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Bridgend County Borough Council



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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: Friday, 18 May 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 **Thursday, 24 May 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 - 10
To receive for approval the minutes of a meeting of 12/3/18.
4. Forward Work Programme Update 11 - 46
5. Update On The Work In HMP Parc Following The Implementation Of The Social Services And Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014, Including The Contribution Of The Prison To The Local Community And The Budget Implications Of Meeting The New Duties And Responsibilities Of The Act 47 - 56

Invitees

Susan Cooper – Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Carmel Donovan - Integrated Community Services Manager
Corin Morgan Armstrong – Representative from G4S
Cllr Phil White - Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help

6. Nomination to the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel 57 - 60
7. Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Report 61 - 64
8. Urgent Items
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in

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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.

Yours faithfully

P A Jolley

Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services

Councillors:

JPD Blundell

NA Burnett

RJ Collins

PA Davies

SK Dendy

DK Edwards

Councillors

J Gebbie

M Jones

DG Owen

B Sedgebeer

RME Stirman

LM Walters

Councillors

KJ Watts

CA Webster

AJ Williams

JE Williams

Agenda Item 3

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - MONDAY, 12 MARCH 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 MONDAY, 12 MARCH 2018 AT 09:30

Present

Councillor CA Webster – Chairperson

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

Apologies for Absence

RJ Collins, J Gebbie and A Williams

Registered Representatives

Tim Cahalane	Roman Catholic Church
Rev Canon Edward Evans	Church in Wales
William Bond	
Ciaron Jackson	
K Pascoe	

Officers:

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

Invitees:

Nicola Echanis	Head of Education & Family Support
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Gaynor Thomas	School Programme Manager

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made:-

Councillor C Webster – Personal interest in agenda Item 5 - parent governor at Heronsbridge School.

Councillor AW Williams – Personal interest in agenda Item 5, - Parent Governor at Coety Primary School

12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of meetings of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 dated 10 and 18 January 2018, be approved as true and accurate records, subject to Minute 23 of the Minutes of 10 January 2018, being amended to reflect that Reverend Canon Evans is a school governor of Bryntirion as opposed to Brynteg Comprehensive School.

13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (FWP)

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report that detailed the items prioritised by the Corporate O&S Committee including the next delegated item to Subject O&S Committee 1; to also present the Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation. To ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form, and finally to consider and approve the feedback from the previous meetings of the Subject O&S Committee 1 and note the list of responses including any still outstanding at Appendix A to the report.

Attached at Appendix B to the report, was the overall FWP for all the Subject O&S Committees which included the topics prioritised by the Corporate O&S Committee for the next round of Scrutiny Committees in Table A, as well as topics that were deemed important for future prioritisation at Table B.

Paragraph 4.7 of the report reminded Members of the Criteria form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP, which Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report and the supporting information contained in the Appendices attached to the report be noted.

14. SCHOOL MODERNISATION

The Scrutiny Officer gave an outline of the report in respect of the above, the purpose of which, was to inform Members of the initial outcomes of Band A schemes, including lessons learnt, and the development of the Strategic Outline Programme for Band B of the School Modernisation Programme.

Following this the Chairperson introduced the Invitees to the meeting, following which the Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support gave a power point Presentation.

The Chairperson then invited questions to the Invitees from Members.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.4 of the report headed Lessons Learnt, and he welcomed the fact that a key lesson from Band A was that early consultation was required with Highways and Transportation Officers, in order to help inform the choice of sites (for schools), as this was directly connected to the provision of any required Safe Routes to Schools following the relevant school opening and becoming populated with children. He felt that this should form part of the Consultation.

A Member also referred to the Local Development Plan (LDP), which suggested how many cycle shelters should be provided at schools. She felt however, that larger schools have more of these, in order to encourage young people to live a healthier lifestyle.

The Schools Programme Manager confirmed that as part of the next Band of the School Modernisation Programme, the Education Department would link in with the Highways and Transportation section of the Council, in order to not only conduct a review of Safe Routes to Schools, but also to look at certain other wider issues, including car and cycle parking provision. Such provision is linked to the BREEAM assessment, i.e. the environmental and sustainability assessment which the project is measured against. All schemes must achieve a BREEAM excellent rating, which is one of the Welsh Government funding conditions for the programme.

A Member asked what the criteria was in relation to the Council paying for transport costs to/from schools.

The Head of Education and Early Help confirmed that the Council did pay for transport costs for primary aged pupils if the distance of travel was over 2 miles from pick-up point to the school, and 3 miles in terms of secondary schools.

The Chairperson noted from page 40 of the report, that Band A projects for schemes were at various different stages in terms of their completion dates. She further noted that Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw and Pencoed Primary School were in progress with completion dates of January 2019 and July 2018, respectively. She asked if these schemes were on track to be completed by these dates, to which the Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support, replied that they were.

A Member made an observation regarding parents of pupils parking near schools. He asked, in conjunction with the reports proposals, new parking provisions were going to be introduced, or was it more a case of making existing school drop-off points safer.

The Schools Programme Manager replied by advising that, drop-off areas, as well as car parking spaces, were incorporated into the design of any new build schools. The extent of this provision is dependent upon a traffic assessment and the application of the parking guidelines, which determine the amount of vehicles that must be accommodated in the car-park and drop-off areas.

As part of the information in the report on Lessons Learnt, a Member asked how funding was allocated to newly built school for new equipment such as furniture and IT provision.

The Schools Programme Manager advised that for Band B this matter will be determined by WG. Funding the cost of construction will be allocated on a rate per m² and furniture and equipment will be funded on a cost per pupil basis. She confirmed that no funding was available for retrospective payments for furniture and equipment, but as part of the lessons learnt there is a transition fund now in place to support schools during their moves.

A Member considered that with regard to the provision of new schools under the School Modernisation Programme, that the local Ward Member should be part of the Project Team that is set-up in the lead-up to the build of the school, as they knew the area and could have an input in issues such as parking at schools and Safe Routes to Schools. This would contribute towards issues of safety for children who become admitted to the school, which amongst others, was a matter of priority.

A Member pointed out to Invitees, that Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sger had portable buildings that now required refurbishment and/or replacing.

A Member similarly advised that she was concerned over the lack of investment being made to schools located in or on the periphery to Bridgend County Borough's town centres, as a lot of these schools were old buildings. For example, Penybont Primary School did not have sufficiently good facilities in order to adequately provide education for Foundation Phase children. She therefore asked, how much consideration was being given to changes in demographics regarding schools and their attendance levels. She added that 100's of new houses were being built in the County Borough including near town based schools, and she asked if this was being considered as there may be an influx of pupils into these schools which were not up to the required standard.

The Head of Education and Early Help advised that Band B Schools were not just about constructing new builds or refurbishing of existing schools, it was also about looking at feasibility studies of other land upon which schools could be constructed/developed. Funding was allocated to schools in order to ensure that sufficient schools places were provided for primary age pupils. Existing schools that were becoming older and in a

state of disrepair could be improved by way of alternative avenues of funding, and if this was required, then firstly a condition survey of the school buildings would be arranged through the Corporate Landlord.

A Member felt that capacity issues and future needs for school places needed to be looked at closely, to cater for any demographic changes, and that school boundary issues similarly required closer examination.

The Head of Education and Early Help advised Members that any necessary projections for schools were based on the projected capacity of any new build, and the boundary of the catchment area for the school. This would in turn, assist in calculating the Pupil Admission Number for the school including accounting for any new housing development that would be included in the catchment area as far as numbers of units (ie houses) were known.

A Member made the point that the timing of this report was good as it had a direct correlation to the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) that had just been approved by Council. She added that as a local authority we had a statutory requirement to provide school places. She was aware that £1.1m a year was being repaid each year in terms of supportive borrowing for schools, and she asked if this had been accounted for in the MTFS. She noted for example, from paragraph 7.5 of the report, that the Bridgend Special School scheme being progressed via the Mutual Investment Model, could benefit from a 75% Welsh Government intervention rate. However, this would require revenue match funding from the Authority of approximately £750k per annum over a 25 year period. This, she noted though, was not currently built into the MTFS.

The Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support, stated that there was a total of £1.1m required for schools in the form of supportive borrowing, and this was not being funded through the current MTFS. However, as the Council had a statutory duty to sufficiently fund schools, this funding needed to be provided from elsewhere.

A Member asked how well in the past S106 funding through legal agreements had been secured from housing developers, in situations where a new school was required to accommodate pupils within the catchment area, and was there any lessons to be learnt if recovery of this funding had not always been completely successful in the past.

The Schools Programme Manager advised that when securing S106 monies for schools, the S106 Officer from the Council's Planning Department linked in with the Education Department and alerts officers to housing planning applications which are then assessed to determine whether a contribution should be made for education places. The process regarding the calculation of such funding was based on the size and number of houses proposed for the development, and this process was monitored periodically. She added that the local authority had been quite successful in securing S106 funding from developers for new schools and examples of these are Coety and Maes-yr-Haul Primary Schools which serve the housing developments at Parc Derwen and Broadlands respectively. What the Authority needed to be cautious over, that any such S106 Agreement accounted for the total number of houses that were constructed to serve a new school, and that the development was not added to in terms of its size, subsequent to any S106 agreement being secured.

The Cabinet Member – Communities added, that with every S106 Agreement, there would be a 'trigger point' at which time site developers would be required to deposit monies payable to the Council (as part of the school development), as opposed to this being paid in full when the housing development was completed.

The Chairperson asked Invitees if it was difficult recruiting teachers to support pupils with ALN.

The Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support, advised that it was difficult to recruit teachers for ALN needs, more for Post-16 age pupils. He also added that there were also challenges geographically in this area with teachers expertise in ALN often being employed from outside the County Borough rather than from within it. If recruitment and/or retention was proving difficult for the Authority in terms of employing teaching staff in specialist areas, then schools often shared such resources with neighbouring schools, dependent upon flexibility, capacity and resources.

A Member referred to page 44 of the report, and noted that there was some uncertainty of there being insufficient school places in some areas where new developments were being constructed, due to the the number of units increasing as the development progressed. An example of this, was in the south of Bridgend, with there being a risk of insufficient pupil places to serve the Pencoed and Parc Afon Ewenni areas, if all planned housing identified within the Local Development Plan (LDP) was fully progressed. Examples of this she added was not just affecting primary school places, but secondary school places also. She also raised concerns with regard to the large new housing development being constructed between Pencoed and Llantrisant (Llanilid), and the effect this may have on pressure for school places at Pencoed Comprehensive School, as this development would cover a large area and families with children would be looking to educate their children in nearby 'feeder' schools such as this. She urged Officers in BCBC to engage at an early stage with Officers in RCT and the Vale of Glamorgan regarding the new development to ensure sufficient school places are available to serve the development.

A Member referred to paragraph 4.15 of the report, where reference was made to Bryntirion School, and that consideration was given to creating all-through primary provision for the Bryntirion area. However, it was subsequently noted, that Cefn Glas Infants, Bryntirion Infants and Llangewydd Junior Schools were all currently operating successfully. He further noted however, that Bryntirion Comprehensive was presently oversubscribed, and this was a problem given that it was a feeder school for pupils of Penyfai Primary School.

The Interim Corporate Director – Education and Family Support advised that that Penyfai Primary was not a natural feeder school for Bryntirion Comprehensive, as this school was also a feeder school for Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwyn (at Ynysawdre). He added that every effort was made with parents for the admission of pupils to their preferred school, but this was not always possible as every school by law had a Pupil Admission Number based on the size of the school which must not be routinely exceeded to.

If admission was refused at a particular school for reasons of capacity, then a school nearby where there was surplus places was offered to parents for their child (ren) to be educated, as an alternative. If an admission application to a particular preferred school was turned down by the local authority, then they could appeal this decision to an Independent Schools Admissions Appeals Panel. He added that schools should not be overcrowded at the expense of there being surplus pupils at a school in the neighbouring area.

A Member felt that there should be regular reviews of defined catchment areas for schools within the County Borough, and that this should link in with proposals for the LDP.

A Member noted that Brynteg Comprehensive School currently had surplus places, and that it would be prudent to make this school more up to capacity, particularly as Bryntirion Comprehensive was oversubscribed.

As this concluded the debate on this item, the Chairperson thanked the Invitees for their attendance and responding to Members questions.

Committee Recommendations:

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.

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Pencoed Comprehensive School.

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.

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.

Further Information

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

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

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

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.

15. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 13:00

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

24 MAY 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. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the Planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery
- Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives

- Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service, Elected Members and members of the public
- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that the public and stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications attached to this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 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 by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any other items in the overall FWP shown in Appendix B;
- (iii) Consider the completed criteria forms attached at Appendix C and determine whether they wish to agree to add the proposed item to the FWP;
- (iv) Identify any additional items using the criteria form, for consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

PA Jolley

Corporate Director - Operational and Partnership Services

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Bridgend.
CF31 4WB

Background documents

None

Sent by email only

Cllr Carolyn Webster
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1
Bridgend County Borough Council Councillor Newcastle Ward

25 April 2018

Dear Cllr Carolyn Webster

School Inspection

Thank you for your recent letter in which you highlight the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1's concerns over the timeliness of Estyn inspections. You are particularly concerned that Estyn inspected a school that was about to move into new premises and that this caused staff additional stress at a difficult time.

You may wish to refer to the document 'When will the next school or pupil referral unit (PRU) inspection take place?' (attached) which is available on Estyn's website. It sets out guidance on Estyn's approach to cancellation, deferral and re-scheduling inspections and indicates that 'Estyn will consider the deferral of inspections on a case by case basis'.

I have consulted Estyn colleagues with responsibility for inspection, inspection coordination, feedback and enquiries and can find no record of any application to defer an inspection in Bridgend local authority. You will appreciate that it is impossible for Estyn to consider deferring inspections without in the first instance being made aware of any concerns or mitigating circumstances.

I trust that you will find the document attached helpful.

Yours sincerely



Mererid Wyn Williams
Assistant Director

Estyn, Llys Angor/Anchor Court, Heol Keen/Keen Road, Caerdydd/Cardiff, CF24 5JW
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Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth. | Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.

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When will the next school or pupil referral unit (PRU) inspection take place?

Guidance on inspecting new schools or PRUs, schools working collaboratively and federated schools, and on the cancellation, deferral and re-scheduling of school or PRU inspections

Version control

Document version	Author	Date of issue	Changes made
1.0	Mererid Wyn Williams	October 2011	Amalgamation of two documents
2.0	Robert Gairey	March 2012	Addition of section on follow-up
3.0	Robert Gairey	April 2013	Updates to Estyn monitoring information
4.0	Robert Gairey	November 2014	Updates
5.0	Barry Norris	February 2015	Revision of 'every six years' to 'within a six year period'
6.0	Fiona Arnison	March 2017	NIA updates, and change to within a seven year period 2016-2023

Any enquiries or comments regarding this document should be addressed to:

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or by email to enquiries@estyn.gov.wales

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Equality Impact Assessment

A business rationale assessment has been carried out and this policy contributes to Estyn's strategic objectives and delivery principles.

In accordance with Estyn's Equality Impact Assessment, an initial screening impact assessment has been carried out and this policy is not deemed to adversely impact on the grounds of the nine protected characteristics as laid out by the Equality Act 2010.

Content	Page
Introduction	1
Legislation	1
Informing Estyn of school closures and the establishment of new schools or federations	1
Arrangements for inspecting newly-established schools, schools working collaboratively, and federated schools	2
New schools	2
Schools working collaboratively	3
Federated schools	3
Cancellation and deferral of school inspections	4
Cancellations	5
Deferrals	5
Contracted additional inspector (CAI) roles	6
Follow-up arrangements for closing schools	6
Schools requiring follow-up monitoring visits by Estyn	6
Schools closing in special measures or significant improvement	6
Schools closing in Estyn review (formerly Estyn monitoring)	7
References	

Introduction

- 1 This document sets out Estyn's arrangements for inspecting schools in situations which may appear not entirely straightforward, such as when new schools are established, schools work collaboratively, or schools work in federations. In addition it sets out Estyn's approach to the cancellation, deferral and re-scheduling of schools inspected under section 28 of the [Education Act 2005](#).
- 2 Although the term 'school' is used throughout, the guidance applies equally to pupil referral units (PRUs).

Legislation

- 3 [The Education \(Amendments Relating to the Intervals for Inspection of Education and Training\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2016](#) require that Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) for Education and Training in Wales ensures that every school to which section 28 of the 2005 Act applies is inspected at least once within a seven-year period beginning on 1 September 2016 and ending on 31 August 2023 and at least once within every subsequent six year period. HMCI also has the prerogative under the Education Act 2005 to arrange for the inspection of any educational establishment in Wales at any time.
- 4 [The Education \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#) ('the Measure') has put in place powers and duties to make collaboration between institutions easier, to improve school governance and to simplify the planning of school places. The Measure also includes proposals for giving local authorities power to establish federations of schools. The Measure is likely to increase the number and complexity of collaboration and federation arrangements between schools.

Informing Estyn of school closures and the establishment of new schools or federations

- 5 [The School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#), Section 29 requires the Welsh Government to provide Estyn with notification of proposals to discontinue or establish new schools in Wales. In addition, local authorities should keep Estyn informed of the following, as soon as practicable:
 - Any proposals for schools to work in federation
 - The date when proposals come into effect
 - New school names and reference numbers
 - Details of the type of federation, including whether arrangements include cross-phase working, federation, or working with schools in other local authorities
 - The type of leadership model in each federation
 - Any changes in a federation, for example if a new school joins or leaves

Arrangements for inspecting newly-established schools, schools working collaboratively, and federated schools

- 6 Estyn inspects schools according to current legislation. Estyn will consider and decide which arrangements are appropriate for inspecting newly-established schools, schools working collaboratively, and federated schools, once it has received notification about new schools from the Welsh Government or information from local authorities or schools about schools working collaboratively or in federation. Unless information is received by Estyn before the school is notified of an imminent inspection, we will inspect each school as usual (i.e. within the usual inspection period that pertains at that time).
- 7 The examples below describe commonly-arising situations and explain how HMCI will usually interpret their powers of inspection in those circumstances. Estyn will consider more complex situations that may arise on a case-by-case basis.

New schools

- 8 A newly-established school will have a new Welsh Government school reference number.
- 9 The following scenarios show how HMCI would normally arrange for the inspection of newly-established schools for the first time, depending on the context. The intention is to inspect the new school as soon as practicable.
- 10 A new school is often established:
- due to reorganising several smaller existing schools into one large school;
 - as a result of amalgamation of a junior school with its feeder infant school; or
 - to meet a new need, where no school previously existed
- 11 When a new school is established as a result of the reorganisation of several small schools which close and re-open as a new school, or as a result of a junior school and its feeder infant school closing and then re-opening as a new 'amalgamated' all-through primary school, Estyn will normally inspect the newly-established school within 4 years, but no earlier than 12 months after opening. Estyn will make use of relevant evidence from the separate schools that existed prior to the reorganisation where appropriate, taking due account of the time that may have elapsed since the amalgamation when the school is inspected.
- 12 Where a new school is established to meet a new need (not as a result of amalgamation or reorganisation of existing schools), for example a new Welsh-medium school to meet a locality's requirements, we will normally inspect when sufficient relevant evidence is available. These schools generally open with one or two cohorts on roll, and build up the number of pupils and cohorts over time. Therefore, we will normally inspect the newly-established school within six years, but no earlier than three years after opening.

- 13 When a new independent school is established, inspectors will normally complete a registration visit the school during the first two terms to confirm whether the school meets the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations. Estyn would normally carry out a full inspection within 4 years of the school opening.

Schools working collaboratively

- 14 Arrangements for governing bodies of schools to work more closely in collaboration are set out in [The Collaboration Between Maintained Schools \(Wales\) Regulations 2008](#); and [The Collaboration Arrangements \(Maintained Schools and Further Education Bodies\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2008](#). The regulations came into force in March 2008. The regulations enable school governing bodies to develop joint working arrangements and, if they wish, to delegate the exercise of their functions to one or more joint committees. Each school retains its own Welsh Government school reference number.
- 15 These arrangements are sometimes known as ‘governing body collaborations’ or ‘soft federations’.
- 16 For schools working under these arrangements, we will inspect each school separately within the period specified in point 3 above, and produce a separate report on each school. The effectiveness of collaborative work may be reported within inspection area 5 of the inspection report, where appropriate. We will take a similar approach for any PRUs which are part of collaborative arrangements, even though PRUs are not covered by the regulations in paragraph 14.
- 17 Similarly, for schools with the same headteacher (with or without governing body collaboration), we will inspect each school separately and produce a separate report on each school.

Federated schools

- 18 Arrangements for governing bodies to create federations are set out in [The Federation of Maintained Schools and Miscellaneous Amendments \(Wales\) Regulations 2010](#).
- 19 Federated schools have one governing body. Each federation can consist of two to five schools. Federated schools can include schools of different types, such as maintained primary or secondary schools, voluntary controlled or maintained special. The schools may be in different local authorities.
- 20 These arrangements are sometimes known as ‘governing body federations’ or ‘hard federations’.
- 21 Even though they are legally federated, these schools remain separate legal entities, each retaining its own Welsh Government school reference number. For federated schools, Estyn will inspect each school separately and produce a separate report on each school. The judgements and recommendations in each inspection report will reflect the standards, provision and the effectiveness of the leadership in each particular school, but the reports may contain a degree of shared judgements and findings, for example in relation to the effectiveness of leadership across the federation as a whole.

- 22 Estyn cannot move the timing of an inspection in such a way as not to meet legal requirements, ie that schools must be inspected at least once within a seven-year period from September 2016 to 31 August 2023 and at least once within every subsequent six-year period, but would consider requests to inspect a school early. Normally, as far as possible, we will inspect schools constituting the federation at the same time or over a short period of time, such as within the same term, particularly when the federated schools have the same headteacher.
- 23 When an additional school joins an existing federation, Estyn will consider when the school was last inspected before deciding when to inspect it again. If we have already inspected the federation at least once during the prescribed period, but the individual school has not, Estyn will make provisions to inspect the individual school in line with legislation. This may mean that we inspect the school separately from the rest of the schools within the federation.

Cancellation and deferral of school inspections

- 24 There are a limited number of situations when Estyn might decide to cancel a planned inspection. This section sets out Estyn's approach to cancellation and deferral of schools inspected under section 28 of the Education Act 2005.
- 25 In accordance with [The Education \(School Inspection\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2006](#), the carrying out of a [section 28](#) inspection must be completed within the period of two weeks from the date on which the inspection began. Hence, decisions to move the start or end date of an inspection within five working days does not constitute a cancellation or deferral of a school inspection.
- 26 The following circumstances are examples of when Estyn may decide to move the start or end date of an inspection within five working days: the school is closed to all pupils, or at least three-quarters of the pupils will not be at school, owing to, for example, adverse weather conditions, a school trip or a religious festival, or industrial action.
- 27 Estyn uses the following definitions:
- **Cancellation:** if a school is due to close and Estyn agrees that the inspection should not go ahead. The school may or may not have received notification of the inspection.
 - **Deferral:** when, following the notification to the school of the date of the inspection, Estyn agrees to move the start date of the inspection by more than five working days.
- 28 The relevant Assistant Director will make a recommendation to the relevant Strategic Director and HMCI concerning decisions that an inspection should be cancelled or deferred.
- 29 Regulations require Estyn to inspect schools at least once within a seven year period from September 2016 to 31 August 2023 and at least once within every subsequent

six year period, and, if pupils are receiving their education at any school at the time when an inspection is due, then our policy is to continue as planned, unless any of points 30-36 apply.

Cancellations

- 30 The school is due to close and, in accordance with section 5 of the Education Act 2005, HMCI has decided, having regard to the date on which the closure is to take effect, that no useful purpose would be served by an inspection of the school.
- 31 HMCI will normally make a decision to cancel an inspection where we have received official notification of a school's permanent closure from the Welsh Government (WG). Please note, HMCI may need to cancel an inspection on occasions where a school closes unofficially, for example, due to the low number on roll.
- 32 HMCI will normally only cancel an inspection, if the inspection is in the same term or the term immediately before the permanent closure is due. For example, if a school is due to close at the end of the summer term in July or at the end of the summer holiday period at the end of August, then any inspection that is scheduled for the summer term itself will be cancelled. If a school closure is scheduled for the summer term and the inspection is scheduled for the preceding spring term then the inspection will be cancelled. However, if the inspection is due in the autumn term with the school closing in the summer term, then the inspection will continue as planned.

Deferrals

- 33 Estyn will consider the deferral of inspections on a case by case basis. The following set of examples provide guidance as to when Estyn might normally defer an inspection:
- The school has experienced a recent major incident, such as a fatal accident to a pupil or member of staff.
 - HMCI agrees that the inspection is likely to cause significant disruption to the provision of education or distress to many pupils within the school.
 - The headteacher or the appropriate authority or a member of the school's senior management team is subject to a current police investigation that would be compromised by an inspection of the school.
 - There are other exceptional circumstances which, in the judgement of Estyn, normally justify deferral of the inspection. Examples may include deferring an inspection when all bids from contracted Registered Inspectors have been exhausted in a given inspection term and HMI cannot lead the inspection, or deferring an inspection where the Reporting Inspector is ill at late notice.
- 34 Applications to defer a planned inspection on the grounds that the headteacher is out of school will not be accepted as pupils at the school are still receiving education.
- 35 Building work should not normally be a reason for deferral if pupils are in the school.
- 36 In the case of serious illness or sudden death of the headteacher, HMCI will consider the matter and exercise their professional judgement.

Contracted additional inspector (CAI) roles

- 37 CAIs will retain the contract for deferred or re-scheduled inspections and be advised of the new inspection date by an inspection co-ordinator. Where a CAI is not able to continue with a contract, it will be offered to the next successfully ranked CAI until all termly bids for that region have been exhausted. If required, a further invitation to quote will be undertaken. Where Estyn determines that an inspection will be cancelled, the relevant inspection contract(s) will be terminated. This may apply to CAI and LI roles on both HMI and Registered Inspector (Rgl) led inspections.
- 38 Details regarding the termination of contracts are explained fully in the relevant terms and conditions of contract and are available within the Inspector policies area of the Estyn's website.

Follow-up arrangements for closing schools

- 39 This section concerns any necessary modifications to follow-up inspection arrangements when a school is scheduled to be closed or amalgamated with another; that is, when the relevant school is in any category of follow-up following its previous section 28 inspection.

Schools requiring follow-up monitoring visits by Estyn

- 40 If a school requiring Estyn visits is due to close, Estyn will follow usual procedures, and monitoring visits will go ahead as planned, until the school closes.
- 41 If a school requiring Estyn visits, particularly special measures visits, is closing and the number of pupils attending the school is reducing, the resource allocated to visits during the last two terms of the school being open will be proportionate and take into account the number of pupils remaining.
- 42 Once a school requiring follow-up has closed, there will be no further monitoring activity or visits by Estyn. Instead, a new section 28 inspection will take place in line with the guidance in paragraphs 46 and 47 below. Where appropriate, HMCI also has the prerogative under the Education Act 2005 to arrange for the inspection of any educational establishment in Wales at any time, in addition to Estyn's normal scheduling of inspections.

Schools closing in special measures or significant improvement

- 43 If a school in special measures or significant improvement has closed due to planned reorganisation or amalgamation with one or more schools, resulting in the opening of a new school (including an amalgamation of a junior school and its feeder infants school), Estyn will normally conduct a new section 28 inspection of the newly-established school within three years, but not usually earlier than 12 months after opening.

- 44 HMCI has the prerogative under the Education Act 2005 to arrange for the inspection of any educational establishment in Wales at any time, in addition to Estyn's normal scheduling of inspections. In exceptional circumstances, Estyn may visit a newly-established school during the first 12 months after opening.
- 45 Estyn will make use of relevant evidence from the separate schools that existed prior to the reorganisation where appropriate, taking due account of the time that may have elapsed since the amalgamation when the school is inspected, in line with paragraph 11 above.

Schools closing in Estyn review (formerly Estyn monitoring)

- 46 If a school in Estyn review has closed due to planned reorganisation or amalgamation of one or more schools, resulting in the opening of a new school, Estyn will normally conduct a new section 28 inspection of the newly-established school within six years, but no earlier than 12 months after opening, in line with paragraph 11 above.

References

Education Act 2005

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/18/pdfs/ukpga_20050018_en.pdf

The Education (Amendments Relating to the Intervals for Inspection of Education and Training) (Wales) Regulations 2016

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/135/introduction/made>

The Education (Wales) Measure 2011

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/7/contents>

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/31/contents>

The Collaboration between Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2008

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2008/168/contents/made>

The Collaboration Arrangements (Maintained Schools and Further Education Bodies) (Wales) Regulations 2008

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2008/3082/contents/made>

The Federation of Maintained Schools and Miscellaneous Amendments (Wales) Regulations 2010

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/638/contents/made>

The Education (School Inspection) (Wales) Regulations 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2006/1714/contents/made>

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Date of Meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments
16-Apr-2018	Early Help and Children's Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee requested that they receive a briefing on the process for Children coming into care to help illustrate to Members how the process works from a referral being received to a decision being made and how ongoing support is established, as well as any associated costs. The Committee requested that this include information on what monitoring process is in place, how is risk regularly monitored, and what monitoring process is there where the pathway is to try and get the child back to their own family? 	Item to be added to the Pre Council Briefing schedule.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members also asked for a similar briefing in relation to Early Help, or to combine it with the Looked After Children one; detailing the process for referral; how the step down or step up process works and is monitored; how, if individuals need support from more than one service, such as IFSS and Baby in Mind at the same time, the services would work together to provide this; and who guides them through the services and their pathway, or takes a lead in their support to ensure they are receiving the services they need – would this be a social worker? 	Item to be added to the Pre Council Briefing schedule as a separate item or to be included with the topic above.
		<p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee requested that future reports on LAC or Early Help etc include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o More historical data so that Members can determine whether there has been progression, increase or decrease in numbers and performance; o More clearer evidence of outcomes contained within the main report; o A breakdown of the destination of LAC, ie. foster care, residential care etc, to give an indication of where the business pressures are; o More background and information behind the data presented in graphs and tables; o More examples of case studies to assist the committee in its understanding of processes, challenges and outcomes achieved. 	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Agreed</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members requested that they receive step-up data as well as the step down data between Early Help services and Children's Social Care. 	Attachment 1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members asked to receive follow up information regarding the 51 children who were returned home as a result of the Connecting Families project. 	Attachment 2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee wished to take up the offer to receive the full IPC Review report from the Directorate for information purposes. 	This will be shared with Members of the Committee
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee requested that they receive detail of the outcomes for the 23 parent and baby placements. 	Attachment 3
		<p>Further points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee expressed concerns regarding the freedom that schools have in the framework for teaching Personal and Social Education and preparing youngsters with Life Skills. Members requested that they explore a possible item on the forward work programme regarding Children and Young People and how they are taught Life Skills, involving such areas and projects as Personal and Social Education in schools, Flying Start and what work the third sector undertake on this subject. It was agreed that criteria forms would be sent to Members to further scope out the item. 	Information to follow
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee requested that a letter be drafted from the committee to Welsh Government highlighting their concerns over the growing National Issue of rising numbers of LAC as well as the uncertainty surrounding future funding for Early Help provision due to it being reliant on grants. 	To be drafted by the SOSC 1

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Number of Requests for Help received from Safeguarding Teams requesting Step Down support (*Family Referrals*)

Requests for Help received	Total 2016-17	Total 2017-18	Quarter 4 2016-17	Quarter 4 2017-18	Quarter 4 % 2017-18
Safeguarding East	11	30	1	6	50.0%
Safeguarding North	12	30	3	2	16.7%
Safeguarding West	4	17	1	4	33.3%
Total	27	77	5	12	100.0%

- The number of Requests for Help made by the Safeguarding Teams requesting Step Down support during 2017-18 (77) shows an increase of 185.2% from Step Down requests made during 2016-17 (27).
- 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

Outcome of Requests for Step Down support submitted 01 April 2016 – 31 March 2018 (*Family Referrals*)

- Following submission of the Step Down request, 92.3% (96 / 104) of families referred closed to Safeguarding, and 8 families (7.7%) remain open to Safeguarding.
- Of the families that closed to Safeguarding, the Assessment team have not received a re-referral for 55.2% (53 / 96) of the families during the 12 month period following receipt of the Step Down request.
 - ➔ Of the 43 families that were re-referred to the Assessment Team 39.5% (17 / 43) of the families were closed & logged, and 60.5% (26 / 43) of the families received a Care & Support Assessment as a result of the new referrals.
- Of the step down requests, 70 of the referrals have closed to Early Help services.
 - ➔ Of these, 42.9% (30 / 70) closed with successful outcomes. 30.0% (21 / 70) cases closed due to disengagement following a period of Early Help support, or did not engage with Early Help, 15.7% (11 / 70) appropriately stepped back up to Safeguarding following a period of Early Help support, and 8 (11.4%) cases closed due to a change in circumstances.
 - ➔ 25.7% (18 / 70) of these families have been re-referred to Early Help teams during the 12 month period following the step down request. Of the 18, 16 families have received support from Early Help or Connecting Families services, 1 family did not engage, and 1 was passed on for single agency support.
- Of the 104 requests for Step Down support submitted to Early Help, 28.8% (30 / 104) 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

Number of Requests for Help received by Safeguarding Teams requesting Step Up support 2017-18 (*individuals*)

Requests for Help received	Quarter 1 2017-18	Quarter 2 2017-18	Quarter 3 2017-18	Quarter 4 2017-18	Total 2017-18	Total 2017-18 %
Safeguarding East	11	4	8	10	33	38.8%
Safeguarding North	13	3	6	17	39	45.9%
Safeguarding West	3	2	6	2	13	15.3%
Total	27	9	20	29	85	100.0%

- **A Care & Support Assessment was undertaken by Safeguarding Hubs following 85 Step Up requests made by Early Help during 2017-18 (46 families). 81 individual children were referred for Step Up support (4 children were referred twice).**
- Of the 85 Step Up requests, 8 of requests made by Early Help were for cases that had previously been Stepped Down from Safeguarding to Early Help services.
- 56.5% (48 / 85) of the Care & Support Assessments continued to a Care & Support Plan. In 31.8% (27 / 85) of cases the children were added to the Child Protection Register, and 24 (88.9%) of these remain registered. 2 (2.4%) of referred children became Looked After, and 1 of these remains Looked After.
- In 52.9% (45 / 85) of cases Early Help provided support to the family throughout the period that the Step Up referral was open to Safeguarding.
- 42.4% (36 / 85) of Step Up referrals have closed to Safeguarding. In the 12 month period following submission of the Step Up referral Safeguarding have received re-referrals for 27.8% (10 / 36) of children - 8 of these were allocated for a new Care & Support Assessment, and in 2 cases the contact was not progressed.

- Of the 36 Step Up referrals that have closed to Safeguarding, Early Help have received new referrals for 61.1% (22 / 36) of individuals during the 12 month period following submission of the Step Up referral. 7 of these were referred by Safeguarding to Early Help for Step Down support, and 15 were referred to Early Help by another source.

Reunification tracking data (Rehabilitation referrals only received between 01/04/2014 and 31/03/2018) – updated 26/04/2018

Outcome	Number of children / young people
Reunified home from in-house foster care	33
Reunified home from out of county foster care	15
Reunified home from out of county residential care	1
Reunified home from in-house residential care	1
Rehabilitated from out of county foster care to in-house foster care	1
Total	51

- 50 children have been reunified home and 1 child has been transferred from out of county foster care to in-house foster care
- As of 26/04/2018, 94.0% (47 / 50) of the children and young people are not Looked After
- 6 children were re-accommodated since being reunified home, 3 of these continue to be looked after, 1 is under the care of Adult Services, 1 has been returned home once more and 1 has moved into independent living
- 10 individuals who were referred during the reporting period are now aged between 18 and 20 years old

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Parent and Child Placements between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017

Number of Parent & Child Placements	Number of Individual Children in Placement	Number of Children Returned Home	Comments
23	25	8 (32%)	Of those returned home: 4 were returned home under no order 4 were returned home under a Care Order

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Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

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

Date	Subject Committee	Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested Invitees	Prioritised by Committees	Webcast
12 June 2018 (provisional)	SOSC3	Highways Services	To include information of efficiency savings and the impact of what the MTFS has on the service To include information on the external review by people 2			Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene; Andrew Hobbs, Group Manager Streetworks		
4 July 2018 (provisional)	SOSC 1	School Standards	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 			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		
12 July 2018 (provisional)	SOSC 2	Safeguarding	To include Safeguarding activity in both Children and Adult Services. To also cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Safeguarding Boards • Bridgend Corporate Safeguarding Policy • Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) • Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DOLS) Report to provide statistical data in relation to service demands and evidence how quickly and effectively the services are acting to those needs. To evidence how the two services are working together and the impact on the LAC population. To receive the outcome of the in depth analysis which was currently being undertaken within the Council. What costs are associated to assessments that are contracted out.	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.	Pilot for Advocacy ends April. Therefore proposed date May/June 2018.	Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Elizabeth Walton James, Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Terri Warrilow, Adult Safeguarding and Quality Manager	SOSC2 Jan 18	
23 July 2018 (provisional)	SOSC 3	TBC						

Table B

The following items were deemed important for future prioritisation:

Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested Invitees	Webcast
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 & 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>	Proposed date November 2018	<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>	SOSC 2 highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.
Advocacy	<p>Advocacy for Children and Adults:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outcome from the Advocacy Pilot Scheme • The current system • Social Services & Wellbeing Act • Regional Children Services advocacy • Adult Services – Golden Thread Project 			<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</p>	
Annual Recommendations/feedback Update to each SOSC	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	
Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspection of Children's Services.	The Committee requested that they receive an information report detailing the progress of the plan and update Members whether or not the actions have addressed the issues raised by the Inspectorate.		Going to Corporate Parenting on 24 Jan - Scrutiny Officers to pick up and send to Committee		

Remodelling Fostering Project	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.		
Community Services	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. What grant funding has been reduced and how has this had an impact? <i>(Officers proposed at fWP planning meeting to maybe use this as a bit of a reserach item in scrutiny 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	
Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project	SOSC 1 requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes.					
CIW investigation into LAC	The Committee requested that the outcome of the CIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.					
CAMHS	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'.					
Empty Properties	SOSC 3 requested that this item continue on FWP - reasons and purpose to be confirmed					
Plastic Free County Borough	Following on from the notice of motion in which it proposed the authority to go plastic free and to encourage all organisations and individuals to follow as much as possible.to Council Members wished to be informed of how Officers intend to work towards the following: If and when a review our own organisation will take place and plans to replace single use plastic items, encouraging the replacement of single use plastic items such as plastic straws, plastic coffee cups with biodegradable items in the workplace. When will BCBC contact County Borough businesses to encourage them to replace single use plastic items, reduce unnecessary packaging and apply principles of sustainability within their everyday businesses. How we plan to promote 'Plastic free Bridgend' through social media and other appropriate marketing and communications methods. How do we support community initiatives to 'Keep Bridgend Tidy', including our beaches, parks and streets, and promote alternatives to throwing away materials, in keeping with principles of the circular economy and waste hierarchy. How we are working with Welsh Government Ministers on the measures, including guidance and legislation, can be introduced to reduce plastic waste across Wales, in keeping with the principles previously outlined. Include stats on what single use items BCBC currently uses and any plans for a replacement of these items.	To work towards bridgend becoming a plastic free town. For the Committee to be informed of proposals in working towards this.				
Member and School Engagement Panel - Annual Report	Annual Update to - SOSC 1 on the work of the Member and School Engagenment Panel					

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"> • Regional Annual Plan • Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy
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.

Potential items proposed for the Forward Work Programme - questions to consider	
Proposed Item	Scrutiny of the external bodies supporting charitable organisations which receive financial support or are linked with the borough council by association
Is this item within the remit of the Committee?	Yes
How does it fit with the Corporate Priorities?	Smarter use of resources
Is it a public interest item?	Yes
What are the questions that need answering?	Why are some local organisations choosing not to use the services offered by BAVO What actions have been put into place since the Audit committee highlighted weaknesses in the structure of the mayor's charity
Then:	
What is the expected outcome from receiving the item?	To ensure that organisations are politically neutral and offer value for money for tax payers and uphold the Nolan principles and adhere to charity regulations
What can be achieved?	Ensure that residents can be assured of transparency and compliance
What impact can Members have on this area?	Question effectively to ensure the outcomes
What information should be reported to the Committee? I.e. data, case studies, examples of outcomes, challenges etc.	Case studies Legal reporting requirements data Challenges faces to ensure compliance
How should information be presented at the meeting? I.e. PowerPoint/Prezi presentation, audio/visual formats, photos, graphics, charts, maps etc.	Presentations Data on the financial support given via public funds to the association

<p>Who should be invited to contribute to achieve a representative picture? I.e. front line staff, users, carers, young people, representatives from partner organisations, business representatives etc.</p>	<p>BAVO</p> <p>Local charities which do use BAVO Local charities which do not use BAVO</p> <p>Mayors Charity Organisers Mayor Legal/finance representative</p>
<p>What is the proposed rationale for prioritising this item within the Scrutiny FWP?</p>	<p>Ensure that this local authority reduces reputational risk by ensuring that legal reporting procedures are met and to ensure that organisations are transparent and fair.</p>
<p>Is the item particularly suitable for webcasting?</p>	<p>yes</p>

Potential items proposed for the Forward Work Programme - questions to consider	
Proposed Item	Communication with residents from BCBC
Is this item within the remit of the Committee?	
How does it fit with the Corporate Priorities?	Smarter use of resources
Is it a public interest item?	Yes
What are the questions that need answering?	Is corporate communications meeting the needs of the various departments within the organisation to effectively communicate with residents
Then:	
What is the expected outcome from receiving the item?	Improved communication with residents Improved internal communications
What can be achieved?	Greater public involvement with external media Greater public involvement with scrutiny Open and transparent democracy
What impact can Members have on this area?	Raising questions on public view of corporate communications
What information should be reported to the Committee? I.e. data, case studies, examples of outcomes, challenges etc.	Data of engagement Whether current KPIs are an effective measurement in a fast changing digital world Corporate communications with the digitally excluded
How should information be presented at the meeting? I.e. PowerPoint/Prezi presentation, audio/visual formats, photos, graphics, charts, maps etc.	Report, presentations.
Who should be invited to contribute to achieve a representative picture? I.e. front line staff, users, carers, young people, representatives from partner organisations, business representatives etc.	Members of the public – maybe from the citizen's panel Corporate comms team, inc strategy Member representing local media

What is the proposed rationale for prioritising this item within the Scrutiny FWP?	Better communication with residents to enable a greater understanding of the requirements of the council and the service it provides to the individual and community.
Is the item particularly suitable for webcasting?	yes

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

24 MAY 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

UPDATE ON THE WORK IN HMP PARC FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELL-BEING (WALES) ACT 2014, INCLUDING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PRISON TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND THE BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF MEETING THE NEW DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ACT

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the contribution of HMP Parc to the County Borough of Bridgend and the budgetary impact of meeting the new duties and responsibilities as required of the Council, in Part 11 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, as they pertain to the adult prison population.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate priority/priorities:-

1. **Supporting a successful economy** – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
2. **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – taking early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 As previously reported to Committee in July 2016, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 came into effect on 6th April 2016; and accordingly changed the Authority's responsibilities for people in prison. Since April 2016, local authorities are responsible for addressing and meeting the care and support needs of all adults and children in the secure estate not just upon release but while they are in custody. This is a significant change and additional responsibility for the Authority as the Act applies equally to those in the secure estate as it does for those individuals in the community.

- 3.2 Welsh Government issued a Code of Practice that set out the requirements on local authorities in the exercise of their social services functions in respect of those being held in custody, bail accommodation and on release.
- 3.3 The responsibilities for the Authority, as required by the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act, 2014, are as follows;
- Completing care and support assessments for prisoners;
 - Producing care and support plans (with prison and healthcare involvement);
 - Providing care and support services for those with eligible needs;
 - Specialist and moveable items (e.g. walking frames, hoists);
 - When a prisoner is to be released, or transferred to a different prison, to work with the local authority that they are moving to, ensuring continuity of care and support.
- 3.4 What these responsibilities mean for Bridgend County Borough Council:
- Information, advice and assistance must be provided to those in the secure estate while they are detained, in preparation for and on release;
 - Preventative and wellbeing services must be provided to those in the secure estate as for those in the community;
 - For those whose care and support needs cannot be met by signposting to preventive and wellbeing services, the Authority must find ways to undertake the assessment of those in the secure estate;
 - Collaboration with partner organisations such as Health, Housing, Third Sector and Education is required to ensure a consistent and consolidated response;
 - The Authority should consider the value of developing an integrated approach with Health to respond to the health and social care needs;
 - The Authority should consider the needs of the wider family and ensure that arrangements are in place for family/carers to raise concerns about care and support needs;
 - The approach to assessment is the same for people in the secure estate as it is for people in any other part of the community and liaison with carers and family is undertaken in the usual way. However, there are limitations on the rights of carers for people in the secure estate, for example there is no obligation to provide support plans for carers of people in the secure estate. Information leaflets have been developed for prisoners and these have been made available by the prison. Families can contact Adult Social Care about people whom they have concerns about in the usual way by contacting the Common Access Point.
 - The National Assessment and Eligibility Tool that has been developed for use across local authorities in Wales and applies equally for those in the secure estate;
 - The National Pathways that have been developed for adults and children are adopted to ensure consistency of outcomes for those who require care and support;
 - The Authority must provide an appropriate staff resource that is appropriately skilled and trained to meet the duties under the 2014 Act;
 - The Authority must liaise with other local authorities where there is more than one authority involved and where an individual intends to resettle in another area. There are two different processes for people returning to their place of

residence which may be in a different area and for those who wish to be domiciled in Bridgend County Borough. The release of prisoners is a planned process over 12 weeks involving a multiagency approach. If the prisoner is to settle in the Bridgend area there will be a care and support plan developed in the same way as any other resident in Bridgend. If the person is returning to another area they become the responsibility of the area from which they are from, in which case the Secure Estate team will liaise closely with that local authority.

- 3.5 Bridgend County Borough Council has within its boundary, HMP and YOI Parc, which is a Category B Prison with capacity for 2000 male prisoners, the majority being adult offenders. The current population is 1779 (includes 62 in the Young Persons unit for people up to 18 years of age). The prison opened in November 1997 and is the only private prison in Wales and is managed by G4S on behalf of the Prison Service.
- 3.6 All offenders over the age of 18 are deemed to have 'ordinary residence' and the Council is responsible for meeting the care and support needs of individuals with eligible needs.
- 3.7 In order to meet the duties and responsibilities required by the Act, the Authority has established a team within HMP Parc which comprises a senior social work practitioner, a social worker, a senior occupational therapist who carry out assessments and develop managed care and support plans for people in the secure estate, as well as support the work of the existing health board's mental health in-reach team. In addition administrative support has been secured, as well as a contract to provide care for those who need it from the existing support service within the prison. Initially these posts and the care, was fully funded by Welsh Government, via a grant to support the implementation of the Authority's responsibilities under the Act.

4 Current Situation/Proposal

Contribution of HMP Parc to the County Borough of Bridgend

Educational aspects in prisons and their impact

- 4.1 There are a range of educational opportunities open to the prisoners covering basic skills and learning including literacy and numeracy. The Secure Estate Team is working with prisoners who are currently working towards qualifications, for example GCSEs. Engaging in education appears to enable prisoners to use their sentences constructively, especially during long hours of lock down.
- 4.2 At HMP Parc, as part of the induction programme for prisoners, they use a screening tool the 'Do-IT Profiler'; the tool includes screening for learning difficulties and disabilities, it has been tried and tested and specifically developed for the criminal justice system. The Secure Estate Team is working with G4S colleagues to build a more effective and collaborative practice model, which will link in and assist with signposting and contribute to a more person centred approach to support planning.
- 4.3 An example of the positive impact that education and learning has had on an individual in the prison is explained in the following example:-

The secure estate team are currently working with a prisoner who is due to be released on licence at the end of April. The man has a mild learning difficulty and a diagnosis of dyslexia and dyspraxia and dyscalculia; when he first came in to custody his offender supervisor and prison officers described him as withdrawn and he found it very difficult to socialise with other prisoners.

The man does not have any formal qualifications and had not pursued education after leaving school. Whilst in prison, he has gained certificates in English and Maths and as a result he has grown in confidence and he feels a sense of achievement. He is very much looking forward to being released and has proven to himself and others that he does have the capacity to learn and achieve.

As part of their work the secure estate team used a strength based approach with this man and he now views his future far more positively and is making plans about what courses he might do and interests he wants to pursue. This would mean him using his time constructively and as a consequence, could potentially minimise the risk of re-offending. He is currently working with the Secure Estate Senior Practitioner to put together a support plan that will inform both his placement support workers in Approved Premises immediately on release, and will also be shared with other relevant agencies when his move-on support is being assessed.

The Community Services provided by Parc Prison and its contribution to the County Borough of Bridgend

4.4 Parc Prison has developed extensive community projects and community links, and has provided the following examples of their work:

- Deliver weekly remedial PE sessions in partnership with Active health to help prisoners regain strength and flexibility to prevent further injury, saving the local health board substantial amounts of money. Prisoners from Bridgend County, fit to return to employment on release;
- Promoting health and well-being for staff and prisoners from Bridgend County by delivering a variety of PE classes and nutritional courses, including weekly weight loss classes tackling the obesity crisis for prisoners returning to Bridgend County Borough;
- Holding health promotion days, and local businesses, for example Halo Leisure, Virgin Active, Slimmer's world, Diabetes Wales, No Smoking Wales breast Cancer Wales, Herbal life are invited in to promote their services and products or raise awareness;
- In partnership with Stroke UK, physical education staff provide blood pressure test, and BMI tests, reducing the workload of local GPs and surgeries;
- The Josh Hall foundation provide free sexual health clinics for prisoners returning to Bridgend County Borough;
- Bluebird is a scheme to provide free dementia training for staff and prisoners from Bridgend County Borough;
- Steroid Awareness training for staff and prisoners from the Bridgend County;
- The prison supports charity events for local families, examples of which are Eye cancer charity, Lexi Fund, Samaritans, Nell McConnick fund, Amelia Matters;

- Supporting local families to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, helping to maintain family ties;
- Supporting local fixtures against BME teams to promote inclusion and community engagement. In addition there are LGBT fixtures: Prisons and communities can be very often homophobic environments where prisoners are reluctant to disclose their sexual orientation. Sport can play a big part in tackling homophobia in the local community;
- Parc prison participates in Black history events, and Holocaust Memorial events;
- They support Walking Clubs for older prisoners. Regular walking has been shown to reduce the risk of chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, stroke and some cancers; this in turn potentially reduces the workload on local doctors;
- Army Veterans football matches: prisoners suffering from depression, anxiety and social isolation are literally walking back to happiness thanks to the rapidly spreading sporting craze of 'walking football', the sedentary iteration of the beautiful game that aims to attract older players who can no longer cover miles of turf in one match;
- Wheelchair Rugby matches promoting community inclusion (Sport for all) and raise awareness of Disability.

4.5 In addition the prison sign and print shops have over the years created and donated work for various events and charities throughout Bridgend County Borough. For example the prison has donated canvas prints to fundraisers in the community, as well as providing signage for example, to Macmillan Cancer walks for the last four years. Other examples have been the donation of the printed programmes for *Choirs in the Castle* at Coity Castle community event each year.

4.6 The prison advise that many third sector and businesses order from the sign and print shop at Parc prison and these include amongst many others Barnardos, Prostate Cymru, the Princes Trust, AWEN cultural trust, Valleys to Coast housing, Ty Hafan Hospice, Bridge FM and The Ospreys.

3rd Sector services provided at Parc Prison

4.7 The Authority's Secure Estate Team work mainly with third sector organisations relating to issues around housing, homelessness, advocacy as well as alcohol and substance misuse; the team makes referrals and seek advice on behalf of prisoners to these organisations. The type of support a person will need on release will depend on their individual circumstances, and the resources available within the area to which the prisoner is moving. The following are examples of support the Secure Estate Team has provided:

- Arranging case conferences and inviting relevant agencies and providers, including housing and floating support for housing related need schemes, as part of the release planning process;
- Researching and establishing relevant services that are available in the receiving authority area on release for prisoners. This has including signposting and providing information to the individual prior to release;
- Advocacy plays a vital role in relation to one of the key principles of the Act 'Voice & Control' and the team has made referrals to both advocacy services

- within the County Borough Council whilst prisoners are serving their sentence and also to other local authorities as part of release planning;
- Within the prison, in some cases, the Authority works alongside the community resettlement company's (CRC) resettlement officers and have made referrals to PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) as appropriate, for support through the Gate Mentoring Service. On the day of release, the Mentor meets the individual at the prison gate and escorts them to initial appointments with Probation, Housing and other services;
 - The Samaritans train prisoners to provide emotional support to other prisoners by becoming 'Listeners' as part of a peer support service within the prison. This support can form an important element in achieving wellbeing as part of the assessment and support planning process;
 - 'Dyfodol' provides support to people with drug and alcohol issues, targeting people within the criminal justice system. Dyfodol provide services both within HMP Parc and in the community, and therefore forms an essential part of release planning in some individuals. A current example involves a person with learning difficulties who has recently been recalled to prison, and whose offending behaviour is directly linked to alcohol misuse. At a recent MAPPA meeting his community Dyfodol support worker attended, and a referral will now be made to the prison team for intervention. The Secure Estate Team will continue to play a part in the multidisciplinary approach to support planning and intervention whilst he is in custody.

The input the Probation Service has working with the Authority and with the resettlement of prisoners including details of the impact on housing.

- 4.8 The Secure Estate Team works extensively with the Probation Service as a key partner, in particular at the release planning stage. This can include attendance at multi-agency public protection arrangement (MAPPA) meetings. The Secure Estate Team carry out Social Care Assessments requested for Parole Board Hearings; this involves liaising with and referring on to relevant receiving home local authorities of prisoners. This work will often involve the initial release of individuals to Approved Premises (AP) prior to move-on into the general community.
- 4.9 In some cases, this has resulted in support plans being formulated in order to provide the AP support staff with an initial plan on which to build and inform ongoing intervention as part of re-settlement of individual prisoners. It also provides continuity for the individual, and engages them in the process surrounding their release and has proved to be more outcome-focussed. This in turn delivers a more holistic approach to support planning, taking account of the Wales Reducing Re-offending Strategy
- 4.10 The Authority's Housing Solution Manager has advised that being a host Authority to the prison has not impacted on housing services. Local authorities in Wales follow the National Pathway for Homelessness Services to Children, Young People and Adults in the Secure Estate. The pathway was created by a multi-agency Working Group, the Prisoner Accommodation and Resettlement Working Group, in which the Authority was a member.
- 4.11 In terms of the Authority's role in the provision of accommodation the following is the usual process for referrals. Approximately 66 days prior to release, the National Probation Service and the Wales Community Rehabilitation Company will undertake

a review of the accommodation element of the prisoner's resettlement plan. Where there is an identified housing need that has not been resolved, a referral is sent to named points of contact in the relevant local authority from where the prisoner originates, to trigger an assessment under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. When the referral is sent, notification will also be sent to Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (formerly the National Offender Management Service) to complete a housing risk assessment. The prisoner will then attend on the day of release if the Authority needs to provide interim accommodation, where the individual is deemed a priority need for housing.

- 4.12 Therefore, the only referrals the Authority receives are for those prisoners who have a local connection to Bridgend. Anyone not from Bridgend will have the referral sent to their home authority. There are circumstances where the Authority can accept a referral from someone out of county; for example, this can be where there is a risk to them if they return to their own local authority area. If anyone is serving a short sentence; for example for people on a 14 day recall to prison, the Authority would either receive the referral immediately before release, or if no referral is received, the prisoner may present homeless to the Authority on that day.

The cost of servicing this need

- 4.13 In 2017/18, the cost of providing social care services to the prison was £217,448, with personal care being provided by G4S medical services from within Parc Prison. In 2016/17 and 2017/18, the Authority has been developing and consolidating the service within the secure estate. The demand for care is fluctuating within the prison and is dependent on the mix of prisoners at any given time; it has been fortunate to date that G4S medical services have been able to provide the care support, as their staff are cleared to enter cells individually, and this has assisted with managing the overall cost of service delivery by enabling calls to be delivered by staff cleared to provide single-handed care; other staff would have to enter in pairs for security reasons.
- 4.14 During 2017/18, G4S medical services have made it known to the Authority that the original proposals have proved unrealistic because of competing priorities for the medical services team and the impact of lock-downs within the prison. As a result the care arrangements are now subject to review with a view to providing a more sustainable way forward; it is inevitable that the revised arrangements, whether they are provided by G4S or by the Authority, will incur additional costs.
- 4.15 There are considerable challenges to providing the care services required by the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, in the secure estate; this is due to the nature of the prison environment being locked secure premise. In order to access the prison outside agency staff would need to go through strict clearance processes in order to visit individuals requiring social care support. Clearance takes approximately eight weeks to complete for each carer employed to deliver care and support within the prison; it is therefore not possible to deliver services in the same way that would be provided in the community.
- 4.16 The commissioning of care from G4S has supported the Authority to deliver on its duties and responsibilities, in a way that potentially would not have been possible had the prison been run directly by the Ministry of Justice. It is likely, had the prison not been privately run, that the Authority would have had to provide the care directly

and because of the security rules within the prison, this would have meant that staff would have had to deliver care in pairs which would have inflated the cost of care considerably.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 There is no impact on the Policy Framework and Procedure rules.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment for this service will be undertaken as part of the review into changes to funding arrangements which may impact in the longer term on the ability to deliver the service.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities of Part 11 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014, for the adult population living within the secure estate, in turns supports the promotion of two of the seven goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 within the County Borough of Bridgend. That is by promoting a healthier Bridgend and Wales, by promoting an environment in the secure estate that maximises people's physical and mental well-being; and supporting a more equal Wales for people within the secure estate, supporting them to fulfil their potential no matter what their circumstances.

7.2 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- Long Term – There is a challenge in trying to predict and meet the needs of people in the longer term in the secure estate, because the population mix within the prison is determined by the Ministry of Justice and can change at any time. The secure estate population, and service, needs to be kept under review in order to ensure that people are able to access their rights and entitlements under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act when they are needed.
- Prevention – the implementation of the Secure Estate Teams Service has enabled the Authority to work with individuals providing information advice and assistance including life skills and support to people in the prison as well as those preparing for a release; this has enabled the Authority to take a preventative approach, anticipating future problems for people particularly for those who need support on release.
- Integration – The provision of the Authority Secure Estate Team service is delivered in partnership with the NHS and G4S and the probation and rehabilitation services and supports the maximisation of people's physical and mental well-being.
- Collaboration – This collaborative approach is managed and monitored through the Prison Health and Care Partnership where there is cross sector stakeholder representation, and where the pressures and challenges of delivering services within the prison are shared and mitigated to deliver the

best possible intervention within the limitations of delivering services within the secure estate.

- Involvement – from inception there has been a collaborative approach to developing the Secure Estate Team; the Authority has worked with public bodies collaboratively, in terms of developing the Secure Estate Team Service, as well as supporting training on the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. In addition there has also been considerable engagement with prisoners to ensure they understand the role of the service and how to access it; this has been achieved through the provision of accessible information, advice, and publications for prisoners that have been made available to individuals through the prison systems.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 In 2016/17 Welsh Government provided grant funding to the Council of £236,774 under the ‘*Grant to Support Provision of Care and Support to those in the Secure Estate*’, , and this included additional funding to cover the set up costs of establishing the secure estate team and service; and in 2017/18 they awarded grant funding of £217,448. As reported to committee on 7th February 2017, the council had been led to believe that the grant funding had been allocated on a recurring basis; and on that basis the secure estate team staff were recruited. Recent analysis suggests that the cost of the delivery of care in the secure estate is at least three times that of delivering care in general community settings, and that the delivery of social work is nearly four times the cost to deliver it in the community.
- 8.2 For the 2018/19 financial year Welsh Government transferred the £412,000 funding for social care provision for prisoners in the secure estate across Wales into the Local Government Settlement; and this was distributed based on the overall funding allocations for social services across all the 22 authorities in Wales, as opposed to a specific distribution to those authorities with prison populations. This decision resulted in Bridgend County Borough Council receiving approximately £18,000 for 2018/19.
- 8.3 The financial impact of the significant change to the funding arrangements from Welsh Government for the delivery of the duties and responsibilities of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act within the Secure Estate for 2018/19, has placed the Council in an ‘at risk’ position, and at a financial disadvantage, given that the Secure Estate Team has been established in good faith based on the initial grant funding allocation that was believed to be recurring from 2017/18. There was never an indication that the Council would have to subsidise this service going forward.
- 8.4 The Council has made representations to Welsh Government about the changes in the allocation of funding to support social care for prisoners and is intends to make further representations, with a view to requesting that the method of allocation is reconsidered.
- 8.5 In the context of the current financial challenges and the need to achieve the directorate’s Medium Term Financial Strategy savings, and in a climate of increasing demands being placed on the services provided, if the funding allocation remains part of the local government settlement across the 22 local authorities in Wales, it is inevitable that the council will have to review and reconsider how it delivers its duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act to support to prisoners within the secure estate.

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the report and provides comment on the budgetary impact of meeting the duties and responsibilities required under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014.

Susan Cooper
Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing
May 2018

10. **Contact Officer:** Carmel Donovan, Group Manager Integrated Community Services
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11. **Background Documents**
None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

24 MAY 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

NOMINATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to request the Committee to nominate one Member to sit on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

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 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 From 1 April 2016, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 introduced statutory Public Services Boards (PSB) across each local authority area in Wales. PSBs work together to improve the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of the board's area. The Act specified that one Committee take an overview of the overall effectiveness of the Board which this Authority determined to carry out via a PSB Overview and Scrutiny Panel which is now proposed to sit under the remit of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.2 The purpose of the Panel is to review and scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of the PSB and its decisions as well as the governance arrangements surrounding it. The Panel will hold up to two meetings a year and will make reports or recommendations to the Board regarding its functions, with the aim of enhancing its impact. These recommendations are to be presented to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval prior to submission to the Board.

- 3.3 A copy of any report or recommendation made to the Public Service Board must be sent to the Welsh Ministers, the Commissioner and the Auditor General for Wales.
- 3.4 The membership of the PSB Panel is determined annually and incorporates three Members from the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, one Member from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees and counterpart representatives that sit on the Public Service Board.

4. Current Situation / proposal.

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to nominate one Member to sit on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The work of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the 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.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.1 There are no equalities impacts arising from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment

- 7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long-term - The establishment of the PSB Panel will assist in the long term planning of the business of the Council by the continuation of effective relationships with other organisations to improve wellbeing in Bridgend County now and in the future.
- Prevention - The PSB Overview and Scrutiny Panel will monitor the Public Service Board's objectives and priorities within the Wellbeing Plan which address underlying causes of problems and prevent them getting worse or happening in the future.
- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.
- Collaboration - The PSB Panel supports partnership working with other organisations both locally and regionally.

- Involvement - The PSB Panel will maintain a relationship with other Organisations through effective partnership working and act as a critical friend to ensure the PSB are involving citizens of Bridgend when making decisions that affect them.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to nominate one Member to sit on the Public Service Board Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

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Corporate Director – Operational & Partnership Services

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Background Documents

None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

24 MAY 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – OPERATIONAL AND PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

1. Purpose of the Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Committee to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives.

- 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 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards looked after children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'corporate parent' therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for the children and young people looked after by Bridgend.¹
- 3.2 In order to further develop and enhance the Council's corporate parenting role with its partners, a Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee comprising all Members of Cabinet was established by Cabinet on 4 November 2008.
- 3.3 The inaugural meeting of the Cabinet Committee was held on 27 November 2008 where it was agreed that the Cabinet Committee will meet bi-monthly. The terms of reference for the Cabinet Committee are:
- to ensure that looked after children are seen as a priority by the whole of the Authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership;

¹ Welsh Assembly Government and Welsh Local Government Association 'If this were my child... A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers', June 2009

- to seek the views of children and young people in shaping and influencing the parenting they receive;
- to ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place;
- to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as corporate parent against Welsh Government guidance.

3.4 At its inaugural meeting, the Cabinet Committee requested that a Corporate Parenting “Champion” be nominated from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to become permanent invitees to the Cabinet Committee.

4. Current Situation / Proposal.

4.1 The Committee is requested to nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

4.2 The role of the Corporate Parenting Champion is to represent their Overview and Scrutiny Committee, partaking in discussions with Cabinet over items relating to children in care and care leavers.

4.3 It is also suggested that in this role each Champion considers how all services within the remit of Scrutiny affect children in care and care leavers and encourage their own Committee to bear their Corporate Parenting role in mind when participating in Scrutiny.

4.4 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee 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.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

5.1 The work of the Subject Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the 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.

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 There are no equality impacts arising from this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment

7.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

- Long Term – The establishment of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee demonstrates the Authorities long term commitment to improving and strengthening their role as Corporate Parents to care leavers and Looked After Children.
- Prevention – The Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee are preventative in their nature and ensure that appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures are in place for all care leavers and Looked After Children
- Integration – This report supports all the well-being objectives
- Collaboration – All members are Corporate Parents and this report supports collaborative working with Cabinet and Members of Scrutiny and emphasises the role of Corporate Parents for all Elected Members.
- Involvement – Corporate Parent Champions provide practical support and guidance to children in care and care leavers to ensure they achieve their well-being goals

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 None.

9. Recommendation.

The Committee is asked to nominate one Member of the Committee as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee at meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee

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Background Documents

Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution

Part II of the Local Government Act 2000: Executive Arrangements

Report of the Corporate Director – Children to Cabinet, 4 November 2008: Establishment of a Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee

Report of the Corporate Director – Children to the Inaugural Meeting of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee, 27 November 2008