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Bridgend County Borough Council



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Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
dewis iaith.*

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Gwasanaethau Gweithredol a Phartneriaethol / Operational and Partnership Services

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
643147

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Mrs Julie Ellams

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 31 October 2017

Dear Councillor,

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

A meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Monday, 6 November 2017 at 9.30 am.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 14
To receive for approval the minutes of a meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 of the 14th September 2017.
4. Forward Work programme Update 15 - 28
5. Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project Invitees 29 - 36

Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing;
Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;
Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care;
Pete Tyson, Group Manager – Commissioning;
Lauren North, Commissioning and Contract Management Officer;
Natalie Silcox, Group Manager Childrens Regulated Services.
6. Urgent Items
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be

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transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully

P A Jolley

Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services

Councillors:

JPD Blundell

NA Burnett

RJ Collins

SK Dendy

DK Edwards

J Gebbie

Councillors

RM Granville

M Jones

DG Owen

JC Radcliffe

B Sedgebeer

JH Tildesley MBE

Councillors

LM Walters

CA Webster

A Williams

AJ Williams

Registered Representatives

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1
HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 1/2/3, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31
4WB ON THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 9.30 AM

Present

Councillor A Williams – Chairperson

Councillors

JPD Blundell
DK Edwards
A Williams

Councillors

NA Burnett
J Gebbie
AJ Williams

Councillors

RJ Collins
JC Radcliffe

Councillors

SK Dendy
LM Walters

Registered Representatives

C Jackson
W Bond
Rev Canon Edward J Evans

Apologies for Absence

M Jones
B Sedgebeer
MC Voisey

Officers:

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Michelle Hatcher	Group Manager - Inclusion
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Catherine Lewis	Chair of Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance
Denise Inger	Chief Executive Director SNAP Cymru
Dr Stephen Beyer	Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine, Cardiff
Councillor CE Smith	Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Education

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 dated 4 July 2017 be approved as a true and accurate record, subject to Reverend Canon Evans being added to the list of attendees at the meeting.

9. ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN) REFORM

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to inform Committee of the developments of the ALN reform in Wales and how as a local authority the Council were preparing for its introduction; the status of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill, and information regarding career pathways for pupils with ALN.

The Scrutiny Officer gave an introduction to the report, following which the Invitees were invited into the meeting.

The Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration advised that he was excited about the above changes that were proposed, and the aims of the new Bill, particularly the single legislative system relating to the support given to children and young people aged between 0 to 25 years who have ALN.

The Chairperson then called upon the Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement to give a power point Presentation on the above topic and the work progressed to date in respect of this.

Following the conclusion of the Presentation, the Chairperson opened up the meeting for questions.

A Member referred to page 12 of the report and one of the aims of the Bill, where it stated that currently only 2.7% of children and young people in Wales have a statement of special educational needs, whereas the new system provides a statutory plan for around 22% of learners with an additional learning need aged between 0-25 years. She asked if this was realistic in terms of being achieved, and/or would the proposal be more of a box ticking exercise that would merely generate increased paperwork.

The Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement, advised that there was a considerable amount of good work ongoing with regard to this aim of the Bill. The Bill would provide local authorities with the opportunity to re-focus on and improve even further, early intervention and prevention measures presently in place, regardless of the proposed statementing increase. The proposal she added may in fact lead to an increase in Individual Development Plans (IDP's) as opposed to an increase in Statements, as was indicated in the report.

The Chairperson of Third Sector Additional needs Alliance added that there was a fear over the increase in numbers of Statements and IDP's and the obvious increase in work that this would generate. The IDP's would cover all those young people on School Action and School Action Plus currently. There would be a standard template, and the content of the IDP would be dependent upon the individual needs of the child in question.

The Chief Executive Director SNAP Cymru was of the opinion that there would not necessarily be any more paperwork in view of the projected increase in Plans under the new system, though the IDP's would be more targeted in terms of their content than that of Statements which were compiled under the present regime. Resources would be targeted through outcomes for children she added. All in all, she felt that the new process would build confidence in schools for teaching staff, that would in turn, lead to increased confidence for the parents of children at all individual schools. Better use of resources would also result in better outcomes for young people she felt.

A Member noted from page 21 of the report, that currently only 7% of learners with significant ALN end up in employment, whilst many more are supported by home or are dependent on Adult Social Services. She felt that efforts could be targeted to increase this percentage.

The Senior Lecturer School of Medicine, Cardiff, advised that this percentage related to England as opposed to Wales, where the number had not been identified. In England the percentage of autistic young people who were unemployed was higher than this at 15%. He felt that to improve these figures (including in Wales), there needed to be in

place increased coaching for these young people in order that they may gain further confidence to overcome the interview process when it came to employment opportunities. There was too much focus possibly he felt on adults rather than those of transitional age and/or those individuals with the less complex disabilities.

A Member felt that Schools Curricula could be more relaxed so as to concentrate on the differing needs of those young people that have ALN.

The Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that schools in Wales could adjust their Curriculum for all young people aged 5 – 16. Estyn were presently looking at the curricula for individual groups rather than cohorts as a whole, and how schools will manage and fund this overall.

The Chairperson noted that other local authorities in Wales were progressing well in terms of young people leaving education with 5 GCSE's or above, and he asked if Bridgend CBC were benchmarking these authorities for reasons of good practice.

The Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that good practice initiatives were looked at across a broader spectrum of educational issues collaboratively through the Central South Consortium, including for those young people with ALN.

A Member noted that historically BCBC had moved away from completing Statements, including for pupils with ALN. She asked how the new legislation would be implemented if Statements were not being completed. She felt that increased funding should be provided by Welsh Government to help support schools in this regard.

The Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement, advised Members that 3 or 4 years ago the completion of Statements in BCBC had been very low, however, since then this had increased as had support for young learners. She added that each child with ALN was 'tracked' in school regardless whether or not Statements were completed for them. They were sufficiently and equally supported either way.

The Member followed-up by stating that children aged 14 – 15 for whom Statements were completed, often requested more educational support but subsequently did not receive this. This often resulted in that pupil having an uncertain future.

The Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that the new IDP's did give better support to pupils with ALN, and that these covered 3 areas of support, namely action required by the school ie known as School Action, School Plus action, where support was also sought from outside the school and from the requirements of the Statement itself. As alluded to earlier in proceedings, pupils were tracked in order to ascertain if they required continued or different support based upon their ongoing needs, as they became older.

A Member asked in terms of requests for support through the likes of Statements and IDP's, how many had been made in the last 12 months and how quickly appropriate levels of support were put in place for these individuals.

The Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement advised that an ALN Request for Help Panel met fortnightly and considered such applications for support, with parental consent. The Panel comprised of key personnel including the Head teacher of the School or relevant representative, and an Officer from the Education Department of BCBC. The cases would be discussed each on their own merits, and a list of appropriate actions were subsequently then compiled. There was also a trend currently that showed an increase in the number of children with ASD. A report had therefore recently been

presented to Cabinet, in order to seek to open a further Learning Resource Centre to meet this increase in demand by putting in place further suitable support.

A Member asked how long assessments took to process including putting together an appropriate response in terms of any actions of support that are required as a result of such assessment.

The Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that there was a 26 week timescale for this which was statutory and which BCBC complied with.

A Member noted that BCBC were 20th lowest out of the 22 local authorities in Wales when it came to producing ALN Statements.

The Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that one of his predecessors did not adopt a system whereby Statements were produced that frequently, and this trend to a degree had continued since she left. This did not mean however that Statements were not completed where and when they were required. Local authorities however did not have to process a large number of these in order to ensure that the quality of learning and education required for and delivered to a child with ALN was being provided, as there were other support mechanisms in place that achieved this.

A Member was aware of the fact that the Educational Psychology Service in BCBC was under pressure due to ongoing financial restraints, and due to this, schools often found it difficult to access their services in the support of pupils. He was aware that there had been discussions regarding the future of this service and the one in the Vale of Glamorgan CBC, combining to work collaboratively. He asked if any further developments had been made in respect of these.

The Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement advised that no such collaboration had taken place in respect of this service provision, though discussions regarding this were ongoing, as well as possibly combining this service with other neighbouring authorities through the Central South Consortium. She added that the Educational Psychologists did make a certain number of visits to all schools in the County Borough as a matter of course. However, if a school required extra such visits over the prescribed number, then they had to pay for this extra service through Traded Services.

The Member followed-up by asking if schools needed such extra visits, then they would not necessarily have the funding to pay for these.

The Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement advised that discussions were ongoing in respect of this as part of possible future proposals regarding the alignment of the Educational Psychology service, and there was a push for more emphasis on this service being made through the Bill.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, added that it was important also for different areas of expertise to be shared wider, through closer integrated working between not only for example, the Education Psychologist teams of neighbouring authorities, but also through related teams within the same Authority working closer, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder; Cognition and Learning and Hearing/Speech Impairment, and Behavioural Support teams. These support services working closer together to cater for increase in demand and cuts in budget, helped build resilience and make money go further, and this was something that Authorities comprising the Consortia were also looking at more collaboratively, including where

possible, the scope for sharing these services by providing them through joint working or collaborative methods.

A Member felt that the Council should consider writing to Welsh Government to ask for extra resource in order to meet the requirements of the ALN Reform and the accompanying Bill, as local authorities would quite simply not be able to meet all the demands of these.

A Member asked if due to the consequences of the Bill and the lack of clarity in the Code of Practice, this would result in an increase in the future of Tribunals and legal challenge as a result of a similar interest in 'disagreements'. He felt that the intention was to resolve disputes at a more local level, and asked how parents would be informed of this, and whether they would be able to meet the demands of this possible change, both from a pressure and financial perspective.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised that he could not answer the above question at this time, though issues such as this and other concerns associated with the Bill were presently being debated with Welsh Government. He did add however, that a key component of the Bill was identifying ways of working better with children and their parents/guardians.

The Chief Executive Director of SNAP Cymru advised that her organisation worked well with BCBC, and always looked to avoid disagreements where possible by working effectively with families, schools and agencies, in order to achieve a pupils needs and requirements without necessarily Statementing.

The Member asked if Educational Support organisations would be looking to change the wording of the Code where appropriate, in order to avoid disputes and Tribunals.

The Chief Executive Director of SNAP said that this would be pursued, along with other general areas of concern.

A Member noted that schools were, due to decreased funding, finding it difficult to take on ALN Co-ordinators. This meant that support for children with ALN was reducing.

The Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement advised that an Expert Group had been established to look at this, as it had been identified that such support through these Co-ordinators differed considerably from school to school. Due to this, extra training had been provided to teaching staff, with the aim that a designated member(s) of staff would provide such a supporting role at any school. There were currently 9 specialist ALN trainers undertaking this form of training presently at schools within the County Borough.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support added, that there was an ambition to train all teaching staff at schools so that they could provide adequate support to children with ALN.

The Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement further added that this training would also be evaluated in order to ensure that it was effective.

A Member felt that more work could be achieved with regard to improved support for children with ALN, such as greater emphasis being placed on them progressing their learning after school through College and Higher avenues of education, hence enhancing their employment opportunities, and that funding opportunities should be fully explored in order to achieve this.

The Senior Lecturer School of Medicine, Cardiff, advised that this was something that was working more effectively in England than in Wales currently, though some work was ongoing to improve education and employment opportunities for young people with ALN in the County Borough, through working with certain larger organisations where there were more employment opportunities, and places of higher education, such as for example Bridgend College where people could further develop their skills in order to secure employment. Opportunities for improved job coaching should also be explored he added, through organisations such as Workchoice and SES.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support further added that work was developing in respect of initiatives along the lines of the above, including through developing training (both vocational and academic) and apprenticeship opportunities with places of higher education and local companies. This work would concentrate not just on individuals with ALN but also those who were autistic.

The Chair of the Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance, added that there was unfortunately a bit of a stumbling block with regard to the above, in that apprenticeships were not covered by IDP's, as employers seen this as a burden. She was of the opinion that the Welsh Government should be challenged on this.

A Member referred to Appendix A of the report and page 21, where it made reference to the fact that currently in the UK, 7% of learners with significant ALN end up in employment whilst many more supported by home or are dependent on Adult Social Services, the costs of which range from £25k to £70k per year dependent upon the nature of the support package. This he noted however, was data that had been made available in England. This was a significant cost implication to be borne by local authorities, and if a similar scenario to this applied in Wales, then he was concerned of the financial burden this would put on the resources of the Council and partner providers. He felt that funding initiatives should therefore be looked at in respect of post 16 learners with ALN, in order to better their prospects of training and employment opportunities, including where appropriate, scoping work with a view to introducing more apprenticeships.

The Chairperson referred to the cost for funding the Bill and how initially this had been just over £4m over 4 years, but had now been raised to around £8.3m for the same period. He asked how this level of funding would be provided as it was a considerable sum. He asked if there was scope for a percentage of this to be funded through a Revenue Support Grant.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised that there was some considerable concern regarding the funding of the Bill and ALN Reform etc, and representations had been made to Welsh Government in relation to this, both from local authorities and third sector organisations. The added burden on schools also required addressing in particular, he added.

A Member was of the opinion that there would be an increase in referrals as a result of the introduction of the Future Generations and Wellbeing Act, and she noted that this may bring about a problem, particularly as there was little or no reference made to "Referrals" in the proposed Bill. If frontline staff who support services such as those introduced by the Bill get an influx of extra work as a result of it being introduced, then this could lead to jobs within the Authority having to be further evaluated by the Job Evaluation team. The result of this could also mean more costs being incurred by the Authority for increased pay rates.

The Chairperson expanded upon debate earlier in the meeting, where a Member raised concern about there being a lack of ALNCO's at schools to provide expert support to

pupils with ALN. He felt that this should definitely be raised in any representations made to the Bill and ALN Reform.

The Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement advised that needed to be at least one specialist ALNCO at a school, and this applied to all schools that were located within Bridgend County Borough.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised that workforce issues as a result of the introduction of the Bill would be addressed with Welsh Government, after being shared and discussed on a regional basis. There was little doubt he added however, that the aims and objectives of the Bill would inevitably result in increased work pressures for staff in the Education system.

The Chairperson asked if there was any information available that could be shared with the Committee, in respect of a breakdown of the Budget for his Directorate.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised that the overall funding for Education and Family Support for 2017-18 including schools, equated to £108,448,000. This represented 50.2% of BCBC's budget.

In terms of the breakdown of the above for schools, he added that this was as follows:-

- (1) Primary Schools - £43,903,620
- (2) Secondary Schools - £35,269,324 (excluding £6.172m WG Post-16 grant)
- (3) Special Schools - £7,908,160
- (4) In-Year delegation fund - £80,216

The total funding delegated to schools was therefore £87,161,320

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support added that in 2016/17, Bridgend was ranked 7th highest out of the 22 local authorities in Wales, in relation to the percentage of its overall budget that was allocated to Education Services (85.5%).

He added that more information regarding the above would probably be made available following Welsh Government's Autumn settlement, and this could adjust to some degree or another, the above statistics.

The Chairperson stated that he hoped the Cabinet would take into consideration the financial impact that the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Reform would have on the local authority, when setting the Council's Budget for 2018-19, particularly as this brought about a cut of 2.4% to Special Educational Needs (SEN) in the last financial year.

He added that in his opinion there was a possibility that the Bill would be compromised by a lack of central funding, and the Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine, Cardiff concurred with his view.

As this concluded the business on this item, the Chairperson thanked the Invitees for attending and responding to questions, following which they retire from the meeting.

The Committee agreed to make a series of comments and recommendations for submission to the Directorate and Welsh Government for them to incorporate in their consideration of the Draft Bill, its Code and guidance.

The Committee recommended:-

1. That sufficient, long term funding be attached to the Bill; without which presents a great risk to its implementation and to vulnerable young people with ALN;
2. That this funding be ring-fenced by Local Authorities and Schools to ensure it is used to meet the needs of the Bill and the needs of young people with ALN;
3. That specific funding for Post-16 ALN provision be identified and allocated as an invest to save measure;
4. That job coaching schemes be considered for introduction in Wales, based on the success experienced in England for young people with ALN accessing work through such schemes;
5. That provision be made in the Bill to incorporate the involvement and role of the Educational Psychologist who currently plays a major role in the establishment and delivery of support and services for those with ALN;
6. That provisions in the Bill and the Draft Code are sufficiently robust to ensure that there is an early resolution of disagreements to prevent escalation to tribunals;
7. That more funding and provision be provided in Wales for schemes such as 'Access to Work' to assist individuals with Additional Learning Needs with gaining employment;
8. That apprenticeships be incorporated into the Bill as a method for young people to progress into employment;
9. That there be stronger links made between the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, particularly in relation to transition;
10. That guidelines be developed and incorporated under the Bill for the number of children and young people allocated to an ALNCO;
11. That suitable support and resources be allocated to support frontline staff such as ALNCOs and Teachers in order to ensure they are able to deal with the extra responsibilities under the Bill and manage with increased workloads;
12. That allowance be made for the associated costs for frontline staff based on the expected need for Job Evaluation on any new appointments or additional duties;
13. That the Bill be amended to provide greater clarity on when the local authority has to take responsibility from schools for developing and delivering IDPs;
14. That budgeted gross expenditure on ALN provision in 2018/19 is increased in preparation for the implementation of new legislation to assist in the transition period;
15. That the Authority works towards ensuring that a minimum of 80% of the budget allocated to ALN pupils is delegated to individual schools and that mechanisms should be in place to ensure those schools are using the funding for its stated purpose of supporting ALN;
16. That the bill be amended to provide greater clarity on when the local authority has to take responsibility from schools for developing and delivering IDPs;
17. That health bodies and medical professionals have a statutory duty enshrined in the Bill to report that a child/young person under or over compulsory school age has ALN.
18. That there is provision in the Bill for childminders and those working in childcare settings to have a clear pathway to raise concerns that a child may have ALN.
19. That the Local Authority considers how home to school transport arrangements will be affected as part of the new provisions contained in the Bill?
20. That the Authority learns from best practice from local authorities from Wales and beyond in an effort to improve the academic performance of those young people with ALN achieving level 2 threshold inclusive which currently stands at 26.3%.
21. That the Authority assesses the required resources, workforce planning and training arrangements to support implementation of the Bill.
22. That the Authority looks to strengthen its relationship with the FE sector in Bridgend to make the provisions of the Bill work effectively, especially in the challenging transition to further education and work-based learning.

23. That the Authority explore whether any work has been carried out in the third sector on analysis of the resulting costs associated with support for adults who have not had sufficient educational provision as a young person. Furthermore that if this has not already been undertaken by those in the third Sector that the Authority look to commission an independent analysis of these associated costs, both directly to the LA as well as indirectly to other public services. Such an analysis would help put the costs of supporting children with ALN into perspective.

Future Work

The Committee requested that the subject of ALN be revisited by Scrutiny in the future at a time when the Bill has been further progressed to include consideration of the following points:

- a) How the Authority and Schools are engaging with parents over the changes to the Bill?
- b) What the finalised process is for assessments and who is responsible for leading with them?
- c) What involvement/responsibilities do Educational Psychologists have under the Bill?
- d) Has the Bill led to an increase in tribunals and what impact has this had? This is set against the context of the recent announcement by the Lifelong Learning Minister that instead of saving £4.8m over four years the Bill could potentially cost £8.2m due to an expected increase in the number of cases of dispute resolution.
- e) Given that the Bill focuses on the involvement of young people and their parents, what support is available for those involved in court disputes?
- f) Outcomes from the Supported Internship programme.
- g) Support for those with ALN into employment.
- h) Staffing - Protection and support for staff, ALNCO support, workloads and capacity.
- i) Pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes and impact of Bill on capacity of teachers to support pupils with ALN
- j) How is the implementation of the Bill being monitored; what quality assurance frameworks are there and what accountability for local authorities, consortiums and schools?

Further Information

The Committee requested that they receive detail of how many requests for support for children and young people with ALN have been received over the last 12 months and how long it has taken from request to an assessment been carried out.

10. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM COORDINATED WORKING GROUP - INFORMATION REPORT

The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to present arrangements for strengthening democratic accountability and scrutiny of the school improvement function in the Central South Wales Consortium.

By way of background information, the report confirmed that the Central South Wales Consortium is responsible for school improvement on behalf of five local authorities, namely Bridgend, Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and the Vale of Glamorgan. The Consortium is accountable to the local authorities through a Joint Committee comprising the relevant Cabinet Member for each Local Authority.

The Scrutiny Officer advised that the Consortium Officers have met regularly with the five Scrutiny Committee Chairs in the Central South Consortium as a group. Officers representing/working for the five local authorities have also attended. Part of the discussion had revolved around developing a 'regional' element to scrutiny work in

addition to the current individual local authority scrutiny programme as outlined in the report.

The group's discussion included consideration of the findings from a Cardiff Business School study on co-ordinated Scrutiny, as well as the Erw model of co-ordinated scrutiny, and further details of these were included in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

The Scrutiny Officer added, that using the Erw model, the group proposed to establish a formal working to consider regional performance and share best practice and information.

Appendix A to the report, provided detail of the proposal, including how many meetings to be held and the standing items to be considered by the group, as were detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report.

Paragraph 4.3 of the report contained proposed further items for consideration in addition to the suggested standing items. The group would also report annually to each relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in each local authority, as well as provide recommendations to the Consortium's Joint Committee.

It was further proposed that the document attached to the report containing the group's approach and Terms of Reference be presented to each participating Local Authority for agreement, following which it will be presented to the Central South Consortium Joint Committee for final approval, at its meeting in December 2017.

RECOMMENDED: That the Committee:-

- (1) Agreed the proposal attached at Appendix A to the report, to establish a Scrutiny Working Group to consider regional performance and share best practice and information.
- (2) Further agreed to forward the attached proposal to Council for approval, prior to submission to the Central South Consortium Joint Committee.

11. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report, the purpose of which, was to present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) including the next item delegated to Subject overview and Scrutiny Committee 1(SOC1); to present Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation, and to ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form.

The report firstly gave some background information, following which the Scrutiny Officer referred Members to Appendix A attached to the report, which was the overall Forward Work Programme (FWP) which included the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next round of SOSC's in Table 1, as well as a list of topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table 2.

The Committee were being asked firstly to consider the next topic they have been allocated by the COSC in Table 1, and determine what further detail they would like the report to contain; what questions they wish Officers to address, and if there are any further Invitees they wish to attend for this meeting to assist Members in their investigation.

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - THURSDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Scrutiny Officer also stated that the Committee were further requested to prioritise up to 6 items from the list in Table 2, to present to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for formal prioritisation and designation to each SOSC for the next round of meetings.

The remainder of the report referred to Corporate Parenting obligations, and to remind Committee of the Criteria form that Members could use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDED: Subsequent to the Committee's discussion Members determined the following in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work Programme:-

That the items below were highlighted by the Committee as priorities for the next set of meetings to be presented to the COSC for formal prioritisation.

- Schools Strategic Review – proposed for 10 January 2018
- School Standards Report – proposed for 8 February 2018
- The Economic Prosperity of BCBC – The Committee proposed that this be considered early in 2018, as the detail of the Revenue Support Grant will then be known.

It was also agreed that the following items were important, and needed to be prioritised for later in the FWP.

1. School Modernisation – The Committee agreed to add this to the overall FWP, and proposed that it be considered in March 2018.
ALN Reform – The Committee also agreed that the subject of ALN should be put forward for next year's FWP, so that it can be reconsidered at an appropriate time when Scrutiny are able to monitor the implementation of the Bill.

12. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

6 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of the Report

- a) To present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee including the next item delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b) To present the Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation;
- c) To ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2016–2020 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The Corporate Improvement Objectives were adopted by Council on 1 March 2017 and formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2016 and 2020. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the terms of Bridgend County Borough Council's Constitution, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee must publish a Forward Work Programme (FWP) as far as it is known.
- 3.2 An effective FWP will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted; i.e. will the Committee be undertaking a policy review/ development role ("Overview") or performance management approach ("Scrutiny").

Feedback

- 3.3 All conclusions made at Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC) meetings, as well as recommendations and requests for information should be

responded to by Officers, to ensure that there are clear outcomes from each topic investigated.

- 3.4 These will then be presented to the relevant Scrutiny Committee at their next meeting to ensure that they have had a response.
- 3.5 When each topic has been considered and the Committee is satisfied with the outcome, the SOSC will then present their findings to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) who will determine whether to remove the item from the FWP or to re-add for further prioritisation at a future date.
- 3.6 The FWPs will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each SOSC and any information gathered from FWP meetings with Corporate Directors and Cabinet.

4. Current Situation / Proposal

- 4.1 Attached at **Appendix B** is the overall FWP for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees which includes the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next set of SOSCs in Table A, as well as a list of topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B. This list has been compiled from suggested items from each of the SOSCs at previous meetings as well as the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It also includes information proposed from Corporate Directors, detail from research undertaken by Scrutiny Officers and information from FWP Development meetings between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet.
- 4.2 The Committee is asked to first consider the next topic they have been allocated by the COSC in Table A and determine what further detail they would like the report to contain, what questions they wish Officers to address and if there are any further invitees they wish to attend for this meeting to assist Members in their investigation.
- 4.3 The Committee is also asked to then prioritise up to six items from the list in Table B to present to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for formal prioritisation and designation to each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the next set of meetings.

Corporate Parenting

- 4.4 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend. ¹

- 4.5 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects children in care and care leavers, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 4.6 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet-Committee and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.

Identification of Further Items

- 4.7 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to ensure a strategic responsibility for Scrutiny and that its work benefits the organisation.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council's Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council constitution to be updated.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equality implications attached to this report.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Committee is recommended to:
- (i) Approve the feedback from the previous meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and note the list of responses including any still outstanding attached at Appendix A;
 - (ii) Identify any additional information the Committee wish to receive on their next item delegated to them in the FWP including invitees they wish to attend to assist Members in their investigation;
 - (iii) Prioritise up to six items from Appendix B utilising the FWP Table below;

- (iv) Identify any further detail required for other items in the overall FWP at Table B;
- (v) Identify suitable items for Webcasting from the overall Forward Work Programme.

FWP Table

DATE OF MEETING	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT
7 March 2018	SOSC 2	
12 March 2018	SOSC 1	
21 March 2018	SOSC 3	
16 April 2018	SOSC 1	
17 April 2018	SOSC 2	
19 April 2018	SOSC 3	

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Background documents

None.

Feedback from Previous Meeting

Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments	Follow up required
14-Sep-2017	Additional Learning Needs Reform	Following their consideration of the item and the evidence received, the Committee agreed to make a series of comments and recommendations for submission to the Education and Family Support Directorate as well as a number of recommendations to be forwarded to Welsh Government for consideration in the development and implementation of the Bill, its Code and guidance.	Needs revision prior to sending to Cabinet due to timig issue.	
		<p>The Committee requested that the subject of ALN be revisited by Scrutiny in the future at a time when the Bill has been further progressed to include consideration of the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How the Authority and Schools are engaging with parents over the changes to the Bill? b) What the finalised process is for assessments and who is responsible for leading with them? c) What involvement/responsibilities do Educational Psychologists have under the Bill? d) Has the Bill led to an increase in tribunals and what impact has this had? This is set against the context of the recent announcement by the Lifelong Learning Minister that instead of saving £4.8m over four years the Bill could potentially cost £8.2m due to an expected increase in the number of cases of dispute resolution. e) Given that the Bill focuses on the involvement of young people and their parents, what support is available for those involved in court disputes? f) Outcomes from the Supported Internship programme. g) Support for those with ALN into employment. h) Staffing - Protection and support for staff, ALNCO support, workloads and capacity. i) Pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes and impact of Bill on capacity of teachers to support pupils with ALN j) How is the implementation of the Bill being monitored; what quality assurance frameworks are there and what accountability for local authorities, consortiums and schools? 	These will be incorporated into the FWP	

		<p>Further Information The Committee requested that they receive detail of how many requests for support for children and young people with ALN have been received over the last 12 months and how long it has taken from request to an assessment been carried out.</p>	<p>Academic Year 2016/17.</p> <p>Cognition and Learning Team. The number of referrals received through ALN the request for help panel were approximately 252 which would include dyslexia assessments, DCD and cognitive levels for the learning resource centres (LRCs.)</p> <p>The time-frame:- from referral to assessment could vary from two to twelve weeks.</p> <p>Complex Medical Team (CMMI) The number of ancillary support requests were approximately 33.</p> <p>The time-frame:- from referral to assessment could vary from a few days to twelve weeks.</p> <p>Educational Psychology Service. The number of referrals received between September 2016 to July 2017 were approximately 363. Assessments were undertaken and reports were written.</p> <p>There were a number of other Children and Young People discussed at consultation level at the school where school staff may be sign posted to other agencies. Educational Psychologists attend reviews for a number of young people and these are not captured in the data.</p> <p>The time frame:- to start the assessment is usually around four weeks.</p> <p>Speech and Language Team. The number of referrals that went to the additional learning needs (ALN) request for help forum were 70. There were also approximately 25 additional referrals which required some action.</p> <p>The time frame:- all were dealt with within a month.</p> <p>Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Team. The number of referrals that went to the additional learning needs (ALN) request for help forum were approximately 82.</p> <p>The time frame:- all were dealt with within a month.</p>	
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Table A

The following items were previously prioritised by the Subject OVS Committees and considered by Corporate at its last meeting where the top three items were scheduled in for the next round of meetings:

Date	Subject Committee	Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested Invitees	Prioritised by Committees	Webcast
06-Nov-17	SOSC 1	Residential Remodelling - Children's	Appraisal of the options and proposed new model for children's residential provision and use of therapeutic interventions. (Pre decision item)	Pre decision Scrutiny item - November 2017 prior to going to Cabinet		Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Pete Tyson, Group Manager – Commissioning; Lauren North, Commissioning and Contract Management Officer; Natalie Silcox, Group Manager Childrens Regulated Services.	SOSC 1 SOSC 2	14/09/2017
22-Nov-17	SOSC 3	Waste	New Waste scheme Why scheme was not rolled out over a number of months AHP Waste bags – what is being done to address dignity issue? Road sizes – what is being done about streets and residences that the waste trucks aren't able to access? Residential homes – what assistance and advice have they been given in how they respond to the new scheme? To explore the possibility of compiling the issues being raised through Member referrals To provide comparisons on like for like basis on how other Local Authorities manage their waste How are the collection routes planned out by Kier and where is the customer service centre located? How was the 3 months expected disruption time accepted by the Council? • Information on the work of the education and enforcement officers that were recruited. More specifically relating to the education side of their work. Where have they been? How have they engaged with the public? Have they visited any homes? How many officers are there? When is enforcement going to start? • Use of vehicles to collect waste and recycling. Do we now have sufficient amount of vehicles? Members were concerned that transit vans were being used for the collection of purple bags and asked for the rationale for this? • Information on the Household Waste recycling centres. How has the change in contract impacted on the centres and the staff that work there. Members were concerned at the reported increase in wait times reported by their constituents at the centres. Has there been any increase of staff at these centres? Are the public generally complying with the new way in which the centres work? i.e separating and sorting their waste. • How are the areas where communal waste is collected being managed? How are they complying with the new restrictions? Are they generally compliant? What problems are being reported? Members were particularly concerned with Wildmill area.	Council agreed that Waste would be looked at by Scrutiny as a priority due to issues being experienced under the new scheme.	October Members proposed that the item wait until after the bedding in period.	Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene; Maz Akhtar, Regional Manager Kier Julian Tranter, Managing Director Kier Claire Pring, Kier	Council SOSC 1 SOSC 3 SOSC 2	
04-Dec-17	SOSC 1	Budget Consultation	To receive 2018-19 MTFS Proposals for Education and Family Support Directorate			Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member - Education and Generation; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Family Support.		
06-Dec-17	SOSC 3	Budget Consultation	To receive 2018-19 MTFS Proposals for Communities Directorate			Mark Shephard, Corporate Director - Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member - Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Neighbourhood Services; Satwant Pryce, Head of Regeneration, Development and Property Services.		

07-Dec-17	SOSC 2	Budget Consultation	To receive 2018-19 MTFS Proposals for Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate			Sue Cooper, Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jackie Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care.		Appendix C
07-Dec-17	SOSC 2	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the training being undertaken by professionals and volunteers to support and identify children and young people with mental health issues. Links with the Youth Offending Service – where these have ceased due to staffing issues, how there is a continued communication and joint up working between CAMHS and the YOS. <p>Links to transitional services and Adult Mental Health. Looking at how services were working together in cases where there is a direct impact from Adult Mental Health on children, such as parental alcohol or substance misuse or domestic abuse where children are involved.</p> <p>Data on what services are being offered and provided by schools.</p>		SOSC 1 - End of 2017/beginning of 2018 SOSC 2 - Priority in next set of meetings	Sue Cooper, Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support (Interim); Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Family Support; NHS representative - Jo Abbott-Davies; Mark Wilkinson, Group Manager - Social Services & Wellbeing; Suzanne Sarjeant, Head of Pencoed Primary; Kaye King, Wellbeing Officer, Pencoed Primary; Jeremy Evans, Head of Heronsbridge; Dr Sylvia Fowler, Heronsbridge; Lorraine Silver, ALN Casework Manager; Representation from external agencies?	SOSC 1 SOSC 2	
08-Jan-18	SOSC 2	Empty Homes	<p>How effective has this council been on bringing back into use empty properties over the last five years?</p> <p>Does this council have the appropriate policies and process in place to fully utilise the powers that we already have to tackle empty homes?</p> <p>What are the levels of empty homes across Bridgend?</p> <p>What is the potential loss of council tax receipts due to empty homes?</p> <p>Data on levels of empty properties and homes and how long they have been empty for</p> <p>Examples of case studies from Bridgend CBC</p> <p>Good practice from across wales</p> <p>Welsh Government policy</p>		Prioritised by SOSC 3 13 September 2017	Andrew Jolley, Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities Satwant Pryce, Head of Regeneration, Development & Property Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Cllr Dhanisha Patel Welsh Government contacts?	SOSC 3	
10-Jan-18	SOSC 1	Schools Strategic Review	Post-16 Education – proposals being consulted upon to include the relationships between secondary schools and colleges	Scrutiny to act as consultee – vital to have Scrutiny input into any consultation and ensure pre-decision when necessary if any changes proposed for schools	10 January 2017	Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; John Fabes; Mandy Paish, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor.		

17-Jan-18	SOSC 3	Community Asset Transfer	<p>How many CAT's have been completed. How many are in process and at what stages. What finance is remaining from the initial £1 million capital allocated several years ago to help improve community buildings and sports pavilions. What has been spent to date and on what. What support is available for businesses looking to undertake a CAT What has been the main reason for CAT's not being progressed beyond initial stages Is there appetite for the CAT process amongst the local communities. Is the process fair if one community has an active local group to progress a CAT, yet another community many not have an active group and hence lose out through no fault of their own. Need to have comparison data from other authorities along with examples of what has worked and not worked. Case study of some CAT's in BCBC Data required on condition of all BCBC sports pavilions and community buildings to have an understanding of the scale of the problem. Exploration of the introduction of definitive timelines as to when the Council will no longer be able to support the assets</p>		13 September 2017	<p>Mark Shephard, Corporate Director Communities Cabinet Member Education and Regeneration, Cllr Charles Smith Cabinet Member Communities, Cllr Richard Young Community Groups Guy Smith, Community Asset Transfer officer Sports club reps who may be in need of improved buildings / facilities but do not have the capacity to consider entering into a CAT agreement</p>	Prioritised by SOSC 3	Appendix C
07-Feb-18	SOSC 2	The Economic Prosperity of Bridgend County Borough	<p>To include areas such as City Deal, Economic Development, Worklessness Programmes, EU Funding for Skills. How are the Council proactively ensuring that we will benefit from the City Deal?</p>		<p>SOSC 3 - prioritised for next set of meetings 17/07/2017 13/09/2017 SOSC 1 - proposed waiting until the detail of the Revenue Support Grant are known before this item is considered. SOSC 2 - 18/09/2017</p>	<p>Darren Mepham, Chief Executive; Cllr Huw David, Leader Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Satwant Pryce, Head of Regeneration, Development and Property Services; Representative tbc from Bridgend College; Representative tbc from Bridgend Business Forum; Representative from Monmouthshire County Council.</p>	SOSC 3	SOSC 2 highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.
08-Feb-18	SOSC 1	School Standards Report 17-18	Annual school performance report from CSC	Annual school performance results form the basis of monitoring of schools which is a primary responsibility of Scrutiny.	Proposed to receive late January/early February once the school results have been formally published.	<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Mandy Paish, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Mike Glavin, Managing Director CSC</p>		
12-Feb-18	SOSC 3	Town Centre Regeneration	<p>To provide members with information on the following responsibilities of the Council and how these are managed and can be developed with reduced resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking review – When is the car parking review going to be undertaken? Charges for staff car parking at all sites - has this been reviewed? If this was taken forward what income would this generate? • Residents Parking - when residents permit parking going to be rolled out? • Inconsiderate parking in the Borough - where are the problem areas? What are we doing to tackle these issues? Are we prosecuting? • Parking outside schools - How are we tackling bad parking at schools? Update on the introduction of the mobile camera van that was purchased to tackle such issues. What areas has this van been at. How many fines have been issued to date? • Pedestrianisation - particularly in Bridgend Town Centre. Outcomes of the consultation to allow traffic into the town • Business Rates • Strategic Building Investment • Disabled facilities 		<p>Prioritised by SOSC 3 17 July 2017 13 September 2017</p> <p>Prioritised by SOSC 2 18 September 2017</p>	<p>Mark Shephard, Corporate Director Communities Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene Satwant Pryce, Head of Regeneration</p>	SOSC 3 SOSC 2	SOSC 2 highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.

The following items were deemed important for future prioritisation:

Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested Invitees		Webcast
Advocacy Services for Children and Adults	To include information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The outcome from the Advocacy Pilot Scheme The current system Social Services & Wellbeing Act Regional Children Services advocacy Adult Services – Golden Thread Project 		Pilot ends April. Therefore proposed date June 2018.	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children’s Social Care; Richard Thomas, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer		
Prevention and Wellbeing and Local Community Coordination	To include information about the number of different initiatives that are available within the community as an alternative to statutory services. LCC projects to be referenced under a heading for each area – Ogmere, Llynfi and Garw Valleys – to ensure ease of reference to what projects are being carried out where. To include information on the work being undertaken with the 3rd Sector.		Proposed date March/April 2018	Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member - Social Services and Early Help Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member - Wellbeing and Future Generations; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Andrew Thomas, Group Manager – Prevention and Wellbeing.		
Dementia Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include accurate and up to date figures on the people diagnosed with dementia in Bridgend County Borough for comparison with the number of people predicted to be living with dementia; Provide Members with the information which can be found on the Local GP Dementia Register which highlights prevalence of dementia by area throughout the borough and type of dementia. The Panel recommend that these statistics are presented on a map diagram for ease of reference. If possible, Members wish that this data be elaborated upon to include age, and whether the numbers show if diagnosis was received prior to moving into the borough; Provide an update on the review of joint intentions with health and the third sector and include information regarding the production of a dementia strategy and delivery plan - stating milestones, target dates and responsible officers. Provide an update on existing discussions with nursing care providers in relation to the development of nursing residential care places for people with dementia; <p>Include facts and figures on people with dementia living in Cardiff as well as Neath Port Talbot and Swansea for comparison to Bridgend. Comparisons with other LAs such as Maesteg and the Vale on dementia awareness training to consider how successful the Authority has been in making Bridgend Dementia friendly.</p>		Members proposed that this be considered after Members have received Dementia Care Training in September/October	Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Representative from Age Concern Wales; Representative from ABMU; Representative from Bavo.		Corporate highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.
Safeguarding	To include Safeguarding activity in both Children and Adult Services. To also cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Safeguarding Boards Bridgend Corporate Safeguarding Policy CSE DOLS <p>To evidence how the two services are working together and the impact on the LAC population. Report to provide statistical data in relation to service demands and evidence how quickly and effectively the services are acting to those needs. To receive the outcome of the in depth analysis which was currently being undertaken within the Council.</p>	Members stressed that this subject must be considered by Scrutiny on their FWP as is a huge responsibility of the Authority and Scrutiny must ensure the work being undertaken to protect some of the most vulnerable people is effective and achieving outcomes.	Proposed date February 2018	Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children’s Social Care; Elizabeth Walton James, Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance		

Residential Remodelling - Extra Care Housing Schemes	<p>Information on the Extra Care Housing Schemes. To include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose/model Changes to residential care Communication strategy <p>Possible site visit to extra care housing scheme and new site once work has begun.</p>		Proposed date June 2018.	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Carmel Donovan, Group Manager Integrated Community Services; Representative from Linc.		Appendix C
School Modernisation Band B	To advise committee on the development of the strategic outline plan for band b of the 21 st century schools modernisation programme	Scrutiny to inform the plans and refine the rationale for the development of the schools estate	Proposed by Officers - March 2018	Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Gaynor Thomas, Schools Programme Manager		
ALN Reform	<p>When the Bill has been further progressed, report to include consideration of the following points:</p> <p>a) How the Authority and Schools are engaging with parents over the changes to the Bill?</p> <p>b) What the finalised process is for assessments and who is responsible for leading with them?</p> <p>c) What involvement/responsibilities do Educational Psychologists have under the Bill?</p> <p>d) Has the Bill led to an increase in tribunals and what impact has this had? This is set against the context of the recent announcement by the Lifelong Learning Minister that instead of saving £4.8m over four years the Bill could potentially cost £8.2m due to an expected increase in the number of cases of dispute resolution.</p> <p>e) Given that the Bill focuses on the involvement of young people and their parents, what support is available for those involved in court disputes?</p> <p>f) Outcomes from the Supported Internship programme.</p> <p>g) Support for those with ALN into employment.</p> <p>h) Staffing - Protection and support for staff, ALNCO support, workloads and capacity.</p> <p>i) Pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes and impact of Bill on capacity of teachers to support pupils with ALN</p> <p>j) How is the implementation of the Bill being monitored; what quality assurance frameworks are there and what accountability for local authorities, consortiums and schools?</p>	Needs revisiting to monitor implementation of the Bill and if needs are being met as well as impact on future budgets	Proposed by SOSC 1 to be revisited in next years FWP (2018-19)	Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement Third Sector Representatives		
Early Help and Social Care	<p>The process into how the following information will be presented will be confirmed following meetings with both Directorates Corporate Directors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to date figures presenting the numbers of Looked After Children by Local Authority; A breakdown of referral figures, to include statistics from local pre-school nurseries; Outcome from the review undertaken by Institute of Public Care; What services are being provided post 16, given that research indicates shows that children who have been looked after, have the increased probability that their children will also end up in the care system; Outcomes from the following Residential Remodelling project work streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For moving out-of-country residential placements to in-county Upskilling of three internal foster carers to provide intensive, therapeutic step down placements. Review of the foster carer marketing and recruitment strategy at a draft/early stage to allow members input into the process 					
Annual Recommendations/feedback Update to each SOSC			Proposed for March 2018 to inform next years FWP planning	None		

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) Inspection of Children's Services.	The Committee requested that they receive an information report detailing the progress of the plan and update Members whether or not the actions have addressed the issues raised by the Inspectorate.					
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The following items for briefing sessions or pre-Council briefing

Item	Specific Information to request
Overview of Direct Payment Scheme	<p>To update Members on the Direct Payments Process.</p> <p>How outcomes for individuals are being identified and monitored.</p> <p>What activities are being requested by individuals to enable them to achieve their personal outcomes.</p> <p>How the Direct Payments system is being monitored.</p> <p>To include clarification and further details on the exact costs of commissioning the IPC.</p>
Social Services Commissioning Strategy	<p>To include information on what work has taken place following the Social Services and Wellbeing Act population assessment.</p> <p>To also cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Annual Plan • Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy
Western Bay Regional Report	Update on situation and way forward with WB and Regional Working?

Potential items proposed for the Forward Work Programme - questions to consider	
Proposed Item	Emergency housing
Is this item within the remit of the Committee?	Yes
How does it fit with the Corporate Priorities?	Helping people to become more self reliant Smarter use of Supporting a successful economy
Is it a public interest item?	yes
What are the questions that need answering?	Is the current emergency housing provided by BCBC meeting the needs of the service users? Is the current provision a good use of public resources? Should an alternative provision be made to ensure families, in particular children, achieve their potential.
Then:	
What is the expected outcome from receiving the item?	That the provision is put onto the forward work programme as quick as possible.
What can be achieved?	Determination that the council will either accept the current standard provided, or request commitment from the cabinet to make a change
What impact can Members have on this area?	Making a change which can affect the future life chances of the most vulnerable people in the borough.
What information should be reported to the Committee? I.e. data, case studies, examples of outcomes, challenges etc.	Service user numbers Service user demographic –ages, disabilities, gender Outcomes Challenges faced daily by families using provision –health, dentist, mental health, schools
How should information be presented at the meeting? I.e. PowerPoint/Prezi presentation, audio/visual formats, photos, graphics, charts, maps etc.	Photos of provision, visual aids to help councillors see the physical challenges at the site.

Who should be invited to contribute to achieve a representative picture? I.e. front line staff, users, carers, young people, representatives from partner organisations, business representatives etc.	Service providers, eg Wallace, Emmaus, health visitors, housing officers, Service user statements, might to too difficult for service users to present to the committee.
What is the proposed rationale for prioritising this item within the Scrutiny FWP?	Because families are currently living in this situation.
Is the item particularly suitable for webcasting?	No.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

06 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

REMODELLING CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PROJECT

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 of the work that has been undertaken as part of the Remodelling Children's Residential Services project, and to introduce a proposed new model for Children's Residential Services.

2.0 Connection to Corporate Plan

- 2.1 This report links to the following improvement priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- Helping people to be more self-reliant;
- Smarter use of resources.

Plus the following background document:

- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Children's Social Services Directorate currently provides residential placements for looked after children through two homes located within the County Borough. These are:

- Sunnybank – a four bed home for children aged 11-16
- Newbridge House – a transition unit for young people aged 15-17. This consists of four residential bedrooms and two bedsits that act as a step-down before move-on from the property.

- 3.2 The Directorate also provides an internal supported lodgings service to young people in Bridgend. This acts as an option for people who are ready to be more independent, but are not yet ready to live completely independently. The Supporting People Programme Grant currently funds an internal Supported Lodging Service which is currently being reviewed in line with Supporting People Grant conditions, to assess service delivery, eligibility and value-for-money in accordance with Welsh Government guidance. Currently £69,000 is funded which is subject to review on the criteria above.

- 3.3 The Council currently spends a significant amount of money on high-cost out of county residential placements for young people – with the average out of county placement costing in the region of £160,000 per annum. In respect of numbers of placements, on average, more than 10 young people have been placed out-of-county at any one time over the last few years.

- 3.4 In light of these issues, the Remodelling Children's Residential Services project was formed as part of the Remodelling Children's Services Programme. The remit of the project was to review current residential placements (to include Residential homes, Supported Lodgings and out-of-county placements) and to develop a proposal for remodelling internal residential placements. Alternative options considered included commissioning the service and building a bespoke building, but this option was discarded due to prohibitive costs and timescales for implementation.
- 3.5 Significant background research and analysis has been undertaken in order to review the current provision in Bridgend, and to establish examples of best practice across the UK – the feedback from which has been refined and used to help inform the proposed new model.
- 3.6 This review has identified a need for a wider variety of internal placement options that are flexible enough to meet the increasingly complex needs of the children and young people becoming looked after. Creating more placement options will enable the council to choose the right placement, achieve the best outcomes for each child and keep them closer to home instead of placing out-of-county. It will also reduce the pressure on placements currently being experienced and will ensure the right placement option is chosen for each young person.
- 3.7 A multi-agency workshop took place in May 2017 involving colleagues from Children's Services, ABMU, Police, Education and other key stakeholders to shape a potential new model for Children's Residential Care within Bridgend. From this meeting, an 'ideal model' was created and formed the basis for shaping proposals moving forward.
- 3.8 Informal engagement has taken place with current service users, service leavers and staff members who may be impacted by any changes introduced in the form of face-to-face discussions, with the offer of follow-up meetings if needed. The feedback from this has fed directly into the model proposed, and has also enabled the service area to implement some immediate changes based on the feedback from young people themselves, including introducing wi-fi within the homes.
- 3.9 Targeted engagement with all pertinent stakeholders commenced in October 2017 and will feed into the final proposal that is presented to Cabinet for approval in January 2018. If approval of the proposed new model is given, the resulting changes to the Children's Homes Statements of Purpose will be presented to Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting for approval prior to implementation.

4.0 Current Situation

- 4.1 A diagram of the 'ideal model' on which the proposal is based has been attached as Appendix A for reference. The aim of the model is to create as many flexible placement options in line with each person's assessed care and support needs, demonstrating evidence-based, positive outcomes for each of the young people being supported. This will enable the service to adapt to the needs of the individual and encourage the achievement of the best possible outcomes for each young person. The model also aims to minimise the number of placement breakdowns occurring through giving staff the flexibility to access the right placement at the right time for each young person.

- 4.2 The model has been developed so that it can be implemented incrementally using existing resources. This means that savings will begin to be realised during the implementation phase, and will continue to be realised once implementation is complete. The cost-savings analysis which is currently being finalised is indicating that, once fully implemented, this model will result in long-term savings for the directorate – made primarily through more cost-effective placements.
- 4.3 It is not envisaged that this model will result in a significant change in the staffing levels required to deliver the services, thereby reducing the potential risk of redundancies. Some additional staff members will be required to deliver the model (as opposed to commissioning elements of the service on an ad hoc basis) and existing staff members may require a small change to their roles to enable them to deliver the model effectively – and staff have been and will continue to be engaged and consulted with throughout the process.

Key elements of the proposed new model

4.4 Residential Units

4.4.1 Feedback from staff has identified a number of issues with the way the homes are structured currently, including:

- A lack of control over resident ‘mix’ due to age restrictions of each home and lack of placement options
- No alternatives to residential placements for those with complex needs
- Insufficient move-on facilities resulting in longer residential placements than is necessary
- Young people who are not ready for transition being placed in Newbridge House as there are no other options available
- No emergency beds (cannot be used for emergency placements as this is not in the Statements of Purpose)
- Layout of the homes not encouraging a positive, psychologically informed environment
- Staff only able to provide minimal outreach support
- Lack of trust from the Courts in the services’ ability to achieve outcomes meaning a high level of Out Of County and IFA placements.
- Children being sent far away from their home area.

4.4.2 It is recommended that Children’s Services work with colleagues in Supporting People and Housing to explore options for a supported living service for both young looked after children, as well as those who are not looked after, available from the age of 16.

4.4.3 *The Hub*

The aim of the Hub should be to provide support in a time-effective way in order to facilitate move-on to one of the other placement options within the model. It is proposed that the Hub will:

- Be based at Newbridge House

- Consist of 4 short term/assessment beds and 2 emergency only beds which can be accessed for a maximum of 72 working hours.
- Be open to children and young people aged 11-17, giving residential managers the flexibility to ensure the 'mix' of young people is right, as opposed to being age restricted.
- Have therapeutic staff based at the Hub, and the project team are working with education colleagues in exploring the possibility of having on site education/training provided.
- Increase the amount of outreach support provided to children and young people, families and carers – with staff members available 24/7 to provide advice and support; this will minimise the chance of placement breakdowns.

There is an intention to employ two 'Residential Education Outreach Workers' who will provide structured support to the young people located at the Hub, with the aim of getting them out and engaged within their community.

4.4.4 *Medium-term Unit*

It is proposed that a medium-term unit is developed, that will be:

- Based at Sunnybank
- A 4 bed home for those who need a higher level of intensive support before moving on to one of the other placement options within the model.
- Open to children and young people aged 11-17, giving residential managers the flexibility to ensure the 'mix' of young people is right as opposed to age restricted.

It is proposed that the young people based at this Unit would have access to the Hub, including the therapeutic interventions and in-house education functions.

4.5 Supported Lodgings

4.5.1 Supported Lodgings is an in-house placement provision for young people who are not yet ready for independent living. It does not require the level of regulation that a fostering placement requires, but still gives the young person a more structured, family type environment prior to their transition into independence.

4.5.2 A joint commissioning exercise recently took place involving Children's Services and Supporting People and Housing services. As part of this collaborative commissioning exercise, an external organisation was recruited to review Social Services' Supported Lodgings provision. This impartial report highlighted operational difficulties and concerns in respect of value-for-money, and proposed an external supported lodgings service be commissioned.

4.5.3 Following the recommendations of the report, an external supported lodgings project has been developed with the purpose of providing accommodation to young people who are 16+ and are not of looked after status, to assist in the prevention of homelessness, and it is recommended that the necessary steps will be undertaken in-line with Contract Procedure Rules to enable young people aged 16+ who are of 'looked after' status to access this Supported Lodgings service before they turn 18.

4.6 Supported Living

- 4.6.1 The directorate would benefit from an increased amount of move-on accommodation for young looked after people residing in placements before they turn 18 years of age. This would reduce delays in transfers out of residential placements and reduce the pressure on residential placements that is currently being experienced. It would also help in preventing young looked after people from presenting as homeless on their 18th birthday in order to access housing.
- 4.6.2 Children's Services are working more closely with colleagues in Supporting People and Housing in order to undertake a joint commissioning exercise for a supported living service for both young looked after children, as well as those who are not looked after, available from the age of 16.
- 4.6.3 Placements will provide structured support for young looked after people who are not yet ready for independent living, preparing them for a move-on into the community.

4.7 Therapeutic services

- 4.7.1 The number of children requiring therapeutic support is increasing and as a result the directorate is spending an increasing amount on spot-purchasing therapeutic interventions for children. The total of this spend came to approximately £180k in the 2016/17 financial year, not including the directorate's contractual arrangement with Barnardo's which offers a specific support service to young people.
- 4.7.2 Initial scoping has taken place to consider alternative ways in which such support can be provided in the future. A consideration is that the directorate recruit an internal therapeutic staffing function to consist of a Clinical Psychologist and a Senior Practitioner Social Worker. In the future, this team could then expand to include placement support workers, and/or a therapist worker with a play therapy background.

4.8 Training

- 4.8.1 The consultation has identified that there are currently multiple approaches to the therapeutic and behavioural support models used across the directorate. The directorate will benefit from a consistent model used across all services. This would aid young people transitioning between placements by providing consistency of support, and would ensure the best possible outcomes are being achieved for each young person.
- 4.8.2 There will be cost benefits of delivering therapeutic support in-house as opposed to commissioning individual externally funded packages. This will also assist in streamlining therapeutic interventions to one therapeutic model.
- 4.8.3 As a result of a more consistent approach, all foster carers, staff and support workers across the directorate who carry out front-facing support with young people could be trained in the same therapeutic principles and intervention methods, which will help the directorate as a whole to support the increasing complexity of needs presenting.

4.8.4 It is proposed that, once a therapeutic staffing team has been employed, the directorate develops its own internal core training programme for front-line staff across the directorate. This will be a rolling 16-week programme and will bring foster carers, residential staff and social workers together to help them form relationships and inform each other's learning. Specialists will be brought in to deliver this rolling programme as required, but the majority will be delivered by internal staff resulting in overall cost reduction.

4.9 Transitional Carers

4.9.1 It is proposed that 4-6 Transitional Carers are recruited, who will provide a respite or emergency function if they do not have a placement. Three current foster carers have been identified as suitable for up-skilling to this level to support the new model, and it is proposed that three new sets of fostering households are recruited.

4.9.2 The Transitional Carers would act as a step-down for young people coming out of the residential units before being placed in a long-term family or independent placement. They will be therapeutically trained and therefore able to address any issues that occur as a result of a transition into a different environment, increasing the chances that the long-term placement will be successful and reducing multiple placement breakdowns and reliance on out-of-county placements.

4.9.3 The Transitional Carers would take a maximum of one placement (or one sibling group) at any time, and will provide intensive support for up to 24 weeks. They will work closely with the Therapeutic Team staff, who will advise on the best way to support the young people to maximise the benefits and success of future placements.

4.9.4 It is envisaged that 2 out of the 6 carers would be without placements at any one time, enabling them to provide support to the other 4 Transitional Carers, respite for foster carers that need a break to prevent a crisis from occurring, and to provide emergency family placements if needed.

5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules. Any future services requiring commissioning as a result of this proposal will be undertaken in-line with Contract Procedure Rules requirements.

6.0 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 When targeted consultation has been completed and the model has been finalised, and officers are in a better position to know which service users and staff could be affected by the proposed model, an EIA screening (and a full EIA if necessary) will be undertaken, to assess the potential impact on service users and staff.

6.2 Appropriate consultation will be arranged ensuring that relevant policies are applied throughout the process.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 Implementing this model will facilitate the return of young people currently placed out of county. A comparison of the average placement costs is detailed below:

Placement type	Average cost per placement per annum
Out-of-county	£160,000
Residential placement (new model)	£100,000
Transitional Carer placement (new model)	£34,000
Supported Lodgings (new model)	£9,000
Supported Living (new model)	TBC

7.2 This remodelling work will contribute towards the MTFS budget reductions that have been applied to Children's Services over the past three years, resulting in current projected overspends:

MTFS	TOTAL
CH25 Reduction in Safeguarding LAC	£617k
CH22 Remodelling Children's Residential Care	£400k

7.3 It is anticipated that having an in-county provision will offer cost savings against existing high-cost OOC placements, as well as enabling a reduction in the dependence on high-cost placements in future years.

7.4 It is also anticipated that there may be potential for income generation from neighbouring local authorities in the future.

7.5 In implementing the new model, it is anticipated that there may be potential for funding from the Supporting People funding. However, any bids for funding will be made in-line with the Supporting People planning and governance processes and grant conditions, and in the knowledge that Supporting People funding could reduce over time, dependent on the grant allocation received from Welsh Government.

8.0 Recommendation

8.1 Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- Note the information contained in this report;
- Provide views on the proposed new model for residential placements;
- Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet, requesting approval to implement the proposed new models for residential placements.

Susan Cooper

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October 2017

10.0 Contact Officers

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11.0 Background documents None

Placement options under the new model

