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Bridgend County Borough Council



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

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

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please
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Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Michael Pitman

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Friday, 31 August 2018

Dear Councillor,

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

A meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 will be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB on **Thursday, 6 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 - 8
To receive for approval the minutes of a meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 of the 12/07/2018
4. Forward Work Programme Update 9 - 20
5. Advocacy - Adults and Children's Services 21 - 28
Invitees
Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;
Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing;
Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care;
Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care;
Richard Thomas, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer;
Richard Jones, CEO – Mental Health Matters Wales
6. Urgent Items
To consider any item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

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Yours faithfully

K Watson

Head of Legal and Regulatory Services

Councillors:

MC Clarke
PA Davies
SK Dendy
J Gebbie
CA Green
M Jones

Councillors

MJ Kearn
JE Lewis
AA Pucella
KL Rowlands
SG Smith
G Thomas

Councillors

T Thomas
SR Vidal
DBF White
A Williams

Agenda Item 3

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018 AT 09:30

Present

Councillor CA Green – Chairperson

TH Beedle
M Jones
SG Smith

MC Clarke
JE Lewis
G Thomas

PA Davies
AA Pucella
A Williams

SK Dendy
KL Rowlands

Apologies for Absence

MJ Kearn

Officers:

Sarah Daniel Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Julie Ellams Democratic Services Officer - Committees

Invitees:

Susan Cooper

Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing

Jackie Davies

Head of Adult Social Care

Laura Kinsey

Head of Children's Social Care

Bethan Lindsey-Gaylard

Domestic Abuse Coordinator

Terri Warrilow

Adult Safeguarding & Quality Manager

Councillor Philip White

Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help

42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Kearn and Cllr D White

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr M Jones declared a personal interest in item 7, Safeguarding, because he provided professional support to the authority in the management of domestic abuse.

44. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 of 7 March 2018 and 17 April 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

45. CORPORATE PARENTING CHAMPION NOMINATION REPORT

Recommended

The Committee nominated Cllr Mike Clarke as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee to meetings of the Corporate Parenting Cabinet Committee.

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

Recommended

The Committee nominated Cllr Sorrel Dendy to sit on the Public Service Board Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

47. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented a report on the Forward Work Programme including the feedback from previous meetings and a list of responses including any still outstanding.

A Member referred to the Inspection of Children's Services and the action plan drawn up a year ago and asked Members if they would like a report on the current status of the action plan. Members were conscious that staff were under pressure and that the action plan was scrutinised in other areas so agreed that the update submitted to CIW could be provided to committee members for information.

Members discussed ALN and the reasons for it being considered by SOSC 2 and not SOSC 1. Members requested that the recommendations previously made by SOSC 1 be included in the report to SOSC 2.

A Member referred to the Dementia Friends 1 training on 11 July 2018 and the poor attendance figures. A member replied that she and many other Members had already received this training and this session had been arranged specifically for members who had not yet received the training. She also advised that there was another session scheduled for a later date for Members who could not attend the first session. Members discussed arrangements and suggested that in future a tick box could be sent for Members to say whether or not they had already received the training. Members said it would be helpful to receive an email explaining the background and not just a calendar entry. The Scrutiny Officer agreed to feedback the comments to the Head of Democratic Services.

Conclusions:

The Committee discussed the Forward Work Programme and the further information received back from officers after their last meeting. Members noted the information report received on the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales – Inspection of Children's Services January/February 2017– Action Plan Update. Members asked to receive an information report to a future meeting to inform members where the Authority were now in respect of the action plan. Members were mindful of officer time in producing such report and suggested they receive similar to what was presented to the CSSIW in response to the action plan.

48. SAFEGUARDING

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing presented a report updating the Committee with information on Safeguarding, Regional Safeguarding Boards, Bridgend Corporate Safeguarding Policy, Child Sexual Exploitation, Deprivation of Liberty Standards, Domestic Abuse and Human Trafficking and Anti-slavery. She explained that Safeguarding was everyone's business and it extended beyond the social services directorate.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing identified the main categories of abuse, the number of safeguarding referrals and the highest recorded category of abuse

in 2017/2018 which was neglect followed by physical abuse, emotional/psychological abuse and financial abuse.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing updated the committee on MASH, DOLS, adult practice reviews, child practice reviews, governance and Regional Safeguarding Boards. She explained that the question, how do we know that the people of Bridgend are safe, had to be asked. The Partnership Board had recently met to share ideas and scrutinise the Bridgend area in particular. There was a Corporate Safeguarding Policy and also a group of safeguarding champions.

A Member asked where the authority was with prevention and in particular, the anti-slavery issue. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing replied that the challenge was to establish a greater awareness of safeguarding issues and an understanding of thresholds. There were less people in managed care so people needed to know how to keep safe and, how to recognise the early signs. The MASH was an early intervention and advice service where different bodies could respond together quickly before issues escalated. The Head of Adult Social Care said there was a greater awareness with both staff and people in the community understanding what signs to look for and what to do. There had been presentations on both anti-slavery and CSE but more training was required.

DI Anthony Evans explained that there were specialist departments within the police which had spread into the communities and training and presentations were available online.

A Member referred to the police and fire service references within the report and asked to what extent the ambulance service was involved. The Head of Children's Social Care explained that the ambulance service was on the Safeguarding Board and staff had access to training.

A Member asked if the number of Safeguarding Referrals and the number that met the threshold for Adult Protection Procedures were in line with the average for Wales. The Adult Safeguarding and Quality Manager confirmed that this was in line with the average. She added there was a good working relationship with partners and every referral had a response.

A Member asked for a definition of the thresholds. The Adult Safeguarding and Quality Manager agreed to send a definition in line with the legislation, to Members.

A Member asked if there had been any changes to the way domestic abuse cases were reported and if the figures were accurate. DI Anthony Evans confirmed that the numbers were accurate and subject to a risk assessment. Each incident was investigated and a classification recorded. There were also ongoing risk assessments and they were all reviewed periodically.

A Member asked what progress had been made regarding the move to Cwm Taff. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that it was a busy time and she had been in 3 meetings with Cwm Taff and 2 with Western Bay in the previous week. A transition board had been set up and Bridgend had representation on it. They had had one meeting to date and work streams were being looked at for TUPE, HR, IT and partnerships. They were concentrating on disaggregation, partnerships and what had to happen before 1 April 2020. The nature of business would remain the same however the infrastructure was important.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help explained that the authority was in a unique position at the moment and that the transition was separate from

transformation. Extra resources were necessary and negotiations were underway at the moment. There would be a fair and equitable distribution between health and social care.

A member asked if work undertaken now would continue under Cwm Taff. She was advised that it would fall under a different Safeguarding Board but would continue as it was. DI Anthony Evans added that Bridgend did not have the same problems as Cardiff and Swansea and that Bridgend had been proactive in prevention and the drugs team in particular had been very successful.

A Member complimented staff on the report and the range of invitees at the meeting and thanked them all for taking the time to attend and for their contributions to the report and discussions at the meeting. He stated there was a corporate responsibility in relation to Safeguarding ranging from a child being picked up by a taxi to carers and sports activities. He asked how we could be sure corporate vigilance and focus was in place so that people were being protected. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing explained that the safeguarding agenda had risen over the last few years and was now a regular item on the corporate management agenda. Corporate champions were raising awareness and for the fire service, police and a whole range of partners, this was a regular item on the agenda.

The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help added that regular checks had to be put in place and was now part of the procurement process. This was a corporate responsibility and was regularly considered.

A Member asked if the different agencies were aware of a recent incident in Bridgend that was detailed in paragraph 4.23 of the report. Members were advised that the agencies were aware of the residents involved in the incident and when the review was complete the findings would be circulated to Members and available in the public domain. Ward Members would be advised before the release to allow them time to prepare for any enquiries.

A Member asked if there was a correlation between LAC, CSE and children on the at risk register. He also asked what Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) looked like in Bridgend. DI Anthony Evans confirmed there was a link between vulnerable groups. An established process had been put in place and there were experts working with foster parents etc. There was also a CSE strategy and periodic reviews. He was not confident that the CSE position was known in Bridgend but processes were in place to deal with it. There was a task force which had received international accolades and the service was proud of what had been achieved. The Head of Children's Social Care added that the risk was heightened when a child went missing. Numbers had recently gone down from 37 to 5 individuals being monitored by agencies via the CSE protocol.

Members were pleased to hear how successful the Assia Suite was with over 1220 referrals last year. This was the domestic abuse provision based in the civic offices for the past year.

A Member asked if training was given to teachers to help them recognise children that were potential CSE victims. DI Anthony Evans explained that the police attended schools and offered training sessions to help people recognise the signs and report concerns. The Governing bodies were also given the training. Year 8 pupils were given the training as part of the curriculum and the training was well received by the pupils.

Members asked to receive information on the training that had been offered to licensed taxi drivers, including details on the take up of the training offered. Officers confirmed they would share this with members.

A Member asked for further information regarding the trend compared to previous years and for the information in the report on the categories of abuse recorded for Adults at Risk, to be broken down into ward specific referrals. He also asked if there were any areas they should be concerned about. The Adult Safeguarding and Quality Manager explained that the statistics were categorised by WG and looked at age ranges and categories of abuse. They did not look at wards but there was nothing to stop that happening if required.

Members asked for Safeguarding to remain on the Forward Work Programme but stated that the Committee should receive all relevant updates as they arose.

Members recommended further training sessions be held on Child Sexual Exploitation and Anti-Slavery as members elected in the new administration had not yet received training in this area. They also recommended that when procuring new contracts such as school transport that safeguarding training should be made mandatory as part of the contract.

Members welcomed the support and training offered by the Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board and recommended the training be extended to offender management and offered to organisations such as the probation service.

A Member asked how many children had entered the care system and were placed on the at risk register that had been a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation

Recommendations

Members stated that it was good to see a range of invitees at the meeting and thanked them all for taking the time to attend and for their contributions to the report and discussions at the meeting. Members were also pleased to hear how successful the Assia Suite had been, the domestic abuse provision based in the civic offices which had been in use over the past year.

Members recommended further training sessions be held on Child Sexual Exploitation and Anti-Slavery as members elected in the new administration had not yet received training in this area.

Members recommended that when procuring new contracts such as school transport that safeguarding training should be made mandatory as part of the contract.

Members welcomed the support and training offered by the Western Bay Safeguarding Children's Board and recommended the training be extended to offender management and offered to organisations such as the probation service.

Further Information

Members asked to receive further information on the criteria threshold for Adult Protection Services.

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018

Members asked to receive the information on the training that had been offered to licensed taxi drivers, including details on the take up of the training offered.

Members asked how many children had entered the care system and were placed on the at risk register, had been a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation

Members asked for Safeguarding to remain on the Forward Work Programme but stated that the Committee should receive all relevant updates as they arose.

Members asked for the information in the report on the categories of abuse recorded for Adults at Risk to be broken down into ward specific referrals.

Members asked to receive the report, when available on the Concise Child Practice Review that BCBC were currently undertaking as detailed in Paragraph 4.23 of the report.

49. URGENT ITEMS

None

The meeting closed at 11:30

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

6 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 2 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 2 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

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Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend.
CF31 4WB

Background documents

None

Date of meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments	Follow Up Required
12-Jul-2018	Forward Work Programme	The Committee discussed the Forward Work Programme and the further information received back from officers after their last meeting. Members noted the information report received on the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales – Inspection of Childrens Services January/February 2017– Action Plan Update. Members asked to receive an information report to a future meeting to inform members where the Authority were now in respect of the action plan. Members were mindful of officer time in producing such report and suggested they receive similar to what was presented to the CSSIW in response to the action plan.	Noted.	
	Safeguarding	Members stated that it was good to see a range of invitees at the meeting and thanked them all for taking the time to attend and for their contributions to the report and discussions at the meeting. Members were also pleased to hear how successful the Assia Suite which is the domestic abuse provision based in the civic offices had been over the past year.	Noted.	
		Members recommended further training sessions be held on Child Sexual Exploitation and Anti-Slavery as members elected in the new administration had not yet received training in this area.	Training on Child Sexual Exploitation and Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking can be arranged.	
		Members recommended that when procuring new contracts such as school transport that safeguarding training should be made mandatory as part of the contract.	It would be good practice to embed safeguarding into procurement and contracting activities. There could be a sliding scale of requirements which would be based on the level of contact with vulnerable persons.	
		Members welcomed the support and training offered by the Western Bay Safeguarding Childrens Board and recommended the training be extended to offender management and offered to organisations such as the probation service.	Agencies across the county borough are able to access safeguarding training via the Social Care Workforce Development Team this includes the Probation Service.	
		Members asked to receive the information on the training that has been offered to licensed taxi drivers, including details on the take up of the training offered.	Safeguarding training, for licensed taxi drivers , with a focus on sexual exploitation, took place in August and October 2017, four sessions were held with a total of 184 drivers attending. Training for persons working at Licensed Premises (pubs, clubs & hotels) is planned to take place later this year.	
		Members asked how many children had entered the care system and were placed on the at risk register that had been a victim of Child Sexual Exploitation.	Since January 2018, 16 young people were monitored under the Child Sexual Exploitation Protocol. Of these, 2 were Looked After and on the child protection register; 7 were Looked After; 4 were were on the Child Protection Register.	
		Members asked for Safeguarding to remain on the Forward Work Programme but stated that the Committee should receive all relevant updates as they arise.	Noted.	
		Members asked for the information in the report on the categories of abuse recorded for Adults at Risk to be broken down into ward specific referrals.	Info in separate spreadsheet attached.	
		Members asked to receive the report, when available on the Concise Child Practice Review that BCBC were currently undertaking as detailed in Paragraph 4.23 of the report.	The report is still in its draft version for comments from panel members. The final version is to be considered at the Practice Review Management group in September. Thereafter the final report will be presented to the Western Bay Safeguarding Board and a publication date will be. Arrangements will be made locally to brief members and present through formal committee mechanisms as required.	

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Ward Area	Emotional/ Psychological	Emotional/ Psychological, Financial	Emotional/ Psychological, Neglect	Financial	Financial, Neglect	Neglect	Physical	Physical, Emotional/ Psychologica l	Physical, Financial	Physical, Neglect	Sexual	Sexual, Emotional/ Psychological	Sexual, Physical	Physical, Emotional or Psychological, Neglect	Physical, Emotional or Psychological, Financial	Emotional or Psychological, Financial, Neglect	Total
Aberkenfig						1	2										3
Bettws			1	1			2	3			1						8
Blackmill	1	1					6	7	1		4						20
Blaengarw							1										1
Brackla	1			2			12	7	1								23
Bryncethin								1					1				2
Bryncoch		2		1	1												4
Bryntirion						2	3										5
Caerau		3	1	1			2	2									9
Cefn Cribwr		1	1					1	1								4
Cefn Glas								1									1
Coity						1											1
Cornelly	1			2			12	7	2		1				1		26
Coychurch Lower	1						10	6									17
Felindre	1		2	1			6	6									16
Hendre				1			2			1							4
Litchard							1										1
Llangynwyd		1															1
Maesteg East						2	1										3
Maesteg West	2			3	1		8	1	1								16
Morfa	2	1	1	1			3		2	1					1		12
Nant-y-moel								1									1
Newcastle				2			1	1	1								5
Newton							4										4
Nottage	1						1										2
Oldcastle	2		1	2			7	5		1							18
Pendre	1		1				2	1									5
Penprysg							5										5
Pen-y-fai	1						1	1									3
Pontycymmer		1															1
Porthcawl East Central	3			2			3		1				1		2		12
Porthcawl West Central	1			1	1		9	3								1	16
Pyle	8	1		6			3	1			3						22
Rest Bay	3						9	1			3	1					17
Sarn				4				4									8
Ynysawdre			1	2			8	4		1							16
Community	2	1	1	3			5	6	1	1	2	1					23
Not Known	1	2		1	1		1	1	1		1						9
Total	32	14	10	36	4	129	77	12	1	5	15	3	1	1	3	1	344

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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 17 15-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; 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 Sarah Merry, Chair of CSC JOSC (Deputy Leader Cardiff Council) Primary, Secondary and Special School Headteacher representative 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; 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.</p>
Direct Payment Scheme	<p>Details on the revised policy including how the legislation has affected it. How Direct Payments are delivered. What support has been provided to service users since the launch of the new scheme. 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; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;</p>
CIW investigation into LAC Information only	<p>The Committee requested that the outcome of the CIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.</p>		Self assessment and action plan due at end of year.	Cllr Phil White
Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project	<p>SOSC 1 requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes.</p>		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; 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; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; 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 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

06 SEPTEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING

ADVOCACY – ADULTS AND CHILDREN’S SERVICES

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work undertaken to date in developing the provision of Independent Professional Advocacy (IPA) services for adults and for children and young people, which is being undertaken in response to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Council’s ongoing remodelling plans.

2.0 Connection to Corporate Plan

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

- **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.
- **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.

3.0 Background

3.1 Advocacy means assistance given to help a person represent their views. Section 181(2) of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 defines “advocacy services” as: services which provide assistance (by way of representation or otherwise) to persons for purposes relating to their care and support.

3.2 Part 10 of the Act sets out the requirements for local authorities in relation to advocacy, which are to:

- a. Ensure that access to advocacy services and support is available to enable individuals to engage and participate when local authorities are exercising their statutory duties in relation to them; and
- b. To arrange an independent professional advocate to facilitate the involvement of individuals in certain circumstances.

3.3 An advocate is defined as an ‘appropriate individual’ who can speak on behalf of someone who is facing barriers to communicating or understanding, weighing-up, or deciding on information related to services that they receive. Advocacy services come in a variety of forms, and range from informal, peer and voluntary advocacy through to paid, independent professional advocates (IPAs). The Council promotes the statutory IPA service with posters, leaflets and website via partners and local

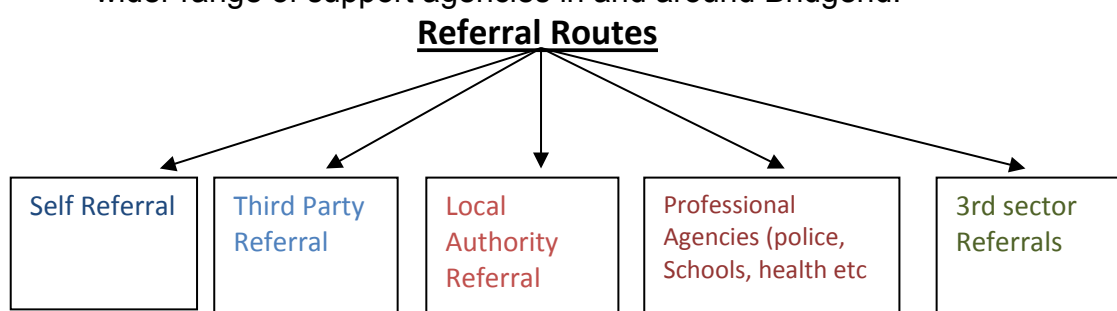
organisations, and service centres. The Advocacy Hub [website](#) is linked to both Dewis Cymru and InfoEngine online directories.

- 3.4 IPA is not meant to replace other forms of advocacy – it is a final option where other appropriate individuals, including family, friends and peers are not able to provide a voice for an individual. However, local authorities must arrange for the provision of an independent professional advocate when a person can only overcome barriers to participate fully with assistance from another appropriate individual, but there is no one else available.
- 3.5 In recognition of the duties for local authorities, Welsh Government has funded the Golden Thread Advocacy Programme (GTAP) to support local authorities with the commissioning of IPA services across Wales. In 2016, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) secured the support of GTAP to assist in establishing a pilot advocacy scheme for adults; helping with stakeholder engagement, evaluating the impact of the Pilot, and supporting the local work to develop a sustainable statutory IPA service. Referrals to the new service have come from social workers across service areas demonstrating a good awareness of the new duty across frontline teams.
- 3.6 Welsh Government has also defined a ‘National Approach to IPA for Children and Young People’, particularly for Looked After Children and for those on the Child Protection Register. This national approach (see 4.7 below) requires regional working by local authorities in commissioning an independent advocacy provider, and as such BCBC has entered into a regional Western Bay contract along with City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Councils.
- 3.7 The Council also meets its requirements for independent advocacy under the Mental Health Act 1983 and Mental Capacity Act 2005 through referral pathways to independent mental health (IMHA) and mental capacity (IMCA) advocacy services.

4.0 Current Situation/Proposal

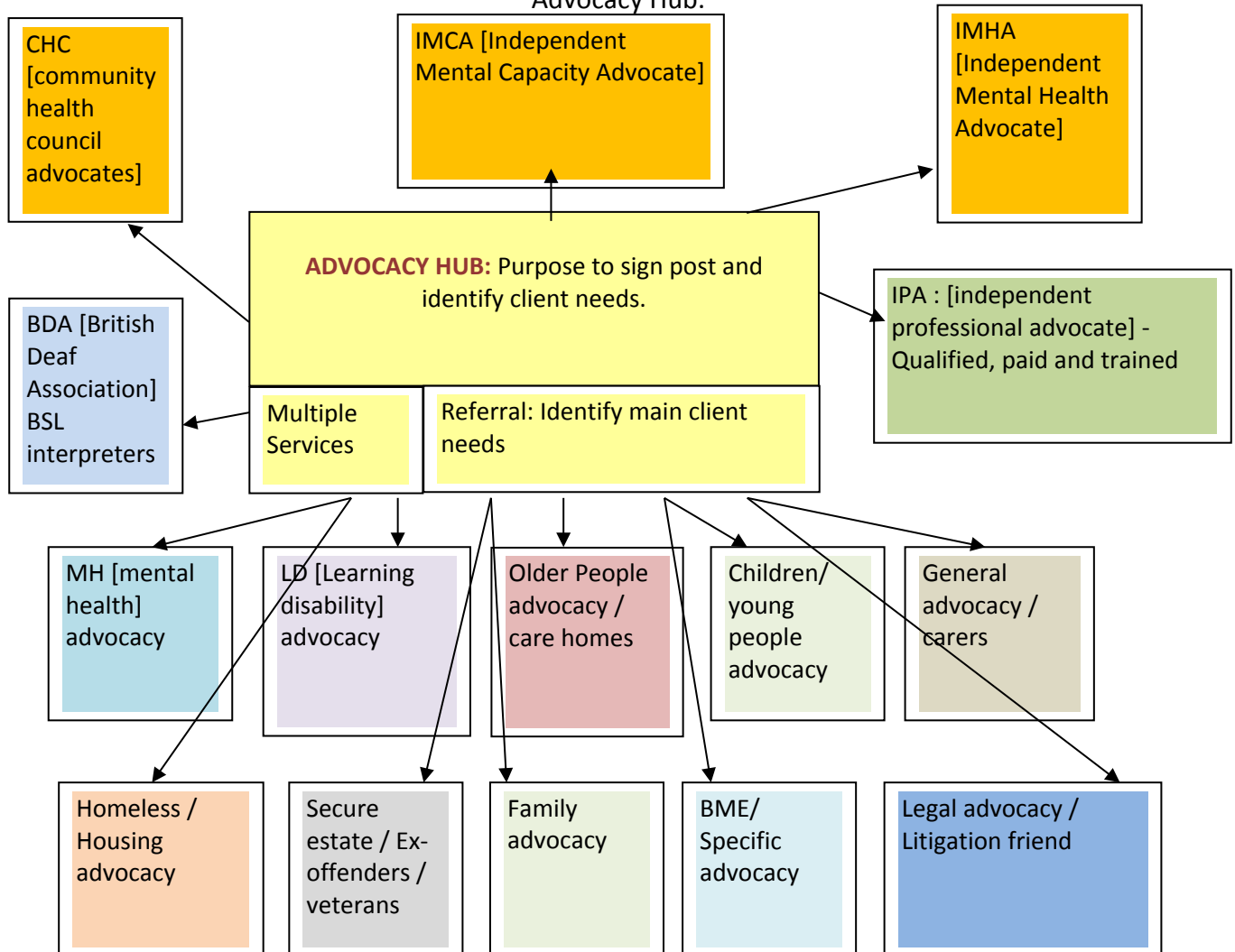
Adult Social Care

- 4.1 The GTAP has supported BCBC to engage with local stakeholders to co-produce a new and fully compliant service model for independent professional advocacy.
- 4.2 This was tested in a pilot IPA scheme for Adult Social Care that operated a ‘Hub & Spoke’ approach using two independent service providers, who also linked with the wider range of support agencies in and around Bridgend.



Informal, Community and Commissioned Advocacy Providers

Range of advocacy services including informal, peer, formal and IPA accessible directly and via the Advocacy Hub.



- 4.3 The Hub & Spoke service model allows for information, sign-posting and referral to all types of advocacy service, including non-statutory support where appropriate, to ensure that people in Bridgend get the right service at the right time. In keeping with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, this enables a preventative approach in providing early intervention to reduce escalation of needs, and supporting resolution of issues through access to the most appropriate type of support.
- 4.4 The Adult Social Care IPA pilot (branded as *'Bridgend Voice & Choice'*) ran from April 2017 to June 2018 and demonstrated that a sign-posting and referral contact point and helpline enables people to access the most appropriate specialist IPA service. The helpline staff at the Hub are also able to sign-post to children's advocacy services (see below) and can link to national support agencies if required.
- 4.5 The pilot received 62 referrals for IPA support up to May 2018, and the review and evaluation identified that the advocates were highly valued by the people using the service. The providers demonstrated evidence of supporting people in difficult circumstances to address their social care issues, which often overlapped with housing issues or managing personal finances. Monthly reports from the Providers and regular contract management meetings ensured the service objectives were

being met effectively, and an independent evaluation, assisted by GTAP, provided further evidence that the Providers are developing an effective advocacy service.

- 4.6 The Adult Social Care IPA service has since been fully commissioned from 1 July 2018 through an open tender exercise, which includes three independent Providers (PromoCymru; Mental Health Matters Wales; People First Bridgend) working under a co-ordinated scheme. Contracts have been tendered for two years initially, with an option to extend for a further two years. In moving forward, the service will:
- a. Support local knowledge exchange via a Bridgend advocacy network, to include all levels of advocacy available. This can link to wider Information, Advice & Assistance services offered by the Council and others, and will help those involved in the referral process to provide a more collaborative approach to supporting individuals.
 - b. Enable access via the Advocacy Hub to experienced specialist advocacy providers able to support specific needs, and to also link to other services including informal community support services, peer advocacy and referrals into IMCA/IMHA (mental capacity and mental health advocates) as required.
 - c. Continue to work strategically with GTAP to help refine and improve the Bridgend Voice & Choice service.

Children's Social Care

- 4.7 The Advocacy for Children and Young People service has been commissioned through a regional Western Bay contract led by Swansea Council. The 'National Approach' service model for advocacy for children and young people is prescribed by Welsh Government, including a set funding level, and was commissioned in Western Bay from 1 August 2017 on a one year basis with an option to extend by up to two years. The existing provider in Bridgend secured the regional contract, namely Tros Gynnal Plant.
- 4.8 Despite contracting with the existing provider in Bridgend, the introduction of the new regional service in August 2017 initially saw a temporary slow down of referrals compared to the local arrangement in place previously (64 cases for BCBC in the five months around the change of contract, compared to 104 cases in the same period in 2016). However, with increased capacity for the provider and training and awareness provided for social workers, the service Provider reports they are now working with approximately 15 individuals/21 cases per month in Bridgend (Apr-July 2018), which is an increase of 50% on the referral numbers for 2016/17 and on track to meet Welsh Government targets.
- 4.9 The new service model now requires a (compulsory) 'Active Offer' of advocacy to be made to all Looked After Children and Child Protection Register children and young people aged 5 years and over. This active offer is a new requirement ensuring that each new individual has an opportunity to meet an advocate at an early stage if they wish, and assessment forms and systems have therefore been adapted to reflect this. Out of County placements will receive support from the Western Bay service if they are within a reasonable distance, or via a reciprocal arrangement with other areas as the same statutory requirement is in place across Wales to ensure equal access is available.

- 4.10 The new active offer has also been slow to evidence increased performance (similar to most other local authorities across Wales) due to the requirement for new referral and reporting systems to be put in place. However, training has been provided for BCBC social workers on the new approach and good working relationships with the provider and regional commissioners is ensuring a collaborative approach to raising the performance across the whole service. Quarterly meetings take place with the Western Bay commissioning officers and with the Provider, and quarterly reports are submitted to Welsh Government to monitor progress against the National Approach targets.
- 4.11 While all partners are working to increase referrals and service delivery, the Welsh Government prescribed level of service - 528 individuals receiving 6605 hours of IPA support per year within Western Bay - has not yet been achieved. Each region in Wales has a similar experience with growth of the service being incremental rather than instant. This position is being reported to Welsh Government, and the prescribed performance levels may need to be reviewed at a national level in the future.
- 4.12 Given the forthcoming Health Boundary change affecting BCBC from Western Bay to Cwm Taf, discussions are underway with commissioning colleagues in both regions to manage the current service and to ensure that Bridgend continues to receive an effective advocacy service for young people.
- 4.13 Discussions undertaken with Cwm Taf have indicated a timeframe where they anticipate having a new regional advocacy service in place from April 2019, to which Bridgend could potentially be a party. However, this would require a change being made in respect of prescribed regional areas – which is something that must be driven by Welsh Government making relevant changes to legislation.
- 4.12 There will also be emerging legislation from the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016, which proposes for the first time to make independent professional advocacy for children and young people a regulated service from April 2019, requiring registration and inspection with the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and Social Care Wales (SCW), which will have a considerable bearing on the approach and service model being commissioned in moving forward from 2019/20.
- 4.13 An extension of the Western Bay contract to 31 March 2019 has been made, in order to allow time for the required legislative changes to the regional boundaries to be made, and to understand the new regulatory requirements. Swansea Council (as lead contractor in Western Bay) has also confirmed the ability to extend beyond 31 March 2019, should it be necessary to ensure continuity of service in Bridgend.

5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

6.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening was carried out for the pilot IPA service in February 2017 in consultation with the Equalities & Diversity Officer. As the fully commissioned Adult Social Care service has now consolidated the pilot with accessibility for all people eligible under the 2014 Act, the service has had a

positive impact in terms of equality, as all protected characteristics are able to access a fully commissioned statutory IPA service.

- 6.2 The Children and Young People Advocacy service is prescribed by Welsh Government through a National Approach targeted at specific client groups.

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

- 7.1 By giving voice to people who may otherwise lack ability to express themselves, the commissioned advocacy services aim to assist children, young people, adults and their carers to have greater voice, choice and control in their lives. The wellbeing goals of a healthier Wales, a more equal Wales, and a Wales of cohesive communities are therefore supported through these services.

- 7.2 The commissioning of the advocacy services supports the five ways of working under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, as follows:

Long Term – statutory IPA advocacy gives voice to those who have no other person to speak on their behalf. With a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and with demographic trends towards an ageing population with increasing complexity of need, including estimated increases in the prevalence of dementia, embedding advocacy services that support these individuals will ensure that vulnerable people are better supported to have voice, choice and control in maintaining their independence and wellbeing in the longer-term.

Prevention – the IPA service aims for early-intervention to prevent unnecessary escalation of needs. By identifying and addressing issues via advocacy, earlier resolution can be achieved.

Integration – the service works across sectors taking in referrals from statutory services, health and social care agencies, and the advocacy itself is delivered by third sector Providers within a co-ordinated scheme.

Collaboration – The service model has been co-designed with local stakeholders, the Golden Thread Advocacy Programme (as a national support agency), and with academic collaboration in the evaluation of the Pilot Service. The Hub & Spoke service model is predicated on close collaboration between the service providers and with BCBC social services teams.

Involvement – key stakeholders were involved in the design of the service model following the principles of co-production. The IPA service itself responds directly to the issues and concerns of the people who use the service. As such, the involvement of Individuals is fundamental to the success of the service to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 A core annual budget of £72,000 funds the Adult Social Care IPA service. This supports daily access to an advocacy hub and helpline, as well as 56 hours/week of advocate time across three specialist IPA services covering all client groups.

- 8.2 For the Children and Young People IPA service, a maximum annual budget of £113,407 has been prescribed for Bridgend by Welsh Government. This total budget includes a contributory grant of £24,984 from Welsh Government to BCBC which goes towards funding the level of service prescribed by Welsh Government under the National Approach, including the 'Active Offer'.
- 8.3 Western Bay local authorities have committed to pay a minimum guaranteed 80% (£90,718 per annum for BCBC) of the maximum annual budget to the provider, with a further commitment to fund up to 100% (£113,407) should actual service demand meet estimated service hours.
- 8.4 The Welsh Government has stated that this grant will form part of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) after the first two years of operation of the service (from 2019/20 onwards). The budget and grant amount was agreed with Welsh Government as part of the Western Bay regional contract.
- 8.5 A move to the Cwm Taf region, and a Welsh Government review of the prescribed level of service delivery, may change the anticipated budget beyond April 2019 – but at the time of writing this report, no announcements had been made nor communication received to this effect.

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the information contained in this report, and provide comment on the work undertaken to date.

Susan Cooper

Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
August 2018

10. Contact Officers

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11. Background documents

None

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