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Bridgend County Borough Council



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**Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief
Executive's Directorate**

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
643147

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Mark Anthony Galvin

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Thursday, 30 August 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 **Wednesday, 5 September 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 - 14
To receive for approval the minutes of the meetings of 16/04/2018 and 24/05/2018.
4. Forward Work Programme Update 15 - 24
5. Playing Fields, Outdoor Sports Facilities and Parks Pavilions 25 - 34

Invitees:

Mark Shephard, Corporate Director Communities
Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities;
Zak Shell, Head of Neighbourhood Services.

6. Urgent Items
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully

K Watson

Head of Legal and Regulatory Services

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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

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - MONDAY, 16 APRIL 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, 16 APRIL 2018 AT 09:30

Present

Councillor CA Webster – Chairperson

JPD Blundell
J Gebbie
LM Walters

NA Burnett
M Jones
AJ Williams

SK Dendy
JC Radcliffe

DK Edwards
B Sedgebeer

Apologies for Absence

JH Tildesley MBE

Registered Representatives

William Bond

Special School Sector

Officers:

Sarah Daniel
Rachel Keepins

Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Invitees:

Susan Cooper
Nicola Echanis
Lindsay Harvey
Laura Kinsey

Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Head of Education & Family Support
Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Head of Children's Social Care

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of personal interest were received from Cllr JC Radcliffe and Cllr C Webster on agenda item 5.

17. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of 08.02.2018 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting

18. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Corporate Director Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report to Committee on the Overview and Scrutiny Forward Work programme.

A member asked that the following further information be requested for the Community Services report: What grant funding from Welsh Government has been reduced and what does this equate to.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the feedback from the previous meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 and noted the list of responses.

19. EARLY HELP AND CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support and The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing submitted a report on Early Help and Childrens Social Care to provide members with information that they had previously requested on joint working between Directorates.

The Group Manager Integrated Working and Family Support expanded on the main points within the report including how the Directorates are working closely together with each other and also a number of external agencies.

A member referred to 4.11 of the report where it stated the increase in referrals was up 80%. He asked how this has impacted case workers and how this has impacted the Local Authority financially.

He also asked how the referrals into the ACE project were managed previously.

The Group Manager Integrated Services and Family Support stated that they look at thresholds within early help like connecting families. Referrals are screened within 24 hours and once an assessment has been completed the family are assigned a support worker or may go to intervention worker, depending on the complexity of the case. He added that referrals from schools accounted for 10% of all referrals into the service and that a joint approach with safeguarding colleagues is helping them to early identify risks and challenges. He added that there were no significant waiting lists but this is constantly monitored.

A Member stated that it would have been useful to receive the historical data regarding Looked After Children so they were able to compare data and look at the trends. Officers stated that whilst they didn't have the data with them they would share this with members after the meeting.

A member asked what relationships the Authority have with Welsh Government and third sector organisations regarding support for Early Help and Social services.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing acknowledged that there were pressures on the service and they had seen an increase in referrals but stated that BCBC were not alone. She stated that the service continually reviews how it works and the Directorates are continuing to work together. She added that a number of projects such as MASH and the reflect project were still in their early stages so the full impact of these were yet to be realised. Officers were also looking at models and successes in other Local Authorities that are working well, with officers from BCBC going to visit Newport, NPT and Carmarthenshire in the coming weeks.

Members were concerned about resources and grant funding allocation and what the potential risks to the service were and what impact this could have on the Authority if funding was not received.

The Interim Corporate Director Education and Family Support stated that whilst this was a risk they are looking at different ways of working including sharing resources with other Local Authorities, working more closely with schools to ensure early intervention is managed more locally and also working with a number of other groups who work with those with additional learning needs and provide support vulnerable learners.

A Member asked if officers and Cabinet members were communicating with Welsh Government over project funding that is at risk.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Wellbeing stated that they were constantly being proactive where funding was concerned and that this was not a reactive nature. He added that they were constantly working with the Minister for Childrens Services.

A Member asked for clarification in the numbers of Looked After Children that had been 'stepped down' into the Early Help Service and how were they ensuring that step up and step down were integrated together.

The Officer stated that a quality assurance audit was in place for children and families that were either stepped up or down. He added that they looked at process, difficulties and challenges and fed back any areas of improvement that were identified.

A Member referred to para 4.20 of the report where it stated that 51 children had been returned home. He asked if there was any information available on the ongoing support that the children were receiving and if they were still being monitored. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that she would send this information to members after the meeting.

A Member commented that BCBC appear on the opposite trend analysis to other local Authorities in respect of reducing the numbers of looked after children. He stated that Neath Port Talbot have successfully reduced the number of LAC, however BCBC is has gone up. He asked officers if we are learning anything from other local authorities and if we are sharing best practice. He was concerned that figures for BCBC on LAC were now up to 389 and this appeared to be a national trend and not just local to Bridgend and he thought maybe the Committee should contact Welsh Government for support and answers

The Head of Childrens Social Care stated that officers meet regularly with other authorities in the Western Bay partnership. She stated that Neath Port Talbot had undertaken a lot of targeted activity to reduce their LAC and they have discussed as to how they have approached that. She added that officers had also talked with Swansea Council who gave a presentation on their panels/processes for agreeing to children being looked after. Whilst BCBC were waiting for confirmed figures she stated that the number of LAC had plateaued while the trend year end 2016/17 showed that many other authorities were increasing. Colleagues in several other local authorities are continuing to report this issue. She added that Swansea will be conducting more in depth research into trends locally which they will be sharing with Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help advised members that other Local Authorities were showing upwards trends. He stated that Cardiff figures showed that the number of LAC had increased from 555 to 834 over the last 4 years alone

Members welcomed the independent review of the decision making along the looked after children pathway by the institute of public care and asked for a copy of the report when this was available.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that IPC were commissioned to undertake a review following the CSSIW (now CIW) inspection into Children's Services in January 2017 The CIW inspection was a significant piece of work and Inspectors had been sent a significant amount of reports before they were on site, they were in the Authority for two weeks and met with a number of Officers, Cabinet members, Scrutiny chairs and families. IPC were then commissioned to look at leadership and and review the referral pathway between early help and children's social care.

A Member asked if it was possible for members to receive a briefing on the pathway of a referral of child at risk, through to the decision to take them into care to help them better understand the whole process and the impact this has on the family, the child, the Authority and budget. He suggested that the recommendations from the IPC could also be included too. Another member also suggested that the briefing should give members a background to the figures of LAC

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that the decision to take a child into care was first and foremost to consider the safety of the child and family and if the Authority are doing the right thing by bringing them into care and providing support for them. She stated that the Authority does want to keep LAC down but members need to understand the importance of doing this safely. She added that the IPC review had concluded that when a child was brought into care it was the right decision however they also questioned whether if an intervention had happened sooner would this have prevented them being taken into care.

A Member asked about the Baby In Mind placements and asked what the outcomes for these cases were. He stated that the placements were very high cost placements and questioned if the Authority were looking at alternative solutions such as support in the community.

The Head of Children's Social Care stated that the motivation behind the placements is always to fund the most suitable care plan for the child and parent and it may be that the best action for the family is to find them a parent and child placement. The Baby in Mind project focusses on earlier intervention to be in a position to plan more effectively and prevent children becoming looked after.

A member asked if the Authority were doing enough in schools through PSE and also the Health Services.

The Corporate Director Education and Family Support advised that PSE is an important part of education and whilst there was no compulsory module a more coordinated approach is taken and they are working cross directorates more closely, he added that teenage pregnancies in the Borough had dropped.

The Head of Education and Family Support added that intervention work had previously been undertaken on this to keep mums in school and keep their babies with them but stated that they won't all be young mums and that some were in their 30s that needed support to so that they can live a normal family life.

A Member referred to page 46 of the report where it detailed the number of referrals and asked if any of those could they be duplicate referrals where they've been referred to safeguarding and early help teams at the same time. He also asked if Social Services would meet with children and families to discuss best support package available for them.

The Group Manager Integrated Working and Family Support advised there would be examples where a referral will come into safeguarding that doesn't hit threshold so would then be referred on to early help as a referral from Social Services so this would show as a duplication. He added that when a referral comes in a number of screening arrangements are carried out first as it may be necessary to refer the matter to another agency

A member asked about the process of Flying Start and asked how the Authority would handle a situation where the family would not engage with them.

The Head of Education and family Support advised that officers would make a judgement whether they would need to refer individuals into statutory services but added

that the Authority experiences very little non-engagement on this. She further added that as yet they had not seen any reduction in funding for the programme from Welsh Government but they may in the future. She reassured if this did happen they would look at other ways to target the service differently so the support could still be delivered.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Wellbeing stated that he was encouraged and enthused by report and the work undertaken in this area is enormous, he stated that the work across two directorates proves the Authority are being proactive and thanked all officers involved in this area for their continuous efforts during challenging times.

Conclusions

- 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?
- 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?

Additional Information

- The Committee requested that future reports on LAC or Early Help etc include the following:
 - More historical data so that Members can determine whether there has been progression, increase or decrease in numbers and performance;
 - More clearer evidence of outcomes contained within the main report;
 - A breakdown of the destination of LAC, ie. foster care, residential care etc, to give an indication of where the business pressures are;
 - More background and information behind the data presented in graphs and tables;
 - More examples of case studies to assist the committee in its understanding of processes, challenges and outcomes achieved.
- Members requested that they receive step-up data as well as the step down data between Early Help services and Children's Social Care.
- Members asked to receive follow up information regarding the 51 children who were returned home as a result of the Connecting Families project.
- The Committee wished to take up the offer to receive the full IPC Review report from the Directorate for information purposes.
- The Committee requested that they receive detail of the outcomes for the 23 parent and baby placements.

Further points

- 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.

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.

20. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 12:05

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 - THURSDAY, 24 MAY 2018

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB
ON THURSDAY, 24 MAY 2018 AT 09:30**

Present

Councillor CA Webster – Chairperson

JPD Blundell
DK Edwards
KJ Watts

NA Burnett
J Gebbie
AJ Williams

RJ Collins
M Jones

PA Davies
RME Stirman

Apologies for Absence

SK Dendy, DG Owen, B Sedgebeer, LM Walters and JE Williams

Officers:

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

Invitees:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Carmel Donovan	Group Manager - Older People
Councillor Philip White	Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor AJ Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5, as a member of a Charitable Community Group that had been financially supported by G4S.

22. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of a meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 dated 12 March 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record, subject to the reason for Councillor Webster's declaration of interest as referred to in Minute 11. of these Minutes being changed as follows:-

'As Chairperson of NAS at Heronsbridge School.'

23. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (FWP) UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report on the above to:

- a) present the items prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee including the next item delegated to this Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- b) present the Committee with a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation;

- c) ask the Committee to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form;
- d) 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.

Attached at Appendix B to the report, was the overall FWP for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees (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 included information proposed from Corporate Directors, detail from research undertaken by Scrutiny Officers and information from FWP Development meetings between the Scrutiny Chairs and Cabinet.

Arising from consideration of the information detailed in the report, it was

RESOLVED: That Committee noted the report and supporting information attached to this in the form of Appendices A, B and C.

24. **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**

The Chairperson welcomed the Invitees into the meeting, including The Head of Family Interventions from G4S. The Head of Adult Social Care then introduced the report to members and invited questions from the Committee. A Member noted the contents of the report, but was of the opinion that it was unfair that the future level of Welsh Government grant funding allocation that had been given to the Authority in 2016/17 and 2017/18 to establish and put into operation the Secure Estate team and service, was due to be decreased and shared amongst all 22 local authorities in Wales, as part of the overall Local Government Settlement. She felt that this was unfair, given that there were only prisons in Wrexham, Monmouthshire, Cardiff, Swansea and Bridgend. Other local authority areas therefore did not have to support secure estates. This meant that the level of funding for BCBC in 2018/19 was set to reduce from over 200k to £18k, which was a substantial reduction. This opinion was supported by all Committee Members.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing agreed with the comments, and added that the local authority had been of the opinion that the initial level of funding given for the above purpose, was to be recurring in future years.

She added that the Distribution Sub Grant group is established across Wales with representation on from all 22 local authorities in Wales, as well as from the WLGA and Welsh Government. This meeting met bi-monthly, and the topic of funding for the support of secure estate by Welsh local authorities in the future was under discussion, and she thought that it should be allocated based on the level of population where a Local Authority supported social care provision for prisoners under a secure estate arrangement. The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing added that she was hopeful, that something could be resolved by this group that would result in Bridgend hopefully receiving increased funding in the future.

A Member asked how Parc Prison differed to a state prison

The Head of Adult Social Care advised that Parc Prison was a Category B prison, all prisons have different levels of population with different types of offenders there, Parc in South Wales generally had longer sentences when compared to a other prisons.

The representative from G4S added that Parc Prison was able to accommodate Category A prisoners, so therefore it could cater for maximum security level prisoners, and there were some inmates there currently who were facing life sentences. Generally though, the prison accommodated medium to long term offenders, and likely re-offenders. Some of these prisoners also had complex needs that needed to be carefully managed. .

A Member asked what percentage of prisoners in Parc Prison are from outside the County Borough then settle in the area when their sentence has finished. . He asked this, as it could affect the funding allocation in respect of secure estate if they required support after coming out of prison.

The Head of Family Interventions from G4S advised that he could obtain some data outside of the meeting and feedback to Members.

The Head of Adult Social Care added that under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act, it was incumbent upon the local authority to support offenders both in and out of prison, regardless whether or not they came from within or outside the County Borough area. It is the choice for the individual where they chose to reside after being released, and again if this was within the County Borough, Social Services would support the individual for as long as required.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing added that ex-prisoners upon release would receive benefits such as Income Support, however, they still came under the responsibility of Social Services whilst they were being rehabilitated to face normal life in a community setting, as it often took some time for these individuals to adapt to this, particularly if they had been in prison for a long period of time.

A Member was aware that G4S as a private concern, were paid to house prisoners, and she enquired where this money went and how much was put back into the community.

The Integrated Community Services Manager advised that paragraph 4.4 of the report, gave details of the extensive community projects and community links that Parc Prison had developed.

The Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help advised that the social care needs of people in the secure estate were met by Social Services in accordance with legislative requirements However, the reduction in level of funding, meant that the cost of their needs in future would outweigh the level of funding that BCBC would receive. This was compounded by the fact that as Parc Prison was a Category B establishment, prisoners were there longer, and therefore, any support needs and requirements they may have, would have to be funded for longer by the local authority.

A Member asked how many prisoners currently required specialist health support in Parc Prison.

The Integrated Community Services Manager advised of the 70 prisoners being assessed, 37 required specialist physical support, 19 required mental health support, 5 had learning disability support, 1 suffered with medical problems as a result of substance abuse, while the remainder required some general emotional and wellbeing support. Plans of care were designed for all such prisoners who needed some kind of

specialist medical support she added. Prisoners also had other specialist plans devised for them, for example in life skills, in readiness for when they were due to be released back into society.

The Chairperson felt that it would be useful for Members of the Committee to receive data on the support need requirements that were in place for prisoners at Parc for the last 12 months, along the lines as stated above.

The Integrated Community Services Manager confirmed that she would pass this information to Members outside of the meeting.

A Member asked what methods staff at Parc Prison adopt to keep inmates healthy.

The Head of Adult Social Care referred to paragraph 4.4 of the report, and advised this included delivering a variety of keep-fit classes, walking groups and nutritional courses, including weekly weight loss classes to tackle any obesity issues. . These were carried out under the supervision of staff with the appropriate medical expertise. She added that the prison staff and secure estate team were working effectively to provide a variety of health and wellbeing support initiatives

The Head of Family Interventions from G4S added that he had been employed at Parc Prison since it had first opened in 1997, and even considering the nature of a prison Parc had been acknowledged for its innovative ways of keeping prisoners active, and with the support of the team from BCBC it had won awards for different initiatives it had been involved in that supported prisoners and their families, and this included the involvement of inmates with complex needs.

A Member noting that the Secure Estate grant funding was due to decrease and by a considerable amount, asked if the support BCBC was providing as an arm of the prison, was over and above that which was statutorily required under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act. If this was the case, he felt that this could not be continued in the future due to the significant reduced level of funding that the Authority was due to receive.

The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing advised that the initial amount of Welsh Government grant funding of £236k had developed the Secure Estate team at the prison with the above funding on a recurring basis in mind. ,In order to provide Social Care support for prisoners, and with this funding being greatly reduced, this would in the longer term reduce the level of support that the Authority could provide, although they would still provide what was required of them.

The Integrated Community Services Manager added that guidance under the Act also required Social Services to give support to released prisoners, and in instances where prisoners were to be domiciled in the County Borough, they became the responsibility of the local authority 12 weeks before their release.

A Member felt that consideration should be given under the Council's MTFs, to look to supplement funding for the purpose of the provision of the Secure Estate in view of the level of reduced funding from Welsh Government. He also noted that if anything, Parc Prison was taking more prisoners in recent times than it had in previous years. He was also concerned that prisoners may be prioritised for housing accommodation after their release, at the expense of other priority cases looking to be housed, such as one parent families. Finally, he made a plea to private sector organisations including G4S, for their continued support towards community initiatives, for example the Public Realm. He noted the list of community projects, community links and other work the Prison had developed (as shown in paragraph 4.4 of the report), but felt that some of these were lacking in substance, and that possibly more could be contributed from the prison to

support the community. Another member agreed with these comments and also felt that not enough was being done by Parc Prison to benefit the local community, and that more support could be given to this

The Head of Family Interventions from G4S confirmed that when the prison first opened it had occupied 800 prisoners. Now this number had increased to 1700, therefore there was a bigger demand on the prisons resources now than previously. He added that Parc Prison went above and beyond in terms of positively contributing to the local community, even though it was not obliged to. Examples of these were a shuttle bus service in order that families were able to visit their relations in prison. This alone cost a five figure sum on an annual basis which a state prison would not ordinarily provide. There were other schemes the prison had been involved in, such as supporting the Scouts, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, St. John's Ambulance, the Cadets, the Young Achiever Award, and Easter and Christmas events. He added that he would be more than willing to meet with the Local Member outside of the meeting, with a view to addressing her and other Members concerns regarding this.

A Member asked the Invitees if prisoners at Parc Prison were receiving sufficient medical support and treatment for any particular medical condition they may have. She also asked if any emergency medical support requirements were readily available, without any delay for those who needed these, and without any delay.

The Head of Family Interventions from G4S confirmed that they were, and that the quality of medical support for prisoners had progressed and improved the last 6 or 7 years. He added that palliative care was also available at the prison, if prisoners who were terminally ill preferred to stay there with the presence of their immediate family, as opposed to going to hospital.

A Member felt that it would be beneficial if the Prison, as well as working with Social Services, also worked with other third sector organisations, with the view of looking to provide opportunities for improving inmates' skills in order to help them possibly gain a training or employment opportunity following their release. Such opportunities would be a deterrent to them re-offending he felt.

The Head of Family Interventions from G4S advised that when prisoners were out 'On-Licence', they were given projects to do, such as renovating graveyards and designing school play areas, as a pre-cursor to hopefully going on to secure training and employment opportunities

Recommendations

Members were disappointed at the decision made by Welsh Government to distribute grant funding across 22 Local authorities in Wales to provide a social care provision to the secure estate, as opposed to a specific distribution to those authorities with prison populations. The Committee therefore recommended that a letter be sent to the Department of Justice and Welsh Government stating that they should reconsider the Grant funding allocation as BCBC had been placed in an unfair financial disadvantage by having a Secure Estate within its boundary.

The Committee recommended that BCBC adopts a "One Council Approach" and that Officers from all Directorates meet with G4S to investigate the opportunity of those in the Secure Estate being able to contribute to the Public Realm to have a direct positive impact in the community.

Members recommended that BCBC should better publicise the local businesses that offer support and job opportunities to ex-offenders.

Members further recommended that this item stay on the Forward Work Programme and be revisited no sooner than 1 year.

Further Information

- What percentage of the prison population in Parc previously resided in Bridgend County Borough before they became an ordinary resident of BCBC as a result of being in the Secure Estate.
- Members requested a breakdown of those in the Secure Estate that require social care from BCBC and asked that they include the age range and what care packages they require.
- What are the total costs to BCBC to provide the current service to the prison. Members asked for the breakdown to include annual salary costs of the Secure Estate team, annual costs of providing equipment and the annual cost of providing personal care which BCBC currently pay to the G4S medical team.
- Members also asked to receive costs in relation to providing social care at the secure Caswell Clinic in Pen-Y-Fai.

25. NOMINATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report to nominate a Member to sit on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED: That Councillor KJ Watts be nominated to sit as a Member of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Committee Panel.

26. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

The Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services submitted a report which requested the Committee to nominate a Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an Invitee to meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Gebbie be nominated to sit as a Member of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 on the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting in the capacity of an Invitee.

27. URGENT ITEMS

None.

The meeting closed at 11:42

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

5 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND REGULATORY 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) Identify any additional items using the criteria form, for consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

K Watson
Head of Legal and Regulatory Services

Contact Officer: Scrutiny Unit

Telephone: (01656) 643695

E-mail: Scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address Bridgend County Borough Council,
 Civic Offices,
 Angel Street,
 Bridgend.
 CF31 4WB

Background documents

None

Date	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments
13-May-2018	Secure Estate	Members were disappointed at the decision made by Welsh Government to distribute grant funding across 22 Local authorities in Wales to provide a social care provision to the secure estate, as opposed to a specific distribution to those authorities with prison populations. The Committee therefore recommended that a letter be sent to the Department of Justice and Welsh Government stating that they should reconsider the Grant funding allocation as BCBC had been placed in an unfair financial disadvantage by having a secure estate within its boundary.	Chair of Committee to draft letter. In addition the interim 151 officer has made representations to the Welsh Government Decision Support Group
		The Committee recommended that BCBC adopt a "One Council Approach" and officers from all directorates meet with G4S to investigate the opportunity of those in the Secure Estate being able to contribute to the public realm to have a direct positive impact in the community.	Noted
		Members recommended that BCBC should better publicise the local businesses that offer support and job opportunities to ex-offenders.	Noted. Public relations advised accordingly
		Members recommend that this item stay on the Forward Work Programme and revisit no sooner than 1 year	Noted
		Further Information requested	
		What percentage of the prison population in Parc previously resided in Bridgend County Borough before they became an ordinary resident of BCBC as a result of being in the secure estate.	This information was requested from the prison, but unfortunately the prison do not collect data in this way.
		Members requested a breakdown of those in the secure estate that require social care from BCBC and asked that they include the age range and what care packages they require.	Please find current information requested based on a snapshot as at week ending 03/08/2018:
What are the total costs to BCBC to provide the current service to the prison. Members asked for the breakdown to include annual salary costs of the secure estate team, annual costs of providing equipment and the annual cost of providing personal care which BCBC currently pay to the G4S medical team.	Secure Estate Budget 18/19 BCBC Staff £111k Occ Therapist £52k Care support £50k Equipment £4k Training £4k Total Budget £221k		
Members also asked to receive costs in relation to providing social care at the secure Caswell Clinic in Pen-Y-Fai	Caswell Clinic is a Medium Secure Mental Health facility and therefore not part of the Secure Estate. The NHS is responsible for all care and support of patients in that facility.		

Number of People by size of Domiciliary Care Package in Hours				
Age Band	1-4 hours	5-9 hours	10-12 hours	Total
16-64 years	2	0	0	2
65-84 years	0	1	2	3
85+ years	0	0	1	1
Total	2	1	3	6

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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
Page 21 16-Sep-2018	SOSC2	Advocacy	Advocacy for Children and Adults: <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 		Corporate Director proposed September 2018	Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Richard Thomas, Strategic Planning and	
17-Sep-2018	SOSC3	Waste Services	Members would like the report to include an update on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling performance statistics for other LA's for comparison and benchmarking against Bridgend; The future recycling of black plastic (i.e. food cartons, etc.) The performance of their call centre and the average time taken to answer a call, and is this still based in Torquay? Are there any plans for Kier to assist with recycling from BCBC offices and schools? The impact of the recently recruited senior managers associated with the Bridgend contract and front line operative staff. Was recruitment successful? Have all staff now been given full inductions and training; Information on the updates to the CRC centre including the instalment of the polystyrene baler and webcam so residents are able to monitor the traffic flow at the site. Change of days for the communal collections - Has this happened? Has the service shown improvements since the change? Impact of the new collection vehicles. Have they made collection rounds more efficient? Outcome of the review of BCBC in house Street Scene enforcement activity Longer term trend of flytipping. What are the figures of flytipping in the Borough? Have they improved? Domestic or business? A breakdown in the number of referrals received before the new contract in a typical month and what they were related to and a breakdown of the number of referrals received in April 2018 A review of the AHP bags be considered when Scrutiny revisit the subject of 'Waste' in approximately 12 months time to include the monetary against environmental impact. 		17th September 2018	Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene; Maz Akhtar, Regional Manager Kier Lee Woodall, Finance and Operations Director Scott Saunders, Business Manager	
16-Oct-2018	SOSC1	Post 16 Education	Following a meeting with Cabinet and Scrutiny Chairs, Members have requested to receive the report on Post -16 Education, in advance of the report being received by Cabinet on 23 October 2018		16-Oct-2018	Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement Third Sector Representatives	
18-Oct-2018	SOSC2	ALN Reform	When the Act has been further progressed, report to include consideration of the following points: a) How the Authority and Schools are engaging with parents over the changes to the Act? b) What the finalised process is for assessments and who is responsible for leading with them? c) What involvement/responsibilities do Educational Psychologists have under the Act? d) Has the Act led to an increase in tribunals and what impact has this had? This is set against the context of the recent announcement by the Lifelong Learning Minister that instead of saving £4.8m over four years the Act could potentially cost £8.2m due to an expected increase in the number of cases of dispute resolution. e) Given that the Act focuses on the involvement of young people and their parents, what support is available for those involved in court disputes? f) Outcomes from the Supported Internship programme. g) Support for those with ALN into employment. h) Staffing - Protection and support for staff, ALNCO support, workloads and capacity. i) Pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes and impact of Act on capacity of teachers to support pupils with ALN j) How is the implementation of the Act being monitored; what quality assurance frameworks are there and what accountability for local authorities, consortiums and schools?	Needs revisiting to monitor implementation of the Bill and if needs are being met as well as impact on future budgets -		Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement Third Sector Representatives	
22-Oct-18	SOSC3	Revised CAT Process	What is the latest with the CAT process? How has it been streamlined since it last came to Scrutiny back in January 2018 How many CATs have now been processed and completed? How has the position improved What are the plans for CAT going forward How many CAT applications have been received altogether? How many have been progressed? How many have withdrawn and for what reasons? List of CAT 1 priorities and what is the plan for these?			Mark Shephard, Corporate Director - Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member - Communities; Guy Smith, Community Asset Transfer Officer.	

TABLE B

For prioritisation

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Item		Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested Invitees
Education Outcomes	<p>Requested from SOSC 1 meeting in February to receive a further report at a meeting in the near future, (to be agreed by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny), incorporating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		Jan-2019	<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support;</p> <p>Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration;</p> <p>Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help;</p> <p>Mandy Paish, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor;</p> <p>Mike Glavin, Managing Director CSC</p> <p>Representative from School Budget Forum</p> <p>Sarah Merry, Chair of CSC JOSC (Deputy Leader Cardiff Council)</p> <p>Primary, Secondary and Special School</p> <p>Headteacher representative</p> <p>Simon Pirote, Principal Bridgend College</p>
Review of Fostering Project	<p>Further project as part of the Remodelling Children's Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	Corporate Director proposed October 2018	<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;</p> <p>Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care;</p> <p>Pete Tyson, Group Manager – Commissioning;</p> <p>Lauren North, Commissioning and Contract Management Officer;</p> <p>Natalie Silcox, Group Manager Childrens Regulated Services.</p>
Direct Payment Scheme	<p>Details on the revised policy including how the legislation has affected it.</p> <p>How Direct Payments are delivered.</p> <p>What support has been provided to service users since the launch of the new scheme.</p> <p>How was the scheme launched to service users.</p>	Corporate Director has proposed this as a potential item	Corporate Director proposed November	<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;</p>
CIW investigation into LAC Information only	The Committee requested that the outcome of the CIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.		Self assessment and action plan due at end of year.	Cllr Phil White
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.		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;</p>
CAMHS	<p>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.</p> <p>Update on work being undertaken throughout Wales looking at causes of mental health: 'Working Together for Mental Health'.</p> <p>To include an update on how we are getting on moving into Cwm Taf.</p>		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing;</p> <p>Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;</p> <p>Chair and CEX of ABMU and Cwm Taff Health Boards</p>

<p>Empty Properties</p>	<p>SOSC 3 requested that this item continue on FWP - reasons and purpose to be confirmed</p>			<p>Darren Mepham, Chief Executive ; Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Possible input from Mark Shephard, Corporate Director - Communities for the Commercial side Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing</p>
<p>Home to School Transport</p>	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings: 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. 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. 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 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? 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.</p>	<p>Corporate Director proposed March 2019 as the external review would not be completed until January 2019</p>	<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member Communities Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities;</p>
<p>Communication and Engagement</p>	<p>Is corporate communications meeting the needs of the various departments within the organisation to effectively communicate with residents Current data of engagement Are current KPIs an effective measurement in a fast changing digital world How do we engage with corporate communications with the digitally excluded</p>			<p>Darren Mepham, Chief Executive Corporate Communications Representative Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future generations and Wellbeing</p>
<p>Supporting People Programme Grant</p>	<p>Full breakdown of the various services currently supported through this grant within BCBC (inc. the various financial detail) along with how this may have changed over recent years. The number of individuals supported through the grant and in what way. How are decisions made about where to spend the grant and how much in specific areas How effective is the grant support that is provided across a variety of sectors within BCBC, and to ensure that the grant is being targeted at the services most in need.</p>	<p>Improved outcomes in line with the agreed objectives of the grant. Improved support for those in need of emergency housing and support</p>		<p>Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Cllr Phil White Cabinet Member Social Services and Wellbeing Wellbeing directorate Housing Darren Mepham, Martin Morgans? Lynne Berry? Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing</p>

Member and School Engagement Panel - Annual Report	Annual Update to - SOSC 1 on the work of the Member and School Engagement Panel			
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The following items for briefing sessions or pre-Council briefing

Item	Specific Information to request
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
Cwm Taf Regional Working	Update on situation and way forward with Regional Working with Cwm Taf? How will we undertake 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.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

5 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

PLAYING FIELDS, OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND PARKS PAVILIONS

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to bring to the attention of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee proposals to make the Council's provision of playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions more financially sustainable moving forward. It is intended that this matter is reported to Cabinet on 18 September 2018 seeking permission to enter into a period of consultation. This report therefore offers an opportunity pre-Cabinet decision for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide their views and recommendations on this matter.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

- 2.1 The report links to the corporate priority of 'Smarter Use of Resources', ensuring that all resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the delivery of services throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities. It also aligns with the priority of moving to a position where there is less reliance on the Council for the cost and provision of services by seeking ways in which the local community, relevant sports clubs and potentially Town and Community Councils might pay a greater part moving forward in maintaining and operating these facilities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council is the main provider of outdoor sports facilities in the County Borough. The provision of these facilities, such as sports pitches and playing fields, is recognised as playing an important contributory part in helping to achieve healthy lifestyles and better levels of physical and mental wellbeing for the County Borough's residents. The Council promotes and subsidises a range of measures intended to support and increase levels of participation in sport and physical activity.
- 3.2 Historically the Council has charged a fixed hire fee for any formal hire of its outdoor sports facilities. However, these fees do not go anywhere near covering the cost associated with providing and maintaining these facilities.

The level of subsidy the Council offers will vary depending on the nature of the users (senior or junior) and the type of sport (for example, rugby, football, cricket, bowls). Additionally the quality of the facilities provided will vary to some extent based on factors such as league requirements, drainage facilities and frequency of use. The formal use of outdoor sports facilities is predominantly by boys and men and so there are potentially equality issues in terms of the current distribution of Council financial support. For example, sports played predominantly by women and girls, such as netball, do not receive similar levels of subsidy.

- 3.3 Many of the sites and facilities are used by a number of separate clubs and organisations as well as being accessible on an informal basis to the wider community. In contrast some facilities are used almost exclusively by a single club or organisation.
- 3.4 A full list of parks pavilions, playing fields and outdoor sports facilities currently provided by the Council is included in **Appendix A**.
- 3.5 As the cumulative impact of many years of substantial budget reductions has been felt by the Council, and the forecast is for further diminishing of resources, it has become apparent that the current level of Council subsidy offered for the provision of outdoor sport and recreation facilities and the associated parks pavilions will not be sustainable. Therefore if no action is taken it is inevitable that the Council will be forced into a position where, as part of future budget reductions, facilities will be forced to close. Even without further specific reductions in the revenue budget associated with maintaining and operating these facilities, many are in a poor state of repair and will be forced to close if minimum levels of health and safety compliance cannot be sustained. However, the Council is committed to finding alternative ways of working and preserving community facilities, including the transfer of responsibility in appropriate circumstances to community groups or Town and Community Councils. This is consistent with the Council priority of seeking less reliance on the Council.
- 3.6 However, it is recognised that a formal policy change, with a potentially significant increase in charges, is likely to be necessary to prompt a greater up take of Community Asset Transfer (CAT) opportunities. A move towards full cost recovery with regard to the provision of playing fields, sports facilities and parks pavilions is likely to be such a trigger and would be consistent with the Council's commercialisation agenda where it seeks, where appropriate, to cover its costs through charging. Such a move is also similar to changes in other Welsh Local authorities, including the Vale of Glamorgan , Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire, where to varying degrees policies have been pursued that encourage CAT or long leases with user sports clubs as those Authorities have been forced to increase charges towards the full cost of provision. There is however no consistent pattern across Wales and some Councils, such as Rhondda Cynon Taf, continue to support policies that maintain high levels of overall public subsidy for the provision of sports facilities.

- 3.7 In the prevailing financial climate in Bridgend there would seem to be a justification to review the current level of subsidy offered for these facilities given the pressures on the Council's budget. However, any proposals need to also recognise the important role that sport and physical activity plays for many sectors of the community. It also needs to be recognised that the vast majority of sports clubs are operated by a small number of volunteers and already face other challenges and financial pressures in maintaining the running and operation of sports teams. In Bridgend, even a recent change to the way that sports clubs were charged for their usage (a move towards an average annual charge which did not financially penalise the majority of clubs) elicited some strong negative reactions. However, set against this, cutbacks to the amount of maintenance the Council is now able to carry out has led in some cases to complaints about the standard of sports facility provision and the trajectory of travel with regard to budgets means that maintaining the current level of subsidy is likely to be impossible without wholesale closure of facilities throughout the County Borough. The aim of the Council therefore is to take a set of proposals and options for public consultation on this matter recognising the issues highlighted in this section to inform future policy and strategy with regard to the provision of, and charging for playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions, and seek ways in which provision can be sustained without such a financial reliance on the Council. The consultation will be targeted at relevant stakeholders such as sports clubs and local organisations who currently use the facilities in scope but also allow Town and Community Councils and relevant sports governing bodies to have their say.
- 3.8 As things currently stand there are provisional Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) proposals relating to this area of service of £150,000 in 2019/20 and a further £350,000 in 2020/21. This is in addition to other historic financial cutbacks to the area of service over recent years that have reduced levels of service in some cases and overall resilience across the service. To be clear in order to meet the full proposed MTFS savings over the coming years, as well as changing the basis of charging for these facilities and accelerating the CAT process it is also likely that other measures, for example, a rationalisation of children's play areas, may also be necessary.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The current charges for the use of sports facilities for users of the Council's sports facilities are set out in **Appendix B**. The level of subsidy for the provision of each of these facilities, as highlighted earlier in the report, will vary. However, in general terms it is estimated that on average the income received from applying charges to users will only make up 20-25% of the actual costs of providing and maintaining the facilities, so typically for the provision and maintenance of outdoor sports pitches and pavilions the Council is providing a subsidy of up to 80%. In 2017/18 the total income received from charges was £93k and the total revenue expenditure for this area of service was £452k. In addition, as the condition of some facilities deteriorates there is an increasing need for investment to ensure the facilities remain safe to use. The Council monitors the charges levied by other local authorities in Wales

and historically the charges it applies are in the mid-range in Wales for facilities such as rugby pitches, football pitches, and cricket pitches. The situation is slightly different for the provision of bowling greens where in most cases the Council already has an arrangement with the user club for them to self-manage the facility in return for a small annual grant. As part of the proposed review and consultation exercise it will be necessary to also review these arrangements and ensure value for money moving forward. A significant number of clubs have expressed an interest in potential asset transfer but at this stage only a small number of clubs have progressed or are well advanced with Community Asset Transfer, including Bryncethin RFC and Caerau Football Club.

- 4.2 In the main however, while there has been considerable initial interest in CAT from sports clubs, most have decided not to pursue their interest beyond that initial expression because while the Council continues to provide a revenue subsidy of up to 80% there is a disincentive to do so. The contract of the current CAT Officer is due to end at the end of October 2018. It is clear that any business case to extend that contract should be dependent on there being a greater likelihood of more CAT transfers. This in turn will result in financial savings and hopefully greater long term sustainability of community sports facilities, albeit it is understood that those taking on CAT will need to be supported appropriately to ensure they have both the skills and expertise to complete the transfer and also the longer term commitment and wherewithal to run the facilities properly moving forward. Members will recall that there is an identified sum in the capital programme to support CAT of sports pavilions as a way of investing in the buildings as part of any proposed transfer subject to business case. Any extension of the CAT Officer's contract will therefore be explicitly linked to the approval by Cabinet of a new charging policy for the users of playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions, with a move towards full cost recovery, as this in turn will change the incentive to progress CAT applications as it is likely that these facilities would make up the majority of potential successful CATs.
- 4.3 As outlined previously, it is proposed to seek the views of various stakeholders including local sports and recreation clubs, relevant governing bodies and Town and Community Councils, via an appropriate consultation exercise, subject to Cabinet approval, on the Council's proposal to move towards full cost recovery for the provision and maintenance of its playing fields, outdoor sports facilities and parks pavilions. In parallel the Council will seek to accelerate (including for example consideration of a fast track process) and promote its offer to local sports clubs, community groups and/or Town and Community Councils of taking the opportunity to transfer the assets and take out long leases or management agreements on them. The Council will continue to offer an appropriate capital investment sum that can be used in the right circumstances to support this process as necessary and evidenced by a business case, and also practical support provided through the CAT Officer.
- 4.4 It is likely that the consultation will propose that charges are amended to cover the full cost of providing the relevant facilities from April 2020. This in turn will

allow the various clubs and organisations time to progress and complete CATs before then if they would rather take on direct responsibility for running and maintaining the facilities than pay the full cost recovery charges. The consultation exercise is intended to offer the opportunity to comment on and shape the Council's proposals, including allowing the opportunity for other alternative proposals that would create the same level of required savings to come forward.

- 4.5 Subject to the approval of Cabinet on the 18 September it is proposed that a consultation exercise is carried out on these matters, with a further report brought back to both the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then Cabinet in the first half of 2019. In the meantime all relevant clubs, user groups and Town and Community Councils will be written to setting out the Council's proposal and drawing attention to the consultation exercise.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

- 5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been carried out at this stage but is recognised that a full EIA will be required to be completed prior to any final decision by Cabinet on changes to charging for sports facilities, informed by the proposed consultation exercise.

7. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Implications

- 7.1 Similarly the proposed consultation exercise will inform the Council's views on the impact of changes to the way it provides and charges for outdoor sports facilities on future generations.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The 2018/19 net budget for Parks and Playing Fields is £359,380, broken down into an expenditure budget of £452,460 and hire income of £93,080. However, charges for these facilities also form part of the wider Authority grounds maintenance budget of £1.6 million. In addition there is a separate budget for children's play areas of £116,690.
- 8.2 There are Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) proposals relating to this area of service of £150,000 in 2019/20 and a further £350,000 in 2020/21. This is in addition to other historic financial cutbacks to the area of service over recent years that have reduced levels of service in some cases and overall resilience across the service.
- 8.3 The proposals are intended to ensure that the proposed MTFS savings can be met by securing additional income from users paying the increased charges and/or more significantly by encouraging the transfer of facilities and reducing the overall maintenance and management costs to the Council.

8.4 In order to achieve the full level of saving currently proposed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy it will also be necessary to review and consider a rationalisation of children's play areas throughout the County Borough and the current grant arrangements paid to bowls clubs as part of their self-management arrangements.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and comment on the report with a view to their comments and recommendations being considered by Cabinet on the 18 September 2018.

Mark Shephard
Corporate Director Communities
August 2018

Contact Officer: Mark Shephard
Corporate Director Communities
Telephone: 01656 643380
E-mail: Mark.Shephard@bridgend.gov.uk
Postal Address Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

APPENDIX A

Green Spaces - Sports Facilities (August 2018)

SPORTS PAVILIONS				
UPRN	Site Name	Pavilion Name	Address	Postcode
30025	ABERFIELDS PLAYING FIELDS, OGMORE VALE	Aberfields Pavilion	Aber Road, Nantymoel	CF32 7PN
20018	BETTWS PLAYING FIELDS	Bettws	Heol Richard Price, Bettws	CF32 4LL
20019	BLAENGARW CRICKET	Blaengarw Cricket	Garreg Side, Blaengarw	CF32 8NL
20020	BLANDY PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Blandy Park	Rear of Oxford Street, Pontycymmer	CF32 8DG
40026	BRYNCETHIN RUGBY PLAYING FIELDS	Bryncethin	Blackmill Road, Bryncethin	CF32 9YW
70022	CAE GOF PLAYING FIELDS	Cae Gof	Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr	CF32 0AA
10040	CAERAU AFC.	Caerau Athletic	Humphrey's Terrace, Caerau	CF34 0SG
10041	CAERAU WELFARE PARK	Caerau Welfare	Protheroe Street, Caerau	CF34 0SP
50020	COYCHURCH PLAYING FIELDS	Coychurch	Heol Simonston, Coity	CF35 6AA
70023	CROFT GOCH PLAYING FIELDS	Croft Goch	Pisgah Street, Kenfig Hill	CF33 6BU
20021	CWM GARW PLAYING FIELDS	Cwm Garw Rugby	Garreg Side, Blaengarw	CF32 8NL
30026	EVANSTOWN WELFARE PARK	Evanstown	Heol y Parc, Evanstown	CF39 8RH
10042	GARTH PARK	Garth Welfare	Bridgend Road, Garth	CF34 0NE
50021	GREAT WESTERN AVENUE PLAYING FIELDS	Gt Western Avenue	Gt Western Avenue, Bridgend	CF31 1PE
90012	HEOL-Y-CYW PLAYING FIELDS.	Heol y Cyw	Off High Street, Heol y Cyw	CF32 6HZ
10043	HERMON ROAD/METCALF STREET PLAYING FIELD	Hermon Road	Hermon Road, Caerau	CF34 0RH
20022	LAWRENCE PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Lawrence Park	Gwaun Bant, Pontycymer	CF32 8HD
30027	LEWISTOWN PLAYING FIELDS	Lewistown	Blackmill Road. Lewistown	CF32 7HU
20023	LLANGEINOR RECREATION GROUND	Llangeinor	Bettws Road, Llangeinor	CF32 8PG
10045	LLANGYNWYD PLAYING FIELDS	Llangynwyd	Maesteg Road, Llangynwyd	CF34 9SG
10047	MAESTEG WELFARE PARK	Maesteg Welfare	Heol Ty Gwyn, Maesteg	CF34 0AZ
30028	NANTYMOEL R.F.C. PLAYING FIELD	Nantymoel Park	Gwendoline Street, Nantymoel	CF32 7SG
60062	NEWBRIDGE FIELDS (NORTH)	Newbridge Flds (BS)	Angel Street, Bridgend	CF31 3AZ
60063	NEWBRIDGE FIELDS (SOUTH CRICKET)	Newbridge Flds (Cricket)	Angel Street, Bridgend	CF31 3PN
60064	NEWBRIDGE FIELDS (SOUTH NEW)	Newbridge Flds (New)	Angel Street, Bridgend	CF31 3PN
70025	NORTH CORNELLY PLAYING FIELDS, MEADOW ST	Cornelly	Meadow Street, North Cornelly	CF33 4LL
30029	OGMORE VALE R.F.C. PLAYING FIELD	Ogmore Park	Bridge Street, Ogmore Vale	CF32 7AN
40028	PANDY PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Pandy Park	Terfyn, Ynysawdre	CF32 9EW
90013	PENCOED RECREATION GROUND	Felindre	Felindre Road, Pencoed	CF35 5PB
20024	PWLL-Y-GARN PLAYING FIELDS	Pwll Carn	Pwllcarn Terrace, Blaengarw	CF32 8HT
80033	REST BAY PLAYING FIELDS	Rest Bay	Rest Bay, Porthcawl	CF36 3QB
10114	SOUTH PARADE	South Parade	South Parade, Maesteg	CF34 0AB
90014	WOODLANDS PARK, PENCOED	Woodlands	Llwyn Gwern, Pencoed	CF35 6UN
BOWLS PAVILIONS				
30066	CAEDU PARK	Ogmore Vale Bowls Club	Park Avenue, Ogmore Vale	CF32 7DH
70022	CAE GOF BOWLS PAVILION	Cefn Cribwr Bowls Club	Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr	CF32 0AA
10041	CAERAU WELFARE PARK - BOWLS.	Caerau Athletic Bowls Club	Protheroe Street, Caerau	CF34 0SP
30026	EVANSTOWN WELFARE PARK - BOWLS	Gilfach Coch Mens Bowls / GC Ladies BC	Heol y Parc, Evanstown	CF39 8RH
10042	GARTH PARK.	Maesteg Celtic Bowls Club	Bridgend Road, Garth	CF34 0NE
80028	GRIFFIN PARK	Griffin Park Pavilion Association	New Road, Porthcawl	CF36 5DG
20022	LAWRENCE PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Garw Valley Tennis Club	Gwaun Bant, Pontycymer	CF32 8HD
20022	LAWRENCE PARK PLAYING FIELDS	Waunbant Bowls	Federation Lane, Pontycymer	CF32 8LQ
10047	MAESTEG WELFARE PARK BOWLS PAVILION	Maesteg Bowls Club	Heol Ty Gwyn, Maesteg,	CF34 9PW
60187	NEWBRIDGE FIELDS BOWLS PAVILION	Bridgend Municipal Bowling Club	Newbridge Fields, Bridgend	CF31 4AH
90036	PENCOED BOWLS PAVILION	Pencoed Bowls Club	Felindre Road, Pencoed	CF35 5PB
70026	PYLE BOWLING GREEN.	Kenfig Hill and Pyle Bowls Club	Marshfield Avenue, Pyle	CF33 6BS
30030	WAUNLLWYD	Wyndham Bowls Club	Waun Fach, Nantymoel	CF32 7PU

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APPENDIX B

Facility & Activity (all charges inclusive of VAT unless stated otherwise)

2018/19
(17/18 charge plus 4%)

Bowling Greens

Season Ticket Adult	£79.00
Season Ticket Junior/OAP	£53.00
Casual Use Per Hour Adult	£4.60
Casual Use Per Hour Junior/OAP	£3.20

Putting Greens

Casual Use Per Round Adult	£3.60
Casual Use Per Round Junior/OAP	£2.50
Lost Balls	

Tennis

Season Adult	£66.00
Season Junior/OAP	£43.30
Club Use Per Game Adult	£3.80
Club Use Per Game Junior/OAP	£3.00

Playing Fields

Sports Pitches - Rugby / Football	
Adult Use of Pitch	£35.70
Junior Use of Pitch	£22.80
Mini Use of Pitch	£17.00

Sports Pitches - Cricket

Adult Use of Pitch - Prepared Wicket	£41.30
Junior Use of Pitch - Prepared Wicket	£26.80
Adult Use of Pitch - Artificial Wicket	£24.80
Junior Use of Pitch - Artificial Wicket	£14.00

Special Day Events

Adult Use of Ground	£111.10
Junior Use of Ground	£66.00

Pavilions

In Conjunction With The Use of Sports Pitches	
Adult Use of Pavilion (Rugby/Football)	£18.90
Junior Use of Pavilion (Rugby/Football)	£12.10
Adult Use of Pavilion (Cricket)	£18.90
Junior Use of Pavilion (Cricket)	£12.10
Mini Use of Pavilion	£12.10

Special Day Events

Adult Use for Special Events	£72.30
Junior Use for Special Events	£40.50

Social Events, Meetings etc.

Social Event Less Than 4 Hours - Adult	£79.70
Social Event Less Than 4 Hours - Junior/OAP	£45.70
Meeting Less Than 4 Hours - Adult	£26.50
Meeting Less Than 4 Hours - Junior/OAP	£15.30
All Year Use (Once Weekly) - Adult	£617.00
All Year Use (Once Weekly) - Junior/OAP	£354.40
All Year Use (Once Monthly) - Adult	£184.80
All Year Use (Once Monthly) - Junior/OAP	£103.90