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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 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Mark Galvin/Andrew Rees

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Thursday, 7 February 2019

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 **Wednesday, 13 February 2019 at 10:00.**

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 29/11/2018
 4. Direct Payments 9 - 22
- Invitees:
Councillor Phil White - Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help
Susan Cooper - Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Jaqueline Davies - Head of Adult Social Care
Pete Tyson - Group Manager Commissioning Contracts
Arron Norman – Finance Manager Social Services & Wellbeing
5. Forward Work Programme Update 23 - 32
 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, 29 NOVEMBER 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, 29 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor CA Green – Chairperson

MC Clarke
AA Pucella
SR Vidal

SK Dendy
KL Rowlands
A Williams

M Jones
SG Smith

JE Lewis
G Thomas

Apologies for Absence

PA Davies, J Gebbie, MJ Kearn, T Thomas and DBF White

Officers:

Sarah Daniel	Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Andrew Rees	Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Tracy Watson	Scrutiny Officer

Invitees:

Susan Cooper	Corporate Director - Social Services & Wellbeing
Jackie Davies	Head of Adult Social Care
Laura Kinsey	Head of Children's Social Care
Arron Norman	Finance Manager - Social Services Wellbeing, Resources & LARS
Councillor Dhanisha Patel	Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations
Councillor Philip White	Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor JE Lewis declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2019-20 to 2022-23 as her grandson attends Flying Start.

61. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 of 18 October 2018 be approved as a true and accurate record.

62. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2019-20 TO 2022-23

The Committee received the draft Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2019-20 to 2022-23, which sets out the spending priorities of the Council, key investment objectives and budget areas targeted for necessary savings. It also included a financial forecast for 2019-23 and a detailed draft revenue budget for 2019-20.

The Committee referred to the recent announcement by the Welsh Government of additional funding to local authorities which was likely to lead to a reduction in Revenue Support Grant of 0.33% compared to the reduction of 0.6% which was previously predicted. The Committee considered that it should defer consideration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and it have an opportunity to revisit the budget of the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate once the effects of the additional funding had been factored in. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that the detail of the final settlement and the outcome of the budget consultation were not yet known, although the direction of travel for the budget would remain the same. The Cabinet Member Social

Services and Wellbeing confirmed that negotiations were continuing with the Welsh Government on the additional funding and the final detail was awaited. He stated that the final settlement would not be known until 18 December 2018 and the implications of a reduction of 0.33% in Revenue Support Grant were being evaluated. The Committee considered that it would need to scrutinise and comment on the budget when the settlement is known.

The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that as at Quarter 1, the Directorate had an overspend of £1.8m split evenly between Children's Services and Adult Social Care. A two year financial plan with a clear recovery plan put in place with the overspend in Adult Social Care and Children's Services being £220k and £572k respectively, with a total overspend of £800k. She stated that additional money had come into the Directorate in October and the savings requirement of £350k had been achieved. Savings proposals of £1.28m are required in 2019/20, however the Directorate is in a much stronger position, although there was always the risk of a sharp increase in looked after children with additional families potentially coming into care. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that the Welsh Government had given additional funding of £20m to local authorities across Wales and this Council was likely to receive additional Revenue Support Grant of £900k. She stated that an additional £30m Special Grant had been given, of which this Council's allocation was £1.3m for Social Services to support workforce pressures, living wage and domiciliary care. However this funding was not recurring. She informed the Committee that officers had to be very smart in its use of additional funding.

The Committee questioned how the Directorate intended to achieve the budget reduction proposals which have a Red or Yellow status. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that many of the budget reduction proposals in 2019/20 and 2020/21 which are shown in Red or Yellow are in relation to the contract with Awen. There is a need for Awen to be in complete agreement that the budget reduction proposals are achievable. There was also a need to have full feedback on the outcome of the budget consultation process which was recently completed. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that there is in place a 25 year contract with Awen, however since the commencement of the contract there had been no provision for inflationary uplift in fees and charges. There may also be a need for opening times of facilities to be considered as part of the budget reduction proposals.

The Committee the reason for the development of extra care and charging for Telecare services being shown as Yellow. The Head of Adult Social Care informed the Committee that the development of extra care was in its final stages and she was confident by the end of January that targets would be met. She stated that the Telecare service has been re-tendered and the new prices will generate additional income. The Remodelling of complex cases and the review of accommodation charges were taking place. Day services were also being remodelled by reviewing day time opportunities.

The Committee questioned the reason for staff re-configuration showing a yellow status. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that a number of staffing re-structures are taking place across the Directorate. The Head of Children's Services had completed the re-structures of management and business support services, while the Head of Adult Social Care is continuing to re-structure the services which she is responsible for. The Committee questioned whether the re-configuration of staff had led to redundancies. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that some redundancies have been made and it was likely that further redundancies would have to take place. She stated there was a need to deliver services differently and for them to be re-designed in order to achieve budget savings. She also informed the Committee that consultation has been taking place with service users and staff with the aim of preventing people becoming too dependent on Social Services. Redundancies have been avoided in certain situations in the Homecare service where staff have moved to work within Extra Care facilities as they are developed. The Cabinet Member

Social Services and Early Help informed the Committee that there had been 500 staff losses to date.

The Committee in acknowledging that additional funding was to be allocated to local government, also acknowledged that austerity measures remained in place in the public sector and for the Committee to scrutinise the budget properly it needed to be in possession of accurate budget figures.

The Committee questioned the impact grant funding would have on achieving budget savings. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing commented that grant funding and its timing was out of the services' control and there were times when there was a need to mainstream the service and it also requires smart thinking and careful planning. She stated the process of registering with the Care Inspectorate for Wales the Extra Care developments and the Hub.

The Committee requested detail on the funding of complex cases and whether that funding will continue as a result of the change in the health board boundary from Western Bay to Cwm Taf. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing informed the Committee that the proportion Bridgend will have of the Integrated Care Fund is being finalised which will support complex care cases. She stated that she was keen to protect the funding of cases in Bridgend in order to have continuity. She reassured the Committee there is strong programme management in place to deliver projects for people with complex needs.

The Committee questioned the sustainability of the delivery of Social Housing Grant given the proposed decrease in the base level budget from £5.8m to £1.6m. The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations commented that the Council does not build social housing but assists in its delivery in partnership with Registered Social Landlords. Targets are set for the delivery of social housing but their delivery is dependent on funding.

The Committee requested an explanation of the budget reduction proposal on rationalising day service provision for older people and learning disability services including Bridgend Resource Centre. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing that the Bridgend Resource Centre provides facilities for 60 – 70 adults with complex needs. The services delivered from the Resource Centre have enabled people to remain living locally. The Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing stated that day services are delivered from 3 localities delivering community type provision and the Head of Adult Social Care is looking at strengthening that provision. The Head of Adult Social Care informed the Committee that day services are being remodelled and the development of community hubs looks at the prevention and wellbeing agenda. She stated that reduction in numbers of people coming into services is being experienced and day services are being reviewed looking at best practice for implementation by the end of the financial year. The Cabinet Member Social Services and Early Help informed the Committee that the Council is in the realms of the unthinkable with having to look at the reduction and the remodelling of services. He stated that the Council was looking to protect services but at the same time make reductions of £8m to the budget.

The Committee thanked the invites for their contribution.

Conclusions

Members recommended that a report on the MTFs proposals be brought back to the Committee once the final budget settlement from Welsh Government is announced. Members were in agreement that due to the settlement figure not yet being finalised, the figures in the report would not be accurate and therefore needed to be re-worked before members could consider them.

Members recommended that once the settlement was known and the figures had been re-worked by finance colleagues that members are presented with the budget as a whole for

each directorate so Members could determine the full expenditure in each directorate and not just the areas where reductions had been proposed.

Further Information

The Committee asked how sustainable the delivery of the supply of Social Housing was given the base level budget was proposed to decrease from £5.8 million to £1.6 million.

Members asked to receive information on the savings achieved for complex care in the Western Bay Partnership, specifically for Bridgend.

63. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer reported on items which had been prioritised by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, including the next item delegated to this Committee. The Committee received a list of further potential items for comment and prioritisation and was requested to identify any further items for consideration using the pre-determined criteria form. The Committee was also requested to consider and approve the feedback from the previous meetings of the Committee and note the list of responses outstanding.

Conclusions

The Committee expressed concern that feedback on the Post 16 ALN Review was still awaited. The Committee further expressed concern that the recommendations made by the Committee had not been considered by Cabinet which in turn could have been put forward to the Welsh Government to inform the Bill. The Committee requested that feedback be provided in a timelier manner.

The Committee determined that it would prioritise an item for the April meeting of the Committee at its February meeting. The Committee considered that there may be an opportunity to have an overview of the authority and what its priorities are so as not to lose track of monitoring recommendations made by scrutiny and requested that the Chairpersons of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees progress this course of action.

The Committee considered that the Welsh Government is looking at far reaching proposals to widen the powers of Town and Community Councils and it believed that there may be potential for Town and Community Councils to assist with services in terms of library provision and some aspects of social care that are not deemed to be specialised. The Committee welcomed the opportunity for greater partnership working with Town and Community Councils.

The Committee also considered that whilst the authority's discussions are consumed by finance it had to be mindful of its safeguarding and corporate parenting responsibilities.

64. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 11:00

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

13 FEBRUARY 2019

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

DIRECT PAYMENTS

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is provide Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on recent developments made and the proposed future developments in respect of Bridgend County Borough Council's Direct Payment Scheme.

2.0 Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/Other Corporate Priorities

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

1. 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.
2. 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.

2.2 This report also assists BCBC in meeting its duties under the following legislation:

1. Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
2. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – see section 7 of this report

3.0 Background

3.1 A direct payment is a process through which a sum of monies is made available by the council to individuals who have an assessed and eligible need for care and support (or for carers with an assessed and eligible need for support) to arrange and purchase their own care and/or support services.

3.2 A direct payment can be for all, or part of a child or adult's care and/or support needs, and could include long and short-term provision of assistance; preventative and rehabilitative solutions.

3.3 In discharging its duties under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 local authorities must have regard to the Statutory Guidance issued under Section 145 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 entitled "Part 4 Code of Practice (Meeting Needs)". Under this guidance there are a number of requirements placed on local authorities that relate to direct payments. . These include:

- Where eligible care and support needs, or support needs in the case of a carer, have been identified and that individual, or their representative, expresses a wish to receive one, direct payments must be made available in all cases where they enable personal outcomes to be achieved;
- A local authority must be innovative and creative when working in partnership with recipients or their representatives to explore ways a direct payment can be used to secure the personal outcomes. Direct payments must only be refused where it is clear after extensive exploration that a direct payment would not secure the outcomes required;
- Individuals must not be refused a direct payment purely because they are unable to manage the payment, or apprehensive about managing one. A local authority, in partnership with the person, must explore all options for supporting the individual to manage a direct payment. Where areas of difficulty are identified, local authorities must ensure the correct level of support to overcome such barriers is available;
- Direct payments can be provided for any identified need for care and support a local authority is to meet. This includes community care and support and short and long term residential care and support;
- In developing care and support plans which are delivered via a direct payment, a local authority must be satisfied that the person's requirements and their personal outcomes can and will be met through this provision.
- Where a person's needs fluctuate over time, a local authority must work in partnership with the individual, or their representative, to agree how the direct payment will be used to secure care and support that varies according to requirement;
- Where barriers to achieving personal outcomes exist, a local authority must work in partnership with the individual, or their representative, to explore alternative ways to overcome them;
- Local authorities must promote self-management and aim to increase independence by enabling people to become actively involved in shaping their care and support. In the development of, and provision of a direct payment, a local authority must encourage and support people to determine their own personal outcomes and the care and support they require to achieve these taking into account their existing support networks. People must be encouraged to find creative, flexible and innovative ways to maximise their personal outcomes.

3.4 Within BCBC, the total number of people receiving a direct payments service has been increasing steadily year-on-year – with numbers more than doubling since 2012 – as demonstrated in the table below:

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Direct payments recipients	160	179	196	226	235	254	294	322

3.5 Even though overall numbers have grown significantly during this period, it is recognised that the service hasn't been broadened a vast amount during this time, and continues to be primarily focused on Learning Disabilities, Disabled Children, and Physical Disabilities, as highlighted in the table below:

Category	2012	%age	2019	%age
Older People	13	8.1	33	10.3
Older People Mental Health	0	0	3	0.9
Physical Disability / Sensory Impairment	45	28.1	61	18.9
Learning Disabilities	52	32.5	110	34.1
Mental Health	4	2.5	6	1.9
Disabled Children	46	28.7	109	33.9
Carers	0	0.0	0	0.0
Totals	160	100	322	100

- 3.6 During 2016, the Welsh Auditor General produced a briefing report for the Welsh Assembly that looked at the provision of direct payments for Adults across Wales, which identified a threefold increase between 2006 and 2015 in the proportion of people receiving adult social care who were in receipt of direct payments. The BCBC figure in 2015 was 4.2%, which was just less than the Welsh average of 4.4%, but still below the best-performing Welsh authorities of circa 12%.
- 3.7 In order to increase and widen the scope for direct payments and to help meet the requirements of the Act, in 2017/18 BCBC commissioned the Institute of Public Care (IPC) to undertake a review of the direct payments scheme in BCBC, and to develop a strategy and action plan in moving forward. As part of the review, extensive engagement was carried out with a range of stakeholders across BCBC, including Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, Finance, Human Resources, and training.
- 3.8 Engagement and consultation was also carried out with wider commissioned services that are linked to the direct payments scheme, and also recipients of direct payments. Consultation with recipients of services was undertaken by IPC as part of their review in the form of a written survey that was posted to all service users, along with a prepaid envelope for replying. 86 responses were received – which equated to a response rate of 33%, which was deemed very good for this kind of survey. A summary of the responses to the survey has been provided in **Appendix A**.

4.0 Current Situation

- 4.1 Feedback from stakeholders and service users was used to inform the development of a strategy and action plan for direct payments, which centred on ten key areas to be taken forward and implemented over the next 3 years:
- **Key Area 1** – to establish a clear vision for ‘Direct Payments in Bridgend’ – what it should look like, how it should operate, what effect it should be having
 - **Key Area 2** – to clarify the broader strategic ‘fit’ with aspects of the Council’s strategic approach.
 - **Key Area 3** – to develop a statement of strategic intent for Direct Payments
 - **Key Area 4** – to develop better information and planning systems for Direct Payments
 - **Key Area 5** – to ensure effective financial and budgetary alignment and mechanisms to ensure this
 - **Key Area 6** – to develop comprehensive (but accessible and useful) guidance documents

- **Key Area 7** – to devise and implement a training programme for in-house staff
- **Key Area 8** – to increase the number of available Personal Assistants and devise an effective support and training programme for them
- **Key Area 9** – review the support provider's performance, contract/specification
- **Key Area 10** – to promote best practice, innovation and new ways of working.

4.2 In terms of progress made to date against the key areas identified following the review undertaken by IPC, the following actions have been achieved:

4.2.1 **Key Areas 1, 2 and 3 (vision and strategic fit and intent)** – in developing the strategy for direct payments, a clear vision was established and agreed:

Our Vision for Direct Payments in Bridgend is that they are readily accessible for those who are eligible, empowering individuals to make choices and decisions for themselves.

A number of aims and objectives were also agreed, which will help ensure compliance with legislation, and also help support BCBC's priorities of 'helping people to be more self-reliant', and 'making the best use of our resources':

Aims

- Respond to the findings of the review of Direct Payments
- Locate Direct Payments at the centre of the council's response to meeting the requirement of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014
- Identify areas of development and improvement for the Direct Payments service

Objectives

- Promote the awareness and understanding of Direct Payments in Bridgend
- Deliver the identified developments and improvements over a three-year period
- Increase the numbers of people in receipt of Direct Payments

4.2.2 **Key Areas 4 and 5 (systems and financial mechanisms)** – Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS) has been developed to capture direct payment information, with a view to: streamlining efficiencies; improving data control, quality assurance and planning around direct payments. During 2018, an independent audit of direct payments was also carried out, where a number of recommendations were made in respect of the financial systems and monitoring processes, which will be implemented by the relevant teams as a matter of priority.

4.2.3 **Key Area 6 (guidance)** – a direct payment protocol has been developed for staff, (attached at **Appendix B**) providing a framework within which direct payments are to be offered, managed and administered. Also developed is a clear set of operating guidelines, which have been launched to all social work teams. It is anticipated that the provision of improved information and guidance for council staff will in turn facilitate routine access to direct payments for people who want and can consent to have them, empowering people to take greater control of their support solutions. It will also ensure a consistent approach to the accessibility and implementation of direct payments.

4.2.4 **Key Area 7 (training)** – a programme of mandatory training has been developed and delivered in partnership between BCBC's Social Care Workforce Development Programme (SCWDP) team, Finance, and the commissioned direct payment

support service provider, which was delivered in the autumn of 2018. The aim of this joint training was to clarify the direct payments process and make clear what information, advice and support is available for people who wish to pursue take-up of a direct payment.

- 4.2.5 **Key Area 8 (increase numbers of personal assistants)** – the next phase of planned improvements is to work with Bridgend’s commissioned service provider in order to develop a personal assistant and recruitment portal, in order to help source and increase numbers of personal assistants (PAs), who are often used to provide services for those in receipt of a direct payment. This is currently at a developmental stage, and it is anticipated that having access to an on-line portal, with links to BCBC’s web-site, will improve and stream-line the way in which individuals can advertise their requirements for a personal assistant.
- 4.2.6 **Key Area 9 (review performance)** – officers continue to review the current support provider’s performance, contract and specification, with quarterly meetings attended by representatives from the commissioned service, and officers from the Finance and Commissioning teams.
- 4.2.7 **Key Area 10 (innovation)** – in addition to the development of the personal assistant portal, it is anticipated that following the launch of the Direct Payment Protocol, operational guidelines and training, that staff will be better placed to promote best practice, innovation and new ways of working. Additionally, officers are currently investigating options for pooled direct payment budgets, which allows direct payment recipients greater flexibility in how they can combine their individual direct payments. To help enable this, a meeting was arranged in early January 2019 with a third sector organisation, with expertise in delivering pooled budgets to groups of people in receipt of direct payments.
- 4.3 The developments and changes made to date have mostly been in respect of the processes and systems in place, and therefore the impact to date has mainly been for the social work and finance teams, with the main impact for individuals in receipt of services being a greater consistency of approach and a more streamlined service. In moving forward, with the development of the personal assistant portal, there will be a greater impact and tangible and visible impact for service users, and this will be communicated, launched and promoted accordingly.
- 4.4 Alongside the review and developmental work undertaken, the directorate has also taken the opportunity to consider and review the rates paid for direct payments. The ‘Personal Assistant’ rate is currently £10.89/hr, with additional supplementary amounts that can be added to this (based on assessment and eligible needs) for ‘social activities’ (extra £1/hr), and also for mileage expenses. BCBC are now thought to be the only Local Authority in Wales who continues to pay additional payments for these activities. It is therefore proposed to consolidate and simplify this into one amount, and uplift the PA rate to a revised amount of £12/hr.
- 4.5 In implementing the higher rate, the aim is for direct payments to be an attractive, viable and sustainable alternative to commissioned services, which is in keeping with legislative requirements as set out in the background section of this report, and will also encourage the increased use of direct payments, in keeping with one of the aims of the direct payment strategy.

- 4.6 The directorate has also undertaken an exercise to determine any potential opportunities for generating cashable savings by offering direct payments as an alternative to commissioned services, such as Day Services. Based on current levels of requirements, there is no scope to do this as costs in offering a direct payment for a PA (£10.89/hr) to each individual in receipt of a day service for the equivalent time (based on assessed needs) would actually result in a cost pressure due to the loss of economies of scale. Officers continue to explore potential opportunities to generate savings and/or cost avoidance through the use of direct payments, which includes the potential of pooled funds, as mentioned above in paragraph 4.2.7.
- 4.7 The direct payment support service contract ends on 4th July 2019, and officers are in the process of reviewing and recommissioning the service, which will be carried out in accordance with relevant contractual and procedural requirements.

5.0 Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

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

6.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening was undertaken in March 2018, and it was concluded that the Direct Payment Protocol and its associated procedure document have a positive impact in terms of equality; as they ensure that people with an assessed need for care and support (or in the case of carers, those with an eligible need for support) are enabled to have voice, choice and control over how and from whom their care and support is delivered.

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

- 7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) (SSWBA) 2014, in turn, supports the promotion of two of the seven goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 within the County Borough of Bridgend.
- 7.2 By offering a direct payment, and therefore the voice, choice and control over the care and support provided, will promote an environment that maximises people's physical and mental well-being and by supporting children, young people, adults and their carers and families to fulfil their potential no matter what their circumstances, the wellbeing goals of a Healthier and more equal Bridgend and Wales are supported.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 The total annual spend on direct payments over the past 5 years is shown in the table below, which further illustrates how the service has grown and been invested-in:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Direct payments spend (£)	2,141,476	2,258,198	2,719,043	3,049,320	3,242,883

- 8.2 Mandatory direct payment training provided has been funded through existing SCWDP (training) budgets.
- 8.3 The cost implications of implementing the revised direct payment PA rate is estimated to be in the region of £106k per annum, when compared to existing rates paid to direct payment recipients. Provision has been made for this within the budget for 2019/20.
- 8.4 These rates are still less than the 'weighted average' rates that are paid to the independent sector when commissioning services on behalf of individuals; currently in the region of £18/hr. Weighted averages are the hourly equivalent rates when rates for calls of less than one hour duration are proportionately uplifted. Therefore there will continue to be an element of cost avoidance where individuals are paid a direct payment, as opposed to commissioning services on their behalf.

9.0 Recommendation

9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- Note the information contained in this report; and
- Provide views on the developments made and the proposed future developments in respect of the Direct Payments Scheme.

Susan Cooper

Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing
January 2019

10.0 Contact Officers

Pete Tyson – Group Manager, Commissioning
01656 642667
Peter.tyson@bridgend.gov.uk

11.0 Background documents

None

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Bridgend Direct Payments customer survey analysis

1. Introduction

The survey was carried out in March 2017 as part of the review of the Direct Payments service in Bridgend. Written questionnaires were sent out by post to all Direct Payments recipients in Bridgend, with a prepaid envelop for replying.

In December 2016 there were 254 people receiving direct payments and 86 responses were received – a response rate of 33%, which was very good for this kind of survey.

The number of responses to each question varied, as not everyone answered every question.

The questionnaire was kept relatively simple to encourage the highest possible response rate. It had three sections, two with questions to be answered and one to allow for general comments.

2. Analysis

Section A asked questions about ‘Before entry into the Direct Payments scheme’

Question 1 asked how easy it was to find out about the Direct Payments Scheme.

Score	1 (Hard)	2	3	4	5 (Easy)
Response	14	15	15	18	23
%	16	17	17	21	27

Whilst this is to a degree a historic question (and answers may depend upon when people joined the scheme) two-thirds of the respondents (65%) scored it 3 or higher for this question, suggesting that finding out about Direct Payments is (or has been) relatively easy.

Question 2 asked how good was the information provided about the Direct Payments Scheme.

Score	1 (Poor)	2	3	4	5(Good))
Response	2	4	21	27	32
%	2	5	24	31	37

For this question the responses were very positive, with 68% of people scoring the quality of the information available at 4 or 5, and 92% scoring it at 3 or more. However, the number of people scoring at 3 does suggest there is room for improvement.

Question 3 asked how easy it was to get into the Direct Payments scheme.

Score	1 (Hard)	2	3	4	5 (Easy)
Response	6	2	23	26	29
%	7	2	27	30	34

Again, 64% of people scored this at 4 or 5, with 34% scoring at the highest score of 5. However, 36% scored it at 3 or less (with only 9% scoring less than 3), but this does suggest that further work can be done around access onto the scheme, and the quality of information available.

Section B asked questions about the operation of the scheme

Question 4 asked whether people agreed with amount they were allocated for their direct payment, or whether they felt it was too much or too little:

- No-one said they felt it was too much;
- 63 people (75%) felt it was enough; and
- 21 (25%) felt it was not enough (2 of whom identified that a review was in progress)

At this stage it is hard to know how to interpret this data, but it is clear that a substantial proportion (75%) feel that their direct payment is sufficient to meet their needs.

Question 5 asked if payments were received on time – all but three respondents said they were, which is very positive.

Question 6 asked about different areas of support received, and people were asked to identify whether they were satisfied or not satisfied with the support received. Not everyone responded to this question or covered all categories, but the findings from those who did respond are shown below:

Area of Support	Recruitment	Payroll	General Advice and Support	Not specified/All
Satisfied	11	30	27	33
Not Satisfied	5	9	3	1

Again it can be seen that most respondents indicated satisfaction with the services they receive. However, some issues were identified in respect of the payroll and recruitment aspects of the service by some people.

As well as contributing to this review, these survey results and the additional qualitative comments provide very useful information to use in contract management meetings with the support service provider.



SOCIAL SERVICES & WELLBEING DIRECTORATE

Direct Payments Protocol

APRIL 2018

Review Date	April 2021	By: Head of Adult Social Care and Head of Children's Services
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Direct Payments is a process through which Bridgend council makes money available to Individuals with an assessed, eligible need, (or their representatives), and carers to purchase and arrange their own care and support services. Direct Payments promote independence, choice, flexibility and autonomy over the way in which people's support and care needs are met and are an integral part of empowering Individuals to achieve their wellbeing outcomes.**
- 1.2 Direct payments can be for all, or part of an Individual's care and support needs, or for all, or part of a carer's support needs and offer an alternative option to the local authority providing or commissioning services on people's behalf.
- 1.3 At the point of assessment and/or review, direct payments must always be considered as part of standard practice and people assisted to make an informed decision as to whether direct payments would be the best option for them in meeting their care and support needs.
- 1.3 In order to facilitate routine access, direct payments will be incorporated as a standard option within Bridgend's existing care management framework and promoted by social care staff as standard practice.

2. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The key pieces of legislation and guidance upon which this protocol is based are:
- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014:
 - The Children's Act 1989
 - The Mental Health Act 2007
 - Care and Support (Direct Payments) (Wales) Regulations 2015
- 2.2 Other legislation such as the Data Protection Act 1998 and Data Protection Act 1998, Human Rights Act 1998 and the Equality Act 2010 may also be relevant to particular circumstances, such as providing accessible information about direct payments that can be understood by Individuals with various disabilities.
- 2.3 This protocol has been written to comply with the provisions of the relevant section of the Act and the regulations which are made under sections 50, 51, 52 and 54 of the Act.

3. PROTOCOL OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of this protocol and its associated guidance notes are to:

- set out how the local authority will discharge its duties in relation to the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
- broaden / increase the take up of direct payments across all groups; in particular, by those groups that have not made wide use of them up to now.
- provide a framework within which direct payments will be offered, managed and administered
- provide information and guidance that will facilitate routine access to direct payments for people who want and can consent to have them, empowering Individuals to take greater control of their support solutions
- ensure that Individuals with an eligible care need are afforded choice and flexibility in terms of how they plan their care and support
- ensure that carers are able to arrange the support that best suits them in order to maintain their caring role
- ensure a consistent approach to the accessibility and implementation of direct payments

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4.1 To be eligible for a direct payment, the local authority must be satisfied that direct payments are an appropriate way of meeting the person's needs.

4.2 Any adult, child or carer who is assessed as having an eligible need under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 will be eligible for Direct Payments.

5. PROTOCOL SCOPE

5.1 This protocol and its associated guidance notes have been comprehensively revised in order to reflect legislation. Whilst the guidance notes will be updated from time to time to reflect changing guidance, amendments to the protocol itself will be subject to approval by the authority.

5.2 The protocol and guidance notes are applicable to all employees of Bridgend County Borough Council who provide services to children, adults and their carers who have been assessed as having an eligible need for care and support.

6. PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 The authority will:

- ensure the effective application of this protocol through support and monitoring
- monitor and update the guidance notes as required
- liaise with appropriate external agencies from time to time to ensure that the protocol and guidance notes are kept up to date
- distribute the protocol widely to staff.

7. INDEMNITY STATEMENT

7.1 The authority will, subject to the exceptions set out below, indemnify its employees against liability at law, in the pursuit of their duties on behalf of the authority and whilst acting within the scope of their authority.

7.2 The indemnity will not extend to liability directly or indirectly arising from personal fraud, dishonesty, willful negligence, deliberate wrongful act or criminal offences.

7.3 The indemnities will not apply where the individual admits liability or engages in negotiations to settle any claim falling within the scope of this resolution.

8. PROTOCOL REVIEW

8.1 The authority is committed to the continuing development of the protocol and guidance notes and will endeavor to maintain their accuracy and relevance. The protocol and associated guidance notes will be reviewed in response to any proposed additions to the protocol.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

13 FEBRUARY 2019

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) Prioritise items from the Forward Work Programme to be presented to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for scheduling for the next round of Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings;
- (iv) Identify any additional items using the criteria form, for consideration on the Scrutiny Forward Work Programme.

K Watson
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Background documents

None

Date of meeting	Item	Members wished to make the following comments and conclusions:	Response/Comments
29-Nov-2018	MTFS 2019-20 to 2022-23	Members recommended that a report on the MTFS proposals be brought back to the Committee once the final budget settlement from Welsh Government is announced. Members were in agreement that due to the settlement figure not yet being finalised, the figures in the report would not be accurate and therefore needed to be re-worked before members could consider them.	All Scrutiny members considered the MTFS Proposals at a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 12 December
		Members recommended that once the settlement was known and the figures had been re-worked by finance colleagues that members are presented with the budget as a whole for each directorate so Members could determine the full expenditure in each directorate and not just the areas where reductions had been proposed.	All Scrutiny members considered the MTFS Proposals at a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 12 December
		<p>Further Information</p> <p>The Committee asked how sustainable the delivery of the supply of Social Housing was given the base level budget was proposed to decrease from £5.8 million to £1.6 million</p>	awaiting response
		Members asked to receive information on the savings achieved for complex care in the Western Bay Partnership, specifically for Bridgend.	awaiting response

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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
25-Feb-19	SOSC 3	Empty Properties	<p>SOSC 3 requested that this item continue on FWP - reasons and purpose to be confirmed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on the Empty Properties Working Group? - Update on how the Empty Homes Strategy has been developed? - Update on how well the marketing of Empty Properties is going including Churches and Chapels? - Evidence on how successful other LA's have been in bringing empty properties back into use where they have charged 100% upwards Council tax on properties after they have been empty for longer than 6 months? - Further information on the properties that have been un-banded by the Valuation Office Agency. To include reasons why the properties would not have been banded and how many of these are there within BCBC. - Information on what the average loss of Council tax looks like in BCBC due to empty properties in the Borough. Members recommended using the average Band D property to be able to quantify the loss. - Of the 1200 properties liable for the 50% charge on Council tax for empty properties, how much of this are BCBC successful in receiving. - Has the Empty Homes Officer been employed. 		Prioritised by SOSC3 for February 2018	<p>Mark Sheppard, Interim Chief Executive Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Possible input from Communities for the Commercial side Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader Helen Rodgers, Benefits Manager</p>	
18-Mar-19	SOSC 3	Supporting People Programme Grant	<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>Mark Sheppard, Interim Chief Executive Sue Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Martin Morgans Lynne Berry Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Ryan Jones, Supporting People Strategy Planning and Commissioning Officer Jonathan Flower, Senior Strategic Officer</p>	
18-Mar-19	SOSC 3	Homelessness Strategy	<p>Informal Cabinet have requested for Scrutiny to be involved as a consultee in the Homelessness Strategy. Members have requested that the report include the Council's definition of homelessness.</p>			<p><i>Mark Sheppard, Interim Chief Executive</i> Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Lynne Berry, Group Manager, Housing & Community Regeneration</p>	
27-Mar-19	SOSC 2	CAMHS	<p>With reference to the responses received in relation to Child Adolescent Mental Health Services Members on 12 December 2017, 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 2017.</p> <p>Details of other mental health services provided Cwm Taf and BCBC.</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; Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family support; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Chair and CEX of ABMU and Cwm Taff Health Boards; Chairperson of Bridgend Community Health Council. Royal College of GP's Social Services Rep - Laura Kinsey</p>	

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 30</p> <p>29-Apr-19</p>	<p>SOSC 1</p>	<p>Review of Fostering Project</p> <p>Information only</p>	<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 	<p>COSC have proposed that this item be considered by a future SOSC 1 for continuity purposes</p>	<p>Corporate Director proposed October 2018 Prioritised by SOSC1 for February 2019</p>	<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. <i>A BCBC contracted Foster Carer.</i></p>	
<p>29-Apr-19</p>	<p>SOSC 1</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. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport</p>	<p>Corporate Director proposed March 2019 as the external review would not be completed until January 2019</p>	<p>Lindsay Harvey, 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. Input from Communities Directorate Robin Davies, Group Manager Business Strategy and Performance Sue Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing</p>	

TABLE B

For Prioritisation				
Item		Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested invitees
Page 31 CIW National Review 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. Outcome report should be ready for March.	N/A
Review of Enforcement Vehicle	In February 2018 SOSC 3 requested to receive an update on the enforcement vehicle to enable Members to monitor performance 6-12 after implementation. Possibly an information report.			
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. <i>A report is due to go to Corporate Parenting 6 March 2019. Do Members want to receive as information only or as a discussion item?</i>		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;
Communication and Engagement	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			Mark Sheppard, Interim Chief Executive Corporate Communications Representative Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future generations and Wellbeing
Safeguarding	To include: Safeguarding activity in both Children and Adult Services; Safeguarding arrangements in Cwm Taf.		Should receive an annual update. Last received in July 2018.	Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Elizabeth Walton James, Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance; Terri Warrilow, Adult Safeguarding and Quality Manager; Representation from Police; Representation from Health.
Member and School Engagement Panel - Annual Report	Annual Update to - SOSC 1 on the work of the Member and School Engagement Panel			Plasnewydd - Q4/Spring Term The Bridge Alternative Provision Q1/Summer
POST 16 ALN Review	SOSC 1 requested to add to FWP. Raise with LH in next Officer Planning Meeting.			

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: • Regional Annual Plan • Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy			
Cwm Taf Regional Working	Update on situation and way forward with Regional Working with Cwm Taf?			
Residential Remodelling - Extra Care Housing	Site visit to current Extra Care Housing and then to new site once work has begun			

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