

# Public Document Pack

## Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

### Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.  
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich  
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please  
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#### **Gwasanaethau Gweithredol a Phartneriaethol / Operational and Partnership Services**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /  
643147

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Mr Mark Anthony Galvin

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Tuesday, 10 April 2018

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, 16 April 2018 at 09:30.**

#### **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 - 12  
To receive for approval the minutes of the meeting of 08/2/2018
4. Forward Work Programme Update 13 - 30
5. Early Help and Children's Social Care 31 - 54

#### **Invitees:**

Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing;  
Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;  
Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration;  
Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;  
Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help.  
Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care;  
Mark Lewis, Group Manager Integrated Working and Family Support  
Elizabeth Walton James, Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance

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 transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

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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

Tim Cahalane  
Rev Canon Edward Evans  
William Bond  
Ciaron Jackson  
K Pascoe

Roman Catholic Church  
Church in Wales  
Special School Sector  
Primary School Sector  
Secondary School Sector

# Agenda Item 3

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2018

### MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 09:30

#### Present

Councillor CA Webster – Chairperson

JPD Blundell	NA Burnett	SK Dendy	DK Edwards
M Jones	JC Radcliffe	JH Tildesley MBE	LM Walters
A Williams	AJ Williams		

#### Apologies for Absence

J Gebbie and K Pascoe

#### Registered Representatives

Rev Canon Edward Evans	Church in Wales
William Bond	Special School Sector
Ciaron Jackson	Primary School Sector

#### Officers:

Mark Galvin	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

#### Invitees:

Nicola Echanis	Head of Education & Family Support
John Fabes	Specialist Officer Post 16 Education & Training
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Mandy Paish	Senior Challenge Advisor, Central South Consortium
Councillor Charles Smith	Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration

### 33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A number of Members declared a personal interest Agenda Item 4, in that they were School Governors, however, they were advised by Officers that such declarations were not required as they had been appointed onto these by the Local Authority.

The following Councillors declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 4, as they had children who were students in some of the schools mentioned in the report relating to this item:-

Councillor C Webster  
Councillor N Burnett  
Councillor AJ Williams

### 34. 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 including the next item delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee; to present the Committee with a list of further potential items for

comment and prioritisation, and finally to ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form.

Attached at Appendix B to the report, was the overall FWP for the SOSC's which included the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next set of SOSC's in Table A, as well as topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B.

In terms of items in Table A of Appendix B, it was highlighted that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee had delegated SOSC 1 with the School Modernisation Band B item for their next meeting, followed by Early Help – Social Care for its meeting on 16 April 2018.

The Scrutiny Officer advised that post April the Committee had been delegated the topic of the budgetary implications in respect of Parc Prison. She added that the further items detailed in Appendix B were items that would be considered at future meetings, the dates of which had not as yet been established.

**RESOLVED:** The Committee approved the feedback and responses from their meeting in December 2017 and noted the items delegated to them for the next sets of meetings.

35. SCHOOL STANDARDS REPORT FOUNDATION PHASE, KEY STAGES 2,3 AND 4 AND POST - 16 OUTCOMES FOR 2016-2017

The item commenced with the CSC Senior Challenge Advisor giving a Presentation entitled 'Foundation Phase, Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 and Post-16 Outcomes 2016-2017'.

The Chairperson then invited questions from the floor.

The Chairperson referred to paragraph 4.53 of the report, and noted that the standard of attainment for post-16 pupils at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen for grades A\* to C had dropped by 20.8% in 2017 when compared to 2016, which she felt was a significant reduction.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training advised that this was largely to do with the fact that staff turnover in key subject areas (ie welsh, mathematics, science and English) had taken place during the above period. These key posts had since been filled and monitoring processes had been put in place in order to ensure improvements are being made this current year in readiness for this year's AS examinations. .

A Member asked what happened to students who failed their A level examinations and if a high percentage of these re-sat the exams. They also queried how many pupils went onto further education.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training confirmed that in terms of the Level 3 threshold, over 90% of students achieved some sort of grade even if it wasn't the highest in terms of attainment. However, he added that poor A level results were not as significant for students as they used to be, as Universities were far more relaxed now than previous in terms of entrance requirements. This fact was borne out in that nearly all students in the County Borough of Bridgend who applied for a place in a university last year had been accepted. He added that some of these pupils were admitted without any A level qualification at all, so there was no detriment for these students in terms of their application to be accepted in higher education environments. Notwithstanding that, teaching staff at all schools were looking to assist in improving grades of qualifications for all pupils.

A Member asked if there were suitable contingencies in place at schools if a number of members of staff there left around the same time, in order that pupils were able to maximise their chances of good A level results.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration advised that there was scope for staff to be moved from one school to another in order to supplement the staffing compliment there, should there be a deficiency in teaching staff for whatever reason. He added that it was easier to mitigate anticipated and even long term absence of staff at a school, though there was more of a struggle to put contingencies in place for the more unpredicted cases of short term absence.

The Chairperson noted from the report that Pencoed Comprehensive School reflected very good performance levels for post-16 pupils/education.

The Specialist Officer: Post 16 Education and Training advised that this school did have a good reputation at all age levels, and that this had flourished further since the school had partnered up with Bridgend College, coupled with the fact that the school also had a new Headteacher who had re-galvanised the school and its staff and pupils. This was reflected by the fact that there had been an increase in performance at the school of just under 13% in the last couple of years.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration added that the table of performance shown in paragraph 4.53 of the report was difficult to judge with regards to the true performance of the schools shown therein as it did not show the baselines. For example, the standard of post-16 attainment for Porthcawl Comprehensive School for 2017 for grade A\* - C (when compared to 2016) had reduced by 0.2%. However, this school was still achieving between 80 – 90% in respect of that particular Indicator and this was extremely good in terms of performance. He felt that in future reports, comparators should perhaps be more explicit in order to give a fuller and more accurate picture of the overall situation.

The Chairperson asked if support was being put in place to ensure that the mental and emotional wellbeing of pupils was being considered, in light of the changes anticipated with regard to post-16 education..

The Head of BASH confirmed that this was something that had been taken into account through a series of workshops that had been held at schools, which would continue to be rolled out to all other schools affected by the changes. He added that student support services also assisted in the gauging of the mental health of students of all ages and not just of post-16 age, where part of these services also included looking at pupils possible career choices going forward, including at a fairly early age, where appropriate.

A Member noted from that chart shown as Appendix D that there was significant variation between the school performance at Key Stage 4, when compared over a three year trend, some fairly erratic and even radical from school to school.

The CSC Senior Challenge Advisor confirmed that a dip in terms of performance at schools was both anticipated and realised due to changes that had been introduced to the School Curriculum, which included the manner in which marking was undertaken for certain examinations. It was anticipated however that performance levels would rise when these changes had bedded-in. She further added that the changes put in place also did not allow for a simple method of comparisons to be made in terms of Key Stage 4 results between schools year on year. The changes had also seen a split of the subject areas of English language and English literature which had to be marked separately rather than as one, which had also had a detrimental effect on previous levels of attainment when this was classed as one subject.

The Managing Director of CSC added that to be fair, schools had faced significant changes such as those referred to above, in a short period of time. This had been demanding both on teaching staff and pupils.

The Chairperson felt that it would be beneficial if Members of the Committee could receive further explanation of the changes to the curriculum that were introduced, as well as data which confirmed the up to date Key Stage 4 results in all schools comprising the County Borough.

The Managing Director of CSC advised that he would produce this and make it available to Members accordingly.

The Head of BASH confirmed that aside of the changes effecting English language/literature, the subject of mathematics had also altered to mathematics and numeracy. Though the changes had resulted to some inevitable dips in performance, improvements had also been made at some schools she added.

A Member felt that more strides should be made with regard to teaching pupils with no verbal or hearing abilities, such as them being taught some of the more basic skills in literacy and numeracy with the proposal that this be developed in Special schools.

The CSC Senior Challenge Advisor advised that performance levels and indicators were normally not produced in Special schools, though this was something that could be considered going forward.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, pointed out that Headteachers and their staff at schools were fierce advocates for all children to reach their full potential during their years in an education environment. Staff at Heronsbridge School challenged pupils there to attain significant heights in terms of their ability and skill levels. He was also aware that Regional Boards shared information in respect of Special schools, and he reiterated that this was something that could be looked at further in relation to the provision of certain performance data emerging from these schools.

The Head of BASH added that the Council's Pupil Referral Unit had produced some very encouraging data this year when compared to other authorities on an all Wales basis.

The CSC Challenge Advisor confirmed that Challenge Advisors at schools did gauge each individual pupil's performance, as well as the overall performance of the schools.

A Registered Representative urged caution in respect of the examination of data in that each school taught pupils with different levels of ability, needs, aspirations and ultimately performance, and this would inevitably vary from school to school. Therefore data could vary significantly between the different schools within the County Borough. He felt that rather than closely examining some of this data, such analysis should sometimes concentrate more upon any significant dips in cohorts at a school, without any prior warning or reasonable explanation for this taking place.

A Member commented on the internal teacher assessment process such as that at Key Stage 3, in that it was sometimes questionable as it did not always seem to follow that where performance was good at Key Stage 3 pupils would show the same level of performance at Key Stage 4. This she felt, was due to the fact that internal assessment of performance was more lenient than that of external assessment of pupils, which took place when pupils reached Key Stage 4.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Early Help advised that Porthcawl Comprehensive School had very robust systems in place when it came to tracking the progress of learners from one Key Stage to another, and that other schools within the County Borough would do well to adopt the processes and procedures this school followed.

A Member made the point that moderation in schools was always an issue and that inaccuracies in terms of pupils level of ability and application could always be questioned as pupil's progressed year on year as the curricula and levels of educational requirements became more challenging. He added that this was particularly prevalent when pupils were entering secondary from primary education.

The CSC Senior Challenge Advisor confirmed that all schools had Challenge Advisors and they ensured that the ability of pupils in terms of their attainment was challenged from one year to the next, particularly when progressing from primary into secondary schools. Data collated in respect of this was also referred to the Central South Consortium on a school by school basis for analysis as well as to Welsh Government, including samples of moderation.

The Managing Director of Central South Consortium added that all learners needed tracking so as to ensure that they had the individual level of support that they required. It was therefore beneficial he added, for staff in Secondary Schools to work closely with those in Primary Schools in order to gauge the varying ability of different pupils to assist in the transition from one to the other.

The Chairperson emphasised the point she had made previously in proceedings, that there was a significant variation in the level of performance data when comparing schools within the County Borough at Key Stage 4 level for the last 3 year period, and she gave examples of this from the information contained in the tabled Appendix D to the report.

The CSC Senior Challenge Advisor confirmed that at Key Stage 4, recent changes to the courses and exam specifications meant that outcomes from these GCSE's could not be compared on a like to like basis to those of previous years, and this was particularly the case in terms of comparisons of results in the subject areas of mathematics, welsh and English.

Consideration was being given to putting specialised support in place at some schools where performance had dipped over the above period, particularly in the core subjects referred to. Currently, further analysis was being carried out, in order to understand the reasoning behind why some schools outweighed others in terms of performance at Key Stage 4, in particular. When the reasons for this were known, then they would be incorporated within individual School Improvement Programmes with a view to target improvement in underperforming schools.

The Managing Director of Central South Consortium, whilst acknowledging that the changes in the school curricula had resulted in it being very difficult at the present time to accurately compare data on a school to school basis, was sure that with time, this would level itself out.

The CSC Senior Challenge Advisor added that, in general terms, the latest data showed overall the following:-

- Results in mathematics and English had shown an overall improvement;
- Results in Science were variable;
- Little change when comparing A\* - A grades;

- Percentage of pupils of statutory school age eligible for free school meals was slightly above the All Wales average

She further added that data in respect of the above amongst others relating to schools performance had now been verified, and in turn, this would be shared with Scrutiny accordingly.

A Member asked what was the extent of the role of School Challenge Advisors and how were they gauged in terms of their performance.

The CSC Challenge Advisor advised that performance of Officers undertaking this role was monitored by the Central South Consortium and that a large part of the work they carried out was ensuring that standards within the classroom met the needs of all pupils being taught there. Pupil data was also examined and monitored in order to ensure that their levels of performance were individually gauged and set at a standard that was reasonable in terms of the extent of the ability of the pupil in question. This was a key supportive role that if carried out to the required standard, went a considerable way to ensuring that collectively the school improved in terms of its overall performance. It was also about breaking down and disseminating different areas where improvement could be made, i.e. in terms of teaching levels, maximising pupils learning abilities, and ensuring that the subject areas chosen by pupils were compatible with their respective strengths.

There were also plans to put in place more generic marking of examinations papers, which would lead to more consistency in terms of the outcomes of results and limit bureaucracy. This was also planned to be shared across the Central South Consortia region and not just Bridgend County Borough.

The Managing Director CSC added that teacher training was becoming increasingly crucial in order to maximise outcomes for pupils. Such training would be developed through the likes of Hub Programmes, Pathfinder, Peer Inquiry's, School Improvement Groups, Governing bodies, Performance Management sessions through evidence based work, for example teaching per se, and specialist support areas in core subjects.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support, supplemented this by adding that schools performance was carefully monitored by Estyn through school inspections and there was a correlation and alignment between the Central South Consortium Business Plan and the various local authority Education Directorate Plans. It was also incumbent upon schools to have Strategic Outline Plans where the Headteacher/staff had to focus on 5 key areas and certain other information which was analysed by both the Central South Consortium and the local authority. He further added that BCBC held the Central South Consortium to account in terms of its performance much in the way that Members hold Officers to account within the Authority.

A Member pointed out that effective guidance and leadership to schools was also required from the School's governing body. It was therefore important that any vacancies on school governing bodies were kept to a minimum and were filled by suitably qualified and/or professional people, with it being an added bonus if they had previous experience in an educational background.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised that his Department undertook a continuous rolling programme with regard to the advertising of vacancies on school governing bodies. The Department looked to fill these wherever possible, though it was not always easy for this to be achieved at all schools either due to a lack of interest, or the fact that potential candidates were not always deemed suitable carry out what was required in this role.



A Member enquired how schools were coping in terms of performance and attainment in light of decreasing budgets..

The Managing Director CSC explained that it was about putting into place a methodology of how to successfully do more at schools with less. He added that the Central South Consortium committed as much as 95% of its budget to schools located within the Consortia in order that they could undertake school improvement. This funding assisted in key areas where there were changes required to the school, including for any new up and coming initiatives/school improvements, and in order to meet the new curriculum in Wales.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support stated that in addition to the above, leadership programmes and the like were also continuing to be developed in order to improve further the interface between schools and Welsh Government. He added that he had recently attended a training session with all Headteachers that had covered the following subject areas:-

1. New statutory requirements in respect of Religious Education;
2. Changes in the laws of Data Protection;
3. Responsibilities regarding managing buildings;
4. School complaints;
5. Safeguarding the protection of children;
6. Managing (with the Police) criminal gang activity;

He informed Members the above was in addition to the day to day duties of staff at schools.

The Head of BASH advised that Headteachers also monitored the performance of teaching staff by sitting in on lessons from time to time in order to gauge the quality of teaching to learners.

The Chairperson asked the Invitees if they felt that the role of Challenge Advisors produced value for money, to which the Head of BASH replied that in his opinion they did.

A Member asked if schools had any say as to when inspections by Estyn were carried at schools, i.e. if the Headteacher had any scope in changing the planned date of these.

The Managing Director CSC replied that the school could not bring forward or put back the date of any inspection proposed by Estyn.

A Member noted from Appendix B to the report that schools in Bridgend did not do as well as their counterparts from other authorities in terms of attainment in core subjects. He further noted that the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council schools had better results overall than Bridgend schools, notwithstanding the fact that they spent less per pupil than Bridgend did.

The Head of BASH confirmed that this was due to the fact that there were more deprived areas in the area of Bridgend County Borough when compared to the Vale, and such social economical differences between could result in this.

A Member asked if Bridgend schools performed better overall than other neighbouring areas covered by the Consortia in non-core subjects.

The Managing Director CSC confirmed that although there was no data in the report to reflect the comparison here between authorities, schools in the Bridgend County Borough performed better in such non-core subjects than they did in the likes of English and mathematics. However steps were being taken to try and improve performance in the core subjects and this was planned to be closely monitored in the future.

The Chairperson noted that throughout the report reference was made to 'Areas of Improvement' but there was no detail as to how these would be achieved either as a Local Authority or in each school.

The CSC Challenge Advisor confirmed that the above would be challenged through School Improvement Programmes as well as School Challenge Advisors.

In respect of any data relating to schools that Members may wish to examine outside the meeting, the Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support confirmed that there was a wealth of this that could be found on the "My Local School" website, particularly in respect of schools budget allocation and performance etc.

As this concluded debate on the report, the Chairperson thanked the Invitees for attending and responding to questions following which they retired from the meeting.

Conclusions:

The Committee felt that whilst the report included a vast amount of data there was a lack of analysis in relation to individual schools within the county borough and therefore Members felt it difficult to get a grasp of the current situation with schools in Bridgend i.e. which ones were of concern and required significant support etc.

The Committee also queried the fact that the report did not provide detail of how exactly the Consortium had firstly had an impact on school performance last year – much work was described but the direct impact and outcomes of this on individual schools was not apparent. Secondly whilst areas of improvement were identified throughout the report, it did not provide ideas or examples of how these improvements would be put in place. Members understood that improvements would be somewhat different in each school however, for areas such as improving attainment of boys across the County Borough, the Committee felt there should be some overall plan for this directed by the Consortium.

With this in mind the Committee requested that they receive a further report at a meeting in the near future, (to be agreed by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny), incorporating the following:

- School Categorisation information;
- In relation to Post-16 data at 4.53 of the report, the Committee requested that they receive the baseline for each school to give a better indication of how each school has improved;
- Information on Bridgend's ranking for Key Stage 4 based on the latest results;
- Information on what targets were set at each stage in order to determine whether the performance was expected and possibly a cohort issue or whether any actuals differed significantly from the targets set;
- Information that the Consortium has gathered through drilling down into each schools' performance to determine what challenges schools face;
- Further detail of the performance of those with ALN attending the PRU or Heronsbridge School as Members felt this was not incorporated into the report to a great degree;

- Information on the work that the Consortium is doing to identify the variation for each secondary school at Key Stage 4, and what is being done about it;
- More information in relation to each schools performance – not necessarily more data but detail of the where, what and how in relation to good and poor performance for each school so that the Committee has an overall understanding of the current situation and priority schools in Bridgend;
- What extent are schools responding to the changes recently introduced such as the removal of Btec etc, to ensure they are still meeting the needs of the pupils;
- What work is being done to mitigate against future dips in performance resulting from any changes to curriculum or changes to performance measures;
- Evidence of how the Consortium has made a direct impact on schools and school performance, what outcomes can they be measured on in relation to Bridgend to assure Members of value for money;
- What is being done to mitigate against the impact of changes in teachers to ensure that this does not have a resulting impact on the performance of pupils;
- Performance in relation to vocational qualifications and non-core subjects – where are there causes for concern and where there is excellent work taking place etc.

**Further comments**

The Committee agreed to keep an eye on the performance of English Literature as a result of it being removed from the Level 2+ performance measure.

The Committee requested that they invite representatives from other schools to give a broader viewpoint including that of the Consortium support – the Scrutiny Officer agreed to look into this on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee also requested that representatives of the school budget forum be invited to attend future meetings on school performance to seek their views on the consortium and the value for money aspect and the potential impact of the budget reduction to future Consortium funding for 2018-19.

Members requested that the Chair draft a letter to Estyn on behalf of the Committee regarding the recent experiences of some schools having inspections during periods of refurbishment, renovation or a move. Such instances have not only caused extra stress on staff but could potentially affect the school's inspection results even though they were outside of the school's control and could have been avoided had the inspection taken the situation into account and been better timed.

36. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

The meeting closed at 12:45

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

16 APRIL 2018

### 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;
- d) To consider and approve the feedback from the previous meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and note the list of responses including any still outstanding at Appendix A.

#### 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 SOSCs which includes the topics prioritised by the COSC for the next set of SOSCs in Table A, as well as topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B. This has been compiled from suggested items from each of the SOSCs at previous meetings as well as the COSC. 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 COSC for formal prioritisation and designation to each SOSC 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.

- 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 meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and note the list of responses including any still outstanding 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;
  - (iii) Identify any further detail required for other items in the overall FWP at Table B of Appendix B;

- (iv) Identify any additional items using the criteria form, for consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme following the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2018;

**PA Jolley**

**Corporate Director - Operational and Partnership Services**

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Angel Street,  
Bridgend.  
CF31 4WB

**Background documents**

None.



Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments
12-Mar-2018	School Modernisation	Members recommended that Officers adopt a whole Council approach to the School Modernisation Programme whereby it is ensured that officers from all Directorates including Highways, Transport, Finance and Social Services are consulted throughout the whole of the planning and development stages, are also given the opportunity to provide their input and are present at the relevant Scrutiny Committee to give their representations.	There is excellent representation from officers at programme and project level meetings. Officers contribute to their areas of expertise during project development and delivery, with the make-up of teams evolving as projects progress. Notwithstanding the above, there have been some issues in recent years as a result of re-structuring and resource availability, however as the programme is a priority, resourcing issues have been suitably addressed so as not to hinder schemes. Members' request for officers to be present at the relevant Scrutiny Committee is noted, and this will be conveyed to the appropriate officers.

Members recommended earlier consultation and engagement with Highways and Planning officers to ensure that the Safe Routes to School provision is applied when plans are being developed for each new school

Early engagement is taking place with Highway Officers in relation to Band B schemes of the School Modernisation Programme. Highway officers are part of the project team their views are recognised as being essential in terms of determining the location of any new schools. Highway officers will initially give their views on the suitability of the location from knowledge and experience of the following: accessibility via modes and modal requirements (pedestrian requirements, cycling, busses/minibuses, cars/taxis), proximity to adjacent authorities for travelling pupils, mitigation measures (junctions on periphery, road capacity, speed of vehicles), room for vehicular movements and parking on site, issues arising regarding stopping on the highway outside facilities, competing traffic, incompatible traffic (eg industrial estate movements), community benefits/amenities. When the proposed long-list of sites have been shortlisted, taking into account all educational requirements, then those sites will need to be considered in detail and the previous process repeated.

Members further recommended that plans for new schools include adequate facilities for pupils and staff to store and secure their bicycles to encourage them to cycle safely to school.

Encouraging building users to cycle, and in doing so promoting exercise and helping to reduce congestion and emissions, is an important element of school design. This can only be achieved by ensuring that there is adequate cyclist facilities available for staff and pupils. Cycle infrastructure and links to cycle paths from school sites assist with this, together with the provision of cycle parking. The number of cycle parking spaces are determined by the Council's adopted parking standards (Supplementary Planning Guidance 17) plus BREEAM requirements which together determine the number of spaces and other facilities associated with cycling eg showers, lockers etc. Such facilities aide the cyclist and promote the use of this sustainable mode of travel. The members' recommendations are duly noted and this matter will be given serious consideration in progressing Band B schemes with Highway officers and designers.

The Committee recommended that for the development of any new schools where a private road would be a designated drop off zone, legally compliant parking spaces are incorporated into the plans to ensure the safety of children, staff and parents using the same road to cross and park.

When considering any new school development, a project team is established to consider the design which will include how pupils, staff and parents access the school. Highway officers are part of those project teams. Advice is sought from Highway officers as to best practice with regard to any drop-off zone that may be suggested in order to ensure the safety of children, staff and parents using the facility. It is now usual for a number of layout options to be presented and evaluated by teams, comprising of designers, end users and officers from the 'School Transport Advisory Group', which includes a health and safety adviser. The number and size of parking spaces will need to comply with the Council's adopted parking standards.

Members recommended that Officers take into account the demographic changes when considering the placement of new schools and not just consider the new housing developments but also the changes in current housing where increasingly younger families are moving into homes in and around the Town centres. Many young families currently have to travel out of town by car for school provision as there is not sufficient provision in the immediate area

The supply and demand of school places is one of the fundamental elements which help inform the future investment needs of the School Modernisation Programme. The provision of places for housing developments, for which there are no places currently available, are a priority, as there is a statutory duty on the Council to ensure there are a sufficient supply. Officers regularly monitor places. There are an annual calculations of school capacity and pupil projections. The projections take into consideration a series of demographic data available to the Council including live births, housing data and historical information regarding the take-up of places. This method of calculating projections is a robust, tried and tested methodology. The methodology accounts for a 'pupil drift' of pupils year-on-year and also highlights unusual increases above the norm. However, apart from the 'pupil drift' element, in-year increases in population are not accounted for. We will explore opportunities to identify suitable data which may help inform population changes to existing schools and the impact on the supply/demand for places.

Members recommended that evidence be provided as to how risks relating to a change in political power in Welsh Government have been taken into consideration and mitigated against as this could potentially affect the 25 year financial plan.

Welsh Government (WG) have given a commitment in principle to Band B, however contracts have yet to be entered into on specific schemes. The Council mitigates by not committing to any contracts until there is a signed agreement from WG as to the funding envelope. If anything changes and WG have a change of direction and no longer provides match funding, then we would have to consider this in terms of Bridgend's capital funding availability and priorities. In terms of the 25 year plan, this would only affect the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) and the contract for this would have been entered into at the start of the period so it would be very difficult for WG to break that during the contract period.

Members recommended that Officers engage with Rhondda Cynon Taff Council and the Vale of Glamorgan during the early stages of the planned new housing development near Llanilid to discuss secondary education provision including how the new development could potentially affect the population of

The Communities Directorate and Education and Family Support directorates are engaged in initial discussions regarding the impact of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. Furthermore, both directorates work closely together to provide guidance to support the current local development plan and have held initial discussions regarding the revised local development plan from 2021.

Members recommended that as part of Band B of the School Modernisation Programme a solution for the shortfall of pupil places in Bryntirion Comprehensive School is considered as a priority as the school was currently already oversubscribed with children from out of the catchment area opting to be educated there.

Band B has been approved by Council, as has the Strategic Outline Programme. There are 20% surplus places within the county borough's secondary schools so there is no proposal to increase secondary provision for Band B. The issues at Bryntirion Comprehensive School relate to pressure from out-of-catchment applications. The school has sufficient places to meet in-catchment demand ie there are 210 places for the new intake into year 7 in September 2018 with 194 in-catchment applications. Acknowledging the increase pressure from out-of-catchment, the local authority is working to address the issues.

Members recommended that Cabinet and Officers ensure that evidence be provided as to how safety solutions and preventative measures are being addressed in all schools in the Borough, particularly in relation to the newer schools and those that have recently been completed. Members gave the example of schools with mezzanine type floors, which, whilst they complied with safety regulations, were still a cause for concern as children were able to climb onto the safety barriers or throw objects over the top which could cause serious injury to themselves and other pupils

The mezzanine type floor or light well within our schools often takes the form of a cut-out to the floor slab at first floor level, allowing the natural light into areas of the ground floor that would otherwise require artificial lighting. Light wells can also be used to promote ventilation. Certain conditions for their inclusion in designs are likely to be in place eg first floors will be accessed by key stage 2 pupils and management arrangements will be implemented; mostly reliant on one or a combination of supervision, instruction, timing and keeping the first floor landing areas sterile. Building regulations require a guard rail height of 1100mm and for horizontal rails to be avoided; our school designs comply with the requirement of these regulations. Moving forward, it would certainly be advantageous to have an agreed design based on 'normal parameters' which has flexibility if required and technical advice will be sought in this regard. Caerau Primary School, which opened in 2010, has a similar feature and the Headteacher maintains that there have been no known incidents of pupils throwing objects from the first floor to the ground floor. Checks have been made with the Health and Safety adviser to establish whether any incidents have been reported and confirmation has been received that there were two near-miss throwing incidents that occurred at Coety Primary School not long after the school opened in 2015 however, there is no knowledge of any reported incidents regarding this issue since that time.

#### **Further Information Requested**

How many pupils that live in walking distance to Brynteg School have opted to go to Bryntirion School

Sixteen pupils have applied for a place at Bryntirion Comprehensive School that reside in the Brynteg Comprehensive School catchment area and live within the 3 miles Welsh Government recommended walking distance to Brynteg.

What criteria is applied when refusing planning applications in relation to new housing developments and provision of school places.

Each application is determined on its own merit plus all material considerations. The Group Manager, Development, is unaware of planning consent being refused based on the lack of school places. Education provision is one of the criteria that Planners consider in making a decision or recommendation. Bridgend's own development plan and supplementary planning guidance provides policy clarification on how schemes are assessed.

Clarification on whether the non MIM spend of approximately £1.1m has been included within the MTFS agreed at last council meeting.

In terms of the £1.1m MIM, this isn't included within the MTFS currently as we have not had confirmation that we have got an approved MIM scheme from WG yet, and also, the pressure would not arise until the school was built (around 2024/25) and this is outside the range of our existing MTFS which currently covers 2018-19 to 2021-22.

#### **Further Points**

Members recommended that Scrutiny explore the possibility of having an item on the Local Development Plan and the section 106 contributions and how these contributions can be expended



## Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

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	Proposed rationale for timing from Officers	Suggested Invitees	Prioritised by Committees	Webcast
17-Apr-2018	SOSC 2	Dementia Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Provide an update on existing discussions with nursing care providers in relation to the development of nursing residential care places for people with dementia;</li> </ul> <p>Include facts and figures on people with dementia living in Cardiff as well as Neath Port Talbot and Swansea for comparison to Bridgend.</p> <p>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>			Proposed change from Directorate from 7 March as will take time to get the detailed information as it is not owned by the LA and needs to be gathered from Health etc.	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.
19-Apr-2018	SOSC 3	Emergency Housing	<p>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.</p> <p>Service user numbers Service user demographic –ages, disabilities, gender Outcomes Challenges faced daily by families using provision –health, dentist, mental health, schools *Members have requested a possible site visit/ Photos of facilities</p>	members asked for this item to be prioritised by the Corporate Committee to address the homelessness across the county which has increased and can be seen by the increased number of people sleeping in tents.			Andrew Jolley, Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services; Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Lynne Berry, Group Manager Housing Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member - Wellbeing and Future Generations; Representative from Gwalia Representative from Shelter Cymru Representative from Pobl Group Representative from Llamau Representative from The Wallich	SOSC3 SOSC 1	
Date TBC Following Annual Meeting	SOSC 1	Budgetary Impacts of Parc Prison	<p>How much core funding does BCBC receive to deal with the impact of a prison being located within its boundary? What is the true cost of servicing this need? Is there is a different impact due to Parc Prison being privately run as opposed to being run by the Prison Service? Educational aspects in prisons and their impact; What Community Services does Parc Prison provide? What does Parc Prison give back to the County Borough of Bridgend; What 3rd Sector services are provided at Parc; Details on the impact on housing; What input does the Probation Service have with working with the Authority and with the resettlement of prisoners.</p>		Proposed by Directorate for May-June 2018	Ongoing discussions with WG over financial position -more appropriate to receive later in year	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care Cllr P White, Cabinet Member Services and Early Help Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Representative from Parc prison; Representation from Health Service Provider; Representation from 3rd Sector – Drug and Alcohol services for example; Representation from Probation Service; Representation from housing department.		

<p>Date TBC Following Annual Meeting</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 26</p>	SOSC 2	Home to School Transport	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings:</p> <p>Update on pilot that school transport team proposing to run in Spring and Summer terms 2017-2018 - to support the enforcement of bus passes on home to school transport contracts. As part of this pilot, the Authority is also investigating opportunities to track the use of our school bus services by individual pupils.</p> <p>Update on Recommendation from BREP: The Panel recommend the need for the Authority to adopt a Corporate approach in relation to Home to School Transport maximising the LA's minibuses such as those used for day centres. It is proposed that this be supported by slightly amending the opening and closing times of day centres so that the buses can be available for school transport. Other aspects that could be considered include the exploration of whether school staff could transport children and young people instead of hiring independent drivers.</p> <p>To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees to be scrutinised to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport</p> <p>Report to include Update on the current arrangements of how licensing and school transport operates within the County Borough since the change in 2015 to the Police National Policy for disclosing non-conviction information to the local authority. Information to include a report from South Wales Police on its approach to disclosing information it holds about licencees following arrests, charges and convictions. What is the current relationship between the local authority's licensing and school transport departments in relation to the disclosure of information from South Wales police? Is there sufficient oversight on behalf of the local authority and a risk of contractors withholding information which may prejudice the continuation of their contract?</p> <p>Further proposed that Communities be invited to add to report and attend meeting to update Committee on safe routes assessment to determine what work has been undertaken since funding was allocated to this over a year ago.</p>	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings. To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees ought to be scrutinised by an Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport</p>			<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. Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities;</p>		
<p>Date TBC Following Annual Meeting</p>	SOSC3	Highways Services	<p>To include information of efficiency savings and the impact of what the MTFS has on the service</p>			<p>Proposed by HOS as had been drafted previously for scrutiny but did not go due to timing issues - felt that Mmembers need to know info - <i>could this be an information report instead?</i></p>	<p>Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene; Andrew Hobbs, Group Manager Streetworks</p>		

Page 27	SOSC 1	School Standards	<p>Requested from SOSC 1 meeting in February to receive a further report at a meeting in the near future, (to be agreed by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny), incorporating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Categorisation information;</li> <li>• In relation to Post-16 data at 4.53 of the report, the Committee requested that they receive the baseline for each school to give a better indication of how each school has improved;</li> <li>• Information on Bridgend's ranking for Key Stage 4 based on the latest results;</li> <li>• Information on what targets were set at each stage in order to determine whether the performance was expected and possibly a cohort issue or whether any actuals differed significantly from the targets set;</li> <li>• Information that the Consortium has gathered through drilling down into each schools' performance to determine what challenges schools face;</li> <li>• Further detail of the performance of those with ALN attending the PRU or Heronsbridge School as Members felt this was not incorporated into the report to a great degree;</li> <li>• Information on the work that the Consortium is doing to identify the variation for each secondary school at Key Stage 4, and what is being done about it;</li> <li>• More information in relation to each schools performance – not necessarily more data but detail of the where, what and how in relation to good and poor performance for each school so that the Committee has an overall understanding of the current situation and priority schools in Bridgend;</li> <li>• What extent are schools responding to the changes recently introduced such as the removal of Btec etc, to ensure they are still meeting the needs of the pupils;</li> <li>• What work is being done to mitigate against future dips in performance resulting from any changes to curriculum or changes to performance measures;</li> <li>• Evidence of how the Consortium has made a direct impact on schools and school performance, what outcomes can they be measured on in relation to Bridgend to assure Members of value for money;</li> <li>• What is being done to mitigate against the impact of changes in teachers to ensure that this does not have a resulting impact on the performance of pupils;</li> <li>• Performance in relation to vocational qualifications and non-core subjects – where are there causes for concern and where there is excellent work taking place etc.</li> </ul>				<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          Representative from School Budget Forum</p>		
	SOSC 2	Safeguarding	<p>To include Safeguarding activity in both Children and Adult Services.          To also cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Safeguarding Boards</li> <li>• Bridgend Corporate Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>• Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</li> <li>• Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DOLS)</li> </ul> <p>Report to provide statistical data in relation to service demands and evidence how quickly and effectively the services are acting to those needs.</p> <p>To evidence how the two services are working together and the impact on the LAC population.</p> <p>To receive the outcome of the in depth analysis which was currently being undertaken within the Council.</p> <p>What costs are associated to assessments that are contracted out.</p>	<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.</p>	<p>Pilot for Advocacy ends April. Therefore proposed date May/June 2018.</p>		<p>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          Richard Thomas, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer</p>	SOSC2 Jan 18	
	SOSC 3								

Table B

The following items were deemed important for future prioritisation:

Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date		Suggested Invitees		Webcast
<b>ALN Reform</b>	When the Act has been further progressed, report to include consideration of the following points: a) How the Authority and Schools are engaging with parents over the changes to the Act? 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 Act? d) Has the Act 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 Act could potentially cost £8.2m due to an expected increase in the number of cases of dispute resolution. e) Given that the Act 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 Act on capacity of teachers to support pupils with ALN j) How is the implementation of the Act being monitored; what quality assurance frameworks are there and what accountability for local authorities, consortiums and schools?	Needs revisiting to monitor implementation of the Bill and if needs are being met as well as impact on future budgets -	COSC agreed with comments from Officers and will await further timing advice (March 2018)	March 2018 -Officers from the Directorate have advised that as this hasn't moved on much from the last report to Scrutiny, it may be best to postpone the item until there is more to report	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		SOSC 2 highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.
<b>Advocacy</b>	Advocacy for Children and Adults: • The outcome from the Advocacy Pilot Scheme • The current system • Social Services & Wellbeing Act • Regional Children Services advocacy • Adult Services – Golden Thread Project				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		
<b>Annual Recommendations/feedback Update to each SOSC</b>	Update on all feedback that required follow up and recommendations - Cabinet and Officer ones <i>(COSC Receive report - SOSCs for info)</i>		Proposed for March 2018 to inform next years FWP planning		None		
<b>Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspection of Children's Services.</b>	The Committee requested that they receive an <b>information report</b> detailing the progress of the plan and update Members whether or not the actions have addressed the issues raised by the Inspectorate.		Going to Corporate Parenting on 24 Jan - Scrutiny Officers to pick up and send to Committee				
<b>Remodelling Fostering Project</b>	Further project as part of the Remodelling Children's Social Services  - Detail regarding the upskilling of three internal foster carers to provide intensive, therapeutic step down placements as part of Residential Remodelling project - Review of the foster carer marketing and recruitment strategy at a draft/early stage to allow members input into the process	COSC have proposed that this item be considered by a future SOSC 1 for continuity purposes			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.		
<b>Community Services</b>	Rec from BREP The Committee recommend that Scrutiny consider a future item on what other Local Authorities are doing to respond to the gap in provision in Community Services.  <i>(Officers proposed at FWP planning meeting to maybe use this as a bit of a reserac item in scrtuiny where represnetatives are asked form other LAs to determine what they do as this info isnt currently held by our Communities Directorate)</i>					SOSC2 Feb 18	

<b>Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project</b>	SOSC 1 requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes.					
<b>CIW investigation into LAC</b>	The Committee requested that the outcome of the CIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny <b>for information</b> when it becomes available.					
<b>CAMHS</b>	With reference to the responses received in relation to Child Adolescent Mental Health Services Members on 12 December 2018, Members note that most of the replies feature an element of work in progress and have asked to retain the item on the FWP for future review. To receive an update on current provision and further advise on current situation in relation to comments and conclusions made on 12 December 2018.  Update on work being undertaken throughout Wales looking at causes of mental health: 'Working Together for Mental Health'.					
<b>Empty Properties</b>	SOSC 3 requested that this item continue on FWP - reasons and purpose to be confirmed					

**The following items for briefing sessions or pre-Council briefing**

Item	Specific Information to request
Overview of Direct Payment Scheme	To update Members on the Direct Payments Process.
Social Services Commissioning Strategy	To include information on what work has taken place following the Social Services and Wellbeing Act population assessment. To also cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Annual Plan</li> <li>Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy</li> </ul>
Western Bay Regional Report	Update on situation and way forward with WB and Regional Working?

Residential Remodelling - Extra Care Housing	Site visit to current Extra Care Housing and then to new site once work has begun
Children's Social Services	Briefing for SOSC 1 on Child Practice Reviews - details of latest CPRs over last 12-18 months - what recommendations have come out of them, how have they been responded to, how have they helped inform future work to help safeguard children.

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

16 APRIL 2018

#### JOINT REPORT OF THE INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### EARLY HELP AND CHILDREN SOCIAL CARE

#### 1. Purpose of report

1.1 To provide elected members with information that has been requested in a variety of areas, namely:

- information and impact as to how Early Help and Children Social Care are working together;
- the local authority's current looked after children (LAC) population;
- a breakdown on referral figures including those from local pre-school nurseries;
- the services being provided to post-16 care leavers;
- data shared at the Early Help and Safeguarding Board;
- detailed analysis of the causes and demands on Children Social Care; and the
- independent review of the decision-making along the LAC pathway by the Institute of Public Care (IPC).

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan/other corporate priorities

- Helping people become more self-reliant
- Smarter use of resources

#### 3. Background

3.1 The effective oversight and management of the looked after children population is a key priority for the Council and there is a commitment to further improve both early intervention and statutory services for children, young people and their families. It is recognised that this is significantly dependent upon the ability of all directorates to work together and specifically the Social Services and Wellbeing and Education and Family Support Directorates. Since April 2015, Children Social Care Safeguarding teams and the Early Help teams, have been co-located in three separate, shared hubs and this has enabled the teams to work in closer partnership and also develop more effective processes and procedures that assist the transition of families between the two services.

#### 4. Current situation/proposal

**Information and impact as to how Early Help and Children Social Care are working together**

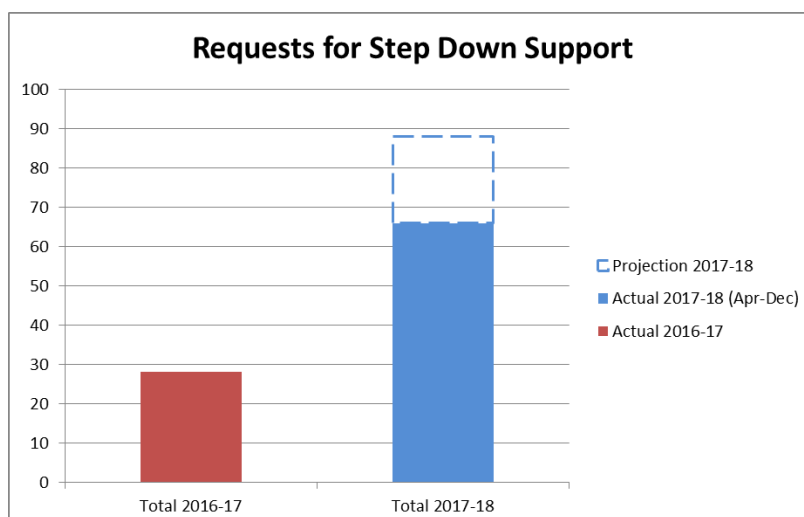
- 4.1 In April 2015, a significant restructure of Integrated Working and Family Support services was implemented. This re-structure was predicated on the need to support children, young people and families in a more joined-up way with a greater focus on preventative services to avoid escalation into statutory services. Prior to the re-structure, there were significant barriers for families in accessing services due to threshold constraints and lack of consistency with the assessment of needs.
- 4.2 A change programme ran alongside the re-structure which resulted in:
- a common assessment;
  - co-located, multi-disciplinary locality teams (co-located with safeguarding);
  - a greater emphasis on staff development and evidence based interventions; and
  - improved multi-agency working.
- 4.3 The new integrated Early Help Service has been operational since April 2015. It is based on one joint front door for all referrals. It consists of three co-located (with safeguarding teams) locality hubs in the north, west and east of the county borough. In addition, a central hub consisting of a range of specialist family support services (see Appendix 1) offering a range of evidenced based interventions to those children, young people and families open to Children Social Care. An early years and childcare service and a youth development team are also part of the early help portfolio.
- 4.4 Childrens Social Care includes six assessment and care management teams (county-wide front door/information, advice and assistance team, three locality safeguarding hubs, disabled children's team, Just Ask (leaving care)), Bridgend Foster Care, four Residential Units (Harwood House, Bakers Way, Sunnybank and Newbridge House) and the Independent reviewing service. We also have an adoption service that is delivered on a regional basis. All of these teams are involved with looked after children, as case managers or as service providers.
- 4.5 A joint Early Help and Permanence Strategy is in place which describes the services available to children, young people and their families within Bridgend. Such services support and enable where possible children and young people to safely remain in the care of their family and/or safely return to their family or an alternative carer. Where this is not possible, the strategy describes the alternative care arrangements that are provided and commissioned for LAC to improve their outcomes by affording them the opportunities available to all children.
- 4.6 Both directorates within the local authority are driving a whole-system approach to supporting LAC and keeping families together. Together with the Early Help and Permanence Strategy, they form a multi-agency approach to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 4.7 Early help refers to a way of working which will ensure that children, young people and families who are at risk or vulnerable to poor outcomes are identified early and that their needs are effectively assessed and met by agencies working together. The aim being to prevent their escalation rather than to respond only when the difficulty has become so acute as to demand intervention from statutory services.
- 4.8 The early help hubs, children with eligible care and support needs, child protection (CP), and LAC systems are all multi-disciplinary processes which differ only in



terms of their threshold focus.

- 4.9 The co-location of the early help hubs in the three localities (ie north, west and east) in addition to the central hub based at the Civic Centre, enables timely case discussions and information sharing which inform decisions regarding the need to step up or step down interventions with families.
- 4.10 There have already been a number of changes to the way in which we approach this area of work and the impact of this is evident including:
- joint early help and safeguarding front door/screening arrangements to more effectively channel referrals (see Appendix 1);
  - an agreed step-up and step-down process for cases between Safeguarding and Early Help Services, resulting in a significant increase in the number of cases stepping down to the Early Help Service;
  - a reduction in referrals to Children Social Care; and
  - a reduction in number of care and support cases (formerly child in need cases) open to Children Social Care.
- 4.11 However, there are challenges in managing the impact of these changes. For example, the Early Help Service has experienced:
- an increase of 180% of referrals in 2016-2017 compared with 2015-2016 data;
  - a further increase in referral numbers between April to December 2017 of 33% compared with the same period in 2016-2017;
  - the reliance on predominantly annual grant monies to fund Early Help services and the associated uncertainty of this funding arrangement; and
  - the increased complexity of cases now open to the Early Help Service.
- 4.12 Between April to December 2017, the highest referrers to the Early Help Service are:
- social services (28%);
  - primary health (26%); and
  - schools (24%).
- 4.13 These services account for nearly 80% of referrals to Early Help. In 2017-2018, the Early Help Service has seen a sharp rise in referrals from South Wales Police. The pilot Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Project in the north locality will be a contributing factor to this increase as Police colleagues are now appropriately referring directly to the Early Help Service.
- 4.14 Further to this, the co-location within early help hubs alongside Children Social Care teams has seen the development of a process for children and families who are either 'stepped up' into Childrens Social Care where there are child protection concerns or 'stepped' down into the Early Help Service following statutory involvement. The following chart highlights the number of cases being stepped down into the Early Help Service for the periods 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. This is shown in Chart 1 below.

**Chart 1** Requests for step-down support between 2016 and 2018



4.15 The step-down process that was implemented in 2016 has contributed to the reduction in the number of care and support cases open to Children Social Care.

	31 March 2017	12 March 2018
Care and Support (formerly child in need)	624	462

4.16 Other services impacting positively on children and young people open to Children Social Care include:

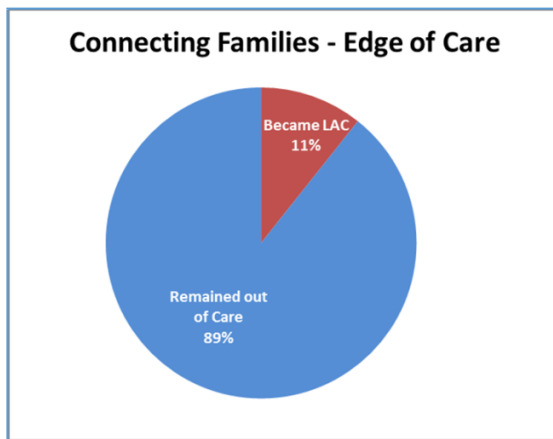
### Connecting Families

4.17 Connecting Families is a multi-agency team offering a 12-week intensive intervention to families whose children are at risk of becoming looked after or are already looked after but require additional intervention to return home to family. The service delivers all of the evidenced based interventions outlined earlier within the report. The support consists of intensive support (two to three visits a week). The service has been operational since 2011, but has focused its work since 2014 on preventing children becoming looked after.

4.18 Further to this support, Connecting Families also delivers group support. This includes the delivery of the three parenting programmes (Non-Violent Resistance Parenting, Incredible Years and Grobrain). These groups are delivered as a rolling programme so at any point in time a family who may not be eligible for any of the above elements of Connecting Families support, can access these interventions.

4.19 Outcomes in respect of the support from Connecting Families are extremely positive and confirms that the delivery of evidenced-based interventions (EBIs) within the service have a positive impact on children, young people and families. This can be evidenced in Chart 2 below.

**Chart 2** Connecting Families – Edge of Care data 2014 to 2017



- Between April 2014 and December 2017 Connecting Families worked with 431 children\* on the edge of coming into the care system.
- Of these 385 (89%)\*, remained out of care following the Connecting Families intervention.

\*as at December 2017

4.20 In respect of children returning home to family following a period in care, since April 2014, Connecting Families has completed work that has led to the safe return home of 51 children following a period in the care system. Given Connecting Families is unique to Bridgend, comparable data is not available with other local authorities.

### **Western Bay Integrated Family Support Services (IFSS)**

4.21 The Central Hub also delivers the statutory Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS) which is a Welsh Government initiative in working with parental substance misuse to prevent children becoming looked after or those who are in care with a plan to return home. The service is a Western Bay collaboration and delivers intensive (three to four visits a week) evidenced-based interventions to whole families for four to six weeks.

4.22 In respect of outcomes for the Bridgend element of the service, six children supported between April and December 2017 have closed to Children Social Care following an IFSS intervention. A total of six children also closed to Children Social Care in Neath Port Talbot CBC with a further three children ceasing to become looked after. In Swansea, eight children were de-registered from the child protection register (CPR) with a further four children de-commissioned from the Public Law Outline (PLO) process.

### **Rapid Response Team**

4.23 A Rapid Response Team was introduced in August 2017. This service was introduced in recognition that there are occasions when children and families require support in an immediate fashion in order to prevent issues escalating. The service consists of two Rapid Response Team workers (an additional Rapid Response Team worker is planned to commence on 1 April 2018). The workers offer intensive support (three to four visits a week) for a four to six-week period including early mornings, evenings and weekends with the main aim of preventing

children becoming looked after or to enable them to return home to family following a period in care.

- 4.24 Since August 2017, the service has worked with 68 families. From this cohort of families, only two children have become looked after during the time the Rapid Response Team has been operational. Once more, the outcomes linked to the service demonstrate the importance of flexible intensive EBIs being delivered to children and families. In addition to this, the service has also delivered over 68 hours of weekend support to children and families known to Children Social Care evidencing the flexibility of support available from within the service.

### **New services in development**

- 4.25 It is important to note that the Central Hub is in the process of developing new services to assist in the prevention of children becoming looked after. These include the Baby in Mind and Reflect Services.

### **Baby in Mind Service**

- 4.26 The Baby in Mind Service has been developed following additional 'edge of care' grant monies that have become available during the latter part of 2017. The service will provide intensive multi-agency support at a crucial time for parents of pre-birth and post birth babies to ensure that risks can be managed, and plans put into place that would prevent the baby from becoming either separated from its parent(s) or being placed in a mother/parent and baby placement for further assessment. In 2016-2017, the local authority used 23 parent and baby placements. These are high cost placements and raise questions as to whether these families could have been supported in the community. There is a clear need for a service to assist pregnant mothers and their partners to develop the necessary skills to keep their children safe. This service will also assist social workers in assessing and care planning for these children and families where there is a risk of care proceedings and the care system possibly being required. This has been highlighted as an issue within the IPC review.
- 4.27 The Baby in Mind Service consists of a consultant social worker to lead and supervise the delivery of the team, two family support workers to work in partnership and deliver evidenced based interventions to families and a part-time health visitor. The family support workers have been recruited and the health visitor post is currently out to advertisement. It is anticipated that this new service will become fully operational in April 2018.

### **Reflect Service**

- 4.28 The Reflect Service is a Welsh Government initiative developed to work with mothers who have had children removed from their care following care proceedings. There is a wealth of evidence that highlights the vulnerabilities for these individuals in respect of repeat pregnancies. Across Bridgend, of the 67 children who became looked after between 1 April 2017 and 12 March 2018, 18 of these were born to mothers who had previously had children removed suggesting that there were some missed opportunities in preventing repeat pregnancy leading to children social care involvement. The Reflect Service is being developed in response to this and will be delivered as part of a regional arrangement with

Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil CBCs. It is anticipated that the service for Reflect will be operational in April 2018.

### The local authority's current LAC population

4.29 Bridgend's current LAC population stands at 389. The following table outlines the legal status of the children who have become looked after as at 12 March 2018.

Legal status*	Number of children
Section 76	15
Interim care order	28
Care order	289
Placement order	57
<b>Total LAC</b>	<b>389</b>

\*Definitions included at Appendix 4

4.30 The local authority continues to have a high number of LAC per 10,000 population in Bridgend and, at year end 2016-2017, we were the fourth highest in Wales. For the same period overall numbers across Wales had increased by 5.5%; however, Bridgend were below this average as our increase was only 2.2%. Of the 17 local authorities that had shown increases, 7 were over 10%, of which 3 were over 15% and 1 at 30%.

4.31 A comparison of LAC numbers across local authorities in Wales is included at Appendix 2.

4.32 5.7% of looked after children (as at 12 March 2018) have a disability and are supported by our Children with Disabilities Team. This year, together with Adult Social Care, we have piloted our transition team which supports disabled children from the age of 14 years and upwards, aiming to ensure a joined up, seamless approach in supporting disabled children on their path to adulthood. A high proportion of children and young people became looked after during the first year of their life (30%), and, with this in mind, the local authority has used a significant proportion of its 'edge of care' grant to develop a Baby in Mind Service that will focus on support for parents during the pre-birth period and the first six months of a baby's life. This service is due to become operational from April 2018.

4.33 In terms of the legal status of children, only 3.9% (as at 12 March 2018) are looked after under section 76 of the SSWBA 2014 (no order). The local authority holds a weekly legal surgery which is chaired by a senior manager to ensure there is no drift in cases where children have become looked after. The majority of these 2.9% are cases where there is a short period of assessment and a rehabilitation plan is being implemented.

4.34 In addition to the work that has been undertaken to support families earlier, there has also been project work around identifying children within our looked after population that no longer need to be looked after or whose needs could be better met by being cared for under an alternative order. We now have a Permanence Team which focuses on assessing and supporting special guardians. Alongside this, we convene a permanence meeting on a six-weekly basis and scrutinises the

care plans of children focusing on whether Care Orders can be discharged.

### **Breakdown on referral figures including those from local pre-school nurseries**

- 4.35 Referral figures are highlighted in Appendix 3 as part of joint Early Help and Safeguarding dataset. These are considered by the Early Help and Safeguarding Board to review performance across both directorates and to identify areas for development linked to preventing children and young people coming into the care system.
- 4.36 In respect of referrals into Early Help from pre-school settings, from April 2017 to December 2017, a total of 444 referrals were received from education services. Nine of these were received from pre-school settings. It must be noted that although this a low number, during the same period, 487 referrals were received from primary health services of which 380 were from health visitors for children under four years of age.
- 4.37 In addition to the above, 38 referrals were received from the Early Years and Childcare Service.
- 4.38 In summary, therefore, the Early Help Service received 427 referrals for children under four years of age. This equates to 23% of the total number of referrals received for the period April to December 2017.
- 4.39 Pre-school data for referrals into the Safeguarding Team is not available at this point in time.

### **The services being provided to post-16 care leavers**

#### **Inspire 2 Work**

- 4.40 Inspire 2 Work (I2W), an employability project for young people 16 to 24-years-old, who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) work in partnership with Just Ask Plus to support our LAC population.
- 4.41 This close partnership involves I2W staff working alongside personal advisers to provide a holistic package of support tailored to meet the needs of each individual young person. I2W staff, following agreement in LAC reviews, take the lead on identifying suitable progression routes and provide transitional support for the young person.
- 4.42 Under a new initiative, linked to a measure with the Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020 (the rate (%) of apprenticeships taken by looked after children), I2W and Just Ask Plus are leading on a project to offer to all LAC young people who are school leavers, an opportunity to undertake a week's work experience within the local authority.
- 4.43 It has been established that there is a currently a cohort of 24 young people that are LAC that will be of school leaving age as of July 2018. As a pathway to securing an employment opportunity, it has been agreed that every young person will be offered at least a week's work experience within BCBC during the summer holiday period. The outcome of this initiative is twofold: getting young people apprenticeship ready;

and enhancing individual CVs with recent and relative work experience relating to their respective educational pathways.

### **Confident Futures Project**

- 4.44 Over the past nine years, Bridgend's Looked After Children in Education Team (LACE) has worked in close partnership with Cardiff University supporting LAC and care leavers to access the Confident Futures project. A total of 68 Bridgend LAC students have participated.
- 4.45 The Confident Futures Project, funded by Cardiff University, is a project run for LAC and care leavers between the ages of 14 and 19 to raise their aspirations and confidence. The sessions run fortnightly from October to April throughout the academic year, and they consist of group activities as well as individual support given by current Cardiff University students. Attending the project provides young people access to workshops which can support their studies and applications to university, as well as university events such as GCSE/A level revision workshops and advice sessions to support personal education plans and pathways.
- 4.46 In brief, the purpose is to provide young people who have a background in care with the skills and information to obtain Higher Education, and to help them become familiar with the main aspects of life at university.

### **Leaving Care Team**

- 4.47 Young People who are leaving the local authority's care, or who have left care (16 years-25 years) are supported by a Personal Advisor from the Leaving Care team. The Personal Advisor is able to provide the young person with practical assistance including making/attending appointments, setting up home, preventing homeless, housing, financial support, developing independent living skills and much more.
- 4.4.9 Emotionally, the Personal Advisors are on hand to listen to a young person, and support them emotionally during any issues that arise eg family relationship issues, past childhood events. We are able to provide them with life story work/ later life letters, referrals to appropriate specialist agencies (eg counselling).

### **4.5 Data shared at the Early Help and Safeguarding Board**

- 4.5.1 The shared dataset regularly considered by the Early Help and Safeguarding Board is at attached Appendix 3.

### **4.6 Detailed analysis of the causes and demands on Children Social Care**

- 4.6.1 On 12 March 2018, Children's Social Care (CSC) were working with 1025 children and young people. 380 of these are looked after, 174 are on the child protection register, 9 are Looked After and on the child protection register, 462 are subject to a care and support plan. Children Social Care are also working with 129 care leavers who are over 18 years old. 74% of children who became looked after in Bridgend in 2017 had been subject to a child protection plan at the time they were accommodated. This would indicate that the local authority had already identified, in a substantial majority of cases that children were at risk of serious harm prior to

them being accommodated and had tried to address these risks through implementing a child protection plan.

4.6.2 On 12 March 2018, our Child Protection Register comprised the following profile:

Age Group	Category of Registration										Total
	Emotional Abuse	Neglect	Neglect and Physical Abuse	Neglect and Sexual Abuse	Neglect, Physical Abuse & Emotional Abuse	Neglect, Physical and Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	Physical and Emotional Abuse	Physical and Sexual Abuse	Sexual Abuse	
Under 1	6	10				1					17
1 to 4	21	15	3		3		2	1			45
5 to 9	22	18	6		1		4		1	1	53
10 to 15	25	16	2	3	2		2		2	1	53
16 to 18	6	4		3					1	1	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>183</b>

4.6.3 This information, in addition to the joint dataset described earlier in this report equips us to analyse the reasons why children and young people in Bridgend are deemed to be at risk, issues that are affecting the parenting that they are receiving and the services that need to be available to address these issues with the aim of preventing children from becoming looked after. By collecting and analysing information about the age profile we are also able to target specialist services to relevant groups. An example of this is the Baby in Mind Service described earlier in this report. The IPC report has also provided an analysis of our interventions and potential missed opportunities for unborn babies and children age 0 to 11 years and 13 – 17 years respectively. This will be used to inform the review of our existing service provision and options for the future.

#### 4.7 Independent review of the decision-making along the Looked After Children pathway by the Institute of Public Care

4.7.1 In November 2017, IPC undertook a review of the pathways experienced by children and young people who had become looked after in the last year, to review decision-making and analyse practice across their care pathway and explore with teams how interventions and decision-making might have been more effective. They looked at 35 children who became looked after during the period October 2016 to September 2017. The cases were randomly selected by Bridgend Borough Council from all the children who became looked after in that period. The cases were in the following categories:

- Unborn – where the family were referred during the pregnancy of the child who became looked after;
- Early intervention for children aged 0 to 11 years. Where the child referred was aged 0 to 11 years and there may have been opportunities for early intervention prior to the start of the child becoming looked after; and
- Early intervention for children who were teenagers. Where the child referred was aged 13 to 17 years and there may have been opportunities for early intervention prior to the start of the child becoming looked after.

4.7.2 The project involved four stages:





#### 4.7.3 IPC were asked to look specifically at:

- The quality of decision making, timeliness, and threshold management at the front door including any relevant Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) arrangements;
- How risk was identified, assessed, mitigated and managed;
- Whether there is a coherent model of early intervention and preventative services, and the relationship between children’s social care and these services;
- Whether there is evidence of strength based, outcome focussed assessments and care plans;
- Whether there is evidence of strong partnership working underpinned by a common value base and clear roles and responsibilities;
- Whether there are dynamic quality assurance and quality improvement systems driving continuous improvement within and between teams; and
- Whether there is evidence of the involvement of children, young people and families at a service level and in practice.

#### 4.7.4 The recommendations of the review were:

- Strengthening of earlier assessments of pre-birth families;
- Review services that are available to parents following the removal of their children with a view of preventing future removals;
- Parenting and psychological assessments to be completed at Child Protection or Public Law Outline stage;
- Utilise Family Group Conferencing (FGCs) to assist in developing supportive family networks;
- Ensure completion of chronologies within cases;
- Improve consistency in social work assessment;
- Work with multi-agencies to improve information sharing;
- Ensure good quality supervision of cases is administered; and
- Review the impact early intervention services have to ensure that they are making a difference for children and families.

4.7.5 An action plan is being developed to progress the recommendations and will be overseen by the Early Help and Safeguarding Board.

## 5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 There is no effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 No Equality Impact Assessment has been completed to date.

## **7. Financial implications**

7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **8. Recommendation**

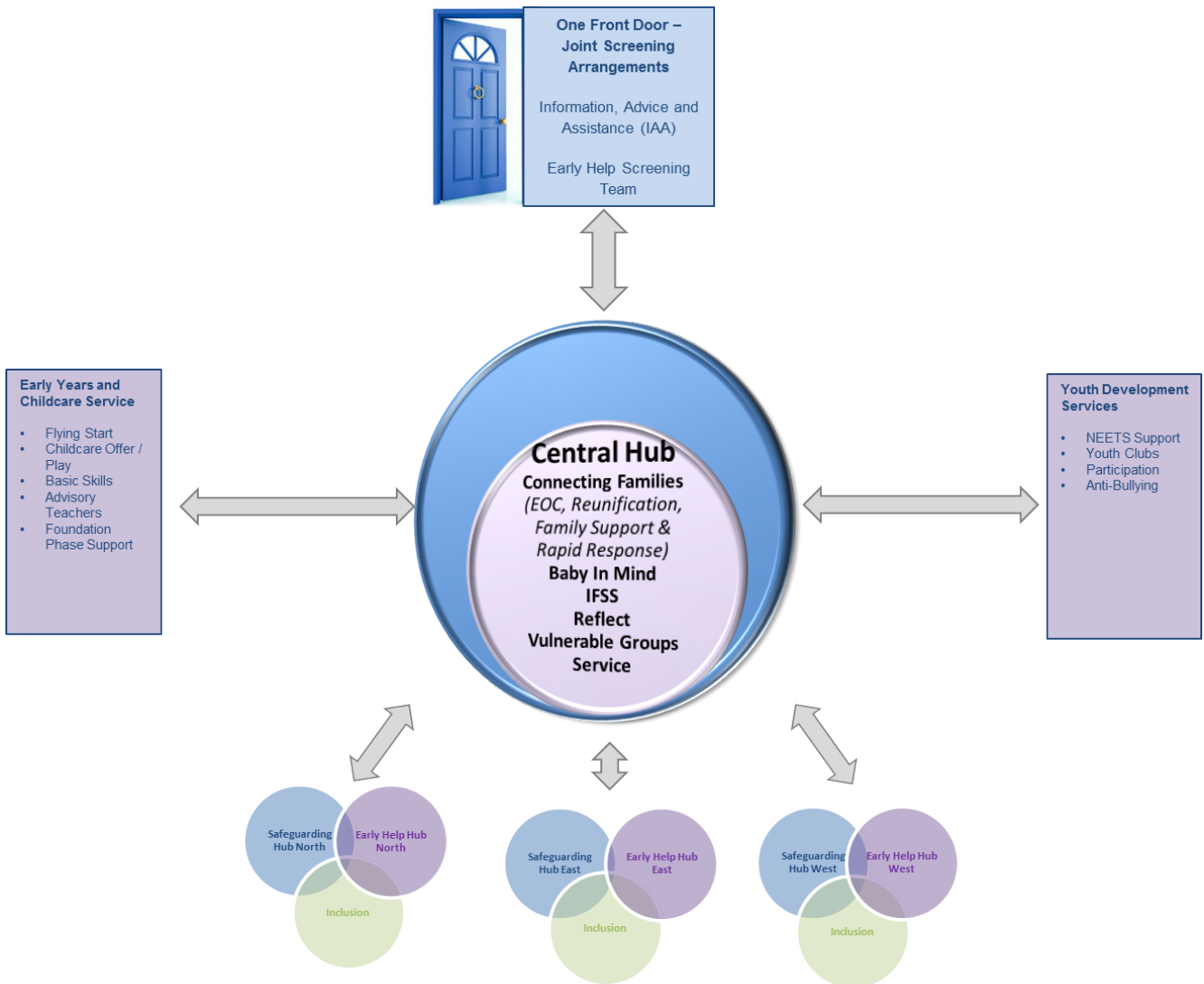
8.1 The Committee is requested to note and comment on the developments of the Early Help and Children Social Care services and their whole-system approach across the County Borough in reducing cases open to statutory services.

**Susan Cooper**  
**Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing**  
**March 2018**

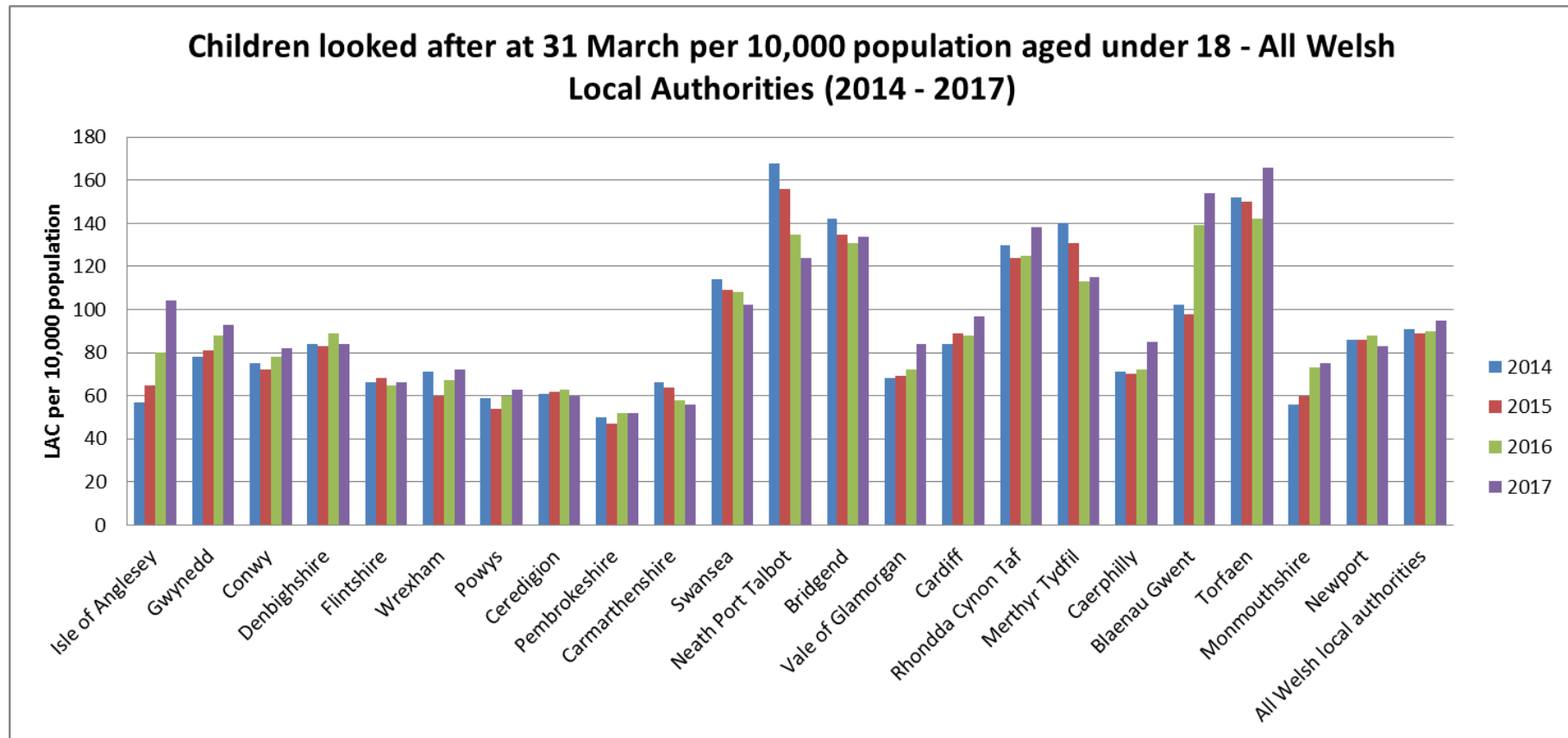
**Lindsay Harvey**  
**Interim Corporate Director, Education and Family Support**  
**March 2018**

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# Appendix 1 - Central Hub Services



## Appendix 2 - Looked After Children Data



- The number of Looked After children in Bridgend per 10,000 of population aged under 18 decreased from 142 in 2014, to 131 in 2016.
- This figure increased slightly in 2017 to 134 per 10,000, however this is in line with the average across all Welsh Local Authorities, with 68% of Local Authorities reporting an increase in the LAC figures from 2016 to 2017.

## Shared Dataset for the Early Intervention & Safeguarding Board (1 April 2016 – 31 December 2017)

### **Please Note:**

- 1. This data does not reflect all activity within Early Help Services (eg Education Welfare, Lead Worker, School-Based Counselling Services)**
- 2. All Early Help data reflects family referrals, not individual children, unless otherwise indicated**

## Section 1 - Requests for Help

Page 46  
**Table 1 - Requests for Help referrals received by agency**

Between April 1 2016 and December 31 2017, Safeguarding received 4274 referrals for **children and young people**. For the same period Early Help received 3966 **family referrals**.

Source of agency	Safeguarding Individual Referrals					Early Help Family Referrals				
	Total 2016-17	Q3 2016-17	Q3 2017-18	% (Q3 2017-18)	Q1 – Q3 2017-18	Total 2016-17	Q3 2016-17	Q3 2017-18	% (Q3 2017-18)	Q1 – Q3 2017-18
Central Government	15	6	1	0.2%	6	1	1	0	0.0%	7
Early Help	153	34	18	4.0%	53	133	32	57	8.2%	107
Education	365	89	94	21.1%	233	694	179	183	26.4%	444
Fire Service	8	0	0	0.0%	4	0	0	0	0.0%	0
Housing	26	9	7	1.6%	14	18	1	2	0.3%	6
Individuals	227	46	24	5.4%	95	86	14	26	3.8%	91
Other	4	2	0	0.0%	0	1	0	0	0.0%	7
Other Directorate in Local Authority	75	3	12	2.7%	28	34	5	14	2.0%	44
Other Local Authority	29	15	7	1.6%	47	13	3	8	1.2%	13
Police / Courts	1122	239	167	37.4%	493	5	2	29	4.2%	66
Primary Health	205	54	55	12.3%	136	458	105	178	25.7%	487
Probation	13	26	3	0.7%	11	0	0	2	0.3%	4
Private Service Provider	75	0	0	0.0%	3	12	4	0	0.0%	0
Secondary Health	175	40	7	1.6%	58	3	0	2	0.3%	7
Social Services	264	67	46	10.3%	127	574	136	176	25.4%	527
Voluntary Agency	157	24	5	1.1%	53	74	14	16	2.3%	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>2913</b>	<b>654</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1361</b>	<b>2106</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1860</b>

- Although the number of Safeguarding referrals received during Quarter 3 2017-18 is significantly lower than the Quarter 3 2016-17, it is consistent with number received during Quarter 1 & 2 2017-18.
- Whilst the Police remain the highest referrer to Safeguarding during Quarter 3 2017-18, there has been a 30% decrease in this referral source when compared to Quarter 3 2016-17.
- To date, during 2017-18 the highest referrer to Early Help is Social Services, making 527 of 1860 Requests for Help (28.3%).
- Referral numbers to Early Help between Quarters 1 & 3 for 2017-18 shows an increase of 39.7% (*difference of 197*) when compared to Requests for Help received between Quarters 1 & 3 of 2016-17.

**All Early Help data reflects family referrals, not individual children, unless otherwise indicated**

## Section 2 – Requests for Help from Social Services

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Table 1 – Requests for Help referrals made by Social Services to Early Help (*Family Referrals*)

Agency	Total 2016-17	Quarter 3 2016-17	Quarter 3 2017-18	Quarter 3 % (2017-18)	Quarter 1 - Quarter 3 2017-18
Children's Services Assessment Team	212	54	60	34.1%	177
Safeguarding East Hub	92	21	43	24.4%	111
Safeguarding North Hub	115	28	21	11.9%	82
Safeguarding West Hub	60	12	19	10.8%	45
Children's Services Community Home	0	0	0	0.0%	1
Disabled Children's Team	47	12	9	5.1%	28
Just Ask Plus	26	7	6	3.4%	27
Foster Care Team	1	0	0	0.0%	1
Connecting Families	1	0	2	1.1%	4
IFSS	1	0	1	0.6%	2
Western Bay Adoption Service	0	0	3	1.7%	3
Youth Justice & Early Intervention	4	0	1	0.6%	6
<b>Adult Services</b>	15	2	11	<b>6.3%</b>	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>527</b>

- Year to date (Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 2017-18) the number of referrals received by Early Help from Social Services has increased by 27.6% when compared with the same period last year.
- In 2016-17 the highest referrer from Social Services to Early Help was the Assessment Team, making 36.9% (212 / 574) of Requests for Help. Between Quarters 1 & 3 of 2016-17, 153 Requests for Help were made by the Assessment Team, and for the same period in 2017-18, 177 requests were made (*increase of 15.7%*).
- In addition to the referrals indicated in the table above, between Quarters 1 and 3 2017-18 Early Help received an further 116 referrals for families who were already receiving Early Help support – 19 referrals from the Assessment Team & 87 referrals from Safeguarding Hubs.

**All Early Help data reflects family referrals, not individual children, unless otherwise indicated**

**Table 2 - Number of Requests for Help received from the Assessment Team to Early Help (*Family Referrals*)**

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Requests for Help received	Total 2016-17	Quarter 3 2016-17	Quarter 3 2017-18	Quarter 3 % (2017-18)	Quarter 1 & Quarter 3 2017-18
Referrals received following completion of the Care & Support Assessment	164	42	49	81.7%	119
Referrals received for those cases not requiring a Care & Support Assessment	48	12	11	18.3%	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>177</b>

- During 2016-17, 77.4% (164 / 212) of Requests for Help were made by the Assessment Team to Early Help following completion of a Care & Support Assessment. Between Q1 & Q3 2017-18, 67.2% (119 / 177) of Requests for Help were made by the Assessment Team to Early Help following completion of a Care & Support Assessment.
- Of the referrals received from the Assessment Team between Quarter 1 & 3 for 2017-18, 32.8% (58 / 177) of the families did not receive a Care & Support Assessment from the Assessment Team.
- During Quarters 1 to 3 2017-18, in addition to these referrals, 19 referrals were received from the Assessment Team for families where support was already in place, and 51 Requests for Help were passed directly on to Early Help by the Assessment Team (*where the referral form was completed by another service*). In 92.2% (47 / 51) of cases these referrals were PPN's submitted to the Assessment Team from the Police.

**All Early Help data reflects family referrals, not individual children, unless otherwise indicated**



**Table 3 - Number of Requests for Help received from Safeguarding Teams requesting Step Down support (*Family Referrals received between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017*)**

Requests for Help received	Total 2016-17	Quarter 3 2016-17	Quarter 3 2017-18	Quarter 3 % (2017-18)	Quarter 1 & Quarter 3 2017-18
Safeguarding East	11	3	15	65.2%	25
Safeguarding North	12	7	6	26.1%	28
Safeguarding West	4	0	2	8.7%	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>66</b>

- **Between Quarters 1 & 3 2017-18 there have been 66 Requests for Help from the Safeguarding Teams requesting Step Down support. This has exceeded the number of the requests received during the same period in 2016-17 by 200.0% (difference of 44).**
- A number of cases were stepped down as part of the Care and Support Case Project; however, some of these requests may not be included in these figures.

**All Early Help data reflects family referrals, not individual children, unless otherwise indicated**

**Table 4 – Outcome of Requests for Step Down support (*Family Referrals* received between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017)**

Safeguarding Outcomes	Total No. Step Down Requests	% of Step Down Requests
Case closed to Children’s Social Care (CSC) following Step Down request	80	86.0%
Case remains open to Children’s Social Care (CSC)	5	5.4%
Case did not close to Children’s Social Care (CSC) following Step Down request, case is now closed	8	8.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- Of the 93 requests for Step Down support submitted, 13 (14.0%) families were already receiving support from Early Help services.
- Of the 80 families closed to Safeguarding following a Step Down request, the Assessment team have not received a re-referral for 62.5% (50 / 80) of the families during the 12 month period following receipt of the Step Down request.
  - ➔ Of the 30 families that were re-referred to the Assessment Team 36.7% (11 / 30) of the families were closed & logged, and 63.3% (19 / 30) of the families received a Care & Support Assessment as a result of the new referrals.
- Of the step down requests, 54 of the referrals have closed to Early Help services.
  - ➔ Of these, 40.7% (22 / 54) closed with successful outcomes (*Closed – All Work Completed, or closed to Single Agency Support*).
  - ➔ 29.6% (16 / 54) of these families have been re-referred to Early Help teams during the 12 month period following the step down request. Of the 16, 2 did not engage, 1 was passed on for single agency support, and 13 families have received support from Early Help or Connecting Families services.
  - ➔ 3 families have been referred again for Step Down support.
- Of the 93 requests for Step Down support submitted to Early Help, 30.1% (28 / 93) families have closed fully to both Safeguarding & Early Help Services and have not been re-referred to either services during the 12 month period following the Step Down request.

**All Early Help data reflects family referrals, not individual children, unless otherwise indicated**

### Section 3 – Assessment Team Re-referrals

**Table 1 – Number of Re-referrals to the Assessment Team (Referrals received between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017)**

Please note that this table compares arrangements / requirements pre and post Social Services & Wellbeing Act, therefore data is not directly comparable with 2017/18 reporting year

Re-referrals to the Assessment Team		2016-17	
Total Number of Safeguarding referrals period		2913	
Total number of individual children referred into Safeguarding in 2016-17	2357	NA	
No. individuals that had a referral in the previous 12 months	610	25.9%	
→ Of which, had an Early Help Referral during the previous 12 months	214	35.1%	
→ Of the children re-referred the number that resulted in a Care and Support Plan	162	26.6%	
→ Of the children re-referred, the number whose names were added to the CPR in 2016-17	39	6.4%	
→ Of the children re-referred, the number who became Looked After in 2016-17	4	0.7%	

**Table 2 – Number of Re-referrals to the Assessment Team (Quarters 1 - 3 2016-17 & Quarters 1 - 3 2017-18)**

Re-referrals to the Assessment Team	Quarter 1 2017-18		Quarter 2 2017-18		Quarter 3 2017-18	
	Total Number of Safeguarding referrals	520		395		446
Total number of individual children referred into Safeguarding	505	NA	383	NA	439	NA
No. individuals that had a referral in the previous 12 months	178	35.20%	120	31.30%	106	31.30%
→ Of which, had an Early Help Referral during the previous 15 months	63	12.50%	80	20.90%	72	31.60%
→ Of the children re-referred the number that resulted in a Care and Support Plan	25	5.00%	17*	4.40%	19	4.40%
→ Of the children re-referred, the number whose names were added to the CPR	13	2.60%	5	1.30%	5	1.30%
→ Of the children re-referred, the number who became Looked After	2	0.40%	1	0.30%	1	0.30%

\* In some cases the care & support assessment is still ongoing so the outcome is not yet known

- Since Quarter 1 the referral rate has dropped by 3.9% compared to Quarter 3.

## Section 4 – Looked After Data

**Table 1 – Number of children who became Looked After between April 1 2016 and December 31 2017**

The number of Looked After children as of 31 December 2017 was 383.

Between April 1 2016 and December 31 2017 there were 144 episodes of LAC, of which 141\* individuals became Looked After. Of these 79 were individual children, and there were 25 sibling groups.

\*1 individual has been counted in both 2016-17 & 2017-18 Quarter 2 figures, due to becoming Looked After in both periods.

Became Looked After	2016-2017	Quarters 1 - 3 2016-17	Quarters 1 - 3 2017-18	Quarter 3 2016-17	Quarter 3 2017-18	Quarter 3 % (2017-18)
<b>No of individuals BLA</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>No. receiving Early Help support at BLA Date</b>	48	41	24	15	5	<b>45.5%</b>
<b>No. receiving new or additional support during 6 month period since BLA Date</b>	58	49	27**	10	7**	<b>63.6%</b>

\*\*In some cases the 6 month period since BLA date has not yet passed, more families may be referred for Early Help support

- During Quarters 1 to 3 of 2017-18 there were 46 episodes of LAC (44 individuals BLA). This is a 45.9% decrease on the 85 episodes of LAC between Quarter 1 and 3 of 2016-17(84 individuals BLA).
- 11 individuals became Looked After during Quarter 3 2017-18. Of these, 5 were receiving support from Early Help at the BLA date, 4 of which were referred to Early Help less than 1 month prior to Becoming Looked After
- Of the children who became Looked After between April 1 2016 and December 31 2017, 51.1% (72 / 141) were allocated to Early Help for support at the BLA Date.
  - ➔ Of the 72 children allocated to Early Help for support at BLA date, 47.2% (34 / 72) of the referrals were received less than 2 months prior to the BLA date.
  - ➔ Although the remaining 38 families were referred to Early Help over 2 months prior to Becoming Looked After, in 12 cases the children were removed at birth (31.6%).
  - ➔ Of the children who were allocated to Early Help for support at BLA Date, 48.6% (35 / 72) were allocated for support from the Connecting Families Team. 54.3% (19 / 35) of the families were referred to Connecting Families less than 2 months prior to the BLA date; and of the remaining 16 families, in 4 cases the children were removed at birth, and a further 6 were aged under 4 years old.

**Table 2 – Number of children who ceased to be Looked After between April 1 2016 to December 31 2017**

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Between April 1 2016 and December 31 2017 there were 140 episodes where children ceased to be Looked After, of which 137\* individuals ceased to be Looked After. Of these 112 were individual children, and there were 11 sibling groups.

\*1 individual has been counted in both 2016-17 & 2017-18 Quarter 2 figures, due to becoming Looked After in both periods.

Ceased to be Looked After	Total 2016-17	Quarters 1 - 3 2016-18	Quarters 1 - 3 2017-18	Quarter 3 2016-17	Quarter 3 2017-18	Quarter 3 % 2017-18
<b>No of individuals CLA</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>No. of individuals who received Early Help support during LAC Period</b>	36	29	27	8	3	<b>25.0%</b>
<b>No. receiving new or additional support during 6 month period since CLA Date</b>	16	13	5**	1	2**	<b>16.7%</b>

\*\* In some cases the 6 month period since CLA date has not yet passed, more families may be referred for Early Help support

- During Quarters 1 to 3 of 2017-18 there were 52 episodes of children ceasing to be Looked After. This is a 34.2% reduction on the 79 episodes between Quarters 1 and 3 of 2016-17 (76 individuals CLA).
- Of the children who ceased to be Looked After between April 1 2016 and December 31 2017, 35% were aged under 4 years, 17.5% aged 4-12 years, 43.8% aged 13-17 years, and 3.6% aged over 18 years of age.
- Of the children who ceased to be Looked After between April 1 2016 and December 31 2017, 48.9% (67 / 137) were allocated to Early Help for support during the LAC period
- Of the families who were allocated to Early Help for support throughout the LAC period, or since CLA date, 70.8% (51 / 72) were allocated for support from the Connecting Families Team.

## Appendix 4 - Breakdown of placement type:

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**Care Order (CO) S.31 Childrens Act 1989** – The Local Authority shares parental responsibility (PR) for children and has placed them in a regulated placement. A regulated placement is with approved foster carers.

**Interim Care Orders (ICO)** – The Local Authority shares PR for children and has placed them in a regulated placement for the duration of care proceedings, the final care plan for the child has not yet been agreed by the Court.

**Voluntary accommodation S76 SSWBA** – children have been voluntarily accommodated with the consent of their parents into the care of the Local Authority often whilst assessments are undertaken or via the Public Law Outline (PLO) process where parents retain PR.

**Regulation 26 of the Care Planning Placement and Case Review Regulations (Wales 2015)** – immediate or emergency placement of children with relatives or family friends under a temporary approval agreement. These placements are overseen and managed within the Local Authority often whilst a full unified assessment is undertaken as part of care proceedings.

**Placement with Parents (PWP) S16 Social Services and Wellbeing Act (SSWBA)** – Children who are accommodated under a care order but placed with their parents upon the conclusion of care proceedings, (or sometimes under an interim care order whilst the court proceedings are ongoing)

**S.38(6) placements, Children Act 1989** – The Court directs that children are placed with family members in an unregulated placement for the purposes of assessment. The Local Authority whilst working the case does not have responsibility or management of those placements and the Court accepts that risk.

**Remanded into custody** - All children and young people who are remanded into custody become “Looked After” children.

**Placed for adoption** – Placed with prospective adoptive parents prior to the application and granting of an Adoption Order. Once an Adoption Order is granted children cease to be “Looked After” children.