess your strengths and support needs. For example you will be encouraged to make your own breakfast/ drinks.

How can I arrange to use this service?
People must be referred to this service by a social worker. Before you can go to the Assessment Unit you or your carer will need to talk to one of our staff about your circumstances. This is to ensure that the Assessment Unit is the most appropriate place to provide support to you. During this conversation other options for providing care and support at home may also be considered.

Once we have agreed that the Assessment Unit is appropriate for you, we will make arrangements for your stay, and work with you to get you home as soon as possible.
Is there anything particular I need to bring with me?
You’ll need changes of clothing and nightwear along with the toiletries you normally use. You’ll also need outdoor clothes for your journey home. Please also bring all your current medication, any mobility aids you use and supplies of any continence products you use. The home will provide towels and bedding.

How long is the service for?
The service is short term, time limited and goal orientated. Stays are normally limited to a maximum of six weeks, though exactly how long you will need to stay will depend on your individual circumstances and people may stay for less than six weeks. We will aim to make your stay as short as possible, so that you can return to your own home as soon as you are able to manage, with or without ongoing care and support (e.g. Homecare). There is more information on care at home in our factsheet Care at Home.

It is not possible to convert your stay in the Assessment Unit into a longer-term residential care arrangement in Ty Waunarlwydd. If it is agreed at the end of your stay that further or long-term residential or nursing care is the right option for you, then you will need to have a separate assessment to work out how to move to a care home that is able to provide that service. This should not be the intended outcome on admission to the Assessment Unit.

The Assessment Unit is not a respite service and we do not have any emergency beds.

What happens while I am in the Assessment Unit?
Within the first ten days we will have a meeting to look at your strengths and identified support needs, and begin to plan for your return home.

Our aim is to work with you to build your skills and confidence and maximise your independence.

What happens when I return home?
Before you return home we will look at what care and support you may need on a long-term basis.

Any home care package you need will be arranged with the Social Services Residential Care Assessment Services team (RCAS). On your return home, whilst under the care of RCAS, the occupational therapy staff attached to the Assessment Unit will be able to offer input and support if required.

For people who do not have mental capacity, we will involve those who know you to ensure that decisions made are in your best interest.

Staff may explore with you ways in which assistive technology may be able to help you when you return home.

As you progress, we may arrange for you to have home visits and periods of time at home, with or without care and support, to help you re-familiarise with the home environment. Suitable arrangements for transportation to and from your home will need to be organised.

Ty Waunarlwydd does not have physiotherapy or nursing staff. If these services are required they will have to be accessed from external teams, e.g. via the Integrated Hubs – through the Intake Team (see page 3).

We do not have set visiting times as the aim is to provide a homely, not clinical, environment. However we ask visitors to be mindful of mealtimes and avoid these times if possible.

If you already get home care support from a private agency arranged by Social Services you will not have support from them during the period of time that you are in the Assessment Unit. (If you have arranged private care or support yourself you will need to make your own arrangements with the provider.) The necessary care and support will be provided by Social Services and health staff, both in the unit and during your home visits.
Your assessment will continue when you return home with the RCAS team, who will assess how you are managing at home, how many calls you require and the length of these calls. When RCAS care staff are satisfied that your package of care is right for you they will place your package of calls onto a Brokerage list and then a private agency will continue with your calls. Before the private agency takes over from RCAS there will be a meeting between yourself, RCAS and the new care agency so that they can get to know you.

**Is there a charge for the service?**
There is no charge for the first six weeks of the assessment service.
If you need to stay at Tŷ Waunarlwydd for longer than 6 weeks you will be charged for each night you stay beyond the 6 weeks. You will have a financial assessment completed to determine the exact cost.
Once your assessment period is complete, should you need ongoing residential or domiciliary care support you will be charged at the current rate for these services.

**How to contact Social Services**
If you already have a social worker or care manager you can contact them direct.
Otherwise please contact:
**Intake Team for Health and Social Care**
Civic Centre
Swansea SA1 3SN
Tel: 01792 636519
Email: Intake@swansea.gov.uk

Contact details for Tŷ Waunarlwydd
Swansea Road
Waunarlwydd
Swansea SA5 4SN

**Swansea Social Services and personal information**
When you are in touch with Social Services, we will keep information about you in written records and computer files. We will keep this information confidential, except where we need to share it with people providing you with care, or to protect you or other people.
You have a right to ask to see records we keep about you.
We can give you more information about how we handle personal information. Phone 01792 636902 for the factsheet *Your Personal Information*.

**Comments and complaints**
We welcome any comments about our services – good or bad. We are interested to hear how we could do things better, and we like to know when we are doing well.
If you are unhappy with the services you receive, we encourage you to make a complaint. Full details are given in the factsheet ‘Making a comment, complaint or compliment about Social Services.’ For more advice or information about making a complaint, you can contact our Complaints Officers on 01792 637345.

This information is also available in Welsh and in alternative formats, such as large print, on audio CD, in Braille, or electronically. Please phone 01792 636902 for copies.