Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Bridgend County Borough Council

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

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich dewis iaith.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh.

Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643147 / 643694

Ein cyf / Our ref:
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Dydd Mercher, 9 Medi 2020

Annwyl Cynghorydd,

CABINET

Cynhelir Cyfarfod Cabinet o bell trwy Skype for Business ar **Dydd Mawrth, 15 Medi 2020** am **14:30**.

AGENDA

1.	Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb Derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Aelodau.	
2.	Datganiadau o fuddiant Derbyn datganiadau o ddiddordeb personol a rhagfarnol (os o gwbl) gan Aelodau / Swyddogion yn unol â darpariaethau'r Cod Ymddygiad Aelodau a fabwysiadwyd gan y Cyngor o 1 Medi 2008.	
3.	Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion cyfarfod y 30/06/2020 and 21/07/2020	3 - 32
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18.	Adroddiad Gwybodaeth i'w Nodi	781 - 796

19. Materion Brys
I ystyried unrhyw eitemau o fusnes y, oherwydd amgylchiadau arbennig y cadeirydd o'r farn y dylid eu hystyried yn y cyfarfod fel mater o frys yn unol â pharagraff 2.4 (e) o'r Rheolau Trefn y Cabinet yn y Cyfansoddiad.

20. Gwahardd y Cyhoedd
Nid oedd yr eitem canlynol yn cael eu cyhoeddi, gan fod eu bod yn cynnwys gwybodaet h eithriedig fel y'i diffinnir ym Mharagraffau 14 a 16 o Ran 4 a Pharagraff 21 o Ran 5, Atodlen 12A, Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972, fel y'i newidiwyd gan Orchymyn Llyw odraeth Leol (Cymru) 2007 (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywio). Os, yn dilyn cymhwyso'r prawf budd y cyhoedd yn y Cabinet yn penderfynu yn unol â'r Ddeddf i ystyried yr eitem hyn yn breifat, bydd y c yhoedd yn cael eu gwahardd o'r cyfarfod yn ystod ystyriaeth o'r fath.

21.	Cymeradwyaeth Cofnodion wedi'u Eithrio I dderbyn am gymeradwyaeth y Cofnodion eithrio cyfarfod y 30/06/2020 a 21/07/2020.	797 - 802

Yn ddiffuant
K Watson
Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio

Nodyn: Sylwch: Yn sgil yr angen i gadw pellter cymdeithasol, ni fydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei gynnal yn ei leoliad arferol. Yn hytrach, bydd hwn yn gyfarfod rhithwir a bydd Aelodau'r Cyngor a Swyddogion yn mynychu o bell. Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei recordio i'w ddarlledu ar wefan y Cyngor ar ol i'r cyfarfod orffen. Os oes gennych unrhyw gwestiwn am hyn, cysylltwch â cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk neu ffoniwch 01656 643147 / 643148.

Dosbarthiad:

Cynghowrwyr	Cynghorwyr	Cynghorwyr
HJ David	PJ White	D Patel
CE Smith	HM Williams	RE Young

CABINET - DYDD MAWRTH, 30 MEHEFIN 2020

COFNODION CYFARFOD Y CABINET A GYNHALIWYD YN O BELL TRWY SKYPE FOR BUSINESS DYDD MAWRTH, 30 MEHEFIN 2020, AM 14:30

Presennol

Y Cynghorydd HJ David – Cadeirydd

CE Smith PJ White HM Williams D Patel
RE Young

Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

Swyddogion:

Gill Lewis	Pennaeth Cyllid a Swyddog 151 Dros Dro
Kelly Watson	Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio
Mark Shephard	Prif Weithredwr
Susan Cooper	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Andrew Rees	Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Democrataidd
Lindsay Harvey	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Zak Shell	Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cymdogaeth
Ieuan Sherwood	Rheolwr Grwp Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd

497. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Ni wnaed unrhyw ddatganiadau o fuddiant.

498. CYMERADWYO COFNODION

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod cofnodion cyfarfodydd y Cabinet ar 25 Chwefror a 10 Mawrth 2020 yn cael eu cymeradwyo'n gofnod gwir a chywir.

499. CYNLLUNIO AR GYFER ADFER YN SGIL EFFAITH COVID-19

Ceisiodd y Prif Weithredwr gymeradwyaeth ar gyfer dull arfaethedig o gynllunio ar gyfer adfer yn sgil pandemig a rhoi diweddariad i'r Cabinet ar y Panel Adfer trawsbleidiol arfaethedig, yr adroddir ac y cytunir ar ei fanylion yng nghyfarfod nesaf y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Corfforaethol, ac y bydd yn helpu i lywio, hysbysu a chynghori'r Cabinet ar ymateb y Cyngor a'i gynllun adfer.

Adroddodd fod Llywodraeth y DU, ar 23 Mawrth, wedi gosod cyfyngiadau cenedlaethol ar symud mewn ymateb i bandemig byd-eang COVID-19 mewn ymdrech i helpu gostwng lledaeniad y coronafeirws ac, yn ystod y cyfnod hwnnw, roedd y Cyngor wedi bod trwy newid mawr dros y tri mis diwethaf, yn aml yn ymateb ar frys i newidiadau mewn amgylchiadau, canllawiau a rheoliadau. Dywedodd fod gwasanaethau wedi'u creu, rhai gwasanaethau wedi'u hatal, staff wedi'u hadleoli ac arferion gweithio newydd wedi'u rhoi ar waith, gan gynnwys galluogi pobl sy'n gallu gweithio gartref i wneud hynny. Dywedodd fod y ffocws wedi bod ar gyflwyno gwasanaethau hanfodol, yn enwedig i'r bobl fwyaf agored i niwed yng nghymunedau'r Cyngor, ac ar geisio atal lledaeniad y firws er mwyn achub bywydau. Byddai angen i lawer o'r newidiadau barhau y tu hwnt i gyfnod hwn yr argyfwng ac, o bosibl, ddod yn rhan o'r 'normal newydd' i'r Cyngor.

Hefyd, oherwydd cyflymder a difrifoldeb y newidiadau yr oedd eu hangen, dywedodd fod trefniadau llywodraethu brys wedi'u rhoi ar waith yn unol â chyfansoddiad y Cyngor a'i gynllun dirprwyo er mwyn rhoi'r hyblygrwydd i'r Arweinydd a'r Prif Weithredwr ymateb yn briodol i faterion brys ac, yn aml, critigol. Dywedodd fod cyfarfod rheoli 'Aur' brys y Cabinet/Bwrdd Rheoli Corfforaethol (CCMB) wedi'i sefydlu'n ddyddiol, ac yn hysbysu'r cyfarfodydd hyn yr oedd Adroddiadau Sefyllfa Dyddiol ac, yn ddiweddarach, Adroddiadau Sefyllfa Wythnosol gan bob Cyfarwyddiaeth yn amlinellu risgiau a phroblemau allweddol a materion yr oedd angen penderfynu arnynt. Roedd penderfyniadau ffurfiol wythnosol wedi'u dosbarthu trwy gydol y cyfnod hwn i Arweinwyr Grŵp a Chadeiryddion Craffu. Yn ogystal, darparodd Arweinydd y Cyngor ddiweddariad dyddiol i Arweinydd y grŵp mwyaf nad yw'n grŵp gweinyddol a chynhaliwyd cyfarfodydd wythnosol gyda holl arweinwyr y grwpiau gwleidyddol a'r Arweinydd a'r Prif Weithredwr, i sicrhau bod aelodau etholedig yn cael eu hysbysu a'u cynnwys cymaint â phosibl yn yr amgylchiadau eithriadol.

Rhoddodd wybod i'r Cabinet fod ymateb y staff wedi bod yn eithriadol er mwyn parhau i gyflwyno gwasanaethau hanfodol yn effeithiol. Yn y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, parhawyd i gyflwyno gwasanaethau rheng flaen hanfodol ond mewn ffyrdd gwahanol, a chafodd perthynas waith gadarn gyda Chymdeithas Sefydliadau Gwirfoddol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'r trydydd sector ei datblygu a'i gwella. Dywedodd fod gofal cymdeithasol, Cymdeithas Sefydliadau Gwirfoddol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'r ganolfan cyswllt cwsmeriaid wedi cydweithio i ddarparu cymorth i unigolion a warchodir. Darparwyd darpariaeth gofal plant brys mewn canolfannau i blant gweithwyr allweddol, a bu'n rhaid i'r gwasanaeth arlwyo fynd ati'n gyflym i gynllunio a threfnu bod prydau ysgol am ddim yn cael eu dosbarthu. Cydnabu gymorth rhagorol gwasanaethau llai gweladwy wrth ymateb yn gyflym i ddosbarthu grantiau i gefnogi busnesau lleol, gofal cwsmeriaid, timau technoleg gwybodaeth a chyfathrebu a, hefyd, mewn timau gwastraff a strydoedd glanach, cofrestreion, mynwentydd ac amlosgfeydd, datblygu economaidd ac adfywio, tai, glanhau, eiddo, cynllunio, trafnidiaeth, cyfreithiol, caffael a chyd-wasanaethau rheoleiddio. Dywedodd fod y dull 'Un Cyngor' wedi bod yn amlwg iawn dros y tri mis diwethaf, yn y ffordd yr oedd pob Cyfarwyddiaeth a maes gwasanaeth wedi cefnogi ei gilydd a, hefyd, yn y ffordd y bu cefnogaeth drawsbleidiol, helaeth, i'r mesurau y bu'n rhaid i'r Cyngor ymgymryd â nhw.

Amlygodd y mesurau y bu'n ofynnol wrth lacio'r cyfyngiadau a'r cyfnod cloi, a'r heriau ychwanegol y mae angen mynd i'r afael a nhw, sydd wedi golygu y bu'n rhaid i'r Cyngor baratoi i ailddechrau ac addasu amrywiaeth fawr o wasanaethau'r Cyngor yng nghyd-destun gofynion caeth, estynedig i gadw pellter cymdeithasol. Cynigiwyd defnyddio fframwaith cynllunio yn amlinellu sut ac, yn ddelfrydol, pryd y gall gwasanaethau ailddechrau, adfer ac adnewyddu. Yng nghyd-destun Ailddechrau, mae hyn yn perthyn yn bennaf i'r camau y mae'n rhaid eu cymryd ar unwaith i ailddechrau gwasanaethau. Dywedodd fod cam Adfer y fframwaith cynllunio yn galw am ymateb strategol er mwyn cynorthwyo'r Cyngor i ddod drwy'r argyfwng a'i fod yn debygol o ganolbwyntio ar y deuddeg i ddeunaw mis nesaf. Bydd hyn yn galw am ailosod Cyllideb 2020-21 a gosod Strategaeth Cyllideb 2021-22 yng nghyd-destun ffocws 'Adfer' ac 'Adnewyddu', gyda goblygiadau o ran refeniw a chyfalaf, ail-flaenoriaethu cyllid presennol y Cyngor, ac ymyriadau strategol ar gyfer meysydd gwasanaeth allweddol/â blaenoriaeth. Bydd y cam Adnewyddu yn cynnwys datblygu strategaeth ar gyfer y 'normal newydd' a model gweithredu newydd i'r Cyngor ar gyfer y pump i ddeng mlynedd nesaf, a bydd angen ei datblygu'n raddol dros y 18 mis nesaf.

Amlygodd y Prif Weithredwr y camau nesaf i gynnal y momentwm, sef: Ailddechrau: - Ymateb yn syth i'r materion/blaenoriaethau critigol a amlygwyd; mae cynllunio gweithredol i symud o fodel gwasanaethau hanfodol wrthi'n cael ei gwblhau nawr. Adfer: sefydlu Panel Adfer yng nghyfarfod nesaf y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Corfforaethol i helpu llywio, hysbysu a chynghori ar gynllunio'r Cyngor ar gyfer adfer;

datblygu Adroddiad Adfer Integredig ar sail gwybodaeth y meysydd gwasanaeth y dylid ei chyflwyno erbyn diwedd Gorffennaf 2020. Datblygu Strategaeth Cyllideb a Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig diwygiedig, a Chynllun corfforaethol ac asesiad risg corfforaethol 2020/21 wedi'u haddasu a'u hailgymhwyso erbyn Medi 2020. Adnewyddu - Gweithio i ddechrau rhaglen ymgysylltu gyda phartneriaid, aelodau, staff a dinasyddion dros yr haf a'r hydref, ac asesu'r Asesiad arfaethedig o'r Effaith ar y Gymuned sydd i'w gynnal gan y Bwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus. Dechrau datblygu fframwaith polisi newydd a chynllun corfforaethol newydd ar sail sut olwg y bydd angen iddo fod ar y normal newydd er mwyn i'r Cyngor gyflwyno gwasanaethau cynaliadwy ac effeithiol ar gyfer y 5-10 mlynedd nesaf.

Gofynnodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Lesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol sut mae'r risgiau a'r blaenoriaethau wedi'u hamlygu. Rhoddodd y Prif Weithredwr wybod i'r Cabinet fod asesiad wedi'i wneud ar sail gorfforaethol a risgiau newydd tybiedig twyll seiber digidol ac ymosodiadau ar systemau TG. Dywedodd fod y Cyngor yn cefnogi pobl agored i niwed, gan ystyried gwydnwch economaidd a chymunedol. Gofynnwyd i Gyfarwyddwyr adolygu risgiau Cyfarwyddiaethau ac, yn fwy diweddar, bu'n rhaid yn awr i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant ddod o hyd i ardal storio Cyfarpar Diogelu Personol, na fu angen gwneud hynny yn flaenorol.

Gwnaeth yr Aelod Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant sylw am bwysigrwydd rôl y Panel Adfer yn y broses adfer a mynegodd bryder ynghylch p'un a fyddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn ad-dalu gwariant y Cyngor yn ystod cyfnod y cyfyngiadau symud. Rhoddodd y Prif Weithredwr wybod i'r Cabinet ei fod yn ystyried bod y Panel Adfer yn debyg i Banel Ymchwil a Gwerthuso'r Gyllideb, a byddai'n galw cynrychiolwyr arweinwyr busnes a'r fforwm busnes ato fel y bo'n briodol. Ystyriodd y byddai'r Panel Adfer yn adrodd ei ganfyddiadau a'i argymhellion i'r Cabinet.

Croesawodd yr Arweinydd gynnwys yr Aelodau yn y Panel Adfer a phwysleisiodd pa mor bwysig oedd hi fod y Cyngor yn gweithio gyda'i bartneriaid.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet:

- Yn nodi ac yn cymeradwyo'r dull arfaethedig a amlinellir yng nghorff yr adroddiad i ymateb i bandemig COVID-19 a chaniatáu i'r Cyngor ailddechrau, adfer ac adnewyddu ei ddarpariaeth gwasanaethau;

- Yn nodi sefydlu Panel Adfer trawsbleidiol, gydag aelodau etholedig, i helpu llywio, hysbysu a chynghori'r Cabinet ar gynllunio'r Cyngor ar gyfer adfer. Dylai'r pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu, ar 13 Gorffennaf, gael adroddiad yn cynnig manylion y sawl a ddylai gymryd rhan yn y panel a'i gylch gorchwyl.

500. ALLDRO'R GYLLIDEB REFENIW 2019-20

Rhoddodd y Prif Swyddog Interim – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid ddiweddariad ar berfformiad ariannol refeniw'r Cyngor ar gyfer y flwyddyn a ddaeth i ben ar 31 Mawrth 2020. Rhoddodd hi wybod i'r Cabinet fod y Cyngor, yn ei gyfarfod ar 20 Chwefror 2019, wedi cymeradwyo cyllideb refeniw net o £270.809 miliwn ar gyfer 2019-20. Crynhodd yr alldro cyfan ar 31 Mawrth 2020, a ddangosodd danwariant net o £563,000, a drosglwyddwyd i Gronfa'r Cyngor, a oedd yn dod â'r balans i £9.339m yn unol ag Egwyddor 9 y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig. Rhoddodd wybod i'r Cabinet fod Cyfanswm cyllidebau Cyfarwyddiaethau wedi darparu tanwariant net o £1.765 miliwn a bod tanwariant net o £7.690 miliwn yng nghyllidebau'r Cyngor Cyfan, gyda'r gofyniad i ddarparu cronfeydd wrth gefn newydd, wedi'u neilltuo, ar gyfer amrywiaeth o

ymrwymiadau gwariant a risgiau newydd yn y dyfodol i dalu costau penodol yn gwrthbwyso hynny. Y prif reswm dros danwario £6.050 miliwn yn 'Cyllidebau Corfforaethol Eraill' yw oherwydd bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cynghori awdurdodau lleol y byddai cyllid grant ychwanegol yn cael ei ryddhau yn ystod 2019-20 i dalu'r cynnydd yng nghost pensiynau athrawon (£2,006,096), pensiynau'r gwasanaeth tân (£272,405), a chodiad cyflog athrawon (£343,701), y cyfan wedi'u hariannu'n llawn yn wreiddiol drwy'r Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig. Rhoddodd y Prif Swyddog Interim – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid wybod i'r Cabinet fod y tanwariant yn cuddio'n sylweddol y pwysau cyllidebol sylfaenol yng nghyllidebau rhai gwasanaethau yr adroddwyd arnynt yn ystod y flwyddyn ac sy'n parhau o hyd, ym meysydd gwasanaeth Plant sy'n Derbyn Gofal, Cludiant o'r Cartref i'r Ysgol a Chasglu a gwaredu gwastraff; mae nifer o ostyngiadau hanesyddol i'w cyllidebau heb eu gwireddu o hyd.

Adroddodd y Prif Swyddog Interim – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid fod y sefyllfa net hefyd yn cyfrif am incwm y dreth gyngor o £1.502m yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol. Un o'r prif resymau dros incwm cronnus y dreth gyngor oedd oherwydd cyfuniad o ddileu'r gostyngiad a'r Strategaeth Eiddo Gwag, sydd wedi cael effaith arwyddocaol. Mae eiddo ychwanegol a adeiladwyd yn ystod 2019-20 wedi cyfrannu hefyd at incwm cronnus y dreth gyngor.

Amlinellodd y Prif Swyddog Interim – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid y sefyllfa o ran monitro cynigion i ostwng cyllidebau; o'r cynigion cyllidebol gwerth £2.342m sy'n weddill, roedd £1.883m wedi'i wireddu, gan adael balans o £459,000. O'r cynigion i ostwng cyllidebau ar gyfer 2019-20, sef cyfanswm o £7.621m, rhoddodd wybod i'r Cabinet fod targed o £806,000 yn brin.

Rhoddodd y Prif Swyddog Interim – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid sylw ar y sefyllfa ariannol ar 31 Mawrth 2020, gan amlygu'r gwahaniaethau mwyaf sylweddol. Rhoddodd y Prif Swyddog Interim – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid wybod i'r Cabinet am yr hyn sy'n ansicr yng nghyllidebau eraill y Cyngor cyfan ac effaith ariannol pandemig Covid-19 ar gyllideb y Cyngor ar gyfer 2020-21; bydd unrhyw gyllid sy'n weddill o gyllidebau'r cyngor cyfan yn cael eu dwyn ymlaen i ateb pwysau. Crëwyd cronfa wrth gefn wedi'i chlustnodi yn gysylltiedig â covid-19 o £3m ar ddiwedd y flwyddyn, a phan fyddwn yn fwy siwr o'r sefyllfa ariannol ar gyfer 2020-21, bydd unrhyw danwariant rheolaidd posibl yn cael ei ystyried er arbedion yn y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig yn y dyfodol.

Rhoddodd y Prif Swyddog Interim – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid adroddiad ar sefyllfa cronfeydd wrth gefn wedi'u clustnodi y Cyngor er mwyn bodloni anghenion y sefydliad; cyfanswm y rhain yw £8.3m.

Croesawodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd yr adroddiadau am y tanwariant net a rhoddodd wybod i'r Cabinet ei fod yn ddiolchgar i Lywodraeth Cymru am y cyllid ychwanegol i dalu'r cynnydd yng nghost pensiynau athrawon, pensiynau'r gwasanaeth tân a chodiad cyflog athrawon. Mynegodd bryder am y gostyngiad yng ngweddillion ysgolion yn ystod 2019-20. Rhoddodd y Prif Swyddog Interim – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid wybod i'r Cabinet fod cyllidebau ysgolion yn cael eu monitro trwy gydol y flwyddyn ac y caiff ysgolion gymorth i adfer eu sefyllfa ariannol. Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd wybod i'r Cabinet fod cynllun adfer yn cael ei roi ar waith os aiff ysgolion i sefyllfa ariannol heriol.

Rhoddodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Lesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol wybod i'r Cabinet ei bod yn falch o weld bod 866 o dai gwag wedi'u hadfer i'w defnyddio eto o ganlyniad i roi'r strategaeth eiddo gwag ar waith. Diolchodd yr Arweinydd i'r Tîm Cyllid am y ffordd ofalus y caiff cyllid y Cyngor ei reoli. Amlygodd pa mor bwysig oedd hi fod gan y Cyngor gronfeydd wrth gefn, sy'n galluogi'r Cyngor i allu ymateb yn ystwyth i bwysau.

Dywedodd ei fod yn gobeithio y byddai Llywodraeth Cymru'n ad-dalu gwariant y Cyngor yn ystod y pandemig iddo.

PENDERFYNWYD: Nododd y Cabinet sefyllfa'r alldro refeniw ar gyfer 2019-20.

501. GRANT CARTREFI GWAG TASGLU'R CYMOEDD – CAM 2

Ceisiodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol gymeradwyaeth i gychwyn Cam 2 Cynllun Grant Cartrefi Gwasg Tasglu'r Cymoedd; cytuno ar gyfraniad cyfatebol o 35% tuag at pob grant a roddir; ymrwymo i Gytundeb Lefel Gwasanaeth (CLG) gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf ar gyfer Cam 2; a dirprwyo'r awdurdod i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf gyflwyno a rheoli'r Grantiau Cartrefi Gwag yn Ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Tasglu'r Cymoedd ar gyfer Cam 2.

Dywedodd fod y Cyngor wedi ymrwymo i Gytundeb Lefel Gwasanaeth (CLG) gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf ar gyfer Cam 1 (peilot) y Cynllun Cartrefi Gwag, a barodd o Hydref 2019 i Fawrth 2020, heb i'r Cyngor orfod cyfrannu'n ariannol o gwbl at y cam hwn o'r cynllun Grantiau Cartrefi Gwag. Amlinellodd ganlyniadau Cam 1 y rhaglen, gydag 8 cais llwyddiannus yn cael eu gwneud yn ystod y cam hwn. Rhoddodd wybod i'r Cabinet fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi dyfarnu cyllid o £4,500,000 ar gyfer cam 2 i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf er mwyn cefnogi'r gwaith o gyflwyno Cynllun Grantiau Cartrefi Gwag Rhondda Cynon Taf yn holl Ardaloedd Tasglu'r Cymoedd. Gofynnwyd i'r Cyngor ymrwymo i Gam 2 y cynllun Grantiau Cartrefi Gwag a chytuno ar gyfraniad o 35% o gyllid cyfatebol tuag at bob grant, ar sail nifer y grantiau eiddo gwag y mae'r awdurdod eisiau eu cefnogi. Mae'n ofynnol i'r Cyngor ddarparu cyllid cyfatebol o hyd at £20,000 fesul grant a ddyfernir, gydag unrhyw gyllid grant ychwanegol dros y swm hwn yn cael ei ariannu'n llawn o'r grant. Amlinellodd gymhwysedd ac amodau Cynllun Grantiau Cartrefi Gwag Tasglu'r Cymoedd, gofynion cyffredinol y cynllun a dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf weinyddu'r cynllun yn ardal weinyddol y cyngor hwn o fewn Ardal Tasglu'r Cymoedd.

Wrth gymeradwyo'r cynllun, gwnaeth yr Arweinydd sylw am fuddsoddi yng nghymunedau'r cymoedd, creu cartrefi i deuluoedd lleol a chael gwared ar eiddo gwag blaenorol a oedd yn amharu ar ardaloedd.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet

- Yn cymeradwyo ymrwymo i Gam 2 Cynllun Grantiau Cartrefi Gwag Tasglu'r Cymoedd;
- Yn nodi ac yn derbyn y risgiau a'r problemau a amlygir ym mharagraff 4.5 yr adroddiad;
- Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf gyflwyno cam 2 y Cynllun Cartrefi Gwag a rheoli'r cynllun yn ardal Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Tasglu'r Cymoedd yn unol â pharagraff 4.2;

Yn dirprwyo awdurdod i'r Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedau, mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Swyddog Adran 151 a'r Prif Swyddog Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, AD a Rheoleiddio, i drafod a chytuno ar delerau'r cytundeb lefel gwasanaeth gyda Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf ac ymrwymo i'r cytundeb lefel gwasanaeth.

502. CYNLLUN ADFER ECONOMAIDD LLEOL

Cyflwynodd Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd adroddiad a oedd yn ceisio cytundeb i ddechrau ar broses Cynllunio Adfer Economaidd Lleol, rhoi Tasglu Economaidd Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ar waith a nodi'r cyllid sydd ar gael i gefnogi 'Cronfa Dyfodol Economaidd'.

Dywedodd fod llawer o gyfyngiadau wedi'u rhoi ar waith yn gysylltiedig â gweithgarwch cymdeithas a'r economi o ganlyniad i'r coronafeirws a'r 'cyfyngiadau symud' cenedlaethol dilynol. Dywedodd fod Fframwaith Cenedlaethol Llywodraeth Cymru 'Llacio'r Cyfyngiadau ar ein Cymdeithas a'n Heconomi' yn amlinellu methodoleg glir a strwythuredig ar gyfer ystyried opsiynau i symud yr economi a chymdeithas yn eu blaen o'r cyfyngiadau presennol sydd ar waith. Dywedodd wrth y Cabinet fod y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn cael ei hun mewn sefyllfa ddigynsail, gyda newid cyson yn digwydd yn gyflym, a bod arweiniad gan Lywodraethau Cymru a'r DU yn datblygu gyda'r sefyllfa ac y bydd yn parhau i wneud dros y misoedd ac, o bosibl, y blynyddoedd i ddod. Dywedodd fod y Cyngor wedi chwarae rhan allweddol yn hwyluso, yn cydlynu ac yn arwain y trefniadau angenrheidiol ar gyfer delio ag effaith yr achosion o'r coronafeirws ar gymunedau a busnesau.

Adroddodd fod proses o Gynllunio Adfer Economaidd Lleol wedi'i gosod yn y cyd-destun hwn yn cyflwyno amrywiaeth eang o heriau, ac er bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'i bartneriaid wedi cydweithio hyd yn hyn i gyflwyno amrywiaeth eang o ymatebion i'r achosion o coronafeirws, roedd llawer o hyn wedi bod yn ymatebion tymor byr. Byddai angen o hyd am y gallu i ymateb, ar y cyd ag ymagwedd ragweithiol tymor hwy at Gynllunio Adfer Economaidd Lleol, a byddai'r ymagwedd hon yn cael ei chysylltu ag ymagwedd ehangach y Cyngor tuag at Gynllunio Adfer holistig.

Amlinellodd gynnig ar gyfer dechrau'r broses o Gynllunio Adfer Economaidd Lleol trwy roi'r canlynol ar waith:

- Tasglu Economaidd Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
- Rhaglen ymgysylltu economaidd
- Cyllideb benodol wedi'i chlustnodi i gefnogi'r gweithgareddau hyn – y Gronfa Dyfodol Economaidd.

Yr Arweinydd fyddai'n cadeirio'r Tasglu a byddai'n adeiladu ar, ac yn ychwanegu gwerth at, gamau gweithredu wedi'u cymryd gan Lywodraethau Cymru a'r DU a Bargen Ddinesig Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd, a'r Tasglu fyddai yn y sefyllfa orau i sicrhau cyllid a chyfleoedd i Ben-y-bont ar Ogwr trwy nodi a gweithredu'r mesurau penodol a lleol y mae eu hangen i gefnogi preswylwyr a busnesau'r Cyngor yn y tymor byr, canolig a hir. Dywedodd y bydd y tasglu'n datblygu cynllun economaidd ar gyfer dyfodol y Fwrdeistref Sirol, a fydd yn cynnwys camau i helpu busnesau i addasu i'r tirlun economaidd sy'n newid a gwella gwydnwch, ynghyd â chefnogaeth i breswylwyr ddatblygu sgiliau newydd, a chyfleoedd hyfforddiant a chyflogaeth. Bydd gwaith yn cyd-fynd â grŵp Cynllunio Adfer Strategol y Cyngor ac yn cyfrannu ato. Rhoddodd wybod i'r Cabinet y byddai Cronfa Dyfodol Economaidd o £1.687 miliwn yn cefnogi rhoi camau gweithredu â blaenoriaeth y tasglu ar waith a chyflwyno cynllun economaidd y dyfodol. Pan fyddai cyllid allanol yn cael ei gynnig, dywedodd na fyddai hwn yn cael ei dderbyn hyd nes bod y Swyddog Adran 151 a'r Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, AD a Rheoleiddio yn fodlon bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn gallu cydymffurfio â'r holl delerau, amodau a gofynion cyfreithiol cysylltiedig a rheolau gweithdrefnau grant Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Wrth ganmol y cynigion, diolchodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio i'r Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd a'r tîm am eu cymorth i fusnesau lleol. Hefyd, diolchodd yr Arweinydd i'r tîm am y ffordd yr oeddent wedi ymateb i fusnesau ac roedd yn gobeithio y byddai'r Gronfa Dyfodol Economaidd yn denu buddsoddiad.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet

- Yn cymeradwyo creu Tasglu Economaidd Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, dan gadeiryddiaeth Arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr;
- Yn cymeradwyo datblygiad rhaglen ymgysylltu economaidd;

Yn nodi y byddai cymeradwyaeth cyfalaf gan y Gronfa Dyfodol Economaidd yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth y Cyngor i'w gynnwys yn y Rhaglen Gyfalaf.

503. RHAGLEN YMATEB I'R ARGYFWNG HINSAWDD SIR PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR

Roedd Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd yn ymofyn creu Rhaglen Ymateb i'r Argyfwng Hinsawdd Sir ar ôl i Lywodraeth Cymru ddatgan Argyfwng Hinsawdd ym mis Ebrill 2019.

Adroddodd fod Panel Rhynglywodraethol y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar y Newid yn yr Hinsawdd (IPCC), ym mis Hydref 2018, wedi llunio adroddiad ar gyflwr cynhesu byd-eang, gan nodi y bydd cynhesu parhaus yn nhymereddau'r byd yn cynyddu'n sylweddol y tebygolrwydd y bydd llifogydd, sychderau a gwres eithafol, a'u heffaith o ganlyniad. Datganodd yr adroddiad bwysigrwydd cyfyngu ar gynhesu byd-eang a gofyniad am weithredu ar raddfa ac ar gyflymder digynsail. Dywedodd fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi datgan Argyfwng Hinsawdd ym mis Ebrill 2019 ac, yn dilyn hyn, eu bod wedi ymrwymo i gyflawni sector cyhoeddus carbon niwtral erbyn 2030. Yn ogystal, mae ymrwymiad i gydlynu gweithredu er mwyn helpu meysydd eraill yr economi i gamu'n bendant rhag tanwyddau ffosil, yn cynnwys academia, diwydiant a'r trydydd sector.

Adroddodd Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd fod gan y Cyngor ran hanfodol i'w chwarae trwy reoli ei adnoddau a'i asedau ei hun a'r ffordd y mae'n gweithio gyda phreswylwyr, sefydliadau a busnesau lleol, ac yn eu cynorthwyo, i ymateb i'r heriau yn adroddiad yr IPCC. I gefnogi hyn, ac amlinellu rhai camau gweithredu uniongyrchol, cynigiwyd bod Rhaglen Ymateb i'r Argyfwng Hinsawdd yn cael ei datblygu i gynnwys y canlynol:

- Pwyllgor o aelodau trawsbleidiol i oruchwylio'r Rhaglen Ymateb i'r Argyfwng Hinsawdd;
- Creu rôl swyddog bwrpasol i arwain:
    - Cydlynu holl wasanaethau Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.
    - Cydweithredu â phartneriaid sector cyhoeddus, preifat a thrydydd sector allweddol.
    - Ymgysylltu â phreswylwyr lleol.

- Datblygu Cynulliad Dinasyddion Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ar yr Argyfwng Hinsawdd;
- Datblygu Strategaeth Ymateb i'r Argyfwng Hinsawdd Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a chynllun gweithredu â blaenoriaethau, gan gynnwys costau a gweithdrefnau monitro ac adrodd ar berfformiad;
- Cynnal Uwchgynhadledd flynyddol Sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ar Gynaliadwyedd.

Adroddodd y bydd yr adnoddau blynyddol sy'n ofynnol i arwain y Rhaglen Ymateb i'r Argyfwng Hinsawdd, sef £215,000, yn cael eu hariannu o'r gyllideb £2 filiwn sydd newydd ddod ar gael yn y Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig. Bydd y £215,000 ar gyfer rhaglen blwyddyn lawn, sef costau staff o £65,000 a chyllideb refeniw o £150,000.

Canmolodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Gymunedau y cynigion a oedd yn cynnwys creu rôl bwrpasol, Pwyllgor o aelodau trawsbleidiol a chydweithredu â phartneriaid allweddol i gyflwyno'r strategaeth. Dywedodd yr Arweinydd y bydd gan y prosiectau ysgogiad cyllidol a bod Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr mewn lle da i fanteisio ar gyfleoedd a fydd yn codi yn y dyfodol. Dywedodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Lesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol ei bod

yn credu bod y prosiectau yn gyflawnadwy ac yn arloesol, fel prosiect Ynni Dŵr Pwll Glo Caerau. Dywedodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Gymunedau y byddai prosiect Ynni Dŵr Pwll Glo Caerau yn ysgogi llai o ddibyniaeth ar danwyddau ffosil i gynhesu cartrefi pobl ac, o bosibl, ar safleoedd partneriaid y Cyngor.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo creu Rhaglen Ymateb i'r Argyfwng Hinsawdd fel y'i hamlinellir ym mharagraff 4.4 yr adroddiad, ei dyraniad adnoddau cychwynnol fel yr amlinellir ym mharagraffau 8.1 – 8.3 a chael adroddiadau yn y dyfodol ar ei chynnydd.

504. DEDDF RHEOLI LLIFOGYDD A DŴR 2010 2010 – ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL YMCHWILIADAU I LIFOGYDD

Ceisiodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol gymeradwyaeth ar gyfer Adroddiad Blynyddol Ymchwiliadau i Lifogydd 2019-20 ynghylch ymchwilio i ddigwyddiadau llifogydd ac adrodd arnynt a, hefyd, ceisiodd gymeradwyaeth ar gyfer y camau i sicrhau bod y Cyngor yn bodloni ei ddyletswyddau o dan Ddeddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010.

Adroddodd fod Deddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010 yn gosod nifer o ddyletswyddau statudol ar Awdurdodau Lleol yn eu rôl fel Awdurdod Llifogydd Lleol Arweiniol ac, o ddod i wybod am lifogydd yn ei ardal, mae'n rhaid i'r Cyngor, fel Awdurdod Llifogydd Lleol Arweiniol, i'r graddau ag yr ystyria y bo hynny'n angenrheidiol, ymchwilio i ba Awdurdodau Rheoli Risg sydd â swyddogaethau rheoli risg llifogydd perthnasol a pha un a yw pob un o'r Awdurdodau Rheoli Risg hynny wedi arfer, neu'n bwriadu arfer, y swyddogaethau hynny mewn ymateb i'r llifogydd. Dywedodd, lle y mae awdurdod yn cynnal ymchwiliad, mae'n rhaid iddo gyhoeddi canlyniadau ei ymchwiliad a hysbysu unrhyw Awdurdod Rheoli Risg perthnasol.

Adroddodd fod Adroddiad Blynyddol Ymchwiliadau i Lifogydd wedi'i baratoi ar gyfer 2019-20 yn unol ag Adran 19 Ddeddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010. Rhoddodd wybod i'r Cabinet fod stormydd y gaeaf wedi dod â heriau sylweddol, gyda swyddogion yn delio â sawl digwyddiad llifogydd a gorfod dadflocio ceuffosydd, a diolchodd i'r tîm o swyddogion am eu gweithredoedd. Hefyd, rhoddodd wybod i'r Cabinet fod hawliadau'r Cyngor i Lywodraeth Cymru am ad-daliadau yn sgil y camau a gymerodd y Cyngor yn ystod stormydd y gaeaf wedi llwyddo, gyda chyfraniad y Cyngor yn cael ei ostwng o 25% i 15%. Dywedodd fod y Cyngor wedi llwyddo hefyd yn ei gais i Lywodraeth Cymru am waith i Bromenâd y Dwyrain ym Mhorthcawl.

Diolchodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Gymunedau i'r staff am eu proffesiynoldeb, eu diwydrwydd a'u hymroddiad wrth fynd i'r afael â'r problemau llifogydd yn ystod y stormydd difrifol. Wrth ychwanegu ei ddiolch, canmolodd yr Arweinydd y staff am weithio mewn amodau anodd a pheryglus a gorfod delio â sawl digwyddiad ar yr un pryd.

Holodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Lesiant a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol y gwaith archwiliol a oedd yn cael ei gynnal ar y geuffos yn Commercial Street. Dywedodd y Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol fod gwaith arolwg archwiliol y geuffos yn mynd yn ei flaen a bod llaid wedi'i waredu ohoni.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet

(1) Yn cymeradwyo'r camau gweithredu a gymerwyd i sicrhau bod y Cyngor yn bodloni'i ddyletswyddau o dan Ddeddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010 fel y'u hamlinellir yn Adroddiad Blynyddol Ymchwiliadau i Lifogydd 2019-20;

(2) Yn cymeradwyo Adroddiad Blynyddol Ymchwiliadau i Lifogydd 2019-20.

505. DARPARU GWASANAETHAU DIOGELWCH TRAETHAU A DŴR MEWN PARTNERIAETH Â SEFYDLIAD CENEDLAETHOL BRENHINOL Y BADAU ACHUB (RNLI)

Cyflwynodd Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd adroddiad a oedd yn rhoi diweddariad i'r Cabinet ar ddarparu gwasanaethau Diogelwch Traethau a Dŵr gan Sefydliad Cenedlaethol Brenhinol y Badau Achub yn 2020 yn dilyn yr achosion o'r Coronafeirws. Hefyd, ceisiodd gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet i sefydlu trefniant partneriaeth hirdymor newydd gyda'r RNLI i gynnal gwasanaeth tymhorol achub bywydau ar draethau lleol a, thrwy wneud hynny, ceisio hawlildiad o dan baragraff 3.2.3 Rheolau Gweithdrefnau Contract y Cyngor o'r gofyniad i gael dyfynbrisiau neu dendrau trwy gystadleuaeth agored a chytundeb i lunio contract gyda'r RNLI.

Esboniodd Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd fod y Coronafeirws wedi cael effaith sylfaenol ar gyflwyno gwasanaethau yr oedd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'i bartneriaid yn ymgymryd â nhw yn ystod y cyfnod o gyfyngiadau symud yn genedlaethol. Darparwyd cefndir pellach yn adran 3 yr adroddiad.

Ychwanegodd fod swyddogion Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a staff yr RNLI, dros yr wythnosau diwethaf, wedi cymryd rhan mewn proses bedwar cam i bennu lefel gwasanaeth sy'n ymarferol ac yn ddiogel. Rhestrwyd y pedwar cam yn adran 3 yr adroddiad.

Dywedodd Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd fod cynllunio ar gyfer darpariaeth 2020 wedi dod o dan ddylanwad:

- Y cyfnod rhybudd cyn diwygio cyfyngiadau'r Llywodraeth
- Gallu ac argaeledd achubwyr bywyd i'w defnyddio ac, mewn ambell achos, eu hyfforddi ar fyr rybudd
- Y logisteg gyffredinol sy'n ofynnol i gynnal gwasanaeth effeithiol
- Proffil risg y traeth (sydd, efallai, wedi newid yn sgil cyfyngiadau ar deithio a gofynion cadw pellter cymdeithasol)
- Data achub hanesyddol
- Adolygu pa seilwaith sydd eisoes yn ei le ac ymhle'r oedd y bylchau.

Esboniodd fod swyddogion Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr mewn partneriaeth â'r RNLI wedi dod i gytundeb ynghylch darparu gwasanaethau diogelwch traethau a dŵr ar gyfer tymor yr haf 2020. Roedd y ddarpariaeth a lansiwyd yn cynnwys y canlynol, a oedd yn destun monitro ac y gallai newid:

- Bae Rest: 20 Mehefin gyda 6 Medi yn ddyddiad gorffen.
- Traeth Coney/Sandy Bay: 4 Gorffennaf gyda 6 Medi yn ddyddiad gorffen.
- Bae Trecco: 4 Gorffennaf gyda 6 Medi yn ddyddiad gorffen (yn amodol ar gadarnhad cyllid gan barc gwyliau Parkdean ym Mae Trecco)

Dywedodd Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd mai'r cynnig, felly, oedd bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'r RNLI yn dod i gytundeb partneriaeth tair blynedd newydd i weithredu gwasanaethau tymhorol i achub bywydau ar draethau Porthcawl, yn dechrau yn 2021. Esboniodd y cyfraniad cyllid craidd o £38,000 y flwyddyn gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, ac y

byddid yn ceisio cyllid ychwanegol oddi wrth randdeiliaid allweddol er mwyn cynyddu lefel yr adnodd sydd ar gael.

Diolchodd yr Arweinydd i'r Rheolwr Grŵp – Yr Economi, Adnoddau Naturiol a Chynaliadwyedd am yr adroddiad a'r gwaith ar y gwasanaeth hanfodol hwn.

Esboniodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio fod Aelodau'r Cabinet yn pryderu am effaith cyni ar wasanaeth y badau achub a'u bod yn pryderu y byddai angen gwneud arbedion yn y maes hwn, ond roedd y cytundebau a wnaed ar y pryd gyda'r RNLI yn rhyddhad mawr ac, felly, roeddent yn cefnogi'r cytundeb newydd hwn. Ychwanegodd fod llawer o fusnesau ar lan y môr yn elwa o'r gwasanaethau a ddarparwyd ac yn cyfrannu tuag at gadw'r gwasanaethau hyn i fynd, a'i fod yn gobeithio y byddai'r cyfraniadau hyn yn parhau.

Hefyd, ychwanegodd fod y sawl sy'n cynnal Ysgol Syrffio Porthcawl wedi sôn, mewn cyfarfod diweddar ar reoli cyrchfannau, y gallem fod yn defnyddio fwy ar achubwyr bywyd gwirfoddol felly gallai fod yn werth mynd ar drywydd hynny ar gyfer ardaloedd penodol o'r arfordir nad oeddent yn cael eu staffio cymaint neu nad oedd ganddynt oruchwyliaeth y tu allan i oriau.

Dywedodd yr Arweinydd fod yr RNLI mewn sefyllfa arbennig o anodd gan eu bod yn dibynnu'n helaeth ar roddion elusennol a gweithgareddau codi arian, yn hytrach na grantiau Llywodraeth Cymru. Ychwanegodd ei fod yn falch bod y Cyngor yn parhau i weithio gyda Chyngor Tref Porthcawl, ynghyd â Parkdean, a thalodd deyrnged i'r gwirfoddolwyr sy'n gweithio yng ngorsafoedd y badau achub.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet:

1. Yn nodi'r broses yr ymgymerodd swyddogion Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'r RNLI â hi i bennu lefel y gwasanaeth diogelwch traethau a dŵr a gyhoeddwyd cyn lansio'r gwasanaeth ar 20 Mehefin 2020 a'r broses fonitro gyfredol.

Yn awdurdodi'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol, Cymunedau i orffen y trafodaethau gyda'r RNLI a dod i gytundeb partneriaeth tair blynedd a chytundeb lefel gwasanaeth cysylltiedig gyda'r RNLI a, thrwy wneud hynny, roedd yn cytuno ar hawlildiad o dan baragraff 3.2.2 Rheolau Gweithdrefnau Contract y Cyngor.

506. GRANT CYNNYRCH HYLENDID AMSUGNOL LLYWODRAETH CYMRU

Cyflwynodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol adroddiad yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth y Cabinet ar gyfer dyraniad grant gan Lywodraeth Cymru i gefnogi gwasanaethau ailgylchu Cynnyrch Hylendid Amsugnol, atal Rheolau Gweithdrefnau Contract perthnasol y Cyngor a dirprwyo awdurdod i'r Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Cymunedau gydweithio â Kier i brynu cerbydau ac offer er mwyn cefnogi'r gwasanaeth Cynnyrch Hylendid Amsugnol.

Esboniodd fod y Cyngor, tra'n caffael contract gwastraff y Cyngor yn 2017, wedi cyflwyno casgliad ar wahân ar ochr y ffordd ar gyfer cynnyrch hylendid amsugnol a'u hailgylchu. Dywedodd fod hwn wedi bod yn wasanaeth poblogaidd ers ei gyflwyno a bod 1,187 tunnell fetrig o'r gwastraff hwn wedi'i atal rhag mynd i dirlenwi yn 2019-20. Ar hyn o bryd, roedd gan y gwasanaeth tua 7,000 o ddefnyddwyr cofrestredig ar ddiwedd Mai 2020, ac roedd y gwasanaeth yn cael ei reoli'n rheolaidd i osgoi ymweliadau diangen â phobl nad oes arnynt angen y gwasanaeth hwn mwyach.

Ychwanegodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi bod yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol i sicrhau gwasanaeth Cynnyrch Hylendid Amsugnol cynaliadwy i gynifer o bobl ledled Cymru â phosibl, trwy gyllid cyfalaf Awdurdodau Lleol ar gyfer offer a thrwy ystyried atebion triniaeth yn y dyfodol ar gyfer ailgylchu'r cynnyrch hwn. Roedd manylion pellach i'w gweld yn adran 3 yr adroddiad.

Esboniodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol fod y Cyngor wedi ymgymryd ag ymarfer marchnad feddal i bennu p'un a ellid prynu'r cerbydau arbenigol gofynnol am bris tebyg i'r cerbydau yr oedd Kier Environmental Services yn eu caffael. Trwy'r ymarfer hwn, ymddengys fod cynnydd mewn costau o oddeutu £5000 y cerbyd, o gymharu â'r costau a drafodwyd gan Kier.

Ceisiodd awdurdod dirprwyedig i gysylltu â Kier i brynu dau gerbyd ar gyfer Cynnyrch Hylendid Amsugnol ac y byddai'r cerbydau'n aros ym mherchenogaeth y Cyngor. Ond, Kier fyddai'n cynnal diogelwch ac yn gwneud gwaith cynnal a chadw'r cerbydau trwy gydol cyfnod y contract. Ar ddiwedd cyfnod y contract, byddai'r cerbydau'n cael eu dychwelyd i'r Cyngor a byddai'r Cyngor yn elwa o ostyngiad ariannol yng nghost flynyddol y contract ar gyfer yr eitemau hyn a byddai hyn yn gofyn am amrywiad i'r contract gwastraff presennol.

Esboniodd y Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Gwasanaethau Cymunedol fod Canolfan Ailgylchu Cymunedol a Gorsaf Drosglwyddo Tondu yn gweithredu o dan drwydded gan Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC). Yn ystod 2019, arolygodd CNC y safleoedd a rhoi cyfarwyddyd am waith gwella draenio er mwyn caniatáu i'r ardaloedd storio allanol barhau i gael eu defnyddio. Mewn ymdrech i gyfyngu risg cyfyngiadau gan CNC, rhoddodd Kier gyfarwyddyd ar unwaith i gontractwr osod a thrwsio'r draenio ar y safleoedd hyn.

Ychwanegodd fod y Cyngor yn gosod Canolfan Ailgylchu Cymunedol a Gorsaf Drosglwyddo Tondu ar brydles i Kier a bod y brydles yn gosod ymrwymiad 'cynnal a chadw a thrwsio' ar Kier. Fodd bynnag, cydnabu'r gwasanaeth fod y gwaith draenio hwn yn mynd y tu hwnt i'r gofynion hyn a bod yr addasiadau hyn o ganlyniad uniongyrchol i ymyrraeth CNC i wella safonau gweithrediadau safle. Byddai'r gwaith draenio hwn yn caniatáu am barhau i ddefnyddio'r tir i reoli gwastraff, y tu hwnt i ddiwedd cyfnod y contract. Dywedodd fod Kier wedi rhoi gwybod i'r Cyngor am y gwaith gwella a'u bod wedi gofyn am gyfraniad tuag at y costau gan fod y gwelliannau hyn yn caniatáu mwy o ddefnydd o ardaloedd y safle i storio, a'u bod yn amddiffyn rhag risgiau halogi o storio Cynnyrch Hylendid Amsugnol. Ychwanegodd fod argymhelliad bod y Cyngor yn cyfrannu £29,877.29, sy'n cyfateb i oddeutu 60% o werth y gwaith.

Ac yntau'n canmol yr adroddiad, dywedodd y Dirprwy Arweinydd ei fod yn falch o weld bod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi darparu grant i ariannu'r gwasanaeth yn llawn a'i fod yn dangos ymrwymiad ganddynt i gynnig ateb rhanbarthol i reoli problemau gwastraff.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet:

1. yn cymeradwyo dyrannu £238,079.00 i ariannu'r eitemau sy'n cael eu cynnwys yn y cais gwreiddiol i Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer Grant Cynnyrch Hylendid Amsugnol Llywodraeth Cymru;

2. yn atal y rhan berthnasol o Reolau Gweithdrefnau Contract y Cyngor ac yn dirprwyo awdurdod i'r Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Cymunedau i gydweithio gyda Kier i brynu dau gerbyd ar gyfer casgliadau Cynnyrch Hylendid Amsugnol ar ran y Cyngor;

3. yn dirprwyo awdurdod i'r Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Cymunedau i gydweithio â Kier i brynu dau sgip yn benodol ar gyfer storio gwastraff Cynnyrch Hylendid Amsugnol ar ran y Cyngor yn unol â Rheolau Gweithdrefnau Contract y Cyngor;

4. yn cymeradwyo ad-daliad rhannol o £29,877.29 i Kier am y gwaith gwella draenio a wnaed yng Nghanolfan Ailgylchu Cymunedol a Gorsaf Drosglwyddo Tondu

yn dirprwyo awdurdod i'r Pennaeth Gweithrediadau – Cymunedau, mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Pennaeth Cyllid Interim a'r Swyddog Adran 151 a'r Prif Swyddog Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, AD a Rheoleiddio, i gytuno ar delerau gweithred amrywio'r contract gwastraff gyda Kier a threfnu cyflawni'r weithred amrywio ar ran y Cyngor, yn amodol ar arfer y cyfryw awdurdod dirprwyedig mewn ymgynghoriad â'r Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, AD a Rheoleiddio.

507. GOFAL CYMDEITHASOL PLANT – TREFNIADAU MABWYSIADU RHANBARTHOL: GWERTHUSO OPSIYNAU

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol, Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant, adroddiad yn hysbysu'r Cabinet am ganlyniad y gwerthusiad annibynnol o'r trefniadau mabwysiadu rhanbarthol presennol a'u priodoldeb yn sgil creu Partneriaeth Ranbarthol newydd Cwm Taf Morgannwg. Hefyd, ceisiodd hi gymeradwyaeth gan y Cabinet i fwrw ymlaen â'r argymhellion yn yr adroddiad.

Esboniodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol, Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant fod gwasanaethau gofal iechyd i bobl yn ardal Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, ers 1 Ebrill 2019, wedi'u darparu gan Fwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg yn hytrach na Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg, fel bod penderfyniadau yn cyd-fynd ar draws iechyd a llywodraeth leol.

Ychwanegodd fod y newidiadau i'r ffiniau wedi effeithio ar nifer o wasanaethau Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, er nad oedd y tarfu ar wasanaethau cyffredinol efallai wedi bod mor arwyddocaol â'r tarfu ar y Byrddau Iechyd. Esboniodd fod ar Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr angen gwerthusiad trylwyr o'r trefniadau mabwysiadu rhanbarthol cydweithredol presennol o gymharu ag opsiynau eraill, oherwydd y trosglwyddiad. Mae'r opsiynau i'w gwerthuso wedi'u crynhoi isod:

Opsiwn 1: Parhau â'r trefniadau cydweithredol rhanbarthol presennol h.y. bod Cynghorau Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf a Merthyr Tudful yn aros yn rhan o Ranbarth Mabwysiadu'r Fro, y Cymoedd a Chaerdydd, a bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn aros yn rhan o Ranbarth Bae'r Gorllewin gynt (Gorllewin Morgannwg bellach).

Opsiwn 2: Bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn gadael cydweithrediad rhanbarthol Gorllewin Morgannwg ac yn ymuno â chydweithrediad rhanbarthol y Fro, y Cymoedd a Chaerdydd.

Opsiwn 3: Bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Rhondda Cynon Taf a Merthyr Tudful yn creu Cydweithrediad (Mabwysiadu) Rhanbarthol Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

Esboniodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol, Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant, fod y prosiect wedi'i gynnal yn ystod misoedd Hydref i Ragfyr 2019 a'i fod yn cynnwys cyfres o gyfweliadau wyneb yn wyneb gydag unigolion a grwpiau bychain, gweithdy gyda staff o'r tîm rhanbarthol presennol, galwadau cynadledda a darllen a dadansoddi nifer o ddogfennau.

Nododd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol, Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant, yr ystyrid y byddai angen i'r trefniadau presennol, o safbwynt cyflwyno gwasanaethau, barhau yn y tymor canolig o leiaf, ond er hynny, roedd hyn eisoes wedi ac y byddai'n parhau i beri rhai heriau i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr o ran ei drefniadau partneriaeth a chynllunio strategol.

Diolchodd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Wasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar i'r cyfarwyddwr corfforaethol am yr adroddiad cynhwysfawr a chroesawodd yr argymhellion. Dywedodd fod y penderfyniadau wrth edrych at y dyfodol yn synhwyrol iawn i'r gwasanaeth mabwysiadu ac i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Ychwanegodd y byddem yn parhau i weithio tuag at alinio ymhellach o fewn rhanbarthau'r byrddau iechyd ac o ran y gwaith y gwna'r Cyngor.

Ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd fod pwysigrwydd ac angen mawr i bobl fabwysiad plant mewn gofal ac, er ei bod yn broses hir, roedd yn broses drylwyr gan fod dyletswydd gofal gan Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr tuag at y plant hyn.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet yn cymeradwyo'r argymhellion canlynol fel y'u rhestrir yn Atodiad 1:

- Parhau â'r trefniadau cydweithredol rhanbarthol presennol: h.y. bod Cynghorau Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf a Merthyr Tudful yn aros yn rhan o Ranbarth Mabwysiadu'r Fro, y Cymoedd a Chaerdydd a bod Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn aros yn rhan o Ranbarth Bae'r Gorllewin gynt (Gorllewin Morgannwg bellach).

- Bod y trefniadau hyn yn aros ar waith am gyfnod o 3 blynedd o leiaf. Bydd hyn yn caniatáu amser i ymgynghori â rhanddeiliaid allweddol a chynllunio cynnar at y tymor hwy

- Dechrau gwaith gyda rhanddeiliaid allweddol i amlygu'r heriau penodol i Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr o ganlyniad i aros yn rhan o Gydweithrediad Rhanbarthol Bae'r Gorllewin a datblygu strategaethau i liniaru rhai o'r materion hyn.

Hysbysu Cadeirydd Byrddau Rheoli Bae'r Gorllewin a'r Fro, y Cymoedd a Chaerdydd, Cadeirydd Bwrdd Llywodraethu'r Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol a Chyfarwyddwr Gweithrediadau'r Gwasanaeth Mabwysiadu Cenedlaethol am ganlyniad y Prosiect.

508. Y RHAGLEN MODERNEIDDIO YSGOLION – BAND B YSGOL GYNRADD MYNYDD CYNFFIG

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd adroddiad yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth i gyflwyno Rhaglen Amlinellol Strategol Band B diwygiedig i Lywodraeth Cymru sy'n newid Cynllun De-ddwyrain Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr am Ysgol Gynradd Mynydd Cynffig newydd (dau ddosbarth mynediad a dosbarth meithrin). Hefyd, ceisiodd gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet ar gyfer cynnal arfarniad opsiynau ac astudiaeth ddichonoldeb ar gyfer Ysgol Gynradd newydd Mynydd Cynffig.

Esboniodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd fod y Cabinet, ym mis Hydref 2017, wedi cymeradwyo blaenoriaethau Band B Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, a oedd yn cynnwys ysgol â 2.5 dosbarth mynediad ynghyd â dosbarth meithrin i ardal de-ddwyrain bwrdeistref sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Ar y pryd, cytunodd y Cabinet hefyd i ymgymryd â gwaith dichonoldeb pellach ar gyfer Ysgol Gynradd newydd i

Fynydd Cynffig a fyddai, yn dibynnu ar y canlyniad a'r cyllid sydd ar gael, yn gallu cael ei gyflwyno fel cynllun â blaenoriaeth ym Mand C.

Ychwanegodd fod cymeradwyaeth ddilynol y Cabinet wedi'i gael ym mis Ionawr 2020, i gynnal astudiaeth ddichonoldeb ar gyfer ysgol dwy ffrwd, dau ddosbarth mynediad, a dosbarth meithrin (h.y. darpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg) ar safle datblygu arfaethedig Parc Afon Ewenni.

Esboniodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd fod system wresogi safle babanod Ysgol Gynradd Mynydd Cynffig wedi methu'n drychinebus ym mis Tachwedd 2019 a bod y gwaith trwsio wedi gorfodi'r ysgol i gau am dair wythnos. Dosbarthwyd disgyblion a staff i ysgolion cyfagos dros dro er mwyn i'r dysgu a'r addysgu barhau. Roedd arolwg o gyflwr yr adeilad a gynhaliwyd pan oedd yr ysgol ar gau wedi gostwng cyflwr yr ysgol o'i gyflwr blaenorol, hynny yw "C", i gategori "D". Ychwanegodd fod penderfyniad wedi'i wneud ar 13 Mawrth 2020 i gau'r ysgol a darparu gofod addysgu arall fel mater o frys.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd fod y cynllun i ddarparu ystafelloedd dros dro wedi'i roi ar dendr trwy gystadleuaeth fechan dan Lot 11 Fframwaith Caffael Cyfalaf Ysgolion De-ddwyrain Cymru (SEWSCAP 3). Gwerthuswyd y cynigion i sefydlu pa dendr oedd yn fwyaf manteisiol yn economaidd. Darparwyd rhagor o gefndir yn adran 3 yr adroddiad.

Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd fod swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cadarnhau bod y Rhaglen Amlinellol Strategol ddiwygiedig, sy'n ail-gydbwyso'r rhaglen rhwng y gogledd-ddwyrain a'r de-ddwyrain (fel yr amlinellir ym mharagraff 3.9 yr adroddiad hwn), wedi'i hystyried gan y panel cyfalaf. Roedd y panel wedi argymell bod y Gweinidog yn cymeradwyo'r diwygiad hwn. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd cadarnhad swyddogol o benderfyniad y Gweinidog wedi cyrraedd eto.

Ychwanegodd eu bod wrthi'n dyfarnu'r Tendr ar gyfer prynu adeiladau dros dro i safle babanod Ysgol Gynradd Mynydd Cynffig. Er bod ymrwymiad ariannol sylweddol i gyflenwi adeiladau, mae'r pryderon cyffredinol am ddau safle ar wahân yr ysgol gynradd, ynghyd â maint yr adeilad iau, yn parhau.

Amlinellodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd oblygiadau Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 ynghyd â'r Goblygiadau Ariannol a restrir yn adrannau 6 a 7 yr adroddiad.

Nododd yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio fod yr angen hwn o ganlyniad i argyfwng, ac nad oedd yn disodli'r syniad o gael ysgol ddeuol Cymraeg/Saesneg ym Mharc Afon Ewenni a bydd yn cyd-fynd ac amseriadau ysgol Band C. Byddai'r ymrwymiad i ddwyieithrwydd yn parhau'n flaenoriaeth.

Ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd fod gwahanol ffyrdd o sicrhau darpariaeth addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg y Cyngor, a'i ymrwymiad i addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg, yn cael eu hystyried. Dywedodd fod angen gweithredu ar yr argyfwng hwn oherwydd bod y safle ym Mynydd Cynffig wedi methu ac, felly, roedd angen datrysiad parhaol. Fe wnaeth ganmol y pennaeth, y corff llywodraethol a'r athrawon yn yr ysgol am ddarparu addysgu o ansawdd uchel; dyletswydd y Cyngor oedd darparu'r ysgol â'r cyfleusterau yr oedd arni eu hangen.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet:

- yn cymeradwyo cyflwyno Rhaglen Amlinellol Strategol Band B ddiwygiedig i Lywodraeth Cymru sy'n newid cynllun De-ddwyrain Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr gydag

Ysgol Gynradd newydd Mynydd Cynffig (2 ddosbarth mynediad a dosbarth meithrin); ac

yn cymeradwyo cynnal arfarniad opsiynau ac astudiaeth ddichonoldeb ar gyfer Ysgol Gynradd newydd Mynydd Cynffig.

509. BLAENRAGLEN WAITH

Cyflwynodd y Prif Swyddog Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, AD a Rheoleiddio adroddiad a oedd yn ceisio cymeradwyaeth ar gyfer eitemau i'w cynnwys yn y Flaenraglen Waith ar gyfer y cyfnod 1 Gorffennaf i 31 Hydref 2020.

Esboniodd fod llawer o darfu wedi bod i'r rhaglen gyfarfodydd oherwydd pandemig Covid 19 a, hyd yn hyn, nid oeddem wedi cael Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol i osod y cyfarfodydd yn ffurfiol yng nghalendrau Aelodau.

Esboniodd y Prif Swyddog Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, AD a Rheoleiddio fod darpar gyfarfodydd y Cabinet, y Cyngor a'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu wedi'u hamserlennu a'u bod wedi'u hamlinellu yn Atodiadau 1-3 yr adroddiad.

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y Cabinet:

- Yn cymeradwyo Blaenraglen Waith y Cabinet ar gyfer y cyfnod 1 Gorffennaf i 31 Hydref 2020 yn Atodiad 1;

- Yn nodi Blaenraglenni Gwaith y Cyngor a'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu fel y'u dangosir yn Atodiadau 2 a 3 yn y drefn honno.

510. EITEMAU BRYS

Nid oedd eitemau brys.

511. EITHRIO'R CYHOEDD

PENDERFYNWYD: Bod y cyhoedd, o dan Adran 100A (4) Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 fel y'i diwygiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywiad) (Cymru) 2007, yn cael eu heithrio o'r cyfarfod tra'r oedd yr eitem fusnes ganlynol yn cael ei hystyried gan ei bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth wedi'i heithrio, fel y'i diffinir ym Mharagraffau 12, 14 ac 16 Rhan 4 a/neu Baragraff 21 Rhan 5 Atodlen 12A y Ddeddf.

Yn sgil cymhwyso prawf lles y cyhoedd, penderfynwyd, yn unol â'r Ddeddf y cyfeirir ati uchod, ystyried yr eitem ganlynol yn breifat, gyda'r cyhoedd wedi'u heithrio o'r cyfarfod, oherwydd ystyrid bod y lles i'r cyhoedd wrth gynnal yr eithriad, yn yr holl amgylchiadau yn gysylltiedig â'r eitem, yn drech na'r lles i'r cyhoedd o ddatgelu'r wybodaeth.

512. CYMERADWYO COFNODION WEDI'U HEITHRIO

513. GRANT CYFALAF ARFAETHEDIG Y GRONFA GOFAL INTEGREDIG I LINC CYMRU

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 17:38

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COFNODION CYFARFOD Y CABINET A GYNHALIWYD YN YSTAFELL BWYLLGORA 1/2/3, SWYDDFEYDD DINESIG, STRYD YR ANGEL, PENYBONT AR OGWR DYDD MAWRTH, 21 GORFFENNAF 2020, AM 14:30

Presennol

Y Cynghorydd HJ David – Cadeirydd

CE Smith PJ White HM Williams D Patel
RE Young

Ymddiheuriadau am Absenoldeb

Swyddogion:

Gill Lewis	Pennaeth Cyllid a Swyddog 151 Dros Dro
Kelly Watson	Prif Swyddog – Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol, Adnoddau Dynol a Rheoleiddio
Mark Shephard	Prif Weithredwr
Susan Cooper	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol - Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles
Deborah Exton	Dirprwy Bennaeth Cyllid dros dro
Mark Galvin	Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd - Pwyllgorau
Lindsay Harvey	Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd
Nicola Echanis	Pennaeth Addysg a Chymorth Cynnar
Michael Pitman	Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd – Pwyllgorau
Robin Davies	Rheolwr Grŵp Strategaeth Fusnes a Pherfformiad
John Fabes	Swyddog Arbenigol: Addysg ÔI-16 a Hyfforddiant
Gaynor Thomas	Rheolwr Rhaglen Ysgolion

514. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Datganodd yr Aelodau canlynol fuddiannau personol yn Eitemau 8 a 9 ar yr Agenda fel a ganlyn:-

Y Cynghorydd HM Williams – Cadeirydd Bwrdd y Llywodraethwyr yn Ysgol Gynradd Abercerdin
Cynghorydd Addysg RE Young – Llywodraethwr Ysgol yn Ysgol Bryn Castell ac Ysgol Gynradd Litchard
Y Cynghorydd D Patel – Llywodraethwr Ysgol yng Ngholeg Cymunedol y Dderwen ac yn y broses o ailddatgan ei diddordeb fel Llywodraethwr Ysgol yn Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Ogwr
Y Cynghorydd PJ White – Cadeirydd Bwrdd y Llywodraethwyr yn Ysgol Gynradd Nantyffyllon a Llywodraethwr Ysgol yn Ysgol Gyfun Maesteg
Y Cynghorydd CE Smith – Llywodraethwr Ysgol Babanod Cefn Glas a Choleg Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Datganodd y Cynghorydd Smith fuddiant personol pellach yn Eitem 10 ar yr Agenda, gan y cyfeiriwyd ato yn yr adroddiad.

515. MONITRO CYLLIDEB 2020-21 RHAGOLWG REFENIW CHWARTER 1

Cyflwynodd y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Cabinet am sefyllfa ariannol refeniw'r Cyngor ar

30 Mehefin 2020 a cheisio cymeradwyaeth ar gyfer trosglwyddiadau cyllideb rhwng £100k a £500k, fel sy'n ofynnol gan Reolau Gweithdrefn Ariannol y Cyngor.

Eglurodd fod yr adroddiad hwn ychydig yn wahanol i adroddiadau chwarterol blaenorol o'r fath, oherwydd yr heriau a achoswyd gan y pandemig Covid yn y chwarter cyntaf eleni.

Atgoffodd y Cabinet fod y Cyngor, ar 26 Chwefror 2020, wedi cymeradwyo cyllideb refeniw net o £286.885m ar gyfer 2020-21. Fel rhan o'r Fframwaith Rheoli Perfformiad, adolygir amcanestyniadau cyllideb yn rheolaidd a'u hadrodd i'r Cabinet bob chwarter.

Y sefyllfa gyffredinol a rhagwelir ar 30 Mehefin 2020 yw gorwariant net o £3.051 miliwn, sy'n cynnwys gorwariant net o £2.803 miliwn ar gyfarwyddiaethau a gorwariant net o £248,000 ar gyllidebau corfforaethol. Cyfeiriwyd at Dabl 1 yn yr adroddiad. Mae'r sefyllfa a rhagwelir yn seiliedig ar:-

- Gynnwys ad-daliadau gwariant a wnaethpwyd hyd yma ar wariant COVID-19 gan Lywodraeth Cymru (LIC).
- Eithrio gwariant COVID-19 sy'n cael ei ddal yn ôl gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar adeg ysgrifennu'r adroddiad hwn.
- Eithrio gwariant COVID-19 nad yw wedi'i hawlio na'i ysgwyddo eto yn chwarteri 2 i 4.
- Eithrio cymorth gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer colli incwm gan nad yw lefel y cymorth wedi'i chadarnhau.

Yna cyfeiriodd y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid, at yr effaith a gafodd Covid-19 ar yr awdurdod lleol o ran gwariant, fel y nodir ym mharagraff 4.1.3 o'r adroddiad. Roedd hyn wedi digwydd, a byddai'n parhau i ddigwydd yn y dyfodol, a'r canlyniad oedd na allai'r Cyngor gyflawni ei arbedion yn llawn yn ogystal â derbyn lefelau incwm is.

Ychwanegodd y byddai angen i'r Cyngor adolygu ei flaenoriaethau a'i gyllidebau o ystyried effaith y pandemig, a'u hail-ganolbwyntio er mwyn symud tuag at gyfnod adfer mwy sefydlog wrth adael y cyfnod clo.

Roedd paragraff 4.1.5 o'r adroddiad yn rhoi manylion y cymorth ariannol a roddwyd i'r Cyngor mewn rhai meysydd allweddol, er mwyn helpu i liniaru rhai o effeithiau'r pandemig, tra bod paragraff 4.1.6 yn dangos hawliadau gwariant Covid-19 ar gyfer Chwarter 1 ar ffurf tabl, hawliadau a oedd yn parhau i gael eu gwneud i Lywodraeth Cymru bob mis. Ychwanegodd y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid fod hawliadau wedi'u gwneud am gyfanswm o £3m, a hyd yma roedd £2m wedi dod i law. Fodd bynnag, roedd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cytuno i ariannu 50% o gostau holl Gynghorau Cymru wrth ganiatáu i staff weithio gartref.

Roedd y Cyngor hefyd wedi cyflwyno cais am golli incwm i Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer chwarter cyntaf 2020-21. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo £78m o gyllid i liniaru colled incwm, ond nid oes cytundeb ar hyn o bryd ar sut y bydd hwn yn cael ei ddosbarthu. Mae amcangyfrif Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr ar gyfer y chwarter cyntaf i'w weld yn Nhabl 3 yr adroddiad, sef £2.518m.

Amlygodd adran nesaf yr adroddiad fod cyfraddau casglu incwm y Dreth Gyngor yn dioddef o ganlyniad i'r pandemig a bod cynnydd sylweddol yn nifer yr hawliadau a wnaed am Gredyd Cynhwysol.

Amlygodd meysydd nesaf yr adroddiad wybodaeth am drosglwyddiadau'r Gyllideb, chwyddiant cyflog/prisiau, cynigion i Leihau'r Gyllideb, a gostyngiadau yng nghyllideb y

Flwyddyn Flaenorol. Pwysleisiodd fod £709k mewn gostyngiadau yn dal heb eu talu ers blynyddoedd blaenorol.

Yna, ym mharagraff 4.2.5 o'r adroddiad, rhestrir, ar ffurf pwyntiau bwled, y cynigion mwyaf arwyddocaol i leihau'r gyllideb sy'n annhebygol o gael eu cyflawni'n llawn.

Yna, daeth y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid â'i hadroddiad i ben drwy amlinellu sefyllfa ariannol yr Awdurdod ar 30 Mehefin 2020, gan gynnwys effaith net Covid-19 ar sefyllfa ariannol y Cyngor, gan gynnwys ar sail Cyfarwyddiaeth fesul Cyfarwyddiaeth.

Tynnodd yr Arweinydd a'r Dirprwy Arweinydd sylw yn eu tro at yr ansicrwydd ariannol y mae'r Awdurdod wedi'i wynebu, ac yn parhau i'w wynebu, wrth symud ymlaen a gobeithiai y byddai'r gefnogaeth gan Lywodraeth Cymru i'r perwyl hwn yn parhau yn y dyfodol.

Ychwanegodd yr Aelod Cabinet – Lles a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol ei diolch i Lywodraeth Cymru am y cymorth ariannol a ddangoswyd ym mharagraff 4.1.5 o'r adroddiad, yn enwedig mewn perthynas â dyrannu Grantiau Busnes.

PENDERFYNWYD: Fod y Cabinet:

- wedi nodi'r sefyllfa refeniw a rhagwelir ar gyfer 2020-21;
- wedi argymell y dylai'r Cyngor gymeradwyo'r trosglwyddiadau rhwng £100,000 a £500,000 fel yr amlinellir ym mharagraff 4.1.11 o'r adroddiad.

516. ALLDRO RHAGLENNI CYFALAF 2019-20 AC ADRODDIAD CHWARTER 1 2020/21

Cyflwynodd y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd:-

a Chyfrifyddiaeth (CIPFA) 'The Prudential Code for Capital Finance Local Authorities (argraffiad 2017)'
Mehefin 2020 (Atodiad B i'r adroddiad)
ar gyfer rhaglen gyfalaf ddiwygiedig ar gyfer 2020-21 i 2029-30 (Atodiad C i'r adroddiad)
(Atodiad D i'r adroddiad)

Cyfeiriodd at sefyllfa bresennol yr adroddiad, a roddodd wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Aelodau am raglen gyfalaf y Cyngor ar gyfer 2019-20. Mae'r gyllideb wreiddiol a gymeradwywyd gan y Cyngor ar 20 Chwefror 2019 wedi'i diwygio a'i chymeradwyo ymhellach gan y Cyngor yn ystod y flwyddyn i ymgorffori cyllidebau a gyflwynwyd o 2018-19 ac unrhyw gynlluniau newydd a chymeradwyaethau grant. Cyfanswm y rhaglen ddiweddaraf ar gyfer 2019-20, a gymeradwywyd gan y Cyngor ym mis Chwefror 2020 fel rhan o'r Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig, oedd £30.137 miliwn, daw £13.964 miliwn ohono o adnoddau CBSP, gan gynnwys derbyniadau cyfalaf, cyfraniadau refeniw o gronfeydd wrth gefn, a benthyciadau a glustnodwyd, gyda'r £16.173 miliwn sy'n weddill yn dod o adnoddau allanol.

Rhoddodd Atodiad A fanylion y cynlluniau unigol o fewn y rhaglen gyfalaf, gan ddangos y gyllideb sydd ar gael yn 2019-20 o gymharu â'r gwariant gwirioneddol. Dim ond ym mis Chwefror 2020 y cymeradwywyd y rhaglen ddiwygiedig, felly ychydig o atodiadau a fu ers hynny heblaw'r prif newidiadau canlynol:

- cymeradwyaethau newydd o £1.964 miliwn o ganlyniad i gynllun grant newydd gan Llywodraeth Cymru - Grant Hwb ar gyfer Seilwaith
- Daeth £0.403 miliwn o gyllid yn ôl o 20-21 i adlewyrchu proffiliau gwariant.

Arweiniodd hyn at y gyllideb ddiwygiedig o £32.504m.

Cadarnhaodd y Prif Swyddog – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid felly mai cyfanswm y gwariant ar 31 Mawrth 2020 oedd £22.822m, gan arwain at gyfanswm tanwariant o £9.682m.

Eglurodd adran nesaf yr adroddiad fod nifer o gynlluniau wedi'u gohirio oherwydd sefyllfa Covid-19, gan lithro i 2020-21, a bod angen £9.073m ar eu cyfer, dangoswyd y rhain ym mharagraff 4.1.4 o'r adroddiad.

Rhoddodd adran nesaf yr adroddiad y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Aelodau am raglen gyfalaf y Cyngor ar gyfer 2020-21, ers i'r gyllideb gael ei chymeradwyo ddiwethaf gan y Cyngor, ac mae'n ymgorffori unrhyw gynlluniau newydd a chymeradwyaethau grant. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r rhaglen ddiwygiedig ar gyfer 2020-21 â chyfanswm o £62.305 miliwn, daw £40.313 miliwn ohono o adnoddau Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr (CBSP), gan gynnwys derbyniadau cyfalaf, cyfraniadau refeniw o gronfeydd wrth gefn a benthyciadau, gyda'r £21.992 miliwn sy'n weddill yn dod o adnoddau allanol, gan gynnwys y Grant Cyfalaf Cyffredinol.

Manylwyd ar y Rhaglen Gyfalaf fesul Cyfarwyddiaeth ar gyfer 2020-21 yn Nhabl 1 ym mharagraff 4.2.1 o'r adroddiad.

Rhoddodd Tabl 2 ym mharagraff 4.2.2 o'r adroddiad amlinelliad o Adnoddau Rhaglen Gyfalaf 2020-21, a disgrifiodd sut y byddai'r cyfanswm o ychydig dros £62m yn cael ei ariannu.

Yna cyfeiriodd y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid at Atodiad B i'r adroddiad, a roddodd fanylion y cynllun unigol o fewn y Rhaglen Gyfalaf, gan ddangos y gyllideb a oedd ar gael yn 2020-21, o'i gymharu â'r gwariant rhagamcanol ar 30 Mehefin 2020.

Roedd paragraff 4.2.4 o'r adroddiad yn nodi fod nifer o ddiwygiadau i'r Rhaglen Gyfalaf ar gyfer 2020-21, megis cynlluniau newydd a chynlluniau diwygiedig, ers iddo gael ei gymeradwyo ddiwethaf a manylwyd ar y rhain yn adran nesaf yr adroddiad.

Felly, amgaewyd Rhaglen Gyfalaf Ddiwygiedig yn Atodiad C i'r adroddiad.

Yn rhan olaf yr adroddiad rhoddwyd gwybodaeth ynglŷn â Dangosyddion Darbodus a Dangosyddion Eraill ar gyfer 2020-21, a'u bod yn cael eu monitro, yn ogystal â gwybodaeth am Fonitro Strategaeth Gyfalaf.

Roedd Atodiad D yr adroddiad yn manylu ar y dangosyddion gwirioneddol ar gyfer 2019-20, yr amcangyfrif o'r dangosyddion ar gyfer 2020-21 a nodir yn Strategaeth Gyfalaf y Cyngor, a'r dangosyddion rhagamcanol ar gyfer 2020-21 yn seiliedig ar y Rhaglen Gyfalaf ddiwygiedig. Roedd y rhain yn adlewyrchu bod yr Awdurdod yn gweithredu yn unol â'r terfynau cymeradwy.

Nododd y Dirprwy Arweinydd fod y gwaith brys i ddarparu llety addysgu amgen yn Ysgol Gynradd Mynydd Cynffig, yn sgil cau'r adeilad gwreiddiol yr ysgol ar sail iechyd a diogelwch, wedi golygu gwariant ychwanegol i'r Cyngor o £1.2m, ac roedd hyn wedi bod yn gost annisgwyl.

Fodd bynnag, roedd yn falch fod Pwyntiau Gwefru Cerbydau Trydan wedi'u gosod yn Ravens Court, yn ogystal â'r Ganolfan Llety Preswyl Plant newydd yn Ysgol Gynradd Brynmenyn.

Caeodd yr Arweinydd ddadl ar yr eitem hon drwy ofyn i'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd a allai egluro'r gwaith a oedd yn cael ei gynllunio ar gyfer Ysgol Gynradd Croesty.

Atebodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd, y byddai hyn yn cynnwys prosiect a fyddai'n arwain at ddarparu llety ychwanegol yn yr ysgol ar gyfer plant blynyddoedd cynnar a phlant cyfnod sylfaen.

PENDERFYNWYD: Fod y Cabinet:

- wedi nodi'r alldro cyfalaf ar gyfer 2019-20 (Atodiad A i'r adroddiad)
- wedi nodi diweddariad Rhaglen Gyfalaf 2020-21 Chwarter 1 y Cyngor i 30 Mehefin 2020 (Atodiad B i'r adroddiad)
- wedi cytuno y dylid cyflwyno'r Rhaglen Gyfalaf ddiwygiedig (Atodiad C i'r adroddiad) i'r Cyngor i'w gymeradwyo
- wedi nodi'r Dangosyddion Darbodus a Dangosyddion Eraill rhagamcanol ar gyfer 2020-21 (Atodiad D i'r adroddiad)

517. GRANT LLYWODRAETH CYMRU - CYNLLUN PEILOT CARTREFI GWAG CYMOEDD Y GORLLEWIN

Cyflwynodd y Prif Swyddog Dros Dro – Cyllid, Perfformiad a Newid adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd rhoi cefndir a goblygiadau ariannol a gweithredol y prosiect uchod i'r Cabinet, ac i ofyn i'r Cabinet argymell i'r Cyngor gynnwys yr arian cyfatebol ar gyfer y cynllun ynddynt.

Cadarnhaodd fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cyflwyno 2 fenter i ganolbwyntio ar sicrhau bod eiddo gwag yn cael ei ddefnyddio drachefn, fel y disgrifir yn yr adroddiad.

Mae rhannau gogleddol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr o fewn dalgylch Tasglu'r Cymoedd.

Ar 30 Mehefin 2020 cymeradwyodd y Cabinet gam 2 o Grant Cartrefi Gwag Tasglu'r Cymoedd, a rhoddwyd cymeradwyaeth i ymrwymo i gytundeb â Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT), a fydd yn rhedeg ac yn gweinyddu'r Grant ar gyfer y rhannau gogleddol hynny o'r Sir yn unig.

Mae'r 2 brosiect yn wahanol, mae'r fenter Tasglu'r Cymoedd ar gael i bobl sy'n dymuno prynu tŷ gwag, neu berchnogion eiddo gwag, i wneud cais am grant, ar yr amod bod y tŷ wedi bod yn wag am 6 mis a'u bod yn bwriadu byw yn yr eiddo fel eu prif gartref am o leiaf 5 mlynedd. Mae prosiect Cartrefi Gwag Cymoedd y Gorllewin yn grant sydd wedi'i gynllunio i ganiatáu i landlordiaid ddod ag eiddo'n ôl i ddefnydd, ac i dderbyn hawliau enwebu at ddibenion tai cymdeithasol o wneud.

Roedd y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol wedi cytuno mewn egwyddor i ddyrannu cyllid cyfalaf o hyd at £169,000 ar gyfer Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn 2020-21 i sefydlu cynllun peilot blwyddyn. Mae'r cynnig o arian grant yn amodol ar y Cyngor yn darparu arian cyfatebol o 35%, sef yr un ganran o arian cyfatebol y mae'r Cyngor yn ei ddarparu o dan y prosiect Tasglu'r Cymoedd. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud y cynnig hwn yn seiliedig ar y cyfrifiadau a amlinellir ym mharagraff 4.1 o'r adroddiad.

Byddai angen nodi lleoliadau penodol lle mae angen am dai i gymryd rhan yn y prosiect.

Ni ellir cymhwyso'r cynllun ar y cyd â chynlluniau eraill, a gwrthodwyd cais i Lywodraeth Cymru i drosi'r cynllun hwn yn brosiect Tasglu'r Cymoedd er mwyn sicrhau cynnig cyson ledled y sir. Gwrthodwyd cais pellach hefyd i ganiatáu i'r arian hwn gael ei ddefnyddio fel cyllid atodol i'r RSL brynu eiddo gwag.

Cynigiwyd bod y Cabinet yn cytuno i gymryd rhan yn y peilot, ac yn argymell bod y Cyngor yn darparu'r arian cyfatebol o hyd at £91,000. Gall cyfyngiadau Covid-19 a'r amser sydd ar ôl o'r flwyddyn ariannol hon effeithio ar y canlyniad terfynol ac efallai na chyflawnir 13 eiddo. Felly, bydd lefel y grant a'r arian cyfatebol yn cael ei haddasu ar sail pro rata.

Teimlai'r Aelod Cabinet – Lles a Chenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, y dylai cynigion grant tebyg i'r math a grybwyllir yn yr adroddiad fod ar gael i berchnogion eiddo ac ati, y tu allan yn ogystal ag o fewn i ardal y cymoedd.

Croesawodd yr Aelod Cabinet – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar yr adroddiad, gan ychwanegu bod eiddo gwag a/neu adfeiliedig yn niweidio'r dirwedd, a bod y fenter yn un gadarnhaol, yn enwedig o ran Tai Cymdeithasol.

Teimlai'r Arweinydd y dylid cyflwyno adroddiad pellach i'r Cabinet maes o law er mwyn amlinellu pa mor llwyddiannus fu'r peilot.

PENDERFYNWYD: Fod y Cabinet:

- yn cymeradwyo cyfranogiad Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont (BCBS) ar Ogwr yn y cynllun ac i ddod i gytundeb â Llywodraeth Cymru;
- yn argymell i'r Cyngor y dylid diwygio'r rhaglen gyfalaf i gynnwys costau llawn y cynllun, gan gynnwys £169,000 grant Llywodraeth Cymru a chyfraniad arian cyfatebol BCBS o £91,000.
- Yn disgwyl am adroddiad pellach i amlinellu llwyddiant y cynllun peilot

518. ESTYNIAD I'R CONTRACT - GWASANAETH BYW GYDA CHYMORTH CLOS PENGLYN

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd ceisio awdurdod i amrywio'r contract presennol gyda DRIVE Ltd mewn perthynas â'r gwasanaeth byw â chymorth arbenigol yng Nghlos Penglyn, a hynny trwy ymestyn y tymor presennol am 12 mis arall, yn unol â Rheol Gweithdrefn y Contract (CPR) 3.2.9.3.

Eglurodd fod y contract presennol ar gyfer darparu gwasanaeth byw â chymorth arbenigol yng Nghlos Penglyn ar gyfer unigolion ag anableddau dysgu cymhleth ac awtistiaeth wedi'i gomisiynu yn 2016, ac fe'i dyfarnwyd i DRIVE Ltd yn dilyn ymarfer tendro. Daw'r contract presennol sydd ar waith gyda DRIVE Ltd i ben ar 31 Awst 2020, heb unrhyw ddarpariaeth i'w ymestyn.

Oherwydd effaith sylweddol ac annisgwyl pandemig Covid-19, a'r cyfyngiadau symud dilynol i reoli heintiau pellach, ni fu'n bosibl i swyddogion gynnal ymarfer ail-gomisiynu fel y bwriadwyd yn wreiddiol, na thendro'r gwasanaeth yn gystadleuol.

O ystyried ansicrwydd ynghylch hyd y mesurau 'cyfnod clo' presennol sydd ar waith, cynigir y dylid ymestyn y contract presennol gyda DRIVE Ltd ar gyfer darparu gwasanaeth byw â chymorth arbenigol yng Nghlos Penglyn am 12 mis arall, hyd 31 Awst 2021, sef yr amser sydd ei angen er mwyn cynnal ymarfer ail-gomisiynu. Bydd y gweithgaredd ailgomisiynu yn golygu ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid allweddol, a bydd yn dibynnu ar leddfu cyfyngiadau presennol cyfnod clo Covid-19. Mae problemau capasiti

hefyd gan fod aelodau'r Tîm Comisiynu yn canolbwyntio ar weithgareddau sy'n gysylltiedig â Covid 19, mae hyn oll yn gofyn estyniad pellach o 12 mis.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles fod darpariaeth o dan CPR 3.2.9.3 i geisio addasu contract sy'n bodoli eisoes o dan rai amgylchiadau, fel yr amlinellwyd ym mharagraff 4.2 o'r adroddiad.

Cwblhaodd yr eitem hon drwy gadarnhau bod effaith pandemig Covid-19 yn achos dros addasu, yn sgil amgylchiadau na allai'r Cyngor fod wedi'u rhagweld wrth ymrwymo i'r contract gwreiddiol gyda Drive. Ni fyddai natur gyffredinol y contract yn cael ei newid, a bydd yr holl delerau cytundebol eraill yn aros yn ddigyfnewid, yr unig amrywiad arfaethedig yw'r estyniad o 12 mis. Nid yw'r addasiad arfaethedig yn fwy na 50% o werth gwreiddiol y contract.

Cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Lles yr Aelodau at oblygiadau ariannol yr adroddiad, i gael rhagor o fanylion am werth yr addasiad arfaethedig.

Roedd yr Aelod Cabinet – Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chymorth Cynnar o blaid ymestyn y contract am 12 mis, oherwydd y rhesymau a amlinellir yn yr adroddiad.

Ychwanegodd yr Arweinydd fod y newidiadau a wneir wedi mynd i'r afael â rhai o'r pryderon cynyddol a amlygwyd yn yr adroddiad, ac roedd o'r farn y dylid diweddaru'r Aelod(au) lleol yr ardal ar benderfyniad y Cabinet yn y mater hwn.

PENDERFYNWYD: Fod y Cabinet yn awdurdodi addasu'r contract presennol gyda DRIVE Ltd mewn perthynas â Chlos Penglyn drwy ymestyn y tymor presennol am 12 mis arall hyd at 31 Awst 2021, yn unol â CPR 3.2.9.3.

519. NODI ADRODDIAD GWYBODAETH

Cyflwynodd Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Rheoleiddiol adroddiad a oedd yn hysbysu'r Cabinet o Adroddiad Gwybodaeth a gyhoeddwyd ers ei gyfarfod diwethaf, ac sydd angen ei nodi (ac a oedd ynghlwm).

Dangoswyd manylion yr Adroddiad Gwybodaeth ym mharagraff 4.1 o'r adroddiad eglurhaol.

PENDERFYNWYD: Fod y Cabinet yn cydnabod cyhoeddiad y ddogfen a restrir yn yr adroddiad.

520. POLISI TEITHIO GAN DDYSGWYR

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd adroddiad, a'i ddiben oedd:

- adrodd ar ganlyniadau'r ymarfer ymgynghori a gymeradwywyd gan y Cabinet ynghylch y newidiadau arfaethedig i Bolisi Teithio gan Ddysgwyr yr awdurdod lleol;
- cynorthwyo'r Cabinet i benderfynu a ddylai symud ymlaen ag unrhyw un o'r cynigion ai peidio;
- nodi sut y byddai'r cynigion yn cyfrannu at yr arbedion cyffredinol i strategaeth ariannol tymor canolig y Cyngor;

- gofyn am atal rheolau gweithdrefn contract yr awdurdod lleol mewn perthynas ag ail-dendro contractau bws, bws mini, bws mini arbennig a rhai contractau tacsi; A
- adrodd ar ganlyniadau'r adolygiad strategol annibynnol o drafnidiaeth.

Dywedodd yr Aelod Cabinet – Addysg ac Adfywio fod nifer sylweddol o argymhellion wedi'u cynnwys ar dudalen 107 yr adroddiad gan yr adran Graffu, a'i fod o'r farn y dylid rhoi mwy o ystyriaeth iddynt cyn i'r Cabinet wneud penderfyniad o ran yr adroddiad.

Teimlai felly y dylid gohirio'r adroddiad i gyfarfod y Cabinet a drefnwyd ar gyfer 15 Medi 2020 am y rheswm uchod a chefnogwyd y cynnig hwn yn unfrydol gan holl aelodau'r Cabinet.

PENDERFYNWYD: Fod y Cabinet yn gohirio'r adroddiad hwn i'w gyfarfod nesaf, er mwyn rhoi ystyriaeth bellach i argymhellion y cydbwyllgor SO&SC 1 ac SO&SC 2 dyddiedig 6 Gorffennaf 2020.

521. ADBORTH AR GAM 4 YR YMGYNGHORIAD CYHOEDDUS AR GYSYNIADAU POSIBL AR GYFER DARPARIAETH ÔL-16 AR DRAWS CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL PEN-Y-BONT AR OGWR AC ARGYMHELLION AR GYFER DYFODOL YR AROLWG

Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd gyflwyniad byr i adroddiad ar yr adborth o ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus Cam 4 yr adolygiad i ddarpariaeth ôl-16 ar draws CBSP. Yna gwahoddodd y Swyddog Arbenigol ar gyfer ôl-16 i drafod manylion yr adroddiad.

Eglurodd mai diben yr adroddiad oedd rhoi adborth ar yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus a gynhaliwyd rhwng 2/12/2019 a 21/02/2020 ar Gam 4 yr adolygiad o ddarpariaeth addysg ôl-16 ar draws CBSP. Dywedodd fod yr ymgynghoriad yn cyflwyno tri opsiwn i'w hystyried a disgrifiwyd y rhain ym mharagraff 3.2. o'r adroddiad.

Adroddodd y Swyddog Arbenigol ar gyfer ôl-16 fod yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus yn ymarfer cadarn a oedd yn cynnwys arolwg ar-lein, sesiynau gweithdy gyda 1,235 o ddysgwyr mewn ysgolion a choleg, cyfarfodydd cyhoeddus i rieni/gofalwyr, a sesiynau ymgysylltu â staff a llywodraethwyr mewn ysgolion a'r coleg (341 yn bresennol).

Wrth gyfeirio at ganlyniadau'r arolwg ar-lein, nododd y Swyddog Arbenigol ar gyfer ôl-16 mai Opsiwn 3, cadw dosbarthiadau chwech ym mhob ysgol uwchradd, oedd yr opsiwn mwyaf poblogaidd, gyda 75% o ymatebwyr yn cytuno'n gryf â'r opsiwn hwn ac 85% yn ei raddio fel eu dewis cyntaf.

Gan ganolbwyntio ar baragraff 3.7.1 o'r adroddiad, tynnodd sylw'r Cabinet at y modd yr arddangosir canlyniadau'r gwahanol leoliadau ysgol, gan hwyluso gwell dealltwriaeth o'r data yn ogystal â'r adborth gan Fryntirion a Choleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, dwy ysgol a oedd wedi darparu cyfran arbennig o uchel o ymatebwyr. Yn ogystal â'r dadansoddiad canrannol o'r ymatebion, roedd yr adran hefyd yn nodi'r tri darn o adborth ysgrifenedig a welwyd amlaf o bob un o'r canlyniadau a awgrymwyd.

Nododd hefyd, er bod 47% o'r holl ymatebwyr yn 'anghytuno'n gryf' ag Opsiwn 2, Canlyniad B, roedd ymatebion Ysgol Gyfun Pencoed i'r gwrthwyneb, gyda 72% mewn 'cytundeb' â'r cynnig am academi STEAM newydd y coleg ar gampws Pencoed.

Eglurodd y Swyddog Arbenigol ar gyfer ôl-16 ei fod, ym mharagraff 3.8 o'r adroddiad, wedi rhoi dadansoddiad manwl o ganlyniadau'r arolygon a gwblhawyd gan ddysgwyr yn

y sesiynau gweithdy fel y gallai aelodau'r Cabinet gymharu a chyferbynnu'r ystod o ymatebion ar draws pob lleoliad ysgol uwchradd. At hynny, rhoddodd paragraffau 3.8.1 i 3.8.10 o'r adroddiad fanylion am gyfran gymharol y dysgwyr o'r gwahanol gyfnodau allweddol a oedd wedi cymryd rhan yn y gweithdai.

Ym mharagraff 3.9, tynnodd y Swyddog sylw at y prif themâu a ddaeth i'r amlwg o'r ohebiaeth ysgrifenedig a dderbyniwyd gan CBSP a'r safbwyntiau a fynegwyd yn y cyfarfodydd agored.

Yna cyfeiriodd y Swyddog Arbenigol ar gyfer ôl-16 at baragraffau 4 o'r adroddiad, a dywedodd mai'r adran hon oedd yn rhoi'r safbwynt diweddaraf ar y prif faterion a ddaeth i'r amlwg yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad. Y mater a oedd wedi creu'r sylw mwyaf oedd teithio a chyflwynwyd gwybodaeth allweddol ynglŷn â hyn ym mharagraff 4.1. Nododd y cysylltiad rhwng yr adran hon o'r adroddiad gyda'r adroddiad ar Deithio gan Ddysgwyr yr oedd y Cabinet wedi'i ohirio tan ei gyfarfod ym mis Medi.

Aeth ymlaen wedyn i sôn am feysydd polisi a strategaeth ehangach eraill a godwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad ac a allai effeithio ar ddyfodol darpariaeth ôl-16. Y mwyaf nodedig o'r rhain oedd y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol newydd sy'n cael ei lunio i redeg o 2021, a chydbwysedd y ddarpariaeth cyfrwng Cymraeg a Saesneg yn y dyfodol.

Rhoddodd paragraff 4.6 yr adroddiad fanylion mwy penodol am yr opsiynau a'r canlyniadau, gydag arwyddion ar sut y gellir bwrw ymlaen â'r rhain neu beidio.

Yna cyfeiriodd y Swyddog Arbenigol ar gyfer ôl-16 at gyfarfod Pwyllgorau Trosolwg a Chraffu Pwnc 1 a 2 a gynhaliwyd ar 6 Gorffennaf 2020, ac ym mharagraff 4.7 darparwyd crynodeb o'r pwyntiau penodol a godwyd gan aelodau etholedig y cydbwyllgor hwn. Teimlai Swyddogion fod y rhan fwyaf o'r pwyntiau wedi cael sylw yn adroddiad y Cabinet neu drwy'r argymhellion i'r Cabinet.

Yna, rhoddwyd y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i aelodau'r Cabinet am yr Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb a'r goblygiadau i Lesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, fel y nodwyd yn y rhan o'r adroddiad a gyfeiriodd at y rhain.

Nododd y Swyddog Arbenigol ar gyfer ôl-16 y sefyllfa ariannol ym mharagraff 8 yr adroddiad a'r gwelliant bach yng ngrant ôl-16 2020-2021 gan Lywodraeth Cymru o gymharu â'r blynyddoedd blaenorol, lle'r oedd y gyllideb wedi bod yn gostwng.

Yn olaf, oherwydd yr ystod eang o ymatebion a gafwyd yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus, cyfeiriodd at baragraff 9 o'r adroddiad a oedd yn nodi nifer o argymhellion a oedd yn cael eu gwneud i'r Cabinet ynghylch dyfodol darpariaeth addysg ôl-16 ar draws Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Canmolodd yr Aelod Cabinet – Addysg ac Adfywio yr adroddiad, a oedd yn fanwl ac yn gynhwysfawr iawn, a chefnogodd argymhellion yr adroddiad hefyd.

Roedd yn gwerthfawrogi mewnbwn yr adran Graffu ac roedd cynigion yr adroddiad yn adlewyrchu bod yr Awdurdod wedi gwrando ar rieni, llywodraethwyr, dysgwyr ac athrawon hefyd.

Yr oedd yn amlwg bod y rhain am i'r ddarpariaeth Chweched Dosbarth barhau ar draws y Fwrdeistref Sirol, gyda hyn yn cael ei ymestyn i ganiatáu mwy o ddewis a chyda hynny mwy o gyfleoedd.

PENDERFYNWYD: Fod y Cabinet

- wedi nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad ar yr ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus a nodir yn Atodiad 1 yr adroddiad: Y posibilrwydd o ad-drefnu darpariaeth ôl-16 ar draws

Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a'r dyfyniadau manwl cysylltiedig yn Atodiadau 2 i 16.

- wedi dewis parhau ag Opsiwn 3 fel ateb ar gyfer y dyfodol rhagweladwy, gan ei gwneud yn ofynnol i ysgolion weithio gyda'i gilydd i gyflawni amrywiaeth o welliannau i'r sefyllfa bresennol, fel y rhai a restrir yn adran 4.6.7.
- Wedi dechrau datblygu strategaeth Sirol ar gyfer dysgu cyfunol gan dynnu ar brofiadau diweddar ysgolion y Sir yn ystod cyfnod clo Covid-19, a chan ystyried profiadau, cyngor, ac arferion rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol.
- Wedi cymryd canlyniadau penderfyniadau ar Gludiant i'r Ysgol, Cynllun Datblygu Lleol 2021+, ac addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg a'u hymgorffori mewn strategaeth hirdymor ar gyfer capasiti a dalgylchoedd ysgolion uwchradd, gan gynnwys darpariaeth chweched dosbarth.
- Wedi gweithio gyda phartneriaid i ddatblygu'r dewis o gael canolfan chweched dosbarth ar gampws Pencoed Coleg Pen-y-bont mewn cydweithrediad â'r ganolfan STEAM newydd.
- Wedi ymchwilio i'r potensial i ehangu Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen o fewn cyd-destun y cais cynllunio gwreiddiol i'w galluogi i gwrdd â'r galw a ragwelir am leoedd, ac am ddarpariaeth a chydweithio ôl-16 yn rhan ogleddol y Fwrdeistref Sirol.
- Wedi cytuno, os daw Ysgol Arbennig Heronsbridge ar gael, y dylid ystyried ei ddefnyddio yn y dyfodol fel canolfan ragoriaeth chweched dosbarth.

522. RHAGLEN MODERNEIDDIO YSGOLION BAND B, MODEL BUDDSODDI CYDFUDDIANNOL PARTNERIAETH ADDYSG GYMRAEG - CYTUNDEB PARTNERU STRATEGOL

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol – Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd adroddiad a roddodd y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am drefniadau llywodraethu y Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol (MIM), a gofynnodd i'r Cabinet ystyried cytuno i'r cynigion ym mharagraff 1.1 o'r adroddiad.

Roedd Adrannau 3.1 a 3.2 o'r adroddiad yn manylu ar benderfyniadau'r Cabinet mewn perthynas â'r cynlluniau Band B, ac yn cadarnhau'r amlen ariannu o £68.2m a gymeradwywyd**.**

Cadarnhaodd Rheolwr y Rhaglen Ysgolion fod MIM, wedi'i gynllunio i ariannu prosiectau cyfalaf mawr oherwydd prinder cyllid cyfalaf. Mae'n seiliedig ar strwythurau Partneriaeth Cyhoeddus-Preifat traddodiadol, ond gyda'r egwyddorion craidd canlynol wedi'u hymgorffori, nodir y rhain mewn pwyntiau bwled yn adran 3.3 o'r adroddiad.

O dan y MiM, bydd partneriaid y sector preifat yn adeiladu ac yn cynnal asedau cyhoeddus ac, yn gyfnewid am hynny, bydd y Cyngor, gyda chymorth cyllid gan Lywodraeth Cymru, yn talu ffi i'r partner preifat am gostau adeiladu, cynnal a chadw ac ariannu'r prosiect. Ar ddiwedd y contract mae'r ased yn dychwelyd i'r Cyngor. Ychwanegodd fod y Cabinet yn ymwybodol mai 81% yw cyfradd ymyrraeth ariannu Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer cynlluniau MIM.

Ers mis Hydref 2019 mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi bod yn cynnal proses gaffael i ganfod partner yn y sector preifat i gydweithio ar gyflawni cynlluniau MIM, o dan Raglen Ysgolion a Cholegau'r 21ain Ganrif. Dyma'r unig ffordd o gyflawni prosiectau Band B a ariennir gan refeniw. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wrthi'n penodi partner sector preifat. Bydd yn ofynnol i'r partner llwyddiannus o'r sector preifat ffurfio Partneriaeth Addysg Cymru Co (WEPco) gydag is-gwmni i Fanc Datblygu Cymru, a'r bartneriaeth fydd yn darparu'r gwasanaethau seilwaith.

Atgoffodd yr Aelodau ymhellach fod y Cabinet wedi penderfynu ariannu dau gynllun drwy MIM o'r blaen.

O ran y Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol, y cyfranogwyr i'r trefniadau fydd nifer o awdurdodau lleol a sefydliadau addysg bellach. Bydd y Cyfranogwyr a WEPCo yn llunio Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol (SPA) (Atodiad 1 i'r adroddiad a gyfeirir ato).

Mae'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol yn darparu ar gyfer dull gweithredu hirdymor y partïon o fewn partneriaeth gydweithredol, yn an-wrthwynebol ac yn agored, er mwyn cefnogi'r gwaith o gynllunio, caffael, a darparu cyfleusterau addysg a chymunedol yn effeithiol yng Nghymru, ac i ddarparu gwasanaethau seilwaith. Disgwylir i'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol gael ei weithredu ym mis Medi 2020.

Tymor cychwynnol y Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol yw 10 mlynedd. Gall hyn gael ei ymestyn o 5 mlynedd gan unrhyw un neu fwy o Gyfranogwyr. O dan y Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol, mae'n ofynnol i WEPCo ddarparu gwasanaethau partneru i'r Cyfranogwyr fel y nodir ym mharagraff 4.2 o'r adroddiad.

Yna, mae paragraff 4.3 yn nodi pa wasanaethau y mae gan WEPCo hawliau unigryw i'w darparu i'r Cyfranogwyr o ran datblygu prosiectau, gwasanaethau partneru, a gwasanaethau prosiect ar gyfer prosiectau cymwys - gan gynnwys Band B. Cafwyd cyfle hefyd i gyflawni prosiectau cyfalaf ar sail anghyfyngedig.

Cyfeiriodd y Rheolwr Rhaglen Ysgol at Atodiad 2 yr adroddiad, a oedd yn rhoi crynodeb manylach o'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol.

Ychwanegodd mai Bwrdd Partneriaeth Strategol (SPB) yw'r cyfrwng gwarchodol ar gyfer yr ymrwymiadau hyn, a'r bwrdd fydd y prif fecanwaith wrth reoli perfformiad WEPCo.

Nodwyd rôl y SPB ym mharagraff 4.10 o'r adroddiad.

Roedd yn angenrheidiol i'r Cyngor benodi cynrychiolydd i eistedd ar y Bwrdd, a nodir priodweddau delfrydol deiliad y swydd ym mharagraffau 4.11 a 4.12, gyda pharagraff 4.13 yn manylu ar drefniadau gweithredol y Bwrdd.

Ceir crynodeb manylach o rôl y Bwrdd yn atodiad 3 yr adroddiad.

Yna, roedd paragraffau 4.15 i 4.19 yr adroddiad yn manylu ar y broses i fwrw ymlaen â phrosiectau WEPCo a sut yr ymdrinnir â hwy.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn annog awdurdodau lleol a sefydliadau addysg bellach i ymrwymo i'r trefniadau gyda WEPCo drwy Gytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol p'un a oes ganddynt Gynllun MIM ar waith neu ddim, a hynny oherwydd bod WEPCo hefyd yn cynnig Gwasanaethau Partneriaeth Cymorth Strategol a all gynorthwyo Cyfranogwyr gyda chynllunio ystadau neu weithgareddau cysylltiedig.

Nid oedd y ddogfen Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol ar ei ffurf derfynol eto, ond ni ragwelwyd y bydd y Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol drafft yn newid yn sylweddol unwaith y bydd ymgeisydd a ffafrir wedi'i gymeradwyo. Argymhellwyd bod awdurdod dirprwyedig yn cael ei roi i Gyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol y Cyngor, Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd, ar ôl ymgynghori â'r swyddog monitro, i gytuno ar delerau terfynol y Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol a gwneud unrhyw fân ddiwygiadau angenrheidiol iddo, yn ôl y gofyn.

Er bod mecanwaith o fewn y Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol a fydd yn caniatáu i'r Cyfranogwyr hynny (a enwir yn yr OJEU) gofrestru ar ôl Medi 2020 drwy weithred o ymlyniad (DoA), bydd hyn yn creu sawl cymhlethdod fel y nodir yn y pwyntiau bwled o dan baragraff 4.23 o'r adroddiad

Pe bai Cyfranogwr yn dewis peidio â llofnodi'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol neu'r Weithred o Ymlyniad, ac yna'n dymuno cael mynediad i Wasanaethau Partneriaeth neu Wasanaethau Prosiect gan WEPCo yn y dyfodol, ni fyddent yn gallu eu caffael mewn modd diogel. Manylwyd ar y risgiau yma yn 4.25 o'r adroddiad

Darperir Proses Gaffael Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer y partner cyflawni ym mharagraffau 4.26 i 4.29

Ychwanegodd Rheolwr Rhaglen yr Ysgol fod yr adroddiad wedi'i ddrafftio yn ystod y cyfnod segur (Alcatel). Roedd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi adrodd bod pob ymgeisydd wedi cael gwybod am ganlyniad y gwerthusiad ac ers hynny roedd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cwblhau'r broses.

Mae cymeradwyaeth i ymrwymo i'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol (SPA) yn swyddogaeth weithredol sy'n gofyn am benderfyniad gan y Cabinet. Roedd paragraffau 4.31 i 4.39 o'r adroddiad yn manylu ar yr agweddau cyfreithiol yma.

Er nad oes unrhyw ganlyniad ariannol o ran cytuno i ymrwymo i'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol, mae'n bwysig nodi y bydd ysgolion MIM, os cânt eu cwblhau, yn arwain at bwysau cyllidebol refeniw a gaiff eu hystyried fel rhan o'r Strategaeth Ariannol Tymor Canolig.

Gofynnodd yr Arweinydd am gyngor nad oedd y Cabinet wrthi'n cytuno i unrhyw Brosiectau Braenaru penodol ar hyn o bryd, ac y byddai hyn yn destun adroddiad pellach i'w dderbyn maes o law.

Cadarnhaodd Rheolwr Rhaglen yr Ysgol fod hyn yn wir ac y byddai Astudiaethau Dichonoldeb i'w cynnal ddiwedd yr hydref/gaeaf yn arwain at y broses uchod.

PENDERFYNWYD: Fod y Cabinet

(a) Wedi nodi cynnydd Cam y Cynigydd a Ffefrir o Weithdrefn Deialog Gystadleuol o dan Reoliadau Contractau Cyhoeddus 2015 fel y'i hamlinellir yn yr adroddiad hwn;
(b) Wedi cymeradwyo gweithredu, cyflawni, a pherfformio'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol gyda Chydbartneriaeth Addysg Cymru ym mis Medi 2020 er mwyn hwyluso'r ddarpariaeth o amrywiaeth o wasanaethau seilwaith ac i ddarparu addysg a chyfleusterau cymunedol;
(c) wedi cymeradwyo'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol yn Atodiad 1 a'i grynhoi yn Atodiad 2 i'r adroddiad hwn er mwyn rhoi ei effaith i argymhelliad (b), yn ddarostyngedig i'r argymhelliad (d) isod;
(d) wedi rhoi awdurdod dirprwyedig i'r Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol, Addysg a Chymorth i Deuluoedd, ar ôl ymgynghori â'r swyddog monitro a'r swyddog Adran 151:
(i) I gymeradwyo telerau terfynol y Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol, gan gynnwys unrhyw ddiwygiadau angenrheidiol i'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol a gymeradwyir yma, am resymau sy'n cynnwys, ond heb fod yn gyfyngedig i, gwblhau unrhyw feysydd sydd heb eu cwblhau; ac

(ii) I gymeradwyo unrhyw weithredoedd a dogfennau pellach sy'n atodol i'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol;
(e) Wedi nodi, wrth gytuno i'r Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol, na ofynnir iddynt benderfynu bwrw ymlaen ag unrhyw Brosiect Braenaru, ac nad oes dim o fewn y Cytundeb Partneriaeth Strategol sy'n ymrwymo'r Cyngor i wneud unrhyw ymrwymiad o'r fath. Bydd unrhyw benderfyniad i fwrw ymlaen â Phrosiect Braenaru yn cael ei adrodd i'r Cabinet mewn adroddiad(au) yn y dyfodol er mwyn penderfynu. (Tudalen 592 o'r adroddiad)
(f) Wedi cymeradwyo penodi'r Cynghorydd Dr Charles Smith, yr Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg ac Adfywio fel 'Cynrychiolydd Cyfranogwyr' i eistedd ar y Bwrdd Partneru Strategol (SPB).

523. EITEMAU BRYS

Dim

524. GWAHARDD Y CYHOEDD

PENDERFYNWYD: O dan Adran 100A (4) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 fel y'i diwygiwyd gan Orchymyn Llywodraeth Leol (Mynediad at Wybodaeth) (Amrywio) (Cymru) 2007, caiff y cyhoedd eu heithrio o'r cyfarfod wrth ystyried yr eitem fusnes ganlynol gan ei bod yn cynnwys gwybodaeth esempt fel y'i diffinnir ym Mharagraffau 14 ac 16 o Ran 4 a/neu Baragraff 21 o Ran 5 o Atodlen 12A i'r Ddeddf.

Yn dilyn cymhwyso'r prawf budd y cyhoedd, penderfynwyd, yn unol â'r Ddeddf y cyfeirir ati uchod, i ystyried yr eitem ganlynol yn breifat, gyda'r cyhoedd wedi'u heithrio o'r cyfarfod, gan yr ystyriwyd bod budd y cyhoedd mewn cynnal yr esemptiad, ym mhob amgylchiad sy'n ymwneud â'r eitem, yn drech na budd y cyhoedd mewn datgelu'r wybodaeth.

525. GRANT CYFALAF ARFAETHEDIG O GRONFA GOFAL INTEGREDIG I LINC CYMRU

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 16:38

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES

LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2020

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the 2020 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Annual Progress Report (APR) based upon on air quality datasets obtained in 2019. This report requires Cabinet approval in order to submit a final version to Welsh Government (WG) before the 30th September 2020.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. Background

3.1 Under Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 every local authority has an obligation to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not air quality objectives to protect health are likely to be achieved. Where the air quality reviews indicate that the air quality objectives are not being achieved, or are not likely to be achieved, Section 83 of the 1995 Act requires local authorities to designate an Air Quality Management Area ('AQMA'). Section 84 of the Act ensures that action must then be taken at a local level which is outlined in a specific Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to ensure that air quality in the identified area improves.

3.2 The Annual Progress Report, annexed as Appendix 1, provides details on the ratified data for the air quality monitoring undertaken in 2019 within Bridgend County Borough Council.

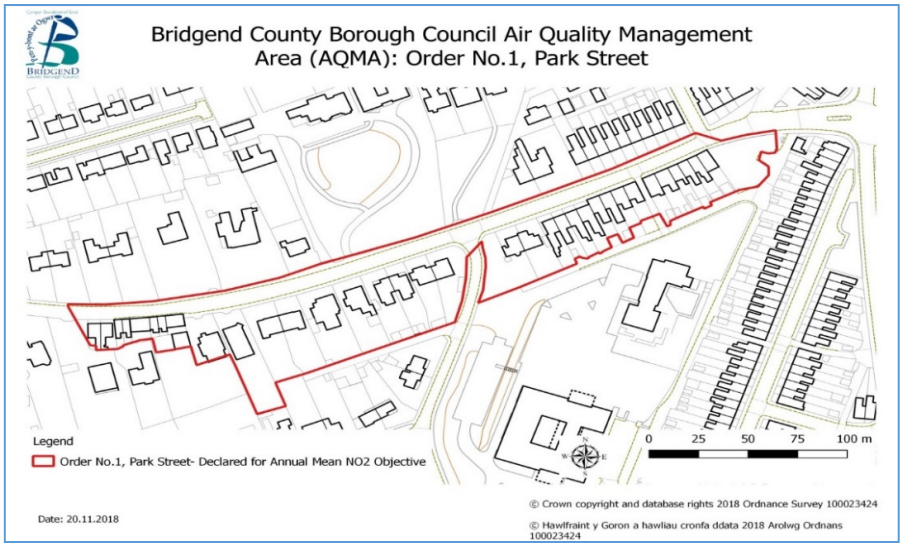
3.3 Welsh Government issues statutory policy guidance to Local Authorities under section 88 of the Environment Act 1995 to bring the local air quality management system in Wales into line with the sustainable development principle outlined in Welsh Government's Well-being for Future Generations Act, 2015. This guidance, with which local authorities must have regard to when carrying out their air quality functions under the Environment Act 1995, sets out that authorities in Wales have to produce an Annual Progress Report in **draft** by 30th September each year and publish it by 31st December at the latest. This report must include monitoring results for the previous calendar year, a progress report on action plan implementation and an update on any new policies or developments likely to affect local air quality.

3.4 This Annual Progress Report satisfies the above criteria examining ratified datasets for air quality monitoring undertaken in 2019 within Bridgend County Borough Council.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Park Street, Bridgend AQMA Order was officially implemented on the 1st January 2019. The area comprising the Bridgend County Borough Council Air Quality Management Area Order No. 1, Park Street is outlined by **Figure 1**.

Figure 1- Extent of Park Street Air Quality Management Area



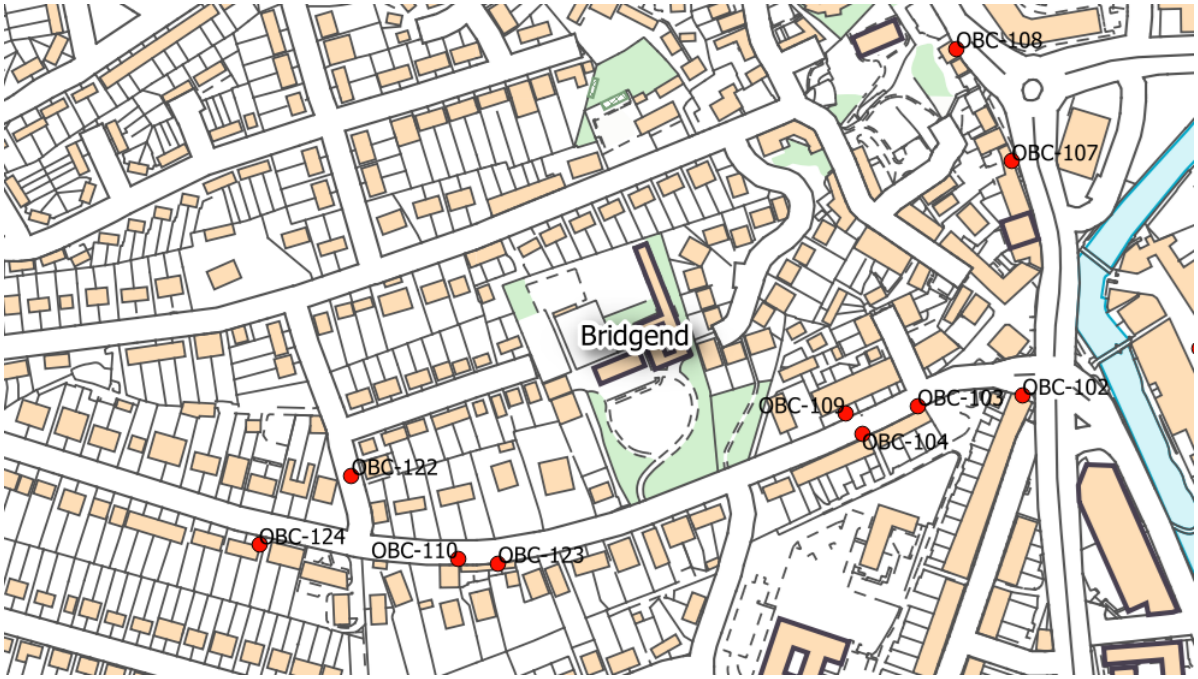
4.2 This 2020 Annual Progress Report (APR) outlines the revisions made to the NO_2 non-automatic monitoring network utilised in Bridgend for 2019. Existing non-automatic NO_2 monitoring locations were decommissioned due to continued compliance and new NO_2 monitoring locations were commissioned to strengthen understanding in existing monitored areas, such as the Park Street AQMA and Cowbridge Road.

4.3 This 2020 APR confirms that in 2019, in general, air quality within Bridgend County Borough continues to meet the relevant air quality objectives as prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

4.4 This 2020 APR does confirm that in 2019 air quality continues to be a prevalent concern along Park Street coinciding with the geographical boundary of the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA Order raised on the 1st January 2019. It is also noted that elevated annual average air quality levels exist in close proximity to Park Street along adjoining road networks where relevant exposure is apparent.

Figure **2** depicts the non-automated monitoring sites located in and around the Park Street AQMA.

Figure 2- 2019 NO_2 Diffusion Tube Monitoring Locations, Park Street/ Tondu Road



4.5 It is noted that monitoring undertaken at monitoring sites **OBC-110 & OBC-123**, located on Park Street residential facades, does not only demonstrate annual average levels in exceedance of the annual average air quality objective set at (40µg/m3) for NO_2, but levels captured are also encroaching upon the 1-hour objective; 200µg/m3 not to be exceeded > 18 times per year. **OBC-110 & OBC-123** are calculated at **53.7µg/m3 & 55.2µg/m3.**

4.6 Focusing upon those monitoring sites outside the AQMA boundary, but located in close proximity on pieces of adjoining road network, site **OBC-108** demonstrates an elevated annual average level of **36.2µg/m3**.

4.7 It is essential that the highlighted monitoring sites are closely examined and suitable action is taken where necessary. Such action may involve amendments to the Park Street AQMA Order, including revisions of the geographical boundary to encapsulate a wider area and reasoning for declaration.

4.8 In addition to the non-automated monitoring network specific to the Park Street AQMA, it is imperative that SRS/ BCBC improve the air quality monitoring capabilities along Park Street by introducing an automated air quality monitoring system (AMS). The equipment will allow for air quality trends to be examined on a high temporal resolution basis and therefore be able to assist with underpinning those short term periods whereby raised levels of NO_2 are particularly prevalent.

4.9 Planning permission has been received for the AMS at the highlighted address, however although a final legal agreement has been agreed with representatives of the Quaker Meeting House for the use of the proposed AMS, the impact of the

COVID 19 pandemic, has somewhat hindered progress in formalising the agreement. At the time of writing this report it has been agreed to reconvene the formalisation of the agreement and verify some details about the site's implementation.

Park Street, AQMA Action Plan Update

4.10 As part of the LAQM statutory duties, from the date of raising the AQMA Order (in this instance 1st January 2019) SRS and BCBC has 18 months in which to prepare a DRAFT Action Plan to improve air quality in the area, and once agreed, this plan must be formally adopted before two years has elapsed.

4.11 SRS/ BCBC are currently working in accordance with WG's Policy Guidance to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

4.12 In order to develop ideas and ensure an effective AQAP which considers all aspects, prioritising public health, an AQAP Work Steering Group has been put together consisting of representatives from Bridgend County Borough Council's various departments, as well as persons from the local PSBs. In addition to works and discussions held by the AQAP Work Steering Group, a number of informal 'drop-in' sessions have been facilitated by SRS/ BCBC in December 2019 which provided opportunities for the public find out more about air quality in the area, AQAP updates and suggest ideas for the AQAP.

4.13 Collaborating the ideas and suggestions made to date a list of proposed mitigation measures has been put together. At this stage of developing an AQAP, all mitigation measures are considered which provides a degree of transparency to allow interested persons to view all options considered.

4.14 An indicative cost and benefit score has been provided for each action. The potential actions have been scored for cost benefit and the resulting rank in order to identify the most deliverable actions.

4.15 Agreed by the AQAP Working Steering Group and coincided with the feedback received at the December 2019 public engagement sessions, the extent of the air quality levels examined on Park Street are derived by the nature of traffic flows utilising the network. Queuing and inconsistent traffic flows would appear to be the principal cause of the portrayed poor air quality levels.

4.16 Following the indicative Cost Benefit Analysis a decision was made by the AQAP Work Steering Group to pursue those mitigation options that will manage and improve traffic flows through the Park Street AQMA and in doing so deliver air quality improvements in the **shortest time possible,** and in line with the ambitions of Welsh Government and BCBC; reduce levels to **as low as reasonably practicable**.

4.17 It is recommended that in order to proceed with the development of a successful and meaningful AQAP the Council would need to make the decision whether to undertake detailed transport and air quality assessments to quantify and ensure that correct mitigation measures are implemented. With this viewpoint BCBC/ SRS has taken the informed decision to agree and pursue the necessary works to examine the impacts expected of a preferred mitigation options package;

The preferred options include;

1. Deny all access onto St Leonards Road (Measure 18);
2. Implement a 4 phase junction (3 traffic, 1 pedestrian) at the Heol-y-Nant turning (Measure 21); and
3. Optimise the Park Street/ Angel Street/ Tondu Road Junction (Measure 20).

4.18 It is proposed that SRS/ BCBC seek external consultant support to undertake transport and air quality modelling for the above options to illustrate any benefits for air quality levels. As the above measures work in conjunction with one another any transport and air quality modelling undertaken would assess the options cumulatively as one preferred scenario. Works are now underway to progress with the assessments working with external consultants to ensure a suitable scope of works.

Covid-19 Impacts

4.19 Due to the unprecedented circumstances, this has had an impact on the local air quality monitoring and the development of the action plan for the Park Street AQMA, in terms of its scheduling and delivery. Welsh Government have been made aware of delays to delivering the action plan. In doing so Welsh Government recognise the need to allow for an extension period to facilitate the delivery of the DRAFT action plan. It has been confirmed that a 6 month extension for the DRAFT action plan has been accepted by Welsh Government's Minister, therefore the deadline for submission is the 31st December 2020. Despite the difficulties SRS do see the completion of the action plan as a necessity and are committed to producing the DRAFT action plan.

4.20 During the COVID-19 pandemic local air quality monitoring has continued in Bridgend, however some non-automated results for a few selected months in 2020 will not be available for next year's reporting due to 'lockdown' measures introduced in the month of March 2020. Local Authorities including SRS at the time of the 'lockdown' measures being imposed looked for official clarity to ascertain if the monitoring was classified as essential in view of quietened road networks which may lead to a favourable bias, as well as difficulties faced by analytical laboratories

utilised by SRS which had to adapt their working practises which added to postage delays.

4.21 Air quality data collection has been deemed as an essential service by Welsh Government, whereby monitoring was resumed for May 2020. The results for 2020, which will be recorded in the 2021 Annual Progress Report will need to be corrected/ ratified to account for the gaps in the annual datasets incurred by the COVID situation. The exclusion of this data will be further discussed, however at this moment in time, results gathered during the COVID pandemic, where it is apparent that road traffic volumes have decreased significantly are perhaps not representative of a true business as usual scenario which could generate a bias/ underestimate of levels.

Welsh Government, Clean Air Plan for Wales, Healthy Air Healthy Wales

4.22 At the time of drafting this report WG has published its latest plan which underpins its commitment and long term ambition to improve air quality in Wales. The plan sets out WG's policy direction and proposed actions to reduce air pollution to support improvement in public health and the natural environment. Actions are proposed across four thematic themes, examined as People, Environment, Prosperity and Place.

4.23 The plan and its proposed actions is available at https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-08/clean-air-plan-for-wales-healthy-air-healthy-wales.pdf

4.24 SRS/ BCBC support the aspirations of the plan and welcome the development of more stringent mitigation measures that will enable a cohesive approach to air quality management and protecting public health and the natural environment.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The Report does not have any impacts on policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report

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

7.1 SRS & BCBC adopt the principles of The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG). The act is a significant enabler to improve air quality as it calls for sustainable cross-sector action based on the principles of long-term, prevention-focused integration, collaboration and involvement. It intends to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Wales to ensure the needs of the

present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

7.2 Subject to approval, declaration of the AQMA on Park Street and the subsequent production of an Action Plan, will ensure that future decision making in terms of air quality complies with the WFG, and the Council meets the five ways of working, as detailed below:

- Long term – The action plan will balance short-term needs of improving air quality, and will also look at measures to safeguard the ability of meeting long-term needs.
- Prevention – By implementing measures which will be set out in the Action Plan, the Council should ensure improvements in air quality and will be able to prevent air quality deteriorating in the future.
- Integration – SRS will look to ensure that the work undertaken as part of the Action Plan integrates with public body's environmental well-being objectives.
- Collaboration –The Action Plan will be developed in collaboration with many departments within the Council and other external organisations, i.e., Public Health Wales.
- Involvement – The action plan will be subject to public consultation, and will ensure that those who have a strong interest in improving air quality will be fully involved and their ideas considered.

8. Financial implications

8.1 SRS has an existing budget to complete a programme of air quality monitoring across Bridgend.

8.2 To support the development of the Park Street AQMA Action Plan, and the decision as to which mitigation measures need to be implemented to improve NO_2 levels along Park Street, detailed air quality and transport modelling will be required. Any further detailed assessments will require financial support which, depending on the cost involved, will necessitate discussion with the Section 151 Officer as to how this can be funded.

8.3 To support the development of the Park Street AQMA Action Plan, the implementation costs for the appointed automated air quality monitoring station onto Park Street will require financial support, and depending on the amount required to install, this would necessitate discussion with the Section 151 Officer as to how this can be funded.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1. To note and accept the results of air quality monitoring gathered in 2019

9.2. To note the progress made in developing the Air Quality Action Plan for Park Street, and endorse the decision to proceed with detailed transportation and air quality assessments to help quantify the impact the favoured measures could have on air quality within the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA; and

9.3. To agree the finalisation of the 2020 Annual Progress Report (as attached as Appendix 1) for submission as a final version to Welsh Government before 30th September 2020.

Kelly Watson
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services & Monitoring Officer
September 2020

Contact officer:	**Helen Picton** Operational Manager– Enterprise and Specialist Services (Shared Regulatory Services)
Telephone:	01446 709360
Email:	hpicton@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council (2018). Report to Cabinet, Report of the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services- Annual Progress Report 2018. From; https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s17130/18.09.11%20Air%20Quality%2018%20Sep%20Cabinet%20Report%20Bridgend%20LF%20approval.pdf

Welsh Government (2017). Local air quality management in Wales, Policy guidance, June 2017. From; https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/170614-policy-guidance-en.pdf

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

2020 Annual Air Quality Progress Report for Bridgend County Borough Council

In fulfillment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
Local Air Quality Management

August 2020

Local Authority Officer	Craig Lewis
Department	Shared Regulatory Services
Address	Public Protection Legal and Regulatory Services Bridgend County Borough Council Civic Offices Angel Street Bridgend CF31 4WB
Telephone	
e-mail	cralewis@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Report Reference number	Air Quality Progress Report 2020
Date	25/08/2020

Executive Summary: Air Quality in Our Area

Public Health

What has become distinctly apparent is that air Pollution is a local and national problem. Long-term exposure reduces life expectancy by increasing mortality, as well as increasing morbidity risks from heart disease and strokes, respiratory diseases, lung cancer and other effects.

What we know is that poor air quality in Wales poses as a significant concern for Public Health, regarded as the most significant environmental determinant of health. Its associated adverse risk to public health is particularly prevalent within urban areas and near major roads. The pollutants of primary concern for public health are particulate matter and primary/ secondary derived nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). Both pollutants primarily originate from motor vehicles.

The UK expert Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution (COMEAP) estimates that air pollution is responsible for "an effect equivalent of between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths (at typical ages) each year". This does not mean there are 'actual' deaths from air pollution exposure; rather, that the reduced life expectancy which everyone experiences because of air pollution exposure (6-8 months on average, but could range from days to years) is 'equivalent' to between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths when summed. In Wales, based on the latest data available (for 2017), Public Health Wales estimates the burden of long-term air pollution exposure to be the equivalent of 1,000 to 1,400 deaths (at typical ages) each year.

Examining the most recent datasets (2017) made available by Public Health Wales for the total number of all-cause non-accidental deaths registered in the Cwm Taff University Health Board area, the long term mortality burden attributable to air pollution (fine particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide combined) is an estimated effect equivalent to 92- 135 deaths.

Despite the efforts made by national government and local authorities there is an apparent disconnection between air quality management and Public Health. The status of Air quality management in Wales focuses upon a hotspot approach and fails to reference other factors such as socioeconomic status or exposure to other environmental determinants of health.

Fundamentally, it is plausible that air pollution affects everyone to some extent. Whilst the legislative air quality limit values are based on epidemiological evidence and are ultimately intended to protect public health, there is also recognition that health effects may be experienced below these

thresholds for some of the key pollutants (e.g. $PM_{2.5}$ and NO_2), particularly affecting most susceptible groups: young children, the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions and comorbidities. Acknowledged as the triple jeopardy concept- air pollution combines with other aspects of the social and physical environment to create an inequitable disease burden on more deprived parts of society; populations of areas with low socioeconomic status are prone to exacerbated effects from exposure to air pollution, in part as they are more likely to suffer pre-existing health conditions as a result of their poorer living conditions and lifestyle, but also as they are more vulnerable, being more likely to be living in areas with higher levels of air pollution.

Air Quality in Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)

Local authorities have a statutory duty under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 & Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 to manage local air quality. Under Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not air quality objectives are likely to be achieved.

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Wales are set out in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000, No. 1940 (Wales 138) and Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, No 3182 (Wales 298). Where the air quality reviews indicate that the air quality objectives may not be met the local authority is required to designate an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Action must then be taken at a local level and outlined in a specific Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to ensure that air quality in the identified area improves.

In line with the Local Authorities' statutory duties under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) on behalf of BCBC undertakes regular air quality monitoring at specifically allocated locations across Bridgend using automated and non-automated principles for ambient air nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) & sulphur dioxide (SO_2).

With regards to prioritising ambient air quality sampling locations, the Council adopts a risk based approach to any allocation of monitoring sites, considering the requirements of The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance 16 (TG16), February 2018. The designated monitoring locations are assigned based on relevant exposure and where the certain Air Quality Objective levels for a particular pollutant applies. TG16 states that annual mean objectives should apply at "All locations where members of the public might be regularly exposed. Building facades of residential properties, schools, hospitals, car homes etc."

Automatic Monitoring Sites- BCBC has one automatic air quality monitoring site located at the vestry of Soar Chapel, Rhiwceiliog (Rockwool Ltd). The site monitors on a 24/7 basis measuring levels of SO_2. As noted in previous reports SRS/ BCBC does have ownership of additional automatic monitoring equipment which can be used to examine levels of NO2 & PM10. This equipment has been decommissioned from its previous siting and is scheduled to be commissioned in the near future at a specific location on Park Street within the AQMA's established boundary.

Non-automatic Monitoring Sites- In 2019 there were 30 specifically allocated non automatic monitoring sites in Bridgend which monitored levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). These sites are supported and maintained by SRS on behalf of BCBC. The non-automatic sites do not provide live data; instead they consist of diffusion tubes which are placed at each of the sites, collected and replaced on a rolling monthly basis. The results derived from the tube sampling are then averaged over the year to enable a comparison of the results against the annual mean (40µg/m3) and 1-hour mean (200µg/m3 not to be exceeded > 18 times per year) air quality objectives for NO_2.

The NO_2 non-automatic monitoring network utilised in Bridgend has been revised and geographical expanded for 2019. Existing non-automatic NO_2 monitoring locations were decommissioned due to continued compliance and new NO_2 monitoring locations were commissioned to strengthen understanding in existing monitored areas, such as the Park Street AQMA and Cowbridge Road. New NO_2 monitoring locations have also been established to account for elevated traffic flows, introduction of traffic management systems and foreseeable development, all with nearby relevant exposure.

In addition to the outlined established non-automated monitoring network, as discussed in the 2019 Annual Air Quality Progress Report (APR); funded externally by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as part of the Citizen Science project, commissioned by NRW and commencing in April 2019, air quality monitoring services was provided by Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) on behalf of BCBC for a number of schools premises located in Bridgend;

-Bridgend College;
-Oldcastle Primary School;
-Pen-y-bont Primary School;
-Pencoed Comprehensive School;
-Newton Primary School;
-Cwmfelin Primary School; and
-Bryncethin Primary School

These particular schools were chosen based upon local knowledge of the area, previous history, as well as focusing upon annual average daily traffic (AADT) flows of nearby road networks. Where road links are susceptible to traffic volumes greater than 10,000 AADT or 5,000 AADT (narrow streets) it is best practise to consider these areas for potential air quality concerns.

The air quality monitoring specifically targeted levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2), known as a transport derived pollutant, utilising the recognised non-automated monitoring method to support the collection of datasets. The objective of the monitoring project was to examine and record levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), a known traffic derived pollutant. The project was funded for one year, whereby the datasets collected were intended to be used a driver to work with the monitored schools to influence behavioural change and raise awareness for air quality concerns.

Unfortunately NRW have confirmed that there is no available budget to financially support the project any further, however it is confirmed that all monitored locations were compliant with the annual and 1- hour average legal air quality objectives. Representatives for each school were contacted in February 2020 to notify them of the discontinuation and compliant results to date.

Bridgend Council's 2018 APR documented and made the recommendation to implement and raise an Order for an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), designated to Park Street Bridgend. On 18th September 2018 BCBC's Cabinet approved the 2018 LAQM APR 2018 for Bridgend[1]. The report examined datasets captured during 2017 and noted that Park Street, Bridgend was an area of particular concern and subsequently an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was required. It was reported that two nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) non-automated monitoring locations situated at residential facades on Park Street, as detailed in Table 1 & Figure 1 recorded elevated and exceeding annual average levels of NO_2 when compared to the annual mean NO_2 Air Quality Objective of 40µg/m3.

1https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s17130/18.09.11%20Air%20Quality%2018%20Sep%20Cabinet%20Report%20Bridgend%20LF%20approval.pdf

Table 1- 2017 Annual Mean NO_2 Concentrations

Site ID	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³) AQS = 40 µg/m³ (2)
	2017
OBC- 102	23.7
OBC- 103	37.6
OBC- 104	41.5

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean objective of 40µg/m³ are shown in bold.

NO_2 annual means exceeding 60µg/m³, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 1-hour mean objective are shown in bold and underlined.

(1) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

(2) Diffusion tube data has been "bias adjusted" in accordance with Box 7.11 in LAQM.TG16 and "annualised" as per Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 in LAQM.TG16 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

(3) Diffusion tube data has been corrected for distance to represent relevant exposure in accordance with Sections 7.77- 7.79 in LAQM.TG16 "Fall-off in NO2 concentrations with Distance from the Road"

Figure 1- 2017 NO_2 Diffusion Tube Monitoring Location, Park Street

Based on the 2017 NO_2 datasets, in accordance with Welsh Government's (WG) Policy Guidance and Section 83 of the Environment Act 1995, SRS/ BCBC was required to legally declare an Air Quality

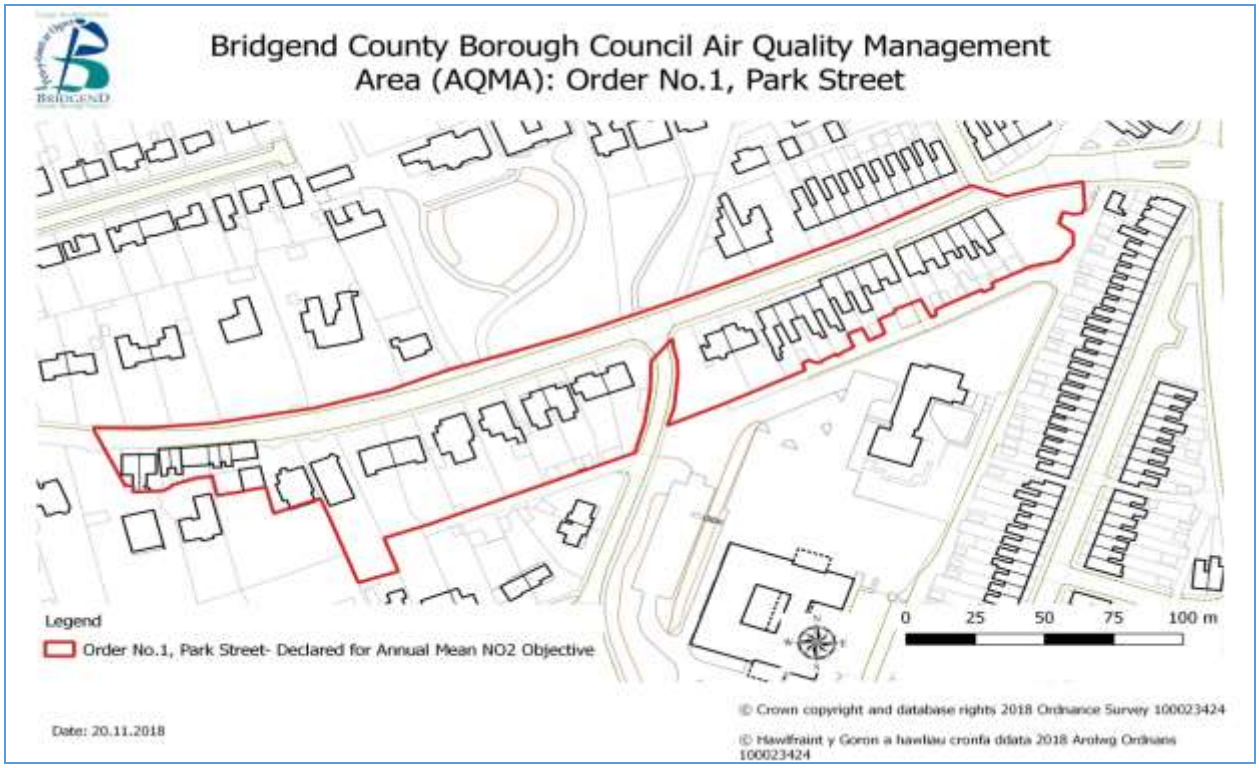
Management Area (AQMA) for Park Street, and in doing so raise an AQMA order that defines the detail and locality of the AQMA.

Park Street, Bridgend AQMA

The Park Street, Bridgend AQMA Order was officially implemented on the 1st January 2019. The area comprising the Bridgend County Borough Council Air Quality Management Area Order No. 1, Park Street is that contained within the following boundary;

The designated area borders the green space area prior to the rear entrance of properties located on Sunnyside Road. The designated area incorporates all north facing properties, including their open space areas between 39 Park Street and 105 Park Street. The boundaries' northern side borders the open space areas that front the south facing properties encapsulating the public access pathway.

Figure 2- Extent of Park Street Air Quality Management Area



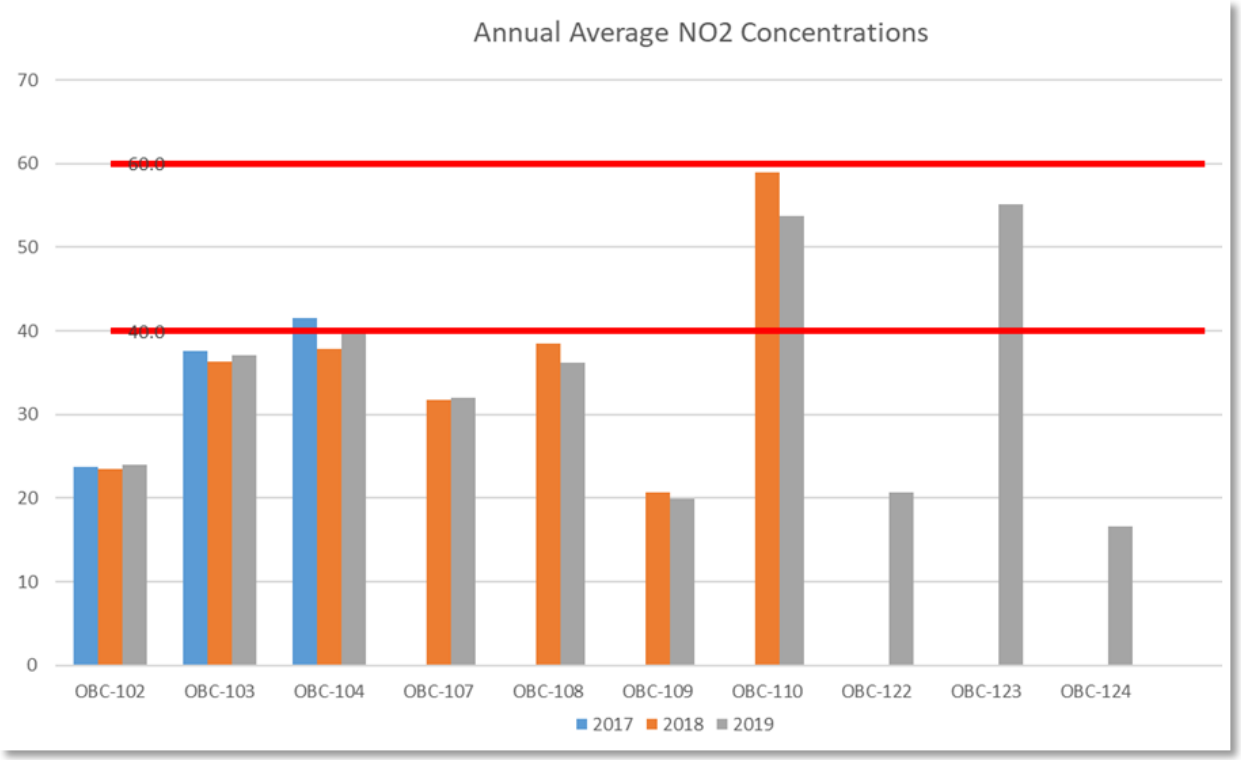
Since 2017, monitoring for NO_2 was further increased along Park Street and adjoining road networks. Figure 3 illustrates the network of monitoring for Park Street & Tondu Road.

Figure 3 - 2019 NO_2 Diffusion Tube Monitoring Locations, Park Street

This Annual Progress Report confirms that in 2019 air quality was a prevalent concern along Park Street and coincides with the geographical boundary of the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA Order raised on the 1st January 2019. It is also noted that elevated annual average air quality levels exist in close proximity to Park Street along adjoining road networks where relevant exposure is apparent.

Figure 4 illustrates the annual average NO_2 datasets recorded at sensitive receptor locations within and in close proximity to the Park Street AQMA boundary.

Figure 4- Annual average levels of NO_2 examined at sensitive receptor locations within and in close proximity to Park Street AQMA boundary



It is noted that monitoring undertaken at monitoring sites **OBC-110 & OBC-123**, located on Park Street residential facades, does not only demonstrate annual average levels in exceedance of the annual average air quality objective set at (40µg/m3) for NO_2, but levels captured are also encroaching upon the 1-hour objective; 200µg/m3 not to be exceeded > 18 times per year. Detailed in the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) (TG16), Paragraphs 7.90 & 7.91 focus on predicting exceedances of the NO_2 1-hour objective with the use of NO_2 diffusion tubes, it states that "exceedances of the NO2 1-hour mean are unlikely to occur where the annual mean is below 60µg/m3." With reference to this viewpoint the annual average figures examined at sites OBC-110 & OBC-123 are calculated at **53.7µg/m3 & 55.2µg/m3** which is therefore considered relatively close to the 1- hour objective. Focusing upon those monitoring sites outside the AQMA boundary, but located in close proximity on pieces of adjoining road network, site OBC-108 demonstrates an elevated annual average level of 36.2µg/m3. It is essential that these monitoring levels are closely examined and suitable action is taken where necessary. Such action may involve amendments to the AQMA Order including revisions of the geographical boundary to encapsulate a wider area and reasoning for declaration.

Despite the referenced sites of concern, all other monitoring locations across Bridgend demonstrate compliance with the applicable air quality objectives.

With particular focus on nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), as discussed earlier in this report; it is imperative that SRS/ BCBC improve the air quality monitoring capabilities along Park Street by introducing an automated air quality monitoring system. The equipment will allow for air quality trends to be examined on a high temporal resolution basis and therefore be able to assist with underpinning those short term periods whereby raised levels of NO_2 are particularly prevalent. This data will be particularly useful in assigning traffic control measures for certain time periods.

SRS/ BCBC have examined potential locations along Park Street, within the AQMA boundary to implement the automated air quality monitoring equipment. Following preliminary site visits with air quality monitoring equipment suppliers and Bridgend's Highways Team, it was evident that Park Street posed as a rather difficult area to implement an air quality monitor due to narrow foot ways and the fact that Park Street is designated as traffic sensitive, only allowing highway works between restricted hours.

In order to overcome these concerns it was noted that the Quaker's Meeting House (Bridgend Quaker Meeting, 87 Park St, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ) car park offered a preferable location and would be a representative location for data collection.

Planning permission has been received for the AMS at the highlighted address, however although a final legal agreement is agreed between Council Officers and Quaker representatives for the use of the proposed AMS, due to the current unprecedented circumstances (COVID-19), this has somewhat hindered developments to formalise the agreement. At the time of writing this report it has been agreed to reconvene the formalisation of the agreement and verify some details about the site's implementation.

SRS & BCBC recognises that in order to tackle known pockets of poor air quality, a more suitable and constructive approach is required to target the whole of Bridgend, improving overall air quality. With the implementation of correct long term measures, highlighted road networks and identified areas of concern should be able to benefit from improved air quality.

Welsh Government's guidance on local air quality management recommended two clear goals:

(1) achieve compliance with the national air quality objectives in specific hotspots and
(2) reduce exposure to pollution more widely, so as to achieve the greatest public health benefit.

Collective efforts, therefore, should look beyond targeted action in localised air pollution hotspots and do this in parallel with universal action to reduce risks for everyone.

As stated by WG's policy guidance the following ways of working should be incorporated when devising any AQAP.

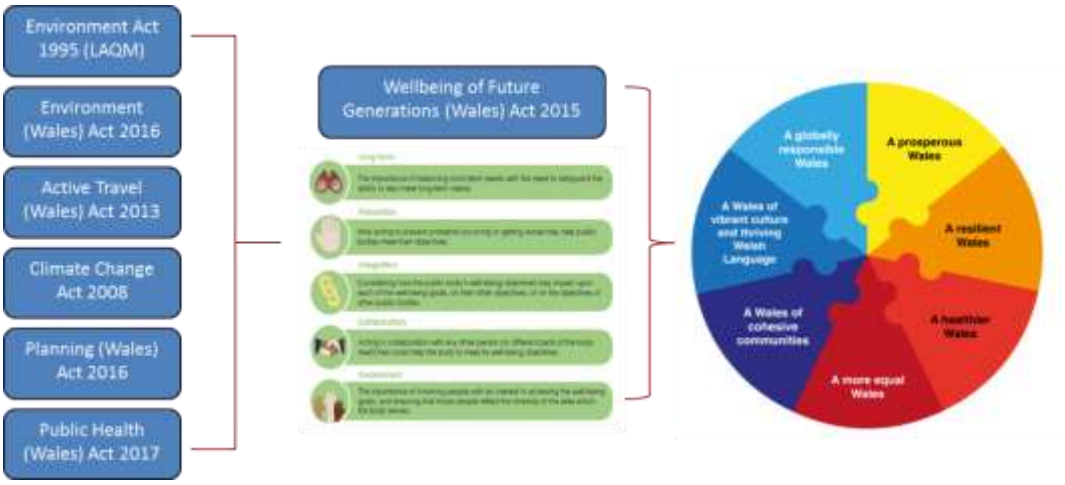
- looking to the **long term** so we do not compromise the ability of future;
- generations to meet their own needs;
- taking an **integrated** approach;
- **involving** a diversity of the population in the decisions affecting them;
- working with others in a **collaborative** way to find shared sustainable;
- solutions; and
- acting to **prevent** problems from occurring or getting worse.

In sight of these aspirations SRS & BCBC adopts the principles of The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act is a significant enabler to improve air quality as it calls for sustainable cross-sector action based on the principles of long-term, prevention-focused integration, collaboration and involvement. It intends to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Wales to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The Act places responsibilities on public bodies in Wales to work in new ways (including via Public Services Boards) towards national Well-being goals. Progress is measured against a suite of well-being and Public Health Outcomes Framework indicators; there is one specifically concerned with air pollution.

As

Figure **5** illustrates below, the Act is the legislative vehicle for "Health in all Policies in Wales" and provides the underpinning principles for all policy and decision making, including economic development, in Wales. Reducing air pollution, health risks and inequalities can help contribute to most, if not all, of the well-being goals. As such, the Act presents excellent opportunities to change policy and practice to enhance air quality management arrangements across Bridgend (and wider).

Figure 5- The Well- being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Matrix



Welsh Government, Clean Air Plan for Wales, Healthy Air Healthy Wales

At the time of drafting this report WG has published its latest plan which underpins its commitment and long term ambition to improve air quality in Wales. The plan sets out WG's policy direction and proposed actions to reduce air pollution to support improvement in public health and the natural environment. Actions are proposed across four thematic themes, examined as People, Environment, Prosperity and Place.

The plan and its proposed actions is available at
https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-08/clean-air-plan-for-wales-healthy-air-healthy-wales.pdf

SRS/ BCBC support the aspirations of the plan and welcome the development of more stringent mitigation measures that will enable a cohesive approach to air quality management and protecting public health and the natural environment.

Actions to Improve Air Quality

Improved monitoring

- In an effort to improve its monitoring capabilities, for 2019, as part of a yearly review SRS have amended and improved the network of diffusion tubes previously assigned in previous years used for the LAQM regime. The amendments include improved monitoring locations to represent the locality of monitoring objectives and implementation of additional sites to increase the network's geographical footprint.

- For 2019; Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) on behalf of BCBC was commissioned by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to establish new air quality monitoring locations around school premises. The monitoring project will be used to examine and record levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), a known traffic derived pollutant. The project is funded for one year. The datasets collected will be used a driver to work with the monitored schools to influence behavioural change and raise awareness for air quality concerns.

Development of the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)

SRS/ BCBC are working in accordance with WG's Policy Guidance to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). As outlined by the guidance;

4.12 A draft action plan must be produced for review by the Welsh Government within 18 months of the coming-into-force date of the AQMA order, and the action plan must be formally adopted before two years have elapsed. A Local Authority failing to produce a draft action plan for review by the Welsh Government within two years of declaring or extending an AQMA will, in the absence of a compelling explanation, be issued with a direction from the Welsh Ministers under section 85(3) of the 1995 Act.

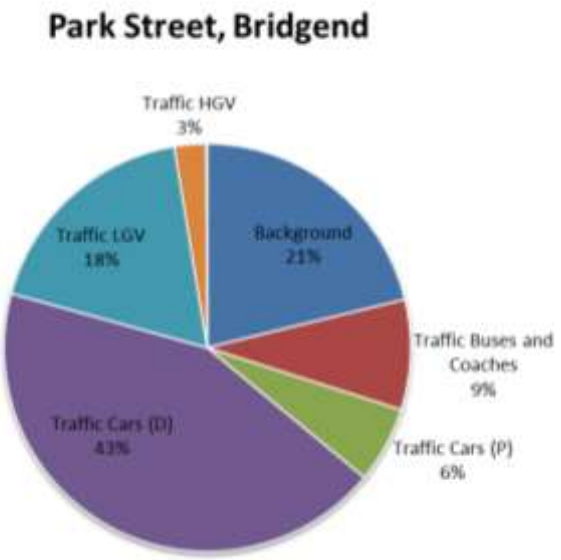
As highlighted and as part of the LAQM statutory duties, from the date of raising the AQMA Order (in this instance 1st January 2019) SRS and BCBC has 18 months in which to prepare a DRAFT Action Plan to improve air quality in the area, and once agreed, this plan must be formally adopted before two years has elapsed.

Source apportionment Analysis

Using available 2017 DfT manual count data and adopting the guidance outlined in Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Technical Guidance 16, Box 7.5, the percentage proportion of various vehicle classifications contributing towards measured annual average NO_2 concentrations has been quantified.

The analysis confirms that a large percentage proportion of NO_2 levels experienced at sensitive receptor locations along Park Street is attributed by cars (predominantly diesel models), as well as Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs). The analysis is detailed in Figure 5.

Figure 6- Park Street, Bridgend NO_2 Source Apportionment Assessment



It can thus be concluded that diesel cars are overwhelmingly the main contributor to NO_2 concentrations; therefore reducing the number of diesel cars (and queuing) on Park Street should be the main focus of the action plan for the Park Street AQMA.

Diesel Cars and Increased NO_2

The high contribution of diesel cars to NOx emissions and the resulting concentrations of NO_2 is something that has been widely acknowledged and is an unwanted consequence of a greater uptake of diesel cars due, in part, to government incentives in order to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide.

Although NOx emissions overall have been declining as a result of improved engine technology, primary NO_2 emissions have increased due to technology designed to lower the emissions of particles. This is explained in the scientific article 'Emission reduction versus NO_2 air quality concentrations, a trade-off?' by Peter J Sturm and Stefan Hausberger of Graz University of Technology, Austria[2].

2 **Emission reduction versus NO2 air quality concentrations, a trade-off? (https://online.tugraz.at/tug_online/voe_main2.getVollText?pDocumentNr=145519&pCurrPk=52228)**

Work Steering Group and Public Engagement

In order to develop ideas and ensure an effective AQAP which considers all aspects, prioritising public health, an AQAP Work Steering Group has been put together consisting of representatives from Bridgend's various departments, as well as persons from the local PSBs.

In addition to works and discussions held by the AQAP Work Steering Group, a number of informal 'drop-in' sessions have been facilitated by SRS/ BCBC in December 2019 which provided opportunity for the public find out more about air quality in the area, AQAP updates and suggest ideas for the AQAP.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

Collaborating the ideas and suggestions made to date a list of proposed mitigation measures has been put together. Sub-section 1.3 displays Table 2 outlining proposed mitigation measures for the Park Street AQMA.

An indicative cost and benefit score has also been provided for each action in Table 3. The potential actions have been scored for cost benefit and the resulting rank in order to identify the most deliverable actions. Estimated costs (1 for high cost to 5 for low cost) were multiplied by a sum of the likely benefit from reducing pollution and people's exposure to the pollution (10 for high and 1 for low) to provide a score. The highest score shows the greatest cost benefit according to the opinions of the project team. The measures in Table 3 are listed in order of their ranking score (most deliverable at the top).

It is acknowledged that some measures may score highly despite not affecting air pollution, because they instead may help reduce people's exposure to the pollution.

Agreed by the AQAP Working Steering Group and coincided with the feedback received at the December 2019 public engagement sessions, the extent of the air quality levels examined on Park Street are derived by the nature of traffic flows utilising the network. Queuing and inconsistent traffic flows would appear to be the principal cause of the portrayed poor air quality levels. It is also concerning given the level of surrounding development scheduled, there is the likelihood of increased pressure for the network and consequentially air quality levels along Park Street. Following the indicative Cost Benefit Analysis a decision was made by the AQAP Work Steering Group to pursue those mitigation options that will manage and improve traffic flows through the Park Street AQMA

and in doing so deliver air quality improvements in the **shortest time possible,** and in line with the ambitions of Welsh Government and BCBC; reduce levels to as low as reasonably practicable.

Next Steps- Detailed Transportation and Air Quality Study

It is necessary that in order to proceed with the development of a successful and meaningful AQAP the Council would need to make the decision whether to undertake detailed transport and air quality assessments to quantify and ensure that correct mitigation measures are implemented. With this viewpoint BCBC/ SRS has taken the informed decision to agree and pursue the necessary works to examine the impacts expected of a preferred mitigation options package;

The preferred options include;

1. Deny all access onto St Leonards Road (Measure 18);
2. Implement a 4 phase junction (3 traffic, 1 pedestrian) at the Heol-y-Nant turning (Measure 21); and
3. Optimise the Park Street/ Angel Street/ Tondu Road Junction (Measure 20).

It is proposed that SRS/ BCBC seek external consultant support to undertake transport and air quality modelling for the above options to illustrate any benefits for air quality levels. As the above measures work in conjunction with one another any transport and air quality modelling undertaken would assess the options cumulatively as one preferred scenario. Works are now underway to progress with the assessments working with external consultants to ensure a suitable scope of works.

To be clear; any AQAP is an evolving document, therefore those measures contained within this document and produced to date can be added to or revised somewhat. SRS/ BCBC encourages anyone to submit their opinions and suggestions to the dedicated email address (AirQuality-SRSWales@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

Local Priorities and Challenges

Challenges

Due to the unprecedented circumstances, this has had an impact on the local air quality monitoring and the development of the action plan for the Park Street AQMA, in terms of its scheduling and delivery. Welsh Government have been made aware of delays to delivering the action plan and making an appropriate decision to undertake any detailed transport and air quality modelling to

support the action plan. In doing so Welsh Government recognise the need to allow for an extension period to facilitate the delivery of the DRAFT action plan. It has been confirmed that a 6 month extension for the DRAFT action plan has been accepted by Welsh Government's Minister, therefore the deadline for submission is the 31st December 2020. Despite the difficulties SRS do see the completion of the action plan as a necessity and are committed to producing the DRAFT action plan.

During the COVID-19 pandemic local air quality monitoring has continued in Bridgend, however some non-automated results for a few selected months in 2020 will not be available for next year's reporting due to 'lockdown' measures introduced in the month of March 2020. Local Authorities including SRS at the time of the 'lockdown' measures being imposed looked for official clarity to ascertain if the monitoring was classified as essential in view of quietened road networks which may lead to a favourable bias, as well as difficulties faced by analytical laboratories utilised by SRS which had to adapt their working practises which added to postage delays.

Air quality data collection has been deemed as an essential service by Welsh Government, whereby monitoring was resumed for May 2020. The results for 2020, which will be recorded in the 2021 Annual Progress Report will need to be corrected/ ratified to account for the gaps in the annual datasets incurred by the COVID situation. The exclusion of this data will be further discussed, however at this moment in time, results gathered during the COVID pandemic, where it is apparent that road traffic volumes have decreased significantly are perhaps not representative of a true business as usual scenario which could generate a bias/ underestimate of levels.

The main priorities for SRS and Bridgend Council in the coming year are;

-Review air quality datasets and where necessary take appropriate action. This may include the revision of the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA Order; and

-Deliver a finalised Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA. Where possible SRS/ BCBC will need to ensure that proposed measures are actioned.

How to Get Involved

BCBC welcomes any correspondence relating to air quality enquiries or concerns. Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) Specialist Services Team represents BCBC for air quality and therefore is contactable via the webpage www.srs.wales/en/Home.aspx OR via their direct team email AirQuality-SRSWales@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk. Monthly average monitoring data for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) is available at https://airquality.gov.wales/

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Actions to Improve Air Quality

1.1 Previous Work in Relation to Air Quality

First Round of Review and Assessment

Between 1999 and 2001, Bridgend County Borough Council published reports corresponding to stages 1, 2 and 3 of the first round of review and assessment of air quality. Seven key pollutants were examined (carbon monoxide, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, lead, nitrogen dioxide, fine particles (PM_{10}) and sulphur dioxide). These assessments predicted no exceedences of any of the objectives. It concluded that in order to fulfil the requirements of the Environment Act 1995, air quality should be reviewed and assessed again in 2003.

Second Round of Review and Assessment

Following new technical and policy guidance issued by Defra, Bridgend County Borough Council published its first Updating and Screening Assessment in June 2003. Of the seven pollutants subjected to the updating and screening assessment process, it was concluded that the likelihood of the air quality objectives for carbon monoxide, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, lead and sulphur dioxide being exceeded was negligible and that it was not necessary to carry out a detailed assessment of any of these pollutants. However, the updating and screening assessment for nitrogen dioxide and PM_{10} revealed gaps in the data gathered and concluded that there was evidence to suggest non-compliance with the air quality objectives for PM_{10} and NO_2 at three locations resulting from road traffic emissions. It was suggested that there was a requirement to continue to a Detailed Assessment for the following locations;

- A48 Ewenny Cross, Bridgend
- The western end of Cowbridge Road, Bridgend
- The western end of the Bridgend Cross Valley Link Road.

In addition it was also recommended to carry out a co-location exercise to determine the bias correction for the passive nitrogen dioxide detector tubes provided and analysed by Severn Trent Laboratories.

In July 2005, Bridgend County Borough Council's Local Air Quality Management Progress Report recommended that;

-All currently held data should be, as far as possible, ratified.

-Data shall continue to be gathered from the three sites identified in the June 2003 USA to enable conclusions to be drawn on the current and future air quality at these locations. The results will be presented in a Detailed Assessment of Air Quality at these locations by 31st December 2005.

-The mobile PM_{10} and NO_x monitoring station should be added to the Welsh Air Quality Forum Network of sites and receive appropriate Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) to validate any data gathered.

In March 2006 a Detailed Assessment for Nitrogen Dioxide and Particles (PM_{10}) was produced in March 2006 and concluded that the current air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide and particles PM_{10} are being met and that the 2010 Air Quality Daughter Directive limit value for nitrogen dioxide will also be achieved at the three road junctions assessed. However, it also recommended that monitoring data from the three road junction sites identified in the June 2003 USA should continue to be gathered to enable assessment of future air quality at these locations.

Third Round of Review and Assessment

Bridgend County Council published its second USA in May 2006. The assessment concluded that there was no requirement to proceed to a detailed assessment for any pollutant in Bridgend County Borough.

The Council published Progress Reports in 2007 and 2008. Both reports coincided with one another, issuing similar conclusions and recommendations. They indicated that no air quality objectives prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002 will be breached at any relevant locations.

In terms of monitoring locations, the reports highlighted the following;

-Data on NO_2 concentrations will continue to be gathered at relevant locations adjacent to A48 Ewenny Cross, the western end of Cowbridge Road and at Tondu Road on the western end of the Bridgend Cross Valley Link Road.

-Monitoring of PM_{10} and NO_2 will continue at Kenfig Hill adjacent to the opencast coal site operated by Celtic Energy Ltd.

-Monitoring of NO_2 and sulphur dioxide (SO_2) will take place at relevant locations adjacent to Rockwool Ltd, Wern Tarw, Pencoed when the new factory extension becomes operational.

Fourth Round of Review and Assessment

The Bridgend County Council published its third USA in June 2009. There was no evidence of any significant breaches of the air quality objectives prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, at any relevant locations. The report did however draw attention upon an ongoing trend for NO_2 concentrations at Ewenny Cross, Bridgend, and Tondu Road, Bridgend, at the façade of the nearest houses, to be at or close to the air quality objective for NO_2 for 2007.'' It was decided that monitoring would continue at the two highlighted sites as part of an ongoing Detailed Assessment to be produced later that year.

The 2010 Progress Report stated the following;

The conclusions for the new monitoring data in relation to Ewenny Cross and Tondu Rd show that Ewenny Cross has exceeded the annual mean National Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and this will be reported in depth in the Detailed Assessment to be produced later this year.

The results for nitrogen dioxide at Tondu Rd show that the annual mean National Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) has not been exceeded. However, in view of the results which are very close to the objective, monitoring will continue at this location for at least another year.

There are no new local developments likely to give rise to a significant impact on air quality within the County Borough.

There are no other issues that give rise to concern in terms of impact on air quality within the County Borough.

The Detailed Assessment for Ewenny Cross is near completion and will be produced in May 2010. A further progress report will be produced early in 2011.

The 2010 Detailed Assessment for Ewenny Cross was subsequently submitted and stated:

This Detailed Assessment of Air Quality has shown that the current air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) are not being met at the south western sector of Ewenny Cross, Bridgend but are being met at the Bridgend Cross Valley Link, Tondu Road, Bridgend.

In view of the above, the following recommendations have been made:

-Monitoring should continue at its present level at the Bridgend Cross Valley Link, Tondu Road and at Ewenny Cross, Bridgend.

-A continuous monitor, together with a meteorological station, should be installed at or as near to the south western sector of Ewenny roundabout as is practical.

Following discussions with Welsh Assembly Government and UWE it was decided that the Detailed Assessment should remain ongoing and that any decision to declare an AQMA for Ewenny Cross should be delayed until continuous monitoring data for 2010 has been collated and analysed.

The 2011 Progress report stated the following:

Following the Detailed Assessment submitted in June 2010 and the response from WAG, the Authority decided, in consultation with WAG and UWE to defer a decision to declare an AQMA for Ewenny Cross until a full calendar year of continuous monitoring data had been collated and analysed.

Due to equipment failure and contractual issues, continuous monitoring at Ewenny Cross has been significantly delayed. Continuous sampling commenced in March 2011 as did a diffusion tube co-location study.

The conclusions from annualised monitoring data obtained since the last report show that one sampling point at Ewenny Cross has exceeded the annual mean National Air Quality Objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). The other nine around the Cross remain within the annual mean National Air Quality Objective.

The results for nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube monitoring at Tondu Rd show that the National Air Quality Objective's annual mean for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) has not been exceeded. However, results are very close to the objective and monitoring will continue at this location for another year.

No continuous PM_{10} data could be retrieved for South Cornelly or Kenfig Hill due to equipment failure.

The nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube sampling locations in Maesteg town centre which were set up in July 2010 following local concerns have shown to date, an exceedance at one sampling point. As a result, more monitoring location points have been put in place and will be reported upon in the next USA report.

Fifth Round of Review and Assessment

Bridgend County Council published its fourth USA May 2012. In addition a Detailed Assessment was submitted for Ewenny Cross. The reports identified;

-There were no indications of any significant breaches of the air quality objectives prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

-There was an exceedence of the objective for Nitrogen Dioxide at one location in Maesteg. However, this was marginal and the other sample points in the immediate vicinity were below the National Objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide. Monitoring continued at this site and extra sample sites, in addition to those already in place were set up where practicable. The data so far for this location, in view of the above, does not suggest that a Detailed Assessment is necessary at this time, although this will be subject to review as more data is collected and analysed.

-The positioning of an Automated Continuous NOx Analyser and co-location study at Ewenny Cross has provided robust information as to the air quality situation and indicates that Nitrogen

Dioxide levels do not exceed the National Air Quality Objectives. This Automated Continuous NOx Analyser will be retained at this site to gather more data over the coming year.

-The Detailed Assessment 2012 completed in tandem with this Report concluded that it is not necessary at this point in time to proceed with declaring an Air Quality Management Area at Ewenny Cross. The situation will continue to be monitored by way of the co-location study utilising the Automated Continuous NOx Analyser and the numerous Nitrogen Dioxide Diffusion Tube sites situated at the Cross

The 2013 Progress report provided the following findings and recommendations;

The Report has not identified a need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant.

The Report has identified a need to continue monitoring for Nitrogen Dioxide in Maesteg Town Centre.

Monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide and PM_{10} will continue at the same sites as at the end of 2012.

The Automated Continuous NOx Analyser and co-location study will continue at Ewenny Cross Roundabout for this year to acquire more robust data. In the light of the acquired data, the positioning and possible relocation of the Automatic Monitoring Station will be decided at the end of 2013.

Bridgend County Borough Council will submit a Progress Report in May 2014.

The 2014 Progress report stated the following:

With the exception of Ewenny Cross Roundabout as highlighted above, the Progress Report has not identified a need to consider proceeding to a Detailed Assessment for any other pollutant.

Monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide and PM_{10} will continue at the same sites as at the end of 2013.

Bridgend County Borough Council will submit a progress report in May 2015.

Sixth Round of Review and Assessment

Bridgend County Council published its fourth USA September 2015. The assessment identified no need to proceed to a Detailed Assessment for any pollutant.

2016 Annual Progress Report highlighted no concerns and no objectives were exceeded.

2017 Annual Progress Report

BCBC's 2017 Annual Progress Report highlighted that air quality within Bridgend County Borough continued to meet the relevant air quality objectives as prescribed in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002.

Reporting described the amendments to the non-automatic NO_2 network with 10 new locations commissioned for 2017.

Quality and technical issues were outlined regarding the automatic monitoring at Ewenny Cross Roundabout, for both NO_2 and PM_{10}. The inability to conform to the frequency of calibration checks and technical issues faced with the PM_{10} Met One E Sampler were noted. Data capture was also an issue at the Rockwool Ltd site for SO_2 monitoring, recorded at 47.1%.

2018 Annual Progress Report

BCBC's 2018 Annual Progress Report highlighted elevated and exceeding annual average levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and outlined the requirement to proceed to implement and formalise an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) Order for Park Street, Bridgend. On January 1st 2019 an official AQMA Order was raised for Park Street, Bridgend, designated on the basis of exceeding annual average NO_2 air quality objectives/ limit values.

2019 Annual Progress Report

BCBC's 2019 Annual Progress Report highlighted general compliance for monitoring undertaken in 2018, however it did note the elevated and exceeding annual average levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), especially within and close to the established Park Street AQMA boundary. The report outlined the works initiated to develop an effective Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to support the AQMA. In doing so the report highlighted the commitment of a designated work steering group to develop appropriate mitigation measures that would not only benefit the Park Street AQMA "hot spot" but would also generate wider air quality benefits to improve and protect the amenity of public health.

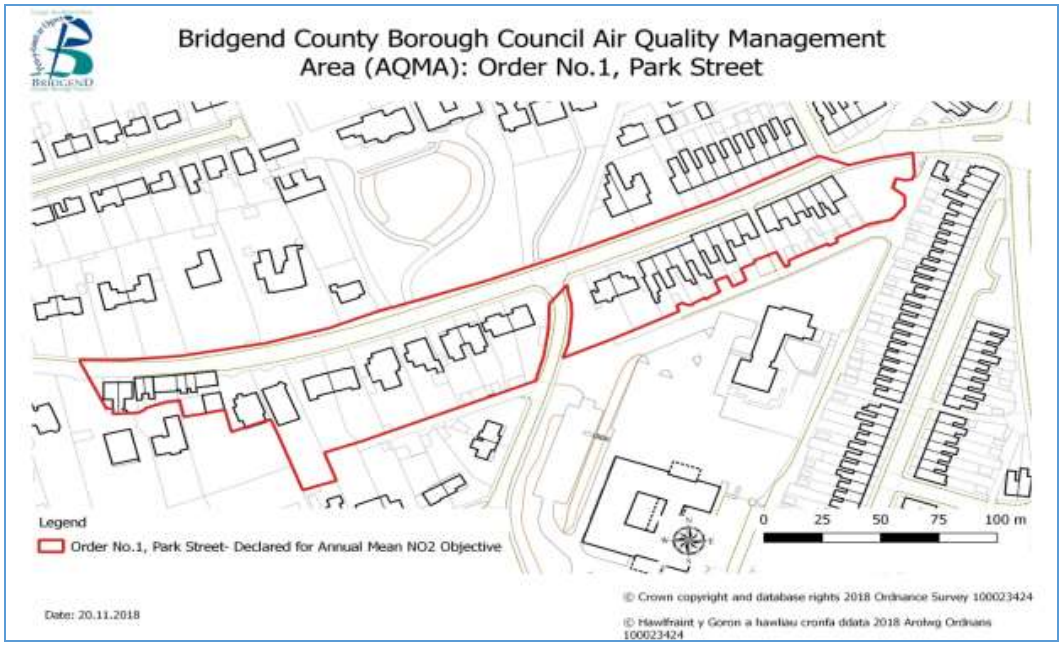
The report specified commitments to gather public engagement on the AQAP's development via public drop in sessions through the course of December 2019. It outlined how suggested mitigation measures would be assessed and indicated that detailed transportation and air quality modelling would be required to quantify the impacts derived by any preferred options. The report also noted the need for enhanced monitoring capabilities in the form of automated monitoring within the Park Street AQMA to enhance understanding and provide a platform for public to access data.

1.2 Air Quality Management Areas

Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared when air quality is close to or above an acceptable level of pollution (known as the air quality objective (Please see Appendix A)). After declaring an AQMA the authority must prepare a DRAFT Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months setting out measures it intends to put in place to improve air quality to at least the air quality objectives, if not even better. The AQAP must be formally adopted prior to 24 months has elapsed. AQMA(s) are seen by local authorities as the focal points to channel resources into the most pressing areas of pollution as a priority.

Based on monitoring results and further detailed analysis, there is currently one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) declared in Bridgend (Park Street, Bridgend), declared due to exceedances of the annual mean NO_2 Air Quality Objective (40ug/m^3), known to be derived from road transport generated NO_2.

Figure 7- Park Street, Bridgend Air Quality Management Area (Declared 1st January 2019)



The Park Street, Bridgend AQMA Order was officially implemented on the 1st January 2019. The area comprising the Bridgend County Borough Council Air Quality Management Area Order No. 1, Park Street is that contained within the following boundary;

The designated area borders the green space area prior to the rear entrance of properties located on Sunnyside Road. The designated area incorporates all north facing properties, including their open space areas between 39 Park Street and 105 Park Street. The boundaries' northern side borders the open space areas that front the south facing properties encapsulating the public access pathway.

1.3 Implementation of Action Plans

SRS/ BCBC are adhering to the timeframes outlined within WG Policy Guidance, July 2017 ensuring that a DRAFT AQAP will be in place within 18 months of the formal declaration of the AQMA, and also a formalised AQAP with appropriate measures assessed is implemented within 24 months. As highlighted, due to the unprecedented circumstances, this has had an impact on the local air quality monitoring and the development of the action plan for the Park Street AQMA, in terms of its scheduling and delivery. Welsh Government have been made aware of delays to delivering the action plan and making an appropriate decision to undertake any detailed transport and air quality modelling to support the action plan. In doing so Welsh Government recognise the need to allow for an extension period to facilitate the delivery of the DRAFT action plan. It has been confirmed that a 6 month extension for the DRAFT action plan has been accepted by Welsh Government's Minister, therefore the deadline for submission is the 31st December 2020. Despite the difficulties SRS do see the completion of the action plan as a necessity and are committed to producing the DRAFT action plan.

Table 2- Proposed AQAP Measures for Park Street, Bridgend AQMA

No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Responsibility/ Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Annual Emission Reduction in the AQMA	Associated Improvements	Timescale
1	Public health information campaign (highlight most vulnerable groups and people with certain health concerns; asthmatics, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease etc.). Increase public education messages which promote healthier choices for short journeys (<2 miles).	Public Information	Via the internet/ leaflets/ other	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board/ Public Health Wales/ BCBC/ SRS/ Charity organisations; Global Action Plan; Living Streets/ TfW	The number of hits on website. Number of initiatives delivered. Delivery of a public education campaign. Cross reference obtained air quality results to the applicable air quality objectives. Improvements to those figures outlined in Bridgend LTP 2015 using data acquired by 2011 Census; The 2011 census total, 59,235 of Bridgend residents travelled to work with **82.5%** travelling by car, or 83% including taxis. About **75%** of car users were classified as the driver which meant that they travelled alone; 5.5% used public transport; 9% walked or cycled with cycling contributing less than 1% (0.8%); other transport modes including motorcycle constituted 1.1%	No reduction in concentration in Nitrogen Dioxide, however there would be an exposure reduction for residents.	Improved capacity on road network/ reduced congestion/ improved journey times. Improved public awareness. Related health improvements.	Unknown
2	Support the creation of a local "Air Quality Action Group".	Public Information	Via the internet/ leaflets/ other	BCBC/ SRS/ Local Communities Forum/ local Cllrs	Number of associated members.	Negligible	Improved awareness of the issues locally	Unknown

No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Responsibility/ Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Annual Emission Reduction in the AQMA	Associated Improvements	Timescale
3	Increase the monitoring capabilities of the Council with investment in more air quality monitoring techniques. Creation of an online platform linked to the Air Quality Index.	Public Information	Via the internet	BCBC/ SRS; possibility to link with Public Health Wales and an appointed approach in Cardiff.	Cross reference obtained air quality results to the applicable air quality objectives.	N/A	Improved Public awareness. Improved understanding for air quality trends with the production of diurnal datasets. Increased understanding for other associated pollutants; PM10/ PM2.5.	Ongoing
4	Electronic "pollutant signage" within AQMA and local area; Signage encourages drivers to switch off their engines in standing traffic queues, linked to signalling. Example; "Do you need to drive today?"	Public Information/ Traffic Management	Other	BCBC/ SRS	Cross reference obtained air quality results to the applicable air quality objectives.	Unknown	Improved Public awareness/ Increase in the use of sustainable alternatives.	Unknown.
5	Signs and banners for engine idling; Signage at key intersections, near junctions and on public transport / taxis encouraging people to switch off engines when traffic comes to a stop.	Public Information/ Traffic Management	Other	BCBC/ SRS	Cross reference obtained air quality results to the applicable air quality objectives.	Unknown	Improved Public awareness.	Unknown.

No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Responsibility/ Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Annual Emission Reduction in the AQMA	Associated Improvements	Timescale
6	Develop Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) to provide a specific guidance for air quality in accordance with new developments.	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Air Quality Planning and Policy Guidance	BCBC/ SRS	Production of an SPG.	N/A.	Improved Street Scene. Improvements for other environmental factors such as noise and odour. Optimise the planning process. Reduced congestion.	Ongoing
7	Planning guidance for the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points. To note; EV points are now compulsory in England	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Other	BCBC	Number of properties where a power spur for an electric vehicle charge point is installed. Number of planning applications approved with a vehicle charge point as an advisory or required condition.	Unknown	% reduction in NOx emissions compared to a diesel/ petrol. Reduction in PM10 and PM2.5, although some studies do suggest increases associated with EV, therefore enhanced monitoring capabilities particularly for PM is crucial.	Unknown

No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Responsibility/ Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Annual Emission Reduction in the AQMA	Associated Improvements	Timescale
8	Revise BCBC's Walking and Cycling Strategy; Revise the existing 2009 document	Policy Guidance and Development Control/ Promoting Travel Alternatives	Promotion of cycling	BCBC/ SRS	Production of a revised document.	N/A	Related Health improvements. % reduction in NOx emissions compared to a diesel/ petrol. Reduction in PM10 and PM2.5.	Unknown
9	Endorse SP19; Biodiversity and Development. Further influence the use of green infrastructure for new developments.	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Other	BCBC/ SRS	Number of trees planted.	Unknown. Provision of a barrier to protect residents and visitors.	Improved street scene. Absorption of Greenhouse gas emissions.	Ongoing
10	Implement 'smoke control zone' for Bridgend. Wood burners installations would need authorisation to operate and receive permissions in accordance with the Clean Air Act.	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Other policy	BCBC/ SRS	Number of nuisance complaints generated.	Unknown	% reduction in NOx emissions. Reduction in PM10 and PM2.5.	Unknown
11	School Active Travel	Promoting Travel	Incentivise active	BCBC/ SRS/ Living	Number of participating schools.	N/A	Related Health	Ongoing

No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Responsibility/ Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Annual Emission Reduction in the AQMA	Associated Improvements	Timescale
	Plans	Alternatives	travel campaign & infrastructure	Streets "WOW" Scheme/ Sustrans/ WG Young Dragons Educational Package/ Global Action Plan			improvements. Improved public awareness. Reduced Congestion.	
12	Encourage/ Facilitate homeworking; BCBC/ SRS is one of the largest employers in Bridgend and therefore could look to adopt more flexible/ agile working patterns	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Encourage / Facilitate home-working.	BCBC/ SRS	Produce Healthy Travel Charter. Number of individuals enrolled on programme.	Unknown	Quality of life improvements. Saved costs on office space. Eliminate time lost travelling to office meaning shorter working days. Reduced congestion during peak times.	Ongoing
13	Work with local businesses to develop active travel to work programmes. Cardiff Staff Travel Charter currently being rolled out but only for public sector establishments.	Promoting Travel Alternatives	Other	BCBC/ Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board/ Public Health Wales.	Produce Healthy Travel Charter. Number of individuals enrolled on programme.	Unknown	Quality of life improvements. Saved costs on office space. Eliminate time lost travelling to office meaning shorter working days. Reduced congestion during peak times.	Unknown
14	Park and Ride facilities to be implemented at strategic sites	Alternatives to private vehicle use	Bus Park and Ride scheme	BCBC/ Bus operators/ TfW	Bus patronage figures.	Unknown	Reduced congestion during peak times.	Unknown

No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Responsibility/ Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Annual Emission Reduction in the AQMA	Associated Improvements	Timescale
	(Broadlands)/ Shuttle bus service linking Bridgend train station to strategic points (Broadlands/ Hospital/ Coity/ McArthur Glen). There is also the potential to look at shared shuttle service for persons accessing proposed Health Centres.						Bus services profit.	
15	Anti-idling implemented as TROs specific to sensitive areas such as outside schools, hospitals, care homes, as well as Park Street AQMA. **Under Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) Regulations 2003, regulation 6 (3) BCBC has the power to implement "no vehicle idling" areas. BCBC will need to assess the feasibility and likely benefits.** Run this as a pilot study.	Traffic Management	Anti-idling enforcement	BCBC	Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Anti-idling implemented as a TRO specific to Park Street AQMA.	Related Health improvements. Improved public awareness.	Unknown
16	Introduce a pilot	Traffic Management	Reduction of speed	BCBC	Evaluation of annual air quality	Unknown	Improved road	Unknown

No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Responsibility/ Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Annual Emission Reduction in the AQMA	Associated Improvements	Timescale
	scheme "20mph speed limit" to Park Street.		limits		datasets for NO2. Reduction in vehicle speeds via traffic flow analysis Any marked improvement in collision/ incident rates. Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.		safety.	
17	Ghost right hand turn onto Heol-Y-Nant.	Traffic Management	Strategic highway improvement	BCBC	Reduction in capacity captured via traffic flow analysis.	Unknown	Reduced congestion.	Ongoing
18	Deny all access onto St Leonard's Road for all traffic movements.	Traffic Management	Strategic highway improvement	BCBC	Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Unknown	Reduced congestion. Improved Road Safety.	Unknown
19	Deny a through route movement from Angel Street onto Park Street.	Traffic Management	Strategic highway improvement	BCBC	Reduced capacity on Park Street captured via traffic flow analysis.	Unknown	Reduced Congestion on Park Street.	Unknown
20	Optimise the traffic signals at the Tondu Rd/ Park Street/ Angel Street Junction- Adopt a MOVA system. Utilise external consultancy expertise to undertake a feasibility study.	Traffic Management	Strategic highway improvement	BCBC/SRS/ Externally Appointed Consultant	Reduced capacity on Park Street captured via traffic flow analysis. Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Unknown	Improved road junction efficiency. Reduced Congestion	Unknown
21	Implement a 4 phase junction (3 traffic, 1 pedestrian) at the Heol-y-Nant turning	Traffic Management	Strategic highway improvement	BCBC/SRS/ Externally Appointed Consultant	Reduced capacity on Park Street captured via traffic flow analysis. Cross reference obtained air quality results on Park Street to the applicable air quality objectives.	Unknown	Improved road junction efficiency. Reduced Congestion	Unknown
22	Bus Programme- Strategic Bus Network. Buses not to use St	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Bus Route Improvements	BCBC/ Bus Operators	Customer satisfaction questionnaires from the bus operators.	Unknown	Improved Road safety at the Park Street/ St Leonard's	Unknown

No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Responsibility/ Lead Authority	Key Performance Indicator	Target Annual Emission Reduction in the AQMA	Associated Improvements	Timescale
	Leonard's Road due to the experienced access constraints onto and off Park Street.						Junction. Reduced congestion on Park Street.	

Table 3- Cost Benefit Analysis for Measures proposed for Park Street, Bridgend AQMA

Measure No.	Cost benefit (cost x [pollution reduction + exposure reduction] = score)					
	Measure	**Cost** 1 = >£1m 2 = £250k-1m 3 = £50k - 250k 4 = £10k - £50k 5 = <£10k	**Air pollution reduction** 10 = greatest air quality gain 1 = least air quality gain	**Exposure reduction** 10 = greatest exposure reduction 1 = least exposure reduction	**Score = cost x benefit**	**Rank** **1 = most cost benefit effective**
20	Optimise the traffic signals at the Tondu Rd/ Park Street/ Angel Street Junction.	4	6	2	32	1
1	Public health information campaign.	5	2	4	30	2
15	Anti-idling implemented as TROs specific to sensitive areas such as outside schools, hospitals, care homes, as well as Park Street AQMA.	5	4	2	30	2
18	Deny all access onto St Leonard's Road for all traffic movements.	4	5	2	28	3
6	Develop Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).	5	3	2	25	4
16	Introduce a pilot scheme "20mph speed limit" to Park Street.	5	3	2	25	4

Measure No.	Cost benefit (cost x [pollution reduction + exposure reduction] = score)					
	Measure	**Cost** 1 = >£1m 2 = £250k-1m 3 = £50k - 250k 4 = £10k - £50k 5 = <£10k	**Air pollution reduction** 10 = greatest air quality gain 1 = least air quality gain	**Exposure reduction** 10 = greatest exposure reduction 1 = least exposure reduction	**Score = cost x benefit**	**Rank** **1 = most cost benefit effective**
21	Implement a 4 phase junction (3 traffic, 1 pedestrian) at the Heol-y-Nant turning	3	6	2	24	5
7	Planning guidance for the provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Points.	5	3	1	20	6
2	Support the creation of a local “Air Quality Action Group”.	5	2	1	15	7
10	Implement ‘smoke control zone’ for Bridgend.	5	2	1	15	7
12	Encourage/ Facilitate homeworking.	5	2	1	15	7
17	Ghost right hand turn onto Heol-Y-Nant.	5	2	1	15	7
14	Park and Ride facilities to be implemented at strategic sites.	2	4	3	14	8
4	Electronic “pollutant signage” within AQMA and local area.	3	2	2	12	9
5	Signs and banners for engine idling	3	2	2	12	9

Measure No.	Cost benefit (cost x [pollution reduction + exposure reduction] = score)					
	Measure	**Cost** 1 = >£1m 2 = £250k-1m 3 = £50k - 250k 4 = £10k - £50k 5 = <£10k	**Air pollution reduction** 10 = greatest air quality gain 1 = least air quality gain	**Exposure reduction** 10 = greatest exposure reduction 1 = least exposure reduction	**Score = cost x benefit**	**Rank** **1 = most cost benefit effective**
11	School Active Travel Plans	4	2	1	12	9
22	Bus Programme- Strategic Bus Network.	3	2	2	12	9
3	Increase the monitoring capabilities of the Council.	4	1	2	12	9
19	Deny a through route movement from Angel Street onto Park Street.	4	2	1	12	9
8	Revise BCBC's Walking and Cycling Strategy.	5	1	1	10	10
9	Endorse SP19; Biodiversity and Development. Further influence the use of green infrastructure for new developments.	5	1	1	10	10
13	Work with local businesses to develop active travel to work programmes.	5	1	1	10	10

2. Air Quality Monitoring Data and Comparison with Air Quality Objectives

2.1 Summary of Monitoring Undertaken in 2019

2.1.1 Automatic Monitoring Sites

Within Bridgend, there is one automatic monitoring location site; Soar Chapel Rhiwceilog.

The Rhiwceilog monitoring site is managed and maintained by Rockwool Ltd. Within the monitoring unit is an API AMX monitor capable of giving continuous fifteen minute averages of sulphur dioxide (SO_2) concentrations. Rockwool Environmental Officers have operated the continuous ambient SO2 monitor since 2008/9. The equipment is calibrated by an Environment Officer at Rockwool on a fortnightly basis and serviced and maintained by Enviro Technology on a six monthly basis. Data obtained is checked for validation and ratified by Rockwool's Environment Officer. In addition to this, the Rockwool environmental team manage 10 SO_2 diffusion tubes placed at 10 locations in the vicinity of the Rockwool Ltd site.

The location of the SO_2 automated monitor is shown in **Error! Reference source not found.** and details of the site are contained in Table 4. Due to continued compliance with the SO_2 air quality objectives appointed officers from Rockwool Ltd, BCBC and NRW decided upon a new preferred location for the SO_2 automated monitoring station. On the 3rd October 2017 the monitoring was assigned to its new location in the vestry of Soar Chapel, Rhiwceilog. Rockwool Ltd continues to operate the SO_2 diffusion tube locations, which satisfies the improvement programme requirement IP5V.

For 2019, in order to develop the AQAP for the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA, works are underway to commission a new automated monitoring station (AMS), designated for Park Street, Bridgend. Due to continued compliant levels examined at the previous Ewenny Cross Roundabout AMS location SRS/ BCBC decided to decommission the Ewenny Cross Roundabout AMS and transfer the equipment to a specific location on Park Street to be within the Park Street AQMA. As discussed the implementation of this site has been delayed by the current unprecedented circumstances, however SRS/ BCBC are working towards finalising and initiating this work prior to the end of 2020.

Figure 8 - Map of Rockwool Automatic Monitoring Site (Vestry of Soar Chapel, Rhiwceiliog)

Table 4- Details of Automatic Monitoring Sites

Site ID	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Reference	Y OS Grid Reference	Inlet Height (m)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA?	Monitoring Technique	Relevant Exposure? (Y/N with distance (m) from monitoring site to relevant exposure)	Distance to Kerb of Nearest Road (m) (N/A if not applicable)	Does this Location Represent Worst-Case Exposure?
CM2	Rockwool	Industrial	297232	184331	4.0	SO_2	N	Automated continuous SO_2 Analyser	1200m	7.5m	Y

2.1.2 Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites

SRS on behalf of BCBC carries out monitoring of ambient air quality for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). In 2019, 30 specifically allocated non-automatic monitoring sites in Bridgend monitored levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2). The non-automatic sites do not provide live data; instead they consist of diffusion tubes which are placed at each of the sites, collected and replaced on a rolling monthly basis. The results derived from the tube sampling are then averaged over the year to enable a comparison of the results against the annual average (40µg/m3) and 1-hour (200µg/m3 not to be exceeded > 18 times per year) air quality objectives for NO_2.

With regards to prioritising ambient air quality sampling locations, the Council adopts a risk based approach to any allocation of monitoring sites, considering the requirements of Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance 16, February 2018. The designated monitoring locations have been assigned based on relevant exposure and where the certain Air Quality Objectives for a particular pollutant applies. The document states that annual mean objectives should apply at "All locations where members of the public might be regularly exposed. Building facades of residential properties, schools, hospitals, car homes etc."

NO_2 Diffusion Tube Locations

The location of the 9 areas where NO_2 monitoring took place in 2019;

a. Tondu Road Roundabout at the Western End of the Bridgend Cross Valley Link Road (Figure 9- Area A);
b. Ewenny Cross Roundabout, Bridgend (Figure 10- Area B);
c. Nolton Street/ Ewenny Cross Link/ A473 Cowbridge Road (Figure 11- Area C);
d. Bridgend town Centre (Figure 12- Area D);
e. Park Street (Figure 13- Area E);
f. Coity Road (Figure 14- Area F);
g. Maesteg (Figure 15- Area G);
h. Porthcawl (Figure 16- Area H);
i. Pencoed (Figure 17- Area I); and
j. Tremains Road (Figure 18- Area J)

The location, site description and data gathered since January 2019 are given in Table 5. The data has been gathered over a period of 12 months between January and December 2019, adhering to specific monitoring dates managed and scheduled by Defra.

Laboratory Methods and Analysis of Diffusion Tubes

Analysis of the exposed tubes is carried out by Socotec UK Ltd Didcot operating procedure ANU/SOP/1015. The tubes are prepared by spiking acetone:triethanolomine (50:50) on the grids prior to the tubes being assembled. The tubes are desorbed with distilled water and the extract analysed using a segmented flow auto analyser with ultraviolet detection. As set out in the practical guidance the results were initially calculated assuming an ambient temperature of 11^{o}C and then adjusted to 20^{o}C to allow direct comparison with EU limits. The national bias correction factor for this laboratory was utilised. Adopting best practice guidance and adopting a conservative approach a bias correction factor of 0.75 was obtained and applied using the Defra website which is available using the following link; https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/bias-adjustment-factors/national-bias.html

Where valid data capture for the year is less than 75% (9 months), where necessary the continuous and NO_2 diffusion tube monitoring data have been ''annualised'' following the methods as described in Defra's LAQM (TG16), Boxes 7.9 & 7.10.

Where an exceedance is measured at a monitoring site not representative of public exposure, NO_2 concentration at the nearest relevant exposure has been estimated based on the "NO_2 fall-off with distance" calculator (http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/tools-monitoring-data/no2-falloff.html).The procedure is described in LAQM (TG16), Section 7.77-7.79.

Figure 9– AREA A– Tondu Roundabout NO_2 Diffusion Tube Locations

Figure 10– AREA B– Ewenny Cross Roundabout, A48 By-Pass NO_2 Diffusion Tube Locations

Figure 11– AREA C– Nolton Street/ Ewenny Cross Link/ A473 Cowbridge Road NO_2 Diffusion Tube Locations

Figure 12– Area D– Bridgend town Centre NO_2 Diffusion Tube Location

Figure 13– Area E– Park Street NO_2 Diffusion Tube Locations

Figure 14– Area F– Coity Road NO_2 Diffusion Tube Locations

Figure 15– AREA G– Maesteg Town Centre NO_2 Diffusion Tube Location

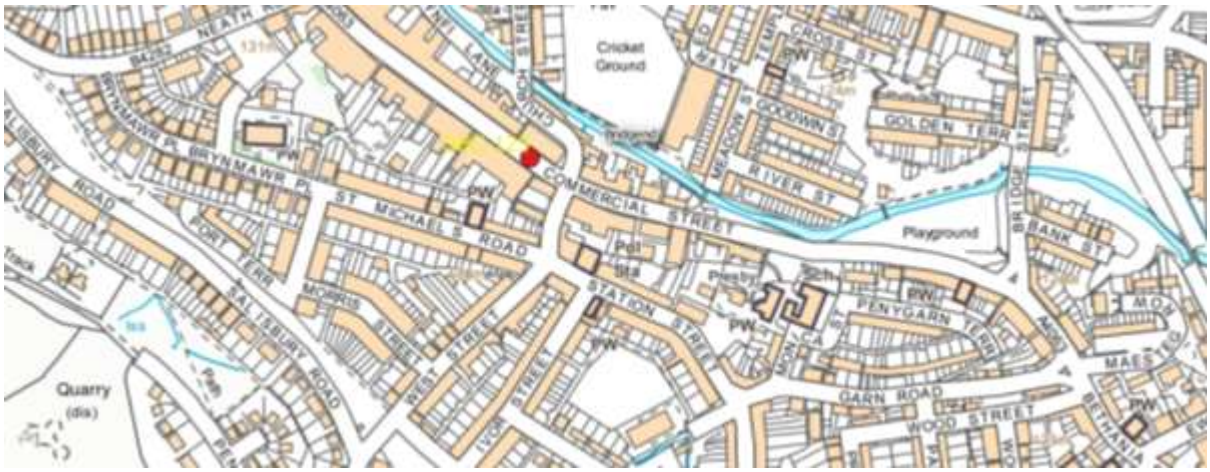


Figure 16- Area H- Porthcawl NO_2 Diffusion Tube Locations

Figure 17- Area I- Pencoed NO_2 Diffusion Tube Locations

Figure 18- Area J- Tremains Road NO_2 Diffusion Tube Location

Table 5- Details of Non-Automatic Monitoring Sites 2019

Site ID	Area	Site Name	Site Type	X OS Grid Ref.	Y OS Grid Ref.	Site Height (m)	Pollutants Monitored	In AQMA	Co-located with a Continuous Analyser (Y/N)	Relevant Exposure?[1] (Y/N with (m) to relevant exposure)	Distance to kerb of nearest road in metres	Worst-case Location?
TONDU ROAD ROUNDABOUT												
OBC-107	A	Tondu Road	Roadside	290347	179959	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	2.00	Y
OBC-108	A	Tondu Road	Kerbside	290311	180032	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	0.90	Y
EWENNY CROSS ROUNDABOUT												
OBC-088	B	A48 Bypass, Bridgend- Co-Location Study 1	Roadside	290566	178566	2.0	NO_2	N	Y	(Y) 0.00	2.20	Y
OBC-089	B	A48 Bypass, Bridgend- Co-Location Study 2	Roadside	290566	178566	2.0	NO_2	N	Y	(Y) 0.00	2.20	Y
OBC-090	B	A48 Bypass, Bridgend- Co-Location Study 3	Roadside	290566	178566	2.0	NO_2	N	Y	(Y) 0.00	2.20	Y
OBC-113	B	Priory Avenue	Roadside	290616	178394	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	10.00	Y
OBC-114	B	Ewenny Road	Roadside	290699	178596	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	23.00	Y
OBC-115	B	Ewenny Road	Roadside	290667	178529	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	12.00	Y
NOLTON STREET/ EWENNY CROSS LINK/ A473 COWBRIDGE ROAD												
OBC-105	C	Cowbridge Road	Roadside	290899	179185	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	4.10	Y
OBC-106	C	Cowbridge Road	Kerbside	290826	179210	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(N) 3.30	0.90	N
OBC-111	C	Cowbridge Road	Roadside	290700	179305	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	4.95	Y
OBC-112	C	Cowbridge Road	Kerbside	290798	179244	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	0.90	Y
OBC-121	C	Cowbridge Road	Roadside	291540	178734	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	5.00	Y
BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE												
OBC-101	D	Bridgend town Centre	Urban Centre	290469	179837	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	1.0	Y
PARK STREET												
OBC-102	E	Sunnyside Street	Roadside	290354	179807	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	2.95	Y
OBC-103	E	Park Street	Roadside	290250	179782	2.0	NO_2	Y	N	(Y) 0.00	1.20	Y
OBC-104	E	Park Street	Roadside	290286	179800	2.0	NO_2	Y	N	(Y) 0.00	1.05	Y
OBC-109	E	Park Street	Roadside	290239	179795	2.0	NO_2	Y	N	(Y) 0.00	7.50	Y
OBC-110	E	Park Street	Kerbside	289988	179701	2.0	NO_2	Y	N	(Y) 0.00	0.90	Y
OBC- 122	E	St Leonards Road	Kerbside	289919	179755	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(N) 4.00	1.0	N
OBC- 123	E	Park Street	Roadside	290014	179698	2.0	NO_2	Y	N	(Y) 0.00	0.9	Y
OBC- 124	E	Park Street	Roadside	289859	179710	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	7.0	Y
COITY ROAD												
OBC-097	F	Coity Road, Bridgend	Roadside	290687	180185	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	5.30	Y
OBC-098	F	Coity Road, Bridgend	Roadside	290681	180198	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	4.20	Y
OBC-099	F	Coity Road, Bridgend	Roadside	290663	180251	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	5.60	Y

OBC-100	F	Coity Road, Bridgend	Roadside	290623	180374	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	4.10	Y
MAESTEG TOWN CENTRE												
OBC-125	G	Commercial Street, Maesteg	Roadside	285299	191136	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	2.00	Y
PORTHCAWL												
OBC-119	H	New Road, Porthcawl	Roadside	282072	177126	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	10.00	Y
OBC-120	H	New Road. Porthcawl	Kerbside	282264	177237	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	0.90	Y
PENCOED												
OBC-116	I	Hendre Road, Pencoed	Kerbside	295886	181642	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	0.90	Y
OBC-117	I	Hendre Road, Pencoed	Roadside	295641	181687	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	8.40	Y
TREMAINS ROAD												
OBC-126	J	Tremains Road	Roadside	291125	179517	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00	8.20	Y
SCHOOL MONITORING												
Pencoed Comprehensive Main Reception Entrance			Roadside	291032	179062	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Pencoed Comprehensive Playground			Roadside	290906	179136	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Bridgend College West			Roadside	290537	179283	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Bridgend College East			Roadside	290518	179312	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Penybont Primary Main Entrance			Roadside	290852	180113	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Penybont Primary Car Park			Roadside	290857	180060	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Oldcastle Primary Main Entrance			Roadside	295895	181124	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Olcastle Primary Playground			Roadside	295871	181115	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Cwmfelin Primary Main Entrance			Roadside	282488	177284	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Cwmfelin Primary Playground			Roadside	282494	177297	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Newton Primary Reception			Roadside	286290	189590	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Newton Primary Playground			Roadside	286313	189555	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Bryncethin Primary Playground			Roadside	291059	183745	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y
Bryncethin Primary Building			Roadside	291081	183806	2.0	NO_2	N	N	(Y) 0.00		Y

Notes:

1. 0m if the monitoring site is at a location of exposure (e.g. installed on the façade of a residential property)

2.2 2019 Air Quality Monitoring Results

Table 6– Non-automatic Annual Mean NO_2 Monitoring Results (2015- 2019)

Site ID	Site Type	Monitoring Type	Valid Data Capture 2019 (%) [1]	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3) [2]				
					2015 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.81)	2016 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.78)	2017 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2018 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.76)	2019 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.75)
TONDU ROAD ROUNDABOUT									
OBC-107	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	-	31.7	32.0
OBC-108	Kerbside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	38.5	36.2
NOLTON STREET/ EWENNY CROSS LINK/ A473 COWBRIDGE ROAD									
OBC-105	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	24.6	22.6	21.2
OBC-106	Kerbside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	30.4/ 25.2[2 & 3]	26.7[2 & 3]	24[3]
OBC-111	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	83	N	-	-	-	26.2	25.8
OBC-112	Kerbside	Diffusion Tube	67	N	-	-	-	32.1[2]	36.2[2]
OBC-121	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	-	18.5
EWENNY CROSS ROUNDABOUT									
OBC-088	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	21	21	20.3	21.5	19.6
OBC-089	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	83	N	21	23	21.8	21.0	20.3
OBC-090	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	23	21	19.5	20.9	20.3

Site ID	Site Type	Monitoring Type	Valid Data Capture 2019 (%) [1]	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3) [2]				
					2015 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.81)	2016 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.78)	2017 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2018 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.76)	2019 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.75)
OBC-113	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	15.9	14.7
OBC-114	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	18.0	20.0
OBC-115	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	22.3	20.9
BRIDGEND TOWN CENTRE									
OBC-101	Urban Centre	Diffusion Tube	83	N	-	-	18.1[2]	17.9	18.6
PARK STREET									
OBC-102	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	23.7	23.5	23.9
OBC-103	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	Y	-	-	37.6	36.3[2]	37.1
OBC-104	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	Y	-	-	41.5	37.9[2]	39.8
OBC-109	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	Y	-	-	-	20.6	19.9
OBC-110	Kerbside	Diffusion Tube	100	Y	-	-	-	**58.9**[2]	**53.7**
OBC-122	Kerbside	Diffusion Tube	75	N	-	-	-	-	16.7
OBC-123	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	Y	-	-	-	-	**55.2**
OBC-124	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	-	16.6
COITY ROAD									

Site ID	Site Type	Monitoring Type	Valid Data Capture 2019 (%) (1)	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3) (2)				
					2015 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.81)	2016 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.78)	2017 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2018 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.76)	2019 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.75)
OBC-097	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	26.3	24.6	24.8
OBC-098	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	83	N	-	-	24.0	17.0	23.2
OBC-099	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	23.8	15.1	22.2
OBC-100	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	24.1	17.8	22.8
MAESTEG TOWN CENTRE									
OBC-125	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	75	N	-	-	-	-	18.8
PORTHCAWL									
OBC-119	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	12.5	12.4
OBC-120	Kerbside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	-	15.1	16.0
PENCOED									
OBC-116	Kerbside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	22.1	20.8
OBC-117	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	100	N	-	-	-	16.7	16.9
TREMAINS ROAD									
OBC-126	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	75	N	-	-	-	-	19.7
SCHOOL MONITORING[4]									

Site ID	Site Type	Monitoring Type	Valid Data Capture 2019 (%) (1)	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3) (2)				
					2015 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.81)	2016 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.78)	2017 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2018 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.76)	2019 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.75)
Pencoed Comprehensive Main Reception Entrance	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	83	N	-	-	-	-	12.2
Pencoed Comprehensive Playground	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	-	-	15.2
Bridgend College West	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	83	N	-	-	-	-	15.9
Bridgend College East	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	-	-	14.9
Penybont Primary Main Entrance	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	83	N	-	-	-	-	14.3
Penybont Primary Car Park	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	-	-	15.1
Oldcastle Primary Main Entrance	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	83	N	-	-	-	-	14.1
Olcastle Primary Playground	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	67	N	-	-	-	-	14.1
Cwmfelin Primary Main Entrance	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	83	N	-	-	-	-	16.0

Site ID	Site Type	Monitoring Type	Valid Data Capture 2019 (%) (1)	Within AQMA?	Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m^3) (2)				
					2015 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.81)	2016 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.78)	2017 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.77)	2018 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.76)	2019 (Bias Adjustment Factor = 0.75)
Cwmfelin Primary Playground	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	67	N	-	-	-	-	11.4
Newton Primary Reception	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	-	-	7.9
Newton Primary Playground	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	75	N	-	-	-	-	7.1
Bryncethin Primary Playground	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	58	N	-	-	-	-	19.7
Bryncethin Primary Building	Roadside	Diffusion Tube	92	N	-	-	-	-	12.9

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean objective of 40µg/m^3 are shown in bold.

NO_2 annual means exceeding 60µg/m^3, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 1-hour mean objective are shown in bold and underlined.

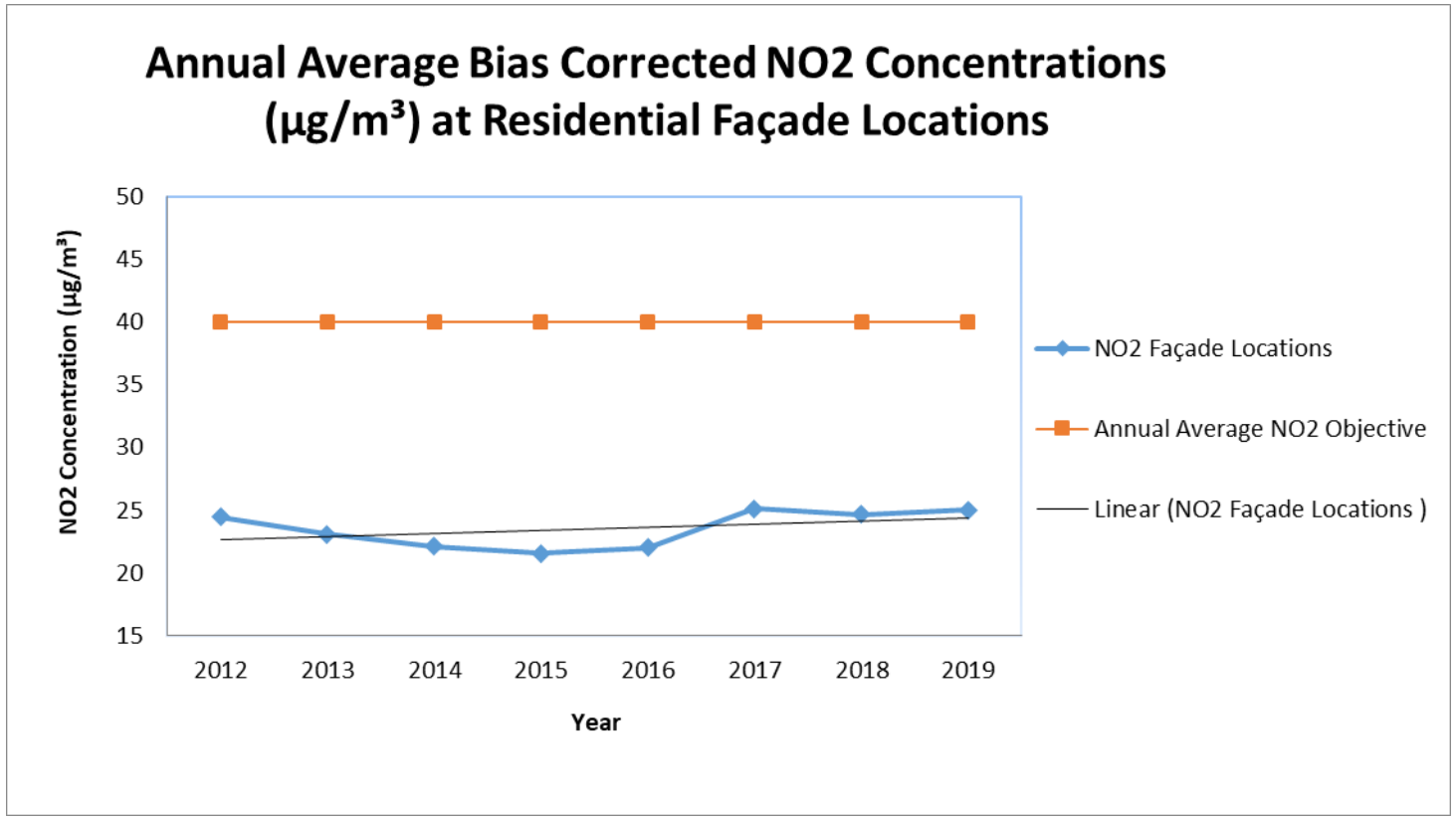
(1) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

(2) Diffusion tube data has been "bias adjusted" in accordance with Box 7.11 in LAQM.TG16 and "annualised" as per Boxes 7.9 and 7.10 in LAQM.TG16 if valid data capture for the full calendar year is less than 75%. See Appendix C for details.

(3) Diffusion tube data has been corrected for distance to represent relevant exposure in accordance with Sections 7.77- 7.79 in LAQM.TG16 "Fall-off in NO2 concentrations with Distance from the Road"

(4) School Monitoring Programme reported over 12 month period (April 2019- March 2020).

Figure 19– Trends in Annual Mean NO_2 Concentrations



The graph represents annual average bias corrected NO_2 data since 2012. The locations examined represent worst case exposure due to the fact monitoring was undertaken at residential façade locations. The displayed average datasets indicate compliant NO_2 results for Bridgend in general since 2012. The results are somewhat stable. Datasets utilised for 2019 include newly added monitoring locations at residential properties.

Table 7– Automatic SO_2 Monitoring Results: Comparison with Objectives

Site ID	Site Type	Within AQMA?	Valid Data Capture for Monitoring Period (%) (1)	Valid Data Capture 2019 (%) (2)	Number of Exceedences (percentile in bracket μg/m^3)		
					15-minute Objective (266 μg/m^3)	1-hour Objective (350 μg/m^3)	24-hour Objective (125 μg/m^3)
CM2	Industrial	N	100	96	NR(3)	0	0

Notes:

Exceedances of the SO2 mean objectives are shown in bold.

(1) Data capture for the monitoring period, in cases where monitoring was only carried out for part of the year.

(2) Data capture for the full calendar year (e.g. if monitoring was carried out for 6 months, the maximum data capture for the full calendar year is 50%).

(3) NR given due to the fact a 15 min recording interval download could not be obtained

(4) In accordance with LAQM.TG16, due to the fact data capture is <85% it is a requirement to report the 99.7th percentile for 1 hour SO_2

(5) In accordance with LAQM.TG16, due to the fact data capture is <85% it is a requirement to report the 99.2nd percentile for 24 hour SO_2

2.3 Comparison of 2019 Monitoring Results with Previous Years and the Air Quality Objectives

During 2019 monitoring was carried out for nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and sulphur dioxide (SO_2).

2.3.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)

Nitrogen dioxide was measured during 2019 by a network of 32 passive diffusion tubes.

In order to ratify the 2019 diffusion tube dataset, a bias adjustment factor of 0.75 was applied to the annual average readings. The factor was derived from the Defra website which gave the average correction factor from 38 co-location studies across the UK, whereby the analytical laboratory and method used was the same as BCBC, in this instance Socotec UK Ltd, Didcot.

Automatic Monitoring Data

In view of developing an effective AQAP for the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA, the previously established Ewenny Cross Roundabout AMS was decommissioned in 2019 with a view to be located to a new location on Park Street. In order to build a cohesive understanding for air quality data trends along Park Street, with particular focus upon nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), it is imperative that BCBC improve the air quality monitoring capabilities along Park Street by introducing an automated air quality monitoring system. The equipment will allow for air quality trends to be examined on a high temporal resolution basis and therefore be able to assist with underpinning those short term periods whereby raised levels of NO_2 are particularly prevalent. This data will be particularly useful in assigning traffic control measures for certain time periods. SRS' Specialist Services Team have entered an annual contract with appointed contractors whom will manage the data collected by the automated NOx and PM10 analysers. These measures will hopefully eradicate any quality or technical concerns as previously experienced.

Planning permission has been received for the AMS at the highlighted address, however although a final legal agreement is agreed between Council Officers and Quaker representatives for the use of the proposed AMS, due to the current unprecedented circumstances (COVID-19), this has somewhat hindered developments to formalise the agreement. At the time of writing this report it has been agreed to reconvene the formalisation of the agreement and verify some details surrounding the site's implementation.

Non- automated Monitoring Data

Annual average datasets outline continued elevated and exceeding levels of NO_2 at sensitive receptor locations situated on Park Street within the established AQMA Order boundary. It is noted that monitoring undertaken in 2019 at sites OBC-110 & OBC-123, located on Park Street, doES not only demonstrate annual average levels in exceedance of the annual average air quality objective set at (40µg/m3) for NO_2, but levels captured are also encroaching upon the 1-hour objective; 200µg/m3 not to be exceeded > 18 times per year. Detailed in the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) (TG16), Paragraphs 7.90 & 7.91 focus on predicting exceedances of the NO_2 1-hour objective with the use of NO_2 diffusion tubes, it states that "exceedances of the NO_2 1-hour mean are unlikely to occur where the annual mean is below 60µg/m3." With reference to this viewpoint the annual average figure examined at sites OBC-110 & OBC-123 are calculated at **53.7µg/m3 & 55.2µg/m3** which is therefore considered close to the 1- hour objective. Focusing upon those monitoring sites outside the AQMA boundary, but located in close proximity on pieces of adjoining road network, site OBC-108 demonstrates elevated annual average levels recorded at **36.2.µg/m3**.

It is essential that these monitoring levels are closely examined and suitable action is taken where necessary. Such action may involve amendments to the AQMA Order including revisions of the geographical boundary to encapsulate a wider area and reasoning for declaration.

Despite the referenced sites of concern, all other monitoring locations across Bridgend demonstrate compliance with the applicable NO_2 air quality objectives.

2.3.2 Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2)

Monitoring of SO_2 has continued to be carried out by Rockwool Ltd in the Rhiwceilog area of Bridgend. Monitoring has been carried out using an API AMX monitor capable of giving continuous fifteen minute averages of SO_2 concentrations. The equipment is calibrated by an Environment Officer at Rockwool and serviced and maintained by an approved contractor on a six monthly basis. Data obtained is checked for validation and ratified by Rockwool's Environment Officer.

The total data capture for 2019 was 96%. There were no exceedances of the 1-hour objective and 1 or 24-hour objective during this time period. It is noted that levels did rise significantly in from 12th August 2019, however upon investigation this anomaly is due to a pump failure. With regards to the 15 minute SO_2 objective a NR result is provided due to the fact a 15 minute interval download was not available upon the request for datasets.

2.4 Summary of Compliance with AQS Objectives as of 2019

SRS have reviewed the results from the monitoring undertaken across Bridgend in 2019.

Despite the examined non-compliant annual average NO_2 levels recorded within the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA (OBC-110 & OBC-123)), all automated and non- automated datasets show compliance with the air quality objectives at **every other monitored location.**

3. New Local Developments

3.1 Road Traffic Sources (& other transport)

SRS on behalf of BCBC can confirm that there are no new significant developments since the Progress Report in 2019.

3.1.1 Airports

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms that there are no airports in the Local Authority area. However a small quantity of air traffic now traverses the south eastern part of the County Borough prior to its final approach to Cardiff International airport, Rhoose. It is unlikely that the emissions from the aircraft, in view of this small number, will have a significant effect on air quality in Bridgend.

3.1.2 Railways (Diesel and Steam Trains)

Stationary Trains

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms that there are no locations where diesel or steam trains are regularly stationary for periods of 15 minutes or more, with potential for relevant exposure within 15m.

Moving Trains

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms that there are no locations with a large number of movements of diesel locomotives, and potential long-term relevant exposure within 30m.

3.1.3 Ports (Shipping)

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms that there are no ports or shipping that meets the specified criteria within the Local Authority area.

3.2 Industrial / Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources / Commercial Sources

3.2.1 New or Proposed Installations for which an Air Quality Assessment has been Carried Out

SRS on behalf of BCBC has assessed new/proposed industrial installations, and concluded that no further air quality analysis via a detailed air quality assessment is necessary.

3.2.2 Existing Installations where Emissions have Increased Substantially or New Relevant Exposure has been introduced

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms that there are no industrial installations with substantially increased emissions or new relevant exposure in their vicinity within its area or nearby in a neighbouring authority.

3.2.3 New or Significantly Changed Installations with No Previous Air Quality Assessment

SRS on behalf of BCBC has assessed new/proposed industrial installations, and concluded that no further air quality analysis via a detailed air quality assessment is necessary.

3.2.4 Major Fuel (Petrol) Storage Depots

SRS on behalf of There are no major fuel (petrol) storage depots within the Local Authority area.

3.2.5 Petrol Stations

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms that there are no petrol stations meeting the specified criteria.

3.2.6 Poultry Farms

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms there are no poultry farms meeting the specified criteria.

3.3 Commercial and Domestic Sources

3.3.1 Biomass Combustion – Individual Installations

As previously identified in the 2011 Progress Report, planning consent had been granted for the installation of a Bio Gas Plant with gas pipeline and in vessel composting facility. It has however been established that the proposed development will not have a significant impact on air quality.

The 2016 Progress Report highlighted that planning consent has been granted for the installation of a biomass plant within the Llynfi Valley. However the plant has not yet been installed. In 2019 an application was received by BCBC planning to change the intended fuel used for the facility (P/19/275/RLX). Air quality comments were made in respect to this request, whereby additional information was sought in the form of a supporting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Following further discussions, in January 2020 the decision was made and agreed in the form of a screening direction with an applicable representative for the Welsh Minister of Housing and Local Government, outlining that the development does constitute as an "EIA Development" in the context of the Town and Country Planning (Wales) Regulations, 2017.

3.3.2 Biomass Combustion – Combined Impacts

Previous reports have confirmed that there are no known areas in Bridgend where coal or solid fuel burning provides a significant level or primary household heating. Nothing has changed in this regard since the 2019 APR, despite the potential for increasing popularity of solid fuel heating with increased fossil-fuel prices, and there is no need to consider this further at this time.

3.3.3 Other Sources

3.3.4 Domestic Solid-Fuel Burning

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms that there are no areas of significant domestic fuel use in the Local Authority area.

3.4 New Developments with Fugitive or Uncontrolled Sources

SRS on behalf of BCBC confirms that there are no new potential sources of fugitive particulate matter emissions in the Local Authority area since the last Progress Report produced in 2018.

3.5 Planning Applications

Bridgend Council continue to monitor the impact of proposed developments and recent developments already underway or in use.

P/18/983/FUL

The application seeks Planning permission for the redevelopment of the former Magistrates Court and Council Offices site at Sunnyside Road, Bridgend.

The proposed 'Wellness Village' will comprise 59 affordable homes, a healthcare centre and associated works including parking, landscaping and access arrangements.

The following comments were made in accordance to the supporting air quality assessment;

The Air Quality Assessment produced in support of planning application P/18/983/FUL concluded that the overall effect of the proposed development, in terms of road traffic impacts, will be 'not significant'. As outlined by my original response **I do not** agree with this statement and do have underlying concerns from an air quality perspective for the impacts generated by the proposal.

As per a follow up meeting on the 11th February it was agreed that the air quality assessment submitted in accordance with the planning application identified that as a result of the proposed development and generated traffic movements, **1 sensitive receptor (Receptor 6- 91 Park Street)** would be subjected to a **slight adverse** impact for annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) levels, for a proposed year of opening (2021). At 91 Park Street the annual average NO_2 is scheduled to rise from **38.4µg/m3 to 38.6µg/m3** with the proposed development in place. Although the levels do not breach the annual average limit value of **40µg/m3,** the impact is regarded **as 'slight adverse'** and needs to be treated with caution, especially with the implementation of the air quality management area and the council's responsibility to put together an effective air quality action plan to address poor air quality identified by the designation of the Park Street, AQMA.

In preparation for the meeting on the 11th February 2019 the air quality consultants prepared a technical note which indicated that the projected adverse impact at 91 Park Street would be negligible by 2023. The technical note also stated the following;

"In those circumstances where a single development can be judged in isolation, it is likely that a moderate or substantial impact will give rise to a significant effect and a negligible or slight impact will not have a significant effect, but such judgements are always more likely to be valid at the two extremes of impact severity."

In regards to the above statement, from a Local Air Quality Management perspective and adopting BCBC's own policy as well as Welsh Government's best practise guidance, the proposed development cannot be viewed in silo and I must view the potential for cumulative impacts as a resultant of future development in the area, especially if a negligible impact is not projected until 2023.

Although 2018 annual datasets were not available when devising the scope of works for the supporting AQA, there are significant concerns from an SRS/ BCBC perspective whereby most recent annual average NO_2 datasets examined along Park Street are significantly elevated. The datasets recorded an annual average figure of 59.5µg/m3 **in 2018 at site OBC-110 (101/ 103 Park Street). This level does not only exceed the NO_2 annual average air quality objective set at** 40µg/m3**, but is also encroaching on the 1- hour objective set as** 200 µg/m3 not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year.

It was noted by the air quality consultants that any remodelling with the revised understanding for levels recorded during 2018 would not differ the outcome significance for a proposed year of opening, said to also be an adverse impact. It would definitely be a concern to see an adverse impact experienced at these raised levels, especially if the development would influence the projected levels to surpass the 1- hour objective for NO_2.

On the grounds of air quality SRS are minded to object to the proposal. However, if the planning committee were to grant the application with outline consent SRS would advise that the following planning Condition be implemented;

Condition: Develop & Quantify a Scheme of Mitigation Measures

Prior to any above ground development works associated with the proposal, the applicant is required to develop a scheme of mitigation measures associated with the proposal. The applicant is required to undertake a detailed air quality assessment to quantify how the devised mitigation scheme will provide positive benefits to air quality at identified sensitive receptors located on Park Street and within the established Air Quality Management Area boundary. The air quality assessment shall consider the impacts to NO_2 & PM_{10} and look to include most recent receptor locations monitored by the Council. The air quality assessment and mitigation scheme will need to be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

If appropriate mitigation measures to protect existing residents and future occupiers of the development **cannot be implemented** to ensure compliance with existing national air quality objectives then the **development must not proceed.**

Reason: To safeguard the amenity of existing and future residents.

It was decided that the Condition was amended to;

Prior to any above ground development works associated with the proposal, the applicant is required to develop a scheme of mitigation measures associated with the proposal. To inform the level of mitigation required an updated air quality assessment shall consider the impacts of NO2 & PM10 and look to include most recent receptors locations monitored by the Council. The assessment shall calculate the value of mitigation required following Defra's damage cost approach. The cost of mitigation implemented by the applicant should broadly equate to the calculated value. The scheme shall also include a timetable for the implementation of these approved mitigation measures. The air quality assessment and mitigation scheme will need to be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The application (P/18/983/FUL) was reported to Development Control Committee on 28 March 2019 where Members resolved to approve the application subject to a Section 106 Legal Agreement and conditions.

The decision notice will be issued as soon as the S106 Legal Agreement is signed by all parties and the applicant will then look at discharging the conditions. The amended condition cited above is referenced as Condition 40.

P/18/1006/FUL

In 2019 a planning application was received to review and inform a decision regarding the development of 127 residential properties and supporting infrastructure on the former Ysgol Bryn Castell Site, which is earmarked for residential development, under policy COM2 (7) of Bridgend County Borough Council Local Development Plan.

The following comments were made in accordance with its submitted air quality assessment;

In accordance with planning application P/18/1006/FUL an Air Quality Assessment (AQA) has been undertaken to ascertain the likely air quality impacts associated with the proposed development through its construction and operational phases.

These comments support the re-submission of the proposal's air quality assessment (AQA) following an initial review undertaken by Shared Regulatory Services (SRS). Following the initial review of the originally submitted AQA it was deemed necessary for the applicant to amend the AQA and submit an emissions mitigation statement (EMS) which would include a damage cost calculation. This damage cost calculation is used to develop an appropriate level of mitigation which should broadly equate to the calculated value. The assessment undertaken follows Defra's Air Quality Damage Cost guidance, January 2019.

For the construction phase of the proposed development a high risk has been identified with respect to dust as a result of construction phase activities (Earthworks, Construction & Trackout). Persimmon Homes West Wales has produced a Dust Emission Control Plan which outlines key measures to control any dust generating activity associated with the proposal. Having reviewed this documentation I am satisfied that the suggested mitigation measures will look to offset and suppress the high risk concerns expected with the proposal. It is therefore essential that this Dust Emission Control Plan is utilised as a control document during the construction of the proposal to alleviate concerns associated with dust.

For the operational phase of the development, the report utilises detailed dispersion modelling (ADMS- Roads) to depict whether existing and future residents will be made susceptible to any adverse changes in air quality levels, particularly focusing upon transport derived nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter (PM_{10} & $PM_{2.5}$).

For operational purposes, in order to determine potential impacts to air quality as a result of increased traffic movements associated with the development, the air quality modelling considers an understanding for a baseline scenario (2019) and a projected year of opening scenario (2023). The modelling adopts best practise guidance and considers a conservative approach to provide expected outcomes.

Tables 6.1, 6.2 & 6.3 outline the projected change to annual mean air quality levels (NO_2, PM_{10} & $PM_{2.5}$) with the proposed scheme in place for an opening year of 2023 **(With Scheme).** Utilising EPUK & IAQM guidance, as displayed by the matrix in **Table A.1**, the level of significance, in terms of the amount of % change to the air quality levels is classified. As documented, a number of existing sensitive receptor locations and future sensitive receptors have been examined, quantifying the level of impact predicted at their locations. In total there is 1 identified sensitive receptor (R5) subjected to a **moderate adverse** impact for annual mean NO_2 levels, for a proposed year of opening 2023. **R5** is confirmed as a residential property. The potential impact for annual mean air quality levels (NO_2, PM_{10} & $PM_{2.5}$) at all other receptors for the proposed year of opening is classified as **negligible.**

Drawing reference to Receptor R5, Table 6.1 outlines a **moderate adverse impact** for annual mean NO_2 for a 2023 scenario, rising from 49.1 µg/m3 'Without Scheme' to 49.5 µg/m3 'With Scheme'. Although the report's modelling ensures a conservative approach, highlights an expectant decrease from a 2019 baseline scenario of 7.8 µg/m3 and documents the already existent air quality concern (annual average NO_2) for Park Street, an adverse impact to air quality is still prevalent and documented by the report.

Bridgend's Park Street Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was established due to elevated and exceeding levels of annual mean NO_2. Receptor R5 lies within the boundary of the AQMA, and it is apparent from the modelling undertaken that annual mean NO_2 levels are forecasted to worsen with the proposed development in place. It must be acknowledged that there is no safe level as such when it comes to potential impacts of pollutants. Shared Regulatory Services (SRS) on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) do not consider these levels as low as reasonably practicable. I would like to draw your attention to Welsh Government's Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance, June 2017, paragraph 2.7;

2.7 Any public body or group of public bodies developing or implementing a local or regional long-term plan or strategy with potential implications for air quality should as a minimum ensure it does not contribute to future breaches of the national air quality objectives. However, the national air

*quality objectives are not **'safe'** levels of air pollution. Rather they represent a pragmatic threshold above which government considers the health risks associated with air pollution are unacceptable. Air just barely compliant with the objectives is not 'clean' and still carries long-term health risks. Nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter currently have no safe threshold defined, and the lower the concentration of those pollutants, the lower the risks of adverse health effects in the exposed population. Therefore, while compliance with the national air quality objectives is essential, it is desirable to keep levels of pollution as low as reasonable practicable.*

Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales, December 2018, paragraph 6.7.2 replicates the above statement.

The report suggests potential long term health risks for local residents as they will be made susceptible to the quantified concerning air quality levels. Without the guarantee of sufficient mitigation measures local residents occupying the Park Street AQMA will be made susceptible to worsened air quality.

Furthermore, for obvious reasons 2019 **annual average** datasets were not available when devising the scope of works for the supporting AQA, however there are significant concerns from an SRS/ BCBC perspective whereby most recent average NO_2 datasets examined along Park Street are significantly elevated. Based on preliminary datasets gathered in 2019, existing and newly implemented NO_2 sites along Park Street suggest worsened air quality. The experienced levels do not only exceed the NO_2 annual average air quality objective set at **40µg/m3**, but are also on track to breach the 1- hour objective set as **200 µg/m3 not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year.**

In order to alleviate the operational impacts associated with the proposal the applicant has appointed Defra's Air Quality Damage Cost guidance, January 2019 which can be used to support the appropriateness of any developed mitigation package. As depicted by paragraph 6.28;

*The total emissions 'damage' cost value for the proposed development, based on the latest Defra guidance, has been calculated as **£70,545.***

The report outlines a number of proposed mitigation measures which the applicant is committed to implementing;

-The provision of a ghost island on Park Street onto Heol Y Nant to reduce congestion and hence pollution;

-The inclusion of the link to the active travel network including a 3 metre wide cycle/pedestrian route (encouraging a modal shift away from cars);

-A travel plan including details of public transport, active travel routes and potentially any car sharing opportunities in the area; and

-The provision of green infrastructure through a detailed landscaping scheme with the inclusion of tree, hedgerow and shrub planting.

To facilitate the above listed mitigation package I would like to see a suggested timetable for implementation of the suggested measures. To provide a positive impact, the measures will need to be implemented prior to the proposed year of opening.

Suggested Condition: Implementation & Quantify a Scheme of Mitigation Measures

Prior to any above ground development works associated with the proposal, the applicant is required to develop a scheme of mitigation measures associated with the proposal. The applicant is required to provide evidence how the devised mitigation scheme will provide positive benefits to air quality at identified sensitive receptors projected to be in exceedance of the annual average NO_2 air quality objective within the Park Street AQMA boundary. The proposal of mitigation schemes will need to be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority. As part of the condition; once agreed the applicant is required to implement the mitigation proposals outlined.

If appropriate mitigation measures to protect existing residents and future occupiers of the development **cannot be implemented** to ensure compliance with existing national air quality objectives then the **development must not proceed.**

Reason: To safeguard the amenity of existing and future residents.

Following on from the comments made in respect to the submitted air quality assessment, the development has been granted planning consent subject to the satisfaction and discharge of accompanying planning conditions.

From an air quality perspective the following conditions have been imposed as part of planning committee's decision notice;

Condition 25. Prior to the commencement of development, full details and timescales of the mitigation measures as recommended and set out in the Air Quality Assessment, June 2019, shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed details and timescales.

Reason: In the interests of safeguarding residential amenities and air quality.

Condition 27. No development shall commence until a scheme for the provision of a right hand holding turning lane on the A473/Park Street – Heol y Nant Junction has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The approved holding/turning lane shall be safety audited to stage 2/3, constructed and implemented in permanent materials prior to the first occupation of any dwellings on site and retained thereafter in perpetuity.

Reason: In the interests of highway safety and to safeguard air quality.

Discharge of conditions are under review.

4. Polices and Strategies Affecting Airborne Pollution

4.1 Air Quality Planning Policies

Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006- 2021. The document provides a framework for sustainable development within the County Borough of Bridgend, outlining strategies and policies for future land use and development.

One of the main strategic LDP objectives is highlighted in Strategic Policy 4 (SP4) which promotes the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. SP4 illustrates that development proposals will not be permitted where they have an adverse impact upon the quality of natural resources, including water air and soil.

Also highlighted within the LDP document is Policy ENV 7 (Natural Resource Protection and Public Health);

"Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they would not cause a new, or exacerbate an existing, unacceptable risk of harm to health, biodiversity and/or local amenity due to: air pollution"

Where proposed developments indicate negative impacts, measures and mitigation methods must be detailed to enable impacts to be minimised to an acceptable level. For example, in terms of air quality, measures can include the production of an Air Quality Assessment and the implementation of conditions.

The LDP documentation for Bridgend County Council is available at http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/media/174812/ldp_text.pdf

The LDP document has been under review since 2018 with a view to go to consultation on its final draft (deposit plan) January/ February 2021. SRS are feeding into this document where necessary to outline air quality as an influential consideration and ensure its importance within the decision making process. Refer to the following link for useful questions and answers in regards to the new plan's development;

https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/the-replacement-local-development-plan-explained/

4.2 Local Transport Plans and Strategies

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2015- 2030. The Welsh Government now requires local authorities in Wales to prepare and adopt Local Transport Plan (LTPs) as the framework for identifying local transport schemes for improvements. LTPs therefore replace Regional Transport Plans.

Under guidance from the Welsh Government, local authorities have the choice to develop and adopt either joint LTPs with neighbouring local authorities or a stand-alone LTP for their own geographical area.

Bridgend County Borough Council has opted for the latter approach in view of the uncertainty of the future of local authority boundaries and structures amid discussions of reorganisation of local government.

The LTP looks to tackle growing traffic levels (and hence air quality impacts) by providing strategies which focus upon providing efficient and effective transport networks.

"The Council is mindful of the broader negative impact of transport related emissions on health and the natural environment"

"To reduce the environmental impact of transport, the LTP includes measures and interventions that will increase opportunities for active travel, encourage the use of public transport and promote modal integration."

The LTP policy recognises the Council's objective to achieving sustainable travel (alternatives to using cars) and reducing negative impacts on the environment. The policy suggests that through improved transport infrastructure and transport services this can be achieved.

The LTP policy is available at http://www1.bridgend.gov.uk/media/352797/bridgend-ltp-wg-approved-version-may-2015.pdf

4.3 Active Travel Plans and Strategies

In September 2014, the Welsh Government introduced the Active Travel (Wales) Act. This measure legally requires Welsh local authorities to map and plan suitable routes for Active Travel within certain areas, as designated by the Welsh Government.

Following formal public consultation and review by Welsh Government, BCBC has produced Integrated Network Maps (INM) that show highlighted routes dedicated to pedestrians and cyclists. The maps are available to download from;
https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/roads-transport-and-parking/active-travel-routes/

Good news story

In October 2018 over £1.7m was awarded by Welsh Government to Bridgend County Borough Council to fund more Active Travel schemes which will make it easier for residents to leave their cars at home for local journeys.

The biggest single allocation of £500,000 will see the construction of an off-road route for pedestrians and cyclists along Coychurch Road in Pencoed to complete the missing active travel link between Coychurch and Pencoed Comprehensive School. Work on the scheme starts in late October and will be completed before the end of March 2019.

In Porthcawl, £450,000 will be spent on extending the active travel route along the Eastern Promenade from Coney Beach so it that it continues through to Newton Primary School along New Road. The scheme will involve some of the road humps on New Road being replaced, while the school will also benefit from new cycle and scooter storage. The work is due to begin by early December and will take approximately four months to complete.

Local residents will have already noticed work that is underway to create a new wide footway along the A48 to connect Brynteg Comprehensive School with Picton Court. The £290,000 scheme is due for completion by the end of March 2019.

A further £150,000 has also been allocated by Welsh Government through their Local Transport Fund programme to fund the next phase of work to complete the National Cycle Network Route 885 link between Sarn and Bridgend by improving access to the railway station.

The enhancements will include the footway from Bridgend Bus Station to Derwen Road being widened to enable use by cyclists and pedestrians, while signage will also be improved. The work will be carried out between January and March 2019.

The remaining funding received by Bridgend County Borough Council will also cover the design and feasibility costs of a further eight Active Travel schemes:

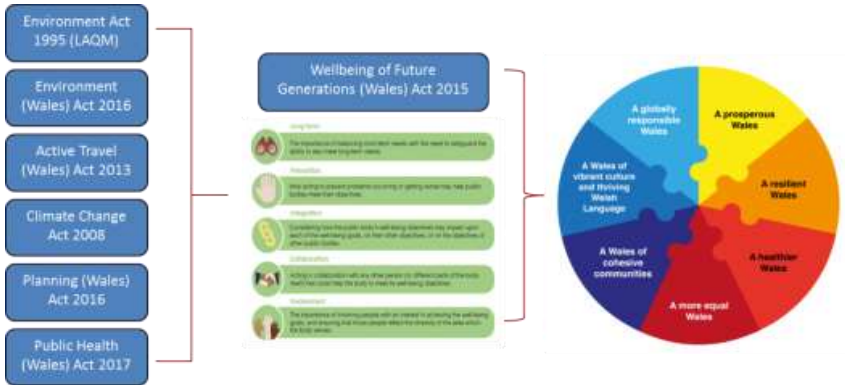
- A route along Cowbridge Road which links to Bridgend College, South Wales Police Headquarters, Bridgend Retail Park and Bridgend Industrial Estate.
- An off-road route for pedestrians and cyclists between Bridgend town centre and the Designer Outlet Village at Junction 36 along the A4061, with connections to Brackla, Princess of Wales Hospital, Parc Derwen and Litchard as well as Brackla and Litchard Industrial Estate.
- An off-road route between Llangynwyd and Maesteg School via Garth with links to Garth Primary School.
- Improved walking and cycling access between Pencoed railway station and Pencoed Technology Park to encourage active commuting.
- Improvements between Newton Primary School and Newton village, which will build upon the other scheme being delivered this year and may include additional links to Porthcawl town centre.
- An extension of the existing off-road route which runs south from Broadlands to Newbridge Fields along the A48. The proposed route will connect along the A48 to Merthyr Mawr Road and will also link up through the fields to Bridgend Life Centre with onward connections to Brynteg Comprehensive School.
- The Ogmore Valley Community Route will also be assessed to identify potential enhancements that are required.

4.4 Local Authorities Well-being Objectives

In 2015 Welsh Government made a new law called the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The new law has the sustainable development principle at its heart. This means that we need to work in a way that improves wellbeing for people today without doing anything that could make things worse for future generations.

As highlighted in the earlier Figure 4 there are seven national well-being goals that form the basis of the Act and five ways of working which support the goals.

Figure 5- The Well- being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Matrix



Public, third and business sectors have come together in Bridgend to form a Public Services Board (PSB). Bridgend PSB is committed to working together to improve wellbeing in Bridgend County Borough now and in the future. Bridgend PSB has used the sustainable development principle and the new five ways of working to develop a Well-Being Plan (2018-2023).

The plan outlines the things that Bridgend PSB will work together on, over the next five years, well-being objectives and steps, and provide a vision for how Bridgend will look in 10 years' time. The plan is seen as a mechanism that provides the best possible means of working to help understand the underlying causes of problems and prevent those problems getting worse or happening in the future.

Contributing to the seven national well-being goals and long term vision for Bridgend, Bridgend PSB has developed four main objectives.

Figure 20- Bridgend PSB Four Well-being Objectives

In accordance with air quality, as part of the objective for "Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment" Bridgend PSB outlines that resources are best utilised and collaborative working ensures that the built, cultural and natural environment remains resilient in future. The priority areas to endorse and encourage the success of the objective will include working together to maximise benefit from cultural, built and natural assets. It will also look at promoting a more resource and energy efficient way of living and working. In order to measure the success of promoting a more resource and energy way of living air quality, particularly NO2 levels will be examined.

Bridgend PSB Well-being Plan is available at;

https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/3657/bridgend-wellbeing-bps-plan-e-0518.pdf

4.5 Green Infrastructure Plans and Strategies

Outlined in Bridgend's Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006- 2021, Policy ENV5 focuses upon Green infrastructure.

Policy ENV5

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure will be provided through the protection and enhancement of existing natural assets and the creation of new multi-functional areas of green space. Green infrastructure corridors will connect locations of natural heritage, green space, biodiversity or other environmental interest. They will be safeguarded through:

1) Not permitting development that compromises their integrity and therefore that of the overall green infrastructure framework;
2) Using developer contributions to facilitate improvements to their quality and robustness;
3) Investing in appropriate management, enhancement and restoration, and the creation of new resources.

A Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) concerning Green Infrastructure was produced in 2014 by BCBC to provide a detailed understanding to the elements raised in the LDP.

-The document highlights how the Council expect habitats to be considered as part of development proposals within the County Borough of Bridgend. It also introduces the concept of adopting a *Green Infrastructure Approach* to development.

In addition to the above, outlined within the Bridgend PSB Well-being Plan, as part of the objective "Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment" and priority area to include working together to maximise benefit from cultural, built and natural assets, the steps involved will;

- identify opportunities to improve the green asset base by implementing the Bridgend Nature Recovery Plan.
- improve the public estate and green spaces in urban areas by encouraging award of green flag status.

Climate Change Strategies

The Authority's Climate Change Strategy was approved in April 2010.

Policy PLA4
Climate Change and Peak Oil

All development proposals will be required to make a positive contribution towards tackling the causes of, and adapting to the impacts of Climate Change and Peak Oil issues. Means of achieving this may include:

- Having lower carbon energy requirements by reducing energy demand, and promoting energy efficiency;
- Utilising local materials and supplies wherever feasible;
- Encouraging the development of renewable energy generation;
- Having a location and layout which reflects sustainable transport and access principles, thereby reducing the overall need to travel;
- Having a design, layout and landscaping which:
  (i) helps wildlife and habitats to adapt to the changing climate;
  (ii) assists cooling of the urban environment, including the use of passive building techniques where appropriate;
- Using resources more efficiently and minimising waste water use and pollution;
  Avoiding or minimising the risk from flooding and/ or adapting to the increased risk of flooding, coastal erosion and warmer annual mean temperatures; and
- Promoting sustainable building methods and drainage systems where appropriate.

5. Conclusions and Proposed Actions

5.1 Conclusions from New Monitoring Data

Annual average datasets outline continued elevated and exceeding levels of NO_2 at sensitive receptor locations situated on Park Street within the established AQMA Order boundary. It is noted that monitoring undertaken in 2019 at sites **OBC-110 & OBC-123**, located on Park Street at residential facades, does not only demonstrate annual average levels in exceedance of the annual average air quality objective set at (40µg/m3) for NO_2, but levels captured are also encroaching upon the 1-hour objective; 200µg/m3 not to be exceeded > 18 times per year. Detailed in the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) (TG16), Paragraphs 7.90 & 7.91 focus on predicting exceedances of the NO_2 1-hour objective with the use of NO_2 diffusion tubes, it states that "exceedances of the NO2 1-hour mean are unlikely to occur where the annual mean is below 60µg/m3." With reference to this viewpoint the annual average figure examined at sites **OBC-110 & OBC-123** are calculated at **53.7µg/m3 & 55.2µg/m3** which is therefore considered close to the 1- hour objective. Focusing upon those monitoring sites outside the AQMA boundary, but located in close proximity on pieces of adjoining road network, site OBC-108 demonstrates elevated annual average levels recorded at **36.2µg/m3**.

It is essential that these monitoring levels are closely examined and suitable action is taken where necessary. Such action may involve amendments to the AQMA Order including revisions of the geographical boundary to encapsulate a wider area and reasoning for declaration.

Despite the referenced sites of concern, all other monitoring locations across Bridgend demonstrate compliance with the applicable NO_2 air quality objectives.

Despite the highlighted area of concern, compliance with the air quality objectives was achieved at all other monitoring locations.

5.2 Conclusions relating to New Local Developments/ Sources

The assessment of likely impacts from new local development, transport industrial, commercial/domestic and fugitive/uncontrolled sites concludes that there are no new/newly identified sources are likely to give rise to a significant impact on air quality within the County Borough.

5.3 Other Conclusions

There are no other conclusions to be drawn from the information provided herein.

5.4 Proposed Actions

SRS/ BCBC are working in accordance with WG's Policy Guidance to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

Work Steering Group and Public Engagement

In order to develop ideas and ensure an effective AQAP which considers all aspects, prioritising public health, an AQAP Work Steering Group has been put together consisting of representatives from Bridgend's various departments, as well as persons from the local PSBs.

In addition to works and discussions held by the AQAP Work Steering Group, a number of informal 'drop-in' sessions have been facilitated by SRS/ BCBC in December 2019 which provided opportunity for the public find out more about air quality in the area, AQAP updates and suggest ideas for the AQAP.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

Collaborating the ideas and suggestions made to date a list of proposed mitigation measures has been put together. Sub-section 1.3 displays Table 2 outlining proposed mitigation measures for the Park Street AQMA.

An indicative cost and benefit score has also been provided for each action in Table 3. The potential actions have been scored for cost benefit and the resulting rank in order to identify the most deliverable actions. Estimated costs (1 for high cost to 5 for low cost) were multiplied by a sum of the likely benefit from reducing pollution and people's exposure to the pollution (10 for high and 1 for low) to provide a score. The highest score shows the greatest cost benefit according to the opinions of the project team. The measures in Table 3 are listed in order of their ranking score (most deliverable at the top).

Following the indicative Cost Benefit Analysis it is agreed by the AQAP Work Steering Group to pursue mitigations options that will **manage and improve traffic flows through the Park Street AQMA.** Queuing and inconsistent traffic flows would appear to be the principal cause of the portrayed poor air quality levels. It is also concerning given the level of surrounding development

scheduled, there is the likelihood of increased pressure for the network and consequentially air quality levels along Park Street. It is necessary that in order to proceed with the development of a successful and meaningful AQAP the Council would need to make the decision whether to undertake detailed transport and air quality assessments to quantify and ensure that correct mitigation measures are implemented. A decision is yet to be made about progressing with the detailed modelling following the receipt of a few proposals from external consultants.

Furthermore, in view of developing an effective AQAP for the Park Street, Bridgend AQMA, the Ewenny Cross Roundabout AMS was decommissioned in 2019 with a view to be located to a new location on Park Street. In order to build a cohesive understanding for air quality data trends along Park Street, with particular focus upon nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), it is imperative that BCBC improve the air quality monitoring capabilities along Park Street by introducing an automated air quality monitoring system. The equipment will allow for air quality trends to be examined on a high temporal resolution basis and therefore be able to assist with underpinning those short term periods whereby raised levels of NO_2 are particularly prevalent. This data will be particularly useful in assigning traffic control measures for certain time periods. It is a priority that the written agreement between the Council and land owners is agreed as soon as possible so works can start on commissioning the new AMS.

References

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Appendices

Appendix A: Monthly Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results
Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management
Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

Appendix A: Monthly Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results

MONTHLY LEVELS OF NITROGEN DIOXIDE, BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH, 2 2019

RESULTS EXPRESSED IN MICROGRAMMES/CUBIC METRE (NR = NO RESULT)

Site No	Nitrogen Dioxide Sites, Bridgend CBC	Grid Ref	Class	Distance of measurement from Kerb (m)	Distance from Kerb to Receptor	Relevant Exposure in m	Background Concentration		08/01/2019 - 04/02/2019	04/02/2019 - 05/03/2019	05/03/2019 - 01/04/2019	1/04/2019 - 03/05/2019	03/05/2019-04/06/2019	04/06/2019 - 02/07/2019	02/07/2019 - 08/08/2019	08/08/2019 - 05/09/2019	05/09/2019 - 02/10/2019	02/10/2019 - 05/11/2019	05/11/2019 - 03/12/2019	03/12/2019- 07/01/2020	AVERA GE SINCE JAN 19	Bias Corrected (Correction Factor 0.75)	Annualised Result (if applicable)	Distance corrected to Facade (if applicable)	Percentage of Data Capture
TONDU ROAD ROUNDABOUT																									
OBC-107	17 Tondu Road, Bridgend	SS 2903047 179655	Roadside	2.00	2.00	0.00			57.3	51.7	53.4	39.5	36.3	32.2	34.4	36.0	37.0	43.6	48.3		42.7	**32.0**	**32.0**	**32.0**	92
OBC-108	43 Tondu Road , Bridgend	SS 2904147 179836	Kerbside	0.90	0.90	0.00			54.9	52.8	59.7	45.5	44.8	40.5	43.2	45.9	50.2	45.5	51	45.2	48.3	**36.2**	**36.2**	**36.2**	100
PARK STREET																									
OBC-102	4 Sunnyside	SS 290354 179807	Roadside	2.95	2.95	0.00			36.8	36.4	30.2	34.3	26.4	24.7	23.4	23.3	27.3	34.3	49.4	36.6	31.9	**23.9**	**23.9**	**23.9**	100
OBC-103	39 Park Street	SS 290250 179782	Kerbside	1.20	1.20	0.00			58.6	60.6	54	41.5	46.8	42.6	40.7	44.3	43.8	45.0	60.6	54.7	49.4	**37.1**	**37.1**	**37.1**	100
OBC-104	51 Park Street	SS 290286 179800	Kerbside	1.05	1.05	0.00			55.8	57	55.2	56.7	52.7	48.7	45.9		43.0	54.0	59.2	56.2	53.1	**39.8**	**39.8**	**39.8**	92
OBC-109	32 Park Street	SS 290239 179795	Roadside	7.5	7.5	0.00			39.6	26.8	27.9		23.3	21.3	18.8	18.6	21.5	25.9	36.5	31.4	26.5	**19.9**	**19.9**	**19.9**	92
OBC- 122	Post on St Leonards Road	SS 289919 179755	Kerbside	1.0	5.0	4.00	8.71		38.6	35.6	26.9	33.1	21.0	19.9		16.7		27.1		28.6	27.5	**20.6**	**20.6**	**16.7**	75
OBC- 123	93 Park Street Bridgend	SS 290014 179698	Kerbside	0.9	0.9	0.00			96.3	90.6	80.7	72.2	67.1	64.3	59.4	58.0	61.3	63.2	91.8	77.9	73.6	**55.2**	**55.2**	**55.2**	100
OBC- 124	133 Park Street	SS 289859 179710	Roadside	7.0	7.0	0.00			35.9	22.5	21.6	23.6	17.9	15.2	10.5	13.1	16.7	28.6	33.1	26.3	22.1	**16.6**	**16.6**	**16.6**	100
OBC-110	101/103 Park Street	SS 289988 179701	Kerbside	0.9	0.9	0.00			84.5	70	69.5	67.6	64.6	59.7	57.5	55.1	67.4	81.7	98.1	84.2	71.7	**53.7**	**53.7**	**53.7**	100
BRIDGEND CITY CENTRE																									
OBC-101	Bridgend City Centre	SS 290469 179837	Urban Centre	1.0	1	0.00			37.1	30.3	24.7			16.0	14.2	15.7	18.9	24.0	36.5	27.6	24.5	**18.4**	**18.4**	**18.4**	83
NOLTON STREET / EWENNY RD CROSS LINK/ A473 Cowbridge Road																									
OBC-111	01 Cowbridge Road	SS 290700 179305	Roadside	4.25	4.95	0.70			49.7	42.1	36.2	35.8	26.2	23.1		22.6	26.7	32.8	45.9	37.8	34.4	**25.8**	**25.8**	**25.8**	92
OBC- 105	65 Cowbridge Road	SS 290899 179185	Roadside	4.10	4.10	0.00				34.4	29.8	29	26.7	19.2	19.6	19.4	25.5	30.6	41.6	34.4	28.2	**21.2**	**21.2**	**21.2**	92
OBC- 106	38/40 Cowbridge Road	SS 290826 179210	Kerbside	0.90	4.20	3.30	11.8		61.0	45.7	40.3	37.6	33.7	27.4	26.1		29.7	39.1	51.7		39.2	**29.4**	**29.4**	**24.0**	83
OBC- 121	29 Heol Tre Derr	SS 291510 178734	Roadside	5.00	5.00	0.00			34.5	32.3	20.5	29.7	20.8	16.8	15.4	15.0	18.8	25.3	38.7	28.5	24.7	**18.5**	**18.5**	**18.5**	100
OBC-112	33 Cowbridge Road	SS 302974 180788	Kerbside	0.90	0.90	0.00			69.2		38.3	53.6	34.3	32.9	28.7	25.7			68.1		43.9	**32.9**	**36.2**	**36.2**	67
EWENNY ROUNDABOUT																									
OBC-088	Co-location - Tube 1	SS 290566 178566	Roadside	2.20	2.20	0.00			37.0	26.8	22	36.1	24.9	20.0	17.5	15.5	22.5	26.4	39.1	25.2	26.1	**19.6**	**19.6**	**19.6**	100
OBC-089	Co-location - Tube 2	SS 290566 178566	Roadside	2.20	2.20	0.00				35.2	21.3	33.4	24.5	19.4		18.5	22.0	26.9	41.1	29.0	27.1	**20.3**	**20.3**	**20.3**	83
OBC-090	Co-location - Tube 3	SS 290566 178566	Roadside	2.20	2.20	0.00			35.3	32.5	21.4	35.7	21.8		16.7	14.3	23.4	27.1	40.7	29.2	27.1	**20.3**	**20.3**	**20.3**	92
OBC-113	127 Priory Avenue	SS 290616 178394	Roadside	10.00	10.00	0.00			25.7	20.2	20.2	18.2	17.2	14.2	13.8	14.8	17.4	21.9	30.7	20.7	19.6	**14.7**	**14.7**	**14.7**	100
OBC-114	97 Ewenny Road	SS 290699 178596	Roadside	23.00	23.00	0.00			40.7	33.8	25.4	24.6	22.3	17.9	18.0	19.3	21.5	27.7	38.1	30.1	26.6	**20.0**	**20.0**	**20.0**	100
OBC-115	105 Ewenny Road	SS 290667 178529	Roadside	12.00	12.00	0.00			40.2	30.6	27.5	29.7	26.4	18.6	20.4	17.6	23.1	28.6	43.4	28.1	27.9	**20.9**	**20.9**	**20.9**	100
MAESTEG																									
OBC- 125	60 Commercial Street, Maesteg	SS 285299 191136	Roadside	2.0	2.0	0.00					30.2	28.3	23.9	22.9	19.5		23.5	22.8	22.8	31.5	25.0	**18.8**	**18.8**	**18.8**	75
COITY ROAD, BRIDGEND																									
OBC-097	22 Coity Road, Bridgend	SS 290687 180185	Roadside	5.30	5.30	0.00			45.3	29.6	30.3	36.6	32.3	26.7		22.9	26.4	32.50	43.0	37.60	33.0	**24.8**	**24.8**	**24.8**	92
OBC-098	26 Coity Road, Bridgend	SS 290681 180198	Roadside	4.20	4.20	0.00			41.7	32.2	32	28.7	24.7			24.7	25.7	30.30	39.9	29.60	31.0	**23.2**	**23.2**	**23.2**	83
OBC-099	42 Coity Road, Bridgend	SS 290663 180051	Roadside	5.60	5.60	0.00			37.8	33.4	27.8	35.8	26.6	21.5	20.9	20.4	24.8	31.30	42.3	33.30	29.7	**22.2**	**22.2**	**22.2**	100
OBC-100	11 Coity Road, Bridgend	SS 290623 180374	Roadside	4.10	4.10	0.00			44.1	38.7	34	27.1	27.7	22.9	24.3	23.3	24.9	30.70	35.2	31.70	30.4	**22.8**	**22.8**	**22.8**	100
PENCOED																									
OBC-116	20 Hendre Road, Pencoed	SS 295886 181642	Kerbside	0.90	0.90	0.00			32.9	33.3	28.6	29.1	24.8	21.8	20.7	20.1	23.0	28.90	40.0	29.70	27.7	**20.8**	**20.8**	**20.8**	100
OBC-117	47 Hendre Road, Pencoed	SS 295641 181687	Roadside	8.40	8.40	0.00			33	29.6	24.2	17.5	18.6	15.5	13.9	15.0	17.9	22.70	31.7	27.80	22.3	**16.9**	**16.9**	**16.9**	100
PORTHCAWL																									
OBC-119	48 New Road, Porthcawl	SS 282072 177126	Kerbside	10.00	10.00	0.00			23.1	17.1	15.6	23.4	12.4	10.3	9.7	9.6	11.3	15.40	28.9	20.80	16.5	**12.4**	**12.4**	**12.4**	100
OBC-120	105 New Road, Porthcawl	SS 282264 177237	Roadside	0.90	0.90	0.00			30	21.3	24.7	19.3	19.3	14.9		14.9	16.1	19.80	37.1	17.90	21.4	**16.0**	**16.0**	**16.0**	92
BRIDGEND TREMAINS ROAD																									
OBC-126	Tremains Road, Bridgend	SS 291125 179511	Roadside	8.20	8.20	0.00						22.1	26.1	21.0	20.3	21	25	28.4	39.9	32.7	26.2	**19.7**	**19.7**	**19.7**	75

Notes:

Exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean objective of 40µg/m^3 are shown in bold.

NO_2 annual means exceeding 60µg/m^3, indicating a potential exceedance of the NO_2 1-hour mean objective are shown in bold and underlined.

(1) See Appendix C for details on bias adjustment and annualisation.

(2) Distance corrected to nearest relevant public exposure.

Appendix B: A Summary of Local Air Quality Management

Purpose of an Annual Progress Report

This report fulfils the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process as set out in the Environment Act 1995 and associated government guidance. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are being achieved. Where exceedances occur, or are likely to occur, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare a DRAFT Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months, setting out measures it intends to put in place to improve air quality in pursuit of the air quality objectives. The AQAP must be formally adopted prior to 24 months has elapsed. Action plans should then be reviewed and updated where necessary at least every 5 years.

For Local Authorities in Wales, an Annual Progress Report replaces all other formal reporting requirements and have a very clear purpose of updating the general public on air quality, including what ongoing actions are being taken locally to improve it if necessary.

Air Quality Objectives

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Wales are set out in the Air Quality (Wales) Regulations 2000, No. 1940 (Wales 138), Air Quality (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2002, No 3182 (Wales 298), and are shown in Table 11.

The table shows the objectives in units of micrograms per cubic metre µg/m3 (milligrammes per cubic metre, mg/m3 for carbon monoxide) with the number of exceedences in each year that are permitted (where applicable).

Table 8– Air Quality Objectives Included in Regulations for the Purpose of LAQM in Wales

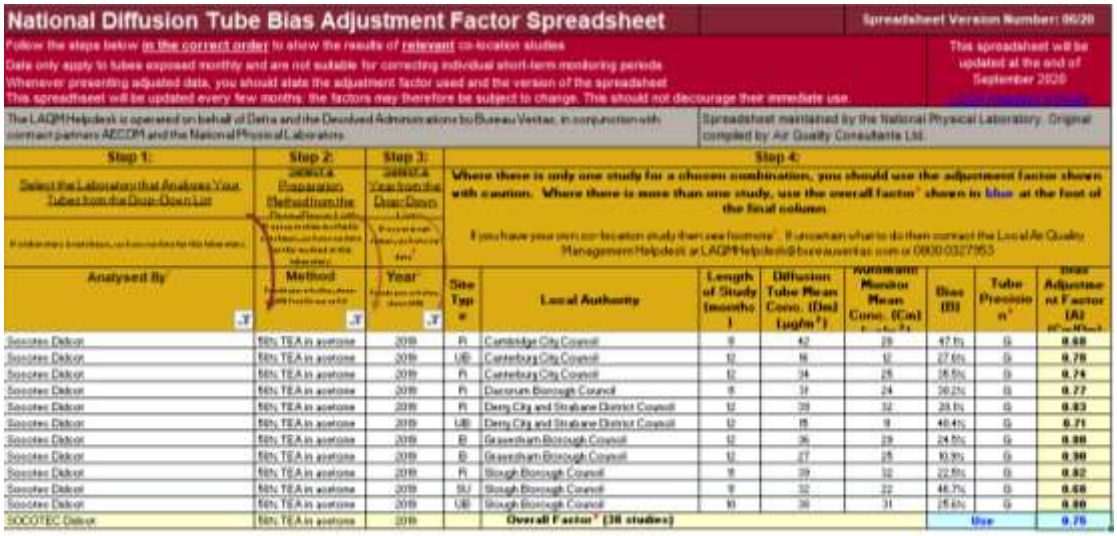
Pollutant	Air Quality Objective		Date to be achieved by
	Concentration	Measured as	
Benzene	16.25 µg/m^3	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
	5.00 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2011
1,3-butadiene	2.25 µg/m^3	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon monoxide	10 mg/m^3	Running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.50 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen dioxide	200 µg/m^3 not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2005
	40 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2005
Particulate matter (PM_{10}) (gravimetric)	50 µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	40 µg/m^3	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur dioxide	350 µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1-hour mean	31.12.2004
	125 µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	266 µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005

Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Data QA/QC

Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factors

A database of bias adjustment factors determined from Local Authority co-location studies throughout the UK has been collated by the LAQM Helpdesk. The National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet (Version 06/20) was used to obtain an overall adjustment factor of 0.75 from the input data shown in the following screenshot. This overall factor is based on 38 co-location studies where the tube preparation method and analysis laboratory used were the same as those used by BCBC.

Figure 21: National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet



National Diffusion Tube Bias Adjustment Factor Spreadsheet — Spreadsheet Version Number: 06/20

Follow the steps below in the correct order to show the results of relevant co-location studies
Data only apply to tubes exposed monthly and are not suitable for correcting individual short-term monitoring periods
Whenever presenting adjusted data, you should state the adjustment factor used and the version of the spreadsheet
This spreadsheet will be updated every few months: the factors may therefore be subject to change. This should not discourage their immediate use.

This spreadsheet will be updated at the end of September 2020

The LAQM Helpdesk is operated on behalf of Defra and the Devolved Administrations by Bureau Veritas, in conjunction with its main partners AECOM and the National Physical Laboratory

Spreadsheet maintained by the National Physical Laboratory. Original compiled by Air Quality Consultants Ltd.

Step 1: Select the Laboratory that Analyses Your Tubes from the Drop-Down List

Step 2: Select a Preparation Method from the Drop-Down List

Step 3: Select a Year from the Drop-Down List

Step 4: Where there is only one study for a chosen combination, you should use the adjustment factor shown with caution. Where there is more than one study, use the overall factor* shown in blue at the foot of the final column

If you have your own co-location study then see footnote*. If unsure what to do then contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk at LAQMHelpdesk@bureauveritas.com or 0800 0327953

Analysed By	Method	Year	Site Type	Local Authority	Length of Study (months)	Diffusion Tube Mean Conc. (Dm) (µg/m³)	Automatic Monitor Mean Conc. (Cm) (µg/m³)	Bias (B)	Tube Precision	Bias Adjustment Factor (A)
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	R	Cambridge City Council	9	42	29	47.5%	G	0.68
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	UB	Canterbury City Council	12	16	12	27.5%	G	0.78
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	R	Canterbury City Council	12	34	25	35.5%	G	0.74
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	R	Dacorum Borough Council	9	31	24	30.2%	G	0.77
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	R	Derry City and Strabane District Council	12	29	12	29.5%	G	0.83
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	UB	Derry City and Strabane District Council	12	15	9	40.4%	G	0.71
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	R	Gravesham Borough Council	12	36	19	24.5%	G	0.80
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	R	Gravesham Borough Council	12	27	25	30.3%	G	0.30
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	R	Slough Borough Council	9	39	32	22.5%	G	0.82
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	SU	Slough Borough Council	9	32	22	46.7%	G	0.68
Socotec Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019	UB	Slough Borough Council	10	36	31	15.6%	G	0.86
SOCOTEC Didcot	50% TEA in acetone	2019		Overall Factor* (38 studies)					blue	0.75

Discussion of Choice of Factor to use

The bias adjustment factor applied to all 2019 data is 0.75. The applied bias adjustment factor has been calculated using the national diffusion tube bias adjustment factor spreadsheet version 06/19. The National Bias Adjustment Factor supplied by the LAQM Defra website, based on 38 studies, which appointed Socotec UK Ltd Didcot laboratory, gave a figure of 0.75 and so this has been adopted for ratification purposes.

Short-Term to Long-Term Data Adjustment

Diffusion Tubes Adjustment

The Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) obtained via the use of passive diffusion tubes during January to December 2019 were annualised via the method described in Box 7.10 of LAQM TG(16). Long-term AURN urban background continuous monitoring sites, within a distance of approximately 50 miles from the diffusion tube sites impacted were selected.

Table 9– Long term AURN sites used for calculation of nitrogen dioxide annualisation ratio for Diffusion Tube OBC-112

Site	Site Type	Annual Mean (µg/m^3)	Period Mean (µg/m^3)	Ratio
Cwmbran AURN	Urban Background	11.76	10.69	1.10
Average Ratio				1.10

QA/QC of Diffusion Tube Monitoring

The diffusion tubes are supplied and analysed by Socotec UK Ltd Didcot, using the 50% triethanolamine (TEA) in water method. Socotec UK Ltd Didcot participates in the Annual Field Inter-Comparison Exercise and Workplace Analysis Scheme for Proficiency (WASP) inter-comparison scheme for nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube analysis. From April 2014 the WASP Scheme was combined with the STACKS scheme to form the new AIR scheme, which Socotec UK Ltd Didcot participates in. The AIR scheme is an independent analytical proficiency testing scheme operated by LGC Standards and supported by the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL).

The laboratory Socotec UK Ltd Didcot is regarded ranked as the highest rank of satisfactory in relation to the WASP intercomparison scheme for spiked nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes. Information regarding tube precision can be obtained via http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/diffusion-tubes/precision.html Information regarding WASP results can be obtained via http://laqm.defra.gov.uk/diffusion-tubes/qa-qc-framework.html

Glossary of Terms

Abbreviation	Description
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the LA intends to achieve air quality limit values'
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives
APR	Air quality Annual Progress Report
AURN	Automatic Urban and Rural Network (UK air quality monitoring network)
BCBC	Bridgend County Borough Council
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges – Air quality screening tool produced by Highways England
FDMS	Filter Dynamics Measurement System
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
PM_{10}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm (micrometres or microns) or less
$PM_{2.5}$	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
SO_2	Sulphur Dioxide

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

CROSS-PARTY RECOVERY PANEL - PHASE 1 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

a) Present Cabinet with the Phase 1 Findings and Recommendations of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel attached at **Appendix A** which have been endorsed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

b) Note that the work of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel will continue with regular reviews of the work to help ensure effectiveness and respond to any emerging issues.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 On 23 March 2020 the UK Government imposed a nationwide lockdown in an effort to help minimise the spread of coronavirus. The Council has undergone significant

change during this period, in that some services have been created, some services stopped and some staff have been redeployed.

3.2 The Chief Executive presented a report to the meeting of Cabinet on 30 June 2020 for a proposed approach to recovery planning from Covid-19. The recovery programme had the following 3 strands - Restart, Recover and Renew.

3.3 It was agreed at the meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2020 to establish a Cross-Party Recovery Panel. Membership of the Recovery Panel comprises the 12 Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee plus 4 additional Members: 2 Labour; 1 Independent Alliance and 1 Conservative, nominated by Group Leaders. The Panel was established with the aim of shaping, informing and advising Cabinet on the Council's recovery planning to form the basis of the recovery phase for the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.4 The Cross-Party Recovery Panel would select key areas for examination in greater depth and make recommendations to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for onward referral to Cabinet on 15 September 2020, noting the extremely short timescales in order to feed into the realignment of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and Corporate Plan going forward.

3.5 The Cross-Party Recovery Panel met on six occasions during August and were supported by the Senior Democratic Officer – Scrutiny, two Scrutiny Officers and the Group Manager Legal & Democratic Services. During its meetings, the Cross-Party Recovery Panel considered presentations from requested invitees including: Public Services Board (PSB) Team Officers; Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) Chief Executive, Operational Manager and a Community Navigator; the Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing and the Head of Adult Services; the Director of Bridgend County Care and Repair, and the Head of Partnership Services and Group Manager – Housing.

3.6 In Phase 1, the Cross-Party Recovery Panel has taken a structured approach to the selection of key areas from those identified for priority to feed into the recovery process and has identified key issues following examination.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 On 7 September 2020 the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the findings of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel and approved that the recommendations of the Panel should be forwarded to Cabinet as part of the recovery process, in order to feed into the realignment of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Corporate Plan.

4.2 The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee also considered the next steps proposed for the Recovery Panel and considered whether it wished the work of the

Panel to continue beyond September. It was acknowledged that the recovery of the County Borough following the Covid-19 pandemic is a significant and a complex programme that has a key role to play in the economic vitality and community resilience of the county borough and its residents. The Public Services Board Community Impact Assessment (CIA) will be published shortly and will outline a detailed assessment of the current circumstances faced by our communities. The Committee acknowledged that the seismic shifts in our living, working and studying arrangements will have significant consequences and, unfortunately, may impact disproportionately on those who are already most disadvantaged in our communities. The Committee therefore agreed that the work of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel should continue, with regular reviews of the work to help ensure effectiveness and respond to any emerging issues. It was noted that any further findings and recommendations will be referred to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for onward reporting to Cabinet.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 This item relates to the role of Overview & Scrutiny Committees as consultees in respect of the recovery process.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications directly attached to this report.

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

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 consideration and approval of this report will assist in the recovery process for both the short-term and in the long-term.

- Prevention - The consideration and approval of this report will assist in the Recovery process by approving and shaping preventative measures provided by Directorates to generate savings.

- Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.

- Collaboration - The consideration and approval of this report will assist in the recovery process by approving and shaping collaboration and integrated working.

- Involvement - Publication of the report ensures that the public and

stakeholders can review the work that has been undertaken by Recovery Panel Members.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is requested to:

a) Consider the findings and recommendations of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel (**Appendix A**) which have been endorsed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the recovery process, in order to feed into the realignment of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Corporate Plan going forward and;

b) Note that the work of the Cross-Party Recovery Panel will continue and further recommendations will be reported to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for approval.

Contact officer: Scrutiny Team

Telephone: 01656 643263

Email: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Democratic Services - Scrutiny
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background Documents: None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CROSS-PARTY RECOVERY PANEL – COVID-19 PANDEMIC
PHASE 1 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A summary of the outcomes from the Cross-Party Recovery Panel meetings to date is set out below:

2. Meeting 1 - 4 August 2020

2.1. The Panel appointed Cllr Stuart Baldwin as Chairperson and Councillor Tim Thomas as Vice-Chairperson and accepted the Terms of Reference agreed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2. Officers from Audit Wales introduced themselves and explained that they were attending the meeting as part of a wider piece of work observing Local Authorities recovery planning for assurance. They had also agreed to use their 2019 Discussion Paper: Six themes to help make scrutiny 'Fit for the Future' as a platform to provide some guidance to the Panel on its next steps. They reminded the Panel of the themes within the paper, including: the rigour with which scrutiny is prioritised and planned; responding to current and future challenges may need different approaches to supporting committee members, and; evaluating the effectiveness of scrutiny.

2.3. The Panel discussed the following:

- The benefit of smaller group work such as task and finish groups having a key impact on scrutiny, but most scrutiny work being undertaken through Committees.
- Lack of resources can make good scrutiny difficult, previous under resourcing potentially devalued scrutiny.
- Panel being asked to look at community support and developing resources when the Economic task Force providing Training and Support.
- Scrutiny outcomes and recommendations needing to be more specific and focussed.

2.4. Selection of Key Issues to examine in Greater Depth

- The Panel were reminded of the 10 key priorities identified in the list reported to Cabinet, the request to avoid duplication of work with the Economic Task Force, Budget Research and Evaluation Panel, the need to consider the essential criteria when identifying and selecting key areas of work to examine in greater depth and the challenging window of opportunity for key areas of focus to be examined and Recommendations fed back to Cabinet in September in order to feed into the realignment of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Corporate Plan.

- The Panel were reminded that members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee were keen for the Panel at one of its earliest meetings to meet with the Public Service Board (PSB) Team support officers to discuss the focus of the Community Impact Assessment and the expert witnesses it may wish to hear from. The findings of the assessment may indicate key areas that the Panel may wish to consider examining in greater depth beyond September (subject to the agreement of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

- The Panel discussed and explored a number of potential key areas including:

  - Key priorities 5, 6 and 7 identified in the list to Cabinet and listed below were considered to be important:

    5 - Homelessness: provision and services post lockdown;
    6 - Supporting the most vulnerable, and those who care for them, including nurturing the excellent relationship with the Third Sector and developing and enhancing community resilience;
    7 - Stopping the spread and return of the virus: Health and Safety; provision of a stockpile of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); ongoing Contact Tracing;

    It was acknowledged that each of the above were wide areas of focus, and could not all be realistically examined in the time available for Recommendations to Cabinet in September.

  - Reopening Schools in September – whilst there was some concern about the challenge of returning all pupils safely within 2 weeks of starting back, it was accepted that the Panel would not be able to make its recommendations to Cabinet until two weeks after the Schools had returned. The Panel acknowledged that plans were in place and Governing Bodies that Members sat on were already preparing for this work.

  - Responding to the economic crisis – it was accepted that this would be within the remit of the Economic Task Force and duplication of work should be avoided.

  - Future sustainability of culture, leisure and green spaces should be added to the list of key priorities identified in the Cabinet report. 586 people had responded to the Bridgend Open Spaces Survey and 93% felt that during lockdown green space helped their personal, family health and mental health. It was accepted that this was not an area of focus to be explored in greater depth at this time.

  - People, Performance and Finance were proposed as key areas for examination in greater depth but again it was acknowledged that these were wide areas of focus and could not realistically be examined in the time available to report Recommendations to Cabinet in September. With Finance, there was a potential for duplication with work of the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel and Economic Task Force.

- The need to have a clear understanding of the remit of the Economic Task Force and BREP to help avoid duplication.

- It would be useful to invite PSB Officers to present to the panel as soon as possible regarding the Community Impact Assessment that is being undertaken.

- The opportunity to speak to Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) about the volunteers in the community and their capacity and resilience, as the Community Impact assessment may not get to those hard to reach people, and some people coming out of shielding had become more dependent and or vulnerable and volunteers were becoming unavailable as they returned to work.

- Services for the most vulnerable in communities / potential for care homes to close / the impact of a second phase upon capacity for vulnerable people.

- What had been done so far, what could be done better and what is needed if there is a second spike.

- The importance of childcare places and the impact on parents returning to work safely.

Recommendation 1

The Panel recommends that the future sustainability of culture, leisure and green spaces should be added to the list of key priorities that were identified in the recovery planning Cabinet report of 30 June 2020, in order to facilitate health, exercise and wellbeing.

Recommendation 2

The Panel recommends that the Economic Taskforce training that had already been offered to businesses should be offered to the Third Sector and Charities, to avoid duplication of effort.

Recommendation 3

The panel recommends that through the Welsh Government Procurement, all organisations providing care across the County Borough have access to suitable and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) following Welsh Government and Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines, for the activity being undertaken.

3. Meeting 2 - 7 August 2020

3.1. Public Service Board (PSB) Team Officers were invited to the meeting to update the Panel on the PSB Community Impact Assessment (CIA), its scope and timetable and answer the Panel's questions.

3.2. The Panel discussed the following:

- The draft CIA should be ready by 4 September, to be formally approved by the PSB on 21 September and ready for publication after that.

- Clarification that there were two phases; Phase 1 was the work identified at the previous meeting and following lines of inquiry, before feeding back the Panel's Recommendations in the short term to the COSC and Cabinet in September. The PSB's Community Impact Assessment would be useful for the Panel to examine before refining the areas it wished to examine in greater depth beyond September (subject to the agreement of COSC).

- It was requested that the Panel have sight of the draft CIA available in early September, to assist the Panel with refining the key area of focus post September.

- Consideration that the R number was much higher outside Bridgend and the need to make sure that services were more localised and appropriate for the County Borough. Where possible data would be sought at a lower level, in order to understand the impact of different communities within local authorities, both geographically and in communities of interest.

- Whether information requested by the third sector would be received by the necessary deadline. The PSB could talk to BAVO if there were any gaps in information.

- Whether Town Centre Public Survey results could feed into the CIA. The PSB Support Officers confirmed that they would work with the Authority's Communications Team to get the survey quickly to feed in as many local views as possible.

- Whether Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) would feed into the CIA. The request for Information had been sent to all the RSLs, so far there had been a good response and any gaps would be identified and they could go back out if need be, recognising the importance of getting as many people's views as possible.

- Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) comprised a third of the population of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board but had disproportionately less Covid-19 cases and whether good practice was being shared between the three local authority areas.

- Difficulties of getting in touch with the hard to reach to find out the real impact of the pandemic. The reliance on partners such as the Wallich, Pobl and others to get that information back and the Area Planning Board regarding how to engage with substance misuse service users.

- Whether paid or sponsored advertising across media platforms had been considered, but this did not reach the very hard to reach but could be discussed with the CIA task and finish group on 18 August.

- Covid-19 had resulted in loneliness, isolation and mental health concerns were rising, plus there was a cohort of young people leaving education without employment opportunities and fewer interactions socially, all of whom needed to be reached. The CIA should gain evidence upon these challenges to target the areas with joint interventions.

- Vulnerable Groups had been concerned about the lack of contact and support and how harder to reach people can be reached and asked that this be taken back to the PSB.

- Evergreen Hall had six months of funding to put together a monthly newsletter to keep membership connected which could be circulated to anyone who requested it include relevant information which could be taken back to the PSB Task and Finish Group.

- Engagement with blind and partially sighted relied upon partners including the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum and the third Sector or Health Workers that engaged with people with a range of disabilities.

- Clarification that Care and Repair were part of the wider partnership of the Regional Partnership Board through Health and Social Care.

- Bridgend Care and Repair had a further 3 years funding from Welsh Government to support people aged 50 plus who may be living with sight loss, hearing loss, dementia or a stroke survivor which could be a key line of enquiry.

4. Meeting 3 – 12 August 2020

4.1. The Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) Chief Executive, Operational manager and a Community Navigator presented to the panel the background to the development by BAVO over the past few years, the response to the impact of Covid-19 across Communities and the third Sector and answered questions regarding the support provided to the most vulnerable / shielded people that BAVO had coordinated through volunteers for shopping / prescription collection, etc. including the challenges of:

- The effect austerity had had on people, communities and organisations including local authorities and the third sector, with funding being

substantially reduced over the past decade and the move to a more competitive tendering process meaning that the local third sector struggled to get the investment they needed.

- A backdrop of more and more referrals going to the Third sector from: the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), GPs, Social Services, Mental Health teams and Employability Projects, providing an uncoordinated and pressured environment for the Third Sector with no investment to go with it.

- BAVO had some conversation with the Third sector organisations who were struggling, taking more and more people on with less funding available and a conversation took place about how BAVO could support change, to develop more coordination in communities and develop more resilience in people and organisations, by going through a change model to identify what key things were needed to develop resilience in communities.

- They used a two-pronged approach. Third sector organisations needed infrastructure support in terms of development, having up to date polices, safeguarding training, funding advice, to have volunteers matched to them with a particular level of skills so it did not impact on training costs. The other side was how to provide people in need with the best signposting support, try and maintain their wellbeing and maintain independence and a programme called Resilient Connected Communities was awarded Transformation Grant funding in June 2019.

- This started a recruitment process getting development support, volunteer support, an activator, who would help individuals in Communities who might want to set up something that's not a formal constituted group, but help that individual push some community activity forward. The other side was some integrated care funding to support a team of Navigators. They were the ones that provided the one to one 'What matters conversations' with individuals and signposted them into the relevant groups.

- Alongside all of this, there was also monies for grants so BAVO were not going empty handed to groups. They were able to invest in them through the transformation programme because there were grants available and they were constantly looking for funding to divert to the third sector, so it was not a burden on the local authority but was adding strength and adding value to the Third sector work.

- There were five community Navigators and a Broker, within the common access point and so there was a direct link there and the Navigators each took a different area of the county. During Covid-19, BAVO were able to redeploy the whole team to work around those Navigators and that included the volunteers recruited so that meant the Navigators were able to be very responsive in terms of diverting people into organisations for support, where they existed, during Covid-19. A lot of groups had gone to

ground and if they weren't able to be diverted to a group, we were able to get a volunteer deployed to help them.

4.2. The Panel discussed the following:

- Declining volunteer numbers as people return to work;
- Necessary signposting and /or referral of those supported to community resources and or services;
- Increased fragility / declining mobility of some vulnerable people during shielding / lockdown;
- Identifying and communicating with hard to reach vulnerable people regarding support;
- Shielding coming to an end on 16th August and the communication;
- Planning support for a potential second peak of the virus;
- How volunteers have been contacted to ask whether they wished to remain on the volunteer database for a potential future wave or crisis;
- Welsh Government (WG) Funding provided via the Transformation grant ending March 2021;
- Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) holding the Recovery budget rather than locally for local decisions.

Recommendation 4

The Panel recommended that Cabinet formally approach and enter into discussions with Welsh Government in respect of funding to be held locally as local volunteer organisations should have a say in how that money is spent in their Communities, rather than it being held by the WCVA.

Recommendation 5

The Panel recommends that no further cuts are placed on Third Sector funding and that a whole Council approach to funding the Third Sector be adopted. The Panel also recommends that the appropriate resources be put in place for BAVO to facilitate this.

Recommendation 6

The Panel recommends that Cabinet approach Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to understand their Covid-19 plan in relation to both Primary and Secondary health care plans and obtains copies of these.

Recommendation 7
The Panel noted the Covid-19 impact on people with dementia in Wales and the massive deterioration seen in sufferers and noted that BAVO had worked with BCBC on developing Dementia friendly communities, but that funding was coming to an end soon, and would be reverting back to the Alzheimer's Society. The Panel therefore recommended that Cabinet write to Welsh Government to ensure that this is adequately funded.

Recommendation 8
The Panel recommended that Cabinet engage with Welsh Government on the continued financial support to eradicate homelessness and the use of more innovative approaches for organisations to do that.

5. Meeting 4 - 18 August 2020

5.1. The Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing and the Head of Adult Services presented to the Panel and answered questions regarding the impact of Covid-19 upon vulnerable / shielded Adult Services service users, particularly in Residential Care homes in the county borough, PPE provision / planning ahead for a potential second wave of Covid-19, including the challenges of:

- Both in-house and independent residential care that had been at the forefront of caring for vulnerable people and those who contracted the virus.
- Domiciliary care that continued to provide personal care and support to people in their homes through the use of PPE and the continued use of PPE for the foreseeable future.
- The impact of Covid-19 upon Care homes.
- Supported Living Services (individuals with learning disabilities living in the community in a 24-hour domiciliary setting).
- Adult Services had very detailed business continuity plans in place across the whole of their services from the beginning of the pandemic meeting frequently to review plans for staffing levels, risks and some core businesses.
- Adult Safeguarding Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) had continued, with the majority of work undertaken remotely by core staff working from home and occasional visits to the office for discussions with the team.
- Mental Health Services continued to attend situations.

- Working together with the Health Board and Care Inspectorate Wales to achieve a common goal.

5.2. In the second part of the meeting, the Agency Director, Bridgend County Care and Repair was invited to the meeting and gave a brief summary of the work undertaken. This included providing a service to older people to repair, adapt and maintain their homes, providing a home visiting service, providing help to fund building works for adaptations, and advising and helping to apply for welfare benefits and answered questions upon the impact of Covid-19 upon services particularly in respect of adaptations and the impact upon delayed transfers of care.

5.3. The Panel discussed the following:

- Ensuring workers had the necessary support to stay home rather than feel obliged to go to work should they have Covid-19 symptoms during a second spike.

- Regulations around statutory sick pay and lobbying private sector partners in the care sector to bolster sick pay.

- Changes in practices due to Covid-19 e.g. telesupport, working with BAVO and links with Welsh Government regarding funding.

- People in the community with dementia and Alzheimer's who required specialist support and whose health had been debilitated considerably by the Covid-19 situation.

- Reducing the burden on the service using methods that would enable people to become more self-sufficient in the event of a second spike.

- Testing regime of staff who were working directly with the public.

- Disposal of PPE and the wearing of gloves.

- Third sector and community groups support in the event of a second spike.

- Those who had accessed Mental Health Services in Bridgend during Covid-19.

- The process of procurement in the discharge of patients from hospital and alleviating the so-called 'bed blocking'.

- Partnerships between Care & Repair and the local authority.

- Relationship with registered social landlords and private landlords.

- Turnover of adaptations made to properties

Recommendation 9
The Panel recommends to Cabinet that a holistic Service Level Agreement is set-up between the Authority and BAVO.

Recommendation 10
The Panel recommend that Cabinet investigate the establishment of an adapted housing register that works with all partners and covers the whole County Borough area.

6. Meeting 5 - 20 August 2020

6.1. The Head of Partnerships and Performance and Group Manager – Housing, were invited to attend the meeting to update the Panel and answer questions regarding the impact of Covid-19 upon Homelessness in the county borough, the current position and future plans including WG potential funding bids and the challenges of:

- The expectation of the WG on all local authorities to ensure that no individual was street homeless and provided with suitable temporary accommodation with en-suite facilities and where possible access to their own kitchen.
- Housing team had been under pressure to respond to WG directives quickly.
- WG Directives on reduced units within current provision where there were shared facilities.
- Excellent examples of collaboration and partnership working with the Wallich and Pobl.
- Predominant need was for 1 bed accommodation.
- Areas with the highest need were Bridgend town Centre, followed by Porthcawl, Kenfig Hill and Cornelly.
- WG under pressure to revise its homeless approach.
- Capital and revenue bids had been put forward to the WG.
- Not about a roof, but to have a holistic approach supporting individuals.

6.2. The Panel discussed the following:

- Homelessness is one of the outcomes of the pandemic and there is a need to have wraparound services in place to support people.
- Increase of homelessness was also as a result of the impact of welfare benefit changes and the impact of the spare room subsidy.

- That as a result of the collaboration with the Council's partners, this had resulted in street homeless people being looked after during the pandemic and that it had also kick started schemes.

- It was not a one size which fits all as there are concerns that services need to be put in place to support people with substance and alcohol misuse.

- Concerns of the impact on the Bridgend town centre of people not having anywhere to go during the day.

- Difficulties as the Council does not have its own housing stock and had to rely on hotels for homeless people.

- Concerns at the cost of putting people up in hotels.

- More people would present as homeless during a second wave of the pandemic.

- A more formal arrangement was needed with V2C to access Social Housing Grant.

- The potential conversion of 3 bed houses which were voids into one bed flats.

- Whether surplus Council land could be provided to RSLs to develop appropriate housing.

- Proposals for the use of surplus land for modular bids and the infrastructure needed to support people. The development of a rapid rehousing protocol with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in order to move people out of hotels and into different accommodation, but that RSLs look at former tenant arrears and may refuse accommodation.

- The Panel considered that the Memorandum of Understanding the Council has with RSLs needs to be reviewed.

- Concern at the lack of suitable accommodation being made available by RSLs during the pandemic in which homeless people could have been housed.

- Disappointment that some of the RSLs had furloughed staff when customers still needed their support which there was a social responsibility to fulfil. This reduced the capacity to deal with repairs and be able to repair significant numbers of void properties and make them available.

- The need for greater co-operation with and for more support from RSLs, particularly the need for a closer and more effective working relationship with V2C.

- Questioned the Corporate Contingency Strategic Plan for a potential second wave of Covid-19 for example what had been learned from the first phase, what was done well, what wasn't done well, what opportunities exist with CSP's with Health, Local Authority and Police partners and what can they do to improve and support this contingency plan. How will the plan be funded, what Capital funding is available for set up costs e.g. to support BAVO to fill a void and what revenue do we require to deliver this plan and ultimately who will be responsible for delivering this plan. If WG announced next week there is total lockdown, all contingencies are in place and ready for delivery. The plan should be communicated across the county borough.

Recommendation 11
The Panel recommend that Cabinet write to Valleys to Coast expressing its disappointment of their level of cooperation during Covid-19.

Recommendation 12
The Panel recommend that Cabinet write to Welsh Government regarding the decision of Registered Social Landlords to furlough their staff at a time of need, which has impacted on other public services.

Recommendation 13
The Panel recommend to Cabinet that the targeting of Social Housing Grant should be considered to develop housing options for the homelessness and people with support, to enable them to access suitable accommodation.

Recommendation 14
That BCBC prepares a corporate contingency strategic Covid-19 plan that will involve all statutory partners and Third Sector support networks in line with their individual responsibilities to the citizens of the County Borough of Bridgend.

Recommendation 15
The Panel recommend that Cabinet revisit the Authority's policy on the disposal of surplus land which could be made available for the development of affordable housing, in line with Welsh Government guidelines.

Recommendation 16
The Panel recommend that Cabinet consider exploring the potential of Bridgend County Borough Council becoming a Cooperative Council.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES - COMMUNITIES

PORTHCAWL WATERFRONT REGENERATION SCHEME : SALT LAKE AND SANDY BAY SITES

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to :

1.1 Update Cabinet on the Local Development Plan candidate site submission and proposed land use framework for this strategic scheme.

1.2 Update Cabinet on the proposed marketing of the food retail site on part of The Green and Salt Lake car park.

1.3 Seek a formal resolution to authorise officers to commence all necessary steps to acquire land to support the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration project, including steps preparatory to serving a Compulsory Purchase Order.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** –. taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 There are two landholdings within the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration site which the major landowners are keen to promote for development and subsequent disposal:

1. Land at the Salt Lake car park site (phase 1) which is exclusively owned by the Council.
2. Substantial landholdings at the Coney Beach and Sandy Bay sites (phase 2), owned by the Council and another major landowner.

3.2 This report highlights some of the next steps in the delivery of this project.

4. Current Proposals

4.1 Local Development Plan

4.1.1 The site is currently allocated for mixed development within the existing Local Development Plan. This allocation is supported by adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), often referred to as the "Seven Bays Project – Porthcawl Waterfront SPG". The site has been put forward a as a candidate site for consideration as part of the replacement Local Development Plan 2018-2033 (LDP).

4.1.2 The Bridgend County Borough Local Development Plan 2018-2033 Preferred Consultation Document identifies the Porthcawl Regeneration scheme as a strategically important site. To evidence the deliverability and viability of the site the major landowners have produced a draft land use framework and masterplan for consideration as part of the LDP process. This work is supported and informed by a suite of technical evidence that has been commissioned by the landowners. The proposed mix of land uses and quantum of development are similar to those within the existing SPG and include mixed use of residential, leisure, retail, commercial, open space, car parking and active travel routes. The land use plan is shown at Appendix 1.

4.2 Foodstore Site

4.2.1 As a first stage in bringing the phase 1 scheme forward on the Salt Lake car park land, the Council is intending to market a food retail site of circa 2.2 acres on the northern portion of The Green and Salt Lake car park site. Appendix 2 shows the outline of the site edged in red.

4.2.2 A development brief has been approved by Development Control Committee setting out the acceptable planning parameters. It is intended that a store of up to 2,322 sq.m (Gross Internal Area) with all necessary parking spaces will be accommodated on the site. The development brief provides a series of design principles that identify aspects of design which are considered important to the Council whilst providing the future developer (and their design team) ample scope for interpretation and innovation. These principles reflect an overall requirement for a high quality and bespoke design response given the gateway location of the site. The disposal bidding process will require compliance with the Development Brief. The site will be sold by way of a long leasehold, in order that there is landowner control to ensure that the site is not "land banked" and the development is built out in accordance with the development brief and in a timely fashion.

4.2.3 It is anticipated that the marketing will commence in early Autumn 2020 and bids will be received and appraised by the end of the calendar year. A further report will be submitted to Cabinet in the new year, providing an update and seeking approval to dispose of the site.

4.2.4 The food store site forms a key element of the wider masterplan that has been worked up for the Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration Scheme and is intended to act as a precursor to, and catalyst for, future phases of development across the wider site.

4.3 Land Acquisition and Compulsory Purchase Order

4.3.1 Within the Phase 2 Sandy Bay and Coney Beach sites, the major land owners are keen to bring their landholdings forward for disposal. There are some unoccupied land parcels where title needs to be cleansed or which are in third party ownership and need to be acquired.

4.3.2 The Council will attempt to acquire the third party land through negotiated agreements. However, it may not be possible to acquire the third party land by agreement and if necessary the Council will use its powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to acquire land within the red edged boundary and as shown in Appendix 3.

4.3.3 Section 226(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides (in part) that:

> *(1) A local authority to whom this section applies shall, on being authorised to do so by the Secretary of State, have power to acquire compulsorily any land in their area*
> *(a) if the authority think that the acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of development, re-development or improvement on or in relation to the land,*
> *(b) which is required for a purpose which it is necessary to achieve in the interests of the proper planning of an area in which the land is situated.*
> *(1A) But a local authority must not exercise the power under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) unless they think that the development, re-development or improvement is likely to contribute to the achievement of any one or more of the following objects—*
> *(a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of their area;*
> *(b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of their area;*
> *(c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of their area.*

4.3.4 The above power is a positive planning power, which the Council may use to acquire land to achieve development, redevelopment or improvement or to achieve the interests of the proper planning of the area.

4.3.5 These powers are capable of applying to the wide variety of uses proposed within the scheme including residential, commercial, leisure, open spaces, car parking, education and transport infrastructure.

4.3.6 The current LDP and SPG and the draft LDP land use framework set out the planning policy and support the regeneration aspirations.

4.3.7 A resolution of the Cabinet is sought, in order to authorise officers to commence work on all steps which may lead to the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire the land edged red and which include the sites edged red, which are in third party, disputed or unknown ownership, as shown in Appendix 3. The purchase of this land is required in order to enable comprehensive and strategic regeneration of the area, as opposed to piecemeal development.

4.3.8 An acquiring authority should be sure that the purposes for which a compulsory purchase order is made justifies interfering with the human rights of those with an interest in the land affected. Particular consideration should be given to the provisions of Article 1 of the First Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights and, in the case of a dwelling, Article 8 of the Convention in deciding to make a compulsory purchase order.

4.3.9 None of the land included affects residential or business properties or businesses and all of the sites are unoccupied. Voluntary negotiations have been or will be entered into before the formal proceedings are commenced. It is considered in this case that the purchase of the land can be addressed through provision of compensation and there is no negative impact on the human rights of the land owners. If the relevant land cannot be acquired by agreement a further report will be made to Cabinet to request authority to make a compulsory purchase order.

5 Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The proposals will not have an impact on the Council's policies or procedures.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 It is not considered that there are any Human Rights implications arising from the contents of this report; as the report outlines the current position on the LDP and the Foodstore Site and only seeks to authorise officers to take all necessary steps to acquire the relevant land, including preparatory steps in relation to a compulsory acquisition A full Equality Impact Assessment will be provided to Cabinet if there is a need to report back to request authority to make a CPO.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment based on the 5 ways of working has been considered and there are no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of wellbeing goals/objectives.

- Long term - The Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration is a strategic development scheme which has the potential to add vibrancy to the locality through the provision of new housing, leisure and tourism opportunities, as well as retail and commercial developments; set within appropriate open space, parking and public realm.
- Prevention – the current Waterfront sites are largely unoccupied and under-utilised and detract from the attractiveness of the area.
- Integration – the Waterfront development will integrate with and access to the existing town centre, sea front and leisure developments.
- Collaboration – the Council will collaborate with residents, visitors and end users of this project to ensure successful and sustainable development and outcomes.
- Involvement – ongoing engagement with the community will be an important facet of this project.

8 Financial implications

8.1 It is anticipated that the sale of the food store on the Salt Lake car park site will generate a capital receipt. In November 2018 Council resolved to use this receipt to invest in approved infrastructure improvements within the Porthcawl Regeneration project, including the upgrading of the Hillsborough Car park which serves the town centre.

8.2 The acquisition of land on the Sandy Bay / Coney Beach site will have a cost, including any compensation to be paid. The costs are to be shared between the major land owners. No funding has yet been approved for this and a separate report will be brought to Cabinet and Council, for funding to be included within the Capital Programme, should this proceed.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 To note the intention to submit a landuse framework as part of the Local Development Plan process for the Porthcawl Regeneration scheme.

9.2 To note the proposed marketing of the sale of land forming part of The Green and Salt Lake car park for use as a food store site

9.3 To approve the making of a resolution to authorise officers to take all necessary steps to acquire the land edged red on the attached plan, including all preparatory steps for making a compulsory purchase order for the purposes of enabling the comprehensive development of the Porthcawl Regeneration Scheme.

Zak Shell
Head of Operational Services
15th September

Contact officer: Fiona Blick
Casual Strategic Asset Manager

Telephone: (01656) 642702

Email: Fiona.blick@bridgend.gov.uk

Background documents: None

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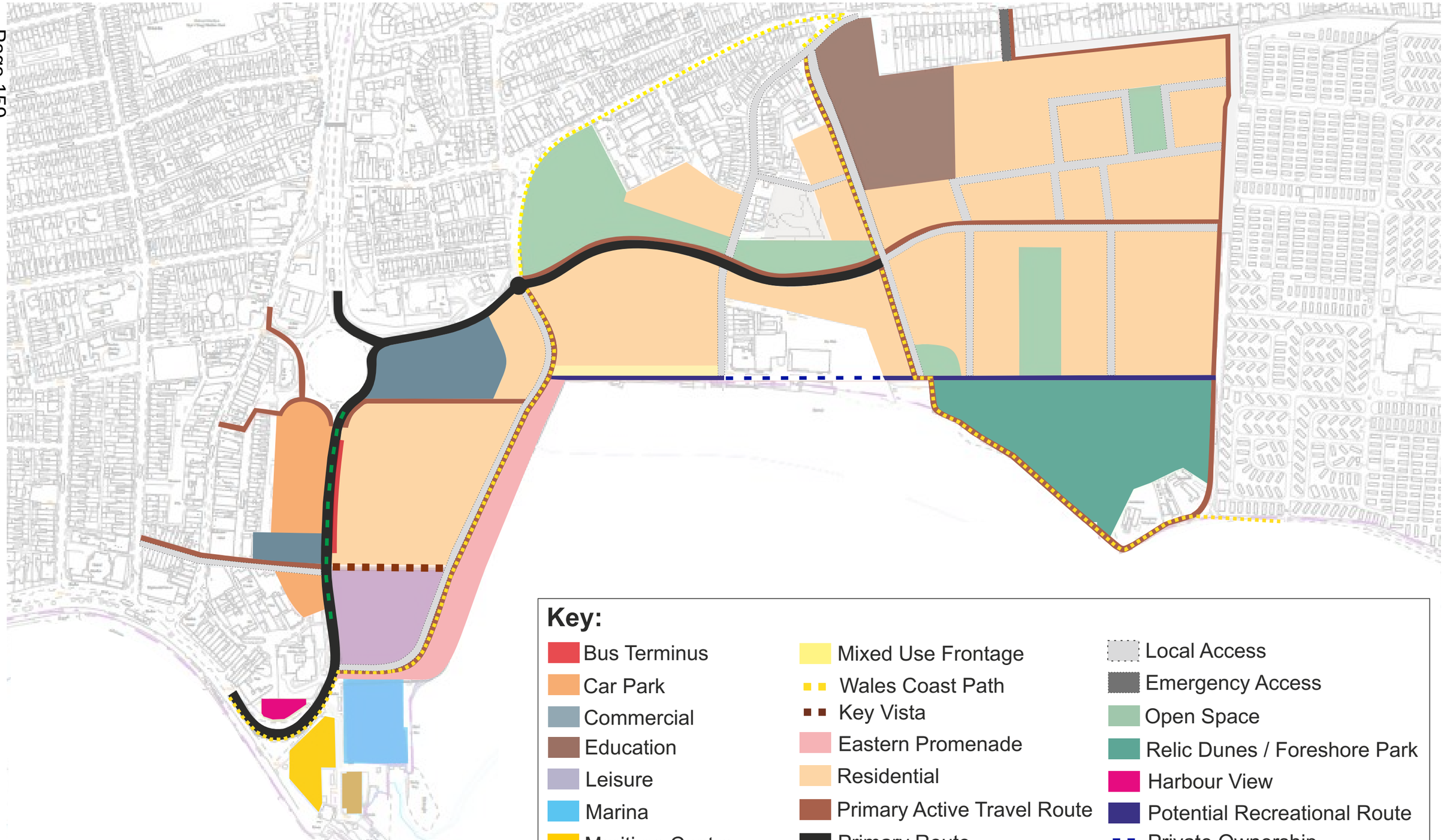
Porthcawl Waterfront Regeneration



Key:

- Bus Terminus
- Car Park
- Commercial
- Education
- Leisure
- Marina
- Maritime Centre
- Jennings Building
- Mixed Use Frontage
- Wales Coast Path
- Key Vista
- Eastern Promenade
- Residential
- Primary Active Travel Route
- Primary Route
- Portway Boulevard
- Local Access
- Emergency Access
- Open Space
- Relic Dunes / Foreshore Park
- Harbour View
- Potential Recreational Route
- Private Ownership

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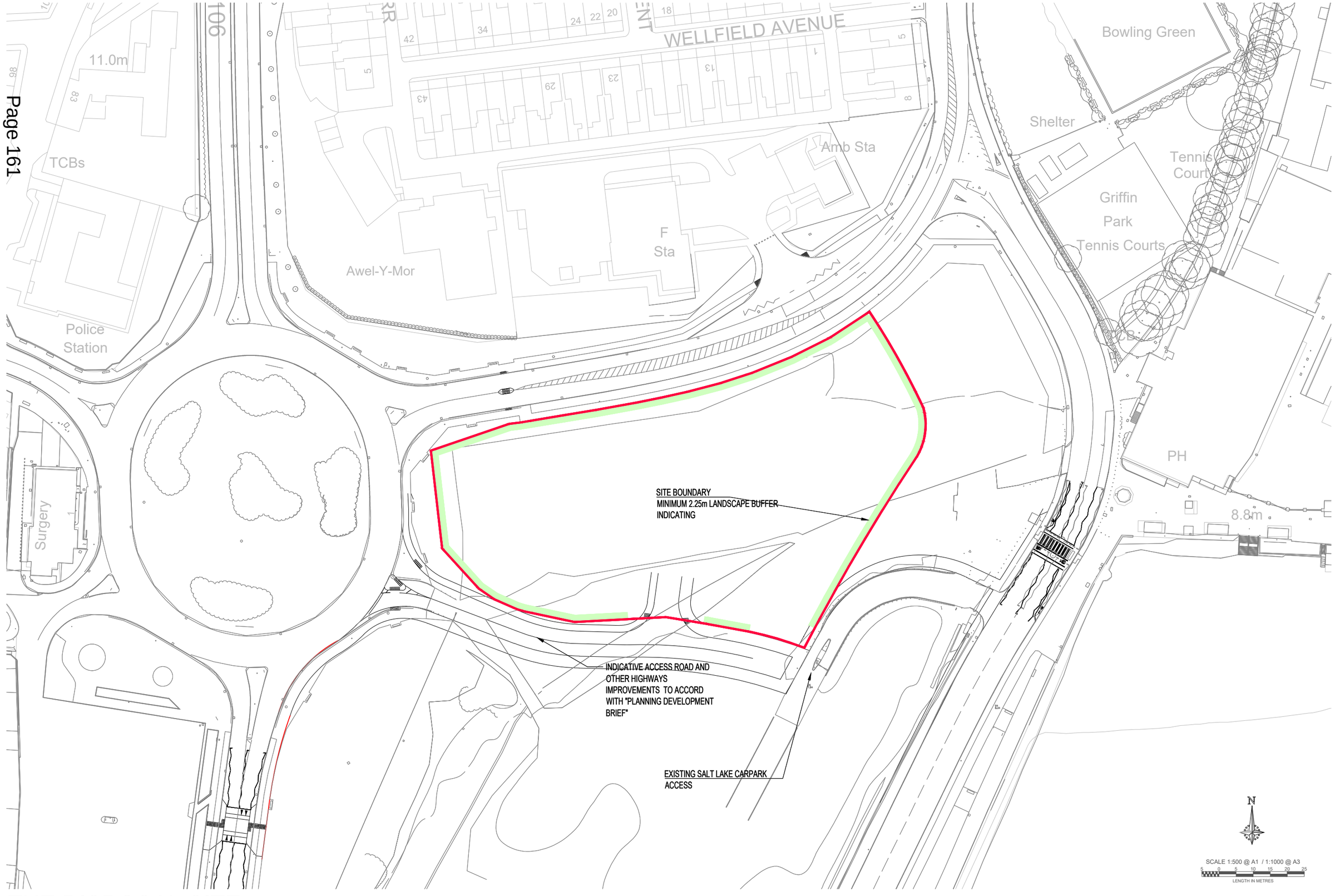

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Corporate Director - Communities
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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER - FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

AN IN-HOUSE SERVICE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to bring the drop in provision and floating support / support in the community elements of Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) funded domestic abuse provision in-house, to be delivered directly by BCBC.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective / objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

1. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

2. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 BCBC currently funds a range of domestic abuse services through an externally commissioned contract. The Integrated Domestic Abuse Services contract comprises the following provision:

- Women's refuge
- Move on accommodation
- Drop in provision part of BCBC's 'Assia Suite'
- Floating support / support in the community
- Children and Young Persons Service – this element of the service is an annual option. A decision is made by December each year as to whether provision will continue in the following financial year.

3.2 Inclusive of the Children and Young Persons' Service the current annual contract value is £420,371.45. The Integrated Domestic Abuse Services contract is primarily funded by BCBC's Housing Support Grant. The Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate contribute £17,808 to the Children and Young Persons' Service.

3.3 Following previous approval from Cabinet on 17th September 2019 to continue service delivery, the current Integrated Domestic Abuse Services contract expires on 30th April 2021.

3.4 In addition to the above services, BCBC also directly employs three Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs), who work alongside the external provider of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Services contract as part of the 'Assia Suite'. Two of the IDVAs are funded via BCBC's Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Grant and one funded via BCBC's Housing Support Grant. BCBC IDVAs are managed by a Domestic Abuse Coordinator, funded by the VAWDASV Grant. The team are supported by a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Coordinator, funded by BCBC through the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Grant.

3.5 The current set up allows for IDVA staff to support those victims who are deemed to be more 'high risk' victims of domestic abuse, whilst commissioned provision supports all other referrals.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Provision for victims of domestic abuse is key in meeting BCBC's duties under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 ("the VAWDASV Act"). As detailed above the current externally commissioned contract will come to an end on 30th April 2021. There is now an opportunity to consider how services are delivered and what provision is necessary to ensure provision is of high quality and meets the needs of citizens in the area.

4.2 In line with the The VAWDASV Act and subsequent commissioning guidance an independent assessment of need was commissioned in 2019, to help inform need and future commissioning. In addition, a second piece of independent work was completed in early 2020, which reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of existing provision. For the purposes of this report the key findings from these reviews, in respect of the Assia Suite, are detailed below:

- Accessibility of the existing drop in provision at the Assia Suite could be improved. Although suitable for some there could be improvements to privacy and confidentiality. In addition whilst there are some positives to co-location, its Civic Centre location may limit access to some.

- The current provision is based on levels of risk with high risk Public Protection Notices (PPNs) referred to the IDVA service for intensive support and medium and standard risk PPNs referred to first point of contact / support in the community service delivered by the external provider.

In practice this can mean victims have multiple referrals between the two teams as their assessed level of risk changes. Very few standard PPNs referrals result in individuals taking up an offer of support. In addition the administration of PPNs is extensive and can stretch staff capacity.

- Communication and support between the staff teams in the Assia Suite can be improved.

- There is a lack of awareness of policies and procedures. The separation of team's means there is also not always consistency in this respect.

- Because the IDVA and Support in the Community provision is delivered by different organisations there is limited ability for staff to cover each other, for example to allow for team meetings.

- There are inconsistencies in the knowledge / training of staff. For example IDVA's are experts in the criminal justice system and family law. The separation of the roles i.e. IDVAs and Support Workers can create a hierarchy of knowledge and as such a hierarchy or provision to service users. It should be noted that a BCBC IDVA's salary is approximately £6,000 per year higher than other Support Workers in the Assia Suite.

- The separation of services and roles can cause duplication, communication gaps and inconsistent service provision.

4.3 As can be seen from the points above, the findings from the independent reviews suggest that improvements can be made in the provision delivered through the Assia Suite. Further, some of these issues are caused due to service delivery being undertaken by two separate organisations, with staff of varying roles, experience and knowledge.

4.4 In order to help address these issues and to be able to deliver a needs led, consistent and high quality service it is proposed that the IDVA and current externally commissioned drop in provision and floating support in the community teams are brought together to form a holistic specialist, qualified and experienced team that is managed, in-house by BCBC.

4.5 The current IDVA provision has excellent feedback from service users and stakeholders, who are positive about the service provided. All IDVAs hold the Safe Lives Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) qualification which is recognised as the industry standard.

4.6 Whilst in one team there may be specialisms staff will be able to offer tailored support to high and medium risk survivors based on their need, as well their risk level. Delivering one service will ensure better communication, less duplication and an equal quality of service for all survivors from trained specialists.

4.7 The aim will be for increased engagement with support as there would be fewer referrals between organisations. One team would also ensure parity of pay across

the team and attainment of IDVA qualifications as a condition of employment for all workers, ensuring high quality provision.

4.8 With the aim of improving accessibility the new service would provide a flexible approach, with support offered in a variety of venues including community settings and the BCBC Early Help Hubs where possible, together with a focused awareness raising campaign and a variety of access points to the service.

4.9 In order to facilitate this change staff from the externally commissioned provider would be transferred to BCBC in line with TUPE arrangements to create a new team, alongside the existing IDVA staff.

4.10 The staff in the new team would have the job title Domestic Abuse Prevention Adviser (DAPA). A VAWDASV Service Delivery Manager would replace the existing Domestic Abuse Coordinator post to become the team's operational manager. This post would be funded by the VAWDASV Grant. The existing MARAC Coordinator post will remain and provide administrative support to the team. This post will continue to be funded by the PCC Grant. The proposed staff structure is set out at section 8.4 below.

4.11 If the proposals in this report are approved communication to the current externally commissioned provider will take place immediately and the current externally commissioned staff part of the Assia Suite will be offered the opportunity to become BCBC staff. The new team will begin service delivery on 1st May 2021. A restructure will then be undertaken to move all support staff to the DAPA role and the creation of the team structure as set out at 8.4 below.

4.12 As this proposal only relates to the Assia Suite elements of existing provision, a separate commissioning exercise will be undertaken for the other elements of existing domestic abuse provision, including accommodation based services / refuge and provision to children and young people. This exercise will allow for continued service delivery of these elements from 1st May 2021.

4.13 The reviews of provision detailed above have highlighted gaps in provision, such as specialised services, including for victims of sexual violence and for members of the BAME community and other minority groups. Provision of this nature will be considered on a longer term basis, when funding opportunities arise.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect on policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics and an EIA status of low priority is considered appropriate at this stage. As there will be continued provision to service users there will be no expected negative impact in this regard.

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

7.1 This proposal demonstrates the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present it does not comprise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs this is evidenced through the 5 ways of working:

- Long term – the proposal seeks to understand and mitigate the long term implications of domestic violence on victims and their children
- Prevention – delivering a service based on need as well as risk offers longer term support to prevent future incidents of domestic abuse. It will also help prevent medium and standard risk victims escalating to high risk
- Integration – the project contributes to the wellbeing goals: an equal Wales, a healthier Wales and Wales of Cohesive communities and to the Wellbeing objectives Supporting communities in Bridgend to be Safe and Cohesive, and Reducing Social and Economic Inequalities and the BCBC corporate priority helping people to be more self reliant
- Collaboration – the success of the service depends on collaboration with partners, in particular south Wales Police, National Probation Service, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board
- Involvement – the independent needs assessment and review referred to at 4.2 included extensive consultation with stakeholders and victims of domestic abuse

8. Financial implications

8.1 Whilst included as part of a larger contract, the approximate current spend on the drop in and community based support elements of the Integrated Domestic Abuse contract is £209,000. This is funded via BCBC's Housing Support Grant allocation.

8.2 Table 1 below summarises the current staff expenditure on the Assia Suite.

Table 1
Current Cost for Assia Suite

Expenditure	Amount (including on costs)	Funding Source
Drop In and Floating Support elements of externally commissioned contract	£209,000	HSG
DA Coordinator	£45,224	VAWDASV Grant
IDVA	£32,883	VAWDASV Grant
IDVA	£32,883	VAWDASV Grant
IDVA	£32,883	HSG
MARAC Coordinator	£17,175	PCC Grant
Total Expenditure	**£370,048**	

8.3 As above, in total BCBC spends approximately £370,048 per annum.

8.4 Table 2 below shows the cost of the proposed staff structure, following externally commissioned staff being transferred to BCBC and staff moved to a Domestic Abuse

Prevention Adviser (DAPA) Grade, which has been evaluated by BCBC's Job Evaluation process.

Table 2
Proposed Staffing Structure / Funding

Position Title	Contracted Hours	Full Time Equivalent 37 hours	BCBC Grade	Proposed Salary (including on costs at 30%)
Manager	37	1	10	£40,782
DAPA	37	1	8	£32,884
DAPA	37	1	8	£32,884
DAPA	37	1	8	£32,884
DAPA	37	1	8	£32,884
DAPA	37	1	8	£32,884
DAPA	37	1	8	£32,884
DAPA	37	1	8	£32,884
DAPA	37	1	8	£32,884
Admin/MARAC Coordinator	37	1	5	£25,420
Total Costs (including on costs at 30%)				**£329,274**

8.5 As can be seen above, the cost of the proposed new structure does not show an increased expenditure on this part of the service and current predictions show that there will be a reduction of £40,774 in costs to BCBC's Housing Support Grant allocation. This relates purely to the current expenditure on the Assia Suite.

8.6 BCBC Human Resources Team have reviewed information provided by the current externally commissioned provider to assess any implications in relation to TUPE and have confirmed that the process will be achievable, to allow for the new team to start provision by 1st May 2021.

8.7 As detailed above a tender exercise will need to be undertaken for other elements of delivery, including accommodation based services / refuge and children and young person's services. These costs will not be known until a tender exercise is completed, and there is a risk these could be higher than currently. Further reports will be brought back to Cabinet as appropriate.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Approves bringing the drop in provision and floating support / support in the community service, which is currently part of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Services contract, in-house; and
- Approves the development of a new needs led first point of contact / support in the community service for victims of domestic abuse that will be delivered in

house by staff employed by BCBC, which the drop in provision and floating support/support in the community service will form part of.

Gill Lewis
Interim Chief Officer - Finance, Performance and Change
9th September 2020

Contact officer: Martin Morgans
Head of Partnership Services

Telephone: (01656) 642154

Email: Martin.morgans@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN FOR THE CWM TAF MORGANNWG REGION

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet endorsement of the COVID-19 Prevention and Response Plan for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 In a joint letter from the Welsh Government Chief Medical Officer, NHS Wales Chief Executive and Director, Local Government on 27 July 2020, Local Health Boards were asked to lead the development of Local Covid-19 Prevention and Response Plans in partnership with Local Authority Chief Executives.

3.2 The Public Health Protection Response Plan developed by Public Health Wales (PHW) on behalf of Welsh Government proposed three key elements:

1. Preventing the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) through contact tracing and case management.
2. Sampling and testing different people in Wales.

3. Population surveillance.

Subsequent letters and guidance from Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, set out that effective implementation of an integrated national and local system should be based on six principles as follows:

- The primary responsibility is to make the public safe.
- Build on public health expertise and use a systems approach.
- Be open with data and insight so everyone can protect themselves and others.
- Build consensus between decision-makers to secure trust, confidence and consent.
- Follow well-established communicable disease control and emergency management principles.
- Consider equality, economic, social and health-related impacts of decisions.

3.3 Local Authorities have a central role in the management of the Covid-19 response in Wales. This has been demonstrated in the provision of social care and support to the most vulnerable residents; the childcare hubs delivering support to essential key workers and supporting vulnerable children; the maintenance of essential services and the critical role that local authorities have in the Test Trace Protect (TTP) programme and response to incidents or outbreaks.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The response in Cwm Taf Morgannwg has been co-ordinated at a regional level with the Councils and University Health Board (UHB) working closely together with robust governance arrangements to ensure consistent and proper decision making. The Regional Strategic Oversight Group (RSOG), chaired by the UHB's Executive Director for Public Health, oversees the work of six work streams:

- Surveillance;
- Sampling & Testing;
- Contact Tracing & Case Management;
- Risk Communications and Community Engagement;
- Protect, and;
- Covid-19 mass vaccination.

This approach ensures that every element of the public health response to COVID-19 across the region is managed in a coherent way through a single governance arrangement that reports directly to the Chief Executives of the UHB and Local Authorities.

4.2 The Cwm Taf COVID-19 Prevention and Response Plan attached as **Appendix 1** provides a robust approach to how the region has responded effectively to the threat from COVID-19 and sets out clearly how it will continue to do so. The Plan also describes in detail the roles, key objectives and measures for each work stream, how quality and safety is managed, workforce and risk. An action plan and detailed supporting documentation is also included in the appendices.

4.3 The Plan sets out the arrangements in place to prevent the spread of infection amongst the most vulnerable; the measures that will be taken to mitigate and control the impact of the infection through proactive management of high risk settings and robust enforcement where necessary; the arrangements in place to monitor the

infection in communities through surveillance; what action will be taken to escalate any problems that may require a decision around local actions or restrictions and how the arrangements set out in the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales will be implemented in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in particular circumstances such as educational and healthcare settings.

4.4 Any incident or outbreak in a setting or community will require specific consideration of the particular circumstances. For example, if a positive case was identified in an educational setting, either through the Test Trace Protect programme or by direct notification, the setting will need to follow the usual and well established self-isolation, social distancing and hygiene measures. If a cluster of cases (2 or more cases identified within a 14 day period in the same setting) or potential incident (2 or more confirmed cases who are direct close contacts, proximity contacts or in the same group in the setting within 14 days) is identified, the Public Health Wales advice on the investigation and management of clusters and incidents of COVID-19 in educational and childcare settings will be followed. This advice sets out the recommended actions in response to confirmed cases in educational settings and a process whereby the educational setting will be supported through Test Trace Protect to risk assess and manage the cluster or incident to prevent further transmission. If the cluster has the potential to develop into an incident then an Incident Management Team (IMT) will be established to consider any additional measures, such as class closures or further testing.

4.5 In rare circumstances, an incident will be so complex it will require management under the comprehensive formal structures of an Outbreak Control Team (OCT). When and how an outbreak should be declared is outlined in the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales 2020. This provides a tried and tested approach for the investigation and control of infectious disease.

4.6 It is anticipated that many clusters and incidents can be managed through the Test Trace Protect programme without necessarily the need for closures of premises or wider lockdown restrictions. Similarly, clusters of infection identified in the County Borough, within family groups for example, may be effectively managed through the Test Trace Protect programme without the necessity for wide spread lockdown restrictions. In the event of a more significant outbreak of infection, robust arrangements are in place for investigation, management and control.

4.7 The Authority has a critical role in implementing and enforcing any decisions to introduce enhanced COVID-19 measures or local lockdown arrangements should they be required. These decisions will be based on the available surveillance and intelligence provided by the UHB and Public Health Wales. The Plan also sets out an overview of the key surveillance indicators and reporting schedule (**Appendix 5**). It also outlines the investigative actions that are prompted by an increase in the number of cases, either at Cwm Taf Morgannwg or individual local authority level. Data is monitored at a local super output area level which gives an indication of infection rates within individual communities. This will enable any increases in rates of infections to be identified early and local appropriate action to be implemented.

4.8 **Appendix 4** of the Plan sets out considerations for local enhanced measures where increases in cases require additional measures to control transmission of the infection. This sets out a phased approach to responding to local increases in the incidence of infection, the triggers that would lead to escalation and the measures

that may be considered for different premises and settings. This may include enhanced testing, for example at a care home or school or in the case of non-compliance with physical distancing requirements, enforcement measures at business premises to impose safe working practices.

4.9 Should the Authority need to impose local restrictions or the closure of public services, the decision will be made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation of Functions. The Council has enforcement powers, such as those under the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 in respect of premises improvement notices or premises closure notices and the Part 2A Order under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 which provides flexible powers to control risks to health from infection. Welsh Ministers also have powers under the Coronavirus Act 2020 to ensure local actions are proportionate and protect public health. Some powers are reserved to Welsh Ministers and the steps to determining use of those powers are set out in the National COVID 19 Prevention and Response Plan published by Welsh Government.

4.10 There will be regular reviews of the Plan via the Regional Strategic Oversight Group. This will help ensure effectiveness of implementation or the need for change. The plan will also be reviewed in response to any emerging regional issues. Any significant changes will be signed off by the Regional Strategic Oversight Group, with sight of the plan as required, also by individual partners such as the Health Board and Local Authorities.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 None.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Where service changes or specific restrictions are introduced in response to COVID-19, these will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

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

7.1 It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of wellbeing goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no immediate financial implications from the endorsement of the plan.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet note the report and appendices and endorse the COVID-19 Prevention and Response Plan for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region.

Mark Shephard
Chief Executive
September 2020

Contact officer: Mark Shephard

Telephone: 01656 643136

Email: mark.shephard@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB.

Background documents: None

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CWM TAF MORGANNWG REGION

COVID-19
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PLAN

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Draft Version 8

As at 7th August 2020

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CWM TAF MORGANNWG COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT PLAN

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Public Health Protection Response Plan developed by Public Health Wales (PHW) on behalf of Welsh Government proposed three key elements:

1. Preventing the spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) through contact tracing and case management.
2. Sampling and testing different people in Wales.
3. Population surveillance.

Subsequent letters and guidance from Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, most recently dated 29th July 2020, set out that effective implementation of an integrated national and local system should be based on six principles as follows:

- The primary responsibility is to make the public safe.
- Build on public health expertise and use a systems approach.
- Be open with data and insight so everyone can protect themselves and others.
- Build consensus between decision-makers to secure trust, confidence and consent.
- Follow well-established communicable disease control and emergency management principles.
- Consider equality, economic, social and health-related impacts of decisions.

This plan is the Cwm Taf Morgannwg COVID-19 Prevention and Response Plan, which builds on the above guidance and incorporates the former, approved Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) Test-Trace-Protect (TTP) strategic plan, so we retain one, over-arching strategic plan setting out our approach to prevention and response.

For continuity purposes, it should be noted that this plan records what has already been delivered within the CTM TTP programme and importantly, sets out next step actions.

The plan contains a number of key sections (including those set out in the national guidance) and is supported by an action plan at **Appendix 1.**

The action plan identifies those actions required by partners across the region to operationalise the plan. It outlines work in each of the key areas in terms of what has already been completed and what is planned to be done in the next stage, together with leads identified and deadlines for completion.

2.0 OVERALL STRATEGIC AIM

The strategic aim for the CTM COVID-19 Test-Trace-Protect programme is:

> To put in place appropriate systems and capacities to ensure that, following the easing of lockdown measures, we do not see a rapid increase in illness and deaths in our communities due to COVID-19 infection.

3.0 OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES

Our overarching programme objectives are as follows:

1. Protect the health of the population by taking action to prevent and if otherwise necessary, reduce the transmission of COVID-19.
2. Ensure appropriate resources are in place to reduce the burden of COVID-19 in CTM through the collective efforts of contact tracing, surveillance, testing and risk communication & community engagement.
3. Ensure adequate sampling and testing capacity exists to sample all people identified as possible cases or who present a high risk of transmission to vulnerable persons.
4. Ensure local contact tracing teams are adequately resourced and are able to provide a service across the whole of the CTM area 7 days a week.
5. Ensure effective measures are in place for the control of clusters of COVID-19 infection in: healthcare settings, other enclosed settings and the wider community.
6. Ensure activity contributes to national surveillance efforts. In return ensure that data / information obtained nationally or locally is applied to maximum effect within CTM.
7. Ensure an adequate and whole system approach to the support which may be required by some people to enable them to successfully self-isolate and ensure this support is provided openly and equitably across CTM.
8. Test and deliver an end-to-end pathway for the delivery of a Covid-19 Mass Vaccination Programme within CTM ready for when required.
9. Update and satisfy the CTM Chief Executives Group that sufficient resources and effective measures are in place and being utilised to control COVID-19 in the CTM area.

4.0 OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

The strength of the TTP programme in Wales is its focus on regional and local leadership delivered through robust partnership arrangements. This plan and any operational plans that sit beneath it have been endorsed by the Leaders and Chief Executives of the public sector organisations in the region.

It is essential that all organisations are clear on the implications and actions required to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In the unfortunate event that we may need to implement additional measures, either preventative or in mitigation that affect our communities, it will be essential that there is strong community leadership at a local level in the decision making process.

The local authorities have a critical role in implementing and enforcing any decisions to introduce enhanced Covid19 measures or local lockdown arrangements should they be required. These decisions must be based on the best available surveillance and intelligence provided by the UHB and PHW and made available to the respective local authorities on a regular and timely basis.

Each local authority will have its own governance arrangements set out in their constitution and Leader's schemes of delegation and functional responsibilities. These set out how and by whom decisions are made. Key strategic decisions such as the temporary closure of public services in an emergency or the imposition of local restrictions would be made by the Leader and their Cabinet, if urgent by way of an Executive Decision. Other specific enforcement powers such as those under the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 are delegated to officers to use in accordance with each Council's corporate enforcement policies.

If there is evidence to suggest that such enhanced measures are required for the protection of public health the relevant local authority will be made aware as early as possible to ensure that any necessary decisions are properly considered and made in accordance with the Council's governance arrangements so that the necessary measures can be appropriately and quickly introduced.

The CTM TTP programme oversight arrangements are captured in a document approved by the Programme's Regional Strategic Oversight Group on 9 June 2020. This has been updated to add in two recent, additional work streams and can be found at **Appendix 2**.

Details are also contained on the relationship to the South Wales Local Resilience Forum and partnerships such as the Regional Service Board and two Public Service Boards.

In essence the programme reports into the Chief Executives of the Health Board and three Local Authorities, who meet on a regular basis, and is supported by:

- **Regional Strategic Oversight Group** – chaired by Professor Kelechi Nnoaham, Director of Public Health.

- **Regional Tactical Group** – Stage 1 chaired by Siôn Lingard, Consultant in Public Health, Stage 2 to be chaired by an alternate Consultant in Public Health.

  It is important to note that this group also incorporates the role of Regional Response Team in managing incidents in COVID-19 clusters, enclosed settings, & healthcare settings.

- **Six Work Streams**:
    - Surveillance
    - Sampling and Testing
    - Contact Tracing
    - Risk Communications and Community Engagement
    - Protect
    - COVID-19 Mass vaccination.

This plan consists of oversight of the six work streams and their respective work programmes. It acts as a vehicle to bring the work together and allow for oversight of actions, in order to monitor progress, actively review and set new direction as required. Further detail on each work stream can be found in section 9.0 below.

5.0 PREVENTION

Our Population

The resident population of Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) and Bridgend is estimated to be 448,639 (Stats Wales 2020). The population aged over 65 years make up 20% of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg population and are projected to have the largest increase by 2036.

Both Life Expectancy at Birth and Healthy Life Expectancy are lower in Cwm Taf Morgannwg compared to other Health Board regions and lag behind the Wales average in men and women. More specifically, life expectancy at birth in men ranges from 77.2 years in Merthyr Tydfil to 77.9 years in Bridgend, and in women from 80.6 years in Merthyr Tydfil to 81.2 years in Bridgend. The degree of inequalities in health in Cwm Taf Morgannwg is indicated by the fact that based on data from 2015-2017, a girl born in Bridgend can expect to live 61.3 years in good health, but would live only 56.5 years in good health if she was born in Merthyr Tydfil – a nearly 5-year gap.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg is also likely to see a rise in the number of people living with a range of chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart and respiratory disease as well as cancer and dementia. In addition, over 40% of people aged 75 and over in Merthyr Tydfil and RCT live alone. The combination of multiple morbidity with long term conditions and growing social isolation has an impact on the need people have for health and social care.

The major health and wellbeing challenges which the health and care system are working in partnership with communities to tackle therefore include:

- Frailty – and associated challenges presented by population ageing.
- Obesity/overweight – nearly 2/3 of adults in Cwm Taf Morgannwg being overweight or obese.
- Inequalities in health outcomes – as set out above in stark variations between populations in health life expectancy and life expectancy at birth, partly driven by relatively higher prevalence in Cwm Taf Morgannwg of socioeconomic deprivation and lifestyle choices that impact health adversely, such as smoking, poor diets, low physical activity and alcohol misuse.

- Loss of wellbeing (mental health).

The importance of continued efforts across our community and public services partnerships to address these challenges through prevention has been emphasised more recently by the evidence of how, both in isolation and combination, they determine vulnerability to and drive adverse outcomes in COVID-19.

Prevention of COVID-19

From the outset, the need to engage locally and provide information to promote primary prevention measures for COVID-19 has been an objective of the CTM TTP Programme. Messages to workplaces, other settings, key workers and the general public have been coordinated through the risk communication and community engagement work stream (strategic aim 4). A key goal of this work stream is to ensure that proper engagement with our communities to ensure we understand their perception of COVID-19 risk and the nature, determinants and distribution of knowledge, attitudes and practices related to the disease in those communities. This is fundamental to our approach to prevention and has meant that we have brought together key communications personnel from local authorities and the Health Board and sought to use all appropriate media to engage and communicate effectively.

We have been working with key settings – such as large employers or high risk occupational areas to provide advice and assistance on ensuring primary prevention measures are promoted. The Risk Profiling undertaken nationally by the Military Liaison Intelligence Group identified that some of Wales's largest sites for manufacturers are based in our Region. This is in addition to the large meat processing plant - Kepak Merthyr – which was the subject of a cluster of cases in May 2020. Additional risks were identified for two large holiday caravan parks located in Porthcawl, Bridgend.

Working with the National Health Protection Cell, a risk assessment tool has been devised to assist Local Authorities in the area to identify key employers and make contact to assess potential risks associated with the work environment or workforce characteristics. This is attached at **Appendix 3.** Using local expertise, Welsh Government guidance and Healthy Working Wales materials, medium and large business based locally are being supported in providing a safe place to work.

Welsh Government are developing messaging based on behavioural insights aimed at young people. This can be adapted for university students in particular those attending the University of South Wales which has its prime campus located in the Region. This will be vital to promote social distancing in groups who may not be inclined to socially distance and reduce the potential for any larger informal gatherings.

Support for Residential and Nursing Care homes within the CTM area is critical to both prevention of COVID-19 transmission and mitigation of impact should a case

arise. Since the transfer of incident management at these settings from the National Health Protection Cell to the Regional Team has taken place, maintenance of practice support, monitoring and management of COVID-19 incidents has remained a key focus. The Regional Response Team Environmental Health Officers (EHOs), supported by the National Health Protection Team, are key to ensuring that guidance issued by Public Health Wales and Welsh Government, particularly in relation to testing of staff and residents plus the adoption of best practice for infection prevention and control.

The region has developed a Protect work stream and action plan, building on the successful work undertaken by the Local Authorities and Third Sector to support individuals who are shielding or otherwise more vulnerable to COVID-19 to self-isolate and stay at home when required. This support will be essential to prevent infection amongst those most at risk and further details are provided in the work stream section below.

6.0 MITIGATION AND CONTROL

We have a number of large higher education establishments in CTM – in particular at Merthyr College, Bridgend College in Bridgend and Coleg y Cymoedd in RCT. Building on our prevention approach above, we work closely with higher education establishments, in collaboration with colleagues in other regions, ensuring that each institution is 'COVID-19 secure' and have carried out risk assessments and mitigated them with a combination of controls to ensure compliance with the relevant Health Protection Regulations.

The Keep Wales Safe COVID-19 Guidance for higher education sets out different levels of operations we would suggest institutions adapt to help them prepare for the different, anticipated phases during the remainder of the response to COVID-19. It also provides guidance for student accommodation and how social distancing and infection prevention and control methods can be implemented. This requires a particular approach that supports landlords of houses in multiple occupation in the private sector in the Treforest Ward, where large concentrations of students live during term time.

Schools, childcare hubs and early years settings are supported to ensure they have access to specialist advice and guidance that is communicated to Head Teachers and Setting Managers consistently to enable them to adopt appropriate, risk-assessed COVID-19 management plans and to identify and escalate any issues at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the Public Health Wales Guidance on clusters and outbreaks in Educational Settings.

Through the TTP programme's Risk Communication and Community Engagement work stream (strategic aim 4), a survey has already been carried out examining some of the issues around engagement and has been useful in informing key messages locally on how best to reach target groups.

Much work has been undertaken through Local Authorities and Third Sector partners to provide support to those that may experience hardship through

compliance with control measures, there has also been a focus on those that have been 'shielding'. All these measures not only look to minimise the risk to the health and wellbeing of individuals but also help to create a supportive environment that encourages compliance and which we will continue to build on.

Each Local Authority has established effective partnership arrangements to collaborate and coordinate activity with the Third Sector and other public sector partners to protect our most vulnerable residents, utilising community networks and assets to deliver practical support to those most in need often delivered with the assistance of a committed group of community volunteers.

An incremental approach to support and encouragement is taken. It is Local Authority staff that take the lead role in supporting individuals, businesses and other settings to comply with relevant requirements to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission. This has enabled a proactive approach to advice, support and guidance to be adopted for each business sector as it has re-opened to ensure positive steps to minimise transmission are in place and maintained. Particular sectors that have received targeted, proactive support to date includes the hospitality sector, hair and beauty and fitness centres.

This approach has achieved high levels of compliance to date, although each Local Authority partner is equipped to use available enforcement tools under a range of legislation to secure compliance where appropriate. Where there is need to consider more targeted enforcement, arrangements exist for specialist Environmental Health and Public Protection Officers to be available for deployment within each Local Authority area.

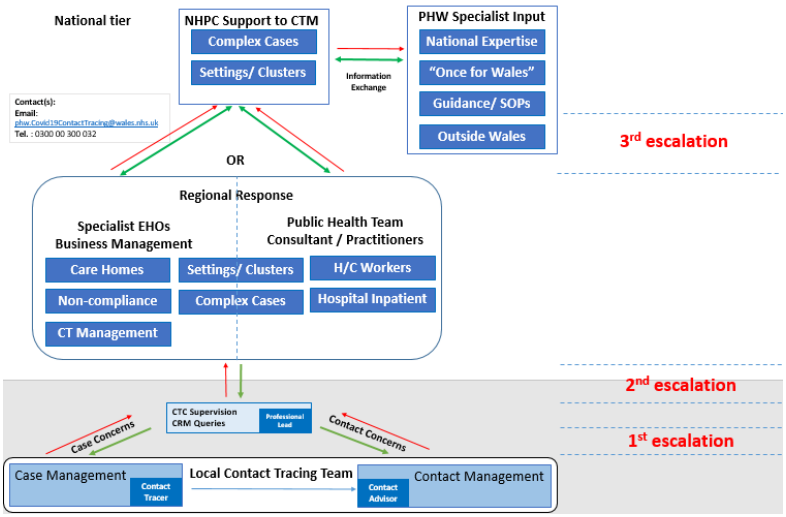
Ultimately the application for a Part 2A Order under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and subordinate legislation may be made by the relevant Local Authority to ensure that appropriate actions are carried out to mitigate risk. In the context of each Local Authority's Corporate Enforcement Policy, this established and tested process provides judicial oversight in a context where persuasion and other means have not been effective at securing key control measures.

7.0 ESCALATION ARRANGEMENTS

Clear escalation processes are described within the CTM TTP Programme with routes available dependant on the topic or source of the information. This includes queries and identification of potential clusters and settings of interest through contact tracing and epidemiological investigations.

- The standard escalation process is for the Contact Tracer or Advisor to discuss with their Professional Lead within the local tier in the first instance.
- If this raises questions that cannot be answered here, or issues that require further investigation the matter is escalated to the regional tier for the consideration of either specialist EHOs or the Public Health Team.
- If specialist health protection advice is required, the matter is escalated to the National Health Protection Cell for advice and guidance.

This process is described in Standard Operating Procedures held at the regional level by the Local Authorities and Public Health Team for their respective areas of work. The figure below outlines the pathways employed:

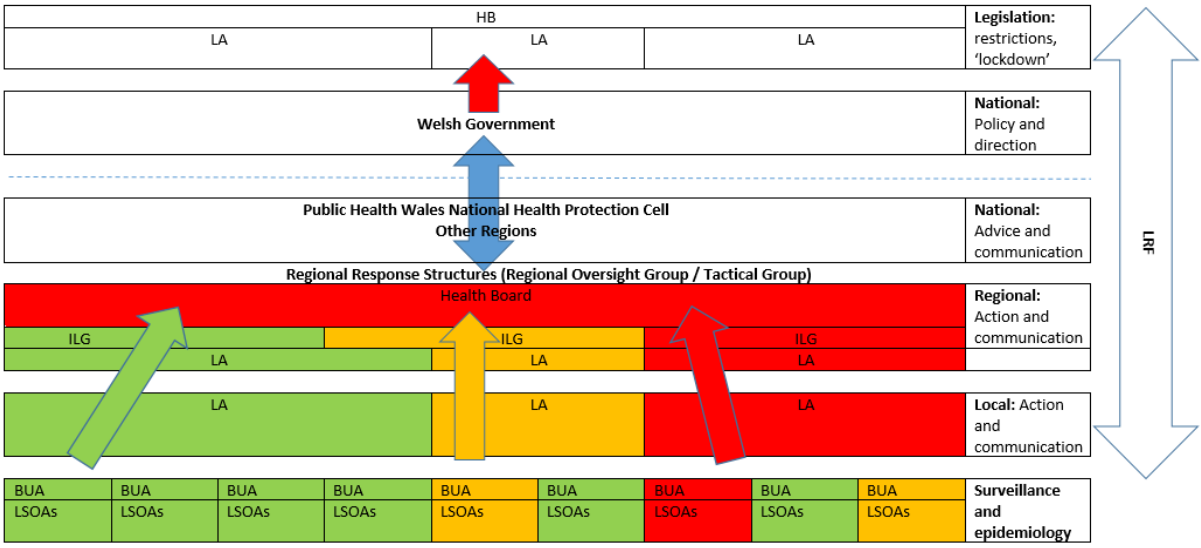


The surveillance work stream within the CTM TTP Programme has developed a suite of indicators drawing on local national and UK data to inform action within the region and provide oversight. These indicators not only focus on the wider community and enclosed settings, but also the health care environment, thus providing the ability to have early warning of increased or changing health service demands.

Further surveillance tools have also been developed to ensure early identification of increases in baseline incidence of infection across small geographical areas of CTM – 'Built Up Areas' and Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). This ensures an early detection system is in place that enables the Region to identify and deploy actions that will mitigate and aim to reduce transmission rates. The potential measures for consideration as required are set out at **Appendix 4.**

Within the context of a robust all Wales surveillance and communication framework, this work will enable threats to be identified quickly and relevant conversations initiated within the appropriate layers of our partnerships to agree, endorse or communicate appropriate responsive interventions.

The diagram below illustrates how surveillance or other intelligence triggers can escalate a response within relevant parts of all organisations concerned.



Where the need is isolated, this approach can ensure the whole region has a shared understanding, whilst at the same time, not initiating control measures until necessary. This provides a measured approach that can react promptly and adapt as the need arises. It also ensures that all those within a given locality can be easily identified and information disseminated.

As with surveillance activity the CTM TTP Programme can ensure that internal mechanisms are effective and fit for purpose. We are however reliant on an all Wales framework to ensure that threats and emerging intelligence from outside the region is shared promptly.
Clear escalation processes from the work stream leads and/or Regional Tactical Group, to the weekly Regional Strategic Oversight Group meeting, gives an opportunity for resource issues to be appropriately considered. If required, this can then be raised immediately at the weekly joint Health Board and Local Authorities Chief Executives briefing.

Collaboration is key and this is facilitated locally by a joined up approach throughout the TTP Programme. Senior representatives from key organisations lead on work streams within the programme. This includes the Protect work stream (strategic aim 5) which is led by the Chair of the Regional Partnership Board. This ensures that the Board is included in key discussions and is able to influence and maximise the impact and support available.

Regional Partners have plans in place to ensure appropriate collective decision making where additional local actions or restrictions need to be deployed, and operational plans are in place to facilitate the delivery of these measures across partners and a wide range of settings and activities.

The South Wales Local Resilience Forum (SWLRF) is kept informed of the local situation through the Regional Strategic Oversight Group (RSOG), via the two Chairs linking up with each other where necessary, and as they did on the recent Kepak Merthyr factory incident and also via the RSOG senior planner being a member of the SWLRF Recovery Co-ordinating Group (and Strategic Co-ordinating

Group when that met). The programme's Regional Tactical Group also has the Health Board Head of Civil Contingencies Manager as a member and he is able to feed into SWLRF Recovery Co-ordinating Group and its tactical group as a member.

8.0 MANAGEMENT OF CLUSTERS, INCIDENTS AND OUTBREAKS

The principles and structures laid out in the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales set the framework for action and control within the CTM area. However in order to ensure a sustainable approach throughout the coming months, plans are progressing to implement arrangements to manage issues in settings that previous experience tells us will be affected when incidence increases, appreciably in the future.

Three sub-groups of the Regional Tactical Group will be created to manage clusters or incidents in those settings, thus providing a coordinate and efficient approach to management. Each sub-group will take responsibility for incidents within their remit and coordinate action, and share learning and experience across the board. Reporting and escalation processes will remain in place, with immediate advice sought from the National Health Protection Cell if it is felt that an Incident Management Team is required.

The planned sub-groups are as follows:

- **Enclosed settings**

  Building on work already pioneered by Local Authorities within the CTM area and CTM UHB, enclosed settings will be supported by a collaboration between Local Authorities (in particular adult and children social care departments), the Health Board and the National Health Protection Cell. It is fully recognised that the challenges faced by this sector are numerous, not only the need to prevent disease transmission within the home, but also operating in a difficult environment were key staff may be required to isolate for extended periods and where new admissions and resident movement may be restricted. This is why a truly collaborative and locally joined up approach is needed between all the key agencies and teams.

- **Healthcare**

  Healthcare settings are managed through established mechanisms involving Health Board management – a designated Infection Control Doctor and Infection, Prevention and Control Team. Where there are issues to consider outside the healthcare environment, in the wider community or enclosed settings, then action can be co-ordinated through the Regional Tactical Group where this satisfies all requirements. However, invoking the provisions of the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan directly must always be considered in such circumstances.

- **Education**

Schools and further/higher education establishments need an especially swift response due to the scale and risk of spread. Response will need to be proactive and flexible, incorporating a variety of testing methods depending on the circumstances. Public Health Wales guidance on the identification and management of clusters in education settings will guide action by this group.

In the event of outbreaks (as defined in the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales 2020), or increased rates of transmission, institutions will work with local partners, specifically the Regional Response Team to work to ensure that the national testing programme is able to effectively respond. This will include identifying measures to isolate people with positive results and minimise the spread of the disease and developing specific messaging for parent/students and staff.

Outside the structures described in the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales, the need to ensure that resources are mobilised in a targeted, organised way is of paramount importance. The regional response, through the structures described above, shall ensure that where intelligence indicates that scrutiny and/or intervention is required, this is delivered at the right place at the right time.

9.0 WORK STREAMS

The work streams, leads and objectives are as follows:

9.1 STRATEGIC AIM 1 (SA1) – SURVEILLANCE

Lead: Andrea Gartner, Public Health, UHB.

A critical part of any Test-Trace-Protect programme is the need for early recognition of a resurgence of infection in the community. This requires sensitive early warning systems provided by good epidemiological surveillance.

As part of the CTM TTP programme, surveillance sits at the heart and provides not only intelligence to help set the over-arching context and plans for the programme, but also to inform individual partners to support their elements of COVID-19 planning, to inform local stakeholders and communities and to also inform the work of the respective local TTP work streams.

The aim of the surveillance work stream is to utilise health intelligence from diverse sources to inform active prevention of infection and tracking of the COVID-19 activity in CTM. The following sets out its objectives, together with SMART measures:

	Objectives	**SMART Measures (further work required to make them measurable where possible)**
1	To estimate the burden of disease more accurately.	Daily surveillance updates on agreed indicators, including identification of rising community infection or emerging clusters for
2	To provide key indicators to inform action and measure the effectiveness	

	of public health interventions including: • Monitor intensity and severity of COVID-19 spread in CTM • Monitor behaviour of COVID-19 in at-risk groups in CTM (residents of long term care facilities, patients in acute and community hospitals and people in our communities at risk of developing severe disease) • Monitor immunity to COVID-19 in CTM • Detect outbreaks in CTM hospitals and long term care facilities	action. Regular surveillance reporting to inform Regional Strategic Oversight Group (weekly), Regional Tactical group (twice weekly) and other partners. Horizon scanning products for new potential sources of data, intelligence, methods or agreed national measures for surveillance.
3	To monitor the impact of lifting social restrictions.	

As a programme, the CTM TTP has documented its use of surveillance data and is constantly mapping and linking with data provided at national, regional and local levels. **Appendix 5** highlights the latest CTM COVID-19 regional surveillance indicators and schedule. The schedule sets out the indicators, frequency, source and exception rules.

Exception rules are currently being reviewed and expanded to further improve data-driven detection of emerging cases and clusters at small area level as local early warning systems. These combine data-driven approaches with local intelligence gathered from partners, taking account of the local context and specific circumstances of cases. Information from contact tracing is triangulated with other sources such as laboratory data for effective early detection.

The surveillance data is reviewed twice a week in our Regional Tactical Group, weekly in our Regional Oversight Group and is also reviewed weekly by the Health Board as part of its 'Re-setting the Agenda' meeting and associated programme.

The surveillance data also links closely with the Health Board's quarterly operating plans where, in addition to our full surveillance suite of data developed and used to inform our TTP programme, the Health Board has agreed a set of indicator thresholds, intended to enable the organisation with its partners, to know when to re-establish its emergency response. These are as follows:

- Daily monitoring of positive COVID-19 cases – to pick up potential community clusters.
- Hospital admissions due to COVID-19 – enables underlying understanding of changes in the R(t) rate in the community.
- Hospital acquired infections.
- Positive cases in care homes.
- COVID-19 positive deaths.
- New staff absence rate citing COVID-19 or COVID-19 type symptoms.

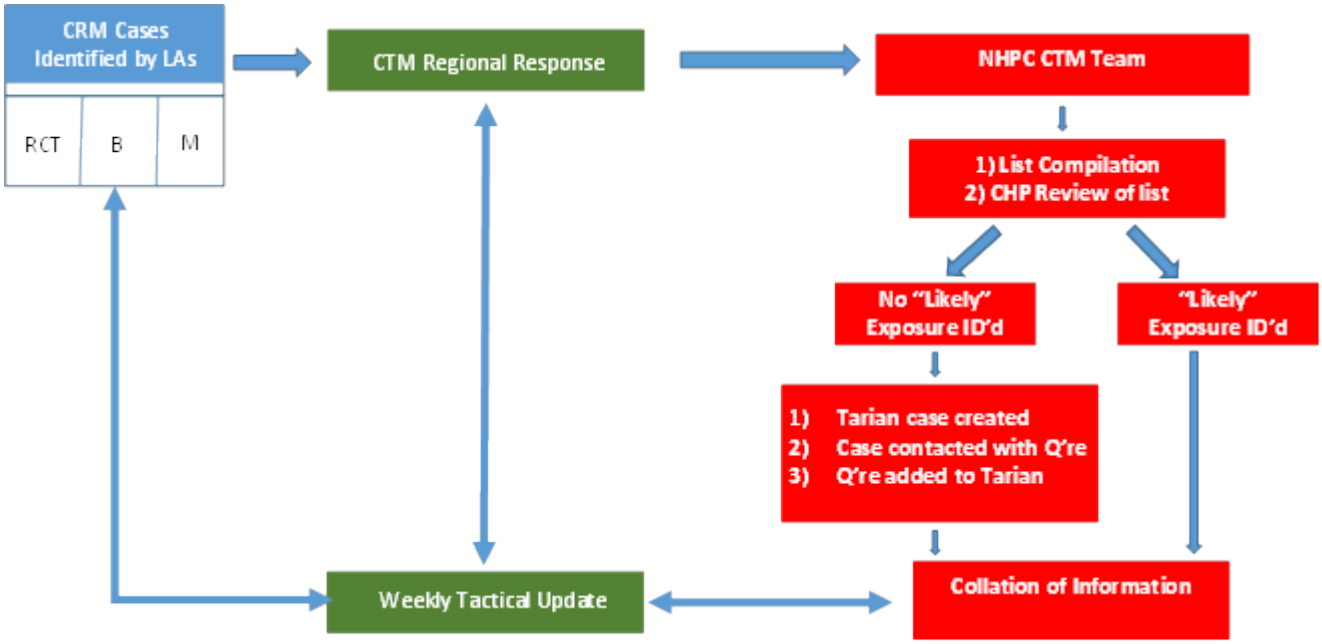
These indicators are being monitored and reported on across the partnership, including informing the situational reporting into our South Wales Local Resilience Forum, to ensure full visibility and that they are enacted upon when required.

The TTP process is aimed at preventing ongoing transmission and so identifies those already exposed to a confirmed case during the period they will have been infectious. From this point, those contacts are then asked to isolate to minimise any risk of them infecting others should they develop the illness.

As part of this, a likely source of the case's infection may become evident – such as being previously identified as a contact of another case, or being linked to a setting where there is an ongoing incident. Where a probable source cannot be identified, a process of backward contact tracing is initiated to ascertain whether one can be identified as outlined in the process diagram below.

This information is discussed twice weekly with the Welsh Government Intelligence Cell and at the Regional Tactical Group. This process can only be sustained when numbers are small and when we are still trying to eradicate infection sources.

At a time where there is sustained community transmission the efficacy of backward contact tracing to eradicate infection sources is significantly reduced so it is anticipated that other control and surveillance measures would then replace it. The following sets out our process:



As already highlighted, in addition to the 'harder' data above, 'softer' intelligence is also used by the programme in order to inform plans and actions going forward. To help achieve this, the surveillance work stream works closely for example with the Risk Communication and Community Engagement work stream, particularly in the use of local surveys, social media and community feedback.

9.2 STRATEGIC AIM 2 (SA2) – SAMPLING AND TESTING

Lead: Elaine Tanner, UHB.

This CTM COVID-19 Prevention and Response plan is complemented and informed by the local arrangements for sampling and testing which are an inherent and vital part of the overall CTM TTP programme.

Building on the Welsh Government Testing Strategy, CTM has had a local Sampling and Testing Strategy. The strategy sets out the methods for local sampling and testing to ensure a rapid response that is accessible to the entire local population and takes into consideration the unique characteristics of the communities in the local area. The current strategy can be found at **Appendix 6**, although it should be noted that this is currently being revised to reflect the latest iteration of national strategy.

As part of the programme, the aim of the sampling and testing work stream is to provide targeted data for accurate surveillance to take place - this covers a broad spectrum of work from booking tests for different cohorts, sampling and results.

The following sets out the work stream's current objectives:

	Objectives and SMART Measure
1	Provide tests for 100% of all symptomatic inhabitants of CTM, within 24hrs of them requesting a test.
2	Provide tests for 100% of all Care Home residents and staff once every 2 weeks (asymptomatic).
3	Provide tests for 100% of symptomatic Care Home residents within 24hrs (as a result of symptoms being identified).
4	Provide tests for a random sample of 150 CTM hospital staff randomly per week.
5	Provide pre-operative screening tests for patients 72 hours pre-surgery as requested; with ILG leads, develop a plan to ensure ambulatory care testing is in place and accessible across the Health Board as routine procedures resume
6	Provide serology tests for CTM staff/key workers/residents as directed

Amongst priority work at present, improving testing turnaround times is a key focus. In order to ensure effective individual and mass sampling, and testing arrangements which are responsive to the circumstances of our region, testing has to be easily accessible and have a quick turnaround, ideally less than 24 hours, to initiate TTP. We are currently undertaking improvement work with the support of the Delivery Unit to improve the turnaround times in CTM.

CTM has experience of mobilising COVID-19 antigen testing in response to a local incident, following the mass testing of staff at a local meat processing plant. The lessons learnt from this mass testing event are being used to develop a protocol

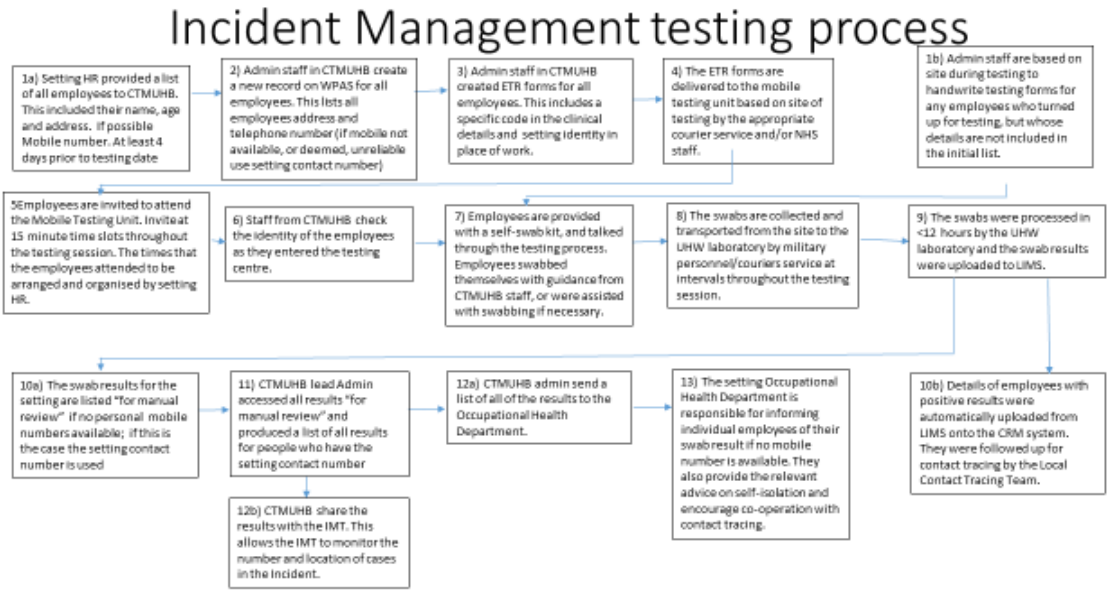
for mobilising the Mobile Units to undertake enhanced testing in settings or localised areas of high incidence.

The CTM communication team, as members of the programme's Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) work stream is working closely with the Testing Team to proactively identify opportunities to encourage testing for all symptomatic individuals in the population. The RCCE are promoting and reinforcing WG and PHW key messages at local level via a range of media including CTM digital platforms and social media. They make full use of nationally produced communication resources and have also produced a range of complementary resources including a testing leaflet tailored for different audiences in CTM, including patients and staff to support the TTP process.

The flow chart below outlines the draft process to be followed when supporting testing when an incident is confirmed by PHW colleagues.

The setting can be anywhere a school, care home or factory. Where mobile phone numbers are deemed to be unreliable, for whatever reason, although a longer process it is possible to use 'the setting' contact details. Points 10 and 11 would need further discussion to ensure a 'live' list of all test results is available to the IMT throughout the process and agreement based on each individual setting. Early communication with laboratory colleagues is essential to ensure swabs are expected and can be processed on the day of testing and should be factored in very early in discussions with the IMT.

CTM UHB Testing would aim to keep as close to this as possible as it has recently worked well for the Health Board, however each incident will need clear communication and discussion with colleagues across the IMT to ensure we are able to progress testing through to results and tracing as smoothly as possible.



In terms of a community incident being declared we would work with the IMT to agree the appropriate location for testing; in this incidence it would be harder to get contact details up front therefore longer would be required to process each individual and the ability to print ETRs on site would be required. Otherwise the process would be the same with results being relayed via text message and positive results followed up by tracing colleagues ensuring the IMT are able to monitor all results.

9.3 STRATEGIC AIM 3 (SA3) – CONTACT TRACING AND CASE MANAGEMENT

Lead: Paul Mee, RCT CBC.

The purpose of contact tracing and case management is to interrupt chains of transmission in the community by identifying cases of Covid-19 tracing the people who may have become infected by spending time in close contact with them and then requiring, and supporting those close contacts to self-isolate so that they are less likely to transmit it to others.

The aim of this work stream is to establish an effective contact tracing and case management system, consisting of a regional response team and local contact tracing teams in Cwm Taf Morgannwg to prevent the spread of COVID19 infection. This will contribute towards reducing the reproduction number (R – the average number of secondary cases per infectious case).

The regional response team use information from surveillance to identify geographical hotspots or clusters of high transmission rates requiring enhanced infection control. The local contact tracing teams deliver contact tracing intervention and public health advice to cases and contacts in the area.

The objectives of the work stream are as follows:

	Objectives	**SMART Measure**
1.	To establish an effective contact tracing and case management system in Cwm Taf Morgannwg	To trace 80% of contacts, at least 35% of which to be traced within 24 hours. • % of index cases traced within 24 hours / 48 hours • % of contact cases traced within 24 hours / 48 hours To respond to the contact tracing and case management requirements associated with any clusters or outbreaks requiring targeted intervention
2	Develop a sustainable workforce plan for the contact tracing service at both	That a workforce plan is in place to deliver a single contact tracing and

	regional and local teams in the context of the whole TTP requirement.	case management service for the CTM region; sustainable and flexible to respond to changing demand. • Number of contact advisors • Number of contact tracers • Number of professional leads. • Number of specialist staff in regional team. • Percentage of staff undertaken e-learning package and induction. • Percentage of welsh speakers.

9.4 STRATEGIC AIM 4 (SA4) – RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Lead: Sara Thomas, Public Health, UHB.

As part of the CTM TTP programme, there is a need for ongoing clear and effective communication which is coordinated between all work streams, sectors and with national activity.

The scale of the current COVID-19 pandemic means we are in a unique position where all statutory, community and voluntary organisations on a national and local basis are focussed on the same agenda and in turn, developing their communication and engagement approaches.

Although this provides considerable resource, there is a real danger of duplication of effort, inconsistent messages and gaps in provision, particularly against a background of regularly changing guidance.

The success of our Prevention and Response Plan is predominately dependant on widespread public understanding, acceptance and uptake of the primary control measures (social distancing, hand washing, respiratory etiquette and enhanced cleaning regimes), highlighting the need for a comprehensive, multiagency approach to local risk communication and community engagement. Combined with this is the need for appropriate provision within our communities to provide support to help protect the health and wellbeing, in the widest sense, of those directly or indirectly adversely affected by COVID-19. We have therefore set up a multiagency work stream to take this work forward.

The aim is to reinforce primary control measures, provide the public and partners with clear messages and practical information which will encourage and enable them to follow any current guidance related to reducing the spread of Covid-19 and participate as appropriate in any associated testing or contact tracing programmes.

Working closely with the Protect work stream, Regional Partnership Board and Public Service Boards to build on established collaborations with statutory organisations, local community networks and the third sector, this robust approach to community engagement and support should help reassure the public; encourage and empower citizens and build engagement with partners.

The multiagency approach and membership provides alignment of national and regional communications avoiding unnecessary overlap and ensures timely, accurate and consistent communications responsive and tailored to local need.

There are four key audiences this work stream is aimed at:

- General population
- High risk and Vulnerable Groups
- Enclosed settings (e.g. care homes) and work places
- Partners, Staff and stakeholders

The following sets out the work stream objectives and SMART measures:

	Objectives	**SMART Measures**
1	Reassure the Public: help people feel confident in the exit/recovery approach and understand what they need to do by: Promoting current national guidance and clear messaging on primary control measures, providing up to date information on the testing and contact tracing pathways which is clearly communicated and readily available to staff and residents of CTM	All communication is accessible to the public in electronic and easy read format; in both the English and Welsh language and other languages as appropriate Survey samples of CTM residents identifies that >90% of respondents are aware of what they need to do if symptomatic; how to book a test; when to self-isolate and how to access further information
2	Encourage and Empower Citizens: use behavioural insights approach and information provided by public perceptions COVID-19 survey work to ensure: CTM residents and staff understand and engage with Contact Tracing process; CTM residents understand COVID-19 risks within their locality, especially when cluster/hotspot is identified	Results of COVID-19 surveys are shared and key messages communicated to work streams in a timely manner; Subject and mode of communication is adapted in response to survey findings

	Public are aware and practising primary control measures and self-isolation	
3	Build engagement with partners Collaborative working with stakeholders to maximise resource and ensure consistent approaches to accessing and disseminating info	All RCCE work stream material is produced for use across the CTM region Vulnerable/hard to reach groups in CTM are identified; communication with groups is tailored to meet needs Target audiences e.g. employers, community groups are identified and communication tailored to maximise engagement

Attached at **Appendix 7** is our locally endorsed framework to take forward a collaborative, behavioural science informed approach to COVID-19 related communication and community engagement within the CTM UHB area. This includes a description of our identified population groups and settings highlighted in the CTM engagement framework and sets out steps to maximise contributions from different organisations and work streams.

An accompanying planning toolkit has also been developed to provide an evidence-based approach (COM-B) to engagement and behavioural change in relation to COVID-19. It is envisaged that this will provide a useful tool in the context of local incident and outbreak management.

9.5 STRATEGIC AIM 5 (SA5) – PROTECT

Lead: Rachel Rowlands, RPB Chair and CEO Age Connect Morgannwg.

The 'protect' element of the programme is a vital contributor to supporting people in our communities who are shielding and/or who need to socially isolate as part of a COVID-19 response.

We have therefore established a Protect work stream, linking closely with the work of the national work stream, our Regional Partnership Board and two Public Services Boards. This is led by the Chair of the RPB, who is also the Chief Executive of Age Connect Morgannwg.

The aim of this work stream is to identify the support which may be required by some people to enable them to successfully self-isolate and ensure this support is provided openly and equitably across CTM.

A range of support has been provided to individuals who have faced challenges in managing during lockdown. Local Authorities, in partnership with the Third Sector

and Volunteers, have helped people with shopping, collecting medicine, loneliness and isolation, emergency food and support and a very wide range of other help.

This current 'offer' provides a guide to the kind of support likely to continue to be relevant to support self-isolation as part of the CTM Test-Trace-Protect Programme, as well as the identification of additional developments, depending on how events with COVID-19 unfold.

The objectives for the work stream are as follows:

	Objectives	**SMART Measures (further work required to make them measurable where possible)**
1.	Confirm scope of work stream, building on what already exists across CTM	Agreed scope with RSOG.
2	Confirm baseline of PROTECT activities and providers across CTM	Baseline report available.
3	Establish what, if anything, might usefully be developed or learnt from across the region.	Number of people receiving support matches estimated need across CTM. Models of support are appropriate and well received by individuals and local communities, helping to reduce the incidence of COVID-19 in CTM. Public awareness of protect support is good across CTM. For example, there is a need to ensure that the scripts for contact tracers ask about the support required and signpost how to access support. This objective can be tested via local and national surveys, a number of which already exist.
4.	Ensure due consideration of any additional requirements such as 'hard to reach' people or where support is needed for clusters or outbreaks, where further co-ordination across the region may be beneficial.	Number of 'hard to reach' and/or people receiving additional consideration and support matches estimated need across CTM. Access to services reported to be good by individuals and local communities.
5.	Agree a work stream plan based on the outcome of the above.	Work stream plan agreed by RSOG and incorporated into strategic plan.

6.	Ensure clear links established with RPB & their 'resetting' plans where necessary, and develop good links with RCCE work stream on communications.	Clear links established and confirmed via RPB and RSOG. Operating well going forward. Any examples of good joint working noted.
7.	Develop Community Impact Assessment to inform strategic partnerships' work plans and priorities.	Survey/questionnaire developed and issued to PSB and RPB members for completion.
8.	Ensure a whole system approach to community support to increase resilience.	Social Value Forum established and meeting regularly. Communication and engagement plan (linked to A Healthier Wales) approved and implemented. Established communication channels between community groups and work of the RPB to inform future planning and delivery of support. Regular updates provided to strategic boards on any identified gaps in support. Record of actions taken to address gaps in local support.
9.	Support the ongoing development of volunteers and volunteering opportunities to support community resilience.	Pool of volunteers created across agencies that can be mobilised to support local need. Training opportunities and programmes developed to support volunteers.
10.	Link to other PROTECT systems and work streams (regional & national) to build on good practice and learning from elsewhere	Protect Chair a member of the national Protect work stream to ensure links made. Examples of good practice brought into the work programme and shared with others if examples exist within CTM.

9.6 STRATEGIC AIM 6 (SA6) – COVID-19 MASS VACCINATION

Lead: Lesley Lewis, UHB.

Most recently we have established a sixth work stream under the CTM TTP programme in order to help us to respond to the requirements in the recent Chief Medical Officer's letter – that of the COVID-19 mass vaccination work stream. This is closely linked in with our current arrangements for delivering the flu vaccination also this year.

The aim of this work stream is to deliver an end-to-end pathway for the delivery of a COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Programme within CTM ready for when required.

The objectives for the work stream are as follows:

	Objectives	**SMART Measures (further work required to make them measurable where possible)**
1.	Agree mass vaccination plan and test via a multi-agency table-top exercise, building in lessons learnt from elsewhere, including from mass testing arrangements.	Mass Vaccination Plan developed and tested via exercise and scenario planning, with local learning built in together with learning from elsewhere.
2	Ensure a blended delivery approach with flu vaccination programme	Blended delivery programme developed and tested as part of the above exercise testing.
3	Identify and put in place the necessary resources, including workforce, training, PPE, vaccination supply and storage etc.	All necessary resources in place including with contingency plans where required.
4.	Provide vaccinations for designated priority groups across CTM, including health and care workers, shielding and vulnerable groups	Vaccinations delivered to priority groups with agreed target measures.
5.	Building on the above, provide vaccinations to remaining groups across CTM as required.	Vaccinations delivered to remaining groups with agreed target measures.
6.	Work with Surveillance work stream & others to establish agreed metrics and reporting, including vaccine uptake & links with disease surveillance.	Agreed metrics and reporting arrangements established.
7.	Work with the RCCE work stream & others to deliver an underpinning communication and engagement plan for staff and residents of CTM.	Clear, underpinning communication and engagement plan.

Work is underway to develop and test the mass vaccination operational plan, with a table-top exercise due to be delivered in the next week.

The underpinning workforce and finance plans are also in development and will be costed in due course, so not yet a part of the current programme finance schedule.

However this will be added as soon as it will be available. It should be noted that the costs are likely to be significant.

10.0 QUALITY AND SAFETY

As the oversight arrangement which operates as a partnership between member agencies and reiterates the sovereignty of individual agencies, the quality and safety of respective services rests with the statutory organisations.

However the programme retains a strong and shared commitment to work openly together and take decisions in the spirit of partnership, with the overriding shared aim of delivering for the benefit of the communities it serves.

The programme will, through its various mechanisms monitor performance and effectiveness, and alert organisations to any particular areas of concern. The programme will also expect to be informed by partner organisations of any relevant issues affecting programme delivery. This will include monitoring and oversight of local performance against the proposed national contact tracing standards for example, once released.

11.0 WORKFORCE AND FINANCE

This plan is underpinned with a workforce and finance plan, an earlier version of which was submitted to Welsh Government on 16th June 2020 and a revised version for the Health Board elements approved at the Health Board meeting on 29 June 2020.

The workforce and financial implications of the programme are constantly under review across the partnership and are currently estimated at approximately £14.3m this year. These latest programme costs were shared with Welsh Government in a letter on 17th July 2020 and are attached at **Appendix 8**. It should be noted that this is consistent with the quarter 2 operating plan summited by the Health Board.

In a number of areas, staff are drawn from existing resource which provide for opportunity costs, however it is likely that roles will need to be back filled to cover core duties, particularly as services gradually return to normal.

If it proves necessary to undertake a wider recruitment exercise then there will clearly be potentially significant revenue implications. In addition there are likely to be capital costs associated with ICT, infrastructure and telephony.

It should also be noted, that as a recently established work stream, the COVID-19 mass vaccination plan, closely aligned to the influenza plan, is currently being developed and tested. This has not yet been fully costed and once complete, will need to be added into the above programme costs when ready. It is likely that these costs will be significant.

As the plan continues to be implemented, it is necessary to ensure all costs associated with the approach are captured and quantified. To support this work,

a programme workforce and finance task and finish group was established, with its role is as follows:

12.0 ISSUES LOG

An Issues log operates at the programme level and is maintained by the Programme Manager, with review of any strategic issues held weekly at the Regional Oversight Group.

13.0 RISK REGISTER

A Risk Register operates at the programme level, with risk ownership clearly identified and co-ordination undertaken by the Programme Manager in liaison with the work stream leads in particular. Any strategic risks of high importance are reviewed weekly by the Regional Strategic Oversight Group.

14.0 LESSONS LEARNT LOG

As part of our local arrangements for undertaking review and learning, so as to inform our local structures and capture learning to assist in the development of practice, a lessons learnt log has been developed and is held at regional level by the Programme Manager. This is informed by feedback from across the national, regional and local planning and delivery responses.

All staff and partners are encouraged to participate in sharing lessons on a live basis and fed back into the programme, so we are learning from experience and also practice elsewhere. This includes for example the information on early learning from the initial incidents and outbreaks in Wales which was included with the letter sent by the Welsh Government on the 27th July 2020.

15.0 SITUATION REPORTING

Each work stream, the Regional Strategic Tactical Group and Regional Strategic Oversight Group are responsible for providing exception reports on progress and risks etc. to the overall programme and to respective organisations as requested, including partner Local Authorities and Health Board.

16.0 IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND LEARNING

The strategic plan which was held previously has been incorporated into this plan, to ensure we retain one over-arching plan as a programme for consistency.

There will be regular review of this plan via the Regional Strategic Oversight Group, where its predecessor plan was also regularly reviewed. This will help ensure effectiveness of implementation or the need for change. The plan will also be reviewed in response to any emerging regional issues.

Any significant changes will be signed off by the Regional Strategic Oversight Group, with sight of the plan as required, also by individual partners such as the Health Board and Local Authorities.

Implementation of the plan and progress against action plans and objectives will be undertaken weekly during the Regional Strategic Oversight Group meetings.

Learning from the management of incidents and outbreaks will be fed into the Regional Oversight Group via the Incident Management Team or Outbreak Control Team chair usually using a formal debrief process.

APPENDIX 1

CWM TAF MORGANWWG TEST-TRACE-PROTECT PROGRAMME

ACTION PLAN – UPDATED AS AT 6th August 2020

This plan is dynamic and continuously subject to review as the situation develops on the development and implementation of the Test, Trace and Protect Programme in Cwm Taf Morganwwg. The Public Health Protection Response Plan developed by Public Health Wales (PHW) on behalf of Welsh Government sets out three key elements:

- Preventing the spread of disease through contact tracing and case management.
- Sampling and testing different people in Wales.
- Population surveillance.

This strategic plan identifies the key actions required by partners across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg region to operationalise these elements and adds a further important work stream on risk communication and community engagement. To note in terms of this plan:

- Completed actions will be added to the end of the plan for reference.
- Actions highlighted in blue will be actions that are added to the plan after this point in time.
- RSOG decisions made will be referenced below in the 'progress' column.
- Any actions that remain open at the close of the programme will need to be transferred into business as usual of the respective organisation(s).
- The plan will be reviewed after each RSOG meeting.

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
OVERALL STRATEGIC AIM – TO REDUCE THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION AND INFECTION OF COVID-19 IN THE CTM AREA.PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT - TO ENSURE CLEAR ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE TO SUPPORT PROGRAMME DELIVERY					
• Establish CTM Regional Programme arrangement including Oversight Group, Tactical Group and Work Streams	√ Complete	√ Complete	√ Complete	Yes	Complete

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
Agree Oversight Arrangements document, including membership and terms of reference of the above.	√ Complete			Yes	Complete • Draft to RSOG 2/6/20 • Approved at RSOG on 9/6/20
Agree draft strategic plan	√ By 23/6/20				Complete – but remains under development • Updated draft submitted weekly to RSOG. • Latest version (v7) to be approved at RSOG 23/6/20 • Update comments requested at meeting on 23/6/20 – some still awaited before sign-off. • Updated version 9 signed off by RSOG on 30/6/20 • Document to remain updated and under review by RSOG.
Agree work stream plans	√ By 23/6/20	√ By 23/6/20	√ By 23/6/20	Yes	Complete • Three drafts complete and signed off at RSOG on 16/6/2020 • Testing work stream plan being drafted; RSOG to approve 23/6/20. • Testing operational plan agreed at RSOG on 23/6/20. • All plans to be kept under review and linked in to the strategic plan going forward. • New, 5th Protect work stream agreed in mid-June, scope agreed on 30/6/20; operational plan under development.
Develop a programme workforce plan	√ 1st cut schedule available on 18/6/20		√ Plan by 6/7/20 TBC		Developing • Latest workforce and finance schedule submitted to WG on 16/6/2020. • Workforce and Finance task and Finish Group established.

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
	Plan by 6/7/20 TBC				• Representatives identified. • 1st meeting held on – 24/6/20. • Revised finance and workforce schedule completed on 18/6/20. • Work underway via TFG to develop workforce plan by July. • Next meeting 8/7/20. • RSOG and partner CEO agreement on 30/6/20 to develop a regional workforce plan approach to contact tracing including 1 host LA.
Develop a programme finance plan	√ 1st cut schedule available on 18/6/20 Plan by 6/7/20 TBC		√ Plan by 6/7/20 TBC		Underway • Latest workforce and finance schedule submitted to WG on 16/6/2020 • Workforce and Finance task and Finish Group being established. • Representatives identified • 1st meeting – 24/6/20 • Revised finance and workforce schedule completed on 18/6/20. • Work underway via TFG to develop updated finance plan by July. • Next meeting 8/7/20.
Set up risk register	√ Final agreed system by 30/6/20				Underway • Draft to RSOG 9/6/20, 16/6/20. • Programme Manager liaising with work stream leads to finalise template and current risks, together with mitigating actions • New template to RSOG 23/6/20 • Risk register to go to RCOG for review 14 July on Programme Manager's return

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
					from A/L and at least monthly thereafter, in addition to work stream weekly updates on risks.
Set up issues log	√ Final agreed system by 30/6/20				Underway • Draft to RSOG 9/6/20 & 16/6/20 • Programme Manager liaising with work stream to finalise latest log • New template to RSOG 23/6/20 • Issues log to go to RCOG for review 14 July on Programme Manager's return from A/L and at least monthly thereafter, in addition to work stream weekly updates on issues.
Set up lessons learnt log	√ Final agreed system by 30/6/20				Developing • Draft to RSOG 16/6/20 – not received • Draft to be requested from Programme Manager for next meeting – 23/6/20 – not received. • Meeting held on 30/6/20 – draft log provided, to be reviewed and presented to RCOG for review 14 July on Programme Manager's return from A/L and at least at the end of each plan stage for updating as necessary.
End Stage 1 Assessment and Look forward to Stage 2	√ By 31/8/20				Underway • Agreed to run during August with each work stream.
STRATEGIC AIM NO. 1 – SURVEILLANCE THE AIM OF THIS WORK STREAM IS TO UTILISE HEALTH SURVEILLANCE FROM THE COMMUNITY TO PREVENT INFECTION AND TRACK THE VIRUS.					

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
Prepare Regional Surveillance Operational Plan to identify the key actions required by partners across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region to operationalise the population surveillance requirements of the Response Plan.	√ Complete	√ Complete	√ Complete	Yes	• Final draft plan complete • Plan agreed with stakeholders • Plan approved by RSOG on 16/6/20 • Complete (although plan to remain under review and be updated as required).
Identify and put in place necessary resource to implement a regional surveillance system	√		√		Underway • Internal resource identified for immediate surveillance • Internal resource secured • Longer term resource identified (June to August 2020) • Broadened the surveillance team to include members of the planning and performance team for specific pieces of work such as automation of indicators
Link to other regional surveillance systems across Wales to share learning and best practice			√ Complete	Yes	• Consult with other Health Boards on draft plan • Ongoing sharing of learning and best practice • Linked with other Health Boards to share learning and establish a network within which to raise issues and requests to PHW – reported to RSOG 9/6/20 • Surveillance network established – reported to RSOG 16/6/20
Agree local key identifiers to be monitored and thresholds at which action should be considered and undertaken			√		Underway • Draft specification of indicators circulated to RSOG 16/6/20 • Specifications of indicators agreed by RSOG 07/07/20

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
					• Thresholds development for small areas underway • Ongoing review of key identifiers and thresholds
Agree initial data sources for key identifiers and establish processes by which these will feed into the surveillance system	√		√		Underway • Collaborate with stakeholders and other work stream leads to identify suitable data sources for immediate surveillance use – complete • Define process of data transfer into surveillance system - ongoing for different sources • Ensure mutually agreed interpretation of data with data providers - ongoing for different sources • 16/6/20 – established interim data access solutions – reported to RSOG 16/6/20 Secured interim data access to databases with HB information team • Agreement with others reached on providing hospital infection and deaths analysis
Establish an interim solution for surveillance should the national case management system not be available			√		Underway • Work with contact tracing work stream to identify functionality of case management system • Identify local dataset for analysis from case management system • 16/6/20 – established interim data access solutions – reported to RSOG 16/6/20 • Work continuing, including training to get fuller access to CRM.

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
Input into national key indicators for surveillance to maximise local usefulness			√		Underway • Feedback into national process via PHW • Shared weekly report with colleagues in PHW • Received and commented on national and local epi reports from PHW
Gain access to national case management system and ensure timely access to data for regional surveillance systems			√		Underway • Gained access to CRM system and dashboards 03/08/20 • Awaiting training to extract data from CRM system and fully understand the structure and limitations
Ensure the national case management system in development meets regional surveillance needs			√		Developing • Related to above issues of awaiting full access to extract data and understanding the system
Ensure all data protection regulations are met			√	Yes	Completed • Data is held in accordance with data protection regulations, including with additional password protection of disclosive data on shared drives.
Establish process by which surveillance data will inform the activity of other work streams: contact tracing; testing; and community engagement and risk communication			√		Underway • Develop draft specification for surveillance data • Consult with key stakeholders • Agree user specification with work stream leads
Conduct in-depth analysis of local cases to inform key driving factors in their distribution within the CTM region			√		Developing • Initial analysis to inform development of surveillance system • Ongoing ad hoc analysis to inform surveillance

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
Establish a process to identify the emerging evidence base for the epidemiology of COVID-19, interpret it for the local population, and adapt surveillance as appropriate			√		Developing • Identify national processes for reviewing evidence • Establish regular reporting on implications for local population • Identify new information that could be used to adapt/steer local surveillance in a timely way
Engage and share emerging new evidence to inform surveillance and action with other organisations			√		Developing • Newly identified evidence or learning from surveillance to be shared with appropriate stakeholders
STRATEGIC AIM NO. 2 – SAMPLING AND TESTING					
• Prepare Regional Testing Operational Plan to identify the key actions required by partners across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region to ensure appropriate capacity for predicted demand.			√ 23/6/20	Yes	Complete • Latest draft completed. • Going to UHB Management Board for approval on 23/6/20 • Submitted to RSOG 23/6/20 for approval. • Plan approved
• Update the CTM Testing Strategy			√ 23/6/20	Yes	Complete • Updated Testing Strategy endorsed at UHB Executive Resetting the Agenda Group on 4/6/20 and subsequently endorsed at RSOG on 9/6/20. • Submitted to RSOG 23/6/20 for approval. Plan approved.
• Update the CTM Testing Strategy to ensure alignment with WG Testing Strategy.			√ 13/08/20		Underway • Evaluation of current CTM Testing Strategy underway to ensure alignment

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
					with WG Testing Strategy and subsequent testing guidance. • This will be presented to RSOG on 11/08/20. • Following approval of the evaluation and recommendations CTM Testing Strategy to be updated, with updated strategy due 13/08/20.
• Establish a small management group to oversee the operational delivery.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete.
• Identify and mitigate risks to delivery of the contact tracing and case management approach.			√		Underway • Risk identification underway, risks reported to RSOG.
• Implement plan for additional self-administered lanes to be added to Kier Hardie and Bridgend testing sites and for these to be operational			√ 22/6/20 Bridgend 29/6/20 Kier Hardie	Yes	Complete. • 4 site model
• Abercynon site to be handed over to Deloittes			√ 26/6/20	Yes	Complete. • Site run by Deloittes with swabbing demand and capacity fed back to HB – reporting mechanism clear and in place
• Mobile community testing (x1)			√ 22/6/20	Yes	Complete • Set up rolling programme for care homes residents and staff • Implement the WG initiative for testing care home staff via an online portal, alongside HB support of testing residents • Care homes staff to be familiar with the processes • Care Homes Task and finish group established (includes HB, PHW and LA representation)

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
					• Support citizens in the community who unable to use the on line portal or attend a testing unit
• Undertake antibody testing in defined groups			√ 1st stage complete Testing ongoing.		Underway • Random testing of nearly 5,000 Teachers has been completed from 15/06/20-04/08/20 • Testing of CTM UHB staff is ongoing. This has so focused on staff within Red COVID-19 zones, DGHs and Community Hospitals. It will be expanded to include all staff in the Community, Primary Care and WAST. • Awaiting guidance from WG on the testing of Social and Domiciliary Care workers and care home residents.
• Undertake testing in Care Homes			√ Current programme underway and ongoing		Underway • Continue CTM rolling testing programme for care homes residents and staff • Continue the WG initiative for testing care home staff via an online portal, as outlined in CMO letter to be continued until 10/08/20 and then await WG review. • Care Homes Task and finish group established (includes HB, PHW and LA representation) • Review Care Home testing offer in CTM as part of CTM Testing Strategy update and following further WG Care Home testing guidance.

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
• Develop plans with ILGs to provide pre-admission tests for elective surgery patients			√ Current programme underway and developing		Developing • Working with ILGs to develop plans for pre-admission testing in CTM hospitals • Current programme of pre-operative testing 72 hours before admission to be expanded as elective surgery levels increase.
• Develop plans for mobilising Mobile Units to manage incidents in settings or localised areas of high incidence.			√ 12/8/20		Developing • Protocol for mobilising Mobile Units under development following meat factory mass testing experience
• Improve testing turn-around-times			√ 31/8/20		Developing • Improvement project on turnaround times currently being undertaken in collaboration with NHS Delivery Unit.
• Recruit the testing workforce (antigen and antibody) into fixed term posts, as agreed in staffing model plans.			√ Sept & Oct 2020		Underway • Plans for recruitment of testing workforce (including managerial, administrative, nursing and HCSW staff) approved by the Health Board. • Adverts for the testing roles have been written and started to be advertised from 03/08/20 • Interviews for roles due to take middle to end of August. • Aim to have staff members in September/ October 2020.
• Secure premises for testing workforce (antigen and antibody)			√ Sept 2020		Underway • Space in Block C of Ysbyty Seren, Bridgend, has been identified and secured for use by the testing workforce.

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
					• This area is currently being refurbished to meet the needs of the testing workforce.
• Ensure all stakeholders are kept informed of changes and developments			√ Ongoing		Underway • Stakeholder mapping and level of interest/need to know etc around testing • Working with COVID-19 -19 Comms lead
• Work with the other members of the RCCE work stream to ensure ongoing communication with the public to proactively encourage testing			√ Ongoing		Underway • RCCE work stream to ensure WG and PHW messages are promoted and shared across CTM digital platforms • Advise and support RCCE work stream to produce complementary local resources, such as testing leaflets for different audiences in CTM.
STRATEGIC AIM NO. 3 – CONTACT TRACING AND CASE MANAGEMENT TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE CONTACT TRACING AND CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN CWM TAFF MORGANNWG TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID19 INFECTION, AND IN DOING SO, CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS REDUCING THE REPRODUCTION NUMBER (R – THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF SECONDARY CASES PER INFECTIOUS CASE) TO BELOW 1.					
• Prepare Regional Contact Tracing Operational Plan to identify the key actions required by partners across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region to operationalise requirements.			√ Complete	Yes	• Draft completed • Plan approved by RSOG on 16/6/20 • Complete (although plan to remain under review and be updated as required).
• Establish a small management group to oversee the operational delivery.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete.
• Identify and mitigate risks to delivery of the contact tracing and case management approach.			√		Underway • Risks identified and mitigated where possible as part of the work stream • Key risks also reported to RSOG.
• Establish regional response team in operation seven days a week between 8am and 8pm each day		√	√ Complete	Yes	Complete

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
• Put in place telephony and ICT requirements to support diffuse workforce arrangements in contact tracing teams.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete
• Train all staff in the contact tracing teams to undertake their roles.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete
• Establish contact tracing teams in operation seven days a week between 8am and 8pm each day • 6 teams initially in phase 1			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Completed by 18/5/20
• Pilot to run from 18/5/20 to 31/5/20			√ Complete	Yes	Complete
• Evaluate pilot		√	√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Report received at RSOG on 2/6/20
• Regularly review workforce requirements and operational arrangements in light of experience and demand: • Working hours/staff rotas • Staff requirements.			√ monthly		In response to demand and in light of experience, working hours have been amended.
• Establish a performance reporting dashboard for contact tracing at regional level.			√ By 29th June 2020	Yes	Management data now available and being reported to RSOG from 4th August 2020.
• Ensure balance of resources between local contact tracing team and regional response team meets demand		√	√ By 6th July (revised to 7th August)		Proportion of complex has led to increased demand on regional team. Escalation arrangements addressed and further work being undertaken to rebalance workflows.
• Develop a scope for the introduction of contact tracing in respect of symptomatic and suspected cases in care homes and educational settings.		√	√ By 6th July 2020	Yes	Discussion held at work stream group – challenging due to pressure on regional team and capacity of CRM system. Proposal on hold but to be kept under review.
• Develop a workforce plan for the recruitment of staff in contact tracing and		√	√		Workforce task and finish group established and work force plan in development.

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
regional teams to support return of redeployed staff to substantive roles.			By 6th July (revised to 7th August)		
• Introduction of contact tracing on symptomatic cases for whole population.			√ By 30th September 2020		No clear indication of when this is likely to be implemented by WG.
• Identify and plan for long term resource requirements and national expectations for contact tracing activity post COVID19.	√		√ By 31st December 2020		In anticipation that there may be a requirement to retain capacity post COVID19 as part of UK/Wales public health surveillance & response system.
• Establish an interim (up until 8/6/20) case management system			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Using Powys system • System retained for further two weeks post CRM to maintain contact daily updates.
• Move over to the national case management system from 8/6/20			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Delayed from original start date of 8/6/20 to 10/06/20. • Engaged in testing with NWIS • System was rolled out later in the week, being used by all parts of CTM. • Challenges with reporting, discussions underway with NWIS and WG.
STRATEGIC AIM NO. 4 – RISK COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC AND PARTNERS WITH CLEAR MESSAGES AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE THEM TO FOLLOW ANY CURRENT GUIDANCE RELATED TO REDUCING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 19 AND PARTICIPATE AS APPROPRIATE IN ANY ASSOCIATED TESTING OR CONTACT TRACING PROGRAMMES.					
• Prepare RCCE Plan to identify the key actions required by partners across the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region to operationalise requirements.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Draft completed • Plan approved by RSOG on 16/6/20 Complete (although plan to remain under review and be updated as required).

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
• Establish a small management group to oversee the operational delivery.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Multiagency group in place (3 LA's, UHB and LPHT).
• Identify and mitigate risks to delivery of the RCCE approach.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Risk and Issues log developed and is a regular RCCE meeting agenda item
• The initial focus of the programme will be the May 31st launch date for the Contract Tracing Programme in association with Public health Wales and Welsh Government.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete. • Welsh Government launch of public campaign on contract tracing planned for 28th May. WG asked local partners to disseminate information in line with this. • RCCE working group meeting 27th May considered roll out of this campaign and what local messages/approaches are needed to supplement it.
• Establishing public perceptions from national surveys			√	Yes	Complete • Process in place (June 2020) to: • Review and summarise key themes from national surveys on public perceptions related to COVID-19 19 and report headlines to RSOG • Share with RCCE members and • Utilise as appropriate in shaping messages.
• Launch local survey focussing on how our communities access information and individual's thoughts on taking part in the Contact tracing programme			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • CTM Community Smart Survey launched on 21/05 and ran until 31/05. • Reports on uptake and initial findings presented to the RCCE working group on 1st June • Summary of findings, full report and exec summary shared with RSOG on 9/6/20;

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
					Further analyses of findings presented as infographic summaries discussed at RSOG - taken forward by work streams and wider partners as appropriate.
• Staff and public communication on contact tracing service and TTP			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • A communication for LA and HB staff regarding the contact tracing programme has been drafted and approved. This can be adapted by organisations to reflect differences in local implementation of the programme. TTP Information Poster/Leaflet produced for CTM region (content approved RSOG 23/6/20); colour scheme updated in line with RNIB advice and finalised for distribution 7/20)
• Confirm process to ensure that each of the work stream planning groups have a nominated person(s) to link with a named member of the RCCE working group for two way feedback and timely updates which can then be shared with all representatives in the group.			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Each WS has Communication as a meeting agenda item • Nominated RCCE member attached to each WS and Tactical Group.
• Confirm sign off process for both planned, proactive and any reactive communications to minimise delays			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Agreed process for proactive and reactive communication and engagement activity
• Clarify process for ongoing communication with staff both those potentially deployed into the contact tracing/testing programmes and the wider workforce in terms of expectations/practical issues associated with engaging with programmes			√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Generation of Communications by members of RCCE or by Testing/ CT / Surveillance work streams supported by RCCE members.

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
themselves. Will these communications be generated/disseminated by the RCCE group or HR?					• Dissemination to staff occur via respective organisations' channels which would include staff intranet or via HR as appropriate.
• Social distancing importance for key workers in the workplace to be re-enforced (following RSOG discussion on local PH survey and agreement for further action	√		√ Complete	Yes	Complete • Escalated need to observe SD and hand Hygiene in the workplace to: • CTMUHB Exec Directors (Corporate Services and HR) • Raised w/c 8th June with TTP CEO & Leaders Forum for action across all four organisations Reinforced at every opportunity including communications to public, staff and employers
• Develop communication engagement framework based on application of behavioural science to survey findings and local intelligence (use as basis for business case if additional funding required)			√ (13/7/20)	Yes	Complete • First draft presented to RCCE (29/6/30) • Amended to reflect discussion at RSOG and Protect WS. • Approved by RSOG
• Link with PHW National support to CTM, RSTG and IMT on engagement with migrant communities	√	√	√	Yes	Complete • Meeting with lead consultant (1/7/20) to align efforts and agree way forward • Communication materials developed • Lessons learned collated for use in future incidents • planning tool developed which could be used to assist with community engagement in future incidents
• Develop support for workplace settings to encourage staff engagement with TTP			√	Yes	Complete • Included in engagement framework; CTM work led by EB (BCBC); National Healthy

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
					• Workplace settings lead address RCCE (6/7/20) • Link with group undertaking specific work on risk assessment in larger businesses, factories etc. to promote HWW messaging and support
• Align RCCE community engagement work with TTP "Protect", CTM RPB Transformation Programme, Social Prescribing, Resetting CTM etc.	√		√	Yes	Complete • Meeting (2/7/20) to consider opportunities for alignment leading to Paper to RPB proposing way forward (approved RPB 17/7/20) • Close working between work streams established to maximise opportunities for community engagement
• Seek views on Engagement Planning Tool to accompany Engagement Framework and trial	√		√Protect		Underway • Discussed at RCCE 3/8/20 and shared with members of RSOG for initial feedback
• Collate and review social media analytics for CTM					Underway • June analytics collated. To be discussed at RCCE on 10/8/20 in advance of presentation to RSOG
• Produce stakeholder Newsletter to coincide with updated response plan	√		√		Developing • Concept approved RSOG 14/7/20
STRATEGIC AIM NO. 5 – PROTECT TO IDENTIFY THE SUPPORT WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED BY SOME PEOPLE TO ENABLE THEM TO SUCCESSFULLY SELF-ISOLATE AND ENSURE THIS SUPPORT IS PROVIDED OPENLY AND EQUITABLY ACROSS CTM.					
• Confirm scope of work stream, building on what already exists across CTM	√			Yes	Complete Scope for the work stream was agreed at RSOG on 30/6/20

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
• Confirm baseline of PROTECT activities and providers across CTM			√ 31/8/20		Underway • Detailed reports provided for RCT Resilience Hubs linked to shielding individuals. • Data collated for MT and Bridgend regional data to be amalgamated into a regional picture of support provided. • Case studies requested to demonstrate the impact of support on those receiving support • Updated as further information becomes available
• Establish what, if anything, might usefully be developed or learnt from across the region.			√ Ongoing		Underway • Partnership meeting schedule reinstated. Opportunity to share best practice across the Region
• Ensure due consideration of any additional requirements such as 'hard to reach' people or where support is needed for clusters or outbreaks, where further co-ordination across the region may be beneficial.			√ 31/8/20		Underway • Communication and engagement plan (Linked to healthier Wales) approved and implemented. Will establish communication channels between community groups and work of the RPB to inform future planning and delivery of support. • Engaged with Regional Housing Support Collaborative to understand their role and engage officers in Community Impact Assessment work. Will address information gap in relation to homelessness and temporary accommodation data.

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
• Agree a work stream plan based on the outcome of the above.	√		√ 4/8/20		Underway • Work presented to RSOG on 4/8/20 for agreement.
• Ensure clear links established with RPB & their 'resetting' plans where necessary, and develop good links with RCCE work stream on communications.			√	Yes	Complete • Resetting plans to form part of community Impact assessment detail.
• Develop Community Impact Assessment to inform strategic partnerships work plans and priorities			√ 31/8/20		Underway • Community Impact assessment being undertaken. • Report to be completed by September with interim findings presented to strategic Boards in September.
• Ensure a whole system approach to community support to increase resilience			√ Ongoing		Underway • Social value forum established and meeting regularly. • Communication and engagement plan (Linked to healthier Wales) approved and implemented. Will establish communication channels between community groups and work of the RPB to inform future planning and delivery of support. • Regular updates provided to strategic boards on any identified gaps in support. • Record of actions taken to address gaps in local support Record of actions taken to address gaps in local support
• Support the ongoing development of volunteers and volunteering opportunities to support community resilience			√ Ongoing		Underway • Task and Finish group established across RCT. Discussion and planning ongoing

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
					with Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil to take forward.
• Link to other PROTECT systems and work streams (regional & national) to build on good practice and learning from elsewhere			√	Yes	Complete • Protect Chair sits on national group. • Regular communication and updates provided.
STRATEGIC AIM NO. 5 – COVID-19 MASS VACCINATION TO DELIVER AN END-TO-END PATHWAY FOR THE DELIVERY OF A COVID-19 MASS VACCINATION PROGRAMME WITHIN CTM.					
• Agree mass vaccination plan and test via a multi-agency table-top exercise, building in lessons learnt from elsewhere, including from mass testing arrangements.	√	√	√		Underway • Planned for 12th August 2020.
• Ensure a blended delivery approach with flu vaccination programme.	√		√		Underway • Part of development of the mass pandemic immunisation plan in development. To be tested on the 12th August.
• Identify and put in place the necessary resources, including workforce, training, PPE, vaccination supply and storage etc.	√		√		Developing key risks identified
• Provide vaccinations for designated priority groups across CTM, including health and care workers, shielding and vulnerable groups.			√		Developing • Participation & engagement at National level At risk groups in line with developing WG policy
• Building on the above, provide vaccinations to remaining groups across CTM as required.			√		Developing • Participation & engagement at National level At risk groups in line with developing WG policy
• Work with Surveillance work stream & others to establish agreed metrics and	√		√		Developing

Action	Responsibility & Timescale			Complete?	Progress as at 6th August 2020
	RCOG	RSTG	Work Stream		
reporting, including vaccine uptake & links with disease surveillance.					• Participation & engagement at National level At risk groups in line with developing WG policy
• Work with the RCCE work stream & others to deliver an underpinning communication and engagement plan for staff and residents of CTM	√		√		Developing • Key link identified through RCCE work stream

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region

COVID-19 - Test, Trace, Protect Programme

Oversight Arrangements

4th August 2020

Original arrangements approved at Regional Strategic Oversight (RSOG) meeting on 9/6/20; updated since for subsequent changes, including two new work streams*.
Presented to RSOG on 4th August 2020 for approval.

***Recognising this may well change further and develop as events unfold.**

CWM TAF MORGANNWG REGION

DELIVERING A STRATEGIC, TACTICAL AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 TEST, TRACE AND PROTECT PROGRAMME

OVERSIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

1. Purpose

This oversight arrangement provides a partnership framework for delivering a strategic, tactical and operational response to the COVID-19 Test, Trace and Protect programme. It also allows processes to be established that facilitate the flow of information, and ensures that decisions are communicated effectively and documented as part of an audit trail.

Our strategic aim for the COVID-19 Test, Trace and protect programme is to:

> To put in place appropriate systems and capacities to ensure that, following the easing of lockdown measures, we do not see a rapid increase in illness and deaths in our communities due to COVID-19 infection.

The overarching objectives are as follows:

1. Protect the health of the population by taking action to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.
2. Ensure appropriate resources are in place to reduce the burden of COVID-19 in CTM through the collective efforts of contact tracing, surveillance, testing and risk communication & community engagement.
3. Ensure adequate sampling and testing capacity exists to sample all people identified as possible cases or who present a high risk of transmission to vulnerable persons.
4. Ensure local contact tracing teams are adequately resourced and are able to provide a service across the whole of the CTM area 7 days a week.
5. Ensure effective measures are in place for the control of clusters of COVID-19 infection in: healthcare settings, other enclosed settings and the wider community.
6. Ensure activity contributes to national surveillance efforts. In return ensure that data / information obtained nationally or locally is applied to maximum effect within CTM.
7. Update and satisfy the CTM Chief Executives Group that sufficient resources and effective measures are in place and being utilised to control COVID-19 in the CTM area.

2. Oversight Arrangement

Delivering the CTM COVID-19 Test, Trace and Protect programme is a partnership arrangement, between Local Authorities, the Health Board, Public Health Wales and Welsh Government, together with the support of other partners including NWISS and most importantly our local communities.

It is essential that everyone involved in the programme understands what they are required to do, how they are required to do it and by when. This is particularly important where a multi-agency response such as this is required. We need leads to be able to make and/or communicate decisions effectively.

This oversight arrangement should be clearly articulated to all those involved in the programme. Any changes should be discussed before they are undertaken and then documented. The oversight arrangement should be appropriate to the needs of the programme and sufficiently resilient for its purpose.

- **Regional Strategic Oversight Group** – provides overall **strategic** leadership of the programme on behalf and reporting in to partner organisations. It is responsible for setting the overarching strategy that all other plans must take account of.
- **Regional Tactical Group:**
    - Co-ordinates the **tactical**, individual strategies developed by the work streams, to ensure that they reflect and contribute to the programme's overarching strategy. Operationally and occupational competent in all relevant disciplines.
    - Importantly, a key role also within this group is responsibility for operating as a **Regional Response Team** in managing incidents in COVID-19 clusters, enclosed settings, & healthcare settings
- **Work streams** – responsible **operationally** for individually agreed strategies and ensuring that tactical plans are developed to support it. Operationally and occupational competent in all relevant disciplines.

The oversight arrangement is role and professional discipline rather than organisational/grade specific. Individuals of a senior grade to those nominated to undertake one of these three roles should not automatically assume superiority solely on the basis of organisation or grade responsibility. However, they are accountable for any information or advice given to group or work stream leads.

The oversight arrangements should offer flexibility. It is important to ensure that these arrangements are subject to regular review throughout the programme. They should be flexible enough to adapt to changes in the nature of the work without

jeopardising clear lines of communication or accountability and ensure that those performing the required roles are sufficiently trained, supported and competent.

Regional Oversight (Strategic) lead and Group Chair– Director of Public Health – Professor Kelechi Nnoaham (Vice Chair - Paul Mee, Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services)

The Regional Oversight (Strategic) lead and Group Chair will assume and retain overall strategic leadership for the programme. They will also be the nominated Senior Responsible Officer for the programme. They have overall responsibility for the strategy and any tactical parameters that the tactical or operational leads should follow. This lead role however should not make tactical decisions. They are responsible for ensuring that any tactics deployed are proportionate to the risks identified, meet the objectives of the strategy and are legally compliant.

The Group reports into the Chief Executives of the Local Authorities and Health Board, who meet weekly, with the attendance of the Group Chair and Deputy Chair.

For respective functions, the group and work streams also report via their leads into their respective executive functions within their own statutory bodies of the Local Authorities and Health Board. For example, the Health Board leads on testing and therefore remains responsible for the delivery of this function. Similarly, the Local Authorities remain responsible for delivering the contact tracing service within their own local areas.

Regional Tactical lead and Group Chair – Consultant in Public Health – Sion Lingard (or Vice Chair - Alice Puchades, Specialist Registrar, Medicine)

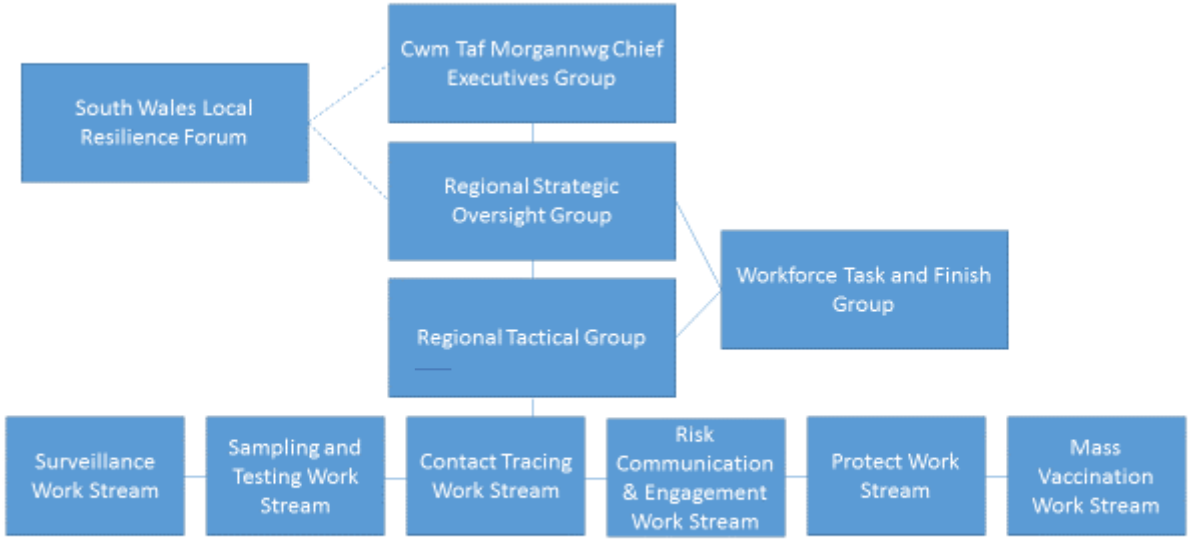
The Regional Tactical lead and Group Chair coordinates the overall tactical response in compliance with the strategy. The lead will liaise with the work stream leads and ensure/support the work stream leads in understanding the strategic intentions, the key points of the wider tactical plan and tactical objectives that relate specifically to their area of responsibility.

Work Stream Leads (or nominated deputies)

The work stream leads are responsible for a group of resources and carrying out functional or geographical responsibilities related to the tactical plan. The number of work stream leads and their roles/specialisms will be determined by the scale and nature of the programme.

Work stream functions will be created and disbanded throughout the period of the programme as required and will be allocated based on geographic and/or functional considerations. Work stream members must have a clear understanding of the tactical plan, ie, what they are required to deliver, in what timescale and with what resources.

The diagram below sets out a schematic for how the above groups operate and relate:



Regional Strategic Oversight Group - Membership, Roles and Responsibilities

(Appendix 1 sets out the terms of reference for the group).

Role	Nominated Deputy
Director of Public Health & Chair – Kelechi Nnoaham	Paul Mee - Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services
Director of Public Health, Protection & Community Services, RCT LA & Contact Tracing work stream lead – Paul Mee	Louise Davies, Service Director for Public Protection

Role	Nominated Deputy
Bridgend CBC Director/Senior Manager - David Holland/Kelly Watson	Christina Hill, Operational Manager Commercial Services
Merthyr Tydfil CBC Director/Senior Manager - Alyn Owen Deputy Chief Executive	Susan Gow - Environmental Health Manager
RCT CBC Director/Senior Manager Louise Davies, Service Director for Public Protection Services	Rhian Hope, Health Protection and Licensing Manager
CTM UHB IP&C Team representative Infection Control Doctor – Rupali Rajpurohit	Lead IP&C Nurse – Bethan Cradle
Surveillance work stream lead – Principal Public Health Intelligence Analyst, Andrea Gartner	Ciaran Slyne, Senior Analyst
Testing work stream lead – Elaine Tanner	Sharon O'Brien, Head of Corporate Nursing
Communications / community engagement work stream lead – Sara Thomas, Consultant in Public Health	Julia Sumner, Interim Head of Communications
Public Health Wales Health Protection Team Consultant in Communicable Disease Control / Consultant in Health Protection (open invite) – Heather Lewis	Nicola Hathway, Health Protection Nurse
Chair of CTM TTP Regional Tactical Group – Sion Lingard, Consultant in Public Health	Jennifer Evans, Principal Health Promotion Specialist
Protect work stream lead – Rachel Rowlands, Chair of RPB and CEO Age Connect Morgannwg	Sarah Mills, Regional Partnership Board Programme Manager
Mass vaccination work stream – Lesley Lewis, ILG Nurse Director, Merthyr and Cynon	Fiona Wood, Interim Deputy Head of Nursing (Palliative Care & Community Specialist Services), Primary Care & Community Services
Senior Planner – Ruth Treharne	Julie Kelly, Programme Manager
Programme Manager – Julie Kelly	Senior Planner – Ruth Treharne

Regional Tactical Group - Membership, Roles and Responsibilities
(Appendix 2 sets out the terms of reference for the group).

Role	Nominated Deputy
Consultant in Public Health and Chair – Sion Lingard	Alice Puchades, Specialist Registrar, Medicine
Bridgend CBC representative for contact tracing / cluster management* - Operational Manager Commercial Services Christina Hill	Angela Clack, Lead Officer Infectious Disease

Merthyr Tydfil CBC representative for contact tracing / cluster management - Sian Rapson	Susan Gow
RCT CBC representative for contact tracing / cluster management - Kelly Snare, Regional Team Manager	Sian Bolton, Environmental Health Officer
CTM UHB Continuing Care Team representative – Sian Lewis	To be confirmed
CTM UHB IP&C Team representative Bethan Cradle	Sarah Morgan
Surveillance work stream representative - Andrea Gartner	Ciaran Slyne, Senior Analyst
Testing work stream representative–Elaine Tanner	Sharon O'Brien, Head of Corporate Nursing
Communications / community engagement work stream representative – Julia Sumner, Head of Communications	Natasha Weeks, Assistant Head of Communications
Healthcare Epidemiologist - Amy Plimmer	Available IPC representative
Public Health Wales Health Protection Team representative (open invite) Nicola Hathway, Health Protection Nurse	Heather Lewis, Consultant in Health Protection James Hughes, Health Protection Nurse
Programme Manager – Julie Kelly	Ruth Treharne, Senior Planner

Work Streams

There are currently six work streams as follows:

- Surveillance work stream led by Andrea Gartner
- Contact Tracing work stream led by Paul Mee
- Testing work stream led by Elaine Tanner
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement work stream led by Sara Thomas
- Protect work stream led by Rachel Rowlands
- Mass vaccination work stream led by Lesley Lewis

Each has its own group membership and work programme.

3. South Wales Local Resilience Forum

There will be rare occasions where an outbreak may necessitate the activation of civil contingency arrangements. This is likely to be where the nature and scale of the communicable disease overwhelms services, or where it creates wider strategic issues

or risks that may have a serious impact on the public. It is likely that one or several Outbreak Control Teams will have been established under the **Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales**, July 2020.

In such a scenario, the Wales Resilience Emergency Civil Contingency structures will be employed or invoked. Part 7 of the The Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales, July 2020, outlines in detail the assessment process with the relevant Local Resilience Forum, in our case the South Wales Local Resilience Forum, and activation of a Strategic Co-ordinating Group if required and the co-ordination and communication with Welsh Government in these circumstances.

If the **Wales Framework for Managing Major Infectious Disease Emergencies** is activated, this sets out the co-ordination arrangements and where Outbreak Control Teams (and thus the arrangements in the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales) sit. In exceptional circumstances there are also specific UK arrangements for bioterrorism or other particular infectious disease threats which would take precedence over these plans.

4. Other Partners (including the Regional Partnership Board and Public Services Boards)

Links will be made with other partners, on a two way basis, as appropriate and depending on requirements. For example, the RPB is well connected through the Chair of the Partnership who also leads on the Protect work stream for CTM. The two PSBs are also connected into the programme and currently supporting an impact analysis exercise for the Protect work stream, together with the RPB.

5. Meeting Frequency

- Regional Strategic Oversight Group: Meetings are held weekly on a Tuesday.
- Regional Tactical Group: Meetings are held twice weekly – Monday and Thursday.
- Work Streams: As required and varies by individual work stream

6. Work Programme

Each group or work stream will hold its own inter-linked work programme. These will remain continuously under review by the relevant groups.

7. Governance Arrangements

As a consequence of the outbreak of COVID-19, this regional oversight arrangement has collectively been tasked by Chief Executives, with centrally co-ordinating the CTM Test, Trace and Protect programme that affects all of the participating agencies. It is noted that the arrangement is not a legal entity and neither are its operating structures (including the Regional Tactical Group and Working Groups). The oversight arrangement operates as a partnership between membership agencies and reiterates the sovereignty of individual agencies.

Its role as a coordinating function does not have the collective authority to issue executive orders to member agencies and cannot assume any liabilities in relation to its coordinating activities and/or any decisions which are taken jointly for example in terms of quality, information or financial governance). However it retains a strong and shared commitment to work openly together and take decisions in the spirit of partnership, with the overriding shared aim of delivering for the benefit of the communities it serves.

8. Issues Log

An Issues log operates at each level.

9. Risk Register

Risk Registers operate at each level.

10. Lessons Learnt Log

A lessons learnt log has been developed and held at strategic oversight level by the Programme Manager. This is informed by feedback from across the programme. All staff and partners will be encouraged to participate in sharing lessons on a live basis and fed back into the programme so we are learning from experience and also practice elsewhere.

11. Communications

Good communications are vital and will work across the various levels of the programme, including a dedicated work stream on this with its own work programme.

12. Review

This document will be kept under regular review with any significant changes signed off at the Regional Strategic Oversight Group.

CTM COVID-19 Regional Strategic Oversight Group

Background

The Welsh Government's strategy "Test, Trace, Protect" (May 2020) lays down the principles for leading Wales out of the COVID-19 pandemic. It sets out a framework for the effective control of coronavirus transmission before, during and after the relaxation of lockdown restrictions.

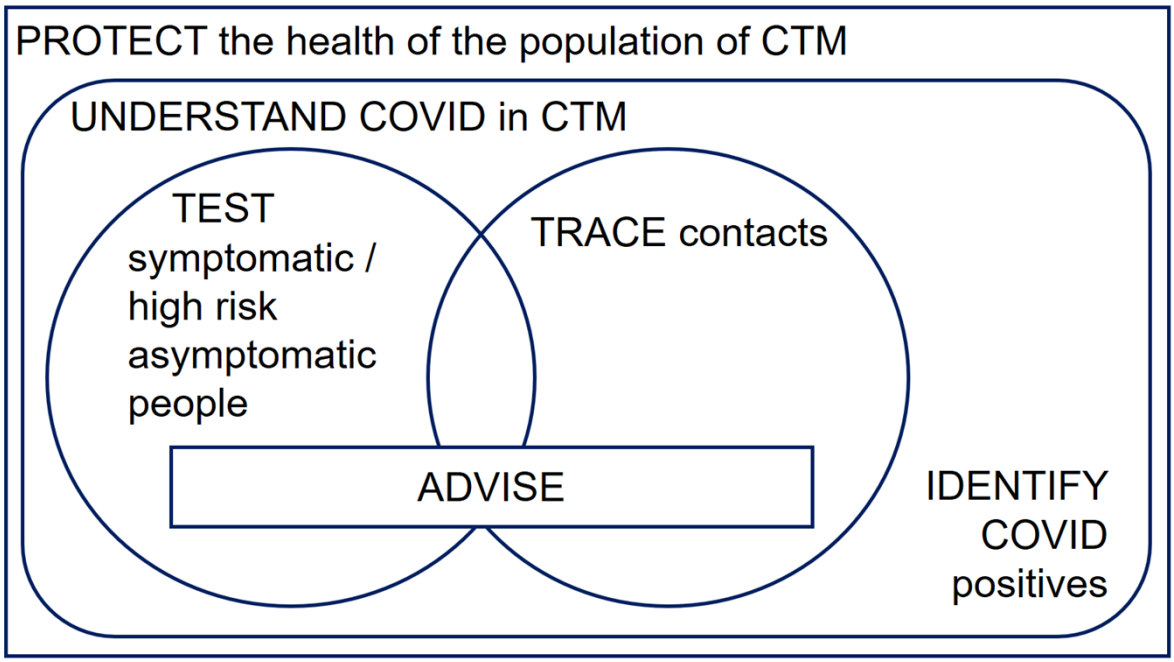
Public Health Wales' Public Health Protection Response Plan provides greater detail as to what measures need to be implemented. Included within this plan is the concept of 'Regional Response Teams' for each Health Board footprint and led by the local Director of Public Health. This arrangement is responsible for the contact tracing and cluster management activities, but also must have a remit for other themes as the Health Board is responsible for the health of their local population and the local authorities are the relevant health protection authorities under public health legislation.

Within the CTM area this response is led by the CTM COVID-19 Strategic Oversight Group, with activity directed by a Tactical Group that meets twice weekly.

Strategic Aims of the CTM Response

1. To PREVENT deaths from COVID-19
2. To PROTECT the health of the people in our community

Objectives of the Strategic Oversight Group



8. Protect the health of the population by leading on activity and availability of resources to manage the transmission of COVID-19.
9. Ensure appropriate resources are in place to identify COVID-19 cases by the collective efforts of contact tracing; surveillance; testing and communication and community engagement.
10. Ensure adequate sampling and testing capacity exists to sample all people identified as possible cases or who present a high risk of transmission to vulnerable persons.
11. Ensure local contact tracing teams are adequately resourced and are able to provide a service across the whole of the CTM area 7 days a week.
12. Ensure effective measures are in place for the control of clusters in: Healthcare settings; other enclosed settings; the wider community.
13. Ensure activity contributes to national surveillance efforts. In return ensure that data / information obtained nationally or locally is applied to maximum effect within CTM.
14. Update and satisfy the CTM Chief Executives Group that sufficient resources and effective measures are in place and being utilised to control COVID-19 in the CTM area.

Remit

The CTM COVID-19 Strategic Oversight Group shall lead on all activity within the CTM area relating to the control of COVID-19. This activity shall include contact tracing, testing and communication on COVID-19 matters and be led by surveillance, other intelligence and guidance.

Membership

All members shall identify an appropriate deputy that can attend in their absence.

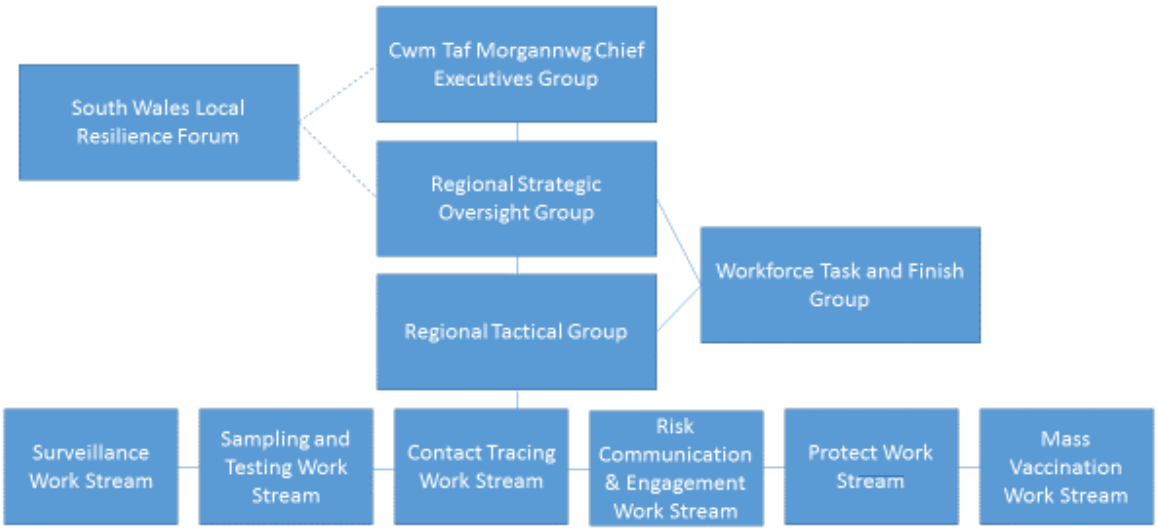
Chair: Director of Public Health, CTM UHB and Programme Senior Responsible Officer
Bridgend CBC Director / Senior Manager
Merthyr Tydfil CBC Director / Senior Manager
RCT CBC Director / Senior Manager
CTM UHB IP&C Team representative (Infection Control Doctor or Lead IP&C Nurse)
Surveillance work stream lead
Testing work stream lead
Communications / community engagement work stream lead
Protect work stream lead
Mass vaccination work stream lead
Public Health Wales Health Protection Team Consultant in Communicable Disease Control / Consultant in Health Protection (open invite)
Chair of CTM COVID-19 Regional Tactical Group
Senior Planner
CTM PHT Project Management support

Meetings

Meetings shall be held weekly – Tuesday. During the meetings representatives shall report briefly on the following topics:

- Contact tracing in each local authority area, clusters identified and issues to be escalated.
- Testing capacity and arrangements available to those within CTM and issues to be escalated.
- Surveillance report on cluster identification, transmission rates, key information required to monitor the performance of activity.
- Communication and community engagement.
- Clusters within specific settings that have a direct impact on the wider community or other settings.

Governance Structure



CTM COVID-19 Tactical Group

Background

The Welsh Government's strategy "Test, Trace, Protect" (May 2020) lays down the principles for leading Wales out of the COVID-19 pandemic. It sets out a framework for the effective control of coronavirus transmission before, during and after the relaxation of lockdown restrictions.
Public Health Wales' Public Health Protection Response Plan provides greater detail as to what measures need to be implemented. Included within this plan is the concept of 'Regional Response Teams' for each Health Board footprint and led by the local Director of Public Health. This arrangement is responsible for the contact tracing and cluster management activities, but also must have a remit for other themes as the Health Board is responsible for the health of their local population and the local authorities are the relevant health protection authorities under public health legislation.
Within the CTM area this response is led by the CTM COVID-19 Strategic Oversight Group (chaired by the Director of Public Health).

Strategic Aims of the CTM Response

3. To PREVENT deaths from COVID-19
4. To PROTECT the health of the people in our community

Objectives of the Tactical Group

15. Protect the health of the population by directing activity to manage the transmission of COVID-19. Target effort towards reducing incidence of the disease month on month.
16. Identify COVID-19 cases by the collective efforts of communication and engagement; surveillance; contact tracing and testing.
17. Support the effective use of testing capacity to sample all people identified as possible cases or who present a high risk of transmission to vulnerable persons.
18. Support local teams to provide advice to cases and contacts on self-isolation to minimise transmission.
19. Direct efforts for the effective control of clusters in: Healthcare settings; other enclosed settings; the wider community.
20. Enable the contribution to national surveillance efforts. In return ensure that data / information obtained nationally or locally is applied to maximum effect within CTM.

Remit

The CTM COVID-19 Tactical Group shall direct activity within the CTM area relating to the control of COVID-19. This activity shall include contact tracing, testing and communication on COVID-19 matters and be led by surveillance, other intelligence and guidance available to the Group. However this Group shall not deal with operational and managerial matters relating to the provision of resources – this shall be a matter for the Strategic Oversight Group, work streams and partner organisations.

Membership

All members shall identify an appropriate deputy that can attend in their absence.

Chair: Consultant in Public Health, CTM PHT
Bridgend CBC representative for contact tracing / cluster management*
Merthyr Tydfil CBC representative for contact tracing / cluster management*
RCT CBC representative for contact tracing / cluster management*
CTM UHB Continuing Care Team representative
CTM UHB IP&C Team representative
Surveillance work stream representative
Testing work stream representative
Communications / community engagement work stream representative
Healthcare Epidemiologist
Public Health Wales Health Protection Team representative (open invite)
*Collectively they shall report on contact tracing and cluster management issues within their area.

Meetings

Meetings shall be held twice weekly – Monday and Thursday. During the meetings representatives shall report briefly on the following topics:

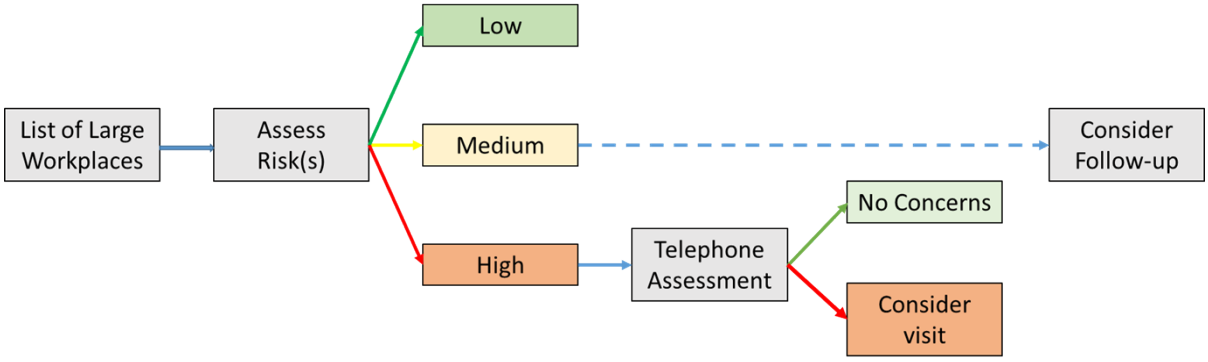
- Contact tracing in each local authority area, clusters identified and issues to be escalated
- Testing capacity and arrangements available to those within CTM and issues to be escalated
- Surveillance report on cluster identification, transmission rates key information required to direct action
- Communication messages and activity
- Clusters within specific settings that have a direct impact on the wider community or other settings

Governance Structure

Risk assessment process for large commercial premises (Covid 19)

Background:

There is a risk of clusters of Covid 19 developing at large workplaces, due of the nature of work undertaken and difficulties in maintaining social distancing. Proactive assessment should be made of the risks posed by individual settings and contact made with those considered high risk, to support the implementation of control/ mitigation measures.



Steps:

1: Develop / compile list of workplaces using available databases and soft intelligence.

2: Initial risk assessment, categorising settings as high, medium and low risk

Risk factors may include:

- Meat processing and packing plants.
- Large workforce - 250 plus
- In absence of workforce size, throughput can be used as a proxy.
- Staff who are likely to share HMOs and or/ transport
- Wet, cold, poorly ventilated enclosed working environment.
- Low/ no natural light.
- Production lines where it would be hard to socially distance.
- Previous history regarding regulation/ compliance

Meat processing plants will have FSA staff on-site and can provide intelligence, for EHO action

3: Call settings, prioritised by risk, to talk through risks / mitigation

Guidance for reopening Manufacturing premises can be accessed via Health Working Wales: LINK

Food Innovation Wales have produced a risk assessment for workplaces (May be applied to non-food premises): LINK

4: Following telephone assessment, consider visits to settings deemed at high risk

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Considerations for Local Enhanced Covid19 Measures

In May 2020, The Welsh Government published its approach to moving out of the current COVID-19 lockdown, "***Unlocking our society and economy: continuing the conversation"***. This outlines a "traffic light" approach to easing restrictions in a number of key domains **(see Annex 1).** This document explicitly references that, where local increases in incidence cannot be controlled through 'Test Trace and Protect', it may be necessary to re-impose measures. Progression from lockdown, through red and amber to green may not proceed at the same rate for all areas and it may be necessary to reverse course in some areas should conditions worsen.

Figure 1 outlines a phased approach to identifying and responding to local increases in incidence. The objectives and actions at each phase build stepwise towards implementation of local lockdown.

Where deemed necessary to (re)introduce locally enhanced measures, consideration should be informed by available evidence, to limit ongoing transmission whilst minimising the impact on the local population and economy.

Where local "hotspots" are identified/suspected, it will be necessary to increase testing and surveillance to generate evidence of increased incidence.

Consider:

- Enhanced/ proactive testing, particularly of large workplaces and other enclosed settings.
- Enhanced surveillance to identify "hotspots" and areas of concern
- Drawing on surge capacity to bolter local 'Test, Trace and Protect' provision

Phase	Stable	Re-emergence	Community
Objective	• Minimise spread of infection • **Plan** to ensure readiness to respond to re-	• Intervene early to prevent further spread of infection • **Prepare** response for community outbreaks	• **Act** to contain community outbreak
Response	• Surveillance • Communications • Management of clusters/outbreaks in discreet settings • Define thresholds for Re-emergence and Community Outbreak • **Plan** to ensure readiness to response to Re-emergence and Community Outbreak	As Plan plus • Intensive surveillance • Enhanced communications to warn public of heightened risk and encourage greater social distancing • Liaise with WG and consider terms of potential 'local lockdown' – the measures to be used and their geographical extent – and **prepare** to implement	As Prepare plus • Confirm terms and **implement** 'local lockdown'
Indicators	**(1) Daily COVID-19 test positivity rates, (2) Weekly total of new cases, and (3) 7-day rolling cumulative positive cases**		
Triggers			
Threshold	All indicators within 3 standard deviations of baseline (15th June 2020) • Overall HB; and • **All** local authority areas; and • **All** built up areas	All Indicators >3 standard deviations above baseline • **One or more** local authority areas; or • **One or more** built up areas	All Indicators >5 standard deviations above baseline • Overall HB; or • **One or more** built up areas
		AND	
Other situational awareness		• Higher case rate or increase in case rate cannot be explained by higher rates of testing - i.e. positivity rate is not artificially low compared to previous periods or other areas. • Higher case rate or increase in case rate cannot be explained by cases related to one or more outbreaks in discreet settings that could be managed through a response targeted at these settings	

Figure 1: Phased Approach for (re)escalation for locally enhanced measures

NB: Baseline= Rate as of 15th of June 2020

Enforcement of enhanced measures

Where possible, measures should be enforced by communities and individuals themselves. Where necessary, measures may be enforced through a combination of statutory powers drafted by the Government and existing local enforcement powers, which can be triggered to protect the public. The Government powers will reverse some easements, which have already happened, and defer others which were due to take place.

Specific enforcement powers such as those under the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2020 or the Part 2A Order under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 are delegated to authorised officers to use in accordance with the Council's corporate enforcement policies. More strategic decisions concerning for example the closure of public services or imposition of local restrictions will need to be made by the Leader of each Council with their Cabinet. If the decision is urgent, each Council will have arrangements to make an urgent decision for example by way of an Executive Decision.

Consider:

- Arrangements and responsibilities for declaring and enforcing enhanced measures, including relevant authorities (Las, LRF, etc.) and expertise.
- Developing clear, targeted, public engagement to develop public understanding and support for enhanced measures.
- Working with national (UK/ WALES) government to develop/ adopt tailored legal powers.
- Publishing details of relevant legal powers on website(s) (Local Authority, Public Health Wales, Health Board(s)).
- Proactive enforcement of social distancing in public areas (police/ community wardens/ Social distancing "champions") and workplaces (EHOs).
- Establishing/ publicising contact routes for reporting non compliance

Communication
In the event of localised increases in rates of COVID-19 infection, the public and relevant stakeholders should be kept informed, to increase awareness of risks, ensure local support and reduce potential of onward transmission.

Consider

- Provision of public information on
    - Geographical scale of the affected area, based on enhanced surveillance
    - likely length of time for enhanced restrictions (subject to review based on local incidence)
    - Nature of local restrictions, including closure of businesses/ facilities
    - Sources of information/ support

- Provision of information in a range of media (social media platforms, press releases, posters, mail shots etc,)
- Provision of information in a range of community languages, as appropriate (including British Sign Language)
- "Segmentation"/ tailoring messages for specific groups (using behavioural science informed approaches), with appropriate "routes in"/ two way communication.
- Reinforcement of key messages related to:
    - Signs and symptoms
    - Access to testing
    - Hand hygiene- with enhanced public provision of hand hygiene stations, etc.
    - Social distancing

Travel
It may be necessary to restrict travel in order to reduce likelihood of transmission.

Consider:

- Recommending travel within, into and outside of the affected area, ONLY if such travel is essential, e.g.:
    - work (if you cannot work from home),
    - to obtain essential food or medical supplies, or
    - to take exercise (restricted to once a day, in the local area, observing social distancing).

Schools/ Colleges/ universities
Schools in Wales began phased opening on 29 June. Depending on the time of year, it may be necessary to close/ restrict opening of schools, colleges and universities.

Consider:

- Schools remaining open for children of key workers and vulnerable children
- Closing of schools to all other pupils, as per prior to lifting of restrictions
- Schools remaining closed until a given date (e.g. following school holidays)
- Supporting provision of enhanced teaching (web based, workbooks, etc), to enable learning from home.
- Working with universities and to ensure infection prevention and control in shared housing.
- Encouraging online/ staggered tutorials and lectures

Businesses/ shops
Reopening of non-essential shops/ businesses in Wales has proceeded in a phased manner. In the event of increased local transmission, this may need review at the local level.

Consider:

- Restricting the (re)opening of non-essential businesses. This would include:
    - Pubs/ Restaurants/ social clubs

    - Hairdressers;
    - leisure facilities/ gyms;
    - cinemas;
    - museums / galleries;
    - theme parks/ arcades;
- Financial support for businesses required to close (will require national agreements)

Community facilities
Access to / use of community facilities may need to be limited

Consider:

- closure of community facilities:
    - libraries;
    - places of worship;
    - community centres;
    - playgrounds;

Extended Households/ Support Bubbles
Two households have been able join together in one "bubble" household in Wales from July 6th, to meet in each other's houses or outside, while observing social distancing.

Consider:

- Limiting the formation of support bubbles, to reduce risk of transmission

Individuals who are shielding
The Chief Medical Officer for Wales has advised that shielding should continue until the 16 August 2020. A letter has been sent to everyone in Wales who is shielding to tell them this and what to do next.

Individuals who are shielding can now form an **extended household with another household**. However, physical distancing within an extended household should continue where possible.

Those who are shielding can continue to leave home to exercise or meet outside with people from another household. They should strictly follow physical distancing (2 metres or 3 steps away from another person) and you should practice good hygiene using a hand sanitiser and avoiding touching things touched by others.

Consider:
Pre 16th August 2020:

- Advise against forming an extended household
- Advise against non-essential trips out of the house.

Post 16th August 2020 (in addition to above):

- Local extension of shielding provision (including letters to enable exclusion from work)
- Explore provision of food/ medicine delivery

Support for vulnerable People
Consider:

- Providing a contact email/ telephone number for individuals requiring support/ information
- Local arrangements for support with food/ medicine delivery

Appendix 1: Restriction Domains (**LINK**)

Education and Care for Children (Includes HE and FE)	
LOCKDOWN	Closed except to key workers and vulnerable children. Outreach services in place.
RED	No change, but able to manage increase in demand from children already eligible to attend schools and childcare.
AMBER	Priority groups of pupils to return to school in a phased approach.
GREEN	All children and students able to access education. All children able to access childcare.

Seeing family and friends	
LOCKDOWN	Stay at home and contact only within households (limited exceptions).
RED	Seeing one person from outside your household to provide or receive care or support whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.
AMBER	Taking exercise with one other person or small group whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.
GREEN	Meeting one other person or small group to socialise whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing.

Getting around	
LOCKDOWN	Leave the house for essential travel only.
RED	Local travel, including for click-and-collect retail. Promote active travel and adapt public transport for physical distancing.
AMBER	Allow outdoor leisure and recreation. Travel for leisure, access non-essential retail and services, and more people travelling to work.
GREEN	Unrestricted travel subject to ongoing precautions.

Exercise, playing sport and games	
LOCKDOWN	Exercise once a day outside of house on own or with household.
RED	Exercise more than once a day and incidental activity locally. Outdoor sports courts to open. Elite athletes resume some activity.
AMBER	Team and individual sports, non-contact sport and games in small groups indoors and outdoors. Some outdoor events with limited capacity and events behind closed doors for broadcast.
GREEN	All sports, leisure and cultural activities open, with physical distancing. All events resume with limited capacity.

Practicing faith	
LOCKDOWN	Closure of places of worship, with exceptions for funerals and cremations.
RED	Opening of places of worship for private prayer under physical distancing.
AMBER	Limit services and size of congregations linked to ability to ensure physical distancing.
GREEN	All places open with full range of services, alongside physical distancing.

Relaxing and special occasions	
LOCKDOWN	Stay at home and only leave the house for essential purposes.
RED	Some opening of outdoor cultural and other sites. Relaxation and leisure outdoors where local.
AMBER	More cultural and leisure sites to reopen (e.g. museums and galleries). Weddings and other events with limited capacity and physical distancing.
GREEN	All special occasions and cultural and leisure activities permitted with precautions in place.

Working or running a business	
LOCKDOWN	Work from home if possible. List of businesses required to close. 2m requirement in workplaces where not possible to work from home.
RED	More outdoor work and click-and-collect retail. Businesses not required to close (e.g. construction) reopening under safe working practices.
AMBER	Non-essential retail to reopen with physical distancing. Trial some personal services under appointment (e.g. hairdressers). Accommodation businesses open without shared facilities.
GREEN	Restaurants, pubs and customer contact industries under physical distancing. All businesses and workplaces open under new protocols.

Going shopping	
LOCKDOWN	Essential retail only face-to-face.
RED	**Include click-and-collect for non-essential retail.** Begin making adaptations to public realm (e.g. town centres).
AMBER	Can access most non-essential retail where adaptations are possible to maintain physical distancing. Town centres and high streets adapted to facilitate shopping and accessing services under physical distancing.
GREEN	Able to access all retail and leisure facilities whilst taking reasonable precautions.

Going shopping	
LOCKDOWN	Access to emergency or essential services only.
RED	Increase the availability of public services gradually (e.g. waste and recycling, libraries). Increase scope of essential health and Social Care services
AMBER	Continue to increase the availability of public services. Increase access to non-essential health and care services (e.g. elective surgery, dentistry).
GREEN	Access to all normal public, health and social care services under physical distancing where possible or precautions in other settings.

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Overview of CTM Covid-19 regional surveillance indicators and schedule

Date: 13/07/2020

Surveillance schedule:

Review schedule weekly and adjust if at higher daily numbers than currently.

Week day	Activities
Monday	daily cases for LA, key worker groups and care homes
	HAI, cases in hospital, cases in ICU, deaths in hospital from CDSC report
	update reporting to ROG for 2.30 pm deadline
	Produce weekly output for ROG
Tuesday	daily cases for LA, key worker groups and care homes
	ONS deaths on release, Excess deaths
	Weekly surveillance indicators dashboard reported to local authority/UHB CEOs meeting.
Wednesday	daily cases for LA, key worker groups and care homes
Thursday	daily cases for LA, key worker groups and care homes
Friday	daily cases for LA, key worker groups and care homes, LSOA and deprivation
	weekly indicators in preparation for Monday reporting to ROG

Exception rules based on daily cases

Review rules weekly and adjust if at higher daily numbers than currently.

	Action
5 or fewer in CTM	No additional investigation
Daily cases: 6 to 10 in CTM Or daily increase of 9 or fewer	Daily analysis as scheduled above
Increase of 10 or more cases in CTM	Additionally investigate other detailed weekly case indicators (e.g. by LSOA, care home etc.) to check for clusters
Increase of 20 or more cases in CTM or the following in each LA (RCT 20, Bridgend 15, MT 10) Or increase of 10 cases in CTM two days running	as above and issue warning to ROG (unless already known) with detail of breakdown by LA and risk group
Daily increase of 30 or more cases in CTM	as above and escalate to ROG (unless already known) and executive

Exception rules for specific settings covered by others

Review rules weekly and adjust if at higher daily numbers than currently.

Indicator	**Rule**	**Action**
4a Number of patients tested in care homes	TBC	TBC discuss with Sion and others how care home cases are escalated by contact tracing

with a positive result, by specific care home		
4c HAI	2 or more new cases on a non-Covid ward	Raise incident on outbreak manager tool, and included in weekly hospital infection report widely circulated (frequency increased if cases increase)

Table 1. Current indicators to be monitored

Number	Indicators	Comments	Measure of change	Data source	Frequency	Availability
Objective 1: Monitor intensity and severity of COVID-19 spread in CTM						
1a	Number of daily cases for CTM and LA residents	Daily refresh from HB information team (data delay with Kepak cases TBC)	Assess trend in daily number and 5-day rolling average	LIMS	Daily	Available
1b	Number of new confirmed COVID cases in CTM hospitals	Use hospital Infection report (Fri).	Assess trend in daily number	CDSC update ICNet	Weekly on Mon	Available
1c	Number of COVID-related ICU admissions in CTM hospitals	Use hospital Infection report (Fri).	Assess trend in daily and weekly number	CDSC update ICNet	Weekly on Mon	Available
1d	Number of weekly deaths Covid-19 by location (ONS) for CTM and LA residents	Two week delay	Assess trend in weekly number	ONS	Weekly – Tuesday AM	Available
1e	Weekly excess deaths (due to Covid, not due to Covid) for CTM residents	Two week delay, LA not available	Assess trend in weekly number	ONS data from PHW dashboard	Weekly – Tuesday PM	Available
1f	Deaths in CTM hospitals (provider population)	Use hospital Infection report		CDSC update from ICNet	Weekly on Mon	Available

1g	Number of positive cases by LSOA/postcode		Check for clusters (3+)	LIMS	Daily	Available
Objective 2: Monitor behaviour of COVID-19 in at-risk groups						
2a	Number of cases in key workers by group and non-key workers, CTM and LA residents	Daily refresh from HB information team	Assess trend in daily number	LIMS	Daily (with strong caveats)	Available
2b	Number of patients tested in care homes with a positive result, CTM and LA residents	Daily refresh from HB information team	Assess trend in daily number	LIMS	Weekly on Mon	Available
2c	Number of patients tested in the community with a positive result, CTM residents	Daily refresh from HB information team	Assess trend in daily number	LIMS	Daily (with caveats)	Available
2c	Rate of weekly cases per 100,000 by deprivation fifth, in CTM only	Investigate fortnightly if cases stable or decreasing	Assess trend in number	LIMS	Fortnightly	Available
2d	Age specific rates per 100,000 in CTM	Investigate fortnightly if cases stable or decreasing	Assess trend in number	LIMS	Fortnightly	Available
2e	Positivity rate	Investigate fortnightly if cases stable or decreasing	Assess rate with test numbers	CDSC update ICNet	Fortnightly	Available
2f	Number of contacts identified per case	Awaiting ability to extract data	Assess numbers	CRM	Weekly	TBC
Objective 3: Monitor immunity to COVID-19 in CTM						
3a	Proportion with SARS-CoV-2 antibodies by key worker group	Use daily NWIS Excel files until direct access set up	Assess proportions	LIMS	Weekly	Available
Objective 4: Detect outbreaks in hospitals and LTCFs						
4a	Number of patients tested in care homes with a positive result, by specific care home	Daily refresh from HB information team	Assess trend in daily number	LIMS	Daily (with caveats)	Available

4b	Number of prisoners with a positive result	Clarification of coding completeness needed		LIMS? Data completeness tbc	tbc	TBC
4c	Number of hospital infections by category (CAI, indeterminate, HAI) by CTM hospital	Use weekly hospital Infection report	Assess weekly trend in numbers	CDSC update ICNet	Weekly on Monday	Available

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Updated COVID-19 testing strategy for Cwm Taf Morgannwg

Previous COVID-19 testing strategy in CTM

An initial COVID-19 testing strategy from Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) was written and approved by Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB Strategic Co-ordinating Group (Gold) on 23rd April 2020. This initial testing strategy outlined the levels of COVID-19 testing at the time, estimates of demand and capacity for testing, and the plans for increasing testing in CTM.

Since the approval of the "COVID-19 testing strategy in CTM" there have been many changes in COVID-19 testing in CTM. The levels of COVID-19 testing, the groups that are eligible for testing, the tests available and the routes for testing have all changed dramatically in the 6 weeks since the previous strategy was approved. Many of the plans for testing in CTM outlined in that strategy have been achieved, and many more COVID-19 tests are being undertaken in a wider range of people in CTM than when the initial strategy was written.

However, policy decisions on COVID-19 testing at a UK and Wales level, and the availability of different types of COVID-19 tests, have meant that testing plans have had to deviate from those announced in the initial strategy. Wales announced the "*Test, Trace, Protect*" strategy on 13th May 2020, which outlines the new contact tracing system that began in Wales on 1st June 2020. A key strand to this strategy is testing all symptomatic individuals and tracing their contacts. CTM Health Board is also beginning to return to usual business as part of the recovery phase. This strategy document brings together the ongoing work around improving testing in CTM to meet the testing demands as lockdown is eased across Wales, and routine healthcare work is resumed.

Aims of COVID-19 testing strategy

1. Consolidate reductions in the transmission of COVID-19 within the CTM community by encouraging compliance with self-isolation guidance for symptomatic individuals and their households.
2. Reduce transmission of COVID-19 within the CTM community by encouraging compliance with self-isolation for individuals with confirmed COVID-19 and their contacts, as part of Welsh Government's "Test, Track, Protect" strategy.
3. Protect vulnerable people, both within closed settings and in the community, by reducing their risk of exposure to COVID-19.
4. Enable key workers, from the NHS, public sector and private sector settings, to return to work as quickly as possible following a negative COVID-19 test result.
5. Surveillance of COVID-19 within the CTM community to enable greater understanding of the epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in the CTM population and better planning of the COVID-19 response.
6. Support future plans for easing of lockdown restrictions, and enable rapid response to local outbreaks once general social isolation guidance has been eased.

Background - Current COVID-19 testing in CTM

Type of test

There are two main types of test for COVID-19: antigen tests and antibody tests. Up until 1ST June 2020 in the UK the only type of testing that was available at a large scale for COVID-19 was PCR antigen testing for active infection using an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal swab. In CTM residents can access PCR antigen testing through two main routes:

- Oropharyngeal swabs organised by CTM health board and taken in hospitals, mass testing centres and coronavirus testing units, or care homes and private residences by testing centre staff. These swabs are currently processed in UHW and RGH.
- Oropharyngeal and nasal swabs that are delivered to people's homes using the Amazon courier service and are processed in England.

Since 1st June antibody serology testing has been available. This test provides information on a person's immune response to a historic COVID-19 infection. This test is currently taken using a phlebotomy sample of blood, and the test is processed in CTM hospital laboratories.

Groups of people who are eligible for testing

Currently in CTM PCR testing for active COVID-19 infection is taking place in a range of situations:

1. Testing of hospital inpatients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
2. Testing of symptomatic key workers or their household members as defined by Welsh Government in the "*Key (critical) workers testing policy: coronavirus (COVID-19*)" on 18th May 2020.
3. Testing in Care Homes including:
    a. All residents who are due to be discharged from hospital into a Care Home
    b. All residents who are entering a Care Home from the community or another care setting.
    c. All residents and staff members of care homes reporting a possible case of Covid-19 in a resident or member of staff.
    d. All residents and staff members in all care homes as part of a rolling programme of routine care home testing. This testing for residents is undertaken every 2 weeks for elderly care facilities, and every 3 weeks for other types of long-term living facilities. Staff at elderly care facilities are being tested every week for 4 weeks from 15/06/20 – 06/07/20.
4. Testing of symptomatic prisoners through healthcare services within the prison.
5. Testing of all symptomatic members of the public regardless of age.
6. Testing of a random sample of asymptomatic healthcare workers through a rolling programme of asymptomatic healthcare worker tests in CTM hospital and community healthcare services.

Case definition for testing

The case definition for testing for COVID-19 in for the general population in CTM is aligned with the PHE COVID-19 case definition for COVID testing. This was updated on 18th May 2020 to include anosmia. The current case definition is:

- Fever of >37.8
- And/or a new continuous cough

- And/or a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

On 9th April CTM Gold group approved a broader definition for testing of health and social care workers and their household contacts to include (any or a combination of the following symptoms):

- A fever (37.8c or higher)
- A new continuous cough
- New onset of influenza like illness (including muscle aches and tiredness)
- Cold like symptoms (including headache, runny nose, sore eyes - that is not consistent with hay fever)
- Loss of sense of taste or smell

This broader case definition is remaining for health and social care workers, due to their higher rates of infection compared to the general population and the vulnerable groups of patients and residents that they come into contact with through their work. This aims to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in health and social care settings, which are known to be locations that have seen higher rates of COVID-19 transmission.

Results

Results of COVID testing are delivered in different ways depending on the location of the testing.

- Hospital inpatients will have their results delivered by their clinicians.
- Symptomatic key workers and their household members, and asymptomatic healthcare workers tested as part of the random testing programme, who are tested in the mass testing centre are currently informed of their results via an automatic text message system. Those who cannot receive an automatic test message are phoned by staff from the Local Public Health Team or Health Board.
- Anyone who receives a test using the Amazon couriered home delivery test kits receives their results via an automatic test message system.
- Care Home residents have their results delivered to the staff at the Care Home by phone by staff from the Local Public Health Team or Health Board.
- Care Home staff who have their test taken through the online care home staff portal have their result emailed to the care home where they work.
- Prisoners have the results delivered by prison healthcare staff.

Overview of current testing strategy in CTM

Health and Social Care Workers	Asymptomatic	
	Mild-Moderate Symptoms	
	Severe Symptoms	
Key Workers from agreed partner organisations including WAST, police and Local Authority	Asymptomatic	
	Mild-Moderate Symptoms	
	Severe Symptoms	
Key Workers from wider organisations including utilities, food production, transportation and supermarkets	Asymptomatic	
	Mild-Moderate Symptoms	
	Severe Symptoms	
Enclosed settings- Care Homes	Asymptomatic	
	Mild-Moderate Symptoms	
	Severe Symptoms	
Enclosed settings- Non-care home settings including prisons	Asymptomatic	
	Mild-Moderate Symptoms	
	Severe Symptoms	
Extremely Vulnerable Groups in the Community	Asymptomatic	
	Mild-Moderate Symptoms	
	Severe Symptoms	
Vulnerable Groups in the Community	Asymptomatic	
	Mild-Moderate Symptoms	
	Severe Symptoms	
Wider Community	Asymptomatic	
	Mild-Moderate Symptoms	
	Severe Symptoms	

Key

In Current Testing system	Partially in Current Testing system	Not in Current Testing system

Severe symptoms = someone who is hospitalised with COVID-19 symptoms

Mild-moderate symptoms = someone who has COVID-19 symptoms but is well enough to remain at home and does not require hospitalisation

Types of testing

The CTM COVID1-19 testing strategy will rely on three types of COVID-19 test: PCR and LAMP tests for active infection; and serology antibody test for previous infection. PCR tests are being processed in three different locations: PHW laboratories, English laboratories (through Amazon couriered home tests and the Care Home portal home delivery tests), and RGH laboratory.

1. PCR antigen testing for active infection using an oropharyngeal swab that is processed centrally by PHW in UHW.

- Currently in Wales the majority of PCR antigen testing is being carried out in the PHW UHW laboratory.

2. PCR antigen testing for active infection using a nasal and oropharyngeal swab that is ordered through the Amazon couriered home delivery service and processed in England.
    - Currently anyone with symptoms in Wales can order an Amazon home delivery test on a first come, first served basis. These tests are sent to England to be processed in English laboratories. The allocation of tests is decided at a UK wide level with 21,200 tests available in the UK each day.

3. PCR antigen testing for active infection using a nasal and oropharyngeal swab that is ordered through the Care Home portal for home delivery to Care Homes and processed in England.
    - The Care Home portal offers home delivery self-swap kits to care homes in the UK, in order to test care home staff. Care Homes are able to order tests for their staff members every Monday. These tests are delivered and collected from the care home by courier, and the tests are processed in an English laboratory. This offer of weekly testing of care home staff runs from 15/06/20 – 06/07/20.

4. PCR antigen testing for active infection in Royal Glamorgan Hospital laboratories
    - Royal Glamorgan Hospital are due to have four different types of PCR antigen testing systems based within their laboratory. The first of these systems, Launch PCR system, became operational at the end of May.
    - Seegene PCR system is due to become operational at the end of June.Three other PCR systems (Cephaid, Biofire and Eplex) have also been ordered, but it is unclear exactly when these will become available or their capacity. It is hoped that they should be delivered by the end of June, but it is unclear when they will be operational.
    - Menarini Rapid PCR test will be a point of care test to give rapid results on COVID-19 infections. It is unclear when this will become available.

5. USW LAMP test
    - The University of South Wales (USW) has developed an innovative loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) test which tests for active infection using a nasal swab. This is has undergone the first stages of validation, and is currently demonstrating around 70% sensitivity. Further development of the LAMP test is due to take place in the coming weeks that aim to increase the sensitivity of the test, and these developments will then need to be validated.
    - The LAMP test has the potential to be used both within a laboratory and in a bespoke point of care testing device. We are currently confirming the exact contribution this will make.

6. Serology antibody testing
    - Serology antibody testing will test for previous COVID-19 infection and ongoing immunity. This will be useful for mapping past COVID-19 infections across the CTM population. The UK Government secured 10 million antibody tests from Roche Diagnostics and Abbott Laboratories on 21st May 2020. This test involves testing a phlebotomy sample of blood in a laboratory to assess for antibodies to COVID-19. The Roche and Abbot test is currently the only test in the UK that has been validated by PHE as having sufficient sensitivity and

specificity (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-laboratory-evaluations-of-serological-assays)

- Public Health England have been explicit about the limitations of the antibody tests, stating in their "*Coronavirus (COVID-19) antibody test guidance*": *"There is no strong evidence yet to suggest that those who have had the virus develop long-lasting immunity which would prevent them from getting the virus again. Therefore, the value of antibody tests is currently limited to answering the question of whether someone has had the virus or not, and providing data and a greater understanding on the spread of the virus*."
- Welsh Government have specified the priority groups for testing. Teachers are the first priority group, and CTM began its testing programme of teachers on 15/06/20. The next priority group for testing will be health and social care workers, who are due to start receiving antibody testing from the end of June.

Method / Location of testing

CTM has used a mixed model of testing to increase its testing capacity. CTM residents are accessing testing through a number of routes.

1. Staff Testing Units and Mass Testing Centres
   - CTM currently has three Coronavirus Testing Units (CTUs) in operation across CTM and one Mass Testing Centre in Abercynon. These are currently accessible only for both key workers as defined by Welsh Government, and symptomatic members of the public. A proportion of the appointments are available to all symptomatic members of the public, with the remaining appointments reserved for key workers to ensure that they have priority access for testing.
   - These sites are currently undergoing changes: three of the STUs are being closed, and two additional Mass Testing Centres are being opened. These changes will give CTM three Mass Testing Centres in: Navigation Park, Abercynon; Kier Hardy Health Centre, Merthyr; and the Field Hospital in Bridgend. One of the STUs located in Royal Glamorgan Hospital would remain to sample anyone needing an urgent test, pre-operative patients and children under 5.
   - All the CTUs and MTUs are currently operated by Health Board staff. It has been agreed that the operations at the current MTU in Abercynon will be taken over by Deloitte in the coming weeks. The MTUs in Merthyr and Bridgend, as well as the CTU in RGH, will remain under the operational control of CTM.

2. Home testing using staff from the CTUs
   - Currently home testing using staff from Williamstown CTU are available to care home residents. Williamstown CTU is not currently seeing members of the public as all their staff are currently undertaking home testing. The staff from the STUs are able to go to the Care Homes to take swabs from these people who would not be able to travel to the STUs.

3. Home testing using Amazon Couriered home testing kits
   - All symptomatic residents in CTM can request a home test kit delivered via the Amazon couriered home testing service. These tests are sent back to England to be processed, and results are sent out from England using an automated test system.

4. Testing of asymptomatic healthcare workers
    - Asymptomatic healthcare workers are currently being tested as part of a random sampling programme in CTM. 70-75 healthcare workers chosen at random from various sites and roles within hospitals and the community are sampled twice a week, meaning that 140-150 healthcare workers are sampled through this programme each week.

5. Care Home Portal
    - There is also a care home portal where online tests can be ordered and delivered to the care home directly. These tests are for Care Home staff. These tests are sent to England to be processed, and results are emailed to the care home which ordered the test.

This mixed model of testing will continue, with tests delivered through various routes to enable CTM to maximise the number of tests it can deliver and ensuring appropriate testing for different individuals.

Prioritisation

If testing demand outstrips capacity, either sampling or analytical capacity, then the priority groups for testing are:

1. Symptomatic individuals in hospitals
2. Symptomatic individuals in Care Homes
3. Symptomatic key workers

Testing in all other groups would be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the situation and the mismatch in testing capacity and demand. When designing and implementing further local COVID-19 testing policies for additional groups in CTM the following issues need to be taken into consideration:

- The current demand for COVID-19 testing in CTM
- The most recent predictions for future demand for COVID-19 testing in CTM
- The current sampling and analysing capacity for COVID-19 tests in CTM
- The most recent predictions for future sampling and analysing capacity for COVID-19 tests in CTM

Future Developments

The first priority for this strategy is to ensure that the current groups who are eligible for testing are reliably able to receive a COVID-19 test, through an appropriate route and in a timely manner. The COVID-19 response is likely to be ongoing for at least another 6-12 months, and so the testing strategy needs to ensure that the CTM response is sustainable and considers the long-term impacts of large scale COVID testing.

This strategy will also need to be reviewed on a regular basis. The COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly, and this strategy may need to be reviewed due to changes in:

- The prevalence of COVID-19 in the CTM population
- National UK and Welsh Government policy on COVID-19 testing

- National UK and Welsh Government policy on wider issues related to COVID-19 including the lifting of lockdown restrictions
- The availability of existing and novel COVID-19 tests
- The level and types of activity conducted in the Health Board

Unlike the previous strategy there will not be a large increase in the groups of people who are eligible for testing, as the range of people who are eligible for testing has already greatly increased. All symptomatic individual in CTM are now eligible for testing, alongside further offers for testing in specific groups including key workers, health and social care staff, and care home residents.

However, there will be an increase in testing in certain groups of people listed below:

1) Increased testing for pre-operative patients

Patients who are requiring elective surgery will require pre-operative COVID-19 testing in the community before their admission to hospital.

2) Testing of healthcare staff in clean clinical areas

Asymptomatic healthcare staff working in non-COVID, clean areas may be required to undergo testing to reduce the risk of COVID-19 into these clinical areas.

3) Serology antibody testing

Serology antibody testing in teachers was rolled out in CTM from 15/06/20. There are also plans to begin testing health and social care staff by the end of June. The further plans for serology testing in Wales are not yet defined.

4) Potential for testing of other targeted groups

There may be the requirement to test other targeted groups, either through antigen or antibody testing.

Limitations

There are a range of factors which have the potential to limit the plans to implement the testing strategy and the ongoing COVID-19 testing in CTM.

1) Staff

Staff will be needed to carry out a range of roles within the ongoing testing response in CTM. The issues around staffing levels were outlined in the initial testing strategy. Some of these issues remain such as staffing levels being affected by staff who need to shield due to vulnerabilities, or self-isoalte due to either themselves or a close contact becoming unwell. In the initial strategy it was outlined that clinical staff may be required to be redeployed to treat COVID patients in field hospitals. This is not an issue currently due to the decreasing number of hospitalised COVID patients in CTM, however could become an issue again if there is a second peak of COVID infections later in the year. However, a more immediate issue around staffing is the requirement of staff to return to their original roles as more of the Health Boards usual work resumes during the recovery stage.

Some of the processes will involve staff in specific roles or who have certain skills that mean that fewer people are able to carry out their role or they are in higher demand during COVID-19. These staff are

highlighted in bold in the list below. As testing will be ongoing for at least the next 6-12 months it is important to identify sustainable staffing resources for this period.

- Booking of tests by administrative staff
- **Taking the swabs for children over 5 and adults by Nurses or Health Care Assistants.**
- **Taking the swabs for children under 5 by paediatric nurses. There are limited numbers of staff trained in taking swabs for children under 5 compared to other staff groups.**
- **Taking blood samples for antibody testing by phlebotomists, or other healthcare workers that are trained in phlebotomy skills including nurses. There are limited numbers of staff trained in phlebotomy compared to other staff groups.**
- Transporting tests by drivers
- **Running tests in the laboratories in UHW and RGH by laboratory staff. There are limited numbers of laboratory trained staff in CTM compared to other staff groups.**
- Communicating results by administrative staff, for results of care home residents and those who cannot receive their result through the automated text system.

2) COVID-19 test availability and capacity

The ability to implement the testing strategy depends on the testing availability and capacity of all the test which make up the testing strategy.

- Capacity of PHW laboratories to process PCR antigen tests
- Capacity of RGH laboratory to process PCR antigen tests
- Validation and availability of USW developed LAMP test
- Availability of serological antibody testing

3) Infrastructure and IT systems

Infrastructure and IT systems will also be required to ensure that the testing strategy can be implemented. These resources need to be available for 6-12 months minimum whilst COVID-19 testing is ongoing. This includes:

- Vehicles to transport tests
- Locations and infrastructure to house test sites
- Locations, IT and telephony services to enable administrative staff to support the testing process, including booking tests, arranging test kits and delivering results.
- IT systems to feed back the results of testing into surveillance teams.

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Welsh Government. 18 May 2020. *Key (critical) workers testing policy: coronavirus (COVID-19). https://gov.wales/critical-workers-testing-policy-coronavirus-covid-19-html*

Applying a local framework to take forward a collaborative, behavioural science informed approach to COVID-19 related communication and community engagement within the CTM UHB area

Situation

The scale of the current COVID-19 pandemic means we are in a unique position where all statutory, community and voluntary organisations on a national and local basis are focussed on the same agenda and in turn, developing their communication and engagement approaches. Although this provides considerable resource, there is a real danger of duplication of effort, inconsistent messages and gaps in provision, particularly against a background of regularly changing guidance. The success of our Response Plan is predominately dependant on widespread public understanding, acceptance and uptake of key behaviours, hence facilitating the need for a comprehensive, multiagency approach to local communication and engagement planning. Combined with this is the need for appropriate provision within our communities to provide support to help protect the health and wellbeing, in the widest sense, of those directly or indirectly adversely affected by COVID-19.

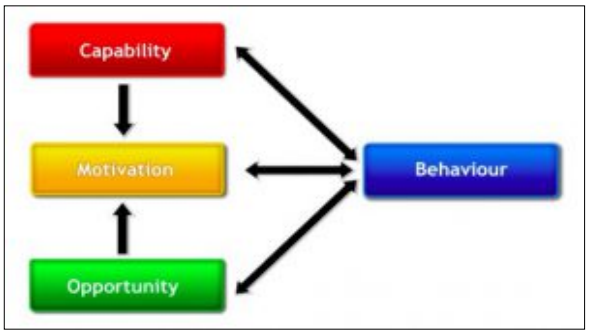
Background

Using the World Health Organisation (WHO) and global partners Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Guidance as a basis for initial work, a risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) work stream group and associated action plan was established within CTM UHB area to facilitate this approach.

Much of the initial work of this group has been providing responsive communication support around fast changing, public guidance and the need to rapidly inform and engage our communities in the roll out of the Testing and Contract Tracing programmes. We are now at the stage where we are hopefully able to establish a more proactive, pre-planned approach for the coming months.

Drawing on behavioural science, we have developed a draft local engagement framework which begins to outline considerations for effective communication approaches for different cohorts and identify wider action needed to enable the engagement and support of groups who are more vulnerable or have specific additional considerations related to Covid-19.

At the core of this approach is the COM-B model which recognises that behaviour is part of an interacting system. In order for a desired behaviour to be taken up, a person needs to feel **capable**, have the **opportunity** to perform the behaviour and be **motivated** to do so.



The CTM engagement framework explores this approach in relation to behaviours associated with both the prevention of COVID-19 and the mitigation of both direct and indirect harm. Within this framework we have identified numerous groups and key settings which could benefit from a more targeted approach.

Approach

The key to achieving this approach successfully within CTM will be determining who is most appropriate to take forward its numerous strands. We need to ensure good communication between all partners to avoid duplication, identify gaps and maximise resources, while maintaining the underlying behavioural science basis to inform action. Complementary approaches to the existing RCCE work stream are in development. Our Regional Partnership Board (RPB) is part of a national work stream group looking at the 'Protect' element of the TTP plan. Local action to support this is being explored by the RPB. Similarly, the CTM UHB led Rehabilitation Model and Pathway has parallels with the RCCE plans to support engagement of our population back into services. Other organisations have developed a range of materials to support their specific client groups.

The following table briefly describes the identified population groups and settings highlighted in the CTM engagement framework and provides an initial attempt to outline how next steps could be structured to maximise contributions from different organisations/ work streams.

Framework Application

Group	Includes	Approach to this cohort going forward	Actions
The general population of CTM	• There will be a variety of subgroups and differing perceptions within this overarching population. Groups that are identified as having specific needs are considered throughout the remaining table.	RCCE group working in partnership with national PHW and WG communication teams and local partners to support local promotion of national campaigns promoting key behaviours, with appropriate local targeting of defined cohorts or geographical locations as required. RCCE group in partnership with Protect and Contract tracing work streams to promote local support systems/guidance to raise public awareness of availability in preparation of any requirement to self-isolate	• Co-ordinate local promotion of WG 'Keep Wales Safe 'campaign via all networks • Utilise available data/ intelligence to identify where targeted promotion is required within general population via links with:- • *Surveillance work stream* • *Testing and contract tracing leads* • *Analysis of national and local public perception surveys* • *Community* • Undertake localised campaign • Collate a range of information to support signposting by contract tracing team • Training for CT staff including MI techniques, framing messages and knowledge of local services/referral systems
Potentially harder to engage groups within our general population	• Young people • Men of working age • Older people • Individuals whose first language isn't English or Welsh • Sensory impairment • Learning disabilities	RCCE group working in partnership with national PHW teams and specialist organisations to develop behaviourally informed communications. Specific members of RCCE group identified as link person for each cohort.	• Work with PHW/WG in development/local dissemination of specific cohort campaigns commencing with young people • Use of Com B planning tool with local partners to develop an engagement, action plan for each cohort. • Collate and disseminate as appropriate intelligence to date regarding current guidance,

		RPB Protect work led by Rachel Rowlands identifying gaps in support to older/ disabled groups	resources and local networks to provide easily accessible information on key groups • Support Protect work stream actions for identifying and tackling gaps. • Wider comms support of RCCE members to promote associated communications via their networks.
Groups who have specific considerations due to a potential greater risk from Covid 19	• Individuals who are shielding or are at greater risk due to underlying medical conditions • Pregnant women • BAME • Key Workers within Health care	Wider needs to be reviewed by RPB and actions determined with partnership and LPHT support RPB and RCCE work streams work jointly to develop and disseminate public comms related to these groups CTM UHB comms to lead, supported by LPHT. Linking to workplace leads	• Support Protect work stream actions for identifying and tackling gaps. • Wider comms support of RCCE members to promote associated communications via their networks. • Collate and disseminate as appropriate intelligence to date regarding current guidance, resources and local networks to provide easily accessible information on these key groups
Groups who are at direct risk from Covid-19	• Covid-19 cases, their households and contacts	Identified leads within the RCCE group provide links to TTP work streams:	▪ Provision of communication support to testing and contract tracing programmes as required

		Testing- J Sumner; Contact tracing- J Whitehurst; Surveillance – D Gibbons; Link to RPB Protect work with regard to wider support needs of isolating individuals	▪ Links with surveillance work stream to maximise use of local intelligence in content and targeting of messaging As for general population above
	• Individuals / organisations involved in clusters/outbreaks	For incidents/ outbreaks/ clusters, national PHW comms support Incident Management Team linking with UHB/LA comms leads and LPHT for local input. Regional PHW Health Protection Support providing assistance with community engagement	• Link with Incident management team as required to provide local knowledge and capacity
Groups who are at risk of indirect harm/unintended consequences of Covid-19	Individuals awaiting: • Medical treatment	Needs explored through UHB rehabilitation plan led by Alyson Davies. Most comms taken forward by UHB comms but colleagues in RCCE group can support if wider input needed	• Further meetings to be arranged with leads for each area during August to determine any support required
	• Immunisations	National PHW Working group looking at Comms for COVID vaccination. LPHT regional lead With input to ILG immunisation groups. 6th work stream developed to cover this area led by Lesley Lewis	
	• Screening	National PHW Working group	

		looking at Comms with reinstatement of screening programmes. Regional LPHT lead (Cancer Inequalities and Raising Public Awareness Group)	
	Vulnerable groups including: • Carers/Young carers Homeless • Suffers of domestic abuse • Substance Misusers • Those in Poverty	Scoping work done around these groups shared with RPB Protect who will engage with local agencies to identify any unmet need RCCE group will support if wider public comms needed	• Support Protect work stream actions for identifying and tackling gaps. • Wider comms support of RCCE members to promote associated communications via their networks.
Key settings which need special consideration to optimise staff and public safety	Workplaces Schools Colleges Leisure/social settings	Elizabeth Bradfield (Bridgend) is RCCE group lead linking with Healthy Working Wales lead Mary Ann Mckibben. Formalised links with Louise Davies, Philip Daniels to join up efforts with larger employers' work Identified RCCE group link to work with LA LEAs/CTM Healthy Schools Scheme Links to be confirmed Links to be confirmed	• Small working groups to be established to review any additional input by RCCE group that may be of value, in additional to general promotion of information through networks and working links

Summary Analysis of TTP costs

	Regional response team	Contact tracing	Antigen sampling(outside hospitals), including booking and results
CTM	764,157	-	3,610,127
PHW	-	-	-
MTCBC		814,908	
RCT		2,329,849	
BCBC		1,669,810	
Across 3 LAs	471,828		
Overall total	**1,235,984**	**4,814,567**	**3,610,127**

Antigen testing	Antibody sampling(including booking & results)	Antibody testing	Hospital Testing
-	1,199,644	232,772	3,256,188
TBC	-	FOC	
-	**1,199,644**	**232,772**	**3,256,188**

Total
9,062,888
-
814,908
2,329,849
1,669,810
471,828
14,349,282

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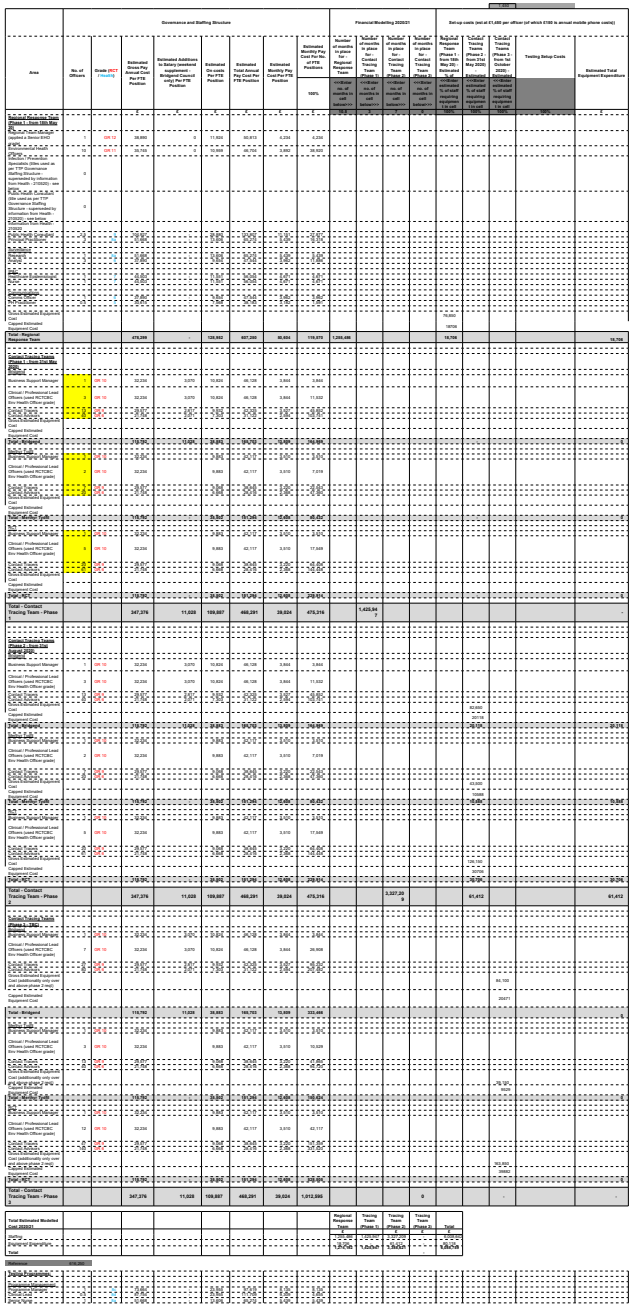

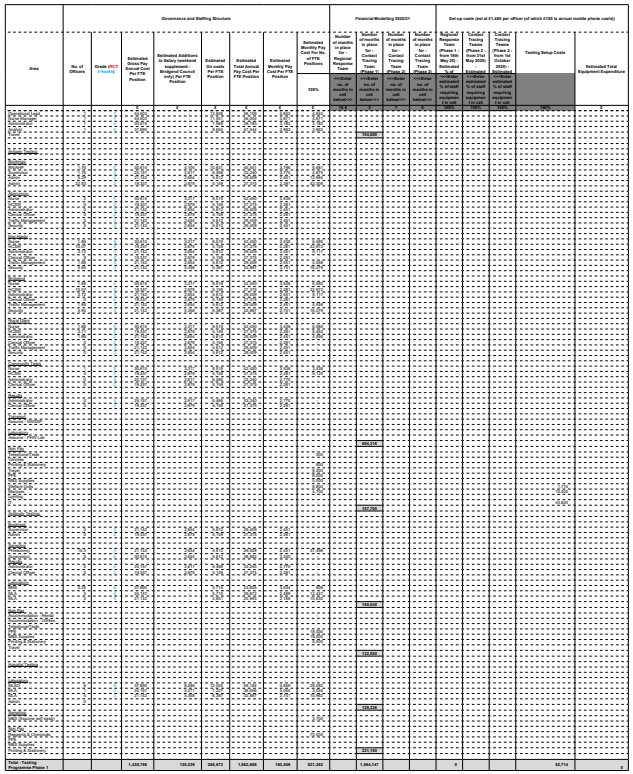

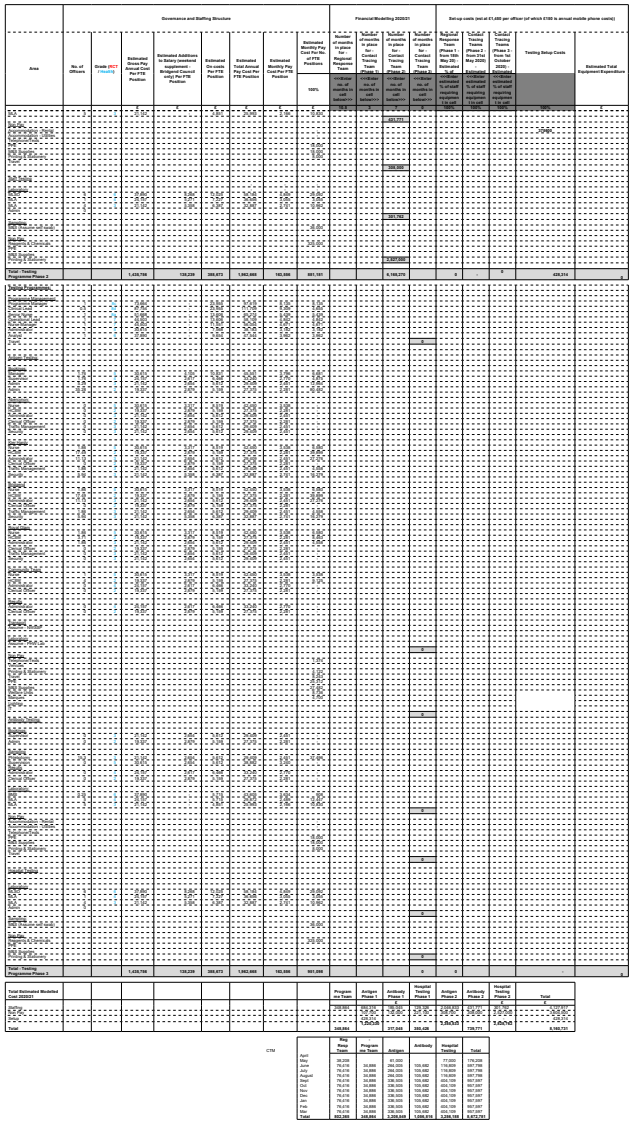

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Post	Band	WTE	Top of band (£)	per 1 fte	Salary	
Public Health Consultant	9	2.5	321815	128726	104927	0
Principal Practitioner	8a	3	217428	72476	51668	0
Surveillance						
Research	8a	1	72476	72476	51668	0
Analyst	6	3	158478	52826	37890	0
IP&C						
Healthcare Epidemiologist	7	1	62258	62258	44503	0
Nurse	7	1	62258	62258	44503	0
Communications						
Comms Officer	6	1	52826	52826	37890	0
PH Practitioner	5	0.5	21225	42450	30615	0
		G. Total	**£968,764**	**£546,296**		

			Salary	Enhance	Oncosts	Total
28880.32		2	19,337		4,333	23,670
13605.64		3	21,142		4,851	25,993
		4	24,157		5,715	29,872
		5	30,615		7,568	38,183
13605.64		6	37,890		9,654	47,544
9654.108		7	44,503		11,551	56,054
	8a		51,668		13,606	65,274
	8b		62,001		16,569	78,570
11550.72	8c		73,664		19,914	93,578
11550.72	8d		87,754		23,955	111,709
		9	104,927		28,880	133,807
	Cons		100,978		27,748	128,726

9654.108
7567.638

		Salary	Weekends Enhance	Oncosts	Total
	2	19,337	2,879	5,159	27,375
	3	21,142	2,654	5,612	29,409
	4	24,157	2,617	6,466	33,240
	5	30,615	3,317	8,519	42,450
	6	37,890	4,105	10,831	52,826
	7	44,503	4,821	12,933	62,258
8a		51,668	5,597	15,211	72,476
8b		62,001	6,717	18,496	87,213
8c		73,664	7,980	22,203	103,847
8d		87,754	9,507	26,682	123,942
	9	104,927	11,367	32,140	148,434

24hr					
	3	21,142	5,358	6,387	32,887
	4	24,157	5,271	7,227	36,656
	5	30,615	6,681	9,484	46,779
	6	37,890	8,268	12,025	58,184

S.C.P.	Annual Salary
1	17,841.51
2	18,198.05
3	18,561.79
4	18,932.72
5	19,698.20
6	21,748.07
7	24,491.49
8	27,040.72
9	29,576.59
10	32,233.70
11	35,744.67
12	38,889.85
13	41,880.90
14	44,862.71
15	46,844.75

Super Rate	21.40%
Average NI Rate	9.26%
Total	30.66%

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SUMMARY CHECKLIST AND ACTIONS BY SUGGESTED HEADING AS AT 6TH AUGUST 2020.

Local Planning and Response Structures, Roles and Responsibilities		
Outline of local structures, roles and responsibilities	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2
Each local plan should describe the identified lead with overall responsibility and oversight of the Prevention and Response	Yes	See oversight arrangements at Appendix 2. Director of Public health is overall Senior Responsible Officer.
Structure for local decision making and the delivery of response, including:	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2
- organogram	Yes	Set out within oversight arrangements at Appendix 2.
- planning and response lead(s)	Yes	See membership set out in Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2.
- governance arrangements	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2
Local triggers for escalation	Yes	See Surveillance Indicator Overview at Appendix 4
Multi-Agency Strategic Regional TTP Oversight Group in place which is adequately resourced	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2 and programme funding schedule attached at Appendix 7 noting a request was made to WG for funding on 16/7/20.
Surveillance		
Outline of how epidemiological surveillance informs sensitive early warning systems for recognition of community transmission	Yes	Please see sections 6, 7, 8 and 9.1 in particular.
Sources of surveillance data which will be reviewed to inform local risk assessments and response	Yes	See Surveillance Indicator Overview at Appendix 4 in particular.
Systems for linking cases and for identification of clusters	Yes	Yes, underway wherever possible via current methods, although noting that this is a CRM capability which we await.
Protocol for regular Situational Awareness process – which include hospital and healthcare data	Yes	Please see sections 7, 8 and 9.1 in particular.
Management of Clusters, Incidents and Outbreaks		
Agreed protocol for the management of clusters, incidents and outbreaks in community and key settings	Yes	Please see section 8 in particular.

Have named leads for the management of clusters, incidents and outbreaks in line with the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2 and section 8 in particular.
Have an adequately resourced Multi-Agency Strategic Regional TTP Oversight Group which will provide leadership on contact tracing and situational awareness on emerging clusters and outbreaks	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2 and section 8 in particular.
Describe how to call on broader partners to respond to multiple complex incidents	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2 and section 8 in particular.
The arrangements for escalation to SCG/RCG members and the Welsh Government	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2 and section 8 in particular.
Sampling and Testing		
Local arrangements for sampling and testing	Yes	As set out in section 9.2, the action plan and our latest Sampling and Testing Strategy at Appendix 5
Sampling and testing arrangements for large outbreaks and incidents if local capacity exceeded		Under further development and as set out in section 9.2, the action plan and our latest Sampling and Testing Strategy at Appendix 5
Prevention		
Collaborative arrangements for identifying and protecting the most vulnerable people in society	Yes	Please see section 9.5 and the action plan at Appendix 1
Approach to risk assessment based on local knowledge	Yes	Please see sections 5 and 6, and Appendices 3 & 4
Identification of key places and sectors that may be at higher risk of transmission	Yes	Please see sections 5 and 6
Consider mass vaccination plans for when a vaccine becomes available and plans to maximise the routine influenza vaccination programme to limit impact on the NHS	Yes	Please see section 9.6 and the action plan at Appendix 1
Mitigation and Control		
Assessment of primary control measures in key settings and ensure	Yes	Please see sections 5 and 6

promulgation of advice related to transmission		
Key settings and high risk premises (e.g. care homes, holiday parks, meat processors and food manufacturers, schools, universities) are identified, assessed and risk mitigation plans developed	Yes	Please see sections 5 and 6, 8 and 8.
Local communities plans outlining collaborations between existing local community networks and partnerships and with the voluntary sector	Yes	Particularly through our Protect work stream (chaired by our RPB Chair) and their links with the Regional Partnership Board and two Public Service Boards. Please see section 9.5 and the action plan at Appendix 1
Reinforcement arrangements if non-compliance with control measures	Yes	Please see section 6 in particular.
Plans for enhanced enforcement and communication in response to escalating incidents	Yes	Please see section 6 in particular.
Communication		
Multi-sectoral communications strategy aligned to national messages developed	Yes	Please see section 9.4 and appendix 6 in particular.
A communication action plan should give a clear indication of which organisation leads on each element	Yes	Please see the Risk Communication and Community Engagement work stream details, who also have their own work stream action plan. Please see section 9.4 and appendix 1 & 6 in particular.
Description of communications leadership and infrastructure, including names and contact details of key communications leads for each partner organisation	Yes	See Oversight arrangements at Appendix 2
Summary of the communications channels relevant for regional/local dissemination, including methods for reaching specific groups	Yes	Please see section 9.4, the action plan at Appendix 1 and Appendix 6.
Summary of key community stakeholders (community groups, MSs, MPs, special interest groups) along with an identified agencies responsible for informing and updating	Yes	Please see section 9.4 and Appendix 6. This information is also held by partner communication tams who are linked up across the partnership via the Risk Communication and

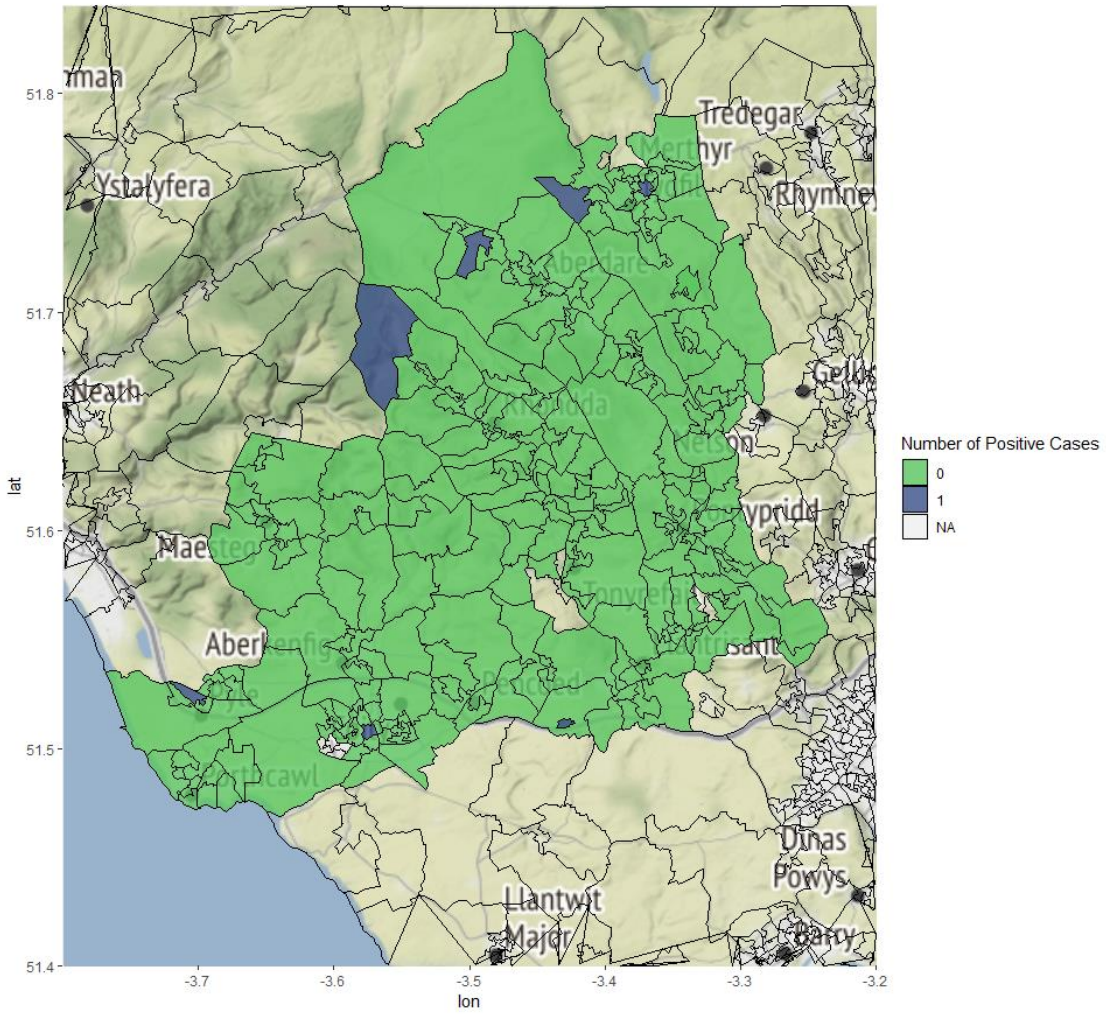
		Community Engagement work stream
Implementation, Review and Learning		
Implementation timetable of the prevention and control plans with clear milestones and outcome measures	Yes	Please see plan and supporting action plan at appendix 1 for timescales and SMART objectives
Schedule for review of effectiveness of implementation of plans	Yes	Please see section 16. Weekly reviews of progress via our Regional Strategic Oversight Group meetings and via regular updates to the Health Board, Local Authorities and wider stakeholders.
Arrangements for undertaking review and learning	Yes	Programme manager holds a lessons learnt log. Any lessons learnt reports also shared via the oversight arrangements as applicable.

COVID Area Surveillance

04/08/2020

LSOA Map:

Below shows a map of CTM with LSOA's highlighted dependant on the number of cases they have had in the last 2 weeks:

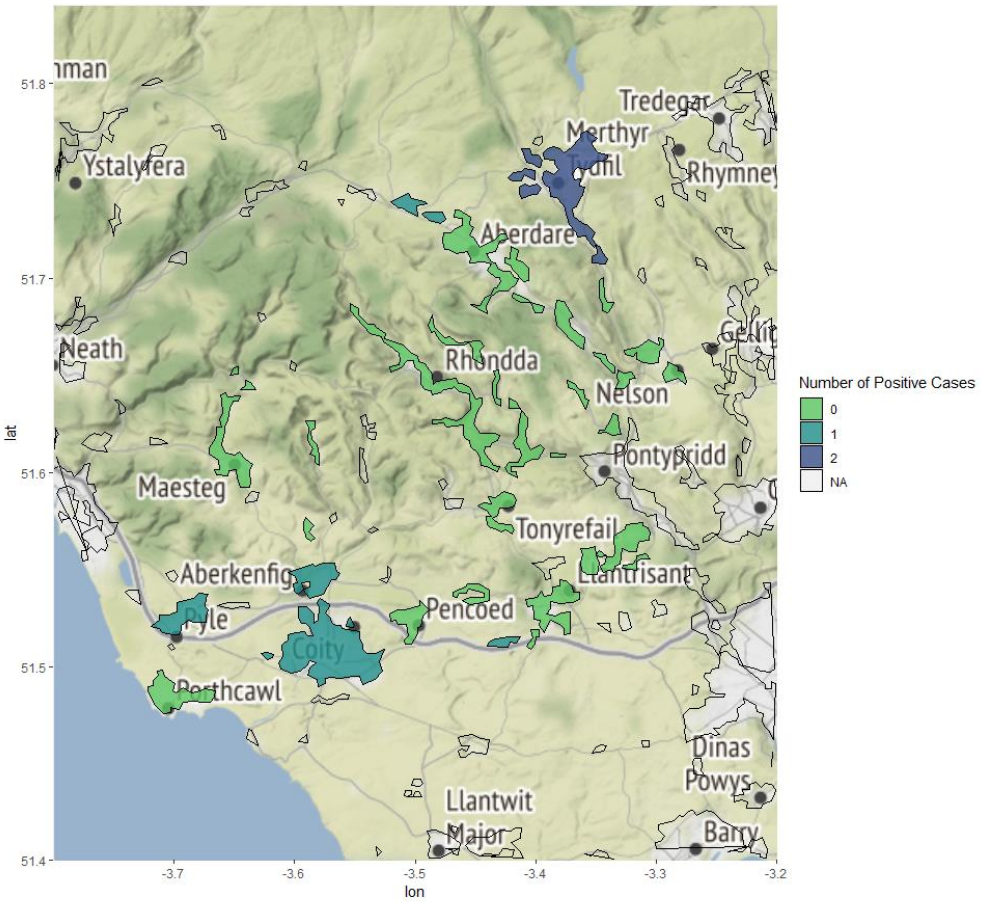


Cases for LSOA -

LA	BUA	LSOA	Positive
Bridgend	Bridgend	W01001021	1
Bridgend	Pyle	W01001002	1
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	W01001291	1
Merthyr Tydfil	Merthyr Tydfil	W01001310	1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Hirwaun	W01001221	1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Llanharry	W01001192	1
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Treherbert	W01001267	1

BUA Map:

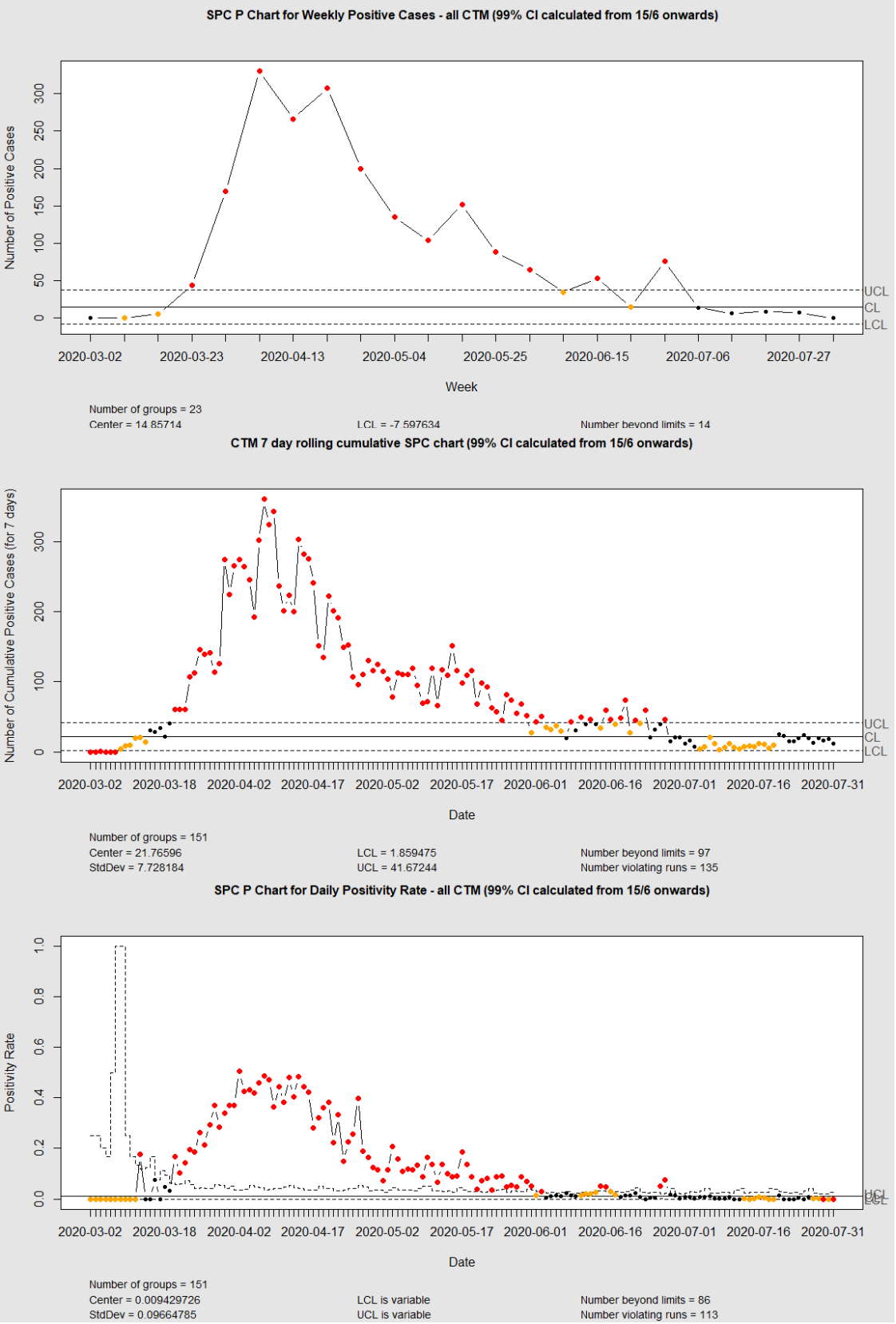
Below shows a map of CTM with Built-Up Areas highlighted dependant on the number of cases they have had in the last 2 weeks:



All CTM:

These charts are for Positive and Positivity Rate for COVID tests for all of Cwm Taf LA's:

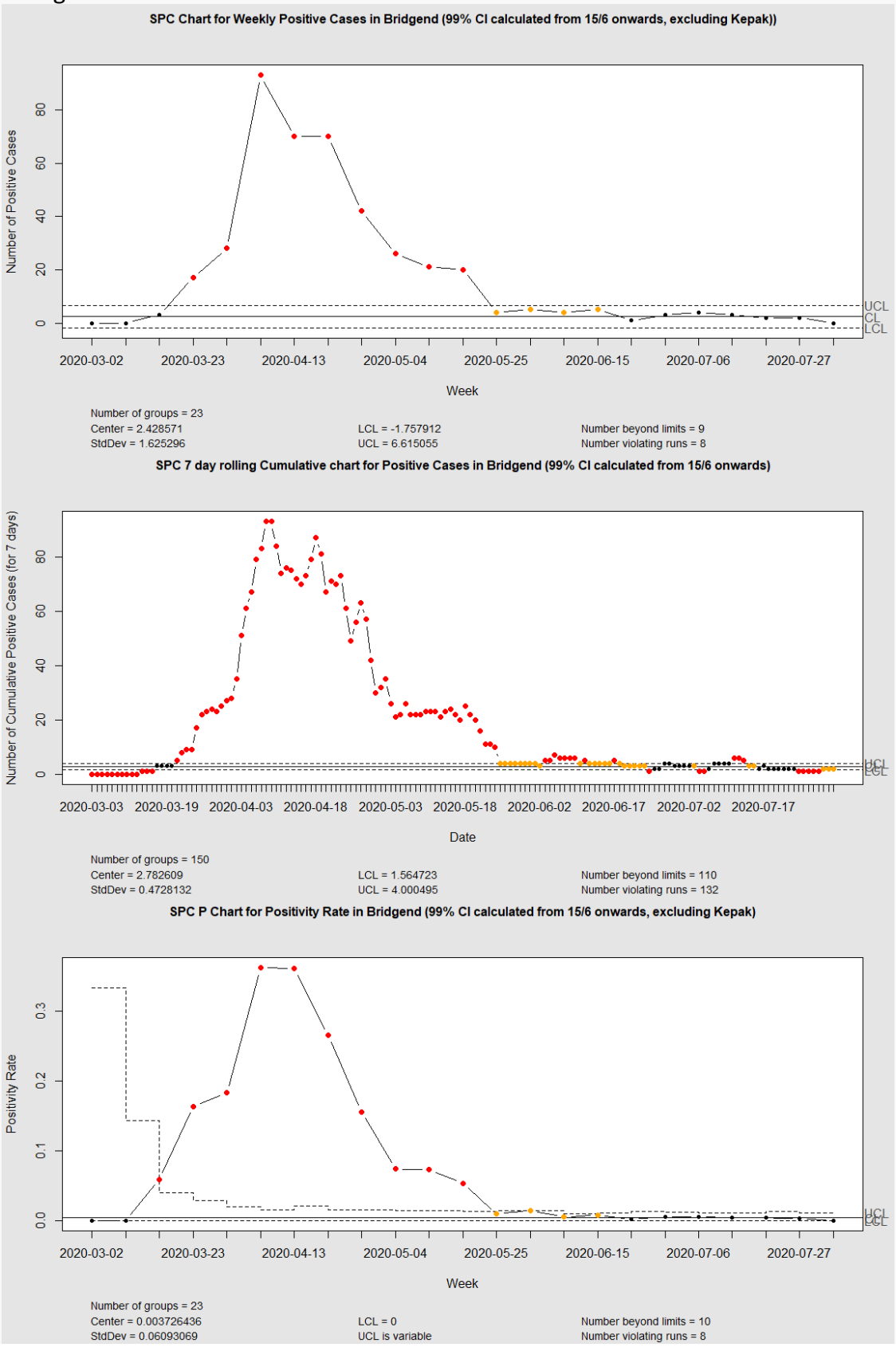
Positivity Rate = Positive Cases / Tested


SPC P Chart for Weekly Positive Cases - all CTM (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Positive Cases
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-23
2020-04-13
2020-05-04
2020-05-25
2020-06-15
2020-07-06
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 23
Center = 14.85714
LCL = -7.597634
Number beyond limits = 14
CTM 7 day rolling cumulative SPC chart (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
100
200
300
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-18
2020-04-02
2020-04-17
2020-05-02
2020-05-17
2020-06-01
2020-06-16
2020-07-01
2020-07-16
2020-07-31
Date
Number of groups = 151
Center = 21.76596
StdDev = 7.728184
LCL = 1.859475
UCL = 41.67244
Number beyond limits = 97
Number violating runs = 135
SPC P Chart for Daily Positivity Rate - all CTM (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-18
2020-04-02
2020-04-17
2020-05-02
2020-05-17
2020-06-01
2020-06-16
2020-07-01
2020-07-16
2020-07-31
Date
Number of groups = 151
Center = 0.009429726
StdDev = 0.09664785
LCL is variable
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 86
Number violating runs = 113

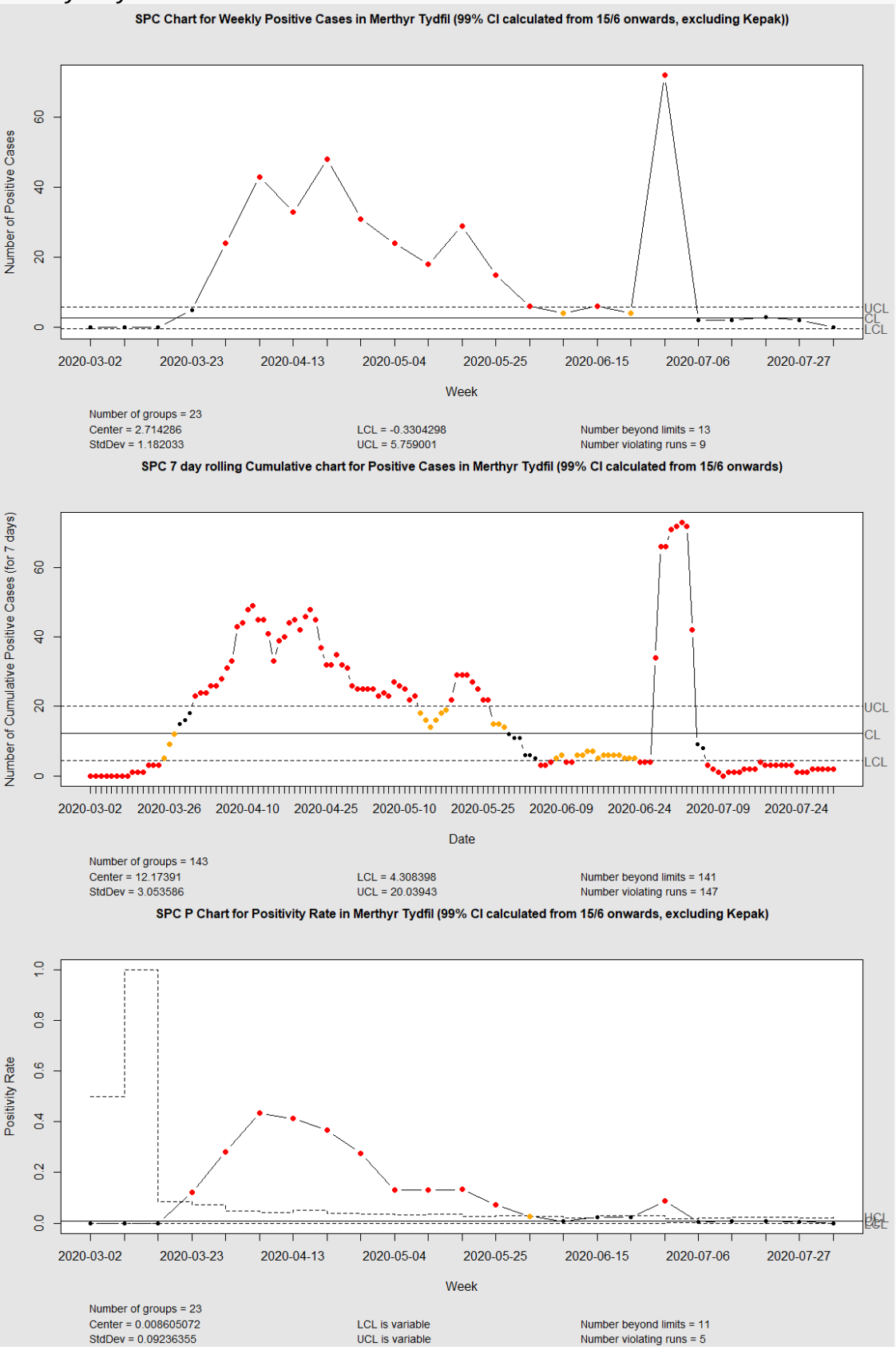
LA:

The next charts are for the Local Authorities within CTM: Bridgend, Merthy Tydfil and Rhondda Cynnon Taf.

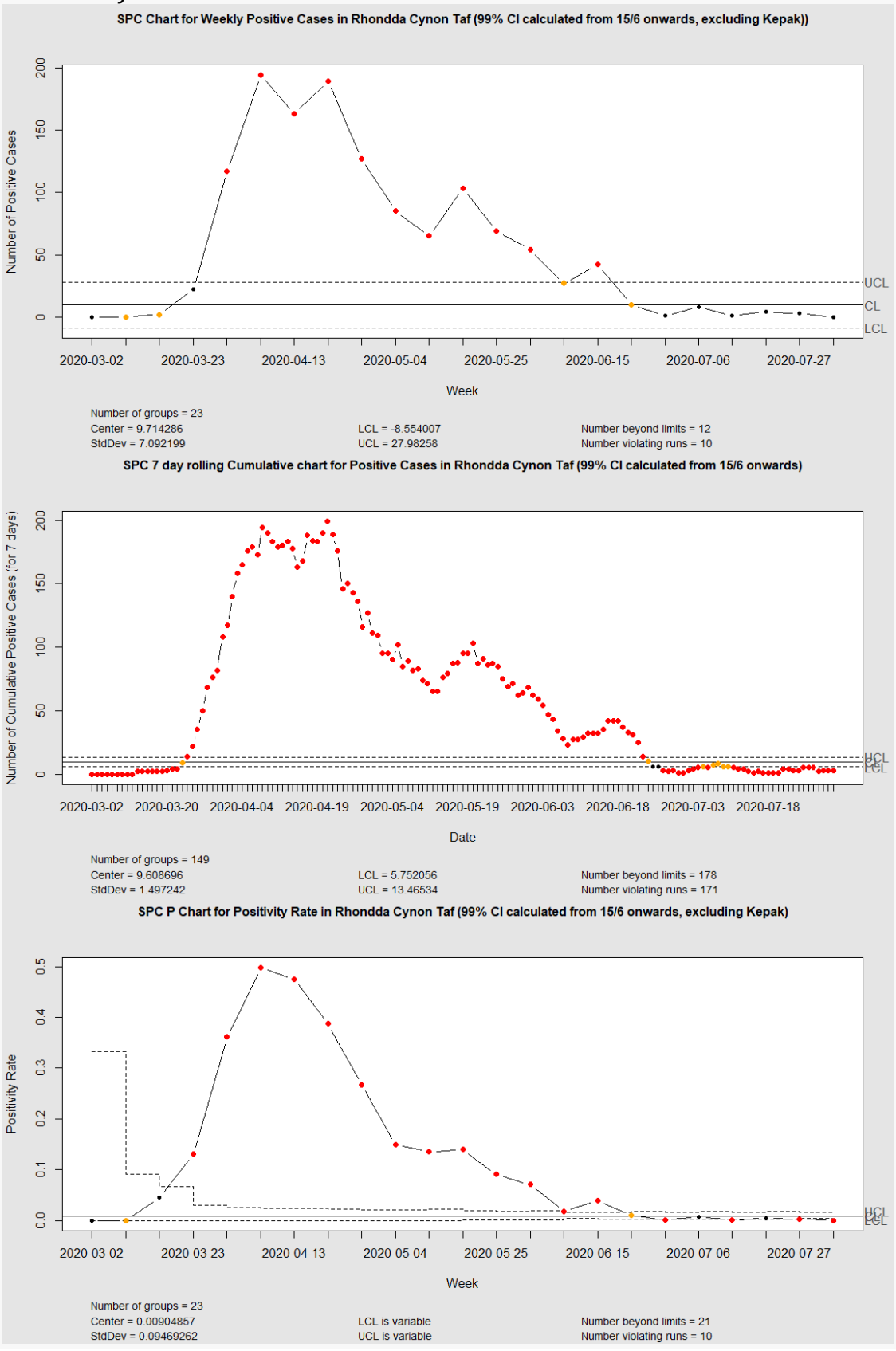
Bridgend


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Bridgend (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak))
Number of Positive Cases
0
20
40
60
80
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-23
2020-04-13
2020-05-04
2020-05-25
2020-06-15
2020-07-06
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 23
Center = 2.428571
StdDev = 1.625296
LCL = -1.757912
UCL = 6.615055
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 8
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Bridgend (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
20
40
60
80
UCL
LCL
2020-03-03
2020-03-19
2020-04-03
2020-04-18
2020-05-03
2020-05-18
2020-06-02
2020-06-17
2020-07-02
2020-07-17
Date
Number of groups = 150
Center = 2.782609
StdDev = 0.4728132
LCL = 1.564723
UCL = 4.000495
Number beyond limits = 110
Number violating runs = 132
SPC P Chart for Positivity Rate in Bridgend (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
UCL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-23
2020-04-13
2020-05-04
2020-05-25
2020-06-15
2020-07-06
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 23
Center = 0.003726436
StdDev = 0.06093069
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 10
Number violating runs = 8

Merthyr Tydfil



Rhondda Cynon Taf



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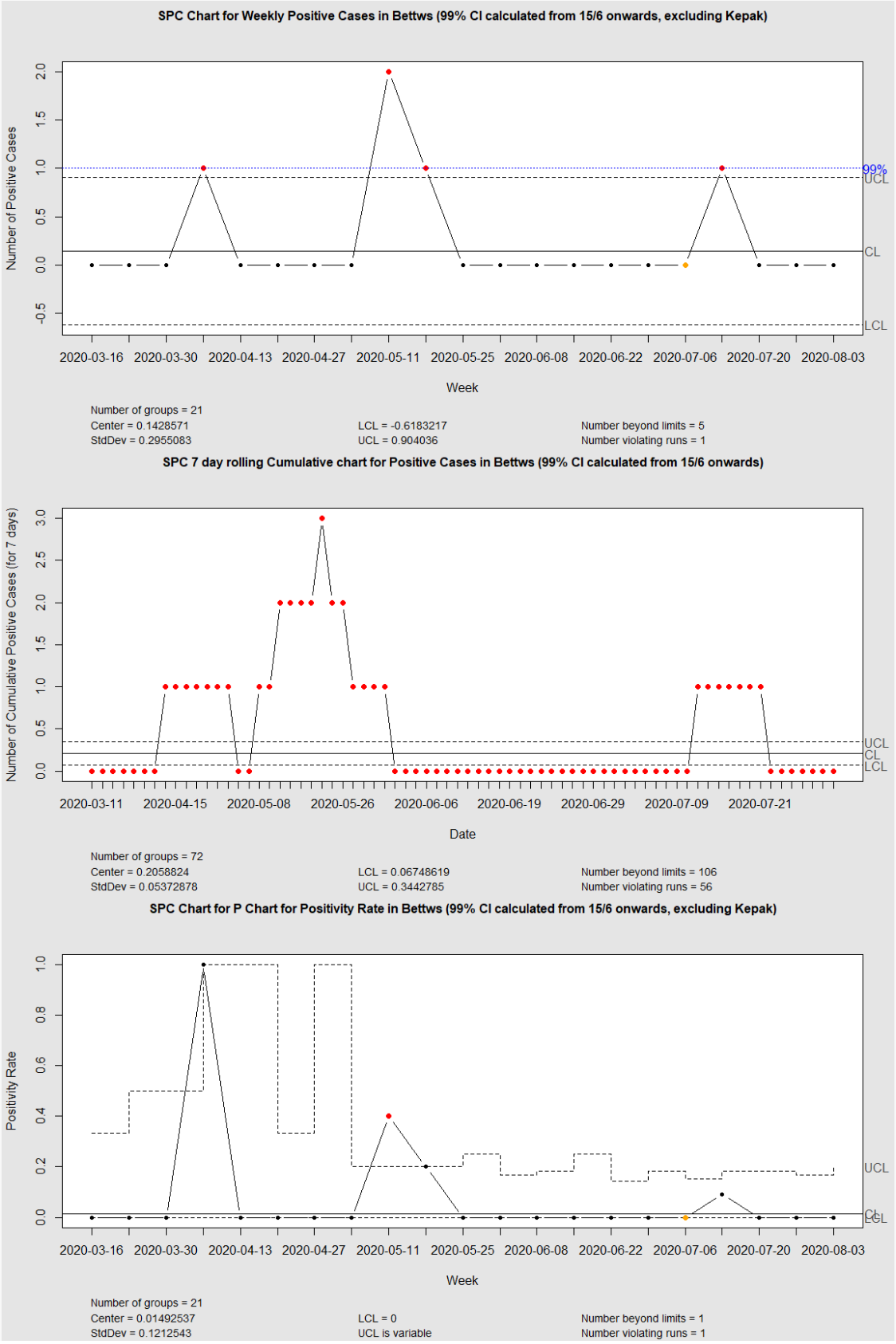
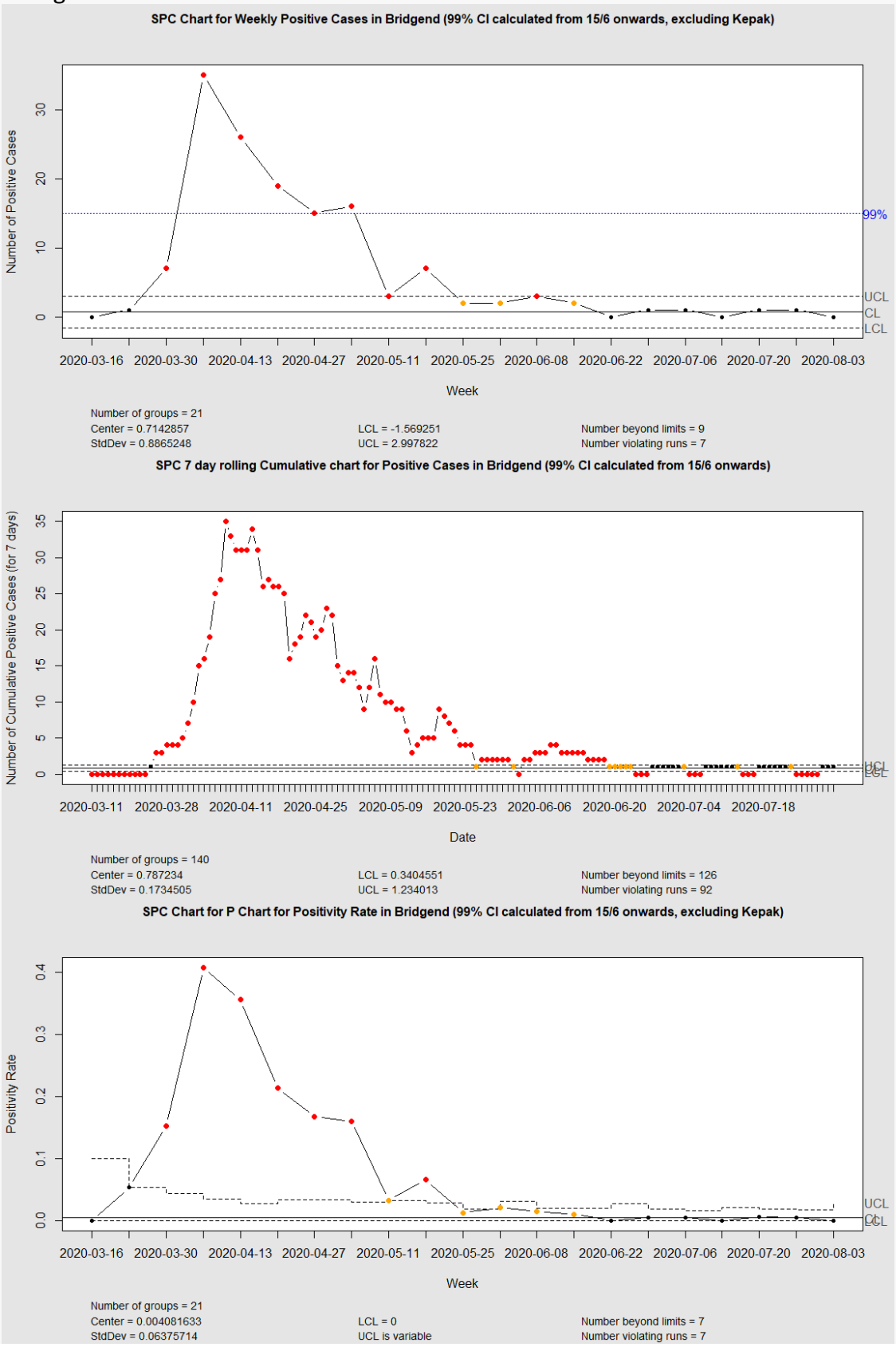
Bridgend BUA's:

The following charts are for each Built Up Area in Bridgend, with the Number of Positive cases, Positivity Rate and 7-day rolling positive cases being monitored:

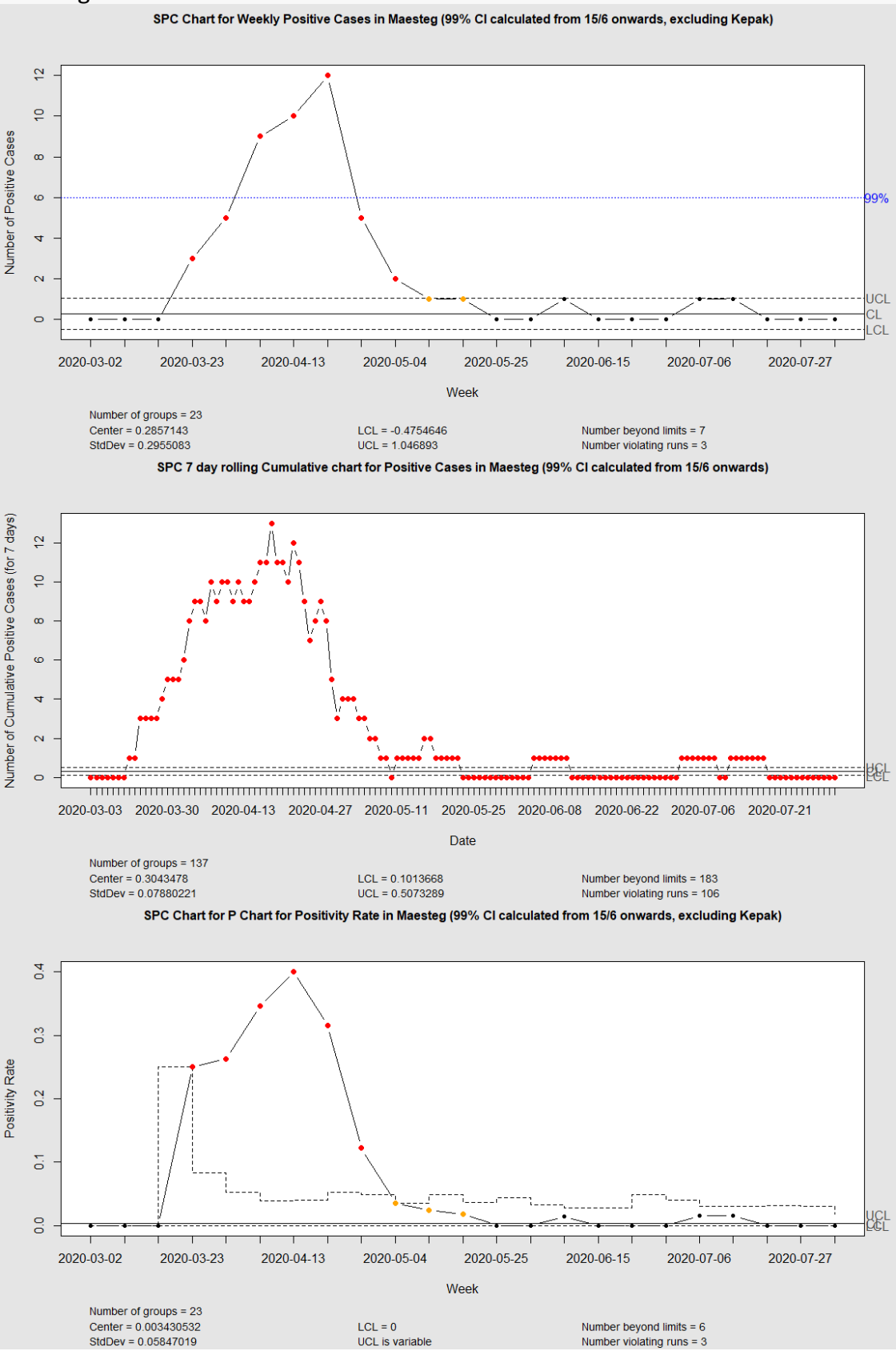
Bettws


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Bettws (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.1428571
StdDev = 0.2955083
LCL = -0.6183217
UCL = 0.904036
Number beyond limits = 5
Number violating runs = 1
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Bettws (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-11
2020-04-15
2020-05-08
2020-05-26
2020-06-06
2020-06-19
2020-06-29
2020-07-09
2020-07-21
Date
Number of groups = 72
Center = 0.2058824
StdDev = 0.05372878
LCL = 0.06748619
UCL = 0.3442785
Number beyond limits = 106
Number violating runs = 56
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Bettws (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.01492537
StdDev = 0.1212543
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 1
Number violating runs = 1

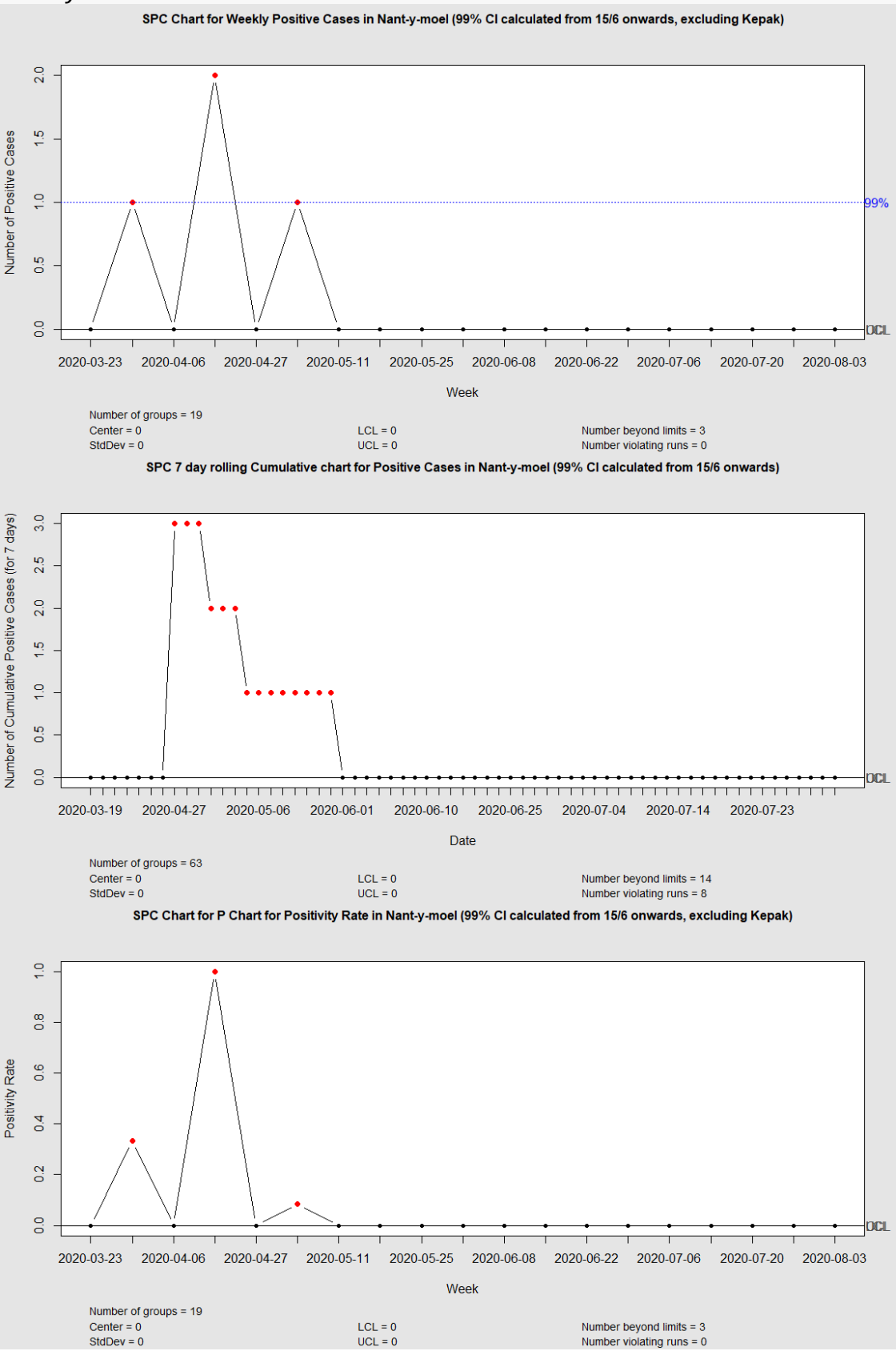
Bridgend


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Bridgend (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
10
20
30
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.7142857
StdDev = 0.8865248
LCL = -1.569251
UCL = 2.997822
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 7
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Bridgend (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
2020-03-11
2020-03-28
2020-04-11
2020-04-25
2020-05-09
2020-05-23
2020-06-06
2020-06-20
2020-07-04
2020-07-18
Date
Number of groups = 140
Center = 0.787234
StdDev = 0.1734505
LCL = 0.3404551
UCL = 1.234013
Number beyond limits = 126
Number violating runs = 92
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Bridgend (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.004081633
StdDev = 0.06375714
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 7
Number violating runs = 7

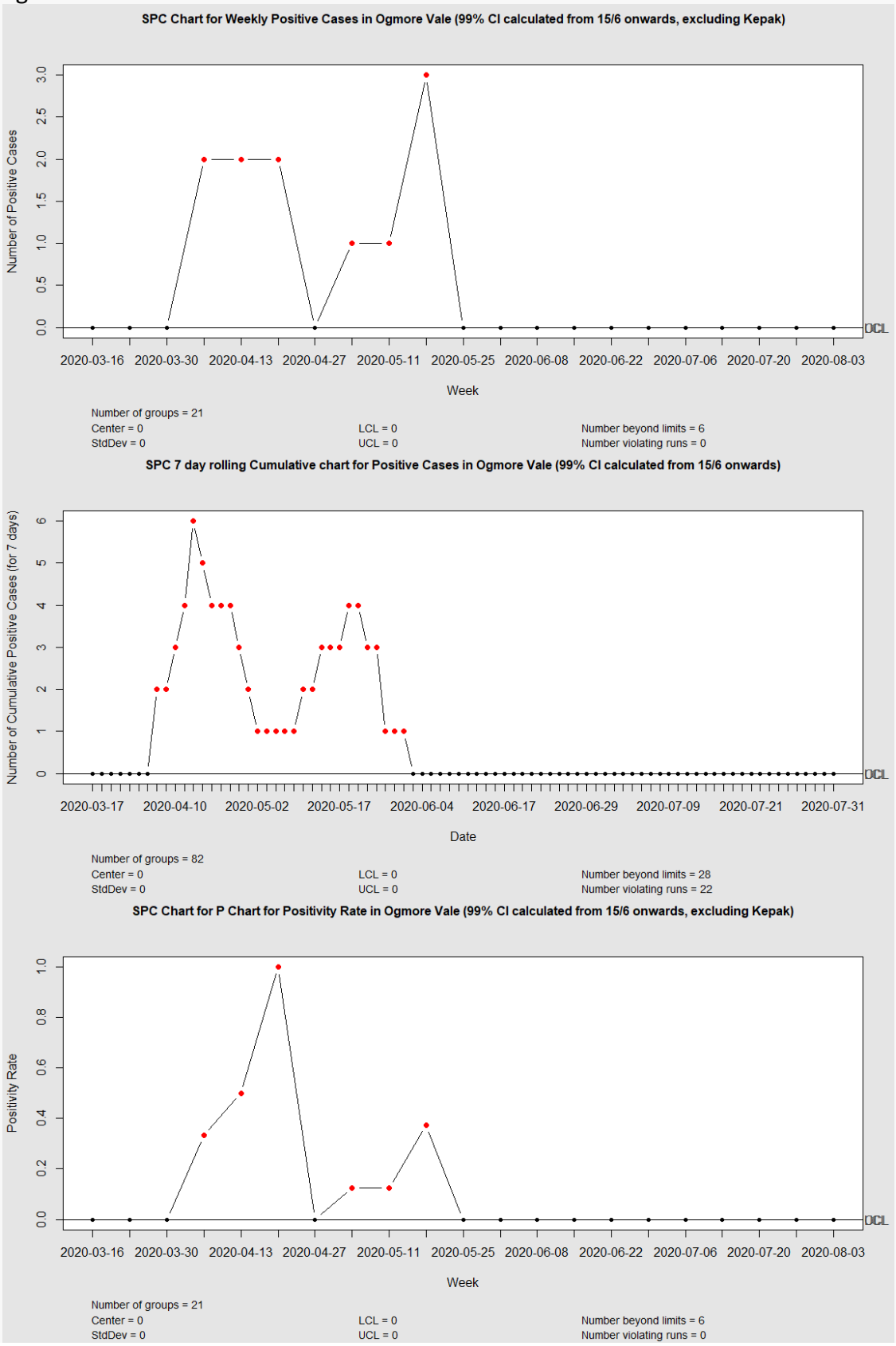
Maesteg


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Maesteg (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-23
2020-04-13
2020-05-04
2020-05-25
2020-06-15
2020-07-06
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 23
Center = 0.2857143
StdDev = 0.2955083
LCL = -0.4754646
UCL = 1.046893
Number beyond limits = 7
Number violating runs = 3
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Maesteg (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
2020-03-03
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-21
Date
Number of groups = 137
Center = 0.3043478
StdDev = 0.07880221
LCL = 0.1013668
UCL = 0.5073289
Number beyond limits = 183
Number violating runs = 106
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Maesteg (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
UCL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-23
2020-04-13
2020-05-04
2020-05-25
2020-06-15
2020-07-06
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 23
Center = 0.003430532
StdDev = 0.05847019
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 3

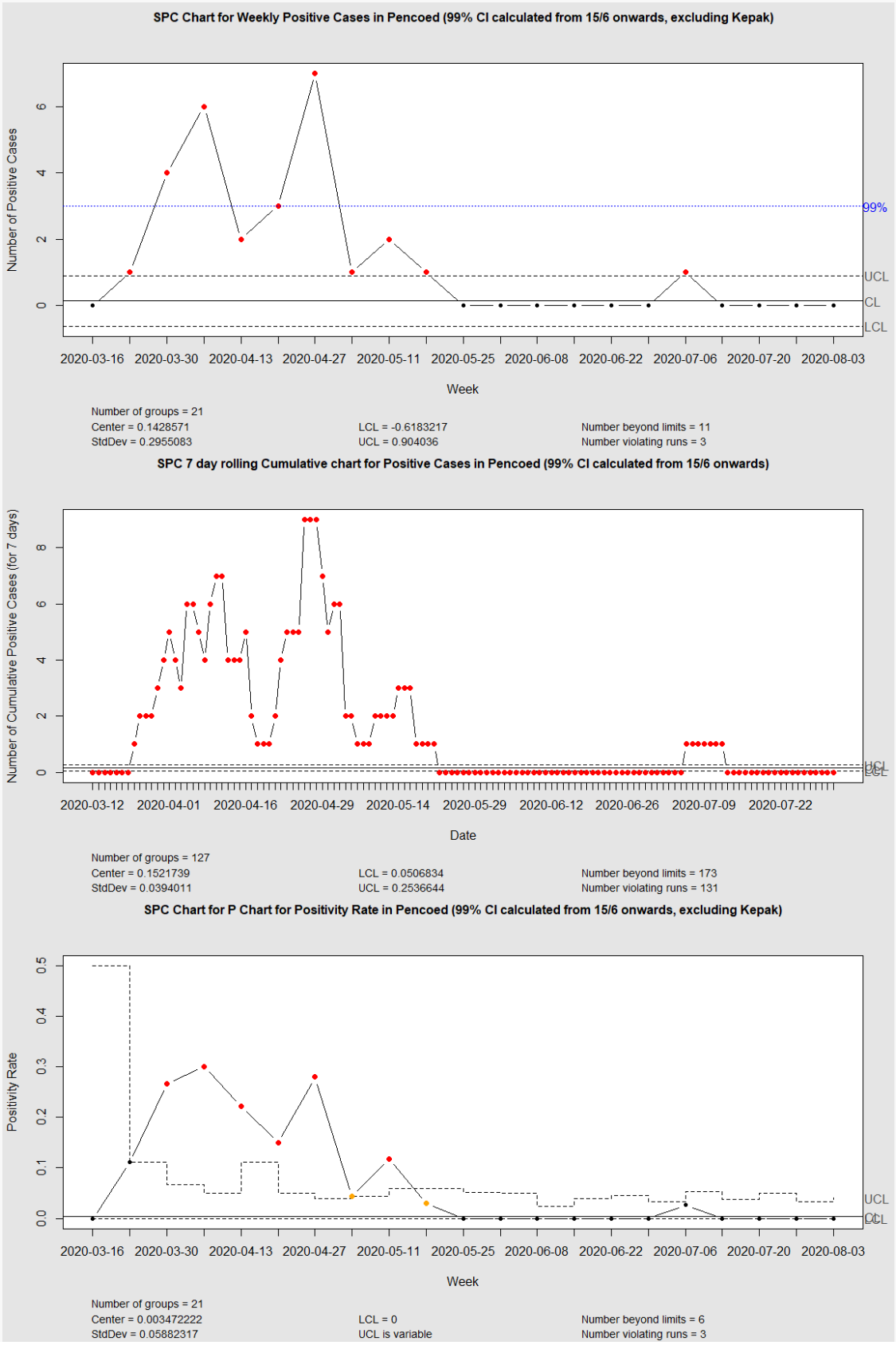
Nant-y-moel


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Nant-y-moel (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
99%
UCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 19
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 3
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Nant-y-moel (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
UCL
2020-03-19
2020-04-27
2020-05-06
2020-06-01
2020-06-10
2020-06-25
2020-07-04
2020-07-14
2020-07-23
Date
Number of groups = 63
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 14
Number violating runs = 8
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Nant-y-moel (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 19
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 3
Number violating runs = 0

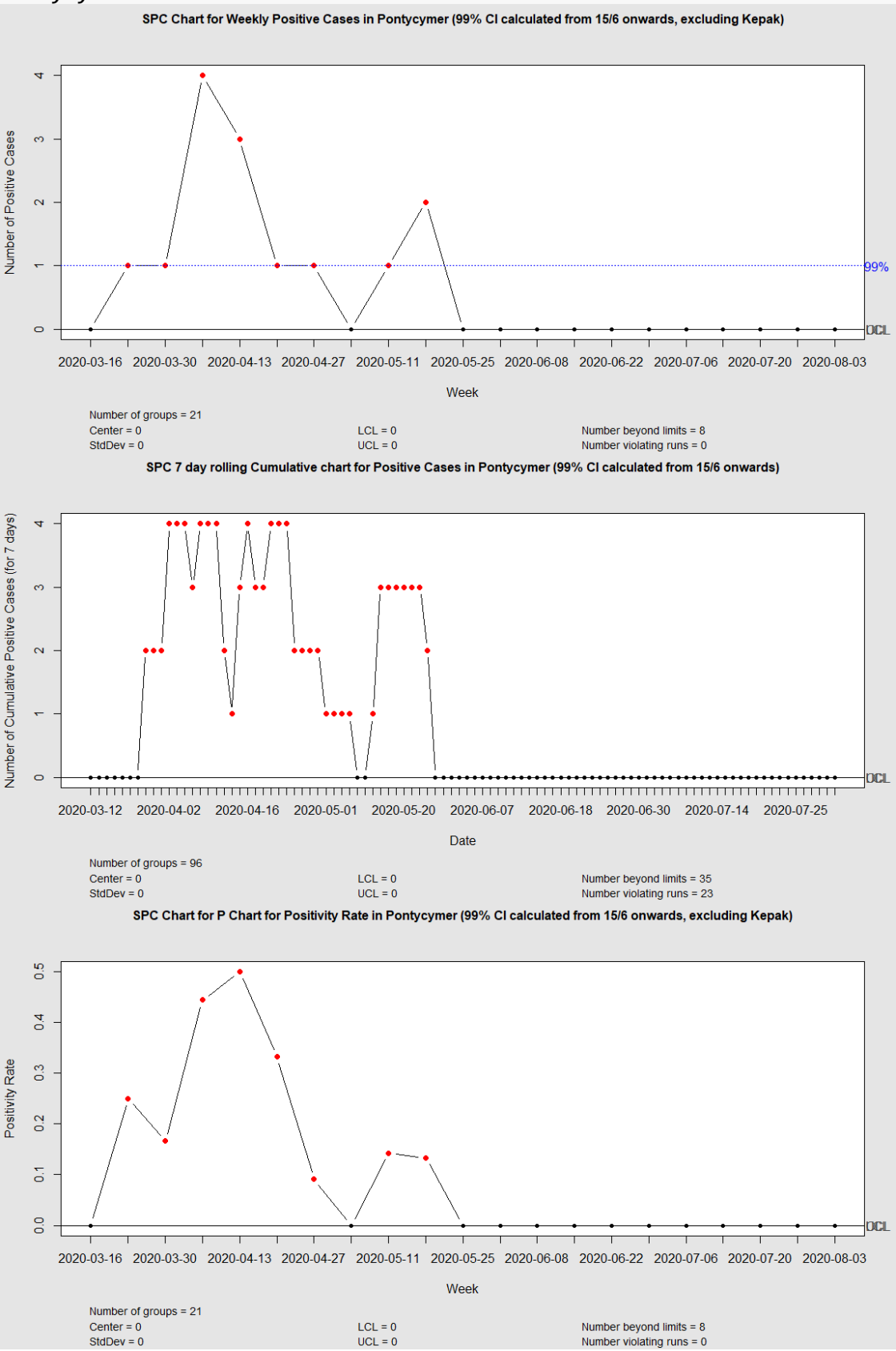
Ogmore Vale


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Ogmore Vale (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
UCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Ogmore Vale (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
UCL
2020-03-17
2020-04-10
2020-05-02
2020-05-17
2020-06-04
2020-06-17
2020-06-29
2020-07-09
2020-07-21
2020-07-31
Date
Number of groups = 82
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 28
Number violating runs = 22
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Ogmore Vale (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 0

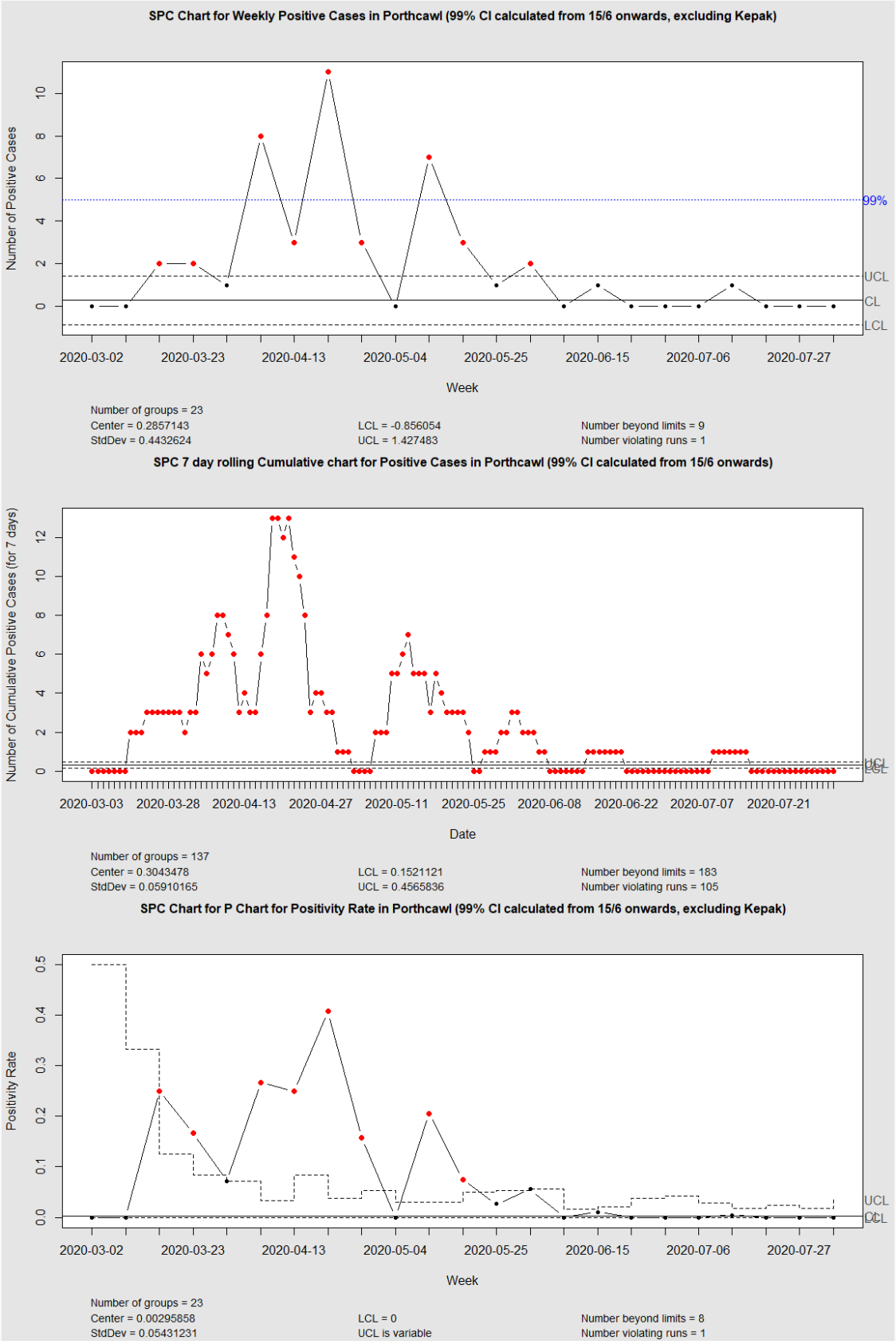
Pencoed


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Pencoed (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
2
4
6
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.1428571
StdDev = 0.2955083
LCL = -0.6183217
UCL = 0.904036
Number beyond limits = 11
Number violating runs = 3
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Pencoed (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
UCL
LCL
2020-03-12
2020-04-01
2020-04-16
2020-04-29
2020-05-14
2020-05-29
2020-06-12
2020-06-26
2020-07-09
2020-07-22
Date
Number of groups = 127
Center = 0.1521739
StdDev = 0.0394011
LCL = 0.0506834
UCL = 0.2536644
Number beyond limits = 173
Number violating runs = 131
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Pencoed (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
UCL
CL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.003472222
StdDev = 0.05882317
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 3

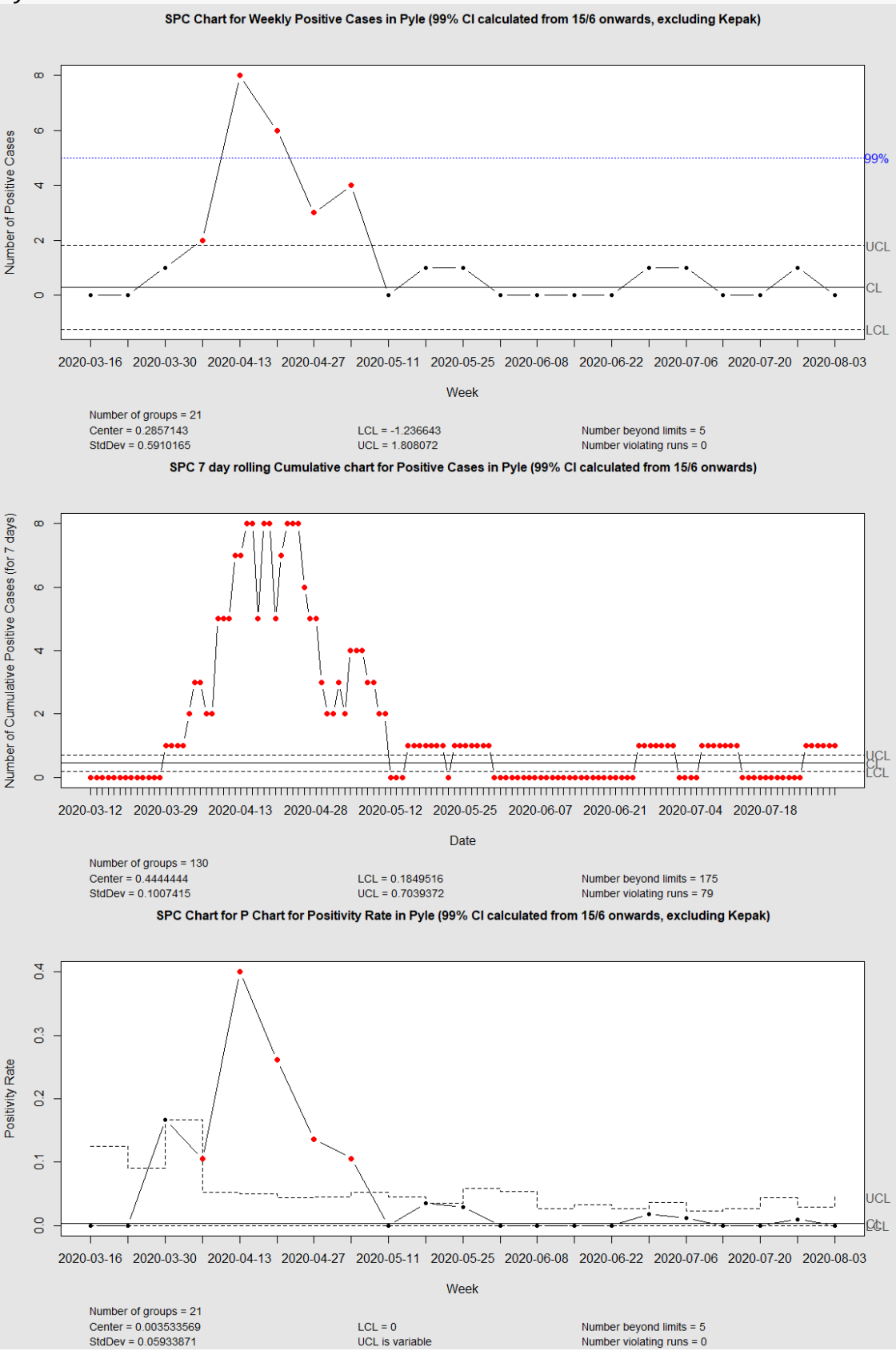
Pontycymer


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Pontycymer (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
1
2
3
4
99%
UCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 8
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Pontycymer (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
1
2
3
4
UCL
2020-03-12
2020-04-02
2020-04-16
2020-05-01
2020-05-20
2020-06-07
2020-06-18
2020-06-30
2020-07-14
2020-07-25
Date
Number of groups = 96
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 35
Number violating runs = 23
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Pontycymer (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
UCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 8
Number violating runs = 0

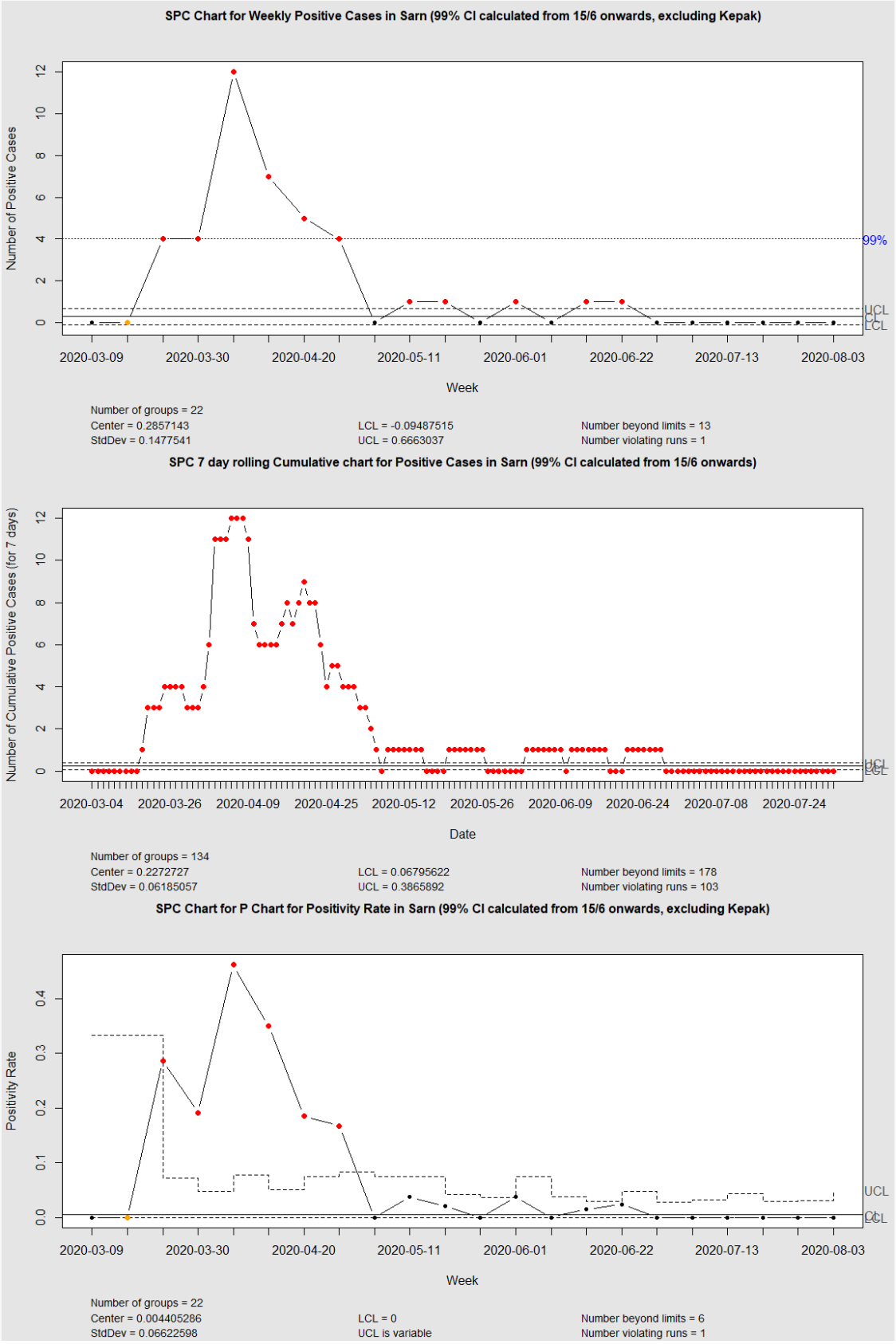
Porthcawl


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Porthcawl (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-23
2020-04-13
2020-05-04
2020-05-25
2020-06-15
2020-07-06
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 23
Center = 0.2857143
StdDev = 0.4432624
LCL = -0.856054
UCL = 1.427483
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 1
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Porthcawl (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
2020-03-03
2020-03-28
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-07
2020-07-21
Date
Number of groups = 137
Center = 0.3043478
StdDev = 0.05910165
LCL = 0.1521121
UCL = 0.4565836
Number beyond limits = 183
Number violating runs = 105
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Porthcawl (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-23
2020-04-13
2020-05-04
2020-05-25
2020-06-15
2020-07-06
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 23
Center = 0.00295858
StdDev = 0.05431231
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 8
Number violating runs = 1

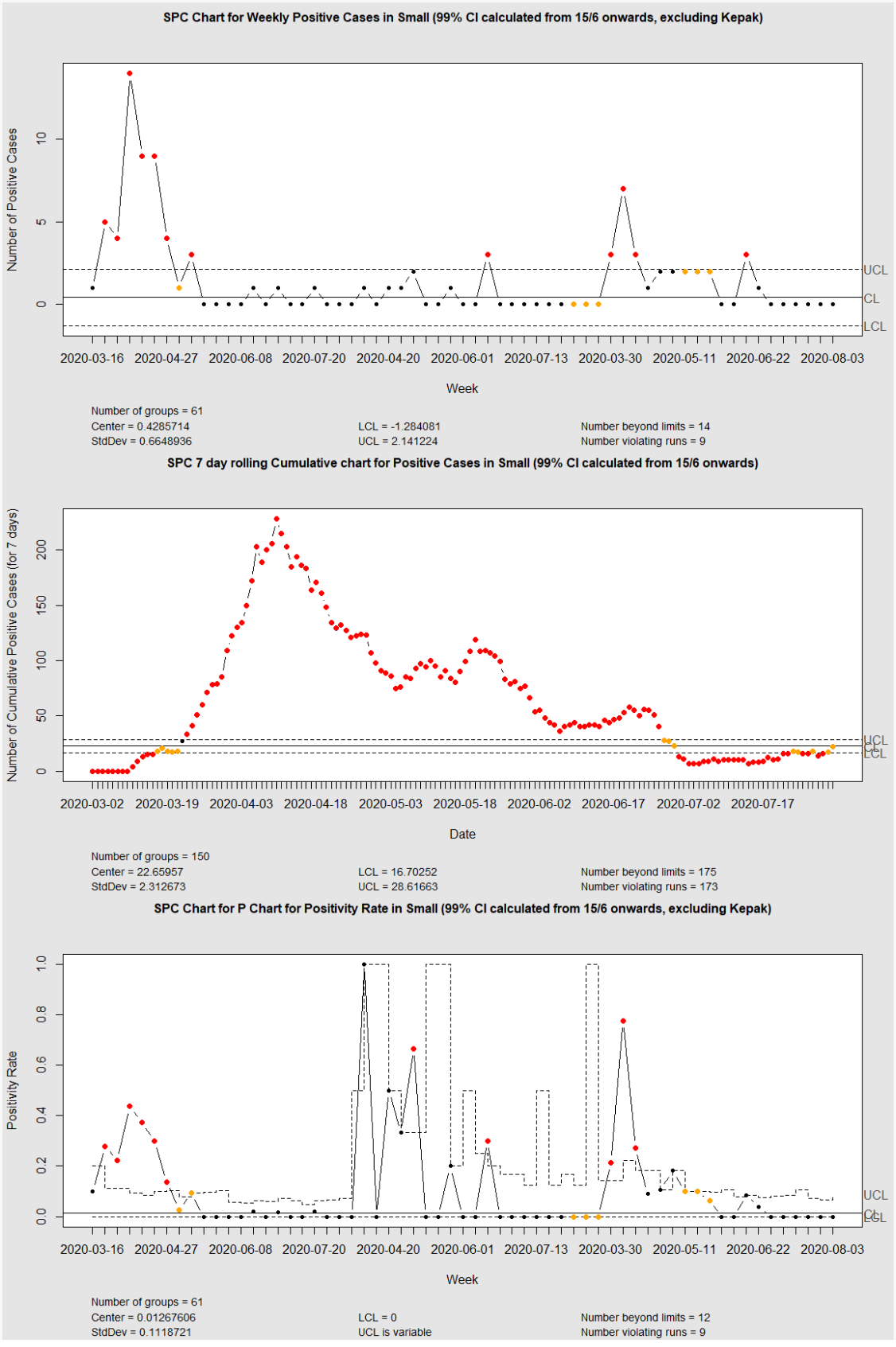
Pyle


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Pyle (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.2857143
StdDev = 0.5910165
LCL = -1.236643
UCL = 1.808072
Number beyond limits = 5
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Pyle (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-12
2020-03-29
2020-04-13
2020-04-28
2020-05-12
2020-05-25
2020-06-07
2020-06-21
2020-07-04
2020-07-18
Date
Number of groups = 130
Center = 0.4444444
StdDev = 0.1007415
LCL = 0.1849516
UCL = 0.7039372
Number beyond limits = 175
Number violating runs = 79
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Pyle (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.003533569
StdDev = 0.05933871
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 5
Number violating runs = 0

Sarn


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Sarn (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.2857143
StdDev = 0.1477541
LCL = -0.09487515
UCL = 0.6663037
Number beyond limits = 13
Number violating runs = 1
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Sarn (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
2020-03-04
2020-03-26
2020-04-09
2020-04-25
2020-05-12
2020-05-26
2020-06-09
2020-06-24
2020-07-08
2020-07-24
Date
Number of groups = 134
Center = 0.2272727
StdDev = 0.06185057
LCL = 0.06795622
UCL = 0.3865892
Number beyond limits = 178
Number violating runs = 103
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Sarn (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.004405286
StdDev = 0.06622598
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 1

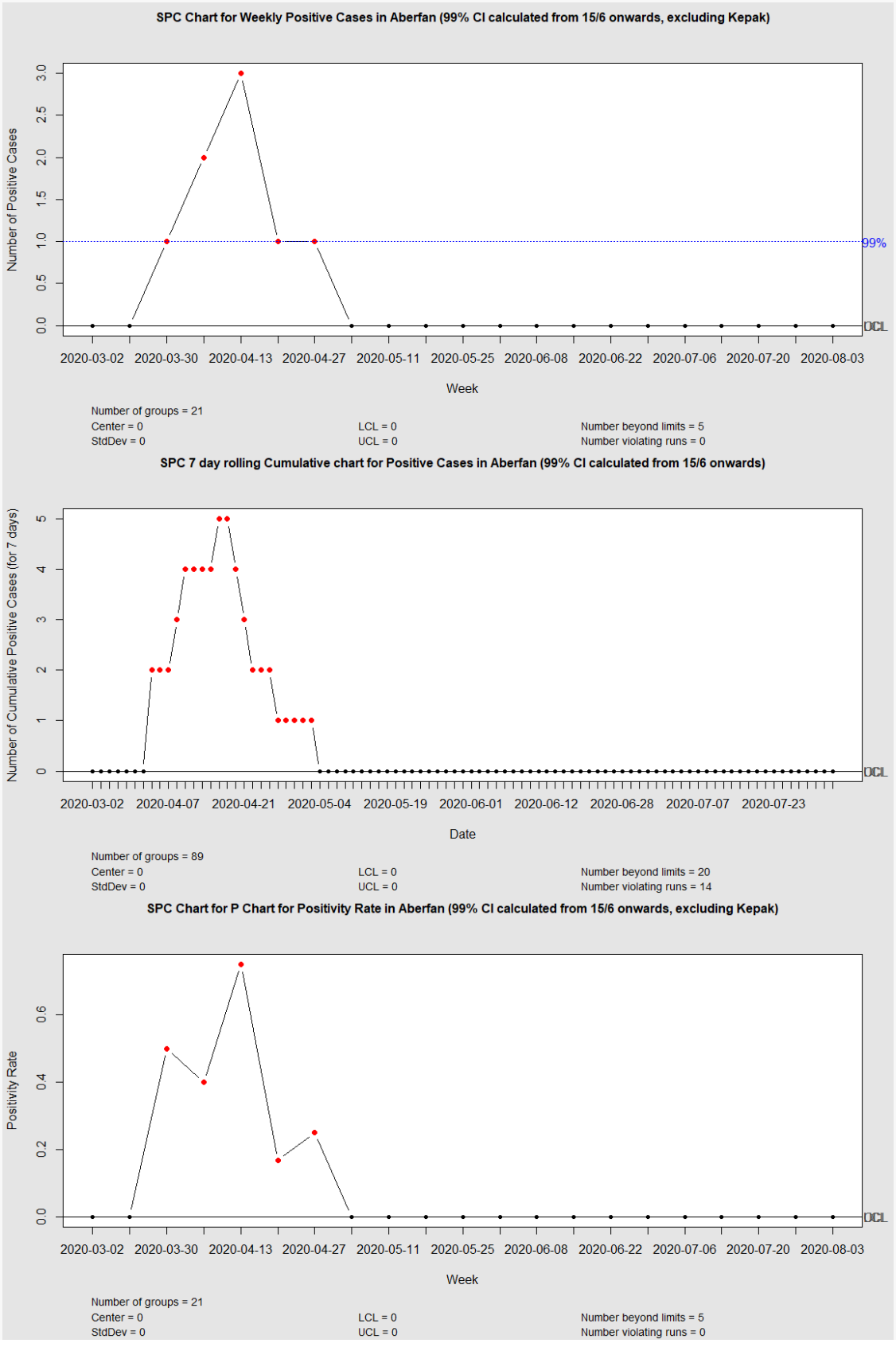
Small


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
5
10
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-27
2020-06-08
2020-07-20
2020-04-20
2020-06-01
2020-07-13
2020-03-30
2020-05-11
2020-06-22
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 61
Center = 0.4285714
StdDev = 0.6648936
LCL = -1.284081
UCL = 2.141224
Number beyond limits = 14
Number violating runs = 9
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
50
100
150
200
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-19
2020-04-03
2020-04-18
2020-05-03
2020-05-18
2020-06-02
2020-06-17
2020-07-02
2020-07-17
Date
Number of groups = 150
Center = 22.65957
StdDev = 2.312673
LCL = 16.70252
UCL = 28.61663
Number beyond limits = 175
Number violating runs = 173
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-27
2020-06-08
2020-07-20
2020-04-20
2020-06-01
2020-07-13
2020-03-30
2020-05-11
2020-06-22
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 61
Center = 0.01267606
StdDev = 0.1118721
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 12
Number violating runs = 9

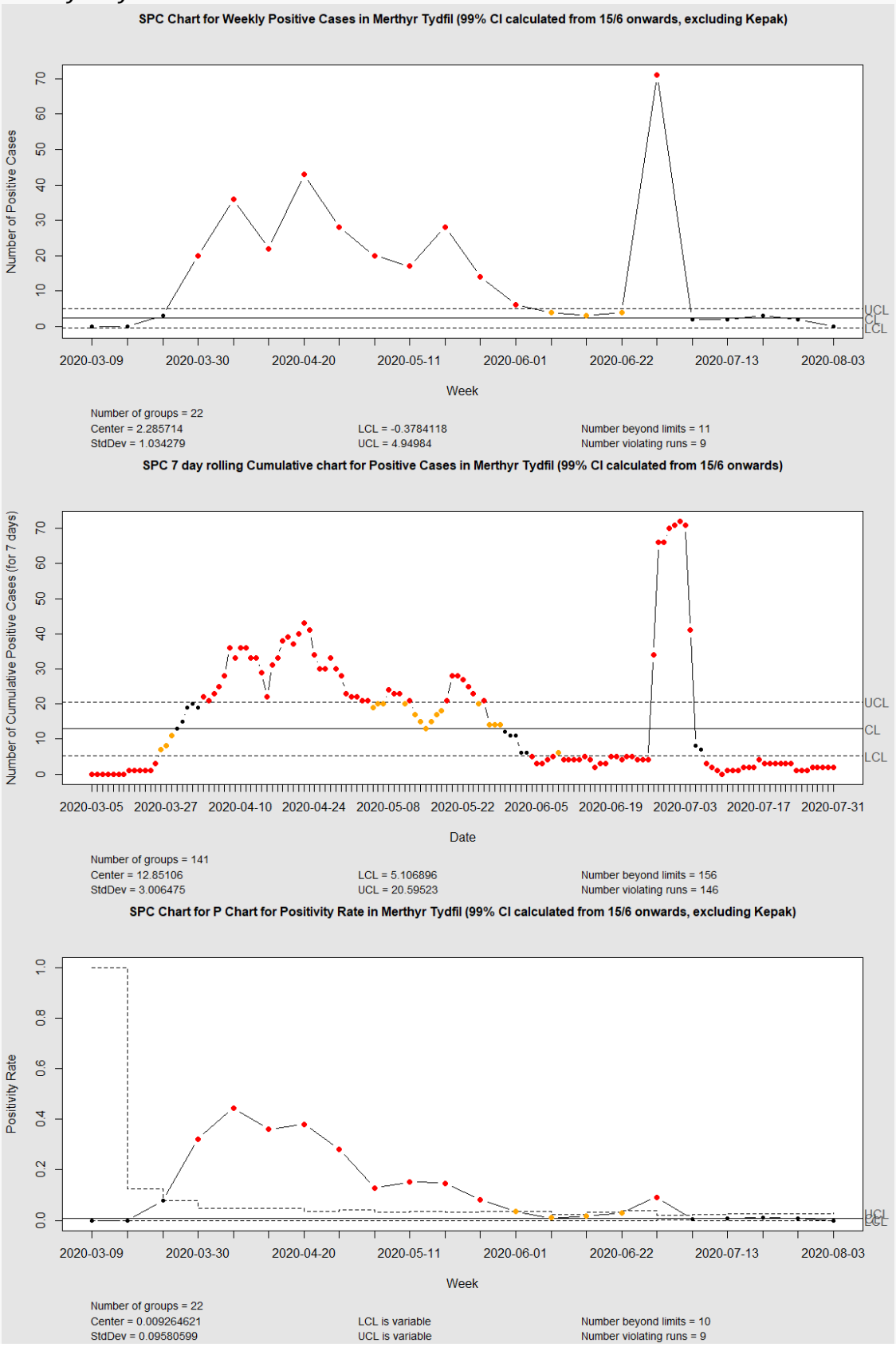
Merthyr Tydfil BUA's:

The following charts are for each Built Up Area in Merthyr Tydfil, with the Number of Positive cases, Positivity Rate and 7-day rolling positive cases being monitored:

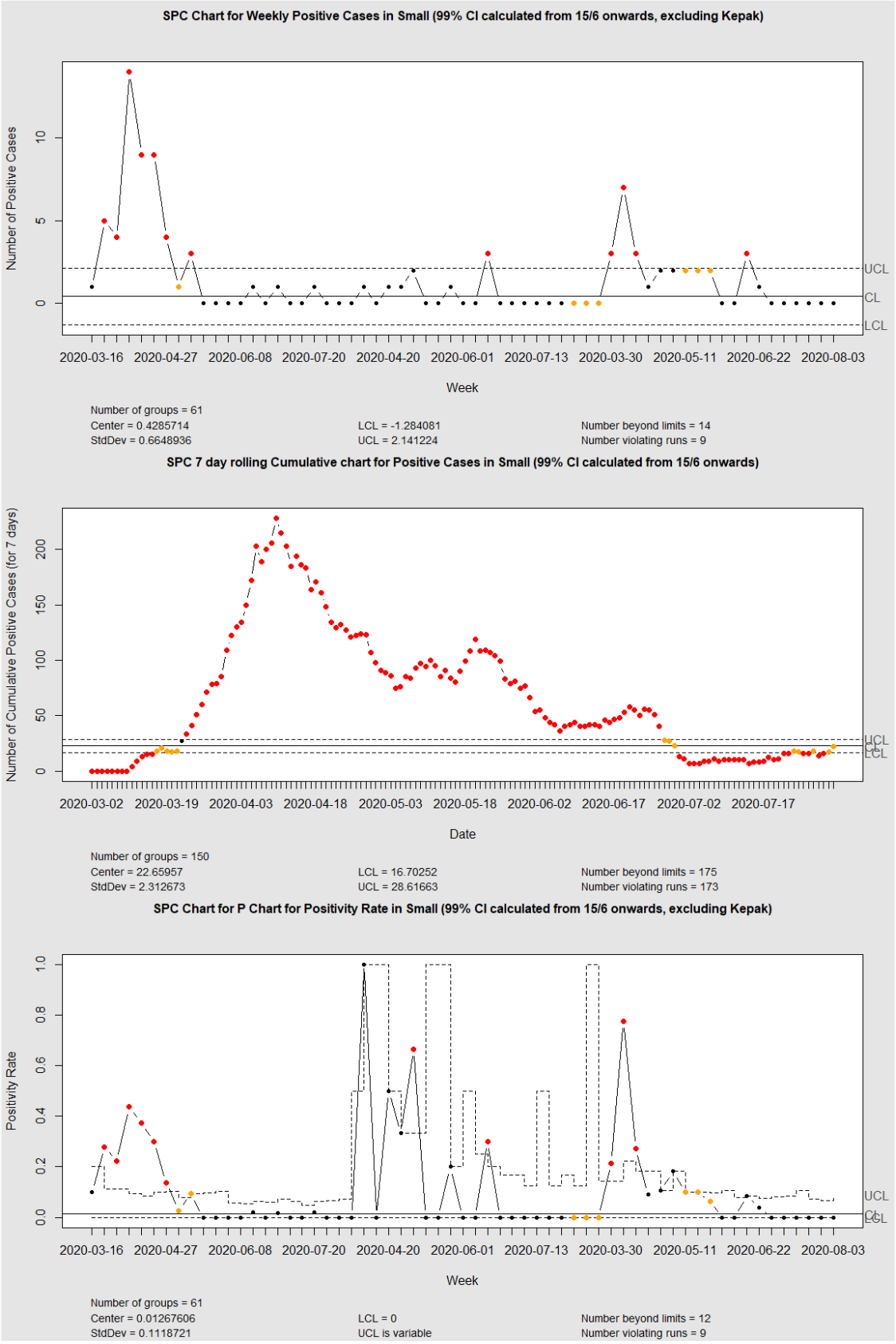
Aberfan


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Aberfan (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
99%
UCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 5
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Aberfan (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
1
2
3
4
5
UCL
2020-03-02
2020-04-07
2020-04-21
2020-05-04
2020-05-19
2020-06-01
2020-06-12
2020-06-28
2020-07-07
2020-07-23
Date
Number of groups = 89
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 20
Number violating runs = 14
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Aberfan (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
UCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 5
Number violating runs = 0

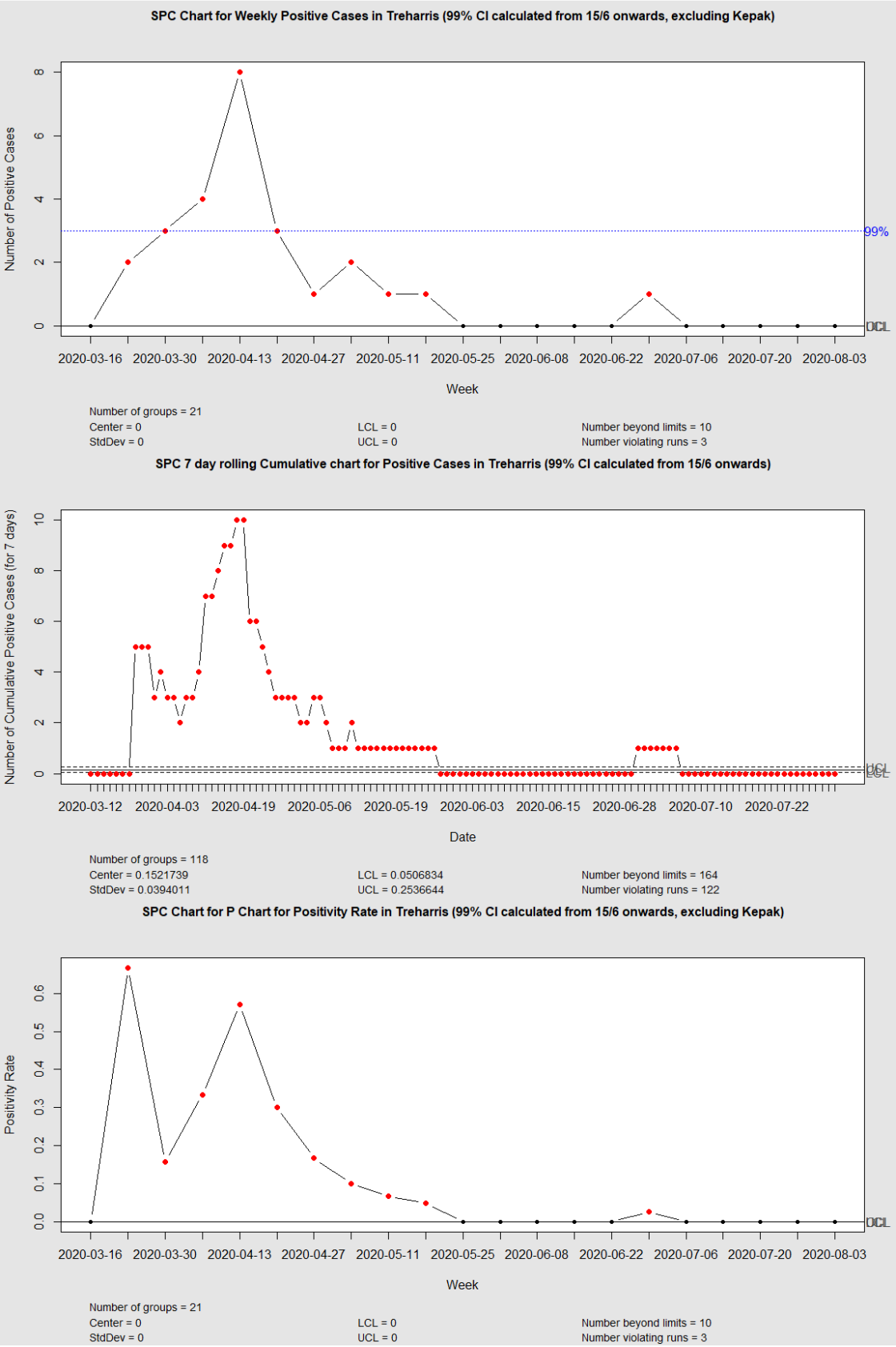
Merthyr Tydfil



Small


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
5
10
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-27
2020-06-08
2020-07-20
2020-04-20
2020-06-01
2020-07-13
2020-03-30
2020-05-11
2020-06-22
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 61
Center = 0.4285714
StdDev = 0.6648936
LCL = -1.284081
UCL = 2.141224
Number beyond limits = 14
Number violating runs = 9
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
50
100
150
200
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-19
2020-04-03
2020-04-18
2020-05-03
2020-05-18
2020-06-02
2020-06-17
2020-07-02
2020-07-17
Date
Number of groups = 150
Center = 22.65957
StdDev = 2.312673
LCL = 16.70252
UCL = 28.61663
Number beyond limits = 175
Number violating runs = 173
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-27
2020-06-08
2020-07-20
2020-04-20
2020-06-01
2020-07-13
2020-03-30
2020-05-11
2020-06-22
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 61
Center = 0.01267606
StdDev = 0.1118721
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 12
Number violating runs = 9

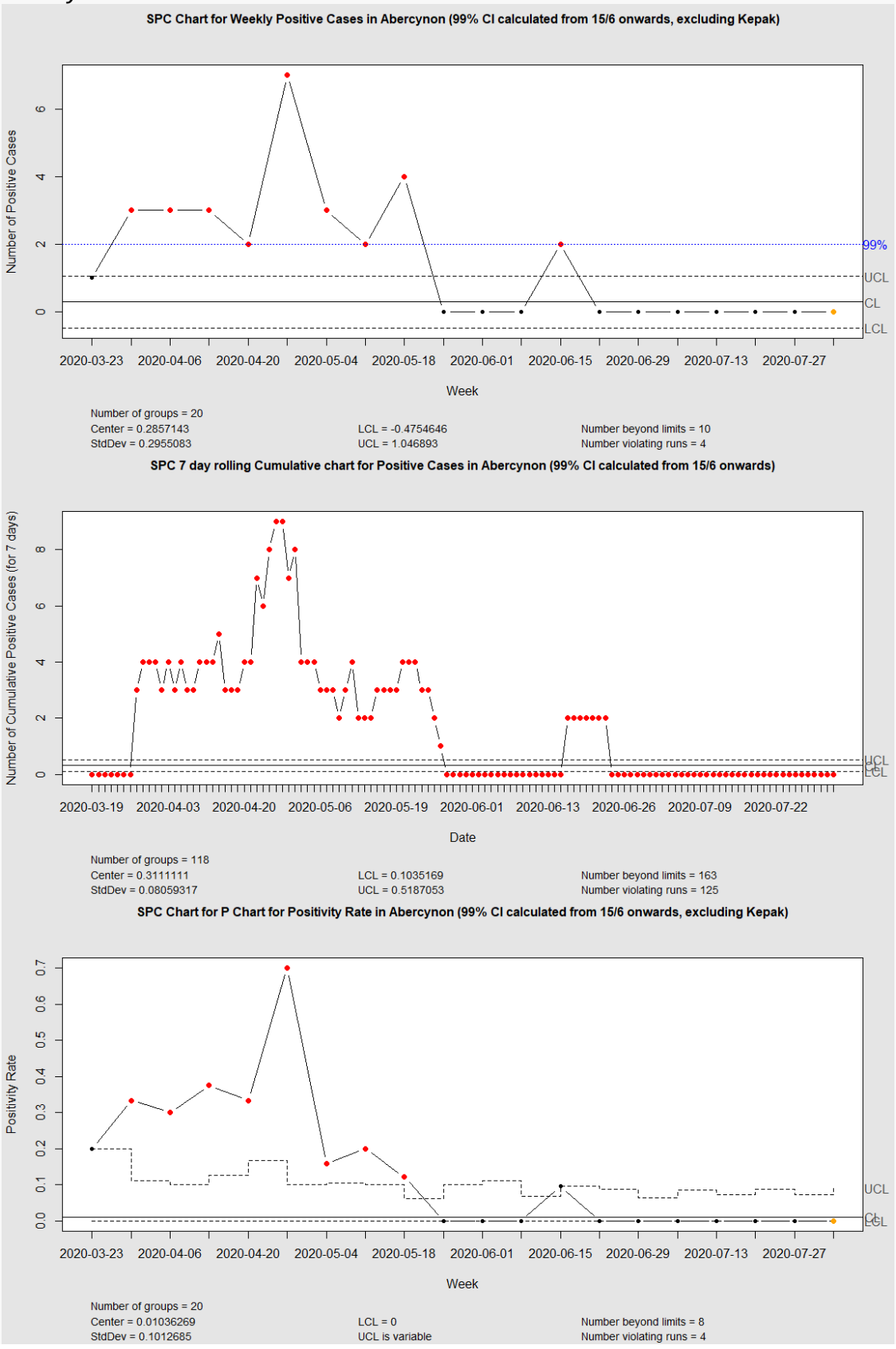
Treharris


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Treharris (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
2
4
6
8
99%
UCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 10
Number violating runs = 3
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Treharris (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
10
UCL
LCL
2020-03-12
2020-04-03
2020-04-19
2020-05-06
2020-05-19
2020-06-03
2020-06-15
2020-06-28
2020-07-10
2020-07-22
Date
Number of groups = 118
Center = 0.1521739
StdDev = 0.0394011
LCL = 0.0506834
UCL = 0.2536644
Number beyond limits = 164
Number violating runs = 122
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Treharris (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
0.6
UCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 10
Number violating runs = 3

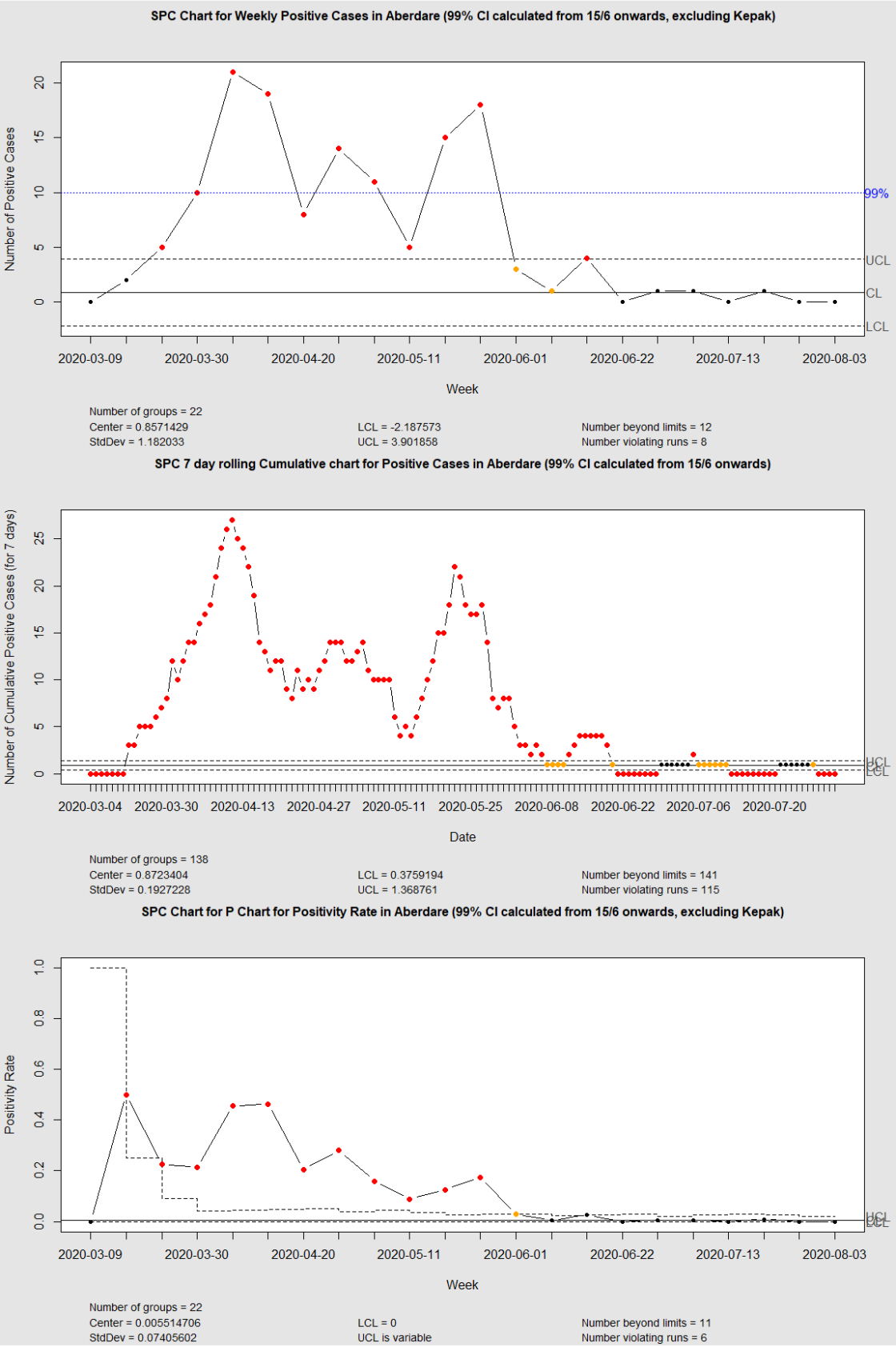
Rhondda Cynon Taf BUA's:

The following charts are for each Built Up Area in Rhondda Cynon Taf, Number of Positive cases, Positivity Rate and 7-day rolling positive cases being monitored:

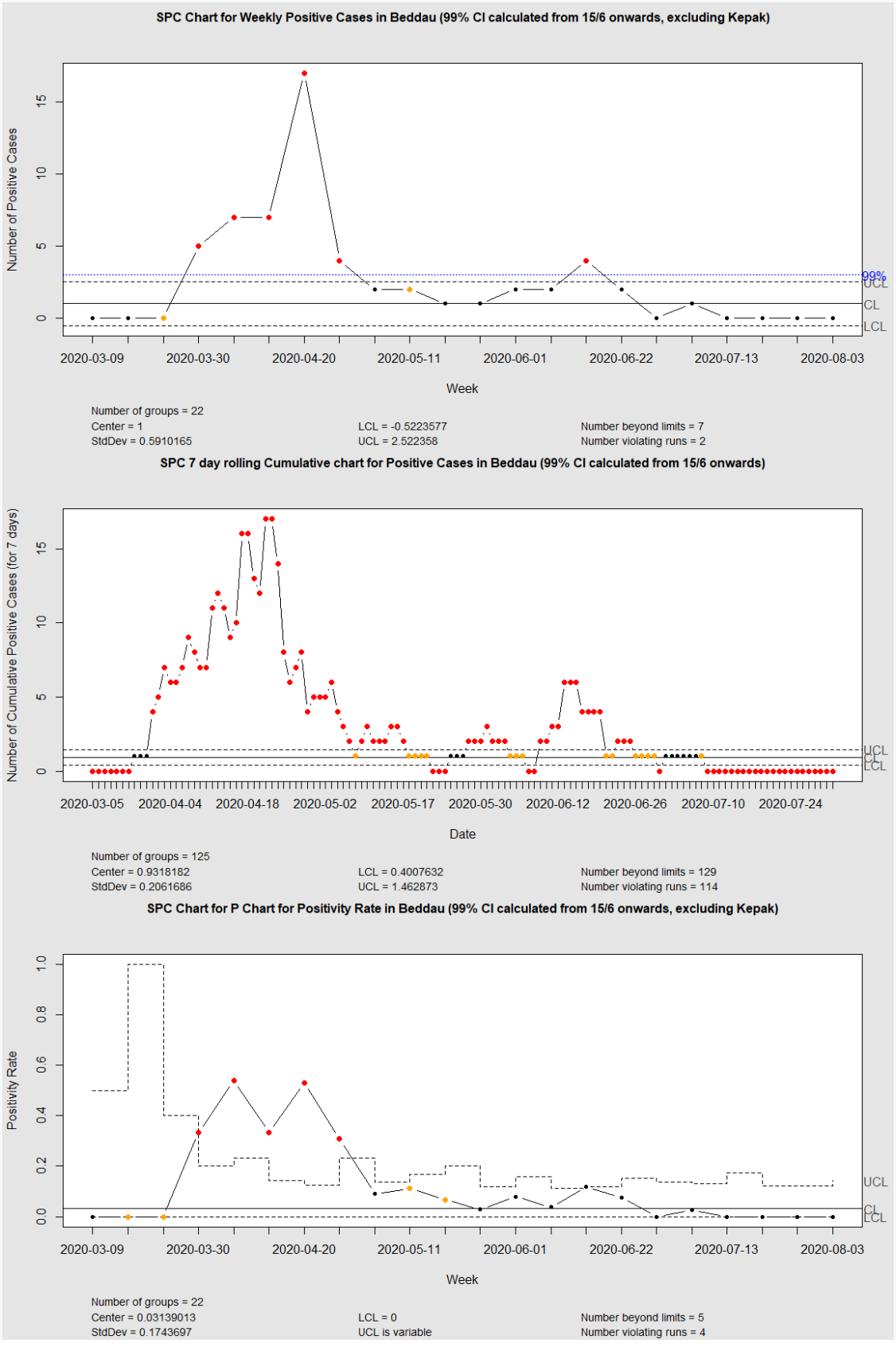
Abercynon


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Abercynon (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
2
4
6
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0.2857143
StdDev = 0.2955083
LCL = -0.4754646
UCL = 1.046893
Number beyond limits = 10
Number violating runs = 4
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Abercynon (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-19
2020-04-03
2020-04-20
2020-05-06
2020-05-19
2020-06-01
2020-06-13
2020-06-26
2020-07-09
2020-07-22
Date
Number of groups = 118
Center = 0.3111111
StdDev = 0.08059317
LCL = 0.1035169
UCL = 0.5187053
Number beyond limits = 163
Number violating runs = 125
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Abercynon (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
0.6
0.7
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0.01036269
StdDev = 0.1012685
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 8
Number violating runs = 4

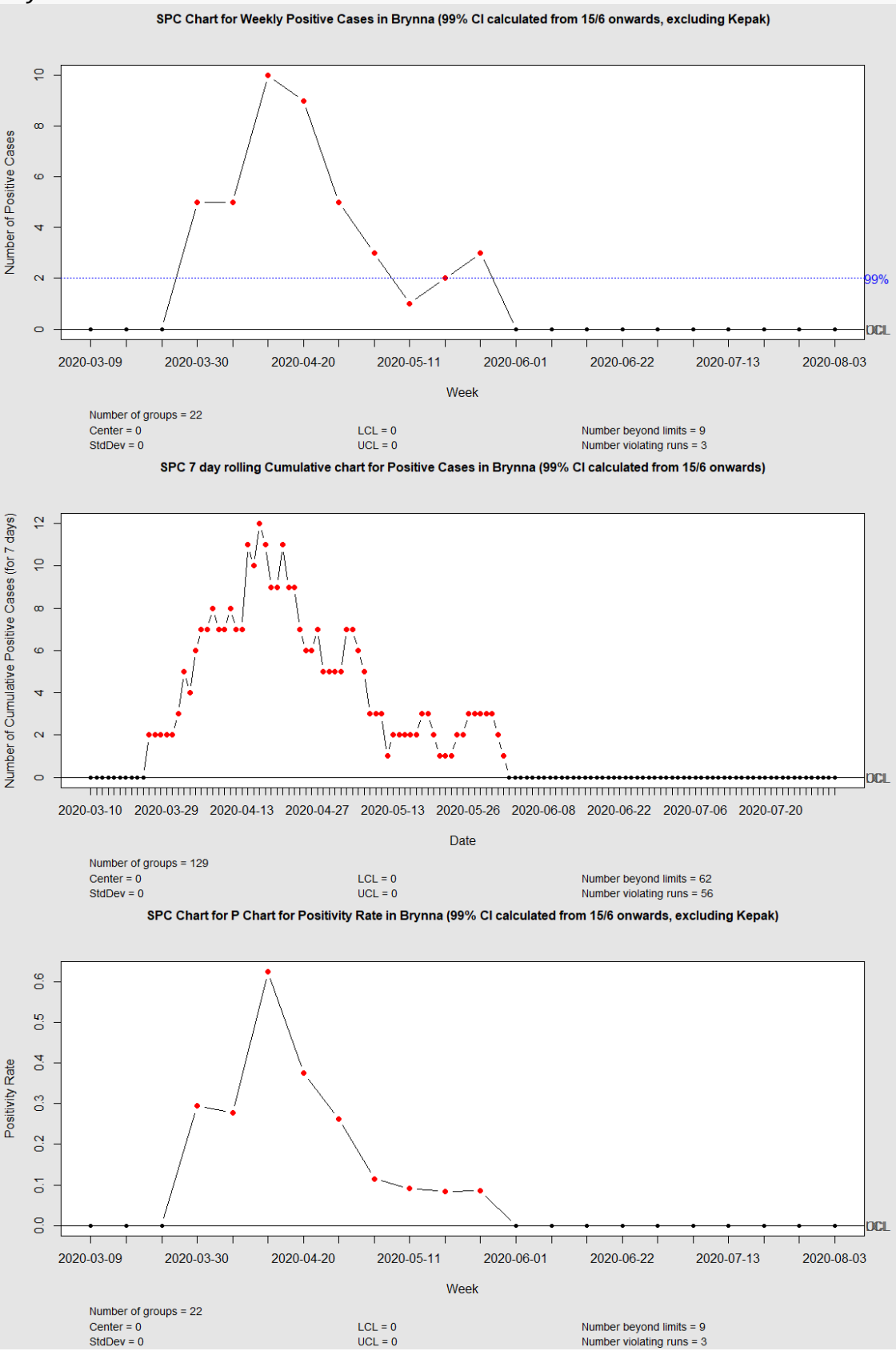
Aberdare


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Aberdare (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
5
10
15
20
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.8571429
StdDev = 1.182033
LCL = -2.187573
UCL = 3.901858
Number beyond limits = 12
Number violating runs = 8
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Aberdare (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
5
10
15
20
25
UCL
LCL
2020-03-04
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
Date
Number of groups = 138
Center = 0.8723404
StdDev = 0.1927228
LCL = 0.3759194
UCL = 1.368761
Number beyond limits = 141
Number violating runs = 115
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Aberdare (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.005514706
StdDev = 0.07405602
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 11
Number violating runs = 6

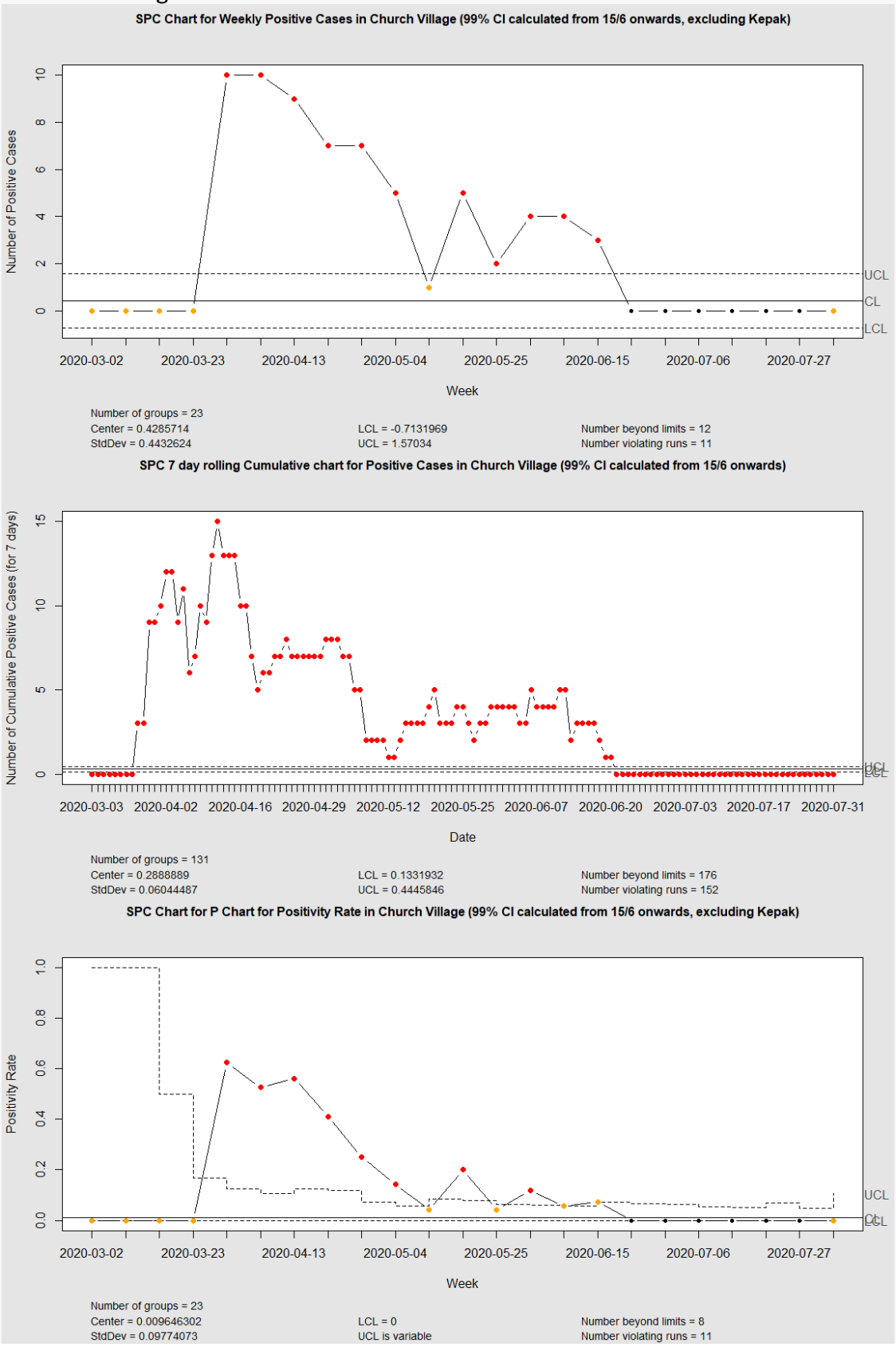
Beddau


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Beddau (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
5
10
15
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 1
StdDev = 0.5910165
LCL = -0.5223577
UCL = 2.522358
Number beyond limits = 7
Number violating runs = 2
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Beddau (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
5
10
15
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-05
2020-04-04
2020-04-18
2020-05-02
2020-05-17
2020-05-30
2020-06-12
2020-06-26
2020-07-10
2020-07-24
Date
Number of groups = 125
Center = 0.9318182
StdDev = 0.2061686
LCL = 0.4007632
UCL = 1.462873
Number beyond limits = 129
Number violating runs = 114
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Beddau (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.03139013
StdDev = 0.1743697
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 5
Number violating runs = 4

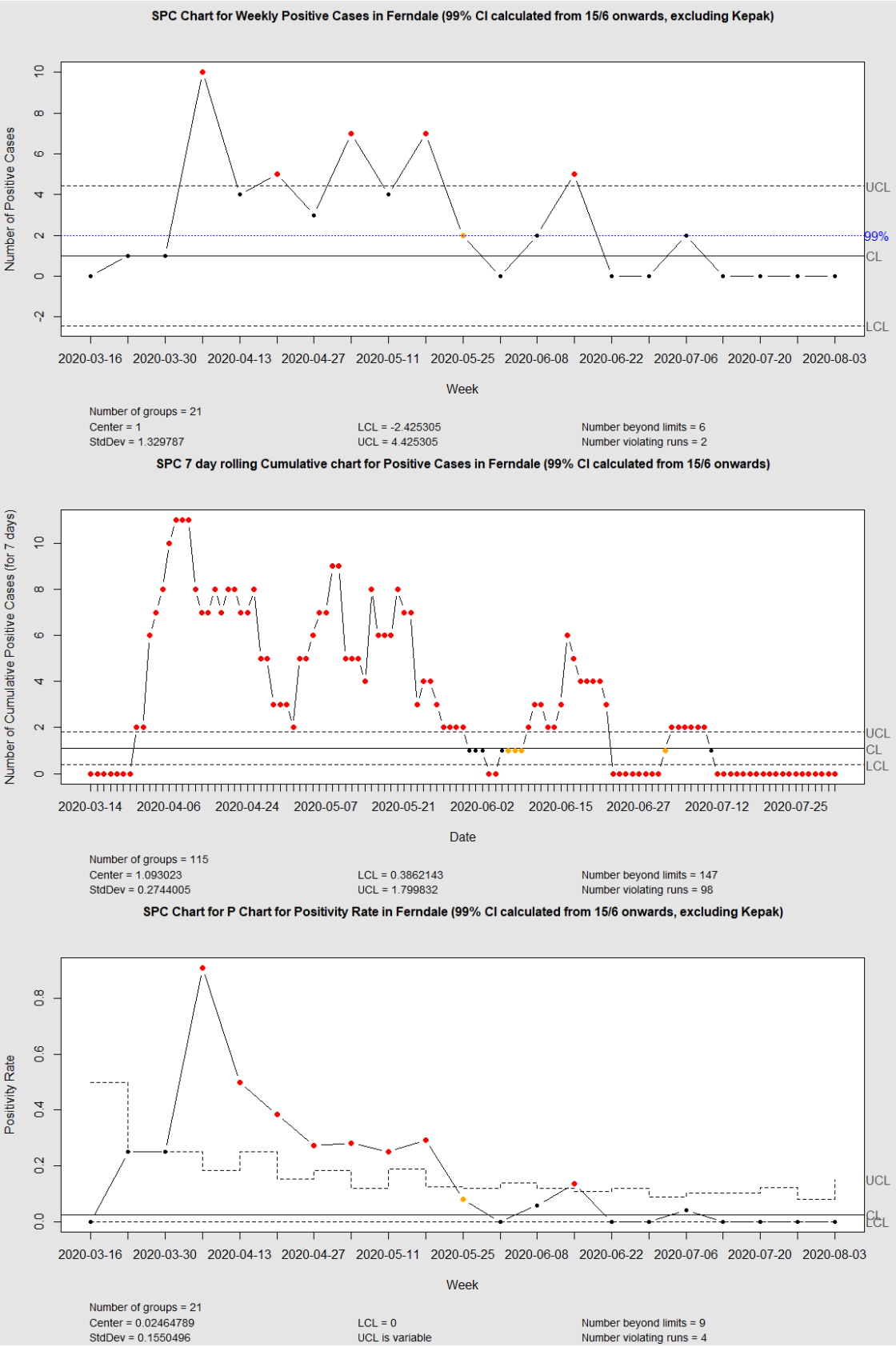
Brynna


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Brynna (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
2
4
6
8
10
99%
UCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 3
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Brynna (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
UCL
2020-03-10
2020-03-29
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-13
2020-05-26
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
Date
Number of groups = 129
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 62
Number violating runs = 56
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Brynna (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
0.6
UCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 3

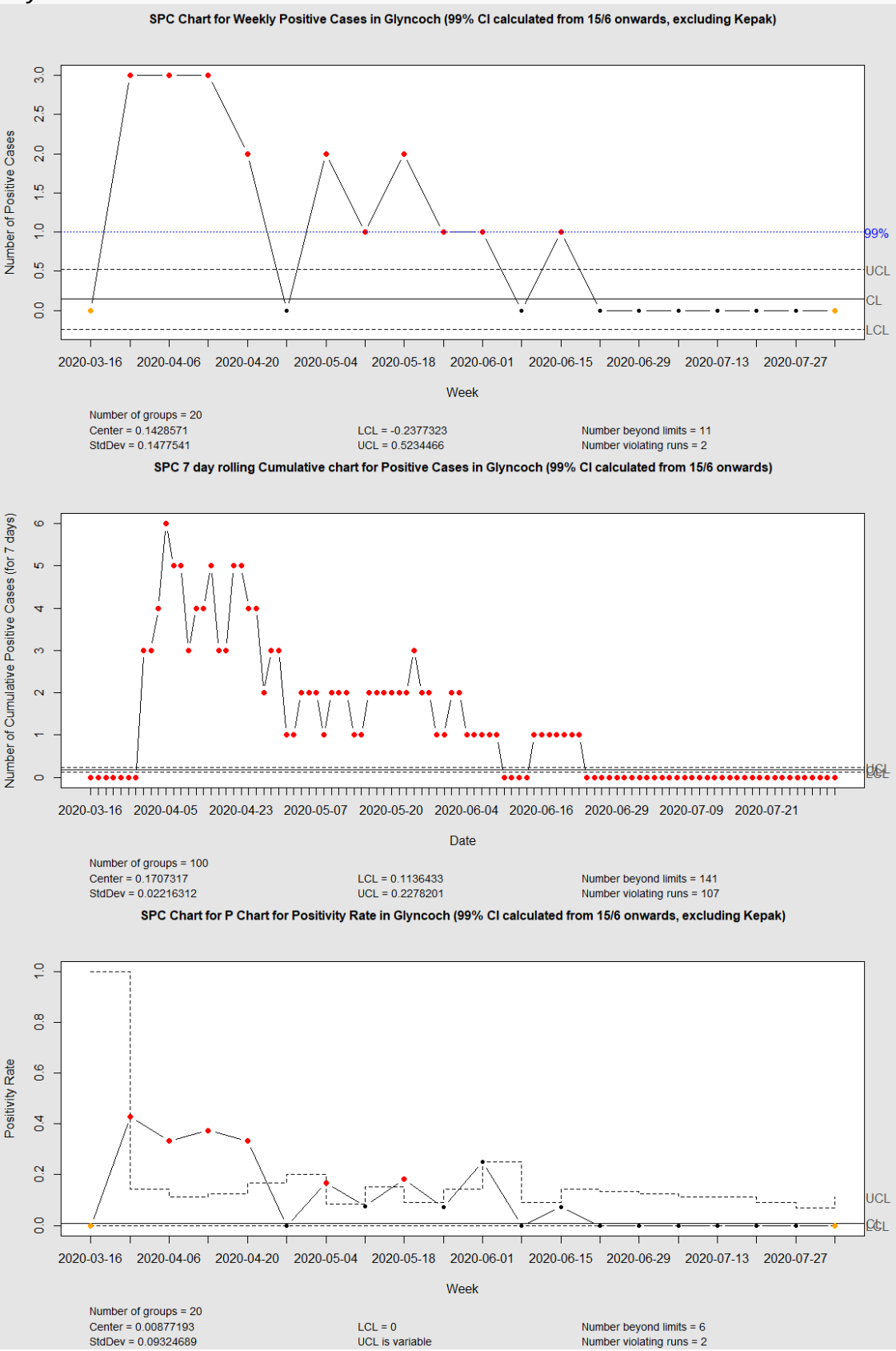
Church Village



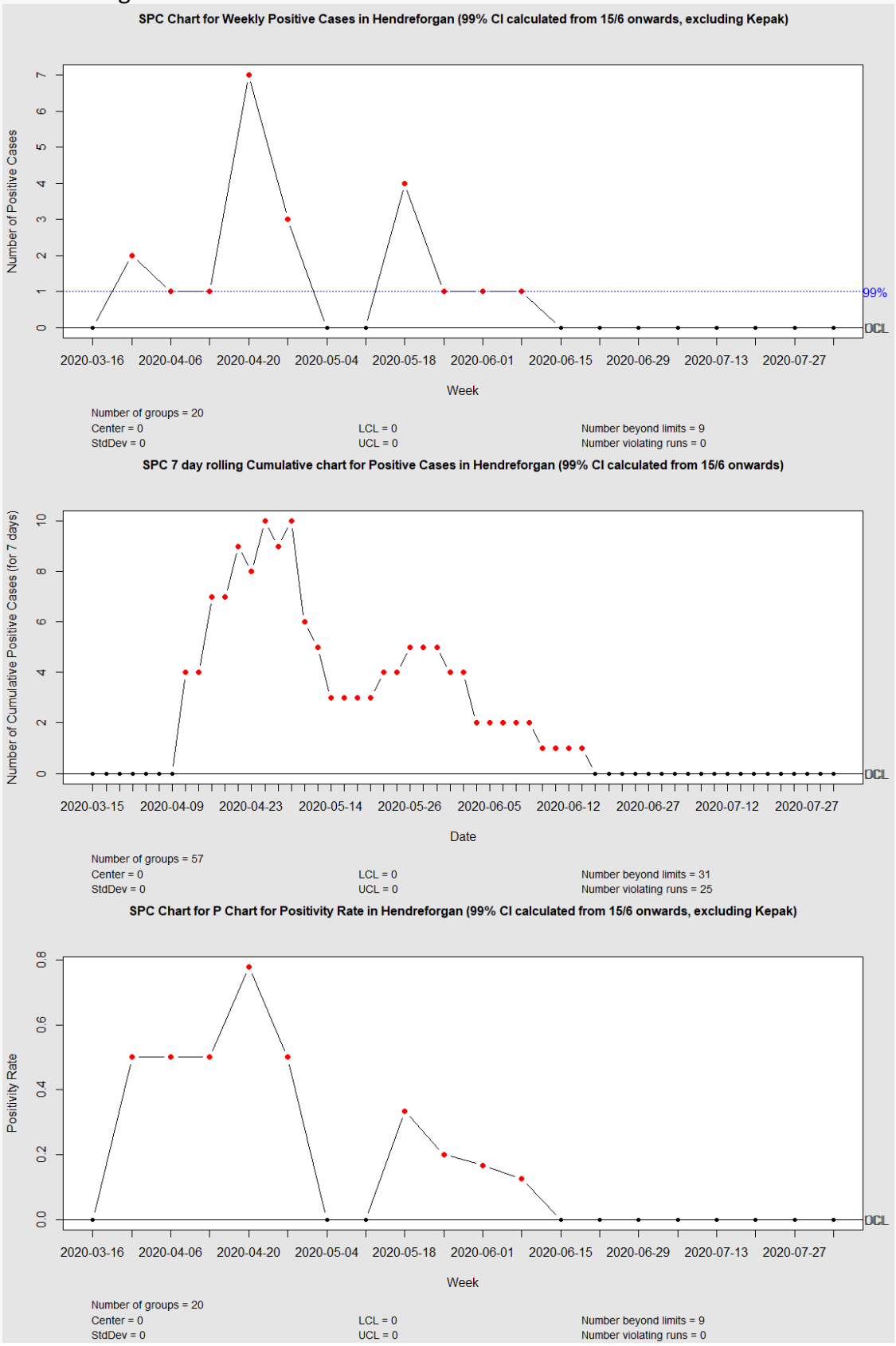
Ferndale


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Ferndale (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
-2
0
2
4
6
8
10
UCL
99%
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 1
StdDev = 1.329787
LCL = -2.425305
UCL = 4.425305
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 2
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Ferndale (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
10
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-14
2020-04-06
2020-04-24
2020-05-07
2020-05-21
2020-06-02
2020-06-15
2020-06-27
2020-07-12
2020-07-25
Date
Number of groups = 115
Center = 1.093023
StdDev = 0.2744005
LCL = 0.3862143
UCL = 1.799832
Number beyond limits = 147
Number violating runs = 98
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Ferndale (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.02464789
StdDev = 0.1550496
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 4

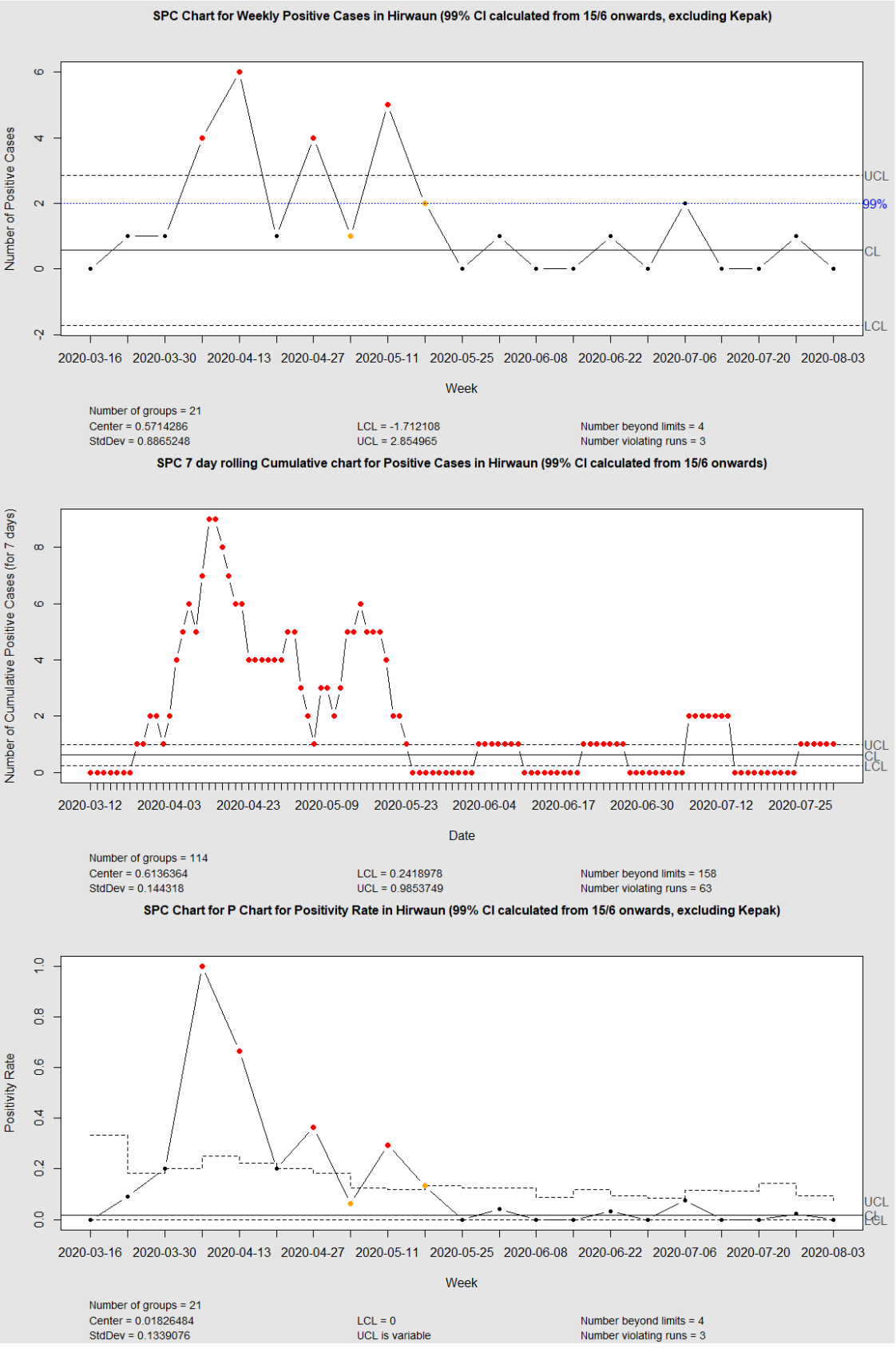
Glyncoch


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Glyncoch (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0.1428571
StdDev = 0.1477541
LCL = -0.2377323
UCL = 0.5234466
Number beyond limits = 11
Number violating runs = 2
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Glyncoch (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
UCL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-05
2020-04-23
2020-05-07
2020-05-20
2020-06-04
2020-06-16
2020-06-29
2020-07-09
2020-07-21
Date
Number of groups = 100
Center = 0.1707317
StdDev = 0.02216312
LCL = 0.1136433
UCL = 0.2278201
Number beyond limits = 141
Number violating runs = 107
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Glyncoch (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0.00877193
StdDev = 0.09324689
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 2

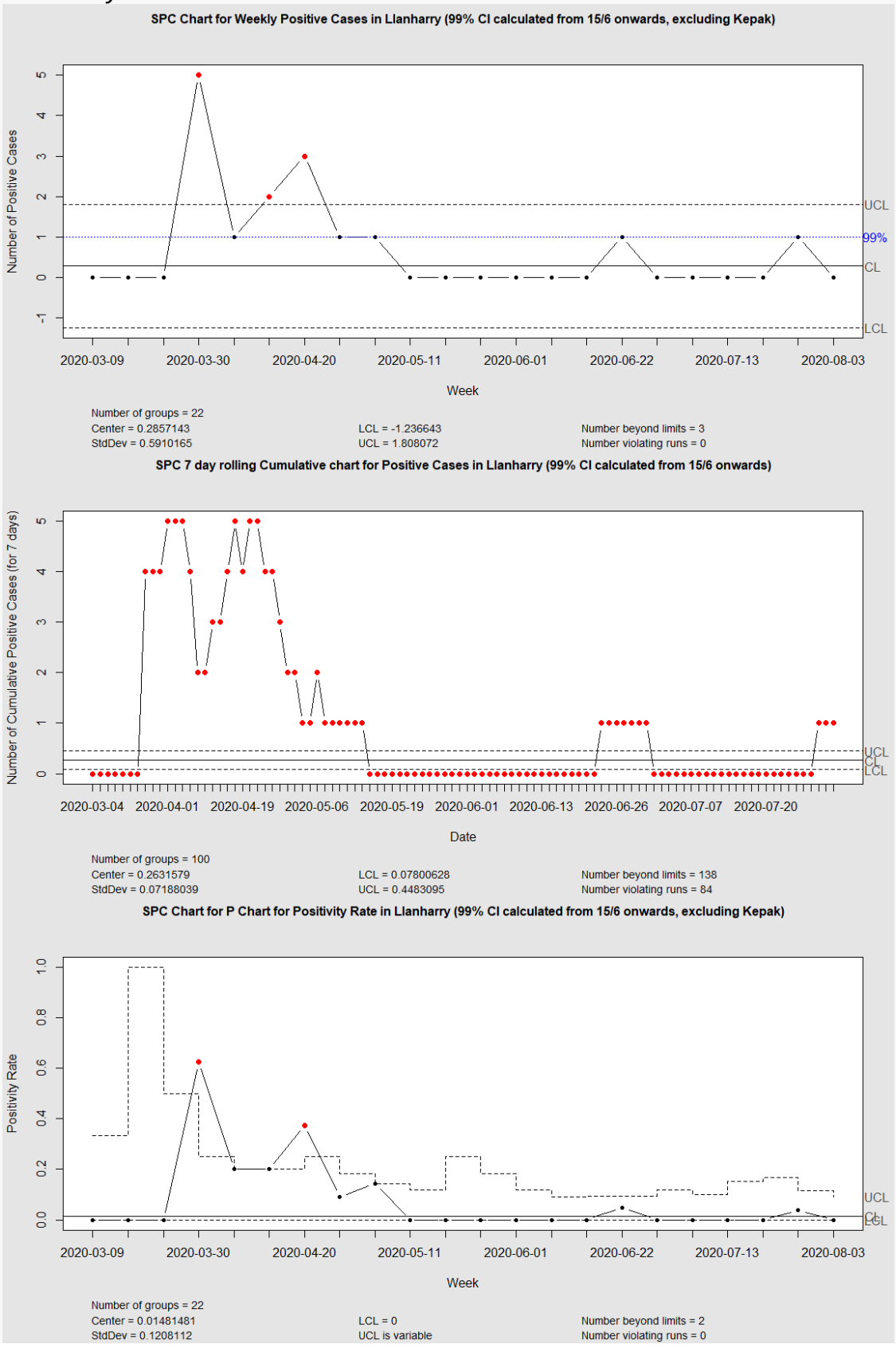
Hendreforgan



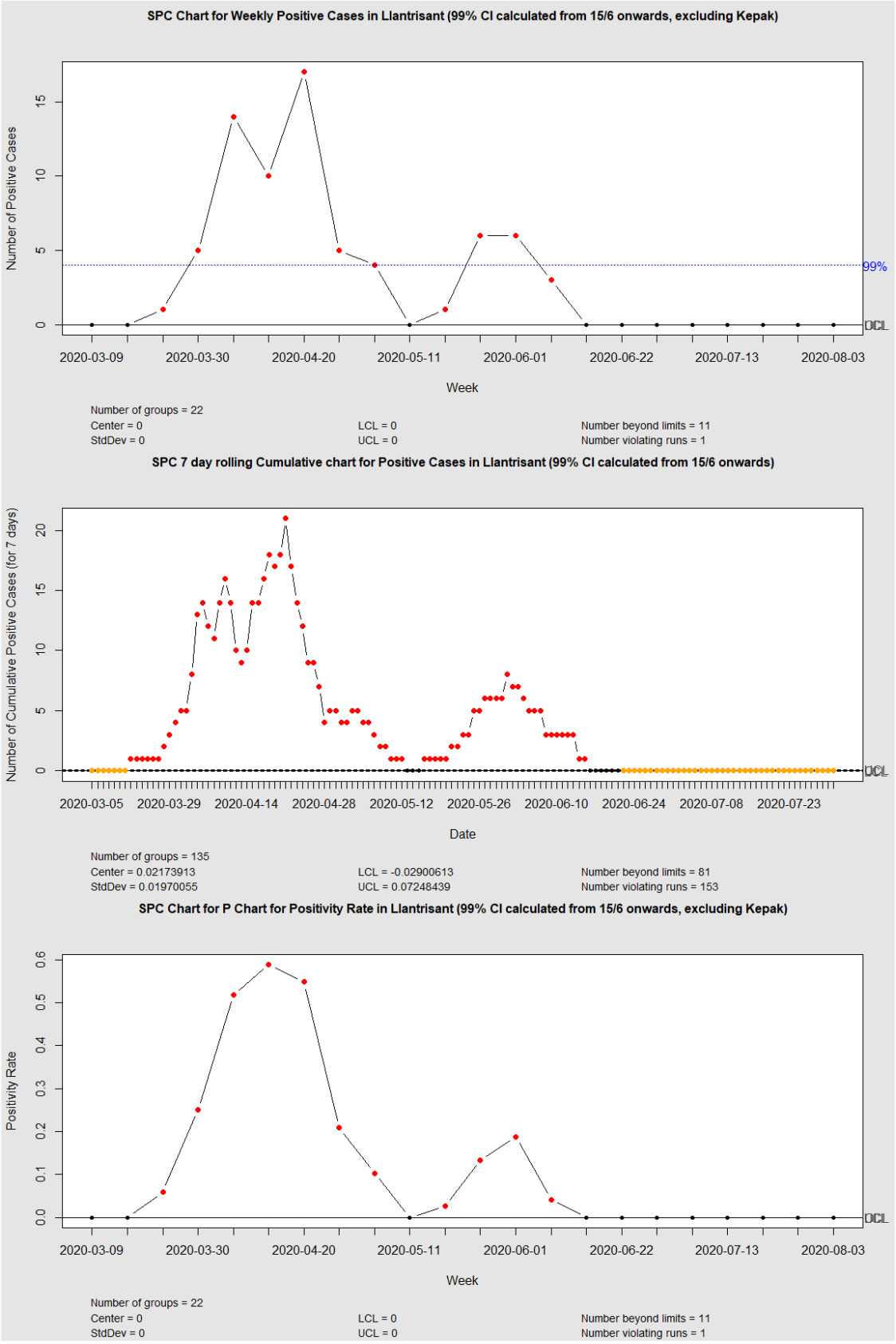
Hirwaun


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Hirwaun (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
-2
0
2
4
6
UCL
99%
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.5714286
StdDev = 0.8865248
LCL = -1.712108
UCL = 2.854965
Number beyond limits = 4
Number violating runs = 3
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Hirwaun (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-12
2020-04-03
2020-04-23
2020-05-09
2020-05-23
2020-06-04
2020-06-17
2020-06-30
2020-07-12
2020-07-25
Date
Number of groups = 114
Center = 0.6136364
StdDev = 0.144318
LCL = 0.2418978
UCL = 0.9853749
Number beyond limits = 158
Number violating runs = 63
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Hirwaun (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.01826484
StdDev = 0.1339076
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 4
Number violating runs = 3

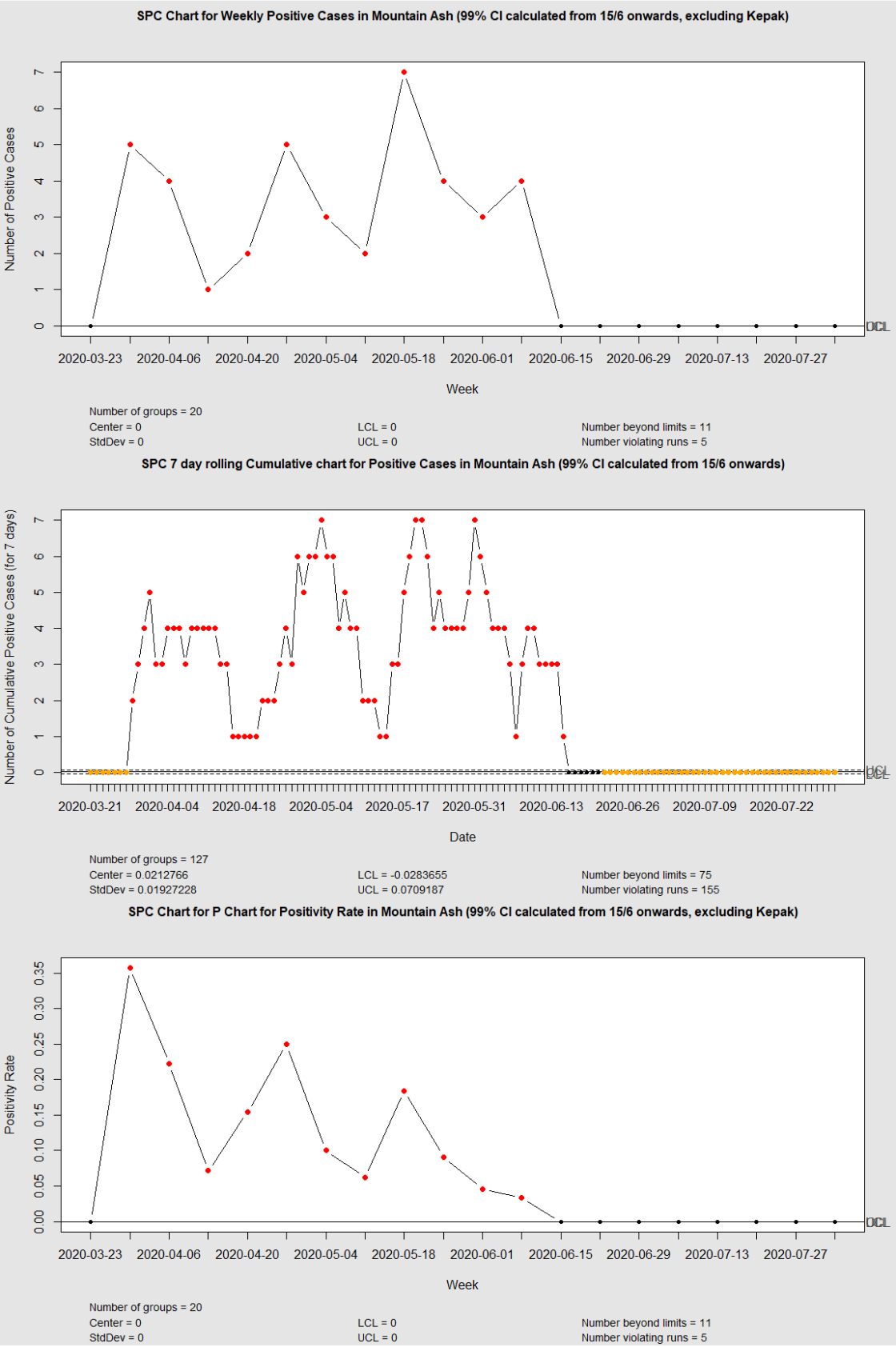
Llanharry


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Llanharry (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
-1
0
1
2
3
4
5
UCL
99%
CL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.2857143
StdDev = 0.5910165
LCL = -1.236643
UCL = 1.808072
Number beyond limits = 3
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Llanharry (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
1
2
3
4
5
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-04
2020-04-01
2020-04-19
2020-05-06
2020-05-19
2020-06-01
2020-06-13
2020-06-26
2020-07-07
2020-07-20
Date
Number of groups = 100
Center = 0.2631579
StdDev = 0.07188039
LCL = 0.07800628
UCL = 0.4483095
Number beyond limits = 138
Number violating runs = 84
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Llanharry (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.01481481
StdDev = 0.1208112
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 2
Number violating runs = 0

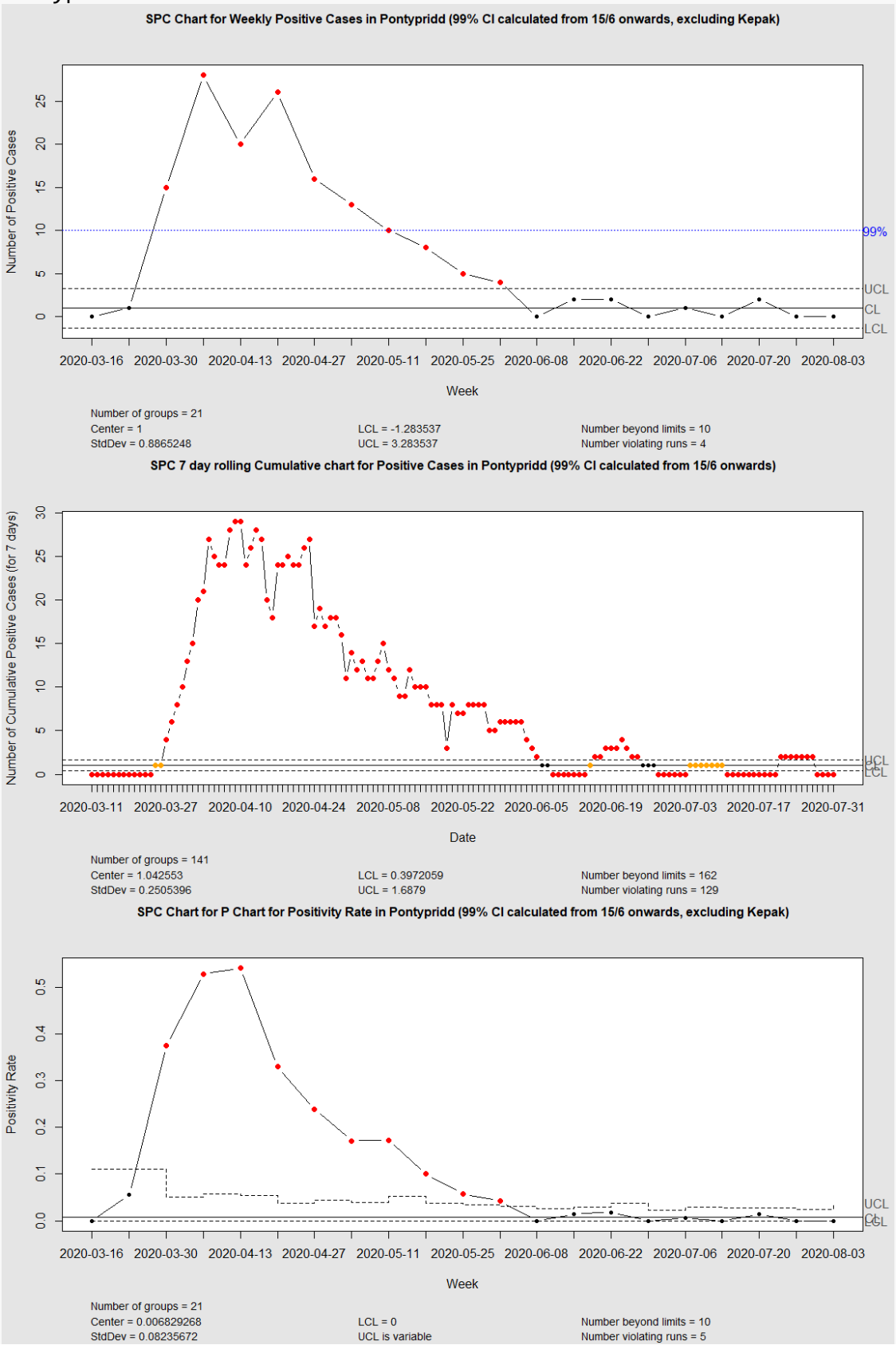
Llantrisant



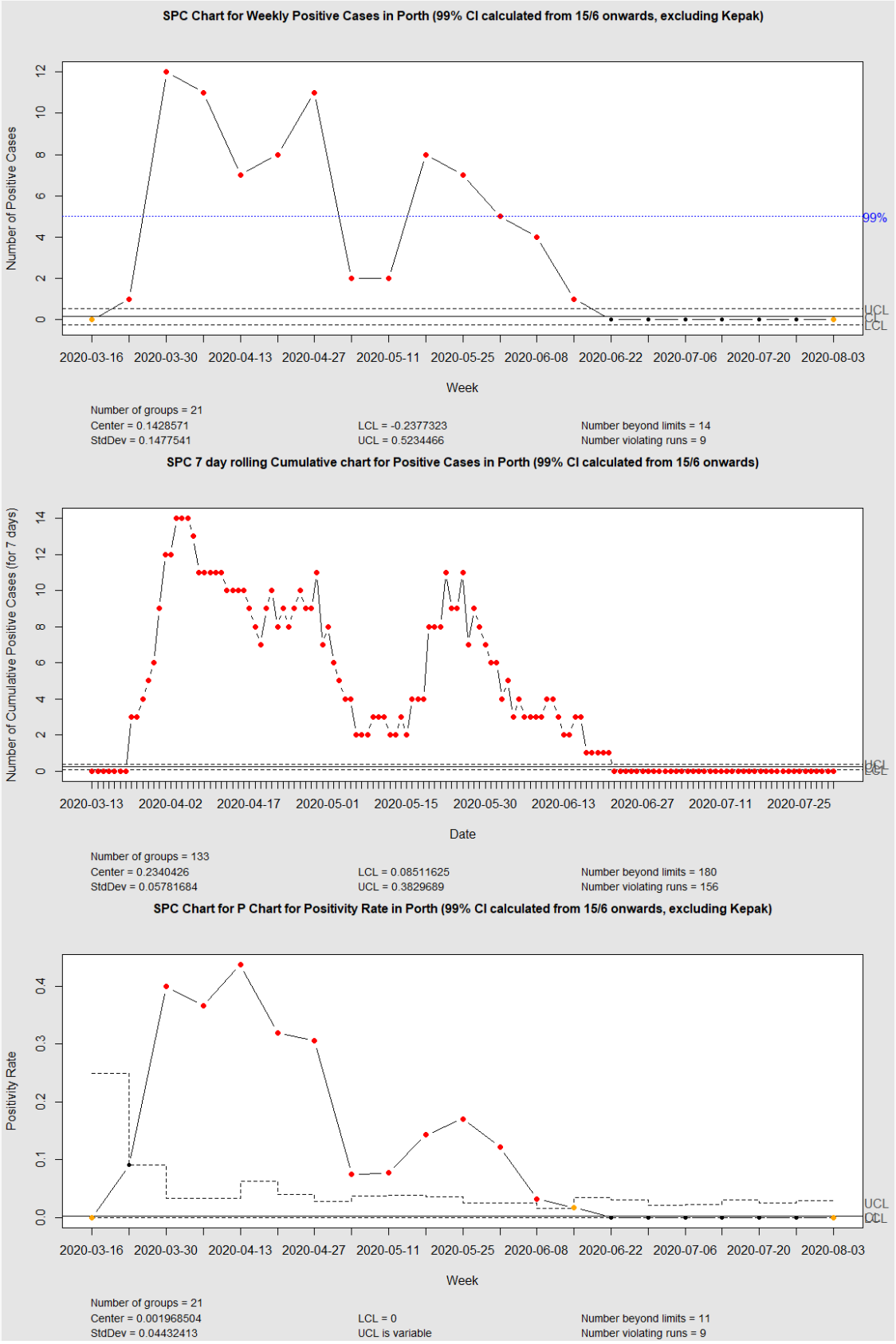
Mountain Ash



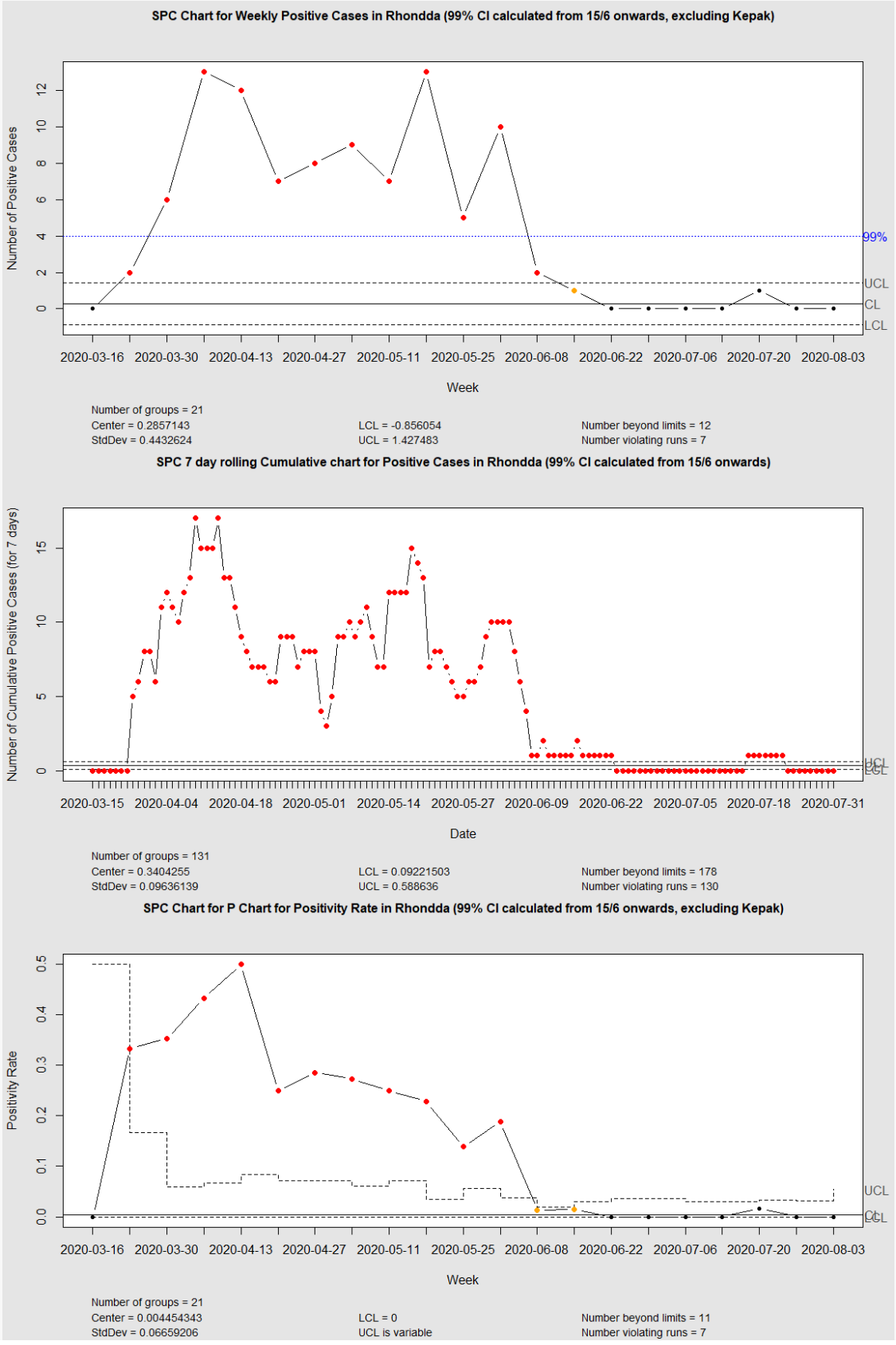
Pontypridd


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Pontypridd (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 1
StdDev = 0.8865248
LCL = -1.283537
UCL = 3.283537
Number beyond limits = 10
Number violating runs = 4
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Pontypridd (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
UCL
LCL
2020-03-11
2020-03-27
2020-04-10
2020-04-24
2020-05-08
2020-05-22
2020-06-05
2020-06-19
2020-07-03
2020-07-17
2020-07-31
Date
Number of groups = 141
Center = 1.042553
StdDev = 0.2505396
LCL = 0.3972059
UCL = 1.6879
Number beyond limits = 162
Number violating runs = 129
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Pontypridd (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.006829268
StdDev = 0.08235672
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 10
Number violating runs = 5

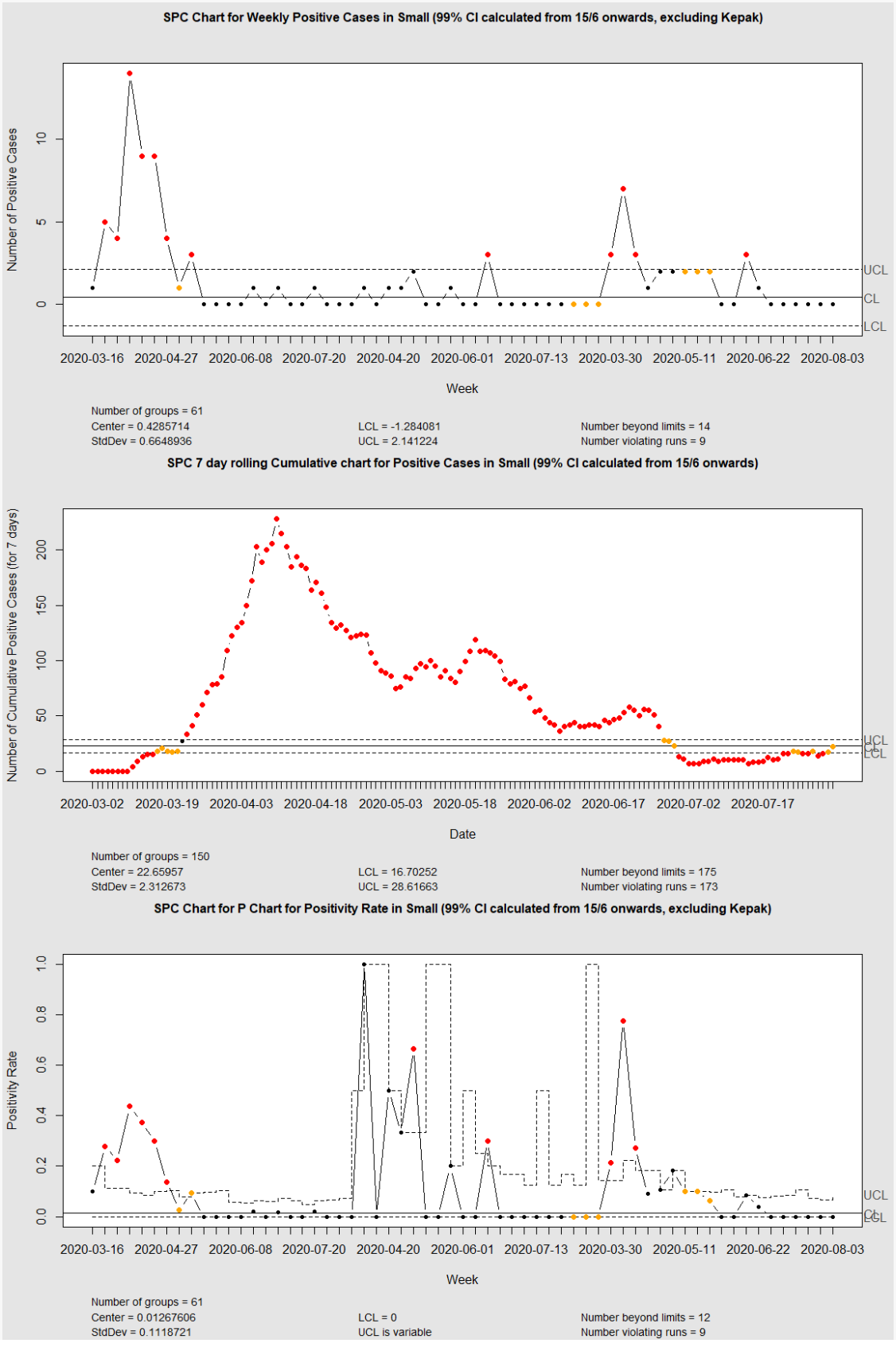
Porth


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Porth (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.1428571
StdDev = 0.1477541
LCL = -0.2377323
UCL = 0.5234466
Number beyond limits = 14
Number violating runs = 9
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Porth (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
UCL
LCL
2020-03-13
2020-04-02
2020-04-17
2020-05-01
2020-05-15
2020-05-30
2020-06-13
2020-06-27
2020-07-11
2020-07-25
Date
Number of groups = 133
Center = 0.2340426
StdDev = 0.05781684
LCL = 0.08511625
UCL = 0.3829689
Number beyond limits = 180
Number violating runs = 156
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Porth (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
UCL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.001968504
StdDev = 0.04432413
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 11
Number violating runs = 9

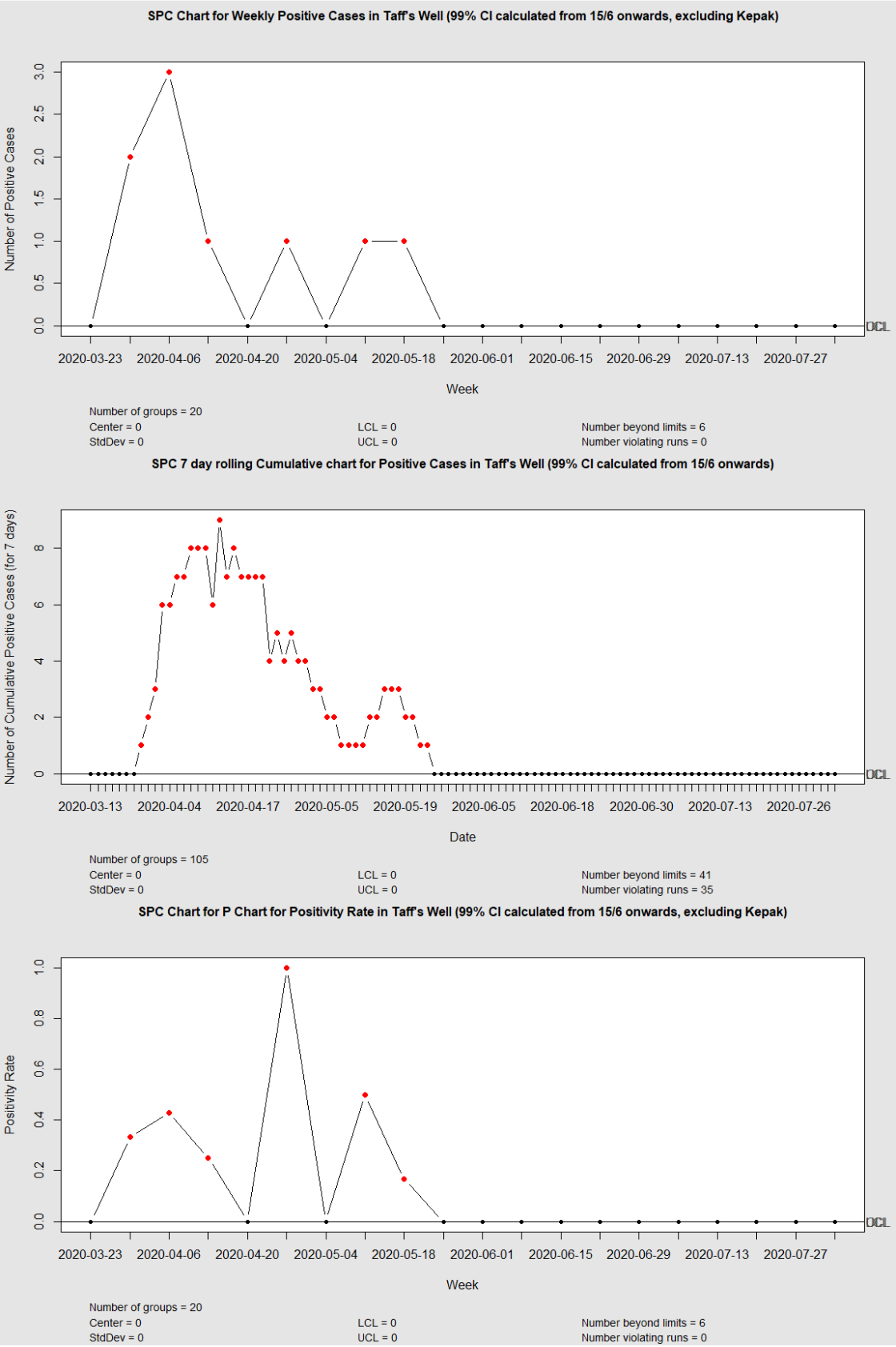
Rhondda


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Rhondda (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
99%
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.2857143
StdDev = 0.4432624
LCL = -0.856054
UCL = 1.427483
Number beyond limits = 12
Number violating runs = 7
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Rhondda (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
5
10
15
UCL
LCL
2020-03-15
2020-04-04
2020-04-18
2020-05-01
2020-05-14
2020-05-27
2020-06-09
2020-06-22
2020-07-05
2020-07-18
2020-07-31
Date
Number of groups = 131
Center = 0.3404255
StdDev = 0.09636139
LCL = 0.09221503
UCL = 0.588636
Number beyond limits = 178
Number violating runs = 130
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Rhondda (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.004454343
StdDev = 0.06659206
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 11
Number violating runs = 7

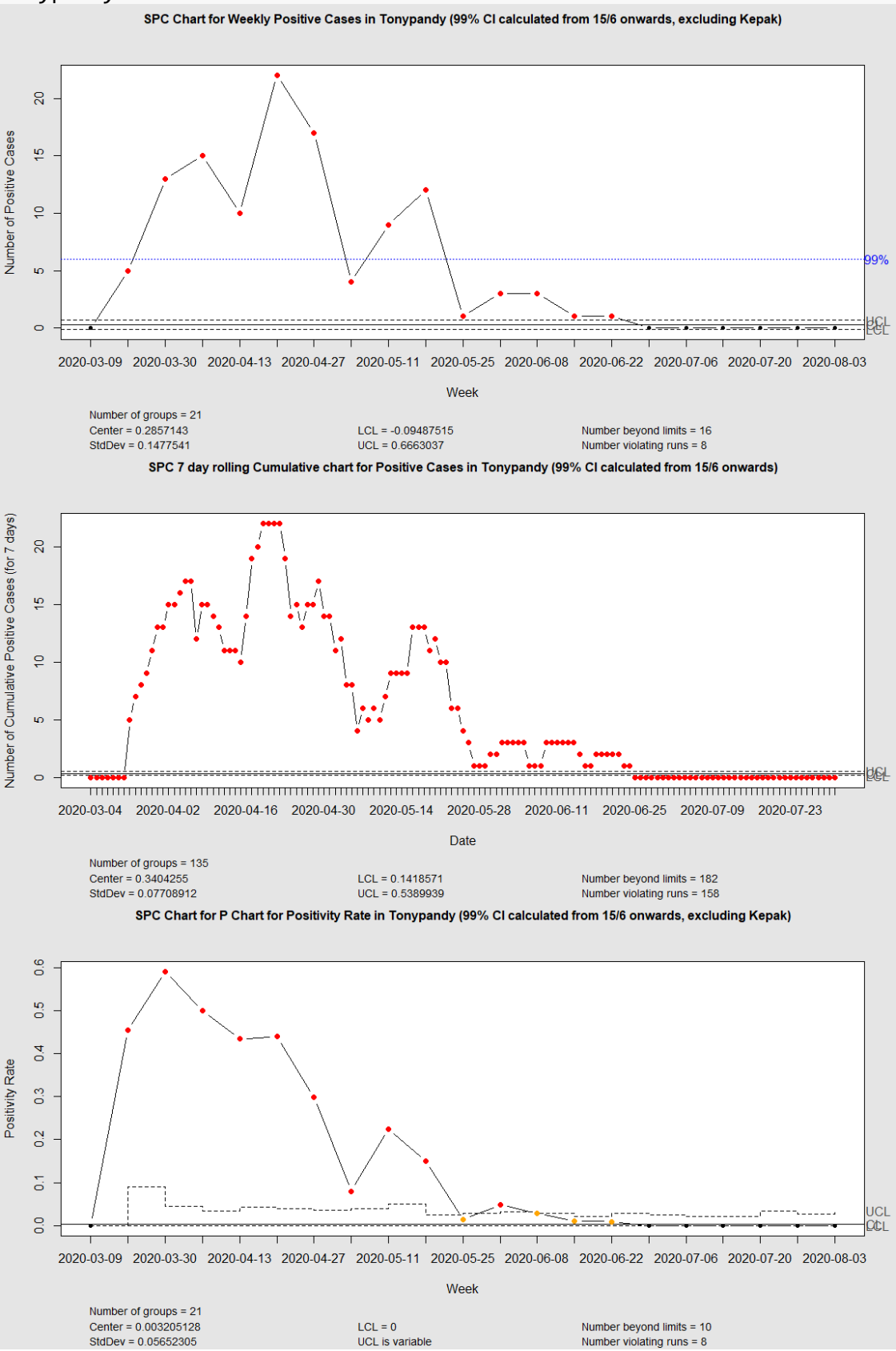
Small


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
5
10
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-27
2020-06-08
2020-07-20
2020-04-20
2020-06-01
2020-07-13
2020-03-30
2020-05-11
2020-06-22
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 61
Center = 0.4285714
StdDev = 0.6648936
LCL = -1.284081
UCL = 2.141224
Number beyond limits = 14
Number violating runs = 9
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
50
100
150
200
UCL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-19
2020-04-03
2020-04-18
2020-05-03
2020-05-18
2020-06-02
2020-06-17
2020-07-02
2020-07-17
Date
Number of groups = 150
Center = 22.65957
StdDev = 2.312673
LCL = 16.70252
UCL = 28.61663
Number beyond limits = 175
Number violating runs = 173
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Small (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-04-27
2020-06-08
2020-07-20
2020-04-20
2020-06-01
2020-07-13
2020-03-30
2020-05-11
2020-06-22
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 61
Center = 0.01267606
StdDev = 0.1118721
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 12
Number violating runs = 9

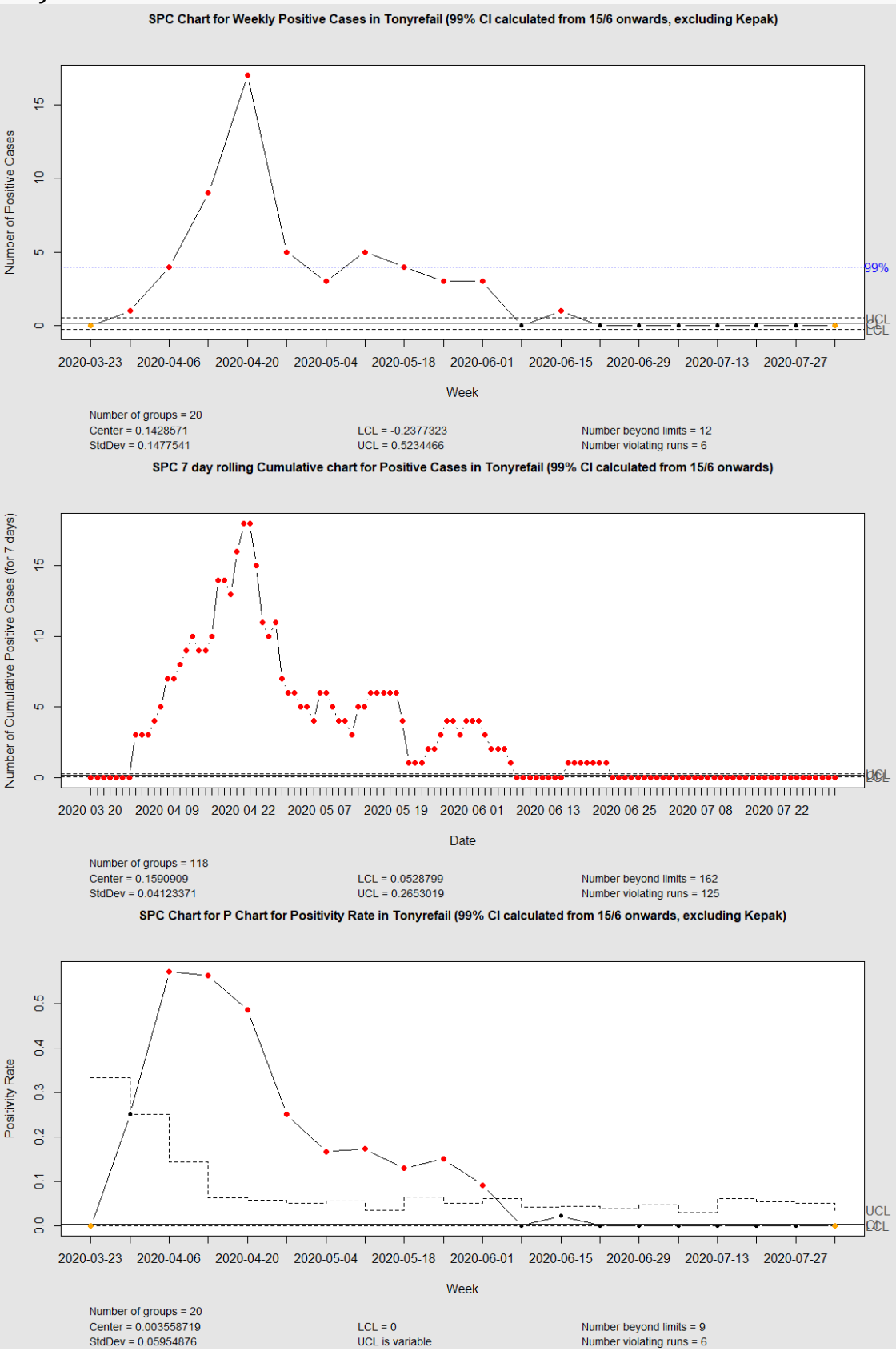
Taff's Well


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Taff's Well (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0.0
0.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
UCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Taff's Well (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
UCL
2020-03-13
2020-04-04
2020-04-17
2020-05-05
2020-05-19
2020-06-05
2020-06-18
2020-06-30
2020-07-13
2020-07-26
Date
Number of groups = 105
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 41
Number violating runs = 35
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Taff's Well (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 0

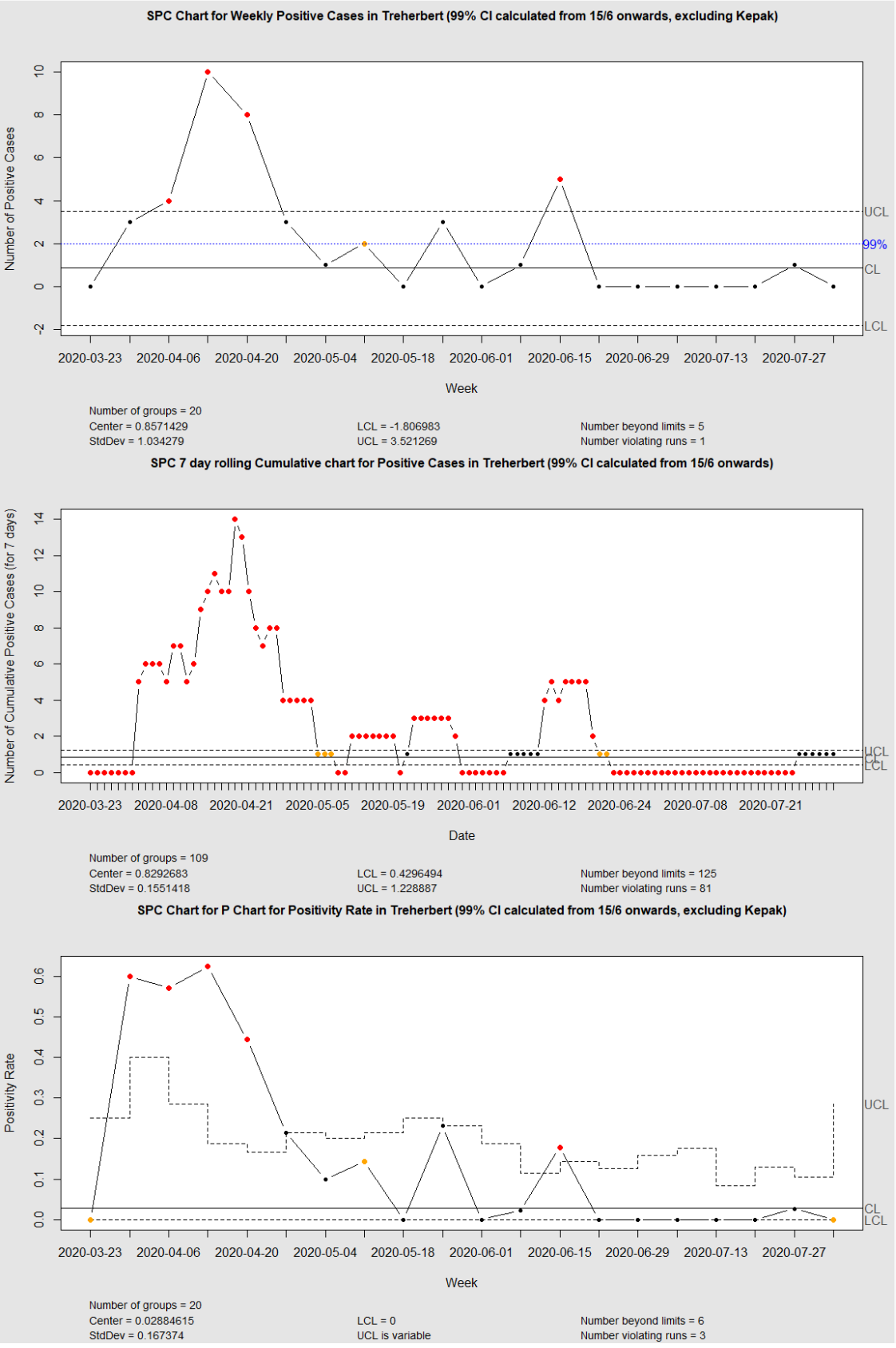
Tonypandy


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Tonypandy (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
5
10
15
20
99%
UCL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.2857143
StdDev = 0.1477541
LCL = -0.09487515
UCL = 0.6663037
Number beyond limits = 16
Number violating runs = 8
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Tonypandy (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
5
10
15
20
UCL
LCL
2020-03-04
2020-04-02
2020-04-16
2020-04-30
2020-05-14
2020-05-28
2020-06-11
2020-06-25
2020-07-09
2020-07-23
Date
Number of groups = 135
Center = 0.3404255
StdDev = 0.07708912
LCL = 0.1418571
UCL = 0.5389939
Number beyond limits = 182
Number violating runs = 158
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Tonypandy (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
0.6
UCL
LCL
2020-03-09
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.003205128
StdDev = 0.05652305
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 10
Number violating runs = 8

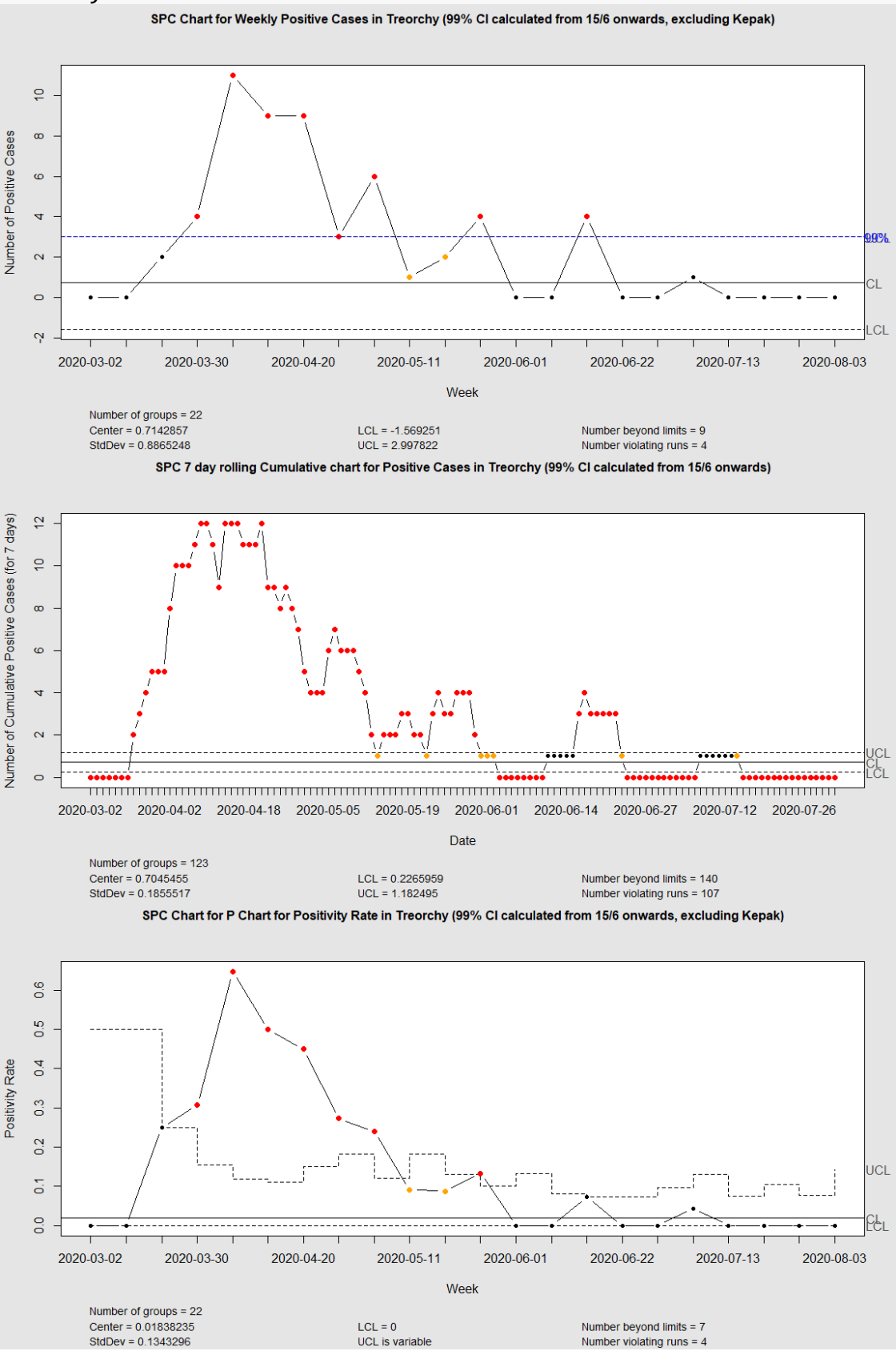
Tonyrefail


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Tonyrefail (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
5
10
15
99%
UCL
LCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0.1428571
StdDev = 0.1477541
LCL = -0.2377323
UCL = 0.5234466
Number beyond limits = 12
Number violating runs = 6
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Tonyrefail (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
5
10
15
UCL
LCL
2020-03-20
2020-04-09
2020-04-22
2020-05-07
2020-05-19
2020-06-01
2020-06-13
2020-06-25
2020-07-08
2020-07-22
Date
Number of groups = 118
Center = 0.1590909
StdDev = 0.04123371
LCL = 0.0528799
UCL = 0.2653019
Number beyond limits = 162
Number violating runs = 125
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Tonyrefail (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.1
0.2
0.3
0.4
0.5
UCL
LCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0.003558719
StdDev = 0.05954876
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 6

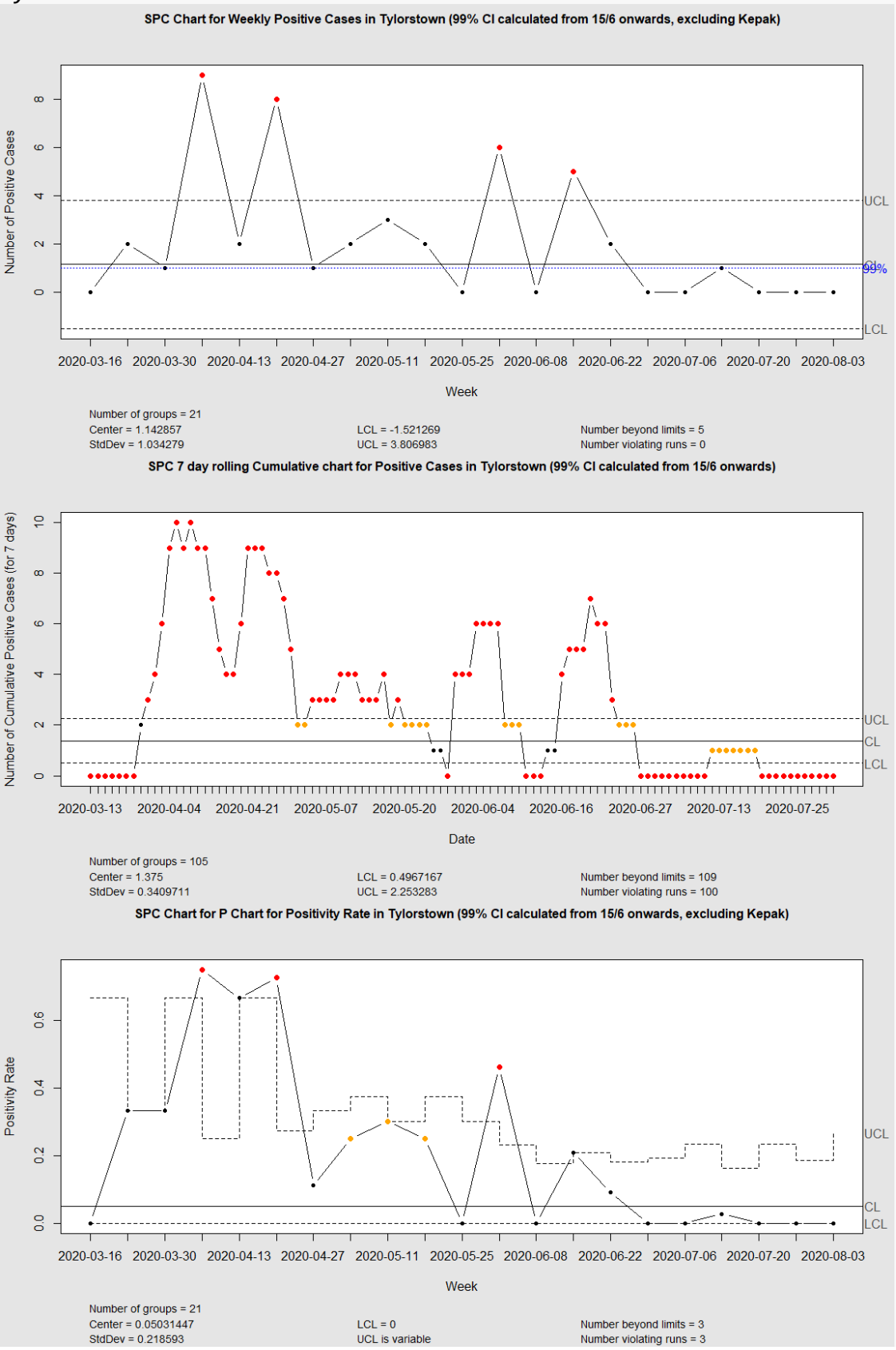
Treherbert


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Treherbert (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
UCL
99%
CL
LCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0.8571429
StdDev = 1.034279
LCL = -1.806983
UCL = 3.521269
Number beyond limits = 5
Number violating runs = 1
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Treherbert (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-08
2020-04-21
2020-05-05
2020-05-19
2020-06-01
2020-06-12
2020-06-24
2020-07-08
2020-07-21
Date
Number of groups = 109
Center = 0.8292683
StdDev = 0.1551418
LCL = 0.4296494
UCL = 1.228887
Number beyond limits = 125
Number violating runs = 81
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Treherbert (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0.02884615
StdDev = 0.167374
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 6
Number violating runs = 3

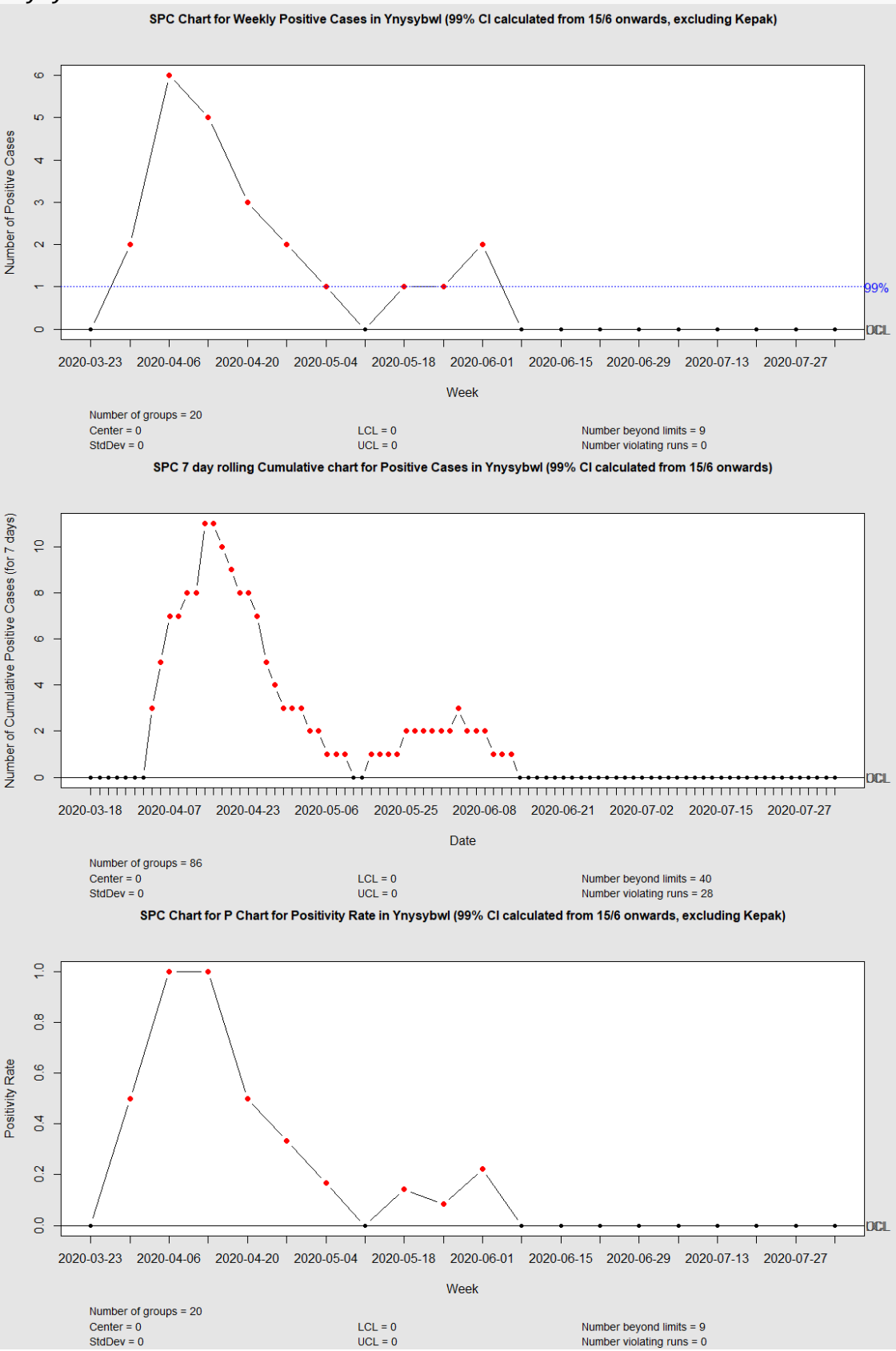
Treorchy


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Treorchy (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.7142857
StdDev = 0.8865248
LCL = -1.569251
UCL = 2.997822
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 4
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Treorchy (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-04-02
2020-04-18
2020-05-05
2020-05-19
2020-06-01
2020-06-14
2020-06-27
2020-07-12
2020-07-26
Date
Number of groups = 123
Center = 0.7045455
StdDev = 0.1855517
LCL = 0.2265959
UCL = 1.182495
Number beyond limits = 140
Number violating runs = 107
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Treorchy (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-02
2020-03-30
2020-04-20
2020-05-11
2020-06-01
2020-06-22
2020-07-13
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 22
Center = 0.01838235
StdDev = 0.1343296
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 7
Number violating runs = 4

Tylorstown


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Tylorstown (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
2
4
6
8
UCL
99%
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 1.142857
StdDev = 1.034279
LCL = -1.521269
UCL = 3.806983
Number beyond limits = 5
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Tylorstown (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
10
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-13
2020-04-04
2020-04-21
2020-05-07
2020-05-20
2020-06-04
2020-06-16
2020-06-27
2020-07-13
2020-07-25
Date
Number of groups = 105
Center = 1.375
StdDev = 0.3409711
LCL = 0.4967167
UCL = 2.253283
Number beyond limits = 109
Number violating runs = 100
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Tylorstown (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
UCL
CL
LCL
2020-03-16
2020-03-30
2020-04-13
2020-04-27
2020-05-11
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-22
2020-07-06
2020-07-20
2020-08-03
Week
Number of groups = 21
Center = 0.05031447
StdDev = 0.218593
LCL = 0
UCL is variable
Number beyond limits = 3
Number violating runs = 3

Ynysybwl


SPC Chart for Weekly Positive Cases in Ynysybwl (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Number of Positive Cases
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
99%
UCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 0
SPC 7 day rolling Cumulative chart for Positive Cases in Ynysybwl (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards)
Number of Cumulative Positive Cases (for 7 days)
0
2
4
6
8
10
UCL
2020-03-18
2020-04-07
2020-04-23
2020-05-06
2020-05-25
2020-06-08
2020-06-21
2020-07-02
2020-07-15
2020-07-27
Date
Number of groups = 86
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 40
Number violating runs = 28
SPC Chart for P Chart for Positivity Rate in Ynysybwl (99% CI calculated from 15/6 onwards, excluding Kepak)
Positivity Rate
0.0
0.2
0.4
0.6
0.8
1.0
UCL
2020-03-23
2020-04-06
2020-04-20
2020-05-04
2020-05-18
2020-06-01
2020-06-15
2020-06-29
2020-07-13
2020-07-27
Week
Number of groups = 20
Center = 0
StdDev = 0
LCL = 0
UCL = 0
Number beyond limits = 9
Number violating runs = 0

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

UPDATED CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2022 REVIEWED FOR 2020-21, FOLLOWING IMPACT OF COVID-19

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek Cabinet endorsement of the updates to the Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2022 reviewed for 2020-21, following the impact of Covid-19 (**Appendix A**) and submission of the Revised Corporate Plan (**Appendix B**) to Council for approval.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The Corporate Plan 2018-2022, describes the Council's vision for Bridgend County Borough, the 3 well-being objectives and the organisational values and principles that underpin how the Council will work to deliver its priorities.

3.2 The Plan represents the Council's contribution to achieving the 7 national well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and its improvement objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

3.3 The Corporate Plan was refreshed for 2020-21 in February 2020, endorsed by Cabinet and approved by Council in line with the normal statutory requirement to review the Corporate Plan annually.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 The Covid-19 pandemic will affect the ability of the Council to progress on the delivery of its well-being objectives set out in the refreshed Corporate Plan. It is therefore prudent to revisit the current commitments and targets and refocus the key priorities for the rest of 2020-21.

4.2 Attached at **Appendix A** is an extract from the refreshed Corporate Plan setting out proposed changes. This includes some minor changes to our commitments as well as some new ones to reflect the key priority areas we need to focus on for the remainder of 2020-21.

4.3 There are also a number of new success measures in the Plan, as well as current ones, where the targets have been revisited. Where targets have been reduced as a result of the impact of Covid-19 a rationale is provided. For example, town centres being closed has had an impact on businesses and footfall. New commitments / amendments are set out in red as are changes to any targets. Where commitments / measures have been deleted these are shown but have been stricken through.

4.4 The Plan will be reviewed annually to take into account changing circumstances and progress made against the well-being objectives and to ensure that the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are met.

4.5 If Cabinet approve the changes in **Appendix A**, the revised commitments and measures will supersede those commitments and measures set out in the current Corporate Plan and will become the updated Corporate Plan 2018-2022 reviewed for 2020-21 version 2. This is attached as **Appendix B**.

4.6 Delivery will be supported by the Medium Term Financial Strategy and directorate business plans. It will be monitored quarterly through the Corporate Performance Assessment process, directorate management team meetings and the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The Council's Corporate Plan forms part of the Policy Framework.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken when the Plan was developed. Consideration was given to the potential impact on protected groups within the community and on how to avoid a disproportionate impact on people within these groups. Separate EIAs will be undertaken when proposals for carrying out the Plan are developed and implemented.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides a framework for embedding sustainable development principles within the activities of the Council and has major implications for the long-term planning of finances and service provision. The 7 well-being goals identified in the Act have driven the Council's three well-being objectives.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Corporate Plan is closely aligned to the Medium Term Financial Strategy which sets out the resources for delivering the council's corporate plan. Any requirement to re-focus funding to meet the revised and new commitments will be progressed through the quarterly budget reports to Cabinet.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Cabinet endorses the updates to the Corporate Plan 2018-22 reviewed for 2020-21 attached as **Appendix A** and recommends the revised Corporate Plan in **Appendix B** to Council for approval.

Mark Shephard
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
16 September 2020

Contact Officer: Gill Lewis
Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change

Telephone: 01656 643224

Email: gill.lewis@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Raven's Court
Brewery Lane
Bridgend
CF31 4AP

Background Documents: None

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WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE ONE – Supporting a successful sustainable economy

To help improve learner outcomes we will
Sustain the current good pupil performance at key stage 4
Raise standards of literacy in primary schools
Improve outcomes for post-16 learners in school sixth forms
NEW - Assess the impact of the Covid-19 school closures on outcomes for learners and support schools to mitigate teaching and learning issues as a result of the pandemic
NEW - Support schools to provide safe learning environments for all learners and staff in schools
NEW - Identify the impact of blended learning and further its development and implementation
Deliver the priorities in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to promote Welsh medium education and increase the number of Welsh speakers to support Cymraeg 2050.

To support growth and prosperity we will
As part of regeneration to support the growth and prosperity of the county borough two key developments are planned: • Redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall providing improved community facilities to include the town library, performance spaces, offering improved accessibility for visitors and creating jobs. • Complete on the sale of Salt Lake Development for food retail as part of an ambitious regeneration scheme in Porthcawl.
Create better town centres through improving property and the environment.
Through Employability Bridgend, work with individuals to improve their job opportunities and reduce economic inactivity.
REWORDED - Providing the right infrastructure and support for business to ~~thrive~~ **overcome the impact of the Covid-19 situation by:** • Supporting business start ups • Supporting resilience of businesses - (enterprise hubs) • Developing procurement strategies to boost the foundational economy
REWORDED - Improving the visitor experience to boost tourism **in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis by**: • Enhancing the natural environment through Valleys Regional Park • Deliver the Porthcawl Resort Investment Focus (PRIF) programme

Measures

Priority area: Improve learner outcomes

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rationale for target change
Average capped 9 score for pupils in Year 11.	363.0		.
Percentage of pupils, at end of foundation phase, achieving Outcome 5 or above in teacher assessments for LLC-E and LLC-W (Language Literacy and Communication in English and Welsh).	85.1%		
Percentage of pupils assessed at the end of key stage 2, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the expected outcome in English/Welsh first language, as determined by teacher assessment.	90.2%		
Percentage of pupils at A level achieving 3 A*-C grades.	55.6%		
Percentage of Year 1 learners taught through the medium of Welsh.	8.7%		

Priority area: Growth and prosperity

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rationale for target change
The number of participants in the Employability Bridgend programme going into employment.	200		
The number of vacant premises in town centres: a) Bridgend b) Maesteg c) Porthcawl d) Pencoed	a) 60 b) 10 c) 11 d) 6	No target	Targets are null & void due to Covid-19. This year will be about monitoring the situation & setting new targets in the wake of Covid-19 next year.
The number of visitors to town centres- footfall for a) Bridgend b) Porthcawl	a) 2.5m b) 7.3m	No target	
Financial value of externally funded town centre regeneration projects underway/in development	£13m		
The number of participants in the Employability Bridgend programme going into employment.	200		
DELETED ~~- Number of start-up business.~~	~~462~~		Given Covid-19 the focus will shift more towards resilience and supporting existing businesses

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rationale for target change
DELETED ~~- Total annual expenditure by tourists.~~	~~2% increase~~		Covid-19 and the impact on hospitality and tourism previous growth projects will need careful consideration for future years.

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 2 – Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient

To develop and enhance community support and services we will
REWORDED Expand a range of integrated community services ~~to 7 days –~~ over an extended day
Target the use of early intervention services to reduce demand on statutory services.

To build resilient communities we will
Continue the safe reduction of looked after children to ensure young people are supported to live with their families and where this is not possible alternative permanence options are achieved at the earliest opportunity.
DELETED ~~Enable community groups and the third sector to have more voice and control over community assets, supporting sporting clubs and other organisations to transfer assets to the community.~~
NEW - Work in partnership with town and community councils and community groups to complete community asset transfers and develop long-term sustainable solutions to manage and maintain facilities / services.
Work with households and partners to provide a range of accommodation options to prevent people from becoming homeless, and support vulnerable people to prevent homelessness and escalation into statutory services.
Work with landlords to return empty properties back into use helping to increase the availability of affordable housing for sale or rent.

To support better health and well-being we will
Improve the quality of care and support provided to individuals at home through a multidisciplinary team around people in our Community Cluster Networks, ensuring timely and responsive assessments that are people centred and meet need. This will also improve our ability to anticipate future need and ensure contingency plans are in place.
REWORDED - ~~Increase~~ **Rebuild** participation in leisure and cultural activities by improving accessibility, removing barriers to involvement and creating age friendly communities.

Measures

Priority Area: Developing and enhancing community support and services

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rationale for target change
Number of people aged 65+ referred to Community Resource Team.	Establish baseline		
Number of referrals to Community Resource Team on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.	Establish baseline		
Percentage of reablement packages completed that: a) Reduced the need for support b) Maintained the same level of support c) Mitigated the need for support	Establish baseline		

Priority Area: Building resilient communities

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rationale for target change
Number of council owned assets transferred to the community for running.	40	15	Target revised due to impact of Covid-19 on sports facilities who are at financial detriment and less able to progress CAT transfers this year.
Percentage of households threatened with homelessness successfully prevented from becoming homeless.	72%	52%	Due to Covid-19 the Housing team have focused on housing citizens who are/were threatened by homelessness in the immediate pandemic which has seen more citizens enter statutory provision hence the PI is reduced as options to prevent homelessness were limited due to the pandemic.
Percentage of people presenting as homeless or potentially homeless, for whom the local authority has a final legal duty to secure suitable accommodation.	10%	32%	WG have changed conditions around homelessness “duty” which will see more people coming under the umbrella of statutory intervention. Therefore increasing the PI as more citizens come into the service.

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rationale for target change
Number of additional dwellings created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use.	7		
Percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April that were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the local authority.	6%	2%	Lost significant amount of time due to Covid-19, therefore reducing the target.
The number of children and young people looked after.	375		

Priority Area: Better health and well-being

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rationale for target change
Percentage of completed TAF (Team Around the Family) support plans that close with a successful outcome.	73%	68%	There has been a marked drop in referrals during the Covid-19 pandemic period and the expected increase in coming months is anticipated to be far more complex in nature which require longer-term interventions
Percentage of individuals in managed care supported in the community.	Establish baseline		
Percentage of individuals in managed care supported in a care home setting.	Establish baseline		
Number of individuals engaged/supported in targeted programmes linked to leisure and cultural facilities and services.	Establish baseline		
Number of people who have improved access to leisure and cultural activities by reducing cost as a barrier to taking part.	Establish baseline		

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 3 – Smarter use of resources

To transform the council's estate we will
REWORDED ~~**Have**~~ fewer better buildings **by**: • Disposing of or releasing surplus land and buildings to generate capital receipts and reduce our financial liabilities and improve those buildings which are retained. • **Using digital transformation of services during COVID19 to identify service re-modelling to reduce demand on office accommodation across the Councils estate.**
Provide sufficient school places in the right areas by delivering 21st Century Schools' under the council's schools' modernisation programme

To support areas of corporate change we will
Work with the regional delivery group to identify and agree regional procurement frameworks fit for purpose to deliver economies of scale on common and repetitive spend.
Provide support to facilitate organisational and cultural change and develop, support and engage with our workforce to ensure that they are equipped to meet current and future challenges.
Implement the planned budget reductions identified in the MTFS, in particular for the 2020-21 financial year, set annual balanced budgets and establish long term financially sustainable solutions.
Embrace and invest in innovation and technology including improvements in connectivity and new and replacement classroom-based, end-user devices in our schools.
NEW - Identify opportunities for new ways of working and for service delivery

To support environmental sustainability we will
Invest £1.3 million to install energy and cost saving technologies to reduce our energy consumption and CO_2 emissions
Implement a sustainable local area energy plan with a programme of work throughout the county borough to improve the carbon footprint for all residents, including schemes such as the: • Caerau Minewater Heat Scheme, • Bridgend Heat Network
Continue to exceed the national recycling targets and increase opportunities for reuse of materials by : • building a new community recycling centre with a reuse centre, • recycling street scene waste, • raising public awareness of how to reduce, reuse and recycle by using public campaigns and publicity

To support environmental sustainability we will
Maintain and enhance the natural resources and biodiversity of Bridgend County Borough.

Measures :

Priority Area: Transforming the councils' estate

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rational for target change
Percentage surplus capacity in primary schools.	10%		
Percentage surplus capacity in secondary schools.	18%		
Realisation of capital receipts targets.	£600k		
Percentage of BCBC operational buildings achieve full statutory compliance.	100%		

Priority Area: Areas of corporate change

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rational for target change
Percentage of staff participating in the staff survey.	44.5%		
Percentage of managers attending the Managers Induction programme who rated it excellent or good.	80%		
Percentage budget reductions achieved (Overall BCBC budget).	100%		
Percentage of indoor learning space in primary schools benefitting from high speed Wi-Fi connectivity for 30+ simultaneous devices.	100%	80%	Lost significant time due to Covid-19 to roll out to all schools.
Percentage of indoor learning space in secondary schools benefitting from high speed Wi-Fi connectivity for 30+ simultaneous devices.	100%	80%	
NEW The percentage of staff working from home	Establish baseline		

Priority Area: Environmental sustainability

Success Indicators	Original Target 2020-21	Any Revised changes	Rational for target change
Annual gas consumption across the local authority - kWh	Establish baseline		
Annual electricity consumption across the local authority - kWh	Establish baseline		
Annual CO_2 emissions related to gas consumption across the local authority - kWh	Establish baseline		
Annual CO_2 emissions related to electricity consumption across the local authority - kWh	Establish baseline		
Kilograms of residual waste generated per person.	130kg	No target	Covid-19 impact makes increased outcome unpredictable.
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted a) reuse b) recycled c) composted	 69% 4% 46% 21%	 No target No target No target No target	Covid-19 impact with ceased garden service and closed Community Recycling Centres will negatively affect performance which is unpredictable.
Percentage of street cleansing waste prepared for recycling.	20%		
Undertake schemes to increase the County Borough's tree cover	3 schemes	1.5 schemes	We will have lost the best part of half the year so will need to halve the target.
Deliver community biodiversity schemes	3 schemes	1.5 schemes	
Undertake Local Nature Reserve Enhancement projects	4 projects	2 projects	

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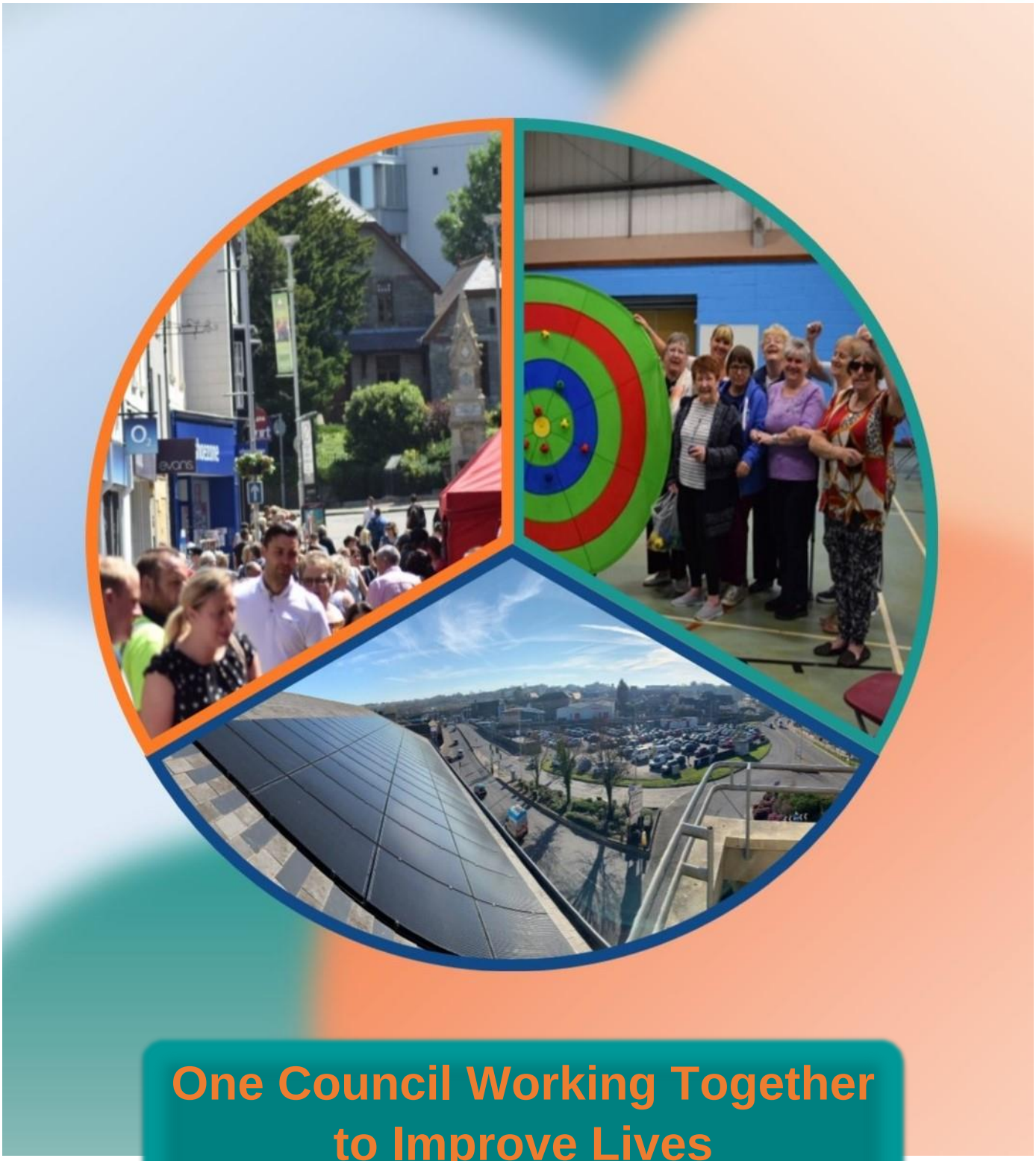
Bridgend County Borough Council

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr



One Council Working Together to Improve Lives

Corporate Plan 2018-2022 reviewed for 2020-2021 version 2

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Council's revised corporate plan for 2020-21 version 2

The Council delivers, or enables, many hundreds of services across all the diverse communities within the County Borough of Bridgend. Like all parts of the public sector across the UK, the Council is very much a people business. We are confronted with significant challenges, increased demand, such as meeting the needs of a growing number of older residents, new legislation as well as challenges such as Brexit and how best to embrace new technology in how we deliver services.

This corporate plan in no way attempts to include every service that the Council delivers or will deliver in the coming years. What it does, is set out our well-being objectives; the long-term outcomes that we want to achieve for the county borough and for the people we are privileged to serve. We want to contribute to a place where people love to live, work, study and do business, where people have the skills and qualifications they need to improve their life chances, enjoy good health and a sense of well-being and independence. One of the most significant changes in April 2019 was the transfer of all health services within Bridgend County Borough from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

We will need to prioritise where we spend our money if we are to make smarter use of our resources. It will mean investing in those things that make the most difference to outcomes for local people. Enhanced and intelligent collaboration with the private sector, other public sector partners and the third sector is crucial, as is ongoing engagement with our citizens. Against this backdrop we have to be honest with our communities and partners in saying that the Council can no longer deliver all of the services it once did or always to the same level as in previous years. However, we remain committed to making smarter use of our resources, in supporting and protecting the most vulnerable in our communities and building an economically sound county borough that meets the needs of our citizens in the future.

This plan represents our ambitions and commitments to our citizens and our contribution to Wales' seven well-being goals as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

In reviewing this plan for 2020-21, we further developed our well-being objectives and aims. We also reviewed the priority areas which are integral to us meeting our well-being objectives. A lot of the commitments listed in the plan are ambitious and some are in the early stages of development.

As a result of the recent Covid-19 pandemic we recognise that we are in unprecedented times and we have taken the decision to review our existing corporate plan, realign our commitments and success measures to ensure that we are focussing our efforts on supporting those most in need. We have therefore reassessed what we need to focus on for the remainder of 2020-21 to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to work with our partners and the wider community to help restart the local economy, help children back into school and protect those most vulnerable in the safest way possible. This revised plan will continue to support and drive forward our sustainability principles but will also at this challenging time, help to focus our efforts on the most important areas to keep safe the communities we serve.

We welcome any comments and ways of providing feedback are found at the back of this report.

Councillor Huw David
Leader of the Council

Mark Shephard
Chief Executive

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A SNAPSHOT OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH

In Numbers

Population	144,876
Size	98.5 square miles
Households	64,766
Average House Price	£150,412 (UK HPI: April 2019)
Active Businesses	4,160
People in Employment	72.1% (June 2019)
Average (median) salary	£28,418 (Welsh average £26,468)

Representation

Wards	39
Councillors	54
Constituency AMs	2
Regional AMs	4
MPs	2

Homelessness

Homeless hostels	2
Domestic abuse refuges	2
Rough sleepers provision	2
Supported and temporary accommodation schemes	8

Education

Primary schools	39
Secondary schools	7
Faith schools	6
Special schools	2
Pupil referral unit	1
Welsh language schools	5

Leisure and Well-being

Swimming Pools	5
Life centres & sports facilities	9
Libraries	11

Social Care

Extra Care Homes	3
Reablement Unit	1
Resource Centre for people with complex needs	1

We develop, manage and maintain **280 hectares** of open spaces, including children's play areas, sports pitches, commons, highway verges, landscapes and horticultural features.

Total Council Income (2020-21)

Council Tax	£83.758m
Non-Domestic Rates	£49.685m
Revenue Support Grant (Welsh Government)	£153.442m
Other funding	£134.615m
Total Gross Income	£421.500m

We have **4,225** full-time equivalent staff delivering over **800** separate services that include:

Education and schools, social care, safeguarding our most vulnerable adults and children; youth justice, planning and building control, housing support, maintaining highways and public transport, refuse and recycling, street cleaning and safety, parks, environmental and natural resources protection, play areas, food hygiene, licensing, health and safety inspectors, collecting revenues and administering benefits, elections, sports, arts and libraries, supporting employment, business and tourism, special events and festivals.

OUR VISION, PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

Our Vision

In formulating this corporate plan the Council has considered the type of organisation it wants to be. Our vision is to act as

"One Council working together to improve lives".

We will do this by delivering our well-being objectives. Achieving this will improve the quality of life of all those living and working in the county borough. This plan represents our ambitions and commitments to our citizens and sets out our contribution to Wales' seven well-being goals as outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

This means that we will become a smaller, more flexible and innovative local authority that works with partners and local communities to create a future in which residents have access to a more responsive and tailored service. It will also mean that residents take greater responsibility for making that happen, to improve their own resilience and for that of the community as a whole.

Our Principles

A number of key principles underpin how we work. They highlight the importance of working in partnership with our citizens, our communities and with other organisations to develop and deliver sustainable services. Together, we will identify and meet local need as best we can:

- To support communities and people to create their own solutions and reduce dependency on the Council.
- To focus diminishing resources on communities and individuals with the greatest need.
- To use good information from service users and communities to inform its decisions.
- To encourage and develop capacity amongst the third sector to identify and respond to local needs.
- To not let uncertainty over the future of public services prevent meaningful and pragmatic collaboration with other public sector bodies.
- To work as one Council and discourage different parts of the organisation from developing multiple processes or unnecessarily different approaches.
- To transform the organisation and many of its services to deliver financial budget reductions as well as improvements.

These principles highlight the importance of other organisations in delivering services to meet local needs. The Council has a track record of working with the third sector, the not-for-profit sector and the private sector, each of which already provides some services for the Council. We will continue to build on this approach for the duration of this plan.

These principles, together with the Council's values, support the principle of sustainable development defined by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Sustainable development is about improving the way in which we can achieve our economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being by focusing on the long term, prevention, integration collaboration and involvement. It will underpin everything we do and help us make the county borough a great place for people to live, work, study and visit.

Our Values

These represent what we stand for and shape how we work:

Fair - taking into account everyone's needs and situation
Ambitious - always trying to improve what we do and aiming for excellence
Citizen-focused - remembering that we are here to serve our local communities
Efficient - delivering services that are value for money

Our principles, together with our values, support the principle of sustainable development defined by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Sustainable development is about improving the way in which we can achieve our economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being by focusing on the long term, prevention, integration collaboration and involvement. It will underpin everything we do and help us make the county borough a great place for people to live, work, study and visit.

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES

The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 has been put in place to make sure that public bodies are doing all they can to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

The Act introduces seven long-term well-being goals, puts in place a sustainable development principle, and defines five ways of working that public bodies will need to adopt to show they have applied the sustainable development principle.

This document sets out a small number of important long-term objectives we want to achieve. These are our well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. They are also our improvement objectives under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

In setting our well-being objectives we set out what we aim to achieve and why they are important. Our well-being objectives are integrated, which ensures we are working together to achieve shared outcomes. This plan sets out the steps we will take and identifies the priority areas to drive improvements. Details on how we have already made progress towards these objectives can be found in our Annual Report 2018-19.

Our well-being objectives

In this plan, we have laid out the Council's commitment to the well-being goals and embedded the sustainable development principles of the Act. We have made sure that, when we make decisions, we take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales both today and in the future.

Our contribution to the well-being goals

This report sets out the contribution our well-being objectives make to the seven well-being goals. These are set out below:

Well-being Goal	Well-being Objective		
	Supporting a successful sustainable economy	Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient	Smarter use of resources
A prosperous Wales	✓		✓
A resilient Wales			✓
A healthier Wales	✓	✓	✓
A more equal Wales	✓	✓	✓
A Wales of cohesive communities	✓	✓	✓
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	✓	✓	
A globally responsible Wales	✓		✓

How we are using the five ways of working

In addition to the seven well-being goals, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place the sustainable development principle, and defines the five ways of working that public bodies must adopt to demonstrate they have applied the sustainable development principle. The five ways of working are:

Long term – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs.

Prevention – We are being proactive in resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.

Integration - Considering how our well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Collaboration - Acting in collaboration with any other person/organisation or different parts of the local authority to deliver our well-being objectives.

Involvement - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the areas which we serve.

We have embedded the five ways of working, as expressed in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 into our principles.

5 Ways of Working	Long term	Prevention	Integration	collaboration	Involvement
Our Principles					
To support communities and people to create their own solutions and reduce dependency on the Council.					
To focus diminishing resources on communities and individuals with the greatest need.					
To use good information from service users and communities to inform its decisions.					
To encourage and develop capacity amongst the third sector to identify and respond to local needs.					
To not let uncertainty over the future of public services prevent meaningful and pragmatic collaboration with other public sector bodies.					
To work as one Council and discourage different parts of the organisation from developing multiple processes or unnecessarily different approaches.					
To transform the organisation and many of its services to deliver financial budget reductions as well as improvements.					

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 1

SUPPORTING A SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

This means we will take steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

Our well-being aims

- To support local people develop skills and take advantage of opportunities to succeed.
- To create conditions for growth and enterprise.
- To create town centres and communities that improve the quality of life for citizens.

Why these are important

Our citizens have told us that a local, vibrant economy is one of their top priorities. We want to build a county borough where people have more opportunities to secure a meaningful job, develop a career and improve their family income and circumstances.

Helping us to achieve our ambition of a successful sustainable economy, the Council, along with key partners, is working on a number of projects which will deliver the outcomes to help Bridgend thrive over the long term. These include:

- A Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP), which sets out our objectives for the development and use of land in the county borough up to 2033, including the need to build around 7,500 homes.
- The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, which the local authority is part of, with the aim of creating 25,000 jobs across the entire region and bringing in £4bn of private sector investment by 2036. The City Deal includes four strategic themes which will benefit the county borough - skills and employment, innovation, connecting the region and infrastructure.
- The Valley's task force programme, an initiative the local authority is committed to, along with other South East authorities, which includes supporting the Maesteg Town Hall project, along with grant programmes for housing and business and tourism investment across the valleys, including the £6.6m Valleys Regional Park programme.

We know that higher levels of prosperity boost health and well-being and create more resilient communities needing fewer services. For future prosperity and long-term resilience, our town centres and businesses need to thrive and be profitable to generate wealth, provide better jobs, attract investment, reduce economic inactivity and improve skills and encourage visitors.

We will work towards the principles of the foundation economy model – better jobs closer to home which will nurture and grow local economies by stimulating meaningful employment in communities with high levels of unemployment. We will seek to boost economic development throughout the County Borough through a range of activities including the development of enterprise hubs and direct business support packages.

We believe that education remains the most important lever for improving the life chances and resilience of young people. Our future long-term prosperity depends on the skills and knowledge of our communities.

Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales) inspected the local authority in March 2019 under the new Local Government Education Services (LGES) Inspection framework, introduced in September 2018. The inspection identified many strengths that the local authority has in providing education to its learners, but also recognised some areas that we need to improve in.

We recognise that we must support the diverse needs of our young people and promote their well-being so they can fulfil their potential, through the medium of English and Welsh. We have prioritised the need to raise standards of achievement for all our young people. We also recognise that we need to improve education for key groups of learners to help them to achieve their full potential, focussing on numeracy, literacy, vulnerable young people, those currently in the care system as well as our more able and talented pupils. We know we will need to continue the focus on addressing inequality in achievement, participation and progression to further study or equipping young people with the skills to move into employment.

It is important to balance these long term projects with activities that address the short and medium term needs of Bridgend. To that end, we have identified two priority areas that will drive these forward over the duration of this corporate plan:

Our priority areas to support this well-being objective

- **Improve learner outcomes –** To inspire and support children, adults and families to achieve better outcomes; leading to prosperous, healthy, safe and happy communities.

- **Growth and prosperity -** Promote the conditions for growth and prosperity by supporting people and business to take advantage of the opportunities to help them succeed.

Who will help us?

Bridgend Business Forum; City Deal partners; Bridgend College and training providers; schools; Careers Wales; Job Centre Plus.

Steps we will take to support this well-being objective

To help improve learner outcomes we will
Sustain the current good performance of key stage 4.
Raise standards of literacy in primary schools.
Improve outcomes for post-16 learners in sixth forms.
Assess the impact of the COVID19 school closures on outcomes for learners and support schools to mitigate teaching and learning issues as a result of the pandemic
Support schools to provide safe learning environments for all learners and staff in schools
Identify the impact of blended learning and further its development and implementation
Deliver the priorities in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to promote Welsh medium education and increase the number of Welsh speakers to support Cymraeg 2050.

To support growth and prosperity we will
As part of regeneration to support the growth and prosperity of the county borough two key developments are planned: • Redevelopment of Maesteg Town Hall providing improved community facilities to include the town library, performance spaces, offering improved accessibility for visitors and creating jobs. • Complete on the sale of Salt Lake Development for food retail as part of an ambitious regeneration scheme in Porthcawl.
Create better town centres through improving property and the environment.
Through Employability Bridgend, work with individuals to improve their job opportunities and reduce economic inactivity.
Providing the right infrastructure and support for business to overcome the impact of the COVID19 situation by: • Supporting business start ups • Supporting resilience of businesses - (enterprise hubs) • Developing procurement strategies to boost the foundational economy
Improving the visitor experience to boost tourism in the wake of the COVID19 crisis by: • Enhancing the natural environment through Valleys Regional Park • Deliver the Porthcawl Resort Investment Focus (PRIF) programme

How will we know we are successful?

By monitoring our measures of success, we will be able to keep track of performance to help drive improvements to achieve the following outcomes:

Priority area: Improve learner outcomes

Success Indicators	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
Average capped 9 score for pupils in Year 11.	357.2	Establish baseline	363.0
Percentage of pupils, at end of foundation phase, achieving Outcome 5 or above in teacher assessments for LLC-E and LLC-W (Language Literacy and Communication in English and Welsh).	84.7%	84.9%	85.1%
Percentage of pupils assessed at the end of key stage 2, in schools maintained by the local authority, achieving the expected outcome in English/Welsh first language, as determined by teacher assessment.	90.0%	90.0%	90.2%
Percentage of pupils at A level achieving 3 A*-C grades.	54.2%	Establish baseline	55.6%
Percentage of Year 1 learners being taught through the medium of Welsh.	8.7%	8.7%	8.7%

Priority area: Growth and prosperity

Success Indicators	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
The number of participants in the Employability Bridgend programme going into employment.	N/A	180	200
The number of vacant premises in town centres: a) Bridgend b) Maesteg c) Porthcawl d) Pencoed	a) 60 b) 10 c) 11 d) 6	a) 60 b) 10 c) 11 d) 6	No targets
The number of visitors to town centres- footfall for a) Bridgend b) Porthcawl	a) 2,160,100 b) 6,761,710	a) 2.5m b) 7.2m	No targets
Financial value of externally funded town centre regeneration projects underway/in development	£20.8m	£13m	£13m
The number of participants in the Employability Bridgend programme going into employment.	N/A	180	200

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 2

HELPING PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO BE MORE HEALTHY AND RESILIENT

This means we will work with our partners, including the people who use our services to take steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. We will support individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

Our well-being aims

- To give people more choice and control over what support they receive by providing early access to advice and information.
- To reduce demand through targeted early help and intervention programmes.
- To develop more active, healthy and resilient communities by working in partnership with the third sector, town and community councils and community groups.

Why these are important

Local authorities have a role to play in helping individuals and communities to develop social capital. There is growing recognition that although disadvantaged social groups and communities have a range of complex and inter-related needs, they also have assets at the social and community level that can help improve health, and strengthen resilience.

The Council is committed to taking asset-based approaches to improving health and building resilience for well-being. By intervening early and focusing on preventative services we can help people and communities to be more independent, less reliant on council services and more likely to achieve better outcomes. At the service delivery level, timely and appropriate interventions help reduce costs which helps safeguard the sustainability of services ensuring the Council can effectively support those with greatest need.

The prevention and well-being focus within the Council has allowed assets such as community centres to re-design the service model so that they now offer a wider range of services that support better physical health and emotional well-being.

The positive impact of housing on standards of health and overall well-being, means housing is increasingly seen as a primary preventative measure in building resilience. Empty properties are a wasted resource and a missed opportunity to improve well-being. The Council is committed to reducing the number of empty properties across the county borough and help contribute towards increasing the availability of quality affordable housing for sale or for rent. The additional wider

benefits include improving the aesthetic of the local environment, creating training and job opportunities. The Council will work collaboratively with external partners providing responsive, creative and innovative approaches to prevent and relieve homelessness, ensuring accessibility to suitable accommodation with the appropriate support.

Our priority areas to support this well-being objective

- **Developing and enhancing community support and services –** Ensuring there are high quality, seamless opportunities, support and services in place for those who need our help to enable them to remain independent for as long as possible.
- **Building resilient communities –** Working with our partners and communities we will develop through co-production new and innovative alternatives to improve well-being and to support and sustain delivery. New service models will be sustainable and less reliant on the Council and will reflect a positive shift in responsibility by empowering other organisations and local people.
- **Better health and well-being –** Improve the physical, mental and emotional well-being of children and young people and vulnerable citizens, to ensure they can thrive and fulfil their potential.

Who will help us?

We will work with partners to help achieve our aims, in particular the NHS, Police, Awen, Halo and the third sector. Similarly, Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and private sector landlords are also essential partners.

We also work collaboratively on a regional basis as members of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Partnership Board. In addition, our key stakeholders, the people who use social care, play a vital role in helping design services that best meet need.

Steps we will take to support this well-being objective

To develop and enhance community support and services we will
Expand a range of integrated community services – over an extended day.
Target the use of early intervention services to reduce demand on statutory services.

To build resilient communities we will
Continue the safe reduction of looked after children to ensure young people are supported to live with their families and where this is not possible alternative permanence options are achieved at the earliest opportunity.
Work in partnership with town and community councils and community groups to complete community asset transfers and develop long-term sustainable solutions to manage and maintain facilities / services.

Work with households and partners to provide a range of accommodation options to prevent people from becoming homeless, and support vulnerable people to prevent homelessness and escalation into statutory services.
Work with landlords to return empty properties back into use helping to increase the availability of affordable housing for sale or rent.

To support better health and well-being we will
Improve the quality of care and support provided to individuals at home through a multidisciplinary team around people in our Community Cluster Networks, ensuring timely and responsive assessments that are people centred and meet need. This will also improve our ability to anticipate future need and ensure contingency plans are in place.
Rebuild participation in leisure and cultural activities by improving accessibility, removing barriers to involvement and creating age friendly communities.

How will we know we are successful?

By monitoring our measures of success, we will be able to keep track of performance to help drive improvements to achieve the following outcomes:

Priority Area: Developing and enhancing community support and services

Success Indicators	**Actual 2018-19**	**Target 2019-20**	**Target 2020-21**
Number of people aged 65+ referred to Community Resource Team.	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline
Number of referrals to Community Resource Team on Saturday, Sunday and Monday.	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline
Percentage of reablement packages completed that: a) Reduced the need for support b) Maintained the same level of support c) Mitigated the need for support	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline

Priority Area: Building resilient communities

Success Indicators	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
Number of council owned assets transferred to the community for running.	4	5	15
Percentage of households threatened with homelessness successfully prevented from becoming homeless.	70.6%	70%	52%
Percentage of people presenting as homeless or potentially homeless, for whom the local authority has a final legal duty to secure suitable accommodation.	8.1%	11.85%	32%
Number of additional dwellings created as a result of bringing empty properties back into use.	N/A	5	7
Percentage of private sector dwellings that had been vacant for more than 6 months at 1 April that were returned to occupation during the year through direct action by the local authority.	8.41%	5%	2%
The number of children and young people looked after.	381	378	375

Priority Area: Better health and well-being

Success Indicators	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
Percentage of completed TAF (Team Around the Family) support plans that close with a successful outcome.	69%	72%	68%
Percentage of individuals in managed care supported in the community.	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline
Percentage of individuals in managed care supported in a care home setting.	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline
Number of individuals engaged/supported in targeted programmes linked to leisure and cultural facilities and services.	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline
Number of people who have improved access to leisure and cultural activities by reducing cost as a barrier to taking part.	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 3

SMARTER USE OF RESOURCES

This means we will ensure that all of our resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

Our well-being aims

- To ensure that the council is financially sustainable over the longer term.
- To improve the efficiency of, and access to, services by redesigning our systems and processes.
- To work collaboratively to make the most of natural and physical assets.
- To develop the culture and skills required to meet the needs of a changing organisation.

Why these are important

We recognise we need to continue to make smarter use of our resources, looking at different ways of delivering services, embracing technology and working with partners and our communities to deliver financially sustainable services for the long term. In this way we can maximise our contribution to achieving our well-being objectives and improving well-being for our citizens while achieving those planned savings.

Over the past four years, we have made budgetary savings of more than £27 million. Some of the ways we have done this include:

- streamlining senior management and reducing our workforce by more than 400 employees
- relocating staff and closing some council premises
- developing more online services

Also, we have remodelled two children's homes, removed surplus properties and assets, and reorganised our back office services.

Despite the changes made to date, we still have to make a further £29 million saving by 2024, which is currently 10.8% of our net budget. Some big decisions will need to be made on what we will and will not provide as a Council. Our staff are integral to the delivery of services and we will need to increase the capabilities of our workforce as the organisation continues to change, making savings, whilst still improving the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of our citizens.

Over the longer term this well-being objective is essential for the sustainability of council services and for the local economy. The transition to decarbonisation outlined in the Local Area Energy

Strategy (up to 2025) is one of the largest economic development opportunities Bridgend County Borough will have in the next 30 years. Working with others we also need to better manage our natural resources, seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity as well as continuing to consider how best to dispose of waste, with an emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling.

Through our Corporate Landlord model we are transforming the council's estate, with an on ongoing disposals programme to have fewer but better buildings, reducing maintenance backlogs and running costs, whilst also reducing our carbon footprint.

By generating capital receipts from our disposals programme, we will continue to build new schools and improve the conditions of our existing school buildings to provide better teaching and learning environments for our pupils whilst also maximising community usage of these facilities.

We recognise that having access to technology for online study can support positive outcomes for learners. As part of the Learning in Digital Wales Programme funded by Welsh Government, £2m will be invested in our schools to provide high speed and quality broadband, together with new and replacement classroom-based, end-user devices.

Over the short and medium term this corporate plan will focus on the following priority areas to help deliver improvements:

Our priority areas to support this well-being objective

- **Transforming the council's estate -** Ensure the Council's estate is appropriately developed and utilised to improve service delivery, reduce running costs, minimise our impact on the environment and provide the best possible setting to meet the needs of all users including citizens.
- **Areas of corporate change -** We will adapt our ways of working to ensure the effective delivery of our well-being objectives. Embracing innovation and technology, developing the skills and approaches of staff and adopting alternative ways of working will ensure the Council is equipped to respond to future challenges.
- **Environmental sustainability -** Programmes of work that protect and safeguard the environment for future generations by lowering the Council's carbon footprint, enhancing reduction, re-use and recycling of materials and promoting environmental awareness and responsibility with our communities.

Who will help us?

Employees; Schools; Contractors; Trade Unions

Steps we will take to achieve our well-being objective

To transform the council's estate we will
Fewer better buildings by: Disposing of or releasing surplus land and buildings to generate capital receipts and reduce our financial liabilities and improve those buildings which are retained. Using digital transformation of services during COVID19 to identify service re-modelling to reduce demand on office accommodation across the Councils estate.
Provide sufficient school places in the right areas by delivering 21st Century Schools' under the council's schools' modernisation programme

To support areas of corporate change we will
Work with the regional delivery group to identify and agree regional procurement frameworks fit for purpose to deliver economies of scale on common and repetitive spend.
Provide support to facilitate organisational and cultural change and develop, support and engage with our workforce to ensure that they are equipped to meet current and future challenges.
Implement the planned budget reductions identified in the MTFS, in particular for the 2020-21 financial year, set annual balanced budgets and establish long term financially sustainable solutions.
Embrace and invest in innovation and technology including improvements in connectivity and new and replacement classroom-based, end-user devices in our schools.
Identify opportunities for new ways of working and for service delivery

To support environmental sustainability we will
Invest £1.3 million to install energy and cost saving technologies to reduce our energy consumption and CO_2 emissions
Implement a sustainable local area energy plan with a programme of work throughout the county borough to improve the carbon footprint for all residents, including schemes such as the: • Caerau Minewater Heat Scheme, • Bridgend Heat Network
Continue to exceed the national recycling targets and increase opportunities for reuse of materials by : • building a new community recycling centre with a reuse centre, • recycling street scene waste, • raising public awareness of how to reduce, reuse and recycle by using public campaigns and publicity
Maintain and enhance the natural resources and biodiversity of Bridgend County Borough.

How will we know we are successful?

By monitoring our measures of success, we will be able to keep track of performance to help drive improvements to achieve the following outcomes:

Priority Area: Transforming the councils' estate

Success Indicators	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
Percentage surplus capacity in primary schools.	4.9%	10%	10%
Percentage surplus capacity in secondary schools.	22%	18%	18%
Realisation of capital receipts targets.	£1.821m	£2.8m	£600k
Percentage of BCBC operational buildings achieve full statutory compliance.	N/A	100%	100%

Priority Area: Areas of corporate change

Success Indicators	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
Percentage of staff participating in the staff survey.	41.5%	43%	44.5%
Percentage of managers attending the Managers Induction programme who rated it excellent or good.	N/A	N/A	80%
Percentage budget reductions achieved (Overall BCBC budget).	91.7%	100%	100%
Percentage of indoor learning space in primary schools benefitting from high speed Wi-Fi connectivity for 30+ simultaneous devices.	N/A	N/A	80%
Percentage of indoor learning space in secondary schools benefitting from high speed Wi-Fi connectivity for 30+ simultaneous devices.	N/A	N/A	80%
The percentage of staff working from home	n/a	n/a	Establish baseline

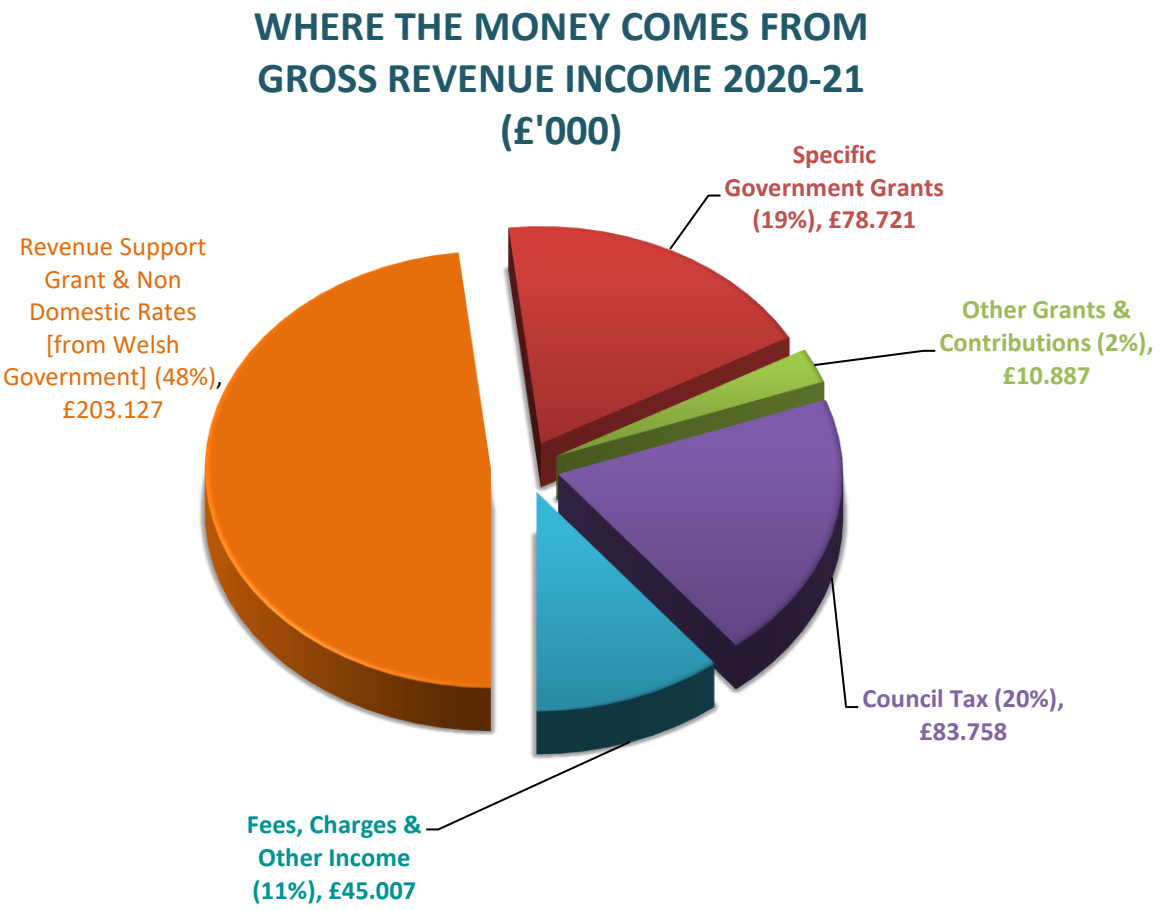
Priority Area: Environmental sustainability

Success Indicators	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
Annual gas consumption across the local authority - kWh	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline
Annual electricity consumption across the local authority - kWh	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline

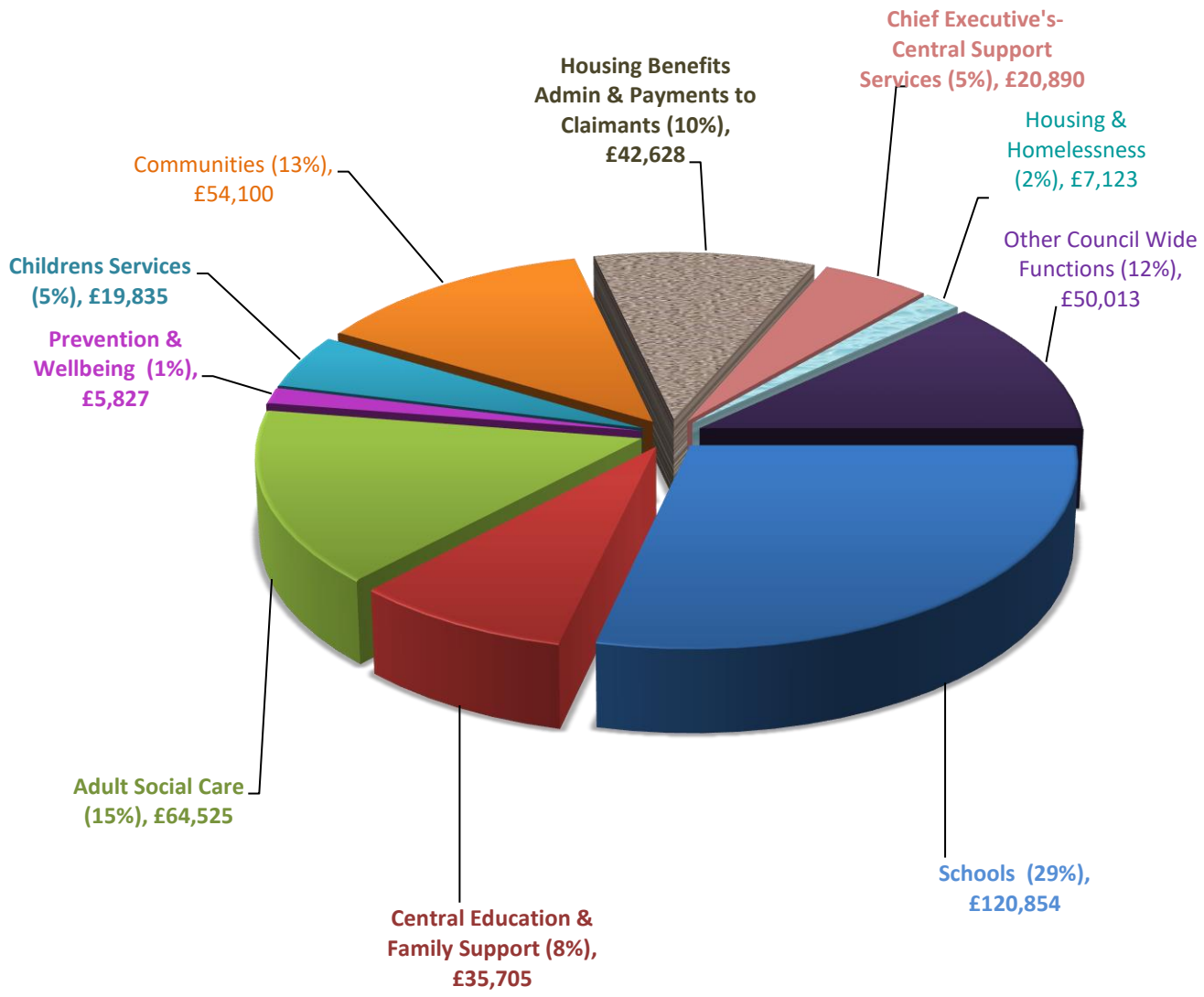
Success Indicators	Actual 2018-19	Target 2019-20	Target 2020-21
Annual CO_2 emissions related to gas consumption across the local authority - kWh	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline
Annual CO_2 emissions related to electricity consumption across the local authority - kWh	N/A	N/A	Establish baseline
Kilograms of residual waste generated per person.	122.95kg	130kg	130kg
Percentage of waste reused, recycled or composted a) reuse b) recycled c) composted	69.39% 2.56% 45.96% 20.87%	69% 3% 46% 21%	No targets
Percentage of street cleansing waste prepared for recycling.	N/A	N/A	20%
Undertake schemes to increase the County Borough's tree cover	N/A	N/A	1.5 schemes
Deliver community biodiversity schemes	N/A	N/A	1.5 schemes
Undertake Local Nature Reserve Enhancement projects	N/A	N/A	2 projects

Managing our Budget

The charts below outline our income and spending plans for 2020-21. The Council's gross revenue income for 2020-21 is £421.5 million.

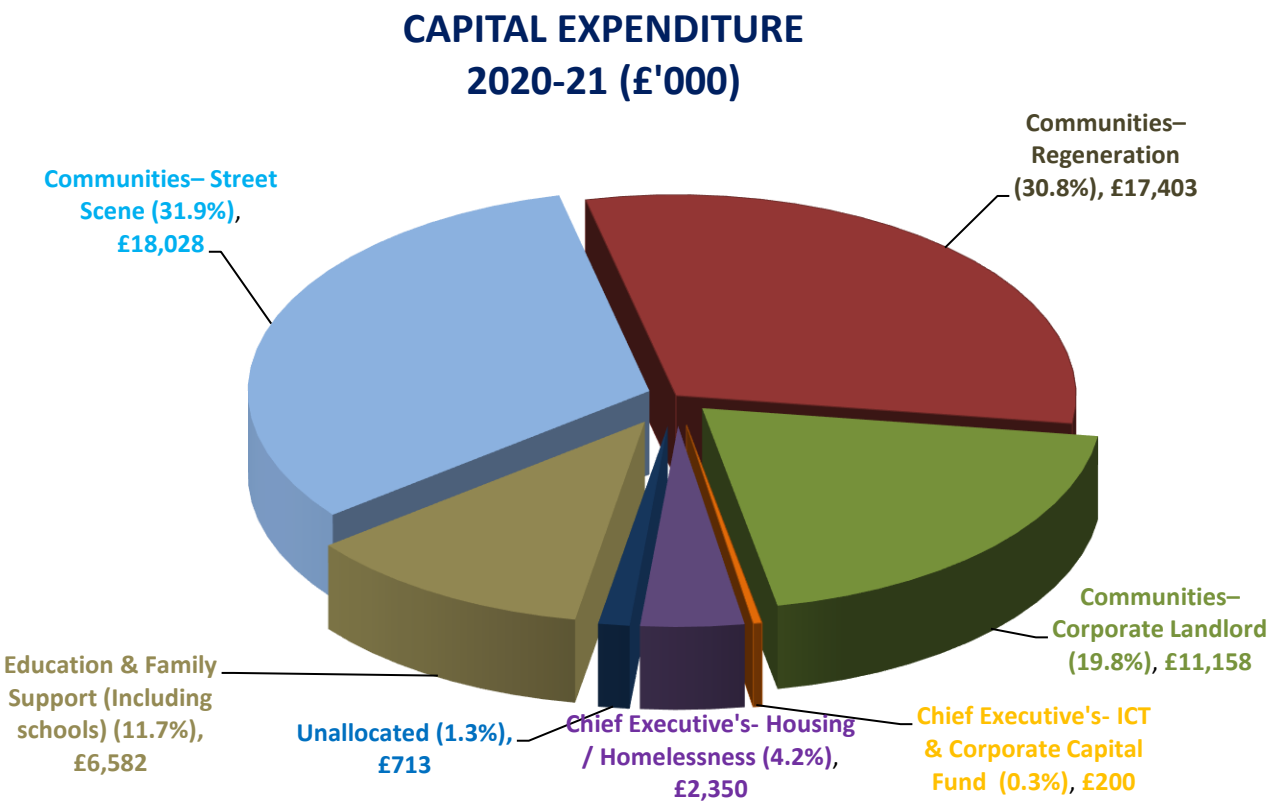


WHERE THE MONEY IS SPENT
GROSS REVENUE EXPENDITURE
2020-21 (£'000)

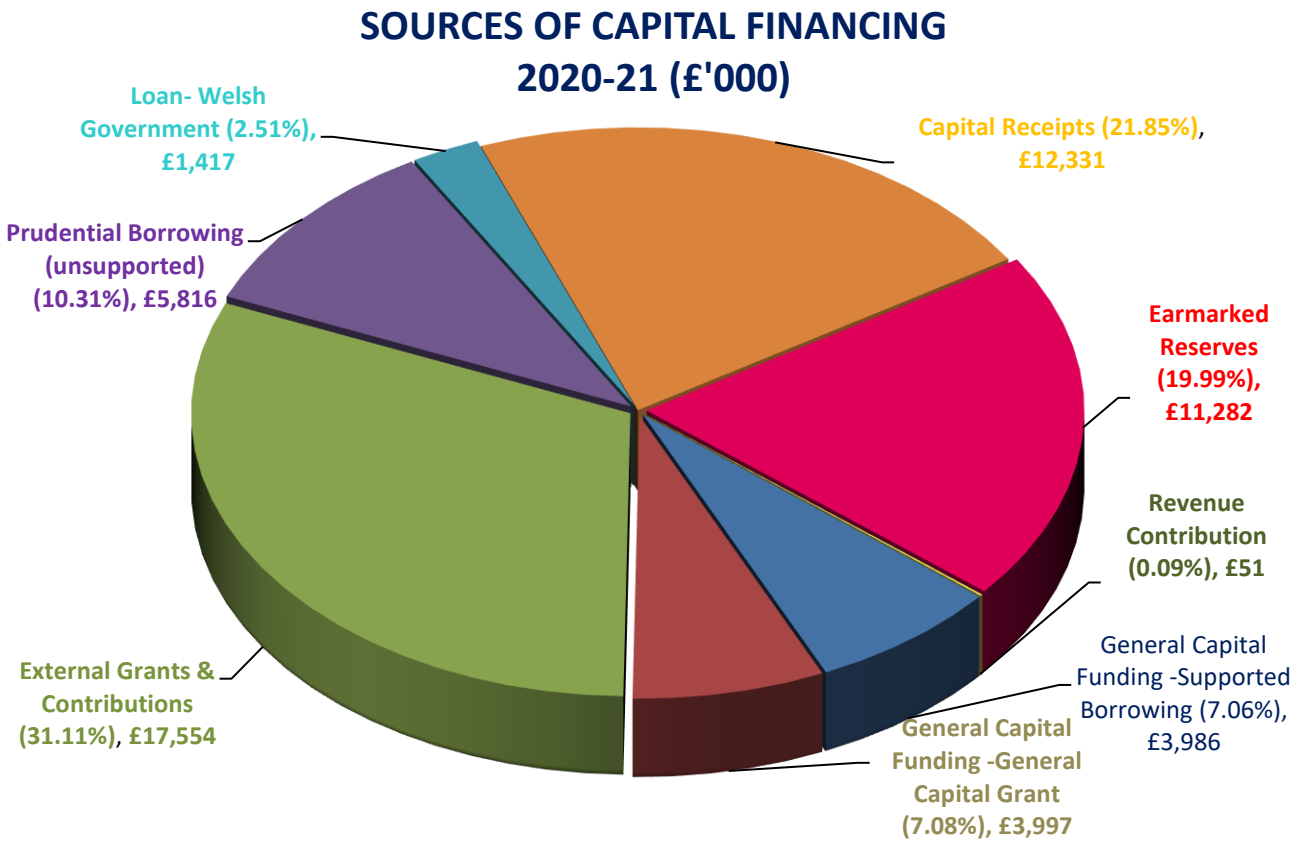


Note: **Other Council Wide Functions** includes Capital Financing Costs, Precepts and Levies, Council Tax Reduction Scheme and corporate provision for pay and price. **Chief Executive's - Central Support Services** - includes :Finance, Audit, HR ,ICT, Legal & Democratic & Regulatory , Elections & Partnerships. **Communities** - includes Regeneration, Development, Streetworks, Highways & Fleet, Parks & Open Spaces, and Transport & Engineering .

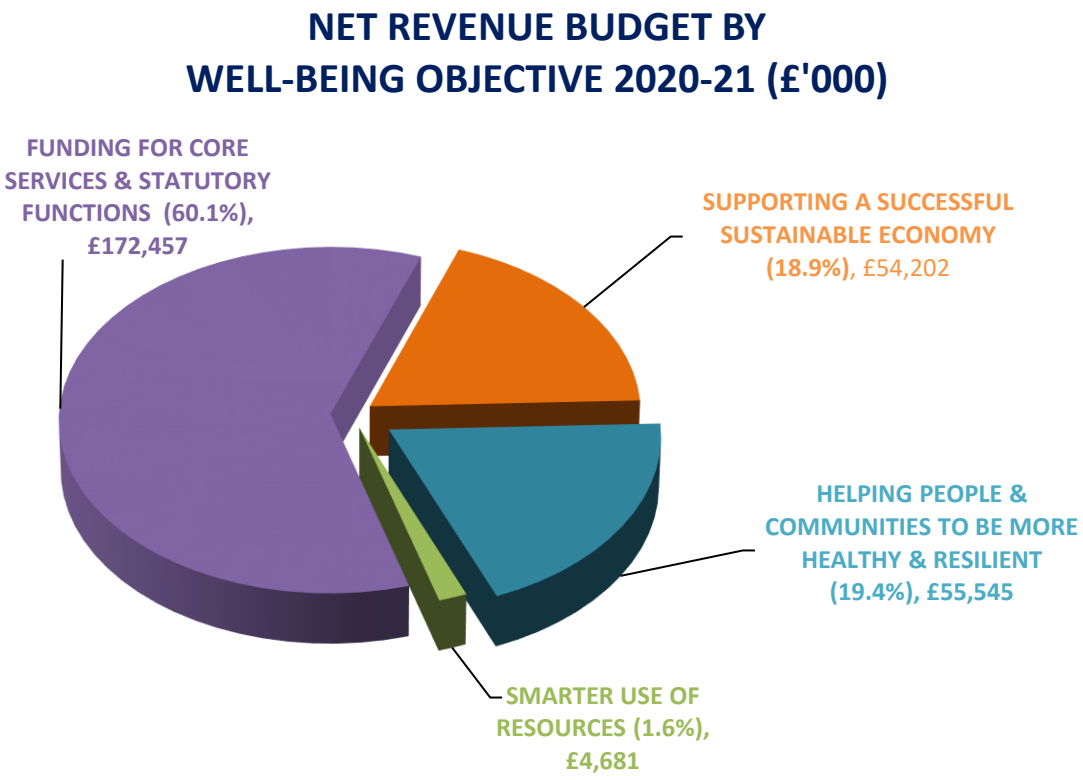
In addition to spending money on providing day-to-day services, the Council also spends money on providing new facilities, improving assets and the infrastructure, enhancing assets or providing capital grants to others. Planned capital expenditure for 2020-2021 amounts to £56.434 million.



The chart (above) provides details of the service areas where capital expenditure is planned and (below) how the expenditure will be financed in the year.

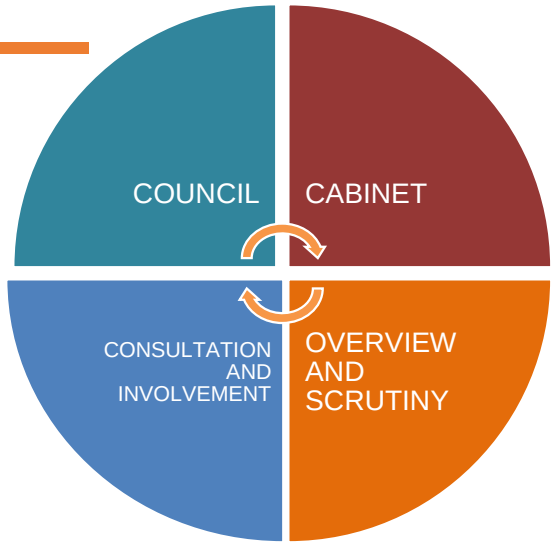


The local authority has a net revenue budget of £286.885 million that supports the delivery of the Council's corporate Well-Being Objectives, core services and statutory functions. The net budget is financed by the Revenue Support Grant, Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) and Council Tax income. It excludes income from other financing streams such as other government grants, customer and client receipts, and interest which finance the gross revenue expenditure. The chart below provides details of how the net revenue budget has been allocated for 2020-21.



Democracy and Partnership

How the Council Works



Council

Made up of 54 councillors representing 39 wards, the full Council meets to approve key strategic policies and set the Council corporate plan and budget. The rules for how the Council operates are written in the council's constitution.

Cabinet

Made up of six councillors and chaired by the Leader, the Cabinet is responsible for making major decisions and policies in Bridgend County Borough. Each councillor has a portfolio covering a specialist area.

Overview and Scrutiny

Made up of four committees who look at decisions that the Council are making and make sure they have been examined properly.

Consultation and Involvement

Throughout the year we carry out a range of consultations to inform our decisions, including the 'Shaping Bridgend's Future' 2019 budget consultation. Building on our experience of previous consultations, we developed new ways for people to participate and get involved. Our methods included surveys, social media, community engagement stands, town and community council meetings, and community group meetings. In total there were 7,437 interactions across the different platforms which represents an increase of 40.6% (2,149) compared to the previous year.

Members of the Citizens' Panel receive up to three surveys per year on diverse service areas; topics have included play areas, grass cutting and potential increased charges for the use of sports fields and pavilions, adult community learning, the council budget, dog fouling and mental health provision. They also receive updates through our 'You said, we did' newsletter.

Our newly revised website:www.bridgend.gov.uk
Instagram at www.instagram.com/BridgendCBC/
Facebook www.facebook.com/BridendCBC
Twitter: @BridgendCBC
Email to talktous@bridgend.gov.uk

We also engage with specific groups of people, such as those who use our social care services, to ask for their views about the services they receive.

Working with Others

- The Bridgend Public Services Board (PSB) was created as part of a legal requirement for each local authority under The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Council is one of a group of local health, education, social care and well-being organisations from the public sector and not for profit sectors who work together to create a better Bridgend County Borough. The work is based on collaboration and consultation with local people and communities.
- Following a Well-being Assessment, the Bridgend PSB has developed a Well-being Plan to address the issues that influence the long-term well-being of Bridgend.
- The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board (RPB) brings together health, social services, housing, the third sector and other partners to deliver strategic approaches to deliver integrated Health and Social Care services as set out in The Social Services and Well-being Act Wales (2014)

The Bridgend Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) brings together professionals to provide safeguarding services from both the council and our partners across the community, in one place. The Bridgend MASH is made up of people from:

- Children's and adult services
- South Wales Police public protection unit
- Education
- Housing
- Community drug and alcohol team
- Probation and community rehabilitation
- Health
- Early help services
- Mental health services

- Shared Regulatory Services is a partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff Councils to provide a more efficient services covering Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Licensing and Private Sector Housing.
- Bridgend Community Safety Partnership is a sub- board of the Bridgend PSB, which brings together public, private and voluntary agencies that work together to reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime.
- The Council's Internal Audit Service had been delivered under a formal collaborative agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council since 2013. From April 2019 a Regional Shared Internal Audit Service has been in existence bringing together Merthyr Tydfil CBC, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and the existing shared service. An efficient Internal Audit service provides independent assurance that the Council's risk management, governance and internal control processes are operating effectively.
- We have partnered with GLL/Halo Leisure to manage eight leisure centres and swimming pools. We have a long term partnership with Awen Cultural Trust to run our cultural venues and services for 20 years. This includes the Bridgend library service, Maesteg Town hall, Porthcawl Grand Pavilion, four community centres and Bryngarw House and Country Park.
- We are one of ten local authorities in South East Wales that are part of The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, which is a programme to bring about significant economic growth in the region.

Feedback

We welcome your comments on this Corporate Plan and your suggestions for improvement. You can give your feedback through

Our website: www.bridgend.gov.uk

Instagram at www.instagram.com/BridgendCBC/

Facebook at www.facebook.com/BridendCBC

Twitter: @BridgendCBC

Email to talktous@bridgend.gov.uk

Or by writing to Corporate Performance Team, Bridgend County Borough Council, Raven's Court, Brewery Lane, Bridgend CF31 4WB

This report is available in both Welsh and English. It is also available in another language or format on request.

Each year, the Welsh Government publishes a range of national performance indicators that enable citizens to compare how their local authority performed in comparison with the other 21 Welsh local authorities across a whole range of services. You can see more detail about how councils across Wales compare by clicking on

www.mylocalcouncil.info

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC EQUALITY PLAN ACTION PLAN 2020 - 2024

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval and adoption of Bridgend County Borough Council's Strategic Equality Plan Action Plan 2020-2024.

2. Connection to corporate wellbeing objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 The Equality Act 2010 sets out general and specific duties for local authorities in Wales. One such specific duty is to produce a Strategic Equality Plan.

2.2 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county borough.

2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** – taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The Equality Act introduced a General Duty for public bodies to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity and;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

3.2 The Equality Act also introduced specific duties which include:

- Setting Equality Objectives and publishing a Strategic Equality Plan;
- Ensuring it engages with people who have an interest in how the Council's decisions affect them and;
- Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments and publishing the results if there is a substantial impact on the Council's identified.

3.3 Within the Strategic Equality Plan the council must publish an action plan containing objectives that describe how equality issues for people in Bridgend will be addressed for the next four years.

3.4 Annual progress reports describing the work involved in implementing the current Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020 have been presented to Cabinet Committee Equalities since 2016. Annual progress reports will continue to be presented during the lifetime of the Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 The Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 was approved by Cabinet on 10 March 2020 (appendix one). In order to develop the equalities action plan (appendix two) we have:

- Reviewed our Strategic Equality Plan 2016 – 2020 and our action plan for this period
- Given further consideration to each of the nine protected characteristics covered by the three main aims of the general duty and the requirement to eliminate discrimination, harassment and other actions prohibited in the Equality Act 2010.
- Considered the implementation of the Socio-Economic Duty (now deferred to March 2021)
- Considered national and local issues and taken into consideration the Black Lives Matter campaign and the impact of COVID-19
- Used feedback that we regularly get from local equality and diversity groups and via the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum such as how accessible our services are and how we can help support, promote and raise awareness of issues such as hate crime and LGBTQ History Month
- Worked with services to develop outcome focused actions that will be delivered over the next four years

4.2 In addition we have engaged with residents, staff and stakeholders and used relevant information, including Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) reports, Welsh Government reports, internal strategies and the results of staff engagement exercises as well as community groups' engagement exercises.

4.3 A public consultation began on 23 December 2019 and ended on 9 February 2020. During the consultation period the Consultation and Engagement Team attended

community groups, conducted public engagement sessions in libraries and carried out the survey with members of the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum. They hosted a Citizens' Panel event in the Council Chamber and the survey was sent to all members of the Citizens' Panel in the format of their choice. The survey was made available in hard copy and on line in Welsh and English. In total the council engaged with 220 residents across the county borough in face to face events during the consultation period, and received 424 responses to the consultation survey. Three comments were also received via social media.

4.4 Our Strategic Equality Plan overarching objectives were set in line with the findings of the Equality and Human Rights Commission 'Is Wales Fairer?' report and the public consultation. The following outcome focused actions have been developed to reflect the views of residents and stakeholders from across the county borough. We have identified 25outcomes and 58 actions:

Objective one – Education

Everyone who accesses education should be free from discrimination, bullying and abuse in educational settings.

Within the education objective there are five outcomes, with a total of eight actions:

Outcome one - To reduce incidents of hate based bullying in schools	
	Actions:
1.1.1	Review the process in place to report hate-based bullying to the local authority in schools, to include homophobia, disability, religion and belief as well as gender based and racial incidents **Lead: Education and Family Support**
1.1.2	Analyse bullying data gathered by schools, including racist bullying, to identify trends and review anti-bullying strategies so that there are effective solutions in place **Lead: Education and Family Support & Equalities team**

Outcome two – To amend the curriculum in schools to reflect the Black Lives Matter campaign	
	Actions:
1.2.1	To fully implement the findings and recommendations of the Welsh Government working group review of learning resources available to support the teaching of themes relating to Black Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and 'cynefin' across all parts of the curriculum within our schools **Lead: Education and Family Support**

Outcome three - To improve access to equality information in schools for both learners and staff

	Actions:
1.3.1	Provide equality, unconscious bias and critical thinking training to all learners as part of the curriculum **Lead: Education and Family Support**
1.3.2	Provide equality, unconscious bias and critical thinking training to teaching staff and all school governing bodies **Lead: Education and Family Support**

Outcome four – Ensure individual needs are considered in adult learning and other educational settings	
	Actions:
1.4.1	To consult with learners to determine and monitor needs throughout programs of learning; to offer additional support where needs are identified and offer inclusive yet differentiated learning opportunities. **Lead: Education and Family support**
1.4.2	Continue to offer additional resources where any deficit or disadvantage is identified. **Lead: Education and Family support**

Outcome five – Develop a whole education approach to Violence against women domestic abuse and sexual violence	
	Actions:
1.5.1	Work with schools to ensure the effective implementation of the nine elements of the whole school approach across all schools in Bridgend **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**

Objective two - Work

Promote a more inclusive workforce and improve the participation, wellbeing and opportunities for development for those with protected characteristics.

Within the work objective there are four outcomes, with a total of 12 actions:

Outcome one - To ensure equal pay for equal work	
	Actions:
2.1.1	Develop knowledge of our workforce by improving the collection of workforce data by encouraging employees to provide up to date equality information **Lead: Human Resources**
2.1.2	Promote awareness campaigns linked to protected characteristics **Lead: Human Resources & Equalities team**
2.1.3	Continue to report on the gender Pay Gap and progress gender equality actions **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome one - To ensure equal pay for equal work	
	Actions:
2.1.4	Establish process to monitor pay levels for Black Asian and Minority Ethnic employees and those with a disability with the view to identify and address any gaps that may be discovered **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome two – To support our communities into the world of work	
	Actions:
2.2.1	Employability Bridgend to work in partnership with DWP, Working Wales and training providers to deliver programmes which support people to prepare for employment **Lead: Communities Directorate**

Outcome three – To improve diversity in our workforce, with a focus on age, race and disability	
	Actions:
2.3.1	Introduce more graduate and apprenticeship opportunities to increase workforce diversity **Lead: Human Resources**
2.3.2	Review recruitment processes and introduce specific campaigns with an aim to attract applications from the BAME community and people with a disability **Lead: Human Resources**
2.3.3	Become more disability confident as an employer by maintaining our Disability Confident status and developing our Disability Confident action plan **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome four – To increase training opportunities for staff	
	Actions:
2.4.1	To review existing e-learning provision to ensure appropriate and relevant equality and diversity training is available, including the section on equality legislation of the mandatory corporate induction module to encourage increased participation in training **Lead: Human Resources**
2.4.2	Provide equality and unconscious bias training to employees **Lead: Human Resources**
2.4.3	Provide equality and unconscious bias training to councillors to encourage increased participation in training **Lead: Democratic Services**
2.4.4	Work with community organisations such as Stonewall, Mental Health Matters, People First Bridgend, Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST) and Show Racism the Red Card to develop training opportunities for employees **Lead: Human Resources & Equalities team**

Objective three – Living standards

Tackle poverty and support independent living by considering the impact of any policy changes or decisions under the socio-economic duty.

Within the living standards objective there are four outcomes, with a total of seven actions:

Outcome one - To ensure that the socio-economic duty is fully considered as part of the council's governance and strategic decision making processes	
	Actions:
3.1.1	Review the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to include poverty as a protected characteristic **Lead: Equalities Team**
3.1.2	Produce guidance and training for staff on the implementation of the socio-economic duty **Lead: Equalities Team**
3.1.3	Evidence the impact of the changes to the EIA in the EIA annual report produced to Cabinet Committee Equalities **Lead: Equalities Team**

Outcome two – Demonstrate commitment to low paid employees by introducing Real living wage	
	Actions:
3.2.1	Progress implementation of the Real Living wage to all council employees benefitting those on the lowest pay grades **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome three – Support low income families through increased commitment for free school meals	
	Actions:
3.3.1	Continue to ensure families are able to access free school meals and provide food parcels for families eligible for free school meals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic **Lead: Education and Family Support**
3.3.2	Deliver the national School Holiday Enrichment Programme, subject to funding in agreed local areas. **Lead: Education and Family Support**

Outcome four – Support learners by ensuring all schools participate in the Period Dignity scheme	
	Actions:

3.4.1	Continue to work in partnership with Welsh Government and Wings Cymru to ensure free menstrual products are provided to all learners in primary, secondary and special schools within the county borough. **Lead: Education and Family Support**

Objective four - Health and wellbeing

Support and promote good mental and physical health within our communities and our workforce and provide opportunities to participate in leisure and cultural activities.

Within the health and wellbeing objective there are four outcomes, with a total of 14 actions:

Outcome one - To improve the physical wellbeing of staff	
	Actions:
4.1.1	Implement the COVID-19 risk assessment for employees **Lead: Human Resources**
4.1.2	Promote the health and wellbeing of employees through partnerships with Halo, the Cycle to Work scheme **Lead: Human Resources**
4.1.3	Development of menopause protocol **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome two – To improve the emotional wellbeing of staff	
	Actions:
4.2.1	Introduce and implement a health and wellbeing protocol to support all employees **Lead: Human Resources**
4.2.2	Work with partners to provide training and resources in mental health awareness, mindfulness and resilience **Lead: Human Resources**
4.2.3	Promote mental health awareness to staff and the support mechanisms in place, including adapting to work in the COVID-19 pandemic. **Lead: Human Resources**
4.2.4	Work with partners to develop BAME, LGBTQ and disability staff networks (BLM action) **Lead: Equalities Team**
4.2.5	Development of carers protocol **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome three - To provide and promote activities in the community for people with protected characteristics	
4.3.1	Work with Sport Wales, Welsh Government and Arts Council for Wales to develop inclusive and integrated community activities for people with a protected characteristic in partnership with Halo and Awen.(e.g. super-agers, Hynt scheme, free swimming) **Lead: Social Services and Wellbeing**

4.3.2	Work with Disability Sport Wales to operate the national disability sport programme for households in Bridgend and across the Central South region **Lead: Social Services and Wellbeing**
4.3.3	Work in partnership with Town and Community Councils and other partners including Halo Leisure, Awen, Play Wales, Sport Wales, schools and Welsh Government to offer inclusive and integrated play opportunities for all securing play sufficiency requirements across the county **Lead: Social Services and Wellbeing**

Outcome four - To raise awareness of hidden disabilities within the community and with businesses across the county borough	
4.4.1	Promote awareness of the Hidden Disability sunflower lanyard scheme and awareness of support cards, including the 'Can't Wait card', to ensure that our communities and businesses become more aware of the needs of people with hidden disabilities **Lead: Equalities**
4.4.2	Celebrate Awareness Days and weeks that highlight hidden disabilities such as deaf awareness week, dementia action week and mental health awareness days **Lead: Equalities**
4.4.3	Improve awareness of hidden disabilities within the workforce **Lead: Equalities**

Objective five - Safety and respect

Ensure that people within our communities have access to services that support them to live without fear of violence or abuse, and to be treated with respect.

Within the safety and respect objective there are four outcomes, with a total of nine actions:

Outcome one – Develop and promote community cohesion	
	Actions:
5.1.1	Signpost European Union (EU) citizens living in Bridgend County Borough to the Home Office EU Settlement Scheme and provide the appropriate level of local authority support **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**
5.1.2	Monitor and respond to community tensions relating to the Brexit process **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**
5.1.3	Identify community groups that represent the range and diversity of Bridgend citizens and develop appropriate communication channels **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**
5.1.4	Hold community events, promote positive community cohesion and celebrate diversity. Explore the use of online methods for community groups in light of COVID-19 **Lead: Community Safety Partnership & Equalities Team**
5.1.5	Work collaboratively to support Pride events through the brand 'Proud Councils'. To demonstrate our commitment to the LGBTQ community and our workforce through the development of Proud Councils policies and practice across all local authorities who are involved with Proud Councils. **Lead: Equalities Team**

Outcome two – Improve awareness and outcomes of hate crimes	
	Actions:
5.2.1	Develop targeted activities to ensure victims and potential victims of hate crime are aware of reporting mechanisms and have awareness of the support services available to them in collaboration with South Wales Police and Victim Support **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**
5.2.2	Work with partners to arrange events and activities to promote Hate Crime Awareness week (October) **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**

Outcome three – To embrace Black History Month	
	Actions:
5.3.1	Embrace Black History Month (October) by working closely with schools, and by holding public events to highlight the reality of the negative impact of racial inequality and celebrate the contribution made by BAME communities to our local and national life as well as working with partner organsiation such as Awen Cultural Trust to promote and raise awareness of BAME activities such as The Paul Robeson exhibition **Lead: Equalities Team**

Outcome four – To improve awareness of how to report VAWDASV and the support available	
	Actions:
5.4.1	Identify three annual campaigns and plan and deliver appropriate actions to maximise their impact to include: • Older persons • Learning disability • Male victims **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**

Objective six - Participation

Encourage people and communities to participate and engage in issues that are important to them, and influence the decisions that affect their lives.

Within the participation objective there are four outcomes, with a total of eight actions:

Outcome one – To improve participation in consultations	
	Actions:
6.1.1	Ensure people are appropriately represented in council consultations and engagement events, and can participate in the future design of council services **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**
6.1.2	Ensure all council consultations consider the development of an easy read and youth version dependent on the potential impact **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**
6.1.3	Review how the Citizens' Panel operates and its interface with relevant council decisions

	Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team
6.1.4	Include the Youth Council in consultations to ensure participation in the future design of council services **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**

Outcome two – To provide resources to staff to improve communication with the public	
	Actions:
6.2.1	Ensure resources are available to staff to assist them in providing information that is easy to understand and takes accounts of individuals' needs **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**

Outcome three – Improve community engagement with protected characteristic groups	
	Actions:
6.3.1	Strengthen our relationship with protected groups through attendance at forums and meetings to ensure people are included in and kept up to date in council activities **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**
6.3.2	Share all consultations with the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum, and where relevant provide face to face or online engagement opportunities for member organisations **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**

Outcome four – Promote community events and equality through the use of corporate social media	
	Actions:
6.4.1	Share information and promote events such as PRIDE Cymru, Black History Month, Holocaust Memorial Day, Hate Crime awareness month and others via our bi-lingual corporate social media channels **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**

4.4 Within the action plan each of the objectives are linked to relevant protected characteristics, the Future Generations Act five ways of working and our corporate priorities.

4.5 The Strategic Equality Plan action plan 2020-2024 will be reviewed annually, to demonstrate progress against actions, incorporate new areas of work for the council, changes to legislation and the development of any new objectives for the duration of the plan.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules but is required to effectively implement the council's statutory duties in relation to equalities and human rights.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The actions set out in the Strategic Equality Plan will positively assist the council in delivering its equality objectives. A Full Equality Impact Assessment accompanies this report at appendix Three.

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

7.1 The actions set out in the Strategic Equality Plan will positively assist the council in the delivery of the well-being goals identified in the Act. The full assessment accompanies this report at appendix four.

7.2	Long Term	The Strategic Equality plan, in line with national guidance from EHRC and Welsh Government spans four years between 2020 and 2024. The plan/action plan will be reported on annually to Cabinet Committee Equalities and made available to the public in order to demonstrate progress and achievements within the lifetime of the action plan.
	Prevention	The Strategic Equality Plan seeks to work within the community to ensure that issues are identified and can be acted upon. The Strategic Equality Plan supports the local authority to meet its general Equality Duty: • Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; • Advance equality of opportunity and; • Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
	Integration	The Strategic Equality Plan and action plan ensure that a wide range of outcome focused objectives and actions are delivered within the county borough and within the workforce to ensure equality of provision, and where relevant inequality identified so that this can be acted upon.
	Collaboration	The Strategic Equality Plan action plan outline show we will work in partnership with statutory organisations as well as third sector organisations to deliver effective equality outcomes.
	Involvement	A public survey based on Bridgend County Borough Council's Draft Strategic Equality Objectives 2020-2024 was completed over a six week period between 23 December 2019 and the 9 February 2020.

The purpose of this consultation was to outline the overarching objectives which will then enable BCBC to develop an action plan to support these objectives.

The consultation received 647 responses from a combination of the consultation survey (424 survey responses), four public engagement events in libraries, one Citizens' Panel event and attendance at nine equality group meetings which included a total of 220 attendees and 3 social media comments.

We will continue to work with equality groups, our workforce and stakeholders throughout the lifetime of this SEP and action plan to deliver effective equality outcomes

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 The implementation of the action plan will be managed within existing resources.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 That Cabinet approves and adopts the authority's Strategic Equality Plan Action Plan 2020 – 2024.

Mark Shephard

Chief Executive
Date: 15 September 2020

10. Contact officers:

Nicola Bunston
Consultation, Engagement and Equalities Manager
Email: nicola.bunston@bridgend.gov.uk
Telephone: 01656 643664
Postal address: Civic Offices,
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF314WB

Philip O'Brien
Group Manager - Transformation and Customer Services
Email: Philip.OBrien@bridgend.gov.uk
Telephone: 01656 643333
Postal address: Civic Offices,
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Telephone: 01656 643643

Background papers: None

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Bridgend County Borough Council

Strategic Equality Plan 2020 - 2024

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
BRIDGEND
County Borough Council

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Introduction and background

Welcome to Bridgend County Borough Council's third Strategic Equality Plan covering the period 2020 – 2024.

Like its predecessors, it ensures that equality and fairness remain firmly at the heart of how the council plans, provides and delivers important services to the people of Bridgend County Borough.

Building on our previous equalities work, the plan details how Bridgend County Borough Council intends to deliver on its equalities commitments while continuing to be an inclusive and effective organisation.

Our Strategic Equality Plan demonstrates not only the council's responsibility towards meeting the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, but sets out our vision to promote equal opportunities as we set about making a real difference to the lives of the people we serve. We want to ensure that Bridgend is a place where no one experiences disadvantage or discrimination because of their background or identity, ensuring that every resident has access to a range of high quality services that meet their individual needs.

During 2016-2020, some of the key achievements in terms of delivering our equality objectives included:

- Running regular Hate Crime awareness sessions across the county borough with South Wales Police;
- Offering monthly health check to employees, including cholesterol monitoring and bodimetrics measurements;
- Working with Stonewall and Show Racism the Red Card to support the prevention of LGBTQ and racist bullying in schools;
- Delivering a successful programme of dementia supportive activities with partners BAVO, Halo and Awen;
- Developing a Vulnerable Groups Team by Education and Family Support that provides integrated support for a range of pupils identified by Estyn as vulnerable or potentially vulnerable;
- Developing an LGBTQ school network with the inclusion and school and vulnerable groups team;
- Supporting more than 30 Syrian refugees to resettle in the county borough, with good access to local services and schools;
- Establishing Learning Resource Centres for children with additional needs across the county borough in some of our English medium and Welsh medium mainstream schools.

This new plan seeks to build upon these achievements. We want to be fully representative of our community, and effectively demonstrate that we will not tolerate discrimination of any kind, irrespective of whether it concerns race, sex, disability, age, religion or belief, transgender status, pregnancy and maternity, marriage or civil partnership, or sexual orientation.

As a responsible employer, our commitment towards equality includes our staff, and we recognise and welcome the duty set upon us by Government and the Equality and Human Rights Commission to ensure that our equality objectives include our internal functions as much as our external ones.

As such, our policies, practices, procedures and training activities are all designed to eliminate institutional discrimination, reflecting our core values at all times while ensuring that equality remains a guiding principle in all that we do.

We hope that you will find the Strategic Equality Plan interesting and informative. It reflects our belief that discrimination and prejudice have no place in Bridgend County Borough, and that people should be respected and treated equally at all times.

Cllr Huw David – Leader of the Council

Mark Shephard – Chief Executive

About us

Bridgend County Borough is a diverse and vibrant area with **144,876** residents and over three million annual visitors. As one of the county borough's largest employers and service providers we recognise our unique role and influential position within the area and the contribution we can make to the development of inclusive and confident communities.

We are committed to the principles of equality and diversity and we work to ensure that this is demonstrated in our service delivery and in our employment practices.

We have three well-being objectives/corporate priorities:

Priority one: Supporting a successful sustainable economy

Within priority one our key aims are:

- To support local people develop skills and take advantage of opportunities to succeed
- To create conditions for growth and enterprise
- To create town centres and communities that improve the quality of life for citizens

Priority two: Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient

Within priority two our key aims are:

- To give people more choice and control over what support they receive by providing early access to advice and information
- To reduce demand through targeted early help and intervention programmes
- To develop more active, healthy and resilient communities by working in partnership with the third sector, town and community councils and community groups

Priority three: Smarter use of resources

Within priority three our keys aims are:

- To ensure that the council is financially sustainable over the longer term
- To improve the efficiency of, and access to, services by redesigning our systems and processes
- To work collaboratively to make the most of natural and physical assets
- To develop the culture and skills required to meet the needs of a changing organisation

We provide a wide range of services in a variety of ways. Some are provided centrally from our main civic offices whilst others are provided from the front-line in our communities, e.g. highway maintenance and care/support at home. Others, such as refuse collection, leisure, libraries and cultural activities are provided by outside agencies or by contractors.

The council is governed by **54** elected Members with **39** wards and operates a Cabinet system. It has a Senior Management Team headed by the Chief Executive, and employs over **6,000** employees in a variety of service areas and roles based within the following directorates:

- Chief Executives
- Education and Family Support
- Social Services and Wellbeing
- Communities

The Purpose of the Strategic Equality Plan

The Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 has being developed to demonstrate the Council's commitment to meeting the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, which came into force on 6 April 2011.

Building on our previous equalities work the Plan will explain to residents, our workforce, elected members and stakeholders how Bridgend County Borough Council will deliver its equalities commitments whilst continuing to be an inclusive and effective organisation that is representative of our community and does not tolerate discrimination of any kind. We will deliver high quality services to our residents, taking into account their different needs while ensuring that no one experiences disadvantage or discrimination due to their background or identity.

Within the Equality Act 2010, public bodies have an additional responsibility to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty. These are outlined below:

Public Sector Equality Duty

The General Duty

When making decisions and delivering services we must have due regard to:

- Eliminating discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act.
- Advancing equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (protected characteristics are explained later in this report).
- Fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

When thinking about how to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don't, we also need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and are connected to that characteristic.
- Meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- We also have to particularly think about how it will tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Specific Duties

The Equality Act provides a power to make regulations imposing duties on public bodies to support better performance of the general duty; these are known as the Specific Public Sector Equality Duties and are different in England, Scotland and Wales.

The Specific Duties underpin the General Duty and have been developed around four main principles:

1. **Use of evidence**
2. **Consultation and Involvement**
3. **Transparency**
4. **Leadership**

The Welsh Government published regulations that introduced the Specific Duties for Wales in March 2011, these set out the actions the Council must take in order to comply and include the following areas:

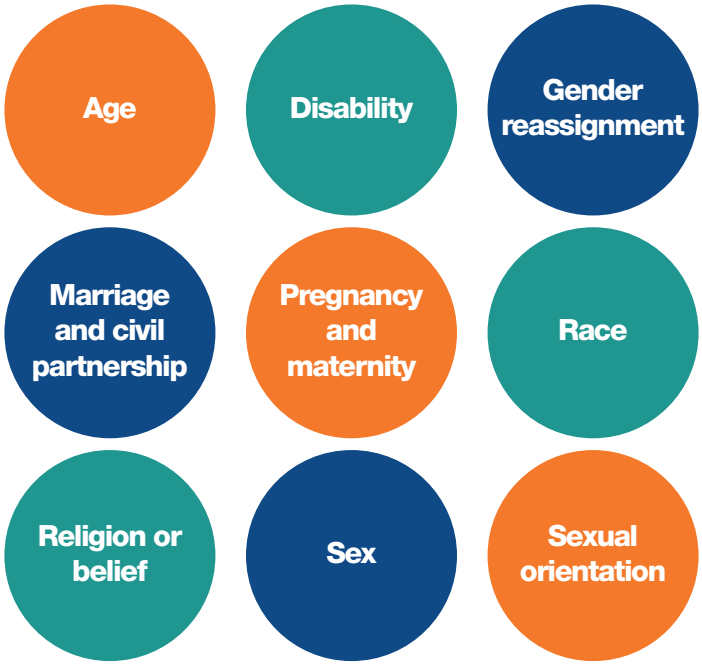
- Setting Equality Objectives and publishing a Strategic Equality Plan
- Ensuring it engages with people who have an interest in how the Council's decisions affect them
- Collecting and publishing information relevant to compliance with the General Duty
- Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments and publishing the results if there is a substantial impact on the Council's identified
- Publish employment monitoring information annually
- Promote knowledge and understanding of the General Duty amongst its employees and use its performance assessment procedures to identify and address the training needs of its employees in relation to the General Duties
- Set a gender pay equality objective where a gender pay difference is identified
- Think about including conditions relevant to the General Duty in its procurement processes.

Who is protected under the Equality Act 2010?

It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of their protected characteristic.

This is the term used in the Equality Act 2010 to identify the types of things that affect how people are treated and can mean people may experience discrimination.

The law is designed to protect them, they are:

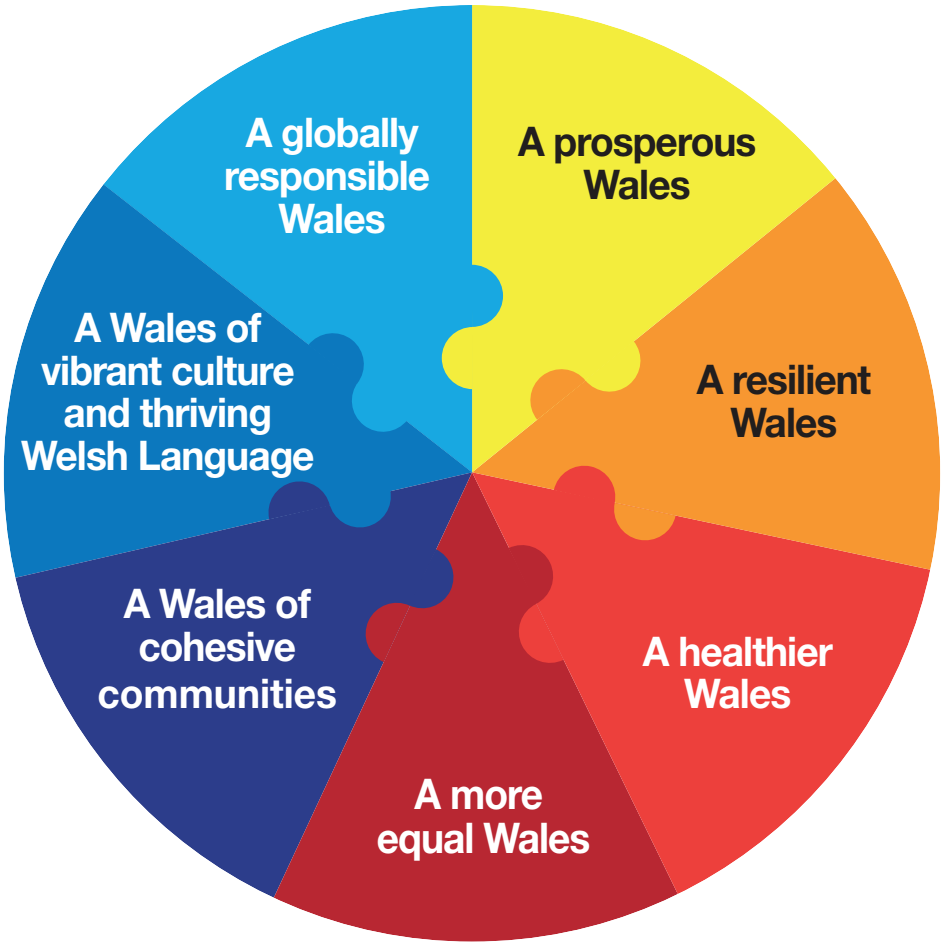


The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Council is committed to embedding the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 into all its service delivery and activities making sure that when we make decisions we take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future. The act aims to create a more equal Wales, where everyone has the opportunity to participate, reach their full potential and is able to contribute fully to the economy, will enable Wales to be more prosperous and innovative. The Act has been put in place to make sure that public bodies are doing all they can to contribute to the improvement of the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

The Act puts in place a sustainable development principle which means that we must 'act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

The Act introduces seven long-term well-being goals, puts in place a sustainable development principle. The Act puts in place a duty on the Council as a public body to maximise its contribution to the seven national wellbeing goals a shown below:



The wellbeing of Future Generations Act asks individual public bodies to apply five ways of working:

Long term

The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs.

Prevention

How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Integration

Considering how the public body's wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives and on the objectives of other public bodies.

Collaboration

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Involvement

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the areas in which the body serves.

The five ways of working have been used to shape the Council's equality objectives.

The information we used to develop our Equality objectives

As well as listening to our residents, communities and our staff we have also used a range of equality information to support us in identifying equality objectives.

We have looked at regional priorities for Bridgend, Council Priorities, Service Delivery plans and their Self Assessments and have reviewed the progress that the Council's services have already made in relation to the Public Sector Equality Duties.

We have also reviewed national and external sources such as reports by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, Welsh Government policy and priorities, research reports and other relevant statistics.

Whilst a number of external reports and EHRC inquiries have contributed to the development of the Equality Objectives, outlined below is the key report that assisted in shaping the objectives:

Is Wales Fairer? 2018 – Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

This report addresses seven key challenges that need to be addressed in Wales. The EHRC states there are major, entrenched inequalities and human rights abuses that will require substantial efforts of public, private and third sector organisations and of individuals to reduce them.

The 7 challenges are:

- Close attainment gaps in education
- Encourage fair recruitment, development and reward in employment
- Improve living conditions in cohesive communities
- Increase access to justice and encourage democratic participation
- Improve access to mental health services and support people experiencing poor mental health
- Prevent abuse, neglect and ill treatment in care and detention
- Eliminate violence, abuse and harassment in the community

This report has acted as a key driver for the development of the Council's Equality Objectives.

Our Equality objectives

To develop the equality objectives we have engaged with our residents, stakeholders and our workforce and used relevant information, including EHRC reports, Welsh Government reports and internal strategies.

In addition to this we have:

- Reviewed our Strategic Equality Plan 2016 – 2020 and our action plan for this period and considered our achievements to date;
- Used the council's corporate objectives of supporting a successful sustainable economy; helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient and smarter use of resources to help provide a structure and approach to reviewing our objectives, e.g. we have developed a consultation toolkit to support a more consistent and effective approach to consulting and engaging with our communities;
- Given further consideration to each of the nine protected characteristics covered by the three main aims of the general duty and the requirement to eliminate discrimination, harassment and other actions prohibited in the Equality Act 2010;
- Considered national and local issues such as immigration;
- Assessed what we have learnt from regional networks and partnerships such as regional approaches to meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller families, domestic abuse, violence against women, and sexual violence and hate crime;
- Looked at a number of the council's existing plans and strategies as well as the consultations which took place to inform their development, e.g. we have recently consulted on proposals to review our public toilets, subsidised buses and the council's budget (Shaping Bridgend's Future);
- Used feedback that we regularly get from local equality and diversity groups and via the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum such as how accessible our services are and how we can help support, promote and raise awareness of issues such as hate crime and LGBTQ History Month;
- Carried out a consultation and engagement exercise with the public, partners and equality and diversity groups. We asked them for their views on the draft objectives for 2020-2024 and asked them to make comments to help us develop our action plan. Throughout the consultation we engaged with 647 people who shared their views with us and we have used these views to help shape our final equalities objectives.

We have set our objectives in line with the findings of the EHRC Is Wales Fairer report and the public consultation. The following overarching objectives have been developed following the consultation to reflect the views of residents and stakeholders from across the county borough:

Education

Everyone who accesses education should be free from discrimination, bullying and abuse in educational settings.

95% of those who responded to the consultation agreed that this should be an equality objective for the Council. Respondents told us that they thought we should educate people about the impact of bullying, promote the services that are available and should include staff as well as learners.

Work

Promote a more inclusive workforce and improve the participation, wellbeing and opportunities for development for those with protected characteristics.

83% of those who responded to the consultation agreed that this should be an equality objective for the Council. Respondents told us that there should be equal pay for equal work and more needed to be done with managers and businesses to understand pay gaps.

Living standards

Tackle poverty and support independent living by considering the impact of any policy changes or decisions under the socio-economic duty.

87% of those who responded to the consultation agreed that this should be an equality objective for the Council. Respondents told us that while they thought this objective could be difficult to achieve, they agreed that we should promote and provide access to services and promote resources for independent living.

Health and wellbeing

Support and promote good mental and physical health within our communities and our workforce and provide opportunities to participate in leisure and cultural activities.

92% of those who responded to the consultation agreed that this should be an equality objective for the Council. Respondents told us that we should support mental health awareness and services. That more facilities were needed for older people and we should improve access to services as well as promotion of services.

Safety and respect

Ensure that people within our communities have access to services that support them to live without fear of violence or abuse, and to be treated with respect.

94% of those who responded to the consultation agreed that this should be an equality objective for the Council. Respondents told us that we should work to promote safety and respect in schools and the council should look at funding for youth and community projects as well as intergenerational projects.

Participation

Encourage people and communities to participate and engage in issues that are important to them, and influence the decisions that affect their lives.

91% of those who responded to the consultation agreed that this should be an equality objective for the Council. Respondents told us that we should provide more opportunities for face to face engagement and act on opinions from the public not just listen to them. Respondents told us that participation should be a two way process as only communities know what is important to them.

We will develop an outcome focussed **Strategic Equality Plan Action Plan** to support this plan which will outline:

- The actions we are seeking to progress under each of our objectives which will make a positive difference to residents and employees' lives;
- When we expect to achieve these actions;
- Who is responsible for taking the actions forward; and
- How we will measure our success.

Building on the work we have carried out in our previous Strategic Equality Plan, in 2020-2024 we will:

- Continue to work with our partners to provide a range of services for people within our communities;
- Work with the police to identify and tackle hate crime within our communities;
- Strengthen collection and analysis of data for bullying incidents in schools;
- Undertake workplace equality monitoring;
- Ensure our residents can participate in consultations through a variety of formats, including face to face interactions;
- Develop the work of the Citizens' Panel;
- Review our Equality Impact Assessment processes to include the socio-economic duty.

We will use information that has come from the consultation to support the development of our actions. The action plan will be finalised in the summer of 2020 and added to this plan as appendix one.

How we will deliver and monitor the Strategic Equality Plan

Successful delivery of our objectives requires strong leadership which is driven primarily by the Future Generations and Well-being Cabinet Member, our Chief Executive and council Leader.

Responsibility for operational delivery rests with all service areas and teams within the authority. Each Corporate Director and Head of Service ensures their employees have the appropriate skills and knowledge of equality that are required. Our Cabinet Equalities Committee monitors delivery against the objectives and scrutinises information available to ensure we identify and implement new strategies and objectives appropriately.

Reports summarising progress against each of the objectives will also be presented to the Cabinet Equalities Committee for consideration.

Our main area of focus in monitoring progress is to undertake further, regular consultation and engagement with all protected characteristic groups. We are mindful that our most reliable measure of success of our equality objectives is via our residents, service users and employees as they use our services and be able to tell us where we have made progress and where we need to continue to improve.

To demonstrate our commitment to meeting our equalities objectives we will:

Collect and publish relevant equality information

We are committed to collecting data where it is useful and to use that data in an effective manner to identify where some protected characteristic groups may be experiencing a disproportionate impact or where there may be opportunities to deliver services in a different way. We will collect data on customers and residents via our consultation and engagement activities and on our employees via our own internal systems.

We will collect and use the following equality data:

- Employment profile data in respect of all protected characteristics;
- Service user data so that we understand the characteristics of the people who use our services;
- Job applicants in respect of all protected characteristics.

This data will be published annually as part of our Strategic Equality Plan annual reporting process. In addition we will publish annually:

- The Full Equality Impact Assessments undertaken;
- The Strategic Equality Plan action plan review;
- The Strategic Equality Plan annual report.

Assess the impact or potential impact on protected groups?

We are committed to assessing the impact of new and existing policies, practices and procedures on all equality groups by conducting appropriate equality impact assessments. Our Equality Impact Assessment page is available here on the council's website. When conducting equality impact assessments we will:

- collect and analyse relevant data;
- engage appropriately, through involvement and consultation, with people who are likely to be affected by policies and programmes from the start of the development and planning processes;
- provide our staff with training and support to ensure they carry out robust and meaningful equality impact assessments with confidence and knowledge.

We have also produced an Equality Impact Assessment toolkit which is a practical guide for service managers to use to assess the likely impact of their functions, policies and procedures on different groups of people. In addition to publishing our Equality Impact Assessments we have also published this guide on our website.

Promote knowledge and understanding of the general and specific duties amongst employees?

Our objectives will include the commitment to continue developing and implementing a comprehensive training and awareness programme for staff in respect of the general and specific duties. We will develop a rolling training programme for the period of this plan.

Continue to engage throughout the lifetime of this plan

Equality is diverse and we need to include people and their representative groups in our planning and decision making processes to help them unlock their potential. We also need to engage appropriately with people to help us meet our duties in the Public Sector Equality Duty in order to:

- Set future equality objectives;
- Review our Strategic Equality Plan;
- Identify how our work and activities may contribute to meeting the general duty;
- Assess the likely impact on protected groups of our policies and practices being proposed or reviewed.

We recognise that we need specific processes in place to ensure that the needs of people are taken into account. We will continue to use a range of approaches to engage with people, from formal consultation and engagement activities to informal meetings with local groups and individuals.

Bridgend County Borough Council

Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024
Action Plan

The Strategic Equality Plan action plan will be reviewed annually, to demonstrate progress against actions, incorporate new areas of work for the council, changes to legislation and the development of any new objectives for the duration of the plan.

Objective one – Education

Everyone who accesses education should be free from discrimination, bullying and abuse in educational settings.

Outcome one - To reduce incidents of hate based bullying in schools	
	Actions:
1.1.1	Review the process in place to report hate-based bullying to the local authority in schools, to include homophobia, disability, religion and belief as well as gender based and racial incidents **Lead: Education and Family Support**
1.1.2	Analyse bullying data gathered by schools, including racist bullying, to identify trends and review anti-bullying strategies so that there are effective solutions in place **Lead: Education and Family Support & Equalities team**

Outcome two – To amend the curriculum in schools to reflect the Black Lives Matter campaign	
	Actions:
1.2.1	To fully implement the findings and recommendations of the Welsh Government working group review of learning resources available to support the teaching of themes relating to Black Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and 'cynefin' across all parts of the curriculum within our schools **Lead: Education and Family Support**

Outcome three - To improve access to equality information in schools for both learners and staff	
	Actions:
1.3.1	Provide equality, unconscious bias and critical thinking training to all learners as part of the curriculum **Lead: Education and Family Support**
1.3.2	Provide equality, unconscious bias and critical thinking training to teaching staff and all school governing bodies **Lead: Education and Family Support**

Outcome four – Ensure individual needs are considered in adult learning and other educational settings	
	Actions:
1.4.1	To consult with learners to determine and monitor needs throughout programs of learning; to offer additional support where needs are identified and offer inclusive yet differentiated learning opportunities.

Outcome four – Ensure individual needs are considered in adult learning and other educational settings	
	Actions:
	Lead: Education and Family support
1.4.2	Continue to offer additional resources where any deficit or disadvantage is identified. **Lead: Education and Family support**

Outcome five – Develop a whole education approach to Violence against women domestic abuse and sexual violence	
	Actions:
1.5.1	Work with schools to ensure the effective implementation of the nine elements of the whole school approach across all schools in Bridgend **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**

Protected Characteristics

Age	✓	Religion or belief	✓
Disability	✓	Sex	✓
Gender reassignment	✓	Sexual orientation	✓
Marriage or civil partnership		Race	✓
Pregnancy or maternity		Poverty	✓

Future Generations Act – 5 ways of working

Long Term	✓	Prevention	✓
Integration	✓	Collaboration	✓
Involvement	✓		

Corporate priorities

Supporting a successful sustainable economy		Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient	✓
Smarter use of resources	✓		

Objective two - work

Promote a more inclusive workforce and improve the participation, wellbeing and opportunities for development for those with protected characteristics

Outcome one - To ensure equal pay for equal work	
	Actions:
2.1.1	Develop knowledge of our workforce by improving the collection of workforce data by encouraging employees to provide up to date equality information **Lead: Human Resources**
2.1.2	Promote awareness campaigns linked to protected characteristics **Lead: Human Resources & Equalities team**
2.1.3	Continue to report on the gender Pay Gap and progress gender equality actions **Lead: Human Resources**
2.1.4	Establish process to monitor pay levels for Black Asian and Minority Ethnic employees and those with a disability with the view to identify and address any gaps that may be discovered **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome two – To support our communities into the world of work	
	Actions:
2.2.1	Employability Bridgend to work in partnership with DWP, Working Wales and training providers to deliver programmes which support people to prepare for employment. **Lead: Communities Directorate**

Outcome three – To improve diversity in our workforce, with a focus on age, race and disability	
	Actions:
2.3.1	Introduce more graduate and apprenticeship opportunities to increase workforce diversity **Lead: Human Resources**
2.3.2	Review recruitment processes and introduce specific campaigns with an aim to attract applications from the BAME community and people with a disability **Lead: Human Resources**
2.3.3	Become more disability confident as an employer by maintaining our Disability Confident status and developing our Disability Confident action plan **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome four – To increase training opportunities for staff

	Actions:
2.4.1	To review existing e-learning provision to ensure appropriate and relevant equality and diversity training is available, including the section on equality legislation of the mandatory corporate induction module to encourage increased participation in training **Lead: Human Resources**
2.4.2	Provide equality and unconscious bias training to employees **Lead: Human Resources**
2.4.3	Provide equality and unconscious bias training to councillors to encourage increased participation in training **Lead: Democratic Services**
2.4.4	Work with community organisations such as Stonewall, Mental Health Matters, People First Bridgend, Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team (EYST) and Show Racism the Red Card to develop training opportunities for employees **Lead: Human Resources & Equalities team**

Protected Characteristics

Age	✓	Religion or belief	✓
Disability	✓	Sex	✓
Gender reassignment	✓	Sexual orientation	✓
Marriage or civil partnership	✓	Race	✓
Pregnancy or maternity	✓	Poverty	✓

Future Generations Act – 5 ways of working

Long Term	✓	Prevention	✓
Integration	✓	Collaboration	✓
Involvement	✓		

Corporate priorities

Supporting a successful sustainable economy	✓	Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient	✓
Smarter use of resources	✓		

Objective three – Living standards

Tackle poverty and support independent living by considering the impact of any policy changes or decisions under the socio-economic duty

Outcome one - To ensure that the socio-economic duty is fully considered as part of the council's governance and strategic decision making processes	
	Actions:
3.1.1	Review the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to include poverty as a protected characteristic **Lead: Equalities Team**
3.1.2	Produce guidance and training for staff on the implementation of the socio-economic duty **Lead: Equalities Team**
3.1.3	Evidence the impact of the changes to the EIA in the EIA annual report produced to Cabinet Committee Equalities **Lead: Equalities Team**

Outcome two – Demonstrate commitment to low paid employees by introducing Real living wage	
	Actions:
3.2.1	Progress implementation of the Real Living wage to all council employees benefitting those on the lowest pay grades **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome three – Support low income families through increased commitment for free school meals	
	Actions:
3.3.1	Continue to ensure families are able to access free school meals and provide food parcels for families eligible for free school meals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic **Lead: Education and Family Support**
3.3.2	Deliver the national School Holiday Enrichment Programme, subject to funding in agreed local areas. **Lead: Education and Family Support**

Outcome four – Support learners by ensuring all schools participate in the Period Dignity scheme	
	Actions:
3.4.1	Continue to work in partnership with Welsh Government and Wings Cymru to ensure free menstrual products are provided to all learners in primary, secondary and special schools within the county borough. **Lead: Education and Family Support**

Protected Characteristics

Age	✓	Religion or belief	
Disability	✓	Sex	✓
Gender reassignment		Sexual orientation	
Marriage or civil partnership		Race	✓
Pregnancy or maternity		Poverty	✓

Future Generations Act – 5 ways of working

Long Term	✓	Prevention	✓
Integration	✓	Collaboration	✓
Involvement			

Corporate priorities

Supporting a successful sustainable economy	✓	Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient	✓
Smarter use of resources	✓		

Objective four - Health and wellbeing

Support and promote good mental and physical health within our communities and our workforce and provide opportunities to participate in leisure and cultural activities.

Outcome one - To improve the physical wellbeing of staff	
	Actions:
4.1.1	Implement the COVID-19 risk assessment for employees **Lead: Human Resources**
4.1.2	Promote the health and wellbeing of employees through partnerships with Halo, the Cycle to Work scheme **Lead: Human Resources**
4.1.3	Development of menopause protocol **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome two – To improve the emotional wellbeing of staff	
	Actions:
4.2.1	Introduce and implement a health and wellbeing protocol to support all employees **Lead: Human Resources**
4.2.2	Work with partners to provide training and resources in mental health awareness, mindfulness and resilience **Lead: Human Resources**
4.2.3	Promote mental health awareness to staff and the support mechanisms in place, including adapting to work in the COVID-19 pandemic. **Lead: Human Resources**
4.2.4	Work with partners to develop BAME, LGBTQI and disability staff networks (BLM action) **Lead: Equalities Team**
4.2.5	Development of carers protocol **Lead: Human Resources**

Outcome three - To provide and promote activities in the community for people with protected characteristics	
4.3.1	Work with Sport Wales, Welsh Government and Arts Council for Wales to develop inclusive and integrated community activities for people with a protected characteristic in partnership with Halo and Awen.(e.g. super-agers, Hynt scheme, free swimming) **Lead: Social Services and Wellbeing**
4.3.2	Work with Disability Sport Wales to operate the national disability sport programme for households in Bridgend and across the Central South region **Lead: Social Services and Wellbeing**
4.3.3	Work in partnership with Town and Community Councils and other partners including Halo Leisure, Awen, Play Wales, Sport Wales, schools and Welsh Government to offer inclusive and integrated play opportunities for all securing play sufficiency requirements across the county **Lead: Social Services and Wellbeing**

Outcome four - To raise awareness of hidden disabilities within the community and with businesses across the county borough	
4.4.1	Promote awareness of the Hidden Disability sunflower lanyard scheme and awareness of support cards, including the 'Can't Wait card', to ensure that our communities and businesses become more aware of the needs of people with hidden disabilities **Lead: Equalities**
4.4.2	Celebrate Awareness Days and weeks that highlight hidden disabilities such as deaf awareness week, dementia action week and mental health awareness days **Lead: Equalities**
4.4.3	Improve awareness of hidden disabilities within the workforce **Lead: Equalities**

Protected Characteristics

Age	✓	Religion or belief	✓
Disability	✓	Sex	✓
Gender reassignment	✓	Sexual orientation	✓
Marriage or civil partnership	✓	Race	✓
Pregnancy or maternity	✓	Poverty	✓

Future Generations Act – 5 ways of working

Long Term	✓	Prevention	✓
Integration	✓	Collaboration	✓
Involvement			

Corporate priorities

Supporting a successful sustainable economy	✓	Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient	✓
Smarter use of resources	✓		

Objective five - Safety and respect

Ensure that people within our communities have access to services that support them to live without fear of violence or abuse, and to be treated with respect.

Outcome one – Develop and promote community cohesion	
	Actions:
5.1.1	Signpost European Union (EU) citizens living in Bridgend County Borough to the Home Office EU Settlement Scheme and provide the appropriate level of local authority support **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**
5.1.2	Monitor and respond to community tensions relating to the Brexit process **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**
5.1.3	Identify community groups that represent the range and diversity of Bridgend citizens and develop appropriate communication channels **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**
5.1.4	Hold community events, promote positive community cohesion and celebrate diversity. Explore the use of online methods for community groups in light of COVID-19 **Lead: Community Safety Partnership & Equalities Team**
5.1.5	Work collaboratively to support Pride events through the brand 'Proud Councils'. To demonstrate our commitment to the LGBTQI community and our workforce through the development of Proud Councils policies and practice across all local authorities who are involved with Proud Councils. **Lead: Equalities Team**

Outcome two – Improve awareness and outcomes of hate crimes	
	Actions:
5.2.1	Develop targeted activities to ensure victims and potential victims of hate crime are aware of reporting mechanisms and have awareness of the support services available to them in collaboration with South Wales Police and Victim Support **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**
5.2.2	Work with partners to arrange events and activities to promote Hate Crime Awareness week (October) **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**

Outcome three – To embrace Black History Month	
	Actions:
5.3.1	Embrace Black History Month (October) by working closely with schools, and by holding public events to highlight the reality of the negative impact of racial inequality and celebrate the contribution made by BAME communities to our local and national life as well as working with partner organsiation such as Awen Cultural Trust to promote and raise awareness of BAME activities such as The Paul Robeson exhibition **Lead: Equalities Team**

Outcome four – To improve awareness of how to report VAWDASV and the support available

	Actions:
5.4.1	Identify three annual campaigns and plan and deliver appropriate actions to maximise their impact to include: • Older persons • Learning disability • Male victims **Lead: Community Safety Partnership**

Protected Characteristics

Age	✓	Religion or belief	✓
Disability	✓	Sex	✓
Gender reassignment	✓	Sexual orientation	✓
Marriage or civil partnership		Race	✓
Pregnancy or maternity		Poverty	

Future Generations Act – 5 ways of working

Long Term		Prevention	✓
Integration	✓	Collaboration	✓
Involvement			

Corporate priorities

Supporting a successful sustainable economy	✓	Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient	✓
Smarter use of resources	✓		

Objective six - Participation

Encourage people and communities to participate and engage in issues that are important to them, and influence the decisions that affect their lives.

Outcome one – To improve participation in consultations	
	Actions:
6.1.1	Ensure people are appropriately represented in council consultations and engagement events, and can participate in the future design of council services **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**
6.1.2	Ensure all council consultations consider the development of an easy read and youth version dependent on the potential impact **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**
6.1.3	Review how the Citizens' Panel operates and its interface with relevant council decisions **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**
6.1.4	Include the Youth Council in consultations to ensure participation in the future design of council services **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**

Outcome two – To provide resources to staff to improve communication with the public	
	Actions:
6.2.1	Ensure resources are available to staff to assist them in providing information that is easy to understand and takes accounts of individuals' needs **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**

Outcome three – Improve community engagement with protected characteristic groups	
	Actions:
6.3.1	Strengthen our relationship with protected groups through attendance at forums and meetings to ensure people are included in and kept up to date in council activities **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**
6.3.2	Share all consultations with the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum, and where relevant provide face to face or online engagement opportunities for member organisations **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**

Outcome four – Promote community events and equality through the use of corporate social media	
	Actions:
6.4.1	Share information and promote events such as PRIDE Cymru, Black History Month, Holocaust Memorial Day, Hate Crime awareness month and others via our bi-lingual corporate social media channels **Lead: Consultation and Engagement Team**

Protected Characteristics

Age	✓	Religion or belief	✓
Disability	✓	Sex	✓
Gender reassignment	✓	Sexual orientation	✓
Marriage or civil partnership	✓	Race	✓
Pregnancy or maternity	✓	Poverty	✓

Future Generations Act – 5 ways of working

Long Term		Prevention	
Integration	✓	Collaboration	✓
Involvement	✓		

Corporate priorities

Supporting a successful sustainable economy	✓	Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient	✓
Smarter use of resources	✓		

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Equality Impact full assessment form

When complete, this form must be signed off and retained by the service area. The Full EIA should be recorded as complete on share point (your business manager has access to share point). Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the relevant cabinet report and therefore available publically on the website.

Equality impact full assessment form

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024
Date EIA Screening assessment completed:	02/03/2020
Full assessment date for completion (from EIA screening):	26/08/2020

At this stage you will need to re-visit your initial screening template to inform your consultation and refer to guidance notes on completing a full EIA

Consultation

	Method	**Action Points**
Who do you need to consult with (which equality groups)?	Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum Equality groups across the county borough Public consultation BCBC staff	Work with Equality groups to arrange suitable dates and times for engagement sessions Stakeholders identified and sent details of the consultation Citizens Panel workshop arranged Public engagement sessions scheduled, in collaboration with Awen.
How will you ensure your consultation is inclusive?	Full public consultation made available on BCBC website. Consultation shared with Equality groups through visits to groups, online and post.	The public consultation was made available in online and paper format in both Welsh and English. Made available on the BCBC corporate website

	The consultation used plain English to maximise understanding and encourage participation. The consultation was available in easy to read format to ensure accessibility to all user groups. To encourage engagement the consultation was available online or in paper format on request. Information about the consultation shared via local press as well as BCBC corporate social media channels. Public engagement sessions in libraries across the county borough. The consultation was shared with staff to encourage participation via Bridgenders.	and details of the consultation shared on corporate social media channels. Engagement workshops with Equality groups.

What consultation was carried out? **Consider any consultation activity already carried out, which may not have been specifically about equality but may have information you can use**	As well as the full public consultation engagement workshops were held with: • Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum • Citizens Panel members • Equality Groups • Public engagement workshops	

Record of consultation with people from equality groups

Group or persons consulted	Date/venue and number of people	Feedback/areas of concern raised	Action Points
Public engagement event	07/01/2020 Maesteg Library (4)	Attendees were given information about the consultation and either took paper copies away for completion at home (with return envelopes) or completed then as part of the engagement session.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
Public engagement event	09/01/2020 Pencoed Library (3)	Attendees were given information about the consultation and either took paper copies away for completion at home (with return envelopes) or completed then as part of the engagement session.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024

Public engagement event	13/01/2020 Bridgend Library (6)	Attendees were given information about the consultation and either took paper copies away for completion at home (with return envelopes) or completed then as part of the engagement session.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People	14/01/2020 St Johns, Minerva Street Bridgend (10)	Members of the coalition of Disabled people took part in the consultation using clicker pads, as well as discussion around the questions. Members suggested that they should continue to be involved in future consultations so that they can have their say on council services, ensuing that people with disabilities are included in decisions being made.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
SHOUT Bridgend	15/01/2020 Evergreen Hall (31)	Members of SHOUT Bridgend were given an overview of the consultation and were asked to complete paper copies of the survey within the session. Issues aware raised about the Olympage games and free swimming initiatives for over 50s, hoping that these events would be continued through the lifetime of the next SEP.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
Bridgend Carers Café	15/01/2020 Bridgend Carers Centre, Park Street (18)	All attendees were encourages to take part in the consultation, and were given an overview of the draft objectives. Some attendees completed the survey during the session while others chose to take it home for completion along with a return envelope.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
Citizens' Panel events	17/01/2020 Council Chamber (23)	Citizens' Panel members were given a presentation on the Equalities work carried out by the council, and were given a presentation by the Chairperson of the Bridgend Coalition of	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic

		Disabled People, Mr Simon Green, before taking part in a clicker pad session to complete the survey. Members were keen to get more involved in the work and future engagement sessions. Members welcomed the opportunity to debate the issues within the draft strategy.	Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum	20/01/2020 Vine Christian Centre, Bridgend (10)	All attendees at the Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equality Forum completed the survey using clicker pads. Members were asked to share details of the consultation with their organisations to encourage further participation.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
Young Carers group	20/01/2020 Compassion Church, Nolton Street (7)	All attendees were given an overview of the consultation and were given copies of the consultation and return envelopes to compete after the session.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
OAP group	3/01/2020, Evergreen Hall (28)	All attendees were given an overview of the consultation and then discussed the draft objectives in small groups facilitated by the consultation team. The OAP group were concerned about the move from Evergreen Hall and the impact this would have on the group.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
Public engagement event	01/02/2020 Porthcawl library (9)	Attendees were given information about the consultation and either took paper copies away for completion at home (with return envelopes) or completed then as part of the engagement session.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and

			action plan 2020-2024
Youth LGBTQ Forum	03/02/2020 YMCA, Bridgend (7)	All attendees were given an overview of the consultation and were given copies of the consultation and return envelopes to compete after the session.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
BridgeVis	07/02/2020 Evergreen Hall, (41)	All members participated in a presentation given an overview of the consultation and completed the survey in small groups, facilitated by members of the consultation team. Participants were keen to see the development of services available within the community for equality groups, and more access to give their views to the consultation team.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024
SHOUT Porthcawl	Paper copies posted	SHOUT Porthcawl chose to have paper copies posted to them as they were unable to facilitate the visit from the consultation team. Paper copies and return envelopes were posted to the chairperson for dissemination.	Consider feedback from participants on all proposals to produce Strategic Equality Plan and action plan 2020-2024

Assessment of Impact

Based on the data you have analysed, and the results of consultation or research, consider what the potential impact will be upon people with protected characteristics (negative or positive). Include any examples of how the policy helps to promote equality. If you do identify any adverse impact you **must seek legal advice as to whether, based on the evidence provided, an adverse impact is or is potentially discriminatory, and identify steps to mitigate any adverse impact – these actions will need to be included in your action plan.**

	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate

Sex/ Gender identity	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with benefits against this protected characteristic identified in all of our equality objectives.	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **all** of our equality objectives, including our work and education objectives.
Disability	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with explicit benefits people with disabilities within the county borough and our workforce.	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **all** of our equality objectives.
Race	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with explicit benefits to both BAME people within the county borough and our workforce.	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **all** of our equality objectives. The strategy has specific outcomes and actions linked the Black Lives Matter movement in order to demonstrate our commitment to tackling race inequality.
Religion and belief	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with benefits against this protected characteristic identified in five out of six of our equality objectives.	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **five out of six** of our equality objectives including our work, safety and education objectives.
Sexual Orientation	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with benefits against this protected characteristic identified in five out of six of our equality objectives.	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **five of our six** equality objectives including our safety and respect, work and education objectives and the development of staff networks within our

		health and wellbeing objective.
Age	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with explicit benefits to both younger people and older people identified throughout the plan.	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **all** of our equality objectives.
Pregnancy & Maternity	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with explicit benefits to people with this protected characteristic, with benefits against this characteristic identified in **three out of six** of our equality objectives within the strategy.	This strategy's commitment to improve the awareness of our staff of equality related issues through training and improving the governance and engagement process that surrounds equality related issues, will impact positively on how we are able to consider and deal with issues that relate to this protected characteristic.
Gender reassignment	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with explicit benefits against this characteristic identified in **five out of six** of our equality objectives within the strategy.	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **five out of six** of our equality objectives, including our work, safety and respect and education objectives.
Marriage and Civil partnership	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with benefits against this characteristic identified in **three out of six** of our equality objectives within the strategy.	This strategy's commitment to improve the awareness of our staff of equality related issues through training and improving the governance and engagement process that surrounds equality related issues, will impact positively on how we are able to consider and deal with issues that relate to this

		protected characteristic.
Welsh language	It is not anticipated that this plan will have a significant impact, either positively or negatively.	Any impact will continue to be monitored through the Welsh Language Strategy and Annual report produced to Cabinet Committee Equalities.

Equality Impact assessment Action Plan

It is essential that you now complete the action plan. Once your action plan is complete, please ensure that the actions are mainstreamed into the relevant Service Development Plan.

Action	Lead Person	Target for completion	Resources needed	Service Development plan for this action
Develop the Strategic Equality Plan for 2020-2024	**Nicola Bunston**	01/10/2020	Public consultation Work with service areas to develop actions following consultation Support workers to design SEP	Strategic Equality Plan
Develop the Strategic Equality Plan action plan for 2020-2024	**Nicola Bunston**	01/10/2020	Work with service areas to develop outcome focussed actions based on consultation feedback and Is Wales Fairer Report.	Strategic Equality Plan
Monitor the effectiveness of the action plan annually and report to Cabinet Committee Equalities	**Nicola Bunston**	Annually up to 2025	Equalities team to monitor outcomes and produce SEP annual report and annual action plan update to be presented to CCE.	Strategic Equality Plan

Please detail the name of the independent person (someone other than the person undertaking the EIA) countersigning this EIA below:

Countersigned:	Role:	Date:
Martin Morgans	**Head of Partnership Services**	**27/08/2020**

Please outline how and when this EIA will be monitored in future and when a review will take place (max. three years):

Monitoring arrangements:	Date of Review:
Annual monitoring of Strategic Equality Plan	**01/08/2023**

Details of person completing the Full EIA:

Name:	Role:	Date:
Nicola Bunston	**Consultation Engagement and Equalities Manager**	**26/08/2020**

Publication of a Full EIA and feedback to consultation groups

It is important that the results of this impact assessment are published in a user friendly accessible format.

It is also important that you feedback to your consultation groups with the actions that you are taking to address their concerns and to mitigate against any potential adverse impact.

When complete, this form must be signed off and retained by the service area. The Full EIA should be recorded as complete on share point (your business manager has access to share point). Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the relevant cabinet report and therefore available publically on the website.

If you have queries in relation to the use of this toolkit please contact the Equalities Team on 01656 643664 or equalities@bridgend.gov.uk

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WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 ASSESSMENT

Project Description (key aims): *Bridgend County Borough Council Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024* *Bridgend County Borough Council SEP action plan 2020-2024*	
Section 1	**Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.**
Long-term (The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)	**1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?**
	The Strategic Equality plan, in line with national guidance from EHRC and Welsh Government spans four years between 2020 and 2024. *The plan/action plan will be reported on annually to Cabinet Committee Equalities and made available to the public in order to demonstrate progress and achievements within the lifetime of the action plan.*
Prevention (How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)	**2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?**
	The Strategic Equality Plan seeks to work within the community to ensure that issues are identified and can be acted upon. *The Strategic Equality Plan supports the local authority to meet it's general Equality Duty:* • *Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;* • *Advance equality of opportunity and;* • *Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.*
Integration (Considering how the public body's	**3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?**

well-being objectives may impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)	*The Strategic Equality Plan and action plan ensure that a wide range of outcome focussed objectives and actions are delivered within the county borough and within the workforce to ensure equality of provision, and where relevant inequality identified so that this can be acted upon.*
Collaboration (Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives)	**4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?**
	The Strategic Equality Plan action plan outline show we will work in partnership with statutory organisations as well as third sector organisations to deliver effective equality outcomes.
Involvement (The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves)	**5. How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?**
	A public survey based on Bridgend County Borough Council's Draft Strategic Equality Objectives 2020-2024 was completed over a six week period between 23 December 2019 and the 9 February 2020. *The survey was available to complete online on the consultation page of the council's website and paper copies were made available upon request. The survey was available in English and Welsh and an accessible and easy read version was available in both languages. Residents could request a paper copy or another alternative format by telephone or email via the Consultation and Engagement Team.* *The purpose of this consultation was to outline the overarching objectives which will then enable BCBC to develop an action plan to support these objectives.* *The consultation received 647 responses from a combination of the consultation survey (424 survey responses), four public engagement events in libraries, one Citizens' Panel event and attendance at nine equality group meetings which included a total of 220 attendees and 3 social media comments.* *We will continue to work with equality groups, our workforce and stakeholders throughout the lifetime of this SEP and action plan to deliver effective equality outcomes*

Section 2	Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).	
Description of the Well-being goals	**How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?**	**Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?**
A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	*Outcomes and actions focus on developing, training and ensuring opportunities for our workforce as well as supporting our residents into employment.* *A focus on schools ensures that we are supporting our future workforce within the county brought to achieve their full potential.* *We will work towards objectives to identify and reduce pay gaps as well as the implementation of the national living wage.*	*The successful delivery of the Strategic Equality Objectives will support the wellbeing goals*
A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	*There is a focus on more resilient communities to ensure social and economic development during the lifetime of the Strategic Equality Plan.*	*The successful delivery of the Strategic Equality Objectives will support the wellbeing goals*
A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	*There is a focus on wellbeing across our communities and our workforce.*	*The successful delivery of the Strategic Equality Objectives will support the wellbeing goals*

A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).	*The introduction of the socio-economic duty and or commitment to identifying pay gaps will ensure that we work towards a more equal Wales*	*The successful delivery of the Strategic Equality Objectives will support the wellbeing goals*
A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	*The Community Safety Partnership objectives and community cohesion, and equalities teams ensure that we are working towards a more cohesive community*	*The successful delivery of the Strategic Equality Objectives will support the wellbeing goals*
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	*The Strategic Equality Plan supports the objectives of the welsh Language Strategy to ensure that we create a vibrant culture within Bridgend for all.*	*The successful delivery of the Strategic Equality Objectives will support the wellbeing goals*
A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	*There is a focus on more responsible communities to ensure social, economic and cultural wellbeing of all members of our communities and workforce during the lifetime of the Strategic Equality Plan.*	*The successful delivery of the Strategic Equality Objectives will support the wellbeing goals*

Section 3	**Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts**		
Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with explicit benefits to both younger people and older people identified throughout the plan.	*NA*	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **all** of our equality objectives.
Gender reassignment:	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with explicit benefits against this characteristic identified in **five out of six** of our equality objectives within the strategy.	*NA*	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **five out of six** of our equality objectives, including our work, safety and respect and education objectives.
Marriage or civil partnership:	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with benefits against this characteristic identified in **three out of six** of our equality objectives within the strategy.	*NA*	This strategy's commitment to improve the awareness of our staff of equality related issues through training and improving the governance and engagement process that surrounds equality related issues, will impact positively on how we are able to consider and deal with issues that relate to this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy or maternity:	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected	*NA*	This strategy's commitment to improve the awareness of our

	characteristic, with explicit benefits to people with this protected characteristic, with benefits against this characteristic identified in **three out of six** of our equality objectives within the strategy.		staff of equality related issues through training and improving the governance and engagement process that surrounds equality related issues, will impact positively on how we are able to consider and deal with issues that relate to this protected characteristic.
Race:	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with explicit benefits to both BAME people within the county borough and our workforce.	*NA*	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **all** of our equality objectives. The strategy has specific outcomes and actions linked the Black Lives Matter movement in order to demonstrate our commitment to tackling race inequality.
Religion or Belief:	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with benefits against this protected characteristic identified in five out of six of our equality objectives.	*NA*	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **five out of six** of our equality objectives including our work, safety and education objectives.
Sex:	This plan will have a positive impact against this protected characteristic, with benefits against this protected characteristic identified in all of our equality objectives.	*NA*	The strategy recognises explicit benefits to this protected characteristic within **all** of our equality objectives, including our work and education objectives.
Welsh Language:	It is not anticipated that this plan will have a significant impact, either positively or negatively.	*NA*	Any impact will continue to be monitored through the Welsh Language Strategy and Annual

			report produced to Cabinet Committee Equalities.

Section 4	Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers
Compiling Officers Name:	Nicola Bunston
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Consultation Engagement and Equalities Manager
Date completed:	21/08/2020

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

EPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN - OUR STRATEGIC 5 YEAR VISION

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To present to Cabinet the public consultation feedback for the draft Social Services and Wellbeing Service Delivery Plan – Our 5 Year Vision 2020 - 2025.

1.2 To seek approval from Cabinet for the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 Year Service Delivery Plan and Action Plan.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The draft Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 Year Service Delivery Plan (2020-2025) is building on the previous ten year Commissioning Strategy for Adult Social Care and the Children's Social Care 'Vision into Action, Better Outcomes for Children, Young People and their Families' document. These documents have provided essential strategic direction for Social Services and Wellbeing in Bridgend which have, in turn, informed the range of essential transformation programmes that have responded to increasing demand and financial pressures. The updated Service Delivery Plan (version 12.1) is attached as **Appendix 1**.

3.2 The population of Bridgend has been projected to be increasing for some time. Of particular concern are the changes in demographics to the older population

which are already being experienced. The 85 and over population is expected to double during the period 2013 to 2030 and the Authority is already experiencing extra demands on the Health and Social Care Services resulting from an increase in the over 85 population of 27% since 2013. Similarly, and in addition, services are continually required to develop to accommodate increasing numbers and complexity of children with disabilities including autism that also require transition planning as they approach adulthood.

3.3 The introduction of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) has also resulted in a significant change programme that has required a refocus of a range of services. The Act has two key policy objectives:

- To improve the wellbeing outcomes for people who need care and support and
- To reform social services law.

It seeks to:

- Transform the way in which social services are delivered, primarily through promoting people's independence and giving them a stronger voice and control;
- Promote partnership working in social care;
- Enhance the preventative role of social care and health, setting out overarching wellbeing duties to reduce or delay the need for care and support.

3.4 The combined challenge of increasing demand resulting from changes to population and reducing budgets has been addressed by the Directorate Re-modelling and Service Transformation Programmes. The Programme has introduced new ways of working and developed greater wellbeing and preventative services that has helped to manage the overall demand for statutory services and long term care.

3.5 Despite the significant changes to service delivery across Adults and Children's Social Care, the desire and challenge to improve services remains as a constant. Therefore the 5 Year Service Delivery Plan has been developed so that it continues the journey of change set out for Social Care in Bridgend and also and also focusses on future transformation and service delivery requirements.

3.6 However whilst the COVID-19 Pandemic will not necessarily impact on the desired changes required set out in this document, the ongoing disruption caused by COVID-19 could well impact on anticipated timelines as new services may need to be prioritised to deal with the ongoing challenges

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The draft Service Delivery Plan was presented to the Council's Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 13th February 2020. The Committee raised some notable observations that have since been added to the Service Delivery Plan:

- Action Plan (section 6.1 Delivery Action Plan) has been developed further;
- There was a need to ensure the development of cooperatives in Social Care to provide services such as direct payments was more evident
- Better communication with Town and Community Councils was suggested in relation to the Well-being agenda to ensure opportunities to develop joint approaches to relevant areas could be identified

4.2 The draft Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 Year Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025 consultation was launched on 9 March 2020 and was coordinated by the Council's Consultation and Engagement Department. A summary of the Service Delivery Plan was created and a survey was developed that consisted of 11 questions.

4.3 The survey was available to complete online via an emailed link or paper copy sent to Citizens' Panel members whose survey choice is paper. The Council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey. Surveys were available in English and Welsh as well as a large print version in both languages.

4.4 The survey was also sent to all 1,401 Citizens' Panel members in the format of their choice, and to 170 stakeholder groups identified by the Social Services and Wellbeing team via an email link. BAVO also shared the consultation with their stakeholders in order to gain feedback on the Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025.

4.5 In addition five community meetings were arranged during April to enable stakeholders and Citizens' Panel members to meet and share their views with senior members of the Social Services and Wellbeing team throughout the live period. However as a result of the social distancing restrictions in place due to COVID-19 the events had to be cancelled.

4.6 The survey received 297 responses through a combination of online and paper surveys. The social demographic data of the Citizens' Panel reflects a good cross section of the county borough's population, all respondents lived in the county borough.

4.7 A sample of 297 survey completions is subject to a maximum standard error of ±5.681 at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, the Service can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within ±5.681% of the percentages reported. This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 44.319% and 56.681%.

4.8 The data collection methods, which include the online survey, a paper survey and large print survey, were all developed using plain English to maximise understanding. These response methods were designed to give a consistency to the survey across multiple platforms.

4.9 The "headlines" from the survey respondents are:

- Overall 67% of respondents agreed that the structure of the Service Delivery Plan provided a good understanding of the Directorate as a whole. 56% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 11% strongly agreed;

- Overall 76% of respondents agreed that the developments within Children Social Care Services would assist the Council to improve the current support provision available. 58% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 18% strongly agreed;
- Overall 67% of respondents agreed that the developments within Transition Services would assist the Council to improve the current support provision available. 52% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 15% strongly agreed;
- Overall 77% of respondents agreed that the developments within Adult Social Care Services would assist the Council to improve the current support provision available. 56% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 21% strongly agreed;
- Overall 72% of respondents agreed that the developments within Transition Services would assist the Council to improve the current support provision available. 54% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 18% strongly agreed.

4.10 The communication and engagement process has provided feedback that suggests overwhelming acceptance that the Service Delivery Plan delivers a range of ambitions that will deliver service improvements by the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.

4.11 Following this Consultation process, a report has been developed that provides the findings from the feedback and the report is attached as **Appendix 2**.

4.12 In addition, the Service Delivery Plan document has been amended to take on board the feedback from the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee which has resulted in additional amendments to the Service Delivery Plan which is presented to Cabinet for approval. The document was also discussed at the Cabinet Corporate Management Board (CCMB) meeting held on 4th August 2020 where a range of feedback was provided and has resulted in additional amendments to the document.

4.13 The Service Delivery Plan was originally drafted in readiness for the consultation process in 2019-20, however the impact of COVID-19 has delayed the progression of the report and as a consequence, many of the financial figures in the plan are based on 2019-20 figures and not the projections from the current financial year, 2020-21. The figures will be updated accordingly prior to the Service Delivery Plan being published.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising directly from this report. However equality impact assessments will be undertaken as services are developed or changed in future.

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

7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA), 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. By promoting 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.

7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- Long Term – Social Services is demand led and the SSWBA focusses on sustainable prevention and wellbeing outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of rising demographics and increasing complexity, the remodeling and transformation of services continues to be a priority.
- Prevention – the report is about the new approaches adopted by the Directorate in line with the SSWBA, for example, the provision of information, advice and assistance to enable people to remain independent for as long as possible. This will ensure that need is anticipated and resources can be more effectively directed to better manage demand.
- Integration – the implementation of the SSWBA requires local authorities to work with partners, particularly the NHS and the Police, to ensure care and support for people and support for carers is provided. The report evidences work with the Third Sector, enabling people to remain linked to communities, and work with young people to enable access to employment.
- Collaboration – The collaborative approaches described in the report, are managed and monitored through various remodelling and collaborative boards, for example, the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Partnership Board where there is cross sector stakeholder representation at both political and officer level. The strategic planning and local delivery of integrated support and services are developed and agreed at a regional basis in order to provide the best possible intervention to people.
- Involvement – the key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

8. Financial implications

8.1 To develop the range of services identified as "What else we need to do" will be challenging and may be constrained by available resources and therefore where

possible, there will be a need to utilise either grant or core funding. The report also highlights service areas which are facing financial pressures, at a time of shrinking resources, and increasing demand including supporting people with increased complex needs and the changing demographics of the population of Bridgend County Borough. The Service Delivery plan sets out the future ambition to continue to improve the delivery of social care services for the citizens of the County Borough, and will inform the discussions on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- notes the feedback provided by the communication and engagement exercise that considered the content and ambition of the Service Delivery Plan as a vision of service improvement;
- approves the Service Delivery Plan Our Strategic 5 Year Vision 2020 – 2025 as an appropriate strategic document that sets out the Council's intentions for service improvement for the services provided and commissioned by the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate;
- delegate authority to the Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing to make any amendments required to the Plan in relation to the financial figures for 2020/21 prior to publication

Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
September 2020

Contact officer
Stephen Davies
Tel: 01656 642091
Email: stephen.davies@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: **Bridgend County Borough Council,** Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend. CF31 4WB

Background documents:
None

SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING DIRECTORATE
SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN
OUR STRATEGIC 5 YEAR VISION 2020 – 2025
CONTINUING TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY IN BRIDGEND IN THE 21ST CENTURY

PLANNING SERVICES FOR FUTURE NEED

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Executive Summary

This Service Delivery Plan sets out a five year strategy for the Council's Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. Whilst identifying future intentions to improve a wide range of services, the plan also identifies what has been achieved to date recognising that despite increasing service pressures and reducing budgets, the Council has been able to transform services that have delivered more effective services that are in line with changes to legislative requirements.

Since the Service Delivery Plan has been drafted and consulted upon, the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted on the way that the Council would normally deliver a wide range of services. The pandemic has challenged the Council and has required significant flexibility in response from our in-house and commissioned services for Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. It was evident during this period that the Council has robust partnership arrangements with other statutory organisations, with our provider services and with the Third sector, and provides real evidence that our services are durable and able to respond effectively to very challenging situations.

At the time of finalising this document and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council are in the process of establishing a Recovery Plan for Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate to reflect the "new normal" that will have to accommodate the ongoing challenges of COVID-19. It is not anticipated that this will impact on the desired service changes set out in this document, but the ongoing disruption caused by COVID-19 could well interfere with anticipated timelines, as new services may need to be prioritised to deal with the ongoing challenges.

In September 2009, Bridgend County Borough Council Cabinet endorsed a ten year Commissioning Strategy for Adult Social Care that presented its intentions to redesign and commission services that supported Adults in need of social care services. These intentions preceded the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014) which brought in itself a range of significant changes to expectations that require local authorities across Wales to change its traditional ways of working.

The "Act" emphasised collaboration and co-production and the importance of working with individuals to achieve personal outcomes and having a range of preventative services including the promotion of Well-being activities and services that delays and prevents the need for care and support. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act is all

embracing and inclusive of adults and children and therefore , it is an opportune time to refresh and set out the commissioning intentions for both Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care and ensure that the contribution of Well-being services remains relevant in future.
This document identifies that the transformation of services has been extensive and has been achieved through the implementation of effective programme management arrangements. Transformation can be delivered even in the most challenging of circumstances that include increasing demands and reducing budgets. The following are a summary of some of the key changes that have been achieved:

- In Children's social care, there has been a real increase in the range of "Universal, Additional and Vulnerable" services that assist with supporting children and their families to prevent their circumstances deteriorating and becoming more complex. In addition for those children that require "complex" care and in need of support for acute services, much has been done particularly in Residential Care where in-house residential services have been reconfigured so that they now operate as "hubs" targeting a range of services that better support complex needs.
- To assist the families, children and young people who are transitioning from children's social care services into Adulthood, Transition services are being developed improving services so that children in "transition" will receive effective joint care and support planning that ensures as minimal disruption as possible.
- The 2010 Commissioning document for Adult Social Care, set out a vast range of service change much of which has been progressed. This has reduced the dependency on traditional services such as domiciliary care, day services and Residential Care by the development of a range of essential preventative services that are provided by the Council's Community Resource Team. In addition the development of community based services and the introduction of new services like Extra Care housing are providing real and preferred alternatives to Residential Care which is providing more "choice" and control.
- The increasing importance of Wellbeing services has resulted in the contribution of targeted preventative service and the development of community resilience which are considered a major contributor to the Social Care and Wellbeing ambitions of the Council.

Despite these and many more successes flagged up by this document, this Service Delivery Plan also identifies that the ambition to deliver

improved and more relevant services is ongoing. Therefore by identifying "what else we need to do" this document sets out a range of ambitions over the next five years. But the backdrop of ongoing budget pressures and projected population changes means that service development will in future have to continue to be carefully managed and prioritised to ensure that the citizens of Bridgend are provided services that are appropriate and offer choice.

This will present challenges to the Council and its services, many of which will be overcome by working collaboratively with our partners that include the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board, partner local authorities, third sector and independent providers.

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Introduction

In September 2009, Bridgend CBC endorsed a ten year strategy for its Adult Social Care services that set out its commissioning intentions from 2010 until 2020. The Commissioning strategy was forward thinking and presented a direction for services that was intended to be sustainable and to accommodate the projected increases in population, for older people in particular, and set out a vision for essential changes to service delivery that has assisted the council to withstand the challenge of considerable increasing pressures.

It is now timely that those commissioning intentions are reviewed and extended to include in addition to Adult Social Care, the Council's Children's Social Care and Wellbeing Services. It is important to emphasise that the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales Act) national emphasis on collaboration and co-production means that any service changes delivered in future will, where appropriate, be achieved with Regional partners including the Health Board, Third Sector and Independent providers of service.

It is vitally important that the role of Social Services is designed to support not only the vulnerable with Long Term services but to also assist with assisting people maximise their independence and maintain their "wellness". Therefore the Council will also take seriously the expectations that it will work closely with the Health Board to develop joint services that supports the prevention of unnecessary hospital admissions and can assist earlier hospital discharge

The Act requires local authorities to make significant changes to the way that social services are planned, designed, commissioned and delivered. The National Commissioning Board for Health and Social Care in Wales has emphasised that *"commissioning social care is much more than councils organising and buying services. It is about how councils, the NHS and other providers anticipate change, plan services to meet future demands and make effective use of the money available"*. This statement evidences that whilst the commissioning of services has a role in the provision of essential services, it can no longer be the only method of ensuring the range of required services are available. The Act requires local authorities to work collaboratively and coherently with partners such as Health Boards and the Third Sector to ensure services are designed and developed effectively and ensure good value for money.

The creation of designated Regions in Wales to improve the wellbeing of Children, and Adults with care and support needs is a prominent theme presented by the Act which also specifies the need to undertake Regional Population Needs assessments that identifies regional priorities that inform a Regional "Area Plan". The move of Bridgend from the former Western Bay to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region in 2019, was inevitably

going to disrupt the authority's regional working arrangements in the short term, but nevertheless the value and importance of regional working and its ability to commission services collaboratively must continue to be embraced and extended as appropriate, and therefore must feature in future Service Delivery Plans.

The Act emphasises that local authorities must extend its service delivery to include preventative services, and the promotion of Well-being activities and services, in order that this delays and prevents the need for care and support. In addition the Act stresses the need for local authorities to treat carers as equals to those being cared for in addition to introducing new and additional service responsibilities such as Advocacy and Secure Estate. The Act makes clear the responsibility for the social care of adults in the secure estate in Wales rests with the local authority within which that secure estate facility is located. This means that with these expectations, Bridgend CBC acquired additional responsibility for HMP Parc Prison which also needs to be considered in future planning and commissioning of services.

Working with individuals to ensure services support the achievement of personal outcomes is one of the key changes required by the Act. The Act also highlights the importance and contribution of "untapped resources" that are available from individuals and communities and leads to identification of the importance of services being planned and commissioned in a co-productive way.

Such statutory changes have imposed on local authorities the need to plan future commissioning of Social Care carefully and to recognise and respond to the challenges set out by the Act and to ensure that services are designed to maintain and support Well-being, Independence, Person Centred Planning and Voice and Control. It is also expected that such service delivery cannot be achieved in isolation and requires the Directorate and its services to work collectively, closer with other Council services to ensure that service strategies are informed and aligned, and in collaboration with other partners such as the Health Board and regional partners.

This document therefore sets out for Bridgend Social Care its service delivery intentions for both Adults and Children's Social Care and how these services will be underpinned by the provision of targeted Well-being services, designed to support independence and choice. Inevitably this document will present information that has previously been reported in the Director of Social Services Annual Council Reporting Framework reports, which report progress on a yearly basis, and it is intended that progress will continue to be reported via this mechanism in future.

For Adult Social Care, this document will take into account the intended actions in the 2010 Commissioning document, identify progress made and what else needs to be achieved. The document will also provide a

service vision for Children Social Care that will identify its current position and future direction and to identify opportunities of how the Directorate as a whole can work cohesively both within the Directorate and across the Council in addition to partner organisations.
In summary this document will provide the Service Delivery Plan for how Social Care in Bridgend continues to transform its service design so that it maintains its ambition to deliver quality services against a backdrop of increasing financial pressures and cumulative challenges posed by increases to population and complexity of need.

Corporate Context

Bridgend County Borough Council has a number of key principles that underpin the way that it delivers its range of services. The Council has developed a vision which is to act as "One Council working together to improve lives" is fundamental to how the council wants to deliver services that benefit the citizens of the County Borough. In recognition that services are better delivered in collaboration, the Council also highlights the importance of working in partnership with our citizens, our communities and with other organisations to develop and deliver sustainable services.
Within these principles, we have embedded the principle of Sustainable Development, aligned to the five ways of working, as expressed in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The five Ways of Working are:

- Long Term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

The Council also has developed values that represent what we stand for and shape how it works these are:

Fair - taking into account everyone's needs and situation
Ambitious - always trying to improve what we do and aiming for excellence
Citizen-focused - remembering that we are here to serve our local communities
Efficient - delivering services that are value for money

Amongst the pressures arising from increased demand and reduced resources, the Council's ambition is to have a clear focus on what are national priorities set for Wales and for our communities in Bridgend, both for now and in the future. To support this ambition, the Council has

adopted three Well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act which are:

1. Supporting a successful sustainable economy –. taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

2. Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. Smarter use of resources – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

The production of this Social Services and Wellbeing Service Delivery Plan is deemed to be good practice by the council as it ensures that the delivery of service change is in line with corporate objectives. Therefore the corporate objectives are central to the themes of this Service Delivery Plan. This plan will confirm that with the increasing service demand and increasing budget pressures, has required the Council to deliver more service for less resource, which has to continue into the future, in order that resources are utilised to continue to support the increasing demand. This Service Delivery Plan also confirms the need for the Council to work together both internally across services and departments, and in addition to working collaboratively with other partner agencies that include the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board, other local authorities, and the Third Sector and Independent Provider of Services.

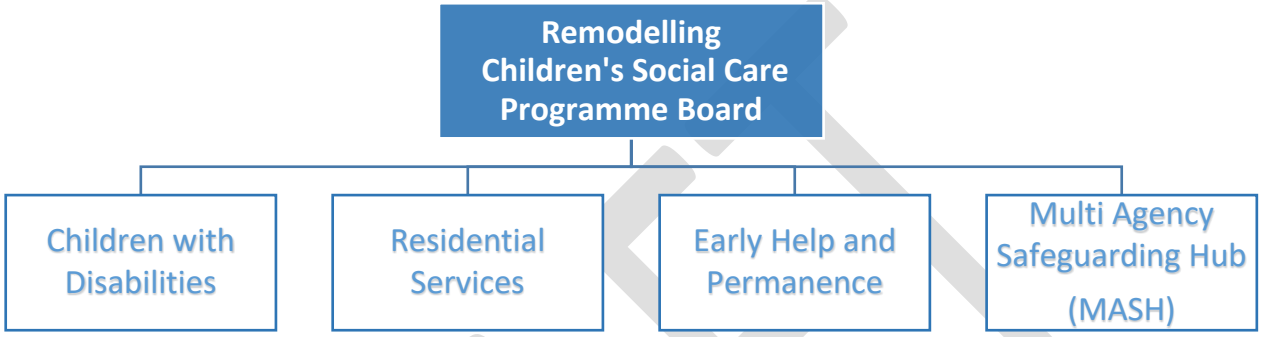
Background

The ten year plan for Adult Social Care created in 2010 provided the blueprint for how Adult Social Care Services would need to be delivered to meet expected changing demands. In 2015, the Council formed the Social Services and Well-being Directorate which reunited Adults and Children Social Care Services in the same Directorate. Since this time, the Directorate in 2016 launched the "Vision into Action" strategy that set

out the Vision for Children's Social Care to enable "better outcomes for children, young people and their families".
The Adult Social Care document led to the creation of the Remodelling of Adult Social Care programme(s) which has resulted in the transformation of Adult Social Care services which since 2011 has delivered significant reshaping of Adult Social Care. This has included the development of evolving models of integrated working including the creation of the acclaimed Community Resource Team and Community Integrated Hubs with the former ABMU Health Board. Such models have been designed to provide prescribed intervention that enables intensive support for a managed period that support achievement of personal outcomes and independence that have successfully reduced the dependence on long term services that require recurring costs.
This programme has also accommodated the requirements and expectations of the Act and there is significant evidence to show how Bridgend Council has embraced the prevention agenda. Even prior to the introduction of the Act, Bridgend had developed an agreement to work in partnership with an external provider (Halo Leisure) to modernise its Leisure services in 2012, and similarly its cultural services including Libraries were developed by creating a partnership with Awen Cultural Trust in 2015.
It was these changes that made way for the Social Services and Well-being Directorate and the inclusion of Healthy Living Services that also has contractual monitoring of both Awen and Halo. This strategic decision has resulted in the Council, creating excellent working arrangements with both Halo and Awen that has enabled these providers to offer flexibility in the way that they have shaped and delivered service arrangements. The prevention and wellbeing focus within the Council has allowed the assets such as community centres and the services that they can deliver to be aligned to desired wellbeing outcomes. This would include the Ageing Well plan for Bridgend, Active Bridgend and Building Resilient Communities programmes which have helped refocus service delivery and re-design of service model that are delivered jointly and delivered in partnership with Halo and Awen Cultural Trust. This has seen the transformation of the former Leisure Centres and other related services, so that they are better able to meet the needs of the unfit as well as the fit. Such developments can be directly aligned to the principles of the Act, in particular the need for preventative services that create community resilience.
The Children Social Care "Vision For Action" paper set out the vision for Children Services which was: 'Together enabling better outcomes for children, young people and their families via responsive and timely services which support them to live together, work on difficulties and be safe'. This vision was developed by service managers and shaped by

operational and front line staff and was designed to underpin a whole service ambition and approach and resulted in a Transformation programme that continues to Re-model Children Services. The Transformation programme was based on the delivery of four key priorities that are set out in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Children Services Remodelling Programme



Social Services is largely a demand led service and whilst the long term strategy is to enable people to be more self-reliant, the demographics show that people are living longer, often with more complex conditions than ever before. This means that there are increasing numbers of older people living in the community who would previously have remained in hospital or entered a care home. Similarly Children's social care is also challenged by the need for some children and young people to become "Looked After" which requires careful management and decision making of individual cases that can result in adding to financial pressures that can fluctuate very rapidly.

Within the Directorate, there is a strong culture of professional social care and there is an emphasis on ensuring positive outcomes for those people we work to support. The Council continually strives to develop new approaches to service delivery that promotes better support and outcomes for prevention, early intervention and wellbeing. This approach supports the Council's corporate priority of 'helping people be more self-reliant' and is also part of the Directorate's transformation plan in Adults with a clear link to the Council's medium term financial strategy.

How this Commissioning Plan is Set Out

The ambitions of this document are informed by key national and local strategic policy drivers that underpin our objectives, outcomes and priorities. The Remodelling Plan is divided into four distinct Parts. This will assist those using the document to ensure that they are provided the

relevant information most appropriate to them. To this end, the plan can be considered as a whole or each part can stand alone. It comprises of:

1. Setting the Scene
2. Children's services
3. Transition Services – Children to Adulthood
4. Adult Social Care Services
5. Well-being Services
6. Delivery Action Plan

This document is aimed at our stakeholders which includes Elected Members, staff, providers and people who use services, carers, professionals and partners, but can also be made available electronically to any interested person.

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SECTION 1: Setting the Scene

1.1 Challenges

1.1.1 Population Changes

The Welsh Local Government Association have previously identified that:

- Our rapidly ageing population means that the number of older people was estimated to outstrip the number of working age family members as early as 2017
- More people born with disabilities are surviving into adulthood and later life
- Many more people are surviving serious illness such as cancer or stroke and those living with long term conditions increases demands for health and care services
- Across the UK, there are 1.87 million people employed in the care sector and 70% of people have personal or immediate family experience of using care services
- The number of people with dementia is projected to increase rapidly. The Alzheimer's Research UK is predicting that the numbers of people with dementia will rise by up to 35% by 2025 and 146% by 2050.

People with dementia tend to want to stay in their own homes and retain as much independence as possible. This increases the demands on carers, the numbers of which are expected to be aligned to the increases in cases of dementia. Largely due to people living longer, the population in Wales is expected to continue to increase. In 2016, 1 in 5 people were aged 65 and over and by 2039, the figure is expected to increase to 1 in 4. This predicted change represents a 40% increase for the over 65 population, however for 85 and over the population increase by 2039 is expected to be 137%.

At a Bridgend level, the current predictions are that from 2017 to 2025, the overall Adult population is expected to increase by 7.6% (see Figure 2 below). However the population changes for older people presents more challenges. By 2025 the over 65 population is expected to increase by 16% and the numbers of over 85 population is expected to increase by 39%.

In 2017 Bridgend provided services to more than three quarters of the over 85 population. Taking into account the short term prediction for Bridgend, if the proportion of over 85 population requiring services continues, then we should expect the demand for services to increase from 2,850 people (in 2017) to nearly 4,000 by 2025.

Whilst the predicted rise in population in Bridgend is significant, the continuation of the increasing trend as predicted for Wales is of more significance. Assuming that the All Wales increase in the over 85 population of 137% by 2039 is applicable to Bridgend, then it should be expected that the numbers of people receiving services will increase by a similar level which would result in an increase to current packages of care to be in excess of 6500 for the 85+ population.

These population projections should expect to continue to increase pressures on Adult Social Care and underlines the need for the Council to continually review its commissioning and design of service provision in order that it can maximise the available capacity to overcome such significant challenges.

Figure 2: Population changes in Bridgend during 2013 – 2030

The projected increase for the over 85 population poses significant challenges ahead

	2013	2015	2017	2020	2025	2030
People aged 0- 18	28,979	29,117	29,280	29,760	30,130	28,120
People aged 18-24	11,310	11,010	10,520	9,950	9,380	9,950
People aged 25-34	17,460	17,710	18,120	18,170	17,410	16,030
People aged 35-44	18,350	17,920	17,300	17,350	18,470	18,940
People aged 45-54	20,720	20,980	21,160	20,210	18,290	17,750
People aged 55-64	17,350	17,610	18,230	19,510	20,800	20,100
People aged 65-69	8,420	8,720	8,520	8,170	8,800	10,050
People aged 70-74	6,530	6,880	7,540	8,140	7,680	8,300
People aged 75-79	5,070	5,330	5,550	6,070	7,260	6,900
People aged 80-84	3,520	3,690	3,880	4,290	4,980	6,040
People aged 85 and over	3,170	3,340	3,620	4,030	5,040	6,310
Total population aged 18 and over	**140,879**	**142,307**	**143,720**	**145,650**	**148,240**	**148,490**

Sourced by BCBC Residential and Nursing Care Homes Market Position Statement (June 2017)

Due to the longevity of these anticipated population changes, the challenges will severely test Bridgend and all Local Authorities across Wales to respond to the changing population landscape. The increase to the over 65 population and in particular the 85+ presents an expected and unprecedented increase in demand on Social Care services. This underlines the need to create support and services that promotes and maximises independence in order that the provision of longer term support is targeted to those in most need and when needed. Whilst this ambition is in line with the existing strategic design of services, the pressures of demand and other challenges creates an increasingly difficult situation that will continuously challenge the council to manage.

Another aspect of the figures presented in Figure 2 is that the trend indicates that between 2017 and 2025 it is anticipated that the numbers of 18 – 64 year olds will reduce by 3%. This reduction could impact on the numbers of available people to

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be employed in the care industry which would also impact on all providers (Local Authority, Third Sector and Independent Sector) of care. This will require the Council to consider how it can work with the independent and Third Sector providers of services to ensure that their workforce is appropriate to meet the expected increases in demands.

1.1.2 Financial Pressures

In 2019/20, the total net budget for Social Services and Well-being Directorate is £71 million. This is broken down to:

Adult Social Care	£47m
Children's Social Care	£19m
Well-being & Prevention	£5m

Since 2014/15, the Social Services and Well-being Directorate have experienced total budget savings of nearly £14 million as set out below:

Budget Reductions 2014/15 - 2019/20	**£'000**
Older Persons Services	2,818
Learning Disabilities Services	2,265
Physical Disabilities Services	64
Mental Health Services	247
Day Services - OP / LD / MH / PD	341
Assessment Framework - OP / LD / MH / PD	2,363
Fairer Charging & other income increases	845
Management & Admin Staff Related	1,777
AWEN & HALO related savings	1,840
Children's Services	1,287
	13,847

These savings represent in the region of a 20% budget reduction of the current £71 million budget, and whilst the budget settlement for Bridgend Council in 2020/21 is better than originally expected, the settlement for future years is uncertain and therefore the pressures on Social Services and the Well-being Directorate could well continue. It is important to emphasise that these financial pressures have been achieved whilst responding to the increasing demands due to population changes that are already being experienced in Bridgend. This in part has been achieved by both Adults and Childrens Social Care having received considerable funding through Welsh Government Grants such as the Integrated Care Fund. In summary Bridgend has since 2015/16, received an increase in grant funding from £2.04 million to £5.14 million in 2018/19 which represents an increase of more than 250% which whilst presents a notable and needed increase, it does not replace the overall reduction of nearly £14 million since 2014/15. Such a deficit in funding creates inevitable difficulties to sustain service transformation and therefore the Directorate has become over reliant on non-recurring and short term

grants to deliver care services. This trend and provision of funding has been achieved through the collaborative working that Bridgend has achieved in working successfully with the former Western Bay Region and sets a determination to continue this success in the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region.

These budget reductions whilst challenging are particularly significant when aligned to the population changes that are already increasing service pressures. Closer analysis of Figure 2 will show that the over 85 population in Bridgend will have increased from 3,170 in 2013 to 4,030 in 2020. This increase presents a 27% increase in a population group that is particularly dependent on social care services and will inevitably result in the creation of additional demand. This has required the Council to meet the increasing demand whilst managing reducing budgets and this would not have been achieved without the development of new ways of working. These combined pressures have driven the Directorate to increase the value of outcomes for every pound spent, but even so, there is more that is expected to be achieved.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy anticipates that there are further budget reductions expected to be made by the Council over the next four Financial Years (2021 - 22 to 2023 – 24) that could require the Social Services and Well-being Directorate to make further budget reductions as set out below in Figure 3:

Figure 3: Medium Term Financial Strategy

Over the forthcoming financial years, the Social Services and Well-being Directorate could be expected to save in the region of a further nine million pounds

	2019-20	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**TOTAL**
Anticipated Corporate **Savings**	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	**£'000**
Best Scenario	**7,621**	**9,773**	**7,584**	**7,398**	**32,376**
Most Likely **Scenario**	**7,621**	**10,732**	**8,519**	**8,309**	**35,181**
Worst Scenario	**7,621**	**13,609**	**11,267**	**10,932**	**43,429**
In 2019/20, the Social Services and Wellbeing *Directorate were allocated 28% of the corporate savings. The following calculation uses the 28% as a proxy figure of the "most likely scenario"*					

Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate Potential savings	**2134**	**3005**	**2385**	**2327**	**9851**

In addition, the Welsh Local Government Association have identified additional financial concerns that will impact on Social Care across Wales. These include:

- It is estimated that local government in Wales is already facing a cumulative shortfall of £750 million in social services funding in 2019-20.
- Budget pressures in social care are rising as social care services are heavily concentrated on Older People and the population with learning disabilities.
- Growing pressures on social services includes increasing demand for complex services linked to demographic change and the National Living Wage.
- Latest figures reveal that dementia, including Alzheimer's disease has overtaken heart disease as the leading cause of death in England and Wales.
- In the WLGA submission to the Finance Committee's inquiry on the Welsh Government's draft budget proposals, it was estimated that inflation for the whole of Local Authority services is running at close to 6% over the period to 2019-20.
- CSSIW's Domiciliary Care Review in Wales, published October 2016, highlighted the fragility of the social care market and concluded that current approaches are unsustainable.
- Public and private expenditure on care services is worth more than £30 billion per annum across the UK
- There are rising costs for employers at a time when budgets are shrinking, requiring more efficiencies and greater productivity
- New technologies are changing the way in which some care is delivered – e.g. telecare. However new service delivery models requires a greater degree of multi-disciplinary working with an emphasis on independent living skills

1.1.3 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

1.1.3.1 The Impact of the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into force on 6 April 2016. The Act provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, and carers who need support, and ultimately for transforming the delivery of Social Care in Wales.

The White Paper, Sustainable Social Services for Wales: A Framework For Action, published in 2011, highlighted a number of challenges faced by public services in Wales. These included demographic changes, increased expectations from those who access care and support as well as continuing hard economic realities.

The Act aims to address these issues and in doing so will give people greater freedom to decide which services they need while promoting consistent, high-quality services across the country. The intent of the Act is that it will transform the way social services are delivered, promoting people's independence to give them stronger voice and control.

The fundamental principles of the Act are:

Voice and control – putting the individual and their needs, at the centre of their care, and giving them a voice in, and control over reaching the outcomes that help them achieve well-being.

Prevention and early intervention – increasing preventative services within the community to minimise the escalation of critical need.

Well-being – supporting people to achieve their own well-being and measuring the success of care and support.

Co-production – encouraging individuals to become more involved in the design and delivery of services.

The Act is constructed around a number of Codes of Practices that are designed to help people and organisations understand how the requirements of the Act should be implemented. For Local Authorities the Codes of Practice provide guidance as to how they must act when exercising their social services functions.

Such requirements have caused Bridgend and all other Local Authorities across Wales to redesign their traditional behaviours regarding social services and to transform the delivery of care to be more outcome focussed and person centred and also promote Well-Being and preventative services. The Act therefore required the introduction of new ways of working that have raised expectations as to how Social Care practice is delivered which have required significant changes to care management processes.

1.1.3.2 Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA)

At the heart of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act is the need to improve service quality and to strengthen protections for those who need it, and therefore ensure services deliver high quality care and support. The Act therefore made way for changes to the Registration and Inspection of Social Care (RISCA) which were introduced in 2018 for care homes, children's homes, domiciliary care, residential family centres and secure accommodation. For other services that include fostering, adoption, adult placement and advocacy services, new regulations came into effect in April 2019.

RISCA has introduced a new level of registration and inspection to providers of services which whilst is designed to improve the quality of services provided, has also introduced increased expectations on providers of social care services by introducing new workforce regulations, training and qualification requirements in addition to market stability and financial assessment provisions which have inevitably introduced financial implications. Under RISCA a provider must register to provide any service which is regulated by the Act and a single registration will contain all the details of the types of service and the details of the locations where the service(s) is provided. By April 2022, the majority of the social care workforce (including residential care home workers and domiciliary care workers (required by April 2020)) will be governed by the new RISCA framework.

Such registration also requires that social care workers "are appropriately qualified" and Social Care Wales has set out training and qualification requirements for each category of social care worker. Therefore social care workers will be required to hold a listed qualification in order to register with Social Care Wales, which will also require a fee for registration.

The impact of associated fees and associated qualifications relating to the independent providers of domiciliary care and care home provision will need to be negotiated for future contracts, but will add additional costs to both the independent providers and in-house services and therefore add costs to the overall commissioning of services.

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1.1.3.3 Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales and has to be considered as part of any future planning for Social Care. The overarching aim of the Act is to address the future challenges that are recognised as being relevant to Wales such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities and jobs and growth. The ambition of this Act is for the collective Public Sector to work together to tackle the challenges by considering the Long Term impact of its decisions and has required the creation of Public Service Boards across Wales.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 has established seven wellbeing goals that focus on increasing prosperity, resilience, health, equality, cohesion, global responsibility, culture and Welsh language. The principles that underpin this Act include long term sustainability and developing the connectivity between organisations, services and resources, and support the case for prevention and wellbeing approaches. This Act identifies the five ways of working being long term, prevention, integration, collaboration and involvement, which are familiar themes within the Social Services and Well-being Act.

The Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act has a much broader view on the Public Sector than the Social Services and Well-being Directorate, nevertheless, there are overlaps such as the prevention agenda between the two acts. This raises the expectations that Public Service Boards and Regional Partnership Boards should work closer together, which could influence the priorities and delivery of social services in future.

The Bridgend Public Service Board is founded on partnership working that has led to the development of the Bridgend Well-being plan. The plan recognises the importance of working collaboratively as a long term commitment to preventing the underlying causes of problems or reducing their escalation in an integrated and collaborative manner. The plan identifies the importance of social wellbeing and the value placed by local people on being connected within communities. It confirms the need to develop age friendly communities based on demographic changes and also identifies, the negative impact that some experiences can have from early life throughout the life course, and points to the use of social prescribing opportunities to signpost people to support networks. There are 4 key objectives being: best start in life; to support communities in Bridgend to be safe and cohesive; to reduce social and economic inequalities; and to support healthy choices in a healthy environment.

The Bridgend Public Service Board has established a range of work streams to support the delivery of these outcomes.

1.1.4 Regional Working

Part 9 of the Act set out the requirements of regional working across Wales by prescribing seven regions for Wales and the creation of Regional Partnership Boards to oversee the development of improved Health and Social Care services in the region.

The introduction of Regional Partnership arrangements was not a new initiative for Bridgend, as Bridgend had already been part of the development of Western Bay Region (consisting of Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Local Authorities and ABMU Health Board) since 2012. However the targeting of Integrated Care Funding at a Regional Level has caused regions to work in a more structured way and to undertake required joint activities such as the development of regional priorities that were derived from the Regional Population Assessment and Area Plan. The subsequent boundary changes that were introduced in April 2019 have required Bridgend to move from the former Western Bay Region to the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region, and has required Bridgend to align its local priorities identified by the Western Bay Population Assessment with those that were previously identified by the former Cwm Taf Regional priorities. These Regional priorities therefore remain very relevant to the future design of services for Bridgend moving forward.

The expectations of the Act therefore is that Regional working will not only identify Regional priorities that are published through the Regional Area Plan, but will also result in collaborative approaches to Regional commissioning that deliver agreed approaches that are enabled through Grant Funding by Welsh Government in addition to the creation of required pooled budget arrangements between Regional partners.

1.1.5 Training and Development of Social Care staff in Bridgend

Welsh Government provide funding referred to as the Social Care Workforce Development Grant, which is expected to be used not just for Local Authority staff, but to be targeted and shared with external providers of Social Care services in both the Independent and Third Sector.

There are other stipulations with the Grant that are designed to ensure that it is used to achieve national strategic objectives including specific directives that are intended to develop social services practice nationally. Since the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act in 2015, the Social Care Workforce Development Grant (SCWDWP) has been allocated to regions which has required local authorities within the regions to work collaboratively and with service providers to identify both national, local and common regional requirements.

By Bridgend being moved from the former Western Bay Region to Cwm Taf Morgannwg in 2019, has required the previous Cwm Taf Regional

Governance arrangements to be reviewed and a new structure has been agreed, which will be operational from April 2020
Bridgend, Cwm Taf and Merthyr submitted a regional application for the 2019/20 SCWWDP grant in compliance with grant conditions. The application supports the objectives of the SCWWDP and in line with the Grant Circular identified how the region aimed to meet national priorities alongside regional and local priorities over the current financial year and in some cases into 2022.
Bridgend have previously and will continue to work with the regional arrangements to ensure that they contribute to and benefit from collaborative working but they will also be able to identify local service priorities that need to be supported by bespoke innovative training programmes
Therefore to ensure staff are equipped and developed to meet changes to national, regional and local requirements, the training and development of social care staff remains a priority to Bridgend. Consequently training needs will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure learning and development plans support service priorities and staff development.

1.1.6 Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

Since the Service Delivery Plan has been drafted and consulted upon, the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted on the way that Social Services and Wellbeing services deliver a wide range of services. The pandemic presents what is, thankfully a rare, but nevertheless serves as, a real example as to how service delivery can be challenged. The Council's in-house and commissioned services for Social Services and Wellbeing were required to react collectively and in a coordinated manner. The coordinated and close working between the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and BAVO has demonstrated the importance and effectiveness of the third sector in providing essential community services and support. This experience evidences how our services have worked together during COVID-19 and is a clear reminder of the importance of partnership working with statutory partners, providers and third sector is so critical, and provides real evidence that our services are durable and able to respond effectively to very challenging situations.
At the time of finalising this document and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council are in the process of establishing a "Recovery Plan" for Social Services and Wellbeing to reflect the "new normal" that has to accommodate the anticipated ongoing challenges of COVID-19. It is not anticipated that this will impact on the desired changes required and set out in this document. However the experience of COVID-19 has enabled the Council to grasp opportunities to change the way that services can be delivered and there is a determination that where this is of proven value, such changes will continue into the future and will be

considered as part of the Directorate COVID-19 recovery plan. But it is also recognised that ongoing disruption caused by COVID-19 could well impact on anticipated timelines as new services may need to be prioritised to deal with the ongoing challenges.

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SECTION 2: CHILDREN SERVICES

2.1 Context

2.1.1 Children's Social Care – Financial Context

Prior to 2015/16, Children's Social Care Services did not experience the budget reductions that were required from other Council services. This was largely due to historical budget overspends caused by the pressures of high levels of demand and increasing numbers of "Looked After Children". However since 2016/17, the increasing pressures on the council's budget has resulted in the need for Children Services to also consider how it can also deliver budget savings.
Children Services net budget in 2019/20 is £19 million, and the majority of its costs are allocated as follows:

- Staffing. Approx. 28% of net budgets
- Fostering allowances (Independent Fostering Agencies and Internal). Approx. 35% of net budgets
- Residential costs (Internal and Independent). Approximately 18% of net budgets
- Adoption service. Approx. 8% of net budgets

The fluctuating numbers and needs of "Looked After Children" has for many years placed significant pressures on Children's social care budgets and as a result the service has carried a significant overspend. However 2018/19 saw an improved budget outcome that can be attributed to the "Vision into Action" strategy (2016) that introduced a series of new approaches that were designed to deliver better cost effective services that improved outcomes for children. This strategy for the Remodelling of Children Services set out a vision and ambition for Children Services that would instil a change in Social Care practice so that it was better aligned to the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act.

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2.2 Our Vision For Children's Social Care

Together enabling better outcomes for children, young people and their families via responsive and timely services which support them to live together, work on difficulties and be safe'

Since 2016, Children Social Care has been remodelling its services so that services are based on delivering "Early Help" and effective permanence arrangements that are designed to improve and promote outcomes for children and young people in Bridgend. An Early Help strategy was developed in 2016 that was aligned to the priorities of the Authority's Corporate Plan. The strategy identified that its successful delivery was dependent on the strength of partnership working, Leadership and Management commitment and having a clear, robust and agreed framework from which to work.

The strategy set out an ambition for the Children Services as follows:

- Know which children need safeguarding
- Know which children need early help
- Help individuals, families and communities to help themselves
- Work in strong partnerships
- Swift, sensitive and effective intervention
- Understand how successful we are

The objectives of the strategy identified that "*The aim of early intervention is to prevent the needs of the children and families from escalating rather than to respond only when the difficulty has become so acute as to demand attention*".

Such objectives were in line with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act for services to focus on preventative services that reduce demand. Nevertheless the Early Help strategy also identified that it would be based on a Thresholds of Need Model that is designed to inform professional decision making to maximise opportunities for the right level of support to be offered at the right time. This "Continuum of Need" means that a child or young person's needs are met in a proportionate, robust and timely way, improving life chances and keep children and young people safe. The thresholds should always be viewed as a clear and fluid continuum, responsive to changing circumstances and environments through which children may travel both down and up and will on occasion be accessing services across the continuum, as need determines.

The Continuum of Need is separated into levels of need as follows:

1. **UNIVERSAL:** At this Level, support is Universal which means that it is generally available to all children and young people such as schools, leisure centres, GP surgeries. Children and young people are making good overall progress across all areas of development. It is likely they live in a protective environment where their needs are well understood and met. These children need no additional support other than those universally available within public services

2a **ADDITIONAL:** Children and young people who need additional support this may relate to their health, educational or social development. Support is required to improve the chances of reaching their full potential if not identified and addressed at an early stage, these issues may escalate and become increased concerns under level 2b or 3 below.

2b **VULNERABLE**: Children, young people and their families have a range of needs. Multi-agency support is required to reduce levels of vulnerability and/or to reduce risk taking behaviours. If needs are not met then children's health, social development, or educational attainment may be significantly impaired. A Joint Assessment (JAFF) is required along with the appointment of a lead professional who will coordinate the support through the establishment of a Team around the family (TAF)

3. **COMPLEX:** Children with complex needs which appear chronic and enduring, these children are considered highly vulnerable or living in the greatest risk of adversity. The needs of many of these children and young people can be met through a Joint assessment and plan (JAFF) with a lead professional coordinating support. There will be occasions when a child or young person requires a STEP UP specialist assessment and support from a range of specialist agencies.

4. **ACUTE:** Children in need of immediate care and protection, this is the most urgent category and always requires an immediate referral to Children's Social Care. These are children and young people whose care is so compromised as to place them at risk of significant harm and potentially in need of a Child Protection Plan and all children and Young People already subject of a Child Protection Plan. This level includes children and Young People who are identified as a risk of becoming "Looked After" by the local authority. These children/young people will be subject to the STEP DOWN process once safety is secured.

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These Continuum of Need categories will be used to structure the future Children Services Commissioning requirements as set out in sections 2.3 to 2.7 in this document.

Recruitment and Retention of Staff

In 2014, the service restructured and established teams within safeguarding hubs that are strategically aligned to the new team locality areas that they are designed to serve. These hubs work with Children and Young People in need of care and support, those on the Child Protection Register and those Looked After.

In addition, the Council has more recently renewed its Senior Management structure for Children Social Care to reduce duplication, clarify roles and responsibilities and ensure that the new structure is child focussed by design and the elements therefore work closer together to ensure that day to day decisions are better joined up to deliver the right outcomes for children.

In addition, the Council has invested in the development and training of staff which has seen improvements in recruitment and retention allowing the service to stabilise and develop. This has been underpinned by a Recruitment and Retention strategy that has been designed around four priorities that include:

- Priority 1: Ensure that newly employed Social Workers are well supported through their induction and probation period to enable them to complete their first year in practice.
- Priority 2: Strengthen retention capability by promoting a range of appropriate career development opportunities to both qualified and unqualified staff.
- Priority 3: Actively encourage staff engagement by promoting communication and acting upon feedback
- Priority 4: Promote a positive working environment and culture to support Social Work practice

Within each of these priorities, there are a range of related tasks, many of which are implemented and are being monitored to ensure that they are achieving the intended benefits.

However the recruitment and retention of the range of all Social Care staff that includes qualified, non-qualified and direct support staff is an ongoing challenge and the Council continues to seek new ways of investing into existing employees to assist their personal development, in an effort to ensure that staff are skilled and retained in their employment with Bridgend County Borough Council.

2.3 Universal Services: *are those services that are generally available to all children and young people such as schools, leisure centres, GP surgeries. Children and young people are making good overall progress across all areas of development. It is likely they live in a protective environment where their needs are well understood and met. These children need no additional support other than those universally available within public services*

What we have done

- Placed a focus on health at the heart of everything that we do
- Helped children and young people to develop healthy behaviours through their formative years
- Developed a programme of events under the "Getting Bridgend Moving" that include activities targeting children and young people
- Invested in early years and whole household approaches recognising the importance of the "First 1000 days" in a child's life
- Developed positive parenting programmes and partnerships with "Flying Start"
- There is growing engagement with primary and secondary schools, recognising their potential to contribute to Ageing Well in Bridgend, intergenerational working and the development of age friendly communities.

What else we need to do

- Continue to increase children and young people physical, mental and educational development
- Continue to work with schools so that they increase their contribution to Ageing Well in Bridgend intergenerational working and the development of age friendly communities.

2.4 Additional Services: *Children and young people who need additional support, this may relate to their health, educational or social development. Support is required to improve the chances of reaching their full potential if not identified and addressed at an early stage, these issues may escalate and become increased concerns and escalate to categories of more need.*

What we have done

The Council has established a range of Family Support Services in Bridgend which are referred to as Early Help Service which is situated in the Education and Family Service Directorate due to its close working with schools. The teams work with families identified as having additional needs that would benefit from a package of support using a preventative

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approach. The aim of the service is to prevent family situations from deteriorating or becoming more complex.

Referrals for these services are accepted through a 'one front door' route from numerous agencies including schools and by self-referral.

The service provision involves assessing family need and providing the necessary support to meet these needs from within the team or through other available services. Bridgend Family Support Services now revolve around Early Help hubs set in three locations across the authority using a 'team around the family' approach. In addition, there is a central hub which offers a range of specific family support services across the whole of the county borough.

Each Early Help locality hub consists of a family support team made up of:

- Family Support Workers
- Family Engagement Officers
- Education Welfare Officers
- School Counsellors
- Lead Workers
- Parenting Workers

The central hub contains specific services such as the Connecting Families team who offer intensive family support to families open to Children's Safeguarding Teams. Other services include Flying Start and the regional Western Bay Integrated Family Support Service.

An outline of the roles and services provided is detailed below:

Education Welfare Officers: Education Welfare Officers have a statutory responsibility in addressing issues of poor school attendance in both primary and secondary schools. Their base within locality hubs means that Education Welfare Officers can act as a gateway to accessing additional early help services, with the aim of overcoming barriers to school attendance.

School Counsellors: Provide therapeutic one to one counselling within school settings to comprehensive school children. Counselling is also available to children in Year 6 in primary school; this is delivered from a central, community based location.

Lead Workers (Inspire 2 Achieve): Lead workers work with comprehensive school pupils at Key Stages 3, 4 and post-16, who have been identified as being 'at risk' of becoming not in education,

employment or training (NEET), when compulsory education ends. Lead workers deliver a range of formal and evidence based interventions on an individual and/or group basis to reduce barriers to engagement in education. They also work in partnership with Careers Wales to support young people to identify, and secure, their preferred post-16 destination.

Family Engagement Officers: Family Engagement Officers work with children of primary school age to provide early intervention and prevention support to families of children with low attendance/attainment and with behavioural support needs. Support can be delivered in a school or community setting, and can involve group-based learning programmes, as well as individual support.

Parenting Worker (Flying Start): Parenting workers work within Flying Start areas to provide direct support and advice to children, and their families, assisting in the delivery and support of devised programmes of support including the delivery of evidence based identified parenting programmes.

Family Support Workers: Family support workers act as key workers to assess unmet needs, devise and coordinate support plans and ensure that families are in receipt of the most appropriate support services to meet those needs. The aim is to prevent or minimise the risk of needs escalating. Family support workers also provide direct support and advice to children, and their families, assisting in the support of community-based interventions.

Inspire 2 Work: Employability service for young people (16 to 24 years old) who are NEET and looking at developing self-esteem, confidence for education, training and/or employment opportunities. Participants are also able to access a range of formal and work related qualifications to enhance their CV and employment prospects.

Youth Mental Health Team Mental and/or emotional health and wellbeing support for young people aged 11 to 24 years old living in the county of Bridgend. Provision of tailored support for identified needs around:

- Eating disorders
- Acute mental/emotional health and wellbeing concerns
- Youth offending
- Co-occurring mental health and substance misuse issues

Youth Housing Support Team: Early identification and intervention service that aims to prevent homelessness, increase the resilience of those we work with and energise opportunities for employment, education, training & volunteering.

Children's Rights and Participation Team: Working with young people to participate in the Youth Council. Also delivering tailored workshops on United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), children's rights and the new Participation Standards.

Play Therapy: Counselling service for children aged 4-10 years

Community Counselling: Youth counselling service for 11-25 year olds.

The purpose of the early help service is to prevent the needs of the children and families from escalating rather than to respond only when the difficulty has become so acute as to require input from Children's Social Care. The service therefore is intended to:

- Improve outcomes and life chances for children, young people and families placing the well-being of the child / young person at the centre of all that we do.
- Increase access to timely, targeted and appropriate services.
- Manage highly predictable risk better (e.g. parents who have been in care themselves and parents who have previously had children removed.)
- Refocus resources and expenditure from crisis intervention to early help, investing in proportion to need.
- Provide a focus on the whole family and the role of the family in the planning and delivery of early help.
- Ensure interventions have a strong evidence base and any services commissioned are able to evaluate and demonstrate impact and outcomes.
- Further develop multi-agency and integrated working, including using and sharing data and information more effectively.
- Strengthen the role of universal services provision in early help.
- Communicate the early help offer and how it can be accessed
- Develop skills and management support/supervision for early help workers

What else we need to do

- To continually develop the service so that it plays a pivotal role in the provision of Information, Advice and Assistance. This will ensure that contacts and referrals to Children's Social Care are dealt with appropriately by the right level of service at the right time. In addition the service will continue to deliver its strategic plan that includes:

- High quality universal and additional services are the building blocks of effective early help.
- Childrens workforce is able to identify additional needs at an early stage.
- To review the service directory to ensure that it assists the children's workforce to have a clear understanding of how services are designed to support levels of need, and how all services, including those provided by partners, can be accessed.
- There is a clear process in place to support effective multi-agency co-ordination of targeted support.
- There is a clear Step Up and Step Down process in place.
- A co-ordinated delivery programme of early help services and support across all ages and stages of a child's development.

2.5 Vulnerable Services:

Children, young people and their families have a range of needs. Multi-agency support is required to reduce levels of vulnerability and/or to reduce risk taking behaviours. If needs are not met then children's health, social development, or educational attainment may be significantly impaired. A Joint Assessment (JAFF) is required along with the appointment of a Lead Professional who will coordinate the support through the establishment of a "Team Around the Family" (TAF)

What we have done

- Bridgend has established a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that became fully operational in July 2018. In addition to Social Workers, Public Protection Safeguarding Nurses and Police Officers, the MASH also includes a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service professional as part of the Information, Advice and Assistance Service. This individual assists with the assessment of children who are displaying mental/emotional vulnerabilities at the point of initial contact. The Public Protection Safeguarding Nurses (PPSN) work collaboratively with partner agencies across health, social care and others to safeguard children and adults and promote their welfare at a local level, providing consistent health input to the MASH. They also assist, support and advise health staff to recognise their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children, adults-at-risk, Deprivation of Liberty Standard (DoLS) and domestic abuse and to support them to plan, deliver and evaluate appropriate interventions. The PPSN will plan and deliver the training programme around safeguarding children, adult at risk and domestic abuse to Health Board staff and assist in the delivery of multi-

agency safeguarding training with partner agencies. A Social Navigator also sits within the MASH concentrating on navigating our teams and clients to support activities, information and advice in the voluntary and community sector. The post is pivotal in promoting and supporting the use of the voluntary sector in meeting the health and well-being needs of people in the county borough. Work will be undertaken with young people and their families to:-

  - increase understanding of choices people have;
  - support and empower people;
  - improve social and emotional wellbeing of people;
  - promote independence; and reduce social isolation, loneliness and exclusion.

- The Advocacy for Children and Young People service has previously been commissioned through a regional (former) Western Bay contract led by Swansea Council. However the move from Bridgend to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region has led to the development of a new commissioning arrangement with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as the lead contracting authority. The new arrangement means that Children and Young Person's Independent Professional Advocacy Service remains in place with a local provider.

Integrated Family Support Service (IFSS): The aim of the IFSS is to keep families affected by parental substance misuse together by empowering them to take positive steps to change and improve their lives whilst addressing any safeguarding concerns. Using evidence based interventions we aim to bridge the gap between children and adult services across Local Government, non-statutory sectors and health partners. The IFSS Service is designed to support a range of needs as follows:

- When there is a parental drug and/or alcohol problem in the family
- Families (with children at home) are in a crisis and there is a risk of the children being placed on the Child Protection Register.
- Where there is a reunification plan that IFSS may contribute to
- Expectant parent(s) where there is identified substance misuse
- Offering support in the community for young people at risk of sexual exploitation, requiring sexual health advice and substance misuse support.
- Rapid Response Service designed to work with children and families in a crisis situation to prevent the child from becoming Looked After. This service includes 2 Rapid Response Workers who work with children aged 0-18 years.

- Intensive Whole Family Support is offered to children and families either early in mornings, during day time, evenings and on weekends where required. The aim of the service is to prevent children becoming known to social services, prevent children's names from being added to the child protection register, prevent children from becoming Looked After and for those that are, increase the number reunified with their family in a timely way.

Connecting Families: Family Support Workers offering intensive interventions to children and families known to Children Services Teams. The focus of the work is around prevention of children becoming Looked After, reunifying families where this has been a necessity and delivery of parenting groups including:

Non Violent Resistance – Parenting programme for children who are displaying challenging and aggressive behaviours.

Incredible Years – Parenting programme for younger children exploring attachment, routines, boundaries and play.

Grobrain – Early years programme for parents with babies looking at secure attachment, interactions and play.

Connecting Dads – a programme for fathers looking at their role as a Dad and the importance of this.

Chill Out Group – Group for teenagers looking at anxiety and stress management and strategies to deal with this.

Baby in Mind Service, a service for families where unborn babies are at risk of becoming looked after at birth. This service was developed in response to the high number of babies aged 0-2 years in the care system and the associated high costs of Mother and Baby placements. The service includes a Consultant Social Worker, a part time health visitor, 2 family support workers to work with families where mothers are under 26 weeks pregnant where Social Care have deemed the child to be at risk of entering the care system. The support for families will focus on addressing these concerns and working intensively with the aim of keeping the child within the family.

Bridgend has already developed a Regional Reflect service with Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr CBCs which is delivered by Barnardos. This project works with mothers who have had children removed from their care to prevent any further pregnancies which may lead to further statutory intervention. The development of this project is in its infancy and will be reviewed and developed as necessary.

The Youth Justice Service sits within the Education and Family Support Directorate in Bridgend. There is a joint statement in place with Children's Social Care around the principles of working between the two services. The aim of this agreement is to ensure there is clarity on roles and responsibilities of both services and how the two services will interact to ensure children and young people's needs are met safely and consistently. Both services are committed to working in partnership towards the prevention of offending by children and young people as detailed by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and to safeguard and promote the welfare of children as detailed in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2015.

What else we need to do

There are ongoing challenges for early help services in responding to this demand and with the newly developed processes within children services. Bridgend will continue to explore and develop additional innovative ideas and maximise the potential that exists within existing services. In addition other service developments are ongoing and include:

- **Reunification and Practice Support Workers:** A service has recently been introduced that is targeting a reduction in the number of breakdowns of Foster Care Placements. This followed a review of support services for children and young people in March 2018 which identified gaps in service delivery. This included a need for support for children in the care system whose foster placements are at risk of placement breakdown or require support to Step Down in terms of placement provision or to be reunified into the care of their birth family. Historically our edge of care Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been called upon to work on these type of cases, this had meant that the RRT had less opportunity to prevent children from coming into the care system. Therefore to increase capacity the Reunification Support Workers are being introduced.
- **Family Support Workers**: The introduction of the Early Help service and associated "Hubs" has seen a significant increase in service demand. Therefore in order that more cases are prevented from escalating, additional Family Support Workers are being introduced to work with families.
- **Advocacy:** To continue to maximise the use of the Advocacy service through the implementation of the "Active Offer" to ensure that all children receiving statutory care and support intervention are provided equal access to an Advocacy service.

- **IFSS Service:** The IFSS is required to be developed further. In particular the increasing number of referrals into the service is stretching the existing resources available, and Welsh Government has issued further guidance in respect of the criteria for IFSS in which the service could work with families affected by domestic abuse and mental health issues as well as parental substance misuse. Bridgend is evaluating this guidance to ensure that the service is upskilled to respond to these issues.

2.6 Complex and Acute Services:

Children with complex needs which appear chronic and enduring, these children are considered highly vulnerable or living in the greatest of adversity. The needs of many of these children and young people can be met through a Joint Assessment and plan (JAFF) with a lead professional coordinating support. There will be occasions when a child or young person requires a STEP UP specialist assessment and support from a range of specialist agencies.

Acute Services: Children in need of immediate care and protection, this is the most urgent category and always requires an immediate response from Children's Social Care. These are children and young people whose care is so compromised as to place them at risk of significant harm and in need of a Child Protection Plan and all children and Young People already subject of a Child Protection Plan. This level includes Children and Young People who are identified as a risk of becoming "Looked After" by the local authority. These children/young people will be subject to the STEP DOWN process once safety is secured.

What we have Done

The Multi Agency Placement Support Service (MAPSS) has been established across the former Western Bay. This is a multi-disciplinary team that aims to help children with, or at risk of mental illness and emotional and behavioural difficulties by providing specialist placement support. The creation of the service was driven to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of "Looked After Children" with particularly complex needs needing carers who are resilient enough to provide them with a stable base from which to start to understand their story and start to develop positive relationships.

Residential Accommodation

A significant development for Children Services has been the introduction of a new Model to the traditional Local Authority provision. Previously our residential accommodation consisted of three units being:

- Bakers Way: disabled children's respite service,
- Newbridge House: transition unit for 16/17 year olds
- Sunnybank: Complex needs unit for 11-15 year olds

The remodelling has resulted in the creation of a "Hub" (Maple Tree House), which is designed to provide support in a time-effective way in order to facilitate move-on to one of the other placement options within the model. Maple Tree House consists of a four-bedroom assessment facility with a separate two bedroom emergency provision The Hub aims and objectives are as follows:

AIMS

- Maple Tree House provides care and support for up to six children / young people within the age range 8 – 17 years (mixed gender) at any one time. This consists of four placements within the assessment facility and two within the emergency provision.
- Admissions to Maple Tree House are made via referrals from the Councils social care teams. The Placements team co-ordinate planned admissions during office hours, out of hours placements are managed by senior staff and the Emergency Duty Team.

OBJECTIVES

- To undertake assessment and provide therapeutic intervention by appropriately qualified staff. Models of intervention will assist to stabilise the child's / young person's behaviour to facilitate a return home or where this is not possible to a suitable alternative long-term placement.
- To have in place for each child / young person a care and support plan and a behaviour management plan so that any challenging behaviour is consistently managed. Wherever possible, unless there is risk of harm, staff will use de-escalation techniques providing trauma informed care and support.
- To support young people's education, training or employment, to maximise opportunities.
- Vocational outreach workers will support young people who are not in full time education or employment, working in line with the young person's education plan.
- Staff will work in partnership with young people, carers and parents/persons with parental responsibility.
- To provide outreach support to children / young people, families and foster carers.

In addition, Sunnybank has been developed into a Medium-term Unit by utilising a detached two storey house with space for four young people to be accommodated. The aim of this service is to "to offering a stimulating, safe caring environment that promotes a holistic approach to all aspects of the child/young person's life". The objectives of the service are as follows:

- • Providing children/young people with an individualised package of support that focuses on their assessed needs.
- Offering children/young people therapeutically informed interventions to assist them in achieving personal well being
- Assisting children/young people to explore their own issues and experiences and work through any emotions and feelings which may become a barrier to a stable placement and future accommodation.
- Providing appropriate levels of support that recognise, value and encourage children/young people to maintain personal skills and competencies and promote their confidence and self esteem
- Providing a comprehensive package of educational support to promote the best possible outcomes for children/young people within their educational setting
- Working closely with families or substitute families to ensure that when children/young people return home or go to other suitable placements, adequate support via a transition plan is given to both the young person and their family to ensure success.
- Provide age appropriate independent living programmes to assist young people to be able to develop the necessary skills to enable them to, if appropriate, live independently. Young people based at this home would also have access to the Hub, including the therapeutic interventions and Vocational Outreach Workers.

The services described above were created following an extensive review of children's residential provisions within Bridgend. Maple Tree House was developed with the aim of working with young people to assess their needs to support consideration of where their best long-term placement needs could be met. The home provides in-house therapeutic services and emergency beds which are a less costly alternative to other specialist residential provisions. In addition there are cost saving benefits by maintaining young people within Bridgend provisions, lessening the need to accommodate with high-cost Out Of County placements. The development of the service aims to reduce costs associated with other similar placements in future years.

The Council has also prioritised the development of local solutions to support children by bringing children and young people back from high-cost out of county placements, currently placed at an average cost of £160,000 per annum. This has resulted in significant numbers of children

being relocated within the County Borough normally at a reduced cost, which has contributed significantly to the achievement of financial targets. When compared to costs within the new 'Hub model', each placement made in the 'Hub' when compared to an out-of-county placement generates a saving/cost avoidance of circa £60k per child each year. The creation of Hub Models has not only increased the range of internal services available to meet the needs of children, but the service has also proven to be cost effective and ensured that children are cared for closer to their communities and have easier access to their social worker as appropriate.

The Council has also developed models of Supported Living Accommodation that enables children's services in providing Step Down accommodation for "Looked After Children" residing in placements before they turn eighteen. Previously care leavers were only able to access supported accommodation through the Homelessness pathway. This process made it difficult for Social Workers and young people to plan ahead and added additional pressure on the Homelessness service.

To overcome this problem, a pilot project was developed and operated for almost twelve months during 2018/19 and has accommodated and supported a range of individuals and circumstances that include:

- placement breakdowns;
- homeless 16/17 year olds requiring a joint assessment;
- transitioning Out of County Placements back into Bridgend; and
- supporting move on to more independent settings

The pilot project provided 4 supported accommodation beds and has been evaluated and proven that the model assists care leavers considerably to adapt to independence and to provide time to find suitable longer term accommodation.

Consequently the Council agreed to extend the service by commissioning two providers to deliver a total of 7 "Transitional" Supported Accommodation beds, in addition to 4 "Step Down" beds. This provision is designed to support young people with flexible staffing support to "Step Down" from care environments where they were previously provided 24 hour care support. It is intended that such accommodation ensures we support care leavers to move onto more permanent and independent housing accommodation and prevent them from becoming homeless.

Bridgend Foster Care assess, recruit and support a wide range of carers including general foster carers, relatives, Parent and child, transitional Family Link, Supported Lodgings and When I'm Ready households. They also have a small team who coordinate placements and commissioning.

This area of service continues to experience challenges in relation to the lack of placement choice locally in house and with Independent providers. Despite this the teams are committed to matching children with the most appropriate carers with the overarching aim of achieving stability and minimising disruptions. Bridgend foster care has also further developed their recruitment campaign in conjunction with the marketing team. The service follows robust assessment processes and is required by fostering regulations to undertake a range of references/checks in addition to comprehensive interviews with the applicants themselves which normally take at least 20 hours. Applicants must also attend a bespoke three day training 'skills to foster' course.

The ability of the Bridgend Foster Carer Service to better support an increasing range of needs has seen it develop new services. The "mother and baby service" is an innovative approach to the demand for high supervision of parent and baby, forming part of the parenting assessment completed by the safeguarding team within proceedings. It can be a direct alternative to residential or can be a preferred resource in in its own right. We currently have 2 carers who have been recruited and train within this specialism. This has proved to be a cost effective service, which is now sited within the fostering team. We expect to recruit further carers within the next phase of recruitment. During this financial year we have provided a placement to another authority which has generated income.

A further important development has been the introduction of "Transitional Carers". The transitional carers are experienced short term carers who have a therapeutic approach to parenting. They have close working relationship with both fostering and residential, providing a step-down transitional placement for children currently in residential care. The role of the carers is to use their parenting skills as part of a multi-disciplinary team to prepare children for transition to a permanent placement, this might be within fostering or reunification to family.

We have also created Harwood House which is a high quality residential Looked After Children service for up to three children/young people with complex needs including a learning disability aged from eight to eighteen years; and are enrolled in Heronsbridge School. The service is located within the grounds of Heronsbridge School enabling ease of access for the children to the school, and promoting contact with parents/carers and multi-agency professionals involved with the children. The aims and objectives of this service are:

AIMS

- At Harwood House we are committed to providing a high quality 52 week residential service for up to three children/young people with complex needs, including a learning disability, aged from eight to nineteen years (nineteen age limit applies to any young person

with Additional Learning Needs.) Children/young people are usually enrolled in Heronsbridge School.

- The service is located within the grounds of this school enabling ease of access to the school for the children/young people. In addition, fostering a close liaison between staff and a shared understanding of the complex needs of the children/young people and consistency of approach in working with the children/young people which support better outcomes.
- The service enables children/young people with complex needs who are unable to reside with their families to continue to attend their specialist school and remain living locally to their family, friends and school.

OBJECTIVES

- To assess each child/young person's needs before the service commences, to develop an individualised package of care and support that focuses on their needs and to review it regularly.
- To introduce children/young people to Harwood House at their pace, through a series of familiarisation and tea-time visits, prior to moving in.
- To offer children and young people interventions to assist them in achieving their personal outcomes. To meet each child/young person's emotional, social, behavioural, health and developmental needs during their placement, in a way that ensures their dignity and promotes self-reliance.
- To provide a homely relaxed environment within which children/young people are encouraged to achieve their personal goals and individual potential.
- To support all children/young people to make good use of all community based resources, thereby promoting social and economic inclusion.
- To provide a comprehensive package of educational support to promote the best possible outcome for the children/young people.
- To assess the child/young person's level of life skills and to develop these skills through an individual living skills assessment programme. Providing support through transition planning through to adult social care.
- To consult with children/young people, parents, carers, social workers and other professionals so that the service continually adapts and develops.
- To resolve issues for children/young people and parents promptly, and to address concerns wherever possible, with the residential manager and social worker.

As a result of these accumulative developments:

- Numbers of children being placed into out of county accommodation have been greatly reduced.
- Numbers of "Looked After Children" has reduced over the last five years from 412 in 2014 to 381 in 2019. In addition the numbers becoming "Looked After" by monthly average has also reduced from 12.2 per month in 2013/14 to 7.7 in 2018/19

The requirement to establish Regional Adoption arrangements across Wales has resulted in Bridgend receiving its Adoption Service from the former Western Bay Region (now West Glamorgan Region). The sustainability of this arrangement has been reviewed in light of the recent transfer of Bridgend from the former Western Bay region to the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg region. The findings of the review concluded that the current regional Adoption arrangements should continue, which means that Bridgend will remain with the former Western Bay Region. However it was also recommended that these arrangements only remain in place for a minimum period of three years during which time, there is consultation with stakeholders and early planning for the longer term.

What else we need to do

- Finalise our placement commissioning strategy
- Progress a more suitable and sustainable site to build and embed the hub provision
- Work with partners in the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region to develop and introduce a MAPPS service to the benefit of the Region, whilst ensuring all services commissioned under the current arrangement with our former MAPPS partner, (which ends March 2020) continue.
- Develop closer working with other Council services and in particular Housing services in order that Housing needs are identified and housing strategies are developed.
- Fully implement the Supported Accommodation solutions and ensure the service delivers the intended outcomes.
- Further develop accommodation and placement opportunities for children and young people by greater collaboration with partners such as health and housing
- Consider how children's therapeutic needs can be met through further developing in-house provision. Continue to have discussions with current therapeutic providers with a view to 'securing a menu' of bespoke options, which meet the individual needs of children within a common model or framework.

- Consult with stakeholders on the most appropriate Adoption arrangements provided to Bridgend and to plan for their longer term provision

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SECTION 3: TRANSITION SERVICES

The Transition stage of when a child moves from childhood into adulthood is a very important stage in a young person's life because they need to make plans for their future care arrangements which will help them live as independently as possible. Therefore, transition of children with support needs requires their care packages to be carefully planned to ensure that they receive appropriate services required to maximise independence and to support them in achieving their desired outcomes.

Without the joined up management of transition of care, there is a real risk that young people will leave Children's Social Care without effective planning to support their transition into adulthood. As a result the continuity of care will be disrupted and even paused, or alternatively the provision of an inappropriate care package which can cause inconvenience and disruption to both the cared for and their families and carers.

Whilst Bridgend CBC has operated a transition panel that met regularly to agree transition pathways for individual children and young people, the introduction of a transition team was identified as the preferred long term approach. In 2014, Bridgend was a member of the Western Bay Region and the regional Learning Disability Programme Team had identified the difficulties with existing Transition arrangements in the region, and commissioned a piece of work to develop a service model for young people in transition from children's to adult's services in the Western Bay region. The report was produced in July 2014 and the programme team agreed with the recommendation to develop an integrated multiagency transition team in each local authority area.

Consequently the Directorate created a Business Plan aim which identified the need to "*Develop an appropriate service model for children in transition from childhood to adulthood, including children with disabilities and children leaving care*". Consequently a working group was created which developed a proposed operating model and a set of values that include:

- Each young person experiences smooth and timely support to prepare for adulthood so that they are supported to meet their outcomes appropriately;
- Each young person is involved in the process, contributes their views and wishes, and has as much choice as possible about the future outcomes they hope to achieve and how they will be supported in this;
- The parents or carers of each young person are involved in the process as partners, and have clear and early information about how the transition process works and what the options may be for the young person;

- Adult Social Care receive sufficient advance notice of young people whose needs they will be responsible for meeting, so that financial and other planning can be undertaken in time. Having a sense of the "time line" relevant to each young person preparing for adulthood and to the agencies that will need to plan to meet their needs. Without this, work may not be well planned or start early enough.
- Working in as "joined up" a way as is possible with all other agencies, departments and with the young person and their parents. This means working together so that, wherever possible, separate assessments and planning processes can be combined, run together, or at the least, cross-referenced;

A project was developed to create a “pilot” transition team, which was dependent on additional Funding that was acquired from the regional Integrated Care Fund. This team was introduced in 2018 as a pilot and a Performance Management Framework was developed to evaluate its impact and effectiveness.

Traditionally, whilst there were processes in place between Children Services and Adult services to identify children that would transition into Adult Social Care, the arrangements were not always joined up and the transition for children was found at times to be problematic. Therefore the progress made with developing a new service that bridges Children’s and Adult’s services, provides a real example of how the Directorate is bringing together services to jointly solve service improvements by working closer together to the benefit to the residents of the County Borough.

What we have done

- Established a Transition Panel that consists of managers from Adults and children services that has provided a mechanism that monitors and plans for children in Transition
- Held workshops to consult with key stakeholder to identify a range of issues and problems that needed to be addressed to improve support for young people through the Transition process and into Adulthood, and inform the development of the new and improved service.
- Created a pilot Transition Team that allowed social workers from Adults and Children Services to work together. The pilot team was created by utilising existing resources.
- Operated the pilot from October 2018 to March 2019 and undertook an evaluation of the learning which evidenced that there is a need to

establish the team by removing the virtual nature of the team and placing the Transition Team within the Children's structure.

- Identified how referrals should be managed between teams by confirming the role of the Transition panel that is designed to ensure that referrals into the Transition Team and from the Transition Team to Adult Services are appropriate.
- Developed a series of Short, Medium and Long Term Recommendations that include:
    - Short Term (3-6 months). Create a Transition team in its own right within BCBC.
    - Medium Term (4-8 months). Develop a strategic plan for a multi-disciplinary team in partnership with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board.
- Developed an Accommodation Action Plan that identifies the need to have effective transition planning for "Looked After Children" accommodation needs as they approach Adulthood. This includes the development of a range of Supported Accommodation options for care leavers that support "Step Down" accommodation for Care Leavers

What else we need to do

- The Directorate Transition Project Board will continue to oversee the implementation of the "Child Disability and Transition Team" and ensure that its creation delivers the anticipated benefits.
- Establish ways to engage with Education and Early Help services with the long-term goal of them being virtual members of the transition team. This engagement will attempt to ensure that transition is not seen as a social services only issue, but to ensure that services are better joined up and delivered holistically.
- Discuss and agree with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board how they can be engaged as appropriate to jointly work cases in transition and ensure that children and adults are provided effective and equitable specialist health services. This also includes children's access to appropriate mental health services as required.
- To develop a Commissioning Model that is supported by the development of a "pooled budget" made up of budget from Adults

and Children services in order that services are better designed to meet the needs of young people in transition.

- To continue the previous regional vision that was developing in Western Bay with Cwm Taf Morgannwg region to ensure that potential benefits to support transition services that could be achieved by a collaborative approach are identified and implemented as appropriate.

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SECTION 4: ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Commissioning Plan for Adult Social Care produced in 2010 set out Bridgend County Borough Council's intentions for modernising adult social care over ten years. The plan described how the Council would contribute to the wider health and wellbeing agenda by promoting independence and choice for vulnerable adults living in the County Borough. At the time the intentions were ambitious and the following presents a summary of what was said should happen, progress to date and what needs to happen next. This report will be structured around the following headings:

1. Our Vision For Adult Social Care
2. Adult Social Care Financial Pressures
3. Enabling Approaches
4. Preventative Approaches
5. Specialist Preventative Approaches
6. Integrated Living
7. Interventionist Approaches (including Specialist Interventions)

4.1 Our Vision for Adult Social Care

To actively promote independence, wellbeing and choice that will support individuals in achieving their full potential"

(Social Services and Well-being Directorate Business Plan 2019-20)

To achieve this vision will require the Council's Social Care Services to promote the principles of choice, independence, empowerment, opportunity, dignity and respect. It will involve safeguarding vulnerable people and developing preventative approaches to ensure that people receive the most appropriate level of assistance at any time to avoid the need for long term support from statutory agencies.

We aim to achieve this vision by focussing on the following key principles**:-**

Empowering service users and carers - We aim to develop a person-centred approach responding appropriately to a person's needs and preferences. We aim to support a person's right to maintain, support or restore as appropriate their independence whilst recognising their rights to exercise choice and control over any decisions which affects their lives.

Fundamental to this is protecting such people from physical, sexual, psychological or financial abuse and neglect. We also aim to acknowledge and support the role of carers so that they can continue performing their caring roles.

Promoting independence - We aim to establish integrated, inclusive and seamless advice and assistance that promotes positive outcomes for vulnerable people. This approach will involve flexible and accessible preventative responses within local communities which are tailored to individual circumstances and choice. This approach will focus on assisting people to identify the risks to their independence, and jointly determining strategies to minimise that risk as appropriate.

Improving commissioning approaches - We aim to make the most of the opportunities afforded by Regional working and integrated working with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board and other local authority partners to ensure services are cost effective and are continually developed and designed around effective Integrated services. We aim to identify, plan and develop joint approaches for maximising our effort to improve the health, social care and wellbeing of the local population within the resources available to us. We will also continue to work closely with the Third Sector to identify opportunities for the sector to provide services as appropriate. Adopting this approach may mean changing some things that we currently do in favour of new and better advice, support and assistance.

Co-production and commissioning: We will develop our commissioning processes so that they are better aligned to the co-productive approaches. For example:

- **By commissioning for co-production** – We will deliver Commissioning principles of co-production to be reflected within the services we purchase. In this context we will ensure providers from whom we commission services encourage and enable the involvement of all people in designing services and how they will operate to deliver personal outcomes. Providers will also be expected to involve people in evaluation and review processes.
- **By co-producing commissioning** – we will develop processes where people are involved in commissioning from the very beginning. This includes involvement in the assessment process (whether at an individual level or as part of the wider population assessment), agreeing what needs to be transformed so that services can improve people's lives, co-designing services and taking part in reviews and evaluations. In these examples, the commissioners themselves are involved in the co-production process and they involve people using services and carers in commissioning from the outset.

Shaping the market - We aim to build on our current partnerships with providers and consolidate effective working relationships by establishing more robust contracting processes. The aim is to involve providers in a positive way to participate in planning and commissioning to help drive up quality and improve value for money. We will work co-operatively and be both transparent and flexible so that we can establish a more financially affordable mixed economy of care; improved quality responses and outcomes for service users, and greater employment opportunities for local people.

Promoting workforce development - We aim to work in partnership with the private sector, voluntary sector and key stakeholders to promote a whole sector workforce approach within the local market. We will assist adult social care staff to become appropriately skilled, trained and qualified to perform the range of responses and functions required in the future. We will also target funding that sustains the adult social care employment market and improve staff recruitment and retention arrangements.

Better responses - We aim to develop frameworks which focus on quality, best practice and meeting expectations of people who use our services, carers and key stakeholders. Our contracting and quality frameworks will strive to promote choice, independence and empowerment, as well as looking at who is most suitable to supply advice and assistance to best meet individual needs. We will ensure that the services we buy demonstrate value for money, economic viability and their ability to demonstrate continuous improvement. We will also have effective arrangements for monitoring and review with a particular focus on addressing inequality of access and positive outcomes for people.

In October 2019, the Care Inspectorate Wales undertook an inspection of the council, with its partners to explore how well it promotes independence and prevents escalating needs for older adults for older adults". Overall the report confirmed many positive aspects of available services. The Inspectorate published a report in January 2020 which commented on how the "council's vision for Adult Social Care is very well embedded". The Inspectorate also found good health and social care services…..that benefits people through quick decision making and a joined up approach". In general the review was positive but inevitably the inspectorate found areas of service in need of improvement and recommendations were made that have been included as appropriate in this document.

4.2 Adult Social Care – Financial Pressures

The prolonged financial cuts and challenges that local authorities have faced over recent years has resulted in Bridgend reducing Adult Social

Care budget by 27% since 2013/14. This has resulted in actual savings being identified as being in the region of £10.7 million. This further reduction doesn't take into account other financial pressures such as funding staff national living wage and other service pressures such as the funding of increasing complexity of need for LD and other clients and therefore the real financial pressures are even greater. Such Financial reductions has been a challenge but have also provided the opportunity to accelerate the development of new ways of working that has contributed to the transformation required.

However the contribution of Grant funding such as the Integrated Care Fund (ICF) and more recently the Healthier Wales Transformation Fund cannot be underestimated as ICF in particular has provided essential funding that supports the delivery of some of the most essential services in Adult Social Care. The use of ICF and the development of the Transformation Funding proposals has proven to be a critical financial enabler to the development of essential Integrated services which has required close working with the former ABMU Health Board that has continued with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board in order that Bridgend can work collaboratively to deliver effective and affordable services that are sustainable in future.

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4.3 Enabling approaches

We believe enabling approaches will provide people who are not familiar with the adult social care system, to navigate the system and make better-informed decisions about the type of assistance they need. The provision of a range of enabling approaches that assist people to self-manage their own support needs will lead to greater independence and fulfilled lives. This requires us to design services that are influenced by positive risk taking in order that whilst we recognise the potential of risk, we provide services that are designed to be safe and encourage enabling approaches in the achievement of individual outcomes. In our model of assistance and support we have identified a range of enabling approaches.

Services that were identified as being enabling services include:

- Information and advice
- Advocacy
- Citizen directed support (Direct Payments)
- Carer and family support

The following presents: What we said we would do (as stated in the 2010 Adult Social Care commissioning plan): What we have done and What else we need to do next.

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4.3.1 Information and Advice

What we said we would do:

Information and Advice - to improve signposting and information about support options to enable people to continue self-managing their own needs.

Desired outcome:

Increase level of advice and information available about promoting good health and social wellbeing to equip people to make informed lifestyle choices and to get help, assistance and protection should it be required.

We propose to:

- operate help-lines and a single point of contact arrangement for people to access information and advice based on an integrated multi agency approach linked to the Unified Assessment Process.
- provide a greater resource of accessible information for general public consumption and rationalise signposting activities so that people can be empowered to successfully navigate around social care health and Third Sector systems to obtain the information they require.
- raise public awareness and understanding of disability and mental health issues and other social care issues and to assist in the promotion and implementation of the Council's Public Information Strategy.
- provide a web site that is suitably linked to other appropriate web sites so that innovative ways of making information available within local communities can be developed and explored.
- work with partners to develop an accessible interpreters service.
- signpost people to the most appropriate providers of information, advice and support to assist them to make informed decisions about the difficulties they are encountering.
- maximise people's income so that they are able to participate as much as possible in their communities.
- work with internal and external partners to develop stronger links with voluntary and community based services in order to create opportunities for people to access locally based services which foster a community spirit.

What we have done

Bridgend Adult Social Care has established a Common Access Point as a single point of access for Adult Services with the exception of Learning Disability and Mental Health services.

The introduction of the Act replaces the previous requirements of Unified Assessment Process and required local authorities to secure the provision of service for providing people with information and advice relating to care and support, and assistance in assessing care and support. This requirement resulted in Bridgend developing their Information and Advice service by utilising available systems such as DEWIS which has enabled the authority to make use of technology. However the provision of Information and Advice should not be restricted to contact with social

services, and more needs to be done to ensure that information and advice is consistently provided over a range of information centres within and across communities including those provided by the Third Sector.
The provision of Information and Advice continues to challenge all local authorities across Wales and the ambition is that Information and Advice service continues to be developed to ensure that available information is consistently provided to citizens
The Council has also supported the introduction of three Local Community Coordinator roles in the Ogmore, Garw and Llynfi Valleys. The model is founded on the Local Community Coordinator roles supporting a population of 8,000 - 12,000 people, supporting people to find solutions through community or family resources and to reduce isolation. The focus is on developing resilience within vulnerable individuals and connecting them into supportive, community based opportunities. The Council is working closely with the Bridgend Association for Voluntary Organisations to assist in the development and delivering of resilient communities.
To support Mental Health services, an information and signposting service for the public who can either be directed by GPs or can attend one of a number of drop in information clinics throughout the Borough. This service assists in identifying where specialist assessments are required and through the Assisted Recovery in the Community (ARC) team of support workers and Occupational Therapists who work closely with psychological therapy staff, and can provide a range of needed interventions.

What else we need to do

- Give people more choice and control over what support they receive by providing early access to advice and information;
- Continue to improve the ways in which the Council provides good information, advice and assistance to the public, including increasing the support available through local community co-ordinators;
- To develop long term sustainability by working with the Third Sector to:
    - Connect local people with their communities, develop the use social prescribing opportunities to signpost people to support networks
    - Increase the use of Local Community Coordinators beyond the “valleys” to all other areas in the County Borough

    - Introduce “Community Navigator” roles that support people to meet their needs in community settings and reduce the need for managed care
    - To ensure that the roles and responsibilities of all services are understood so that cases are appropriately managed by the correct service. This will require the development of criteria and pathways that enable people to be escalated and de-escalated between services as necessary.
- To make better use of available resources such as DEWIS and Info engine so that citizens will increase their use of such services before contacting Common Access Point
- To continue to develop the role of the Common Access Point (CAP) to ensure that contacts are dealt with by the appropriate level of expertise, to ensure that right level of response is provided by the right service.
- Improve on consistent signposting, quality assurance and ensuring sufficiency of ongoing staffing in the Common Access Point
- Develop a culture within Adult Social Care so that all staff make better use of available information resources.
- To continually develop information and how it is used for community resources in order that practitioners are able to consider the potential of community groups as a mainstream service to provide additional care and choice.

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4.3.2 Advocacy

What we said we would do:

Advocacy – to expand the range of independent advocacy support available to assist people to make informed choices and decisions about support arrangements that impact on their lives.

Desired outcome:

Adults receive appropriate support to make informed decisions and choices, within a framework of rights, equality and diversity.

We propose to:

- develop a range of high quality advocacy support options for adults across the county borough which are available to people from the first point of contact.
- consolidate and develop existing commissioning arrangements for advocacy support for adults and to explore with others options for developing specialist advocacy options for differing complex needs.
- enhance the role of internal support mechanisms for promoting the concept of advocacy in order to reflect service user comments and experiences within our commissioning arrangements.

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 statutory duties in relation to them and

b) to arrange an independent professional advocate to facilitate the involvement of individuals in certain circumstances.

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 over-arching duties under the Act require that any person exercising functions under the Act must in so far as reasonably practicable, ascertain and have regard to people's views, wishes and feelings. In addition, any person exercising functions under the Act must have regard to the importance of providing support to enable the individual to participate in decisions that affect him or her, to the extent that it is appropriate in the circumstances, particularly where the individual's ability to communicate is limited for any reason. These over-arching duties, together with the United Nation Principles and Convention under section 7 of the Act are integral in understanding and assessing people's well-being outcomes; what matters to people; and

people's needs for care and support to enable them to achieve their personal well-being outcomes.
The Act also sets out:

- people's choice to have someone to act as an advocate for them
- a clear framework to support and empower individuals to make positive informed choices
- a clear recognition of the benefits of advocacy
- the range of advocacy available to people
- the key points when people's need for advocacy must be assessed when independent advocacy must be provided
- the circumstances that impact on peoples need for advocacy
- the circumstances when it is inappropriate for certain people to advocate
- the arrangements for publicising advocacy services and charging.

What we have done

The Council promotes the statutory Independent Professional Advocates service with posters, leaflets and website via partners and local organisations, and service centres. However this is not as a replacement to other forms of advocacy, it is regarded as a last resort where other individuals such as family, friends are not available to provide a voice for the individual.
Bridgend has secured the support of the Golden Thread Advocacy Programme (GTAP) funded by Welsh government to support local authorities with the commissioning of a statutory IPA service. Bridgend used GTAP to help local stakeholders to co-design a 'Hub & Spoke' service model, tested and evaluated this in a pilot scheme, and based on this the Council subsequently fully commissioned via an open tender process.

The local service is called 'Bridgend Voice & Choice' (BVC) and acts as a public-facing contact point (the Advocacy Hub) to signpost and refer Individuals to the most appropriate advocacy service based on their main needs and presenting issues. The Council promotes the BVC service with posters, leaflets and website via partners and local organisations, and service centres. Statutory Independent Professional Advocacy is offered via BVC in addition to other forms of advocacy where other individuals such as family, friends, peer groups, or care professionals are not available or appropriate to provide a voice for the individual.
The Council is proactively engaged with local, regional and national stakeholders to ensure best practice is being developed within our local service.

What else we need to do

- Develop our Advocacy service further so that it supports local knowledge exchange via a Bridgend advocacy network
- Link the Advocacy Network 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.
- 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 Independent Mental Health Advocate/Independent Mental Health Advocacy as required.
- Continue to work strategically with Golden Thread Advocacy Programme to help refine and to continually improve the Bridgend Voice & Choice service.

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4.3.3 Direct Payments

What we said we would do:

Direct Payments – to promote and improve the take up of direct payments and to encourage people to get involved in the planning of future support and having more control of their own future.

Desired outcome:

Flexible responses, reduced dependence on direct support arrangements, extended individual choice and people empowered to take greater responsibility and control of their own support and assistance arrangements

We propose to:

- develop a coordinated strategy for raising awareness among service users, developing performance indicators and local targets that lead to an increase in the take up of direct payments and citizen centred directed support arrangements.
- explore in greater detail the linkages between a person's direct payment and other benefit entitlements in order to maximise financial inclusion and personal lifestyle outcomes.
- review and rationalise the level of bureaucracy and reduce delays associated with processing an application and setting up direct payments and individualised budgets.
- arrange appropriate support and advice that assists a person to set up and manage a direct payment.
- identify more flexible ways of releasing monies from existing service budgets.
- map the care provider market and make this information accessible and available to interested parties and to promote alternatives to direct support arrangements provided by statutory agencies.

What we have done

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 an external review of the direct payments scheme in BCBC, to develop a strategy and action plan in moving forward.

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.

The strategy was developed to progress the Council's use of Direct Payments over the following three years. The strategy identified the essential contribution of Direct Payments to the ambitions of the Act to "increase independence choice and control".

In 2018-19 we held a number of engagement events in order to involve our service users, carers and communities in the further development of carers' support, direct payments, support providers and our shared lives services. As a result we have been able to commission new services in each of these areas and new contracts have been introduced for a Carers Well-being Service, a Short Breaks (Respite) Provider Framework, a Direct Payments Support Service, and a new regional collaboration to start with the Vale of Glamorgan Council for our Shared Lives (Adult Placement) Scheme.

A series of workshops have been held to launch the revised policy and practice guidance for Direct Payments. The briefings introduced staff to Bridgend's new Direct Payments strategy and described the aims, principles, and duties in relation to Direct Payments linked to the Act. The purpose of these briefings was also to encourage innovative thinking and take up of Direct Payments. Over 100 practitioners have attended these workshops and to ensure that Direct Payments are being used effectively, we are monitoring their use during 2019-20 and beyond if necessary.

The use of Direct Payments has expanded considerably over recent years. From 2012 until 2019, the number of recipients of Direct Payments has doubled from 160 to 322. Since 2014, the Council has also increased its spend on Direct payments by 51% to £3.2m in 2018/19. However the Council is keen to ensure that the use of Direct Payments continue to increase and being used effectively.

What else we need to do

- To continue to increase the use of Direct Payments by identifying new opportunities that can benefit from their use
- To broaden the use of Direct Payments beyond the traditional additional groups of Learning Disabilities and Physical Disabilities
- Develop the use of "pooling" Direct Payments to ensure that they are used in a cost effective way and available "personal assistant" resources are used effectively.
- To explore the use of developing cooperatives in relation to the provision of direct payments

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4.3.4 Carer support

What we said we would do:

Carer and family support – to increase the offering and take up of carer assessments; to continuously improve the involvement and engagement of carers, including young carers, in care networks, to improve consultation processes and the flow of information to carers.

Desired outcome:

All carers have an enhanced quality of life through reliable, responsive support so that they are able to continue performing their caring role thereby assisting family(s) stay together and to prevent an adult or child/ young person having to be directly cared for by the Council. This will ensure that carers continue to be able to participate fully in their community.

We propose to:

- develop a Carers Strategy which sets out our arrangements and priorities for supporting carers in the county borough.
- increase the ongoing opportunities for the training and support of carers who provide assistance to adults with complex needs to ensure they do not put themselves or the person they support at risk.
- improve internal systems for offering and undertaking carer assessments to ensure that individual carers can routinely access a timely assessment of their needs and/ or to access relevant assistance and support if required.
- commission a greater range of short break for carers using a range of facilities and events in different community settings so that their opportunities are not limited.
- further raise awareness of the role of carers in the community and consolidate strategic partnerships with carer support networks, carer forums and within planning mechanisms in order to inform the objectives and priorities of the 'Carer Strategy'.
- support and promote the 'carers' network, support services for working with carers and carers' advocates scheme.
- remodel traditional forms of carer support and to promote integrated support arrangements for carers that connect with mainstream community based approaches.

What we have done

Bridgend secured the support of the Wales School for Social Care Research to independently facilitate stakeholder engagement with unpaid carers, social work practitioners and service providers. The engagement was used to co-produce a 'vision' for carers services which was tested

and refined through local focus groups. With an estimated 18,000 unpaid carers in the borough, but with only around 1,600 currently identified through existing partnerships, the result of the engagement work was to commission a new Bridgend Carers Well-being Service with a priority to offer outreach to as many previously unidentified carers as possible. The new service is establishing an 'Expert Panel' made up of local carers, it is undertaking initial carers assessments for newly identified carers, and has held a high-profile public launch event and is establishing a presence at community venues around the borough. It is anticipated this approach will support the process of promoting 'carer-friendly communities' agenda as a way to engage with wider stakeholders and partners that can help to further identify and advise carers as an early stage preventative measure. In addition to these activities, we have:

- Developed effective working with the Third Sector who provide a variety of services and activities in the community and the creation of peer group
- Commissioned services from the Third Sector to provide welfare benefit advice and other advice and support
- Increased the use of Direct Payments to support carers
- Developed Anticipatory Care Plans to support Carers and Cared for
- Engaged with carers to identify what works well and areas for improvement
- Developed Regional approaches in the former Western Bay to work collaboratively to address the priorities for Carer services as identified in the former Western Bay Area Plan.

What else we need to do

- Support carers in maintaining their roles;
- Bridgend will continue to work collaboratively within the new region arrangements to improve support and services for carers
- Improved identification of carers of all ages
- The mainstreaming of carers services to make it 'common practice' as opposed to a separate provision/consideration
- Increasing access to support from an early stage in the caring role, making carers aware that there is help and where to access it
- Ensuring a single point of contact for carers where they can access information, advice (including financial advice) and signposting
- Increasing the awareness and uptake of carers assessments
- Increasing the use of direct payments for carer's by being more creative with their use
- Engaging the Third Sector in the provision of services for carers

- Increasing planned break services including respite provision, group support and other support services to provide relief to carers from their caring responsibilities

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4.4 Preventative approaches

What we said we would do:

Preventative approaches will focus systems on the early identification of changes in a person's needs that constitute a risk to their continued independence and ability to self-manage their own needs.

We propose to:

- **Supporting independence in the home** – to increase the range of options for self-support and targeted assistance in a person's own home that helps them build on their strengths and needs and maintain and or improve their quality of life
- **Community opportunities** - to expand the use of individually planned support arrangements in a range of integrated community settings that reduces the reliance on traditional support options
- **Community equipment, aids adaptations and Telecare** - to integrate and consolidate health and social care approaches to the provision of community equipment to maximise the number of people who can access and use independent living equipment in their own home.
- **Short breaks** – to increase the range of appropriate, accessible short break options in the community for service users and carers, which offer flexible and outcome-focussed breaks from usual care routines
- **Supported employment** – to create more flexible opportunities to support people to access voluntary work, paid work either through specialist initiatives or open employment which reduces the need for formal support

4.4.1 Supporting independence in the home/ Domiciliary Care Services

What we said we would do:

Supporting independence in the home – to increase the range of options for self-support and targeted assistance in a person's own home that helps them build on their strengths and needs and maintain and or improve their quality of life.

Desired outcome:

People receive appropriate support for their assessed personal and social care needs to minimise their risks to their independence, based on enabling approaches to maintain their self-determination and dignity in the community.

What we said that we would do:

- further modernise our in-house provision of assistance and support for people in their own home to promote independence and to maximise their potential.
- ❖ develop diversified service responses and approaches that link to Bridgestart and intermediate care support services on a borough wide basis.
- ❖ develop a greater range of specialist services in the home for people with dementia, physical and sensory impairments, learning disabilities and mental health needs.
- ❖ review traditional aspects of the Council's internal Domiciliary Care provision and develop proposals for reconfiguring and modernising the approaches.
- ❖ outsource elements of non specialist in house provision to support the development of a mixed economy of care and an integrated model of provision.

What we have done

Domiciliary Care Services

The transformation of Older People Services presented significant challenges. The increasing population and related demand, required significant changes to Older People Services in particular that would require the careful redesign of services that not only enabled the control of spend, but also met the increasing demand.

This has been achieved through the transformation of how services are commissioned particularly regarding the provision of Domiciliary Care Services. Traditionally, the provision of Domiciliary Care services has been the fundamental cornerstone of keeping people at home, and thereby preventing the need for Residential Care admissions. The development of Domiciliary Care Services to include Re-ablement type services that are designed to increase the independence of individuals has made a significant contribution to reducing the demand associated with increasing population.

Previously Bridgend delivered the greater proportion of Domiciliary Care hours compared to what was procured from the Independent Domiciliary Care sector. Table 1 below provides a summary of hours provided during the financial years 2013/14 and 2018/19, where it can be seen that there has been an increase (of 14%) in the total number of Domiciliary Care hours provided in 2018/19 compared to those provided in 2013/14.

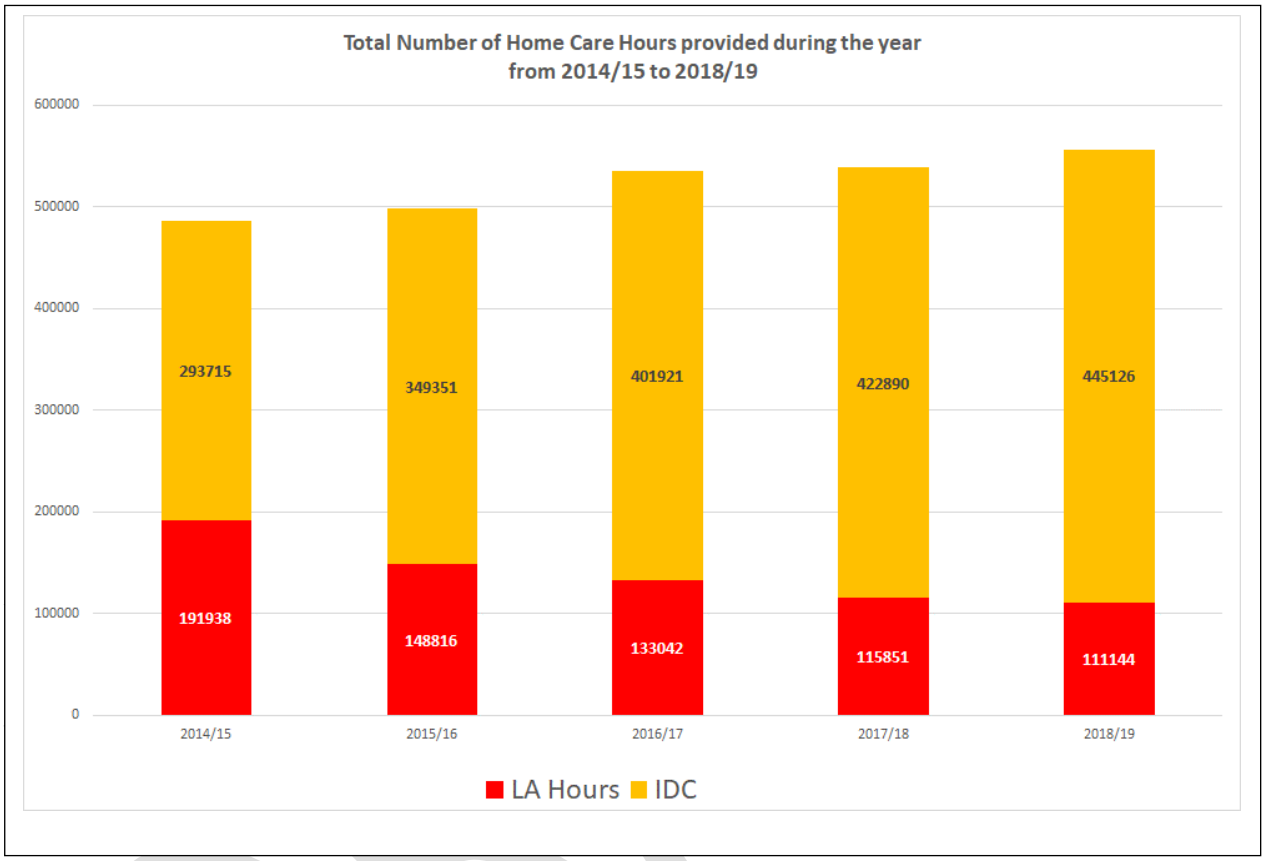
Table 1: Total Numbers of Domiciliary Care Hours provided during the year

Financial Year	Bridgend CBC Domiciliary Care Hours provided	Independent Domiciliary Care Hours provided	Total Domiciliary Care Hours provided
2013/14	224,568 (46%)	264,061 (54%)	488,629 (100%)
2018/19	111,114 (20%)	445,126 (80%)	556,240 (100%)

The impact of this reducing trend in Local Authority Hours can be seen in Figure 4 below, which confirms that whilst Local Authority Hours provided have been halved since 2014/15, the total number of hours provided have increased by 14% which indicates that the hours commissioned with the Independent Domiciliary Care market has increased by nearly 70% during the same period.

FIGURE 4 COMPARISON OF TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS OF DOMICILIARY CARE PROVIDED DURING A YEAR

Since 2014/15 reducing the In-House Domiciliary Care Hours and increasing the numbers of IDC Hours provided has enabled an overall increase in hours of 15%



4.4.2 Community Opportunities

What we said we would do:

Community opportunities - to expand the use of individually planned support arrangements in a range of integrated community settings that reduces the reliance on traditional support options.

Desired outcome:

A person is able to access a range of mainstream community based social, leisure and educational activities that can build confidence, social competence and/or maximise their potential improving their quality of life in accordance with their personal needs.

We propose to:

- develop more opportunities for people to access mainstream support arrangements within their local community, underpinned by appropriate transport arrangements.
- develop community based outreach support from a variety of settings to better support people in their own localities.
- develop new and creative commissioning processes to purchase meaningful daytime opportunities to be delivered by internal and external providers.
- reconfigure centralised and traditional transport arrangements in order to promote localised community based support arrangements accessed by personal or public transport whenever possible.
- promote a mixed economy of provision and to engage the independent and voluntary sector in order to diversify the range of localised services provided.
- build on successful longstanding partnerships with Community Education and Bridgend College in order to sustain the development of new models of integrated community support approaches.

What we have done

The key theme of prevention of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act has been embraced by Bridgend as a means of improving the wellbeing of targeted population groups through specific areas of focus within our healthy living and cultural services. Since 2012 the healthy living partnership with GLL/Halo Leisure has been established to develop healthier communities, that are strong and cohesive, and to support children and young people to live healthier and more active lives. Similarly, the creation of a partnership with the Awen cultural trust in 2015

has developed a focus on how the use of arts, culture and creative activities can improve community wellbeing with growing focus on targeted population groups and use of social prescribing. Historically, Leisure and Cultural facilities across the UK might have provided benefit to narrower populations but the new focus in Bridgend has been to respond to the challenges of the key pieces of wellbeing legislation and to those people who would benefit from improved wellbeing. These key partnerships and the related community facing facilities including leisure centres, libraries, community centres and theatres are well located and well placed to contribute to our service delivery plan. In recent years, Bridgend in partnership with HALO and AWEN has successfully developed services to encourage and support the inactive to become more active and to become engaged in their communities in activities designed to aid their Well-being.

The development of preventative and wellbeing approaches is being taken forward in the Social Services and Well-being Directorate and a prevention and wellbeing project work stream has been established to further develop this work as part of transformation planning. Well-being Services have successfully been added to the fabric of Social Care and assisted in targeting issues and population groups. This has been achieved by the conversion of the former “Sport and Play” type services into Well-being services that are also targeting specific population groups. Consequently there are new services that have been developed that include Falls Prevention, the regional Super-Agers programme and initiatives such as Olympage Games and Dementia friendly swimming that are demonstrating positive outcomes including reductions in loneliness and isolation for many population groups. This has supported a greater focus on prevention and wellbeing and now the broader service area is contributing to community wellbeing development opportunities. This approach contributes to the collective directorate management team focus on prevention and ensures a recognition of community and Third Sector roles is integrated in planning and evaluation. There has progressively been a growth in prevention and wellbeing work across the Social Services and Well-being Directorate and this focus is becoming embedded in teams.

In addition the Well-being Service also manages the work of the Local Area Coordinators which play a critical role in supporting individuals by providing lower levels of service and support. The Local Community Coordinator roles and services is currently funded by Welsh Government legacy funding and would support a caseload of up to seventy vulnerable people per role at any given time. The focus is on developing resilience within vulnerable individuals, building on strengths and aspirations and connecting them into supportive, community based opportunities.

The prevention and wellbeing agenda also has strong links to the joint work that is taking place with BAVO (the local CVC), and the Third Sector Stakeholder group that recognises the future importance of the Third Sector and the role played in developing resilient and supportive communities. In recent years there has been collaborative and cross sector working between the Council and BAVO that is now developing into delivery of strategic programmes and interventions. Both the Council and the Third Sector have worked together to co-produce the "Building Resilient Communities" plan. The Well-being Services contribution provides essential low level services that has allowed the services to be bolstered by the contribution of the Third Sector which has attracted a range of Grant funding including:

- ICF Capital Grant applications to develop Well-being Hubs in Bridgend and Maesteg. The Well-being Hub at Bridgend Life Centre has been supported by the Welsh Governments Integrated Care Funding and Halo Leisure and was completed in October 2019. The facilities will support employability, community and workforce development, Third Sector engagement space and group activity rooms. The outcomes will focus on dementia support, falls prevention, combatting loneliness and isolation and physical and mental wellbeing. This focus on co-location and accessibility of facilities and services will be expanded to other locations where supported by the business case. Considerations would include Maesteg Town Hall, Maesteg Sports Centre, Grand Pavilion (Porthcawl) and community centres.
- Building on the work developed by the "Olympage" scheme, the Council has been successful in securing investment for a regional programme from the Healthy and Active fund to develop a "Super Agers" project. The key objective of the Super-Agers project is to enhance the physical wellbeing of older adults in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg area by increased physical activity developed as a regional partnership. The "Super Agers" project is designed around collaboration and includes Third Sector, health board, public health and the local authorities in the region.
- The successful Bridgend bid for Transformation Funding includes a proposal to develop and deliver "Resilient Coordinated Communities". This bid is led by BAVO and will work closely with Well-being Services to deliver a network of services that will work collaboratively to apply preventative approaches that enhance the wellbeing of the population of Bridgend. This project will build in the work of the Local Area Coordinators resource to support people with

higher levels of need and complexity whilst Third Sector and Community Navigator roles serve to address lower levels of need, connecting people to communities and helping to develop an enhanced range of community support opportunities

- There is a growth in programmes that support people living with dementia and carers for example “The Memory Lane Café”, Dementia Swimming programme, Bridgend Carers choir, “Sing and Smile”.
- Mental Health services has developed the “Developing Emotional Well-being and Resilience” (DEWR) service that provides high-quality, person-centred support to citizens designed to enable them to achieve and sustain optimum levels of independence and mental wellbeing. The service works directly with young people, adults and their families and carers to ensure that their views, wishes and feelings are central in the planning of their future life.
- Traditional Day service provision has been reviewed (2014) and the number of buildings has been rationalised and new service model has been developed.
- Community Services exist that provide specialist services that support people to regain and sustain their emotional Well-being.
- Traditional Model of Learning Disability Day Services has been replaced by Community Hub Model, which is based on the principle of localised services support a positive community presence with relationships being developed with local people. Historically, investment has been made by the service in developing plans to establish Bridgend Resource Centre, Work Related Services (WOOD B/BLEAF) and four strategically positioned Localised Services based on a model of “Active Citizenship” which are based at:
    - Cwm Calon – Maesteg Localised Service;
    - Sarn Adult Support Centre – Valleys Gateway & Pencoed Localised Service;
    - Ty Penybont – Bridgend Localised Service;
    - Pyle Life Centre – Pyle & Porthcawl Localised Service.
    - Specialist Dementia Unit in Bridgend Resource Centre
- Older Persons Day Services and Learning Disability Day services were brought under one line management in 2014 which has enabled the services to be co-located and rationalised. A further

review of Older Persons Day Services was undertaken between January and May 2019 to identify how Older People Services need to be developed to accommodate the expected increases in older people population

- Transport links have been improved and the take up by Older People and/or disabled people has increased

What else we need to do

- Ensure that stakeholders and our teams have knowledge and understanding of the support that the local community co-ordination resource and the navigators can provide which will relate to the geographical populations and locations supported and the roles and capabilities of the staff to support various levels of need and complexity.
- Support the development of a new generation of community health and wellbeing centres for our residents with health partners;
- Reshape the current model of Older People Day Services so that people are supported to access a wider range of day time opportunities.
- Work in partnership with the Third Sector, town and community councils and community groups to meet local needs;
- Work with partners and the Third Sector to strengthen communities and identify the best way of providing services locally;
- Enable community groups and the Third Sector to have more choice and control over community assets;
- To develop a means of measuring and monitoring impact of preventative interventions
- To continue to increase the contribution of schools to the “Age Friendly” communities
- Invest into community based services that provide a wider range of mental health services including the expansion of more community based help and support.
- The Council needs to develop and align transport links that better support people to access and benefit from the range of wellbeing services that have and continue to be developed. This will require a corporate approach to resolving this critical issue.
- Develop the multi-agency model to create a brokerage type service in the community areas that recognise the broader range of opportunities to connect people to.

- Ensure that there are clear pathways in place for individuals to self-refer or for professionals to connect people into community support opportunities. This will include establishing clarity on the need for people to be able to be connected into community based opportunities sustainably including those run by volunteers and the Third Sector.
- Development of a communication plan that ensures the range of stakeholders are aware of the objectives of the transformation investment and its objective of accelerating the pace of change for a defined period of time.
- In partnership with BAVO and the Third Sector, to work with navigators to identify gaps that exist within communities and to utilize the transformation related grant schemes to build Third Sector capacity.
- To ensure that there is a focus on medium term sustainability and to ensure that investment into the Third Sector and volunteer effort builds a resilient model for when funding might no longer be available for roles identified.
- In discussion with health colleagues to identify the development of a specialist dementia model. This will be progressed as part of the development of localised services and in particular the unlocking of specialist capacity at Bridgend Resource Centre

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4.4.3 Community Equipment, Aids Adaptations and Telecare

What we said we would do:

Community equipment, aids adaptations and Telecare - to integrate and consolidate health and social care approaches to the provision of community equipment to maximise the number of people who can access and use independent living equipment in their own home.

Desired outcome:

A person is able to access and use assistive technology, community equipment, aids and adaptations which enables them to continue to live within their home and perform daily tasks irrespective of the limitations of their impairments resulting from their frailty or disability.

- maximise the efficiency, effectiveness and best value of commissioning arrangements administered by the Council and Health partners for integrating community equipment services.
- operate an integrated health social care and education, demonstration and teaching facility for Community Equipment and Telecare.
- operate integrated therapeutic health and social care teams with responsibility for prescribing and requisitioning Community Equipment, aids, adaptations and Telecare.
- maximise the potential of Telecare and develop in partnership with Health agencies opportunities for extending the use of TELE-HEALTH technology through integrated working with people with long-term conditions.

What we have done

- Telecare and the Mobile Response Team have developed substantially over time. This service, sits within the Community Resource Team and provides a comprehensive 24-hour service as part of a telecare package, responding to calls for assistance either via a lifeline activated by the service user or by the proactive use of telecare sensors. The service provides direct assistance including personal care where appropriate and also co-ordinates and supports an emergency response when required. The service also supports the assessment, installation and maintenance of the telecare equipment and can carry out proactive calling to support service users when required.
- At 31st March 2019 there were 2640 users of Telecare in Bridgend.

- The service has created a post dedicated to developing specialist knowledge of assistive technology as well as identifying opportunities to further the use of assistive technology in Bridgend.
- As part of the service's collaboration with Care & Repair it is trialling an "Assess & Install" function, where Trusted Assessors based in Care & Repair can improve the timeliness of assessment and installation of assistive technology. This is especially useful in instances such as facilitating earlier hospital discharge.
- The successful Transformation bid for Bridgend includes building further on the already established Bridgelink service by developing another 24/7 team. This aims to increase even further the availability of MRT to respond to Telecare alerts, avoiding inappropriate ambulance call out and transfer to hospital. This new model of service will have sufficient capacity to link with WAST and respond to fallers outside of the Telecare service within the context of a criteria. This has the potential to reduce the number of ambulance callouts to fallers over the age of 65 years and transfers to hospital.
- We have worked with housing providers to adopt the principles in the Royal College of Occupational Therapists publication 'Minor Adaptations without Delay'. This enables housing associations tenants to go directly to their housing provider for a defined range of minor adaptations rather than waiting for an assessment by a Community Occupational Therapist. Tenants can be signposted to this service at the point of contact with us and allows the Community Occupational Therapists to focus on the most complex cases.
- We have extended the above arrangement to owner-occupiers and those in the privately rented sector by setting up an agreement with our local Care & Repair agency to assess and provide a defined range of minor adaptations on our behalf. Callers to our single point of access can be signposted directly to Care & Repair at that point or at the point of triage by the Occupational Therapy Manager.
- We have established an Occupational Therapy post in our Housing Department to expedite requests for rehousing to more accessible properties under the Housing Options

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scheme. This reduces the demand on Disabled Facilities Grants by accurately identifying applicants needs and matching them to vacant adapted properties. The post also provides Occupational Therapy advice and expertise to Housing staff and releases capacity within the Community Occupational Therapy team. The creation of this post also allows a number of other developments which will improve flow and reduce waiting times for assessment.

- We have a dedicated Occupational Therapy post within HMP Parc Prison. The role is to replicate community services as far as is practicable with older, frail and disabled prisoners. The role involves supporting prisoners to maintain their independence, enable the delivery of care and identifying housing needs prior to release. We are in discussions regarding an expansion of the 'Occupational' element of the role to include preparing prisoners for release by focussing on activities of daily living, meal preparation, money management, etc.
- We have strengthened the Occupational Therapy contribution to our 'BridgeWay' service enabling Domiciliary Care service for people with dementia and cognitive impairment by doubling the establishment of Occupational Therapists, upgrading one of the posts to a Senior Practitioner/Clinical Lead post and developing strong links with the Memory Team of Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board. This ensures that our assessment are more robust and focussed on maintaining people in their own homes and that we are able to meet the increasing demand within dementia services.
- We have integrated our Community Occupational Therapy service into the Community Resource Team. This has provided a critical mass of Occupational Therapists with the associated access to management and peer support, improved the equity of service across the authority and improved communication between all the short-term community-based enabling and Re-abling services, which includes Community Occupational Therapy.

- **What else we need to do**

- Explore expanding the access to assistive technology and Bridgelink Mobile Response Team to individuals who do not have a Care & Support i.e. a Private Pay option.
- Explore the use of assistive technology and how it can support Adult Social Care's ambition of supporting people to stay at home for longer.

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4.4.4 Short Breaks

What we said we would do

Short breaks – to increase the range of appropriate, accessible short break options in the community for service users and carers, which offer flexible and outcome-focussed breaks from usual care routines.

Desired outcome:

A person can continue to have choice and control about the setting in which they receive support, by enabling them and people who care for them, to continue to receive the support they require to live in the community.

We propose to:

- shift away from traditional short break models based on temporary breaks at long-stay residential units, towards the development of specialist short stay resources and community based services which offer support for people in their own home.
- develop innovative arrangements for people and/or their carers to engage in themed activities using mainstream facilities, groups and artists.
- consider how facilities in the ownership of the Local Authority might be used to provide respite to carers.
- increase the range and variety of appropriately equipped specialist break services available to people with complex needs and promoting equity and consistency across the sector.
- work in partnership with NHS partners, local voluntary groups and independent providers to improve and extend the model of provision.
- administer seamless care pathways for people between day hospital, rehabilitative and social community support services.
- develop appropriately equipped person-centred bespoke short breaks that can address and take account of the individual needs of both the carer and the person they care for.

What we have Done

- During 2017-18 a series of engagement activities were held around unpaid carers that focussed on a specific commissioning activity that provides respite to unpaid carers. As a consequence of these events, the Council moved from holding two block contracts with specific providers supporting specific cohorts of Individuals, to a Short Breaks Framework which includes 11 local Providers able to support all client groups and which was fully commissioned in May 2019.
- Following stakeholder input, the new Short Breaks Framework offers a 4-weekly window in which carers can 'bank' their weekly assessed hours and use them more flexibly at times and in lengths that better suit their individual needs. The Framework has allowed an expansion and diversification of the market and should improve the Council's ability to measure and monitor services that directly benefit carers.
- In addition to the Short Breaks Framework, the Council has entered into a new regional arrangement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to operate an Adult Placement Scheme which also offers Short Breaks opportunities, and the aim is to develop this as an alternative service to people using traditional residential care homes for respite.

What else we need to do

- Increasing respite provision, group support and other support services for carers
- Increase the availability and uptake of short break/respite services considering alternative models that ensure flexibility of provision

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4.5 Specialist Preventative Approaches

Specialist preventative approaches. *We will provide alternative options of support for those adults and young people who are at high risk of requiring long term care and support and/or face unnecessarily prolonged hospital stays, inappropriate admission to acute in-patient care, long term residential care or continuing NHS in-patient care.*

The approach will embrace an intermediate care model of assistance and support that focuses on multi-disciplinary assessments and a process of reablement and rehabilitation at the interface or crossover between the hospital, long term care and the community.

What we said we would do

Providing a rapid response and supporting people at a time of personal crisis - to increase the range of specialist support arrangements for people in crisis that prevent unnecessary admission to a residential care or nursing care home or hospital and the need for 'total care', i.e. a joined up approach, as part of the range of responses to unscheduled care and the delivery of support.

Desired outcome:

A person with a substantial long-term and adverse condition who has experienced a sudden, serious, or acute health event which could lead to a health crisis can access an alternative to being admitted to and/or retained in an acute ward or a residential or nursing care placement.

We propose to:

- extend crisis resolution approaches developed in partnership with NHS partners to provide an increased range of alternatives to admission to hospital or residential setting in a crisis
- strengthen the profile and access arrangements of crisis resolution approaches to support and rehabilitate people with complex and challenging needs and to take account of the changing needs of the service user population.
- develop timely social care mobile responses 24 /7 in order to respond to a crisis at home and thus prevent unnecessary admission to hospital or care home.
- develop a wider range of integrated health and social care mobile responses which can provide appropriate support for people experiencing a crisis until a planned response to their ongoing needs can be arranged
- explore, with partners, the flexible use of emergency units and step-up step-down facilities, such as residential reablement in social care settings.

What we said we would do

Intermediate care and reablement approaches - to develop a range of early and mobile response services, reablement and rehabilitation approaches that offer short term intensive support to enable people to either regain or maintain their level of functioning for living independently.

Desired outcome:

A person can live independently have a better quality of life in terms of functional improvements as that maximises the independence through intensive support over a specific period of time, which is determined by need and minimising risks to independence.

We propose to:

- continue with the development an Early and Mobile Response Service (ERS) which is designed to prevent avoidable admissions to hospital by providing rapid health and social care assessments, diagnosis and if appropriate is immediate access to short-term nursing therapy and social care support.
- integrate the management and support functions of the ERS community reablement and community disability rehabilitation approaches; to deliver a single secondary point of referral for health and social care agencies and explore options for formalising these arrangements with Health Partners under section 33 agreements.
- ensure planning mechanisms for developing reablement and rehabilitation approaches encompass all user groups with particular emphasis on people with dementia, older people with mental health problems and younger adults with complex physical needs such as acquired impairments and degenerative neurological conditions and learning disabilities.
- develop multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled community-based teams of health and adult social care staff who can co-ordinate health and social care responses effectively across a range of different settings community-based settings.
- target people who would otherwise face unnecessarily prolonged hospital stays or inappropriate admission to acute in patient care, long term residential care or continuing NHS in-patient care to access specialist residential placements in health and social care resource.
- provide opportunities for the emotional and psychological aspects of disability to be addressed with people and/or their families through interventions with Social Work and Psychology.

What we said we would do

Specialist community support – to remodel community support facilities into integrated specialist community support resources that can deliver specialist and intensive support packages for people on a time limited basis.

Desired outcome:

Adults with complex and challenging needs are able to improve their level of social interaction, communication skills and coping mechanisms for managing change in order to live a better quality of life in the community.

We propose to:

- develop an integrated model of health and social care which involves the establishment of multi disciplinary move-on projects for adults with complex and challenging needs who: -
    - are at risk of becoming dependent on institutional forms of care.
    - return from institutional care to appropriate community settings unless there is a justifiable reason for their not doing so.
- increase the scope and accessibility of community based responses for adults with complex and challenging needs.
- make appropriate arrangements for the early identification of people with complex and challenging needs to ensure that specialist approaches are targeted for those in greatest need.
- develop a variety of specialist integrated models of support which are inclusive and accessible to people with a range of conditions.
- develop, with partners as appropriate, seamless integrated specialist outreach end of life and palliative care teams that can provide the appropriate support for people who would prefer to die in their own home
- support NHS partners in developing integrated teams to care for people at home to provide appropriate support for people who are living with chronic deteriorating conditions and who potentially may be receiving or go on to receive specialist palliative care services.

What We Have Done

4.5.1 Community Resource Team

The Community Resource Team has been developed as an Integrated Health and Social Care service that is able to respond with essential services that support the prevention of emergency admissions into Hospital in addition to supporting early hospital discharge. This confirms the importance of effective services that are not only responsive but wide ranging so it can respond to a range of service needs. Consequently we have developed an integrated service that is regarded as a good example of integrated Health and Social Care working not just in Bridgend but across Wales.

The Community Resource Team has been developed to consist of a range of services that include:

Common Access Point (CAP): Supported by a Multi-Disciplinary Team that consists of Nurses, Occupational Therapist and Social Workers. The CAP provides the sole point of access to all of the CRT services. CAP also has a clear link to each of the different community teams and professionals, and manages all referrals and patient enquiries coming into the CRT. CAP will therefore ensure all citizen/patient needs are met by directing patients to the most appropriate resource or team, and also provide Information and Advice as required.

Better at Home: Is led by CRT Social Workers and supported by CRT coordinators and carers. The Better at Home service is a bridging team that is designed to get patients home from hospital while awaiting other services for which there may be waiting periods. The service can also support patients with mild to moderate frailty such as arm fractures who are usually independent but may benefit from Better at Home to enable them to achieve full functionality.

Bridgelink (Telecare) and Mobile Response Team: Bridgelink is a home and personal alarm service which in the event of an emergency can automatically contact a 24/7 control centre who will summon appropriate assistance. A Mobile Response Team has also been developed as part of their service that can attend a property to render assistance with emergencies including falls.

Reablement Team: The Reablement Team provides a service for up to six week that is goal focussed to assist patients be re-enabled by working to clear and realistic goals that assist the patient to regain or improve their independence following acute illness and de-conditioning. The goals are agreed with the patient and their achievement are used as a means of defining any level of support that is required following the initial six week intervention.

Bryn Y Care Reablement Unit: Bryn Y Cae is a six bedded residential reablement unit for patients with clear re-enabling goals who are not quite ready for discharge home but would benefit from discharge from the

hospital environment. The service is led by Reablement Therapists and supported by Acute Clinical Team (ACT) Nurses, Therapy Technicians and staff at Bryn Y Cae.

Bridgestart Team: The Bridgestart Team is an Occupational Therapy led service that is supported by Therapy Technicians and CRT Coordinators and Carers. The service is suitable for patients who require care to remain at home or to be discharged from hospital and there are agreed goals to improve the person's independence. The service will undertake a short term assessment and following intervention, evaluate of the patient has ongoing care needs.

Bridgeway: Bridgeway is a similar service to Bridgestart and includes Occupational Therapists to provide assessment services for Dementia/cognitively impaired patients with similar functional needs.

Acute Clinical Team (ACT): The ACT manage community patients in acute crisis at risk of unnecessary admission and also undertake domiciliary falls assessment. They also manage an array of IV therapy, clinical reviews and undertake clinical workup on patients where normal hospital/clinic services are not suitable for that patient's circumstances. ACT is a team of multi-professionals which whilst is led by Clinical Practitioners, are supported by Consultant Physicians, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and CRT Social Workers. The service is able to access to a range of other professionals that include the Community Dementia Team, Speech and Language Therapists and Dieticians, Pharmacy Technicians and the CRT Equipment store.

Sensory Team: The sensory team provides both specialist rehabilitative and social work support to patients with visual, hearing and or dual sensory loss according to their individual need and circumstances. The service is open to all ages and disabilities.

Community Dementia Team (CDT): Led by CRT Mental Health Link Practitioner (MHLP) and supported by Dementia Practitioners (Social Working Nursing and OT Backgrounds) and Dementia Support Workers. The CDT provides support for patients living with dementia or their carers and also assist other community healthcare colleagues supporting and caring for them. The CDT practitioners also provide expert advice, signposting and education of practical skills to support those with dementia and their families and carers.

What else we need to do

- We need to further develop our working relationships with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to ensure integrated services are continually improved and better support Hospital Discharge and unplanned admissions and other critical services.
- Further modernise our in-house provision of assistance and support for people in their own home to promote independence and to maximise their potential.

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- Provide a common access point open seven days a week for extended hours for access to coordinated community health and social care and Third Sector support
- Provide a non-selective reablement/enabling services accessible over seven days,
- An expansion of the better at home bridging service, learning from the Cwm Taf regions Stay Well At Home project accessible over seven days
- Increased the capacity of the Mobile Response Team and introduce capacity to deliver care at night
- Expanded Acute Clinical Team supporting admission avoidance from the community
- Step Up Step Down facility focusing on reablement, recovery and enabling respite, with the potential of delivering further alternatives to post-acute stays in secondary care, for example out of hospital assessment for long term care assist people to have their own

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4.6 Integrated living

Integrated living options will enable people with complex needs (for example people with a Learning Disability) who have become socially isolated to access some form of flexible social care housing- related support, and in some circumstances, to access integrated community based housing schemes where there is access to higher levels of social care support e.g. intensive 'extra care'.

Targeted and coordinated social care housing support arrangements will enable people to maintain their independence, functioning and quality of life in the community. As part of the approach we will replicate a 'family model' of assistance and support for those people who may need additional support to develop social and networking skills in a protected environment.

We have identified a range of Integrated living approaches being:-

4.6.1 Supported Independent Housing (including *Core and Cluster*)
4.6.2 Extra Care Housing
4.6.3 Adult Placement (*Shared Lives*)

What we have done

- We have created a variety of accommodation that is designed to assist people to have their own meet a range of needs
- A needs analysis has been undertaken that has identified accommodation needs of the following groups of people in Bridgend:
    - People known to the Community Mental Health Teams
    - People with a Learning Disability known to the Community Learning Disability Team
    - People known to the Community Drug and Alcohol Team
    - Young people in Transition from children's to adult services

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4.6.1 Supported independent housing (including Core and Cluster)-

What we said we would do

Supported independent housing (including *Core and Cluster*)- to consolidate and increase the number of supported independent housing schemes based on a hub and spoke model of assistance and support for people with more complex and challenging needs.

Desired outcome:

People with complex social care needs are assisted to access suitable accommodation and support services within a recovery and rehabilitation model of services which will help to improve their quality of life and their ability to maximize their independence in their community.

We propose to:

- implement the strategic objectives of the Local Housing Strategies, Local Homelessness Strategies and Supporting People Operational Plans and to forge more effective partnership working arrangements between, health, housing and social care agencies.
- prioritise developments that meet the needs of people with mental health problems and streamline referral and contact arrangements for accessing accommodation within both the statutory and independent sector.
- develop peripatetic rehabilitation services focussing at maintaining people in their own homes in the community.
- engage with the independent and voluntary sector to further develop the range of supported accommodation locally for people in their own homes or in other local settings.

Whilst this detail needs to be updated, it provides important context for the availability of Residential/Nursing Care Homes in the Bridgend Locality.

What we have done

The majority of individual tenancies are provided in properties, which are owned by Registered Social Landlords. A tenancy agreement is put in place, which enables the individual to have his or her own home. Previously, the Council has adopted Tenancy Agreements to provide optional residential services to People with a Learning Disability and Mental Health, but with the introduction of Extra Care accommodation, this practice has now been extended to other service areas.

If the individual requires support to live in their own home, this can be provided either by a Specialist Care provider, a domiciliary provider, or through a Core and Cluster network or a Direct Payment as described above.
Most support service providers are registered with the Care Inspectorate for Wales and have to comply with the relevant regulations.
Closer to home refers to a specialist supported living service for individuals with a Learning Disability and or Mental Health Difficulty and Complex Challenging Behaviour including Autistic Spectrum Conditions.
The aim of the Closer to Home project is to avoid the need for Out of County placements by providing local, specialised supported living services for people who have both health and social care needs and whose condition may be considered complex and challenging.
The Closer to Home project was a Western Bay collaboration and we are now working with Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board to take it forward
There are currently two Closer to Home schemes in Bridgend and one in development.

What else we need to do

- We need to continue to develop a range of housing accommodation that supports independence for those with complex and challenging needs.

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4.6.2 Extra Care housing

What we said we would do

Extra Care housing – to build on the experiences of developing an extra care scheme and to enhance the range of support options for people living in different housing models.

Desired outcome:

People with complex needs are supported to remain in their own communities, living as independently as is possible, with support packages tailored to their needs.

We propose to:

- ❖ continue developing the extra care housing model within the County Borough subject to the continued availability of funding from the Welsh Assembly Government .
- ❖ explore opportunities for developing business cases for converting Council buildings that become surplus to requirement to extra care housing to prolong their relevance to changing pattern of needs amongst vulnerable adults.
- ❖ identify sustainable internal and external funding streams for financing extra care housing schemes. Options for progressing proposals are based either on releasing monies from decommissioning services, securing external funding or encouraging these developments within the third and private sectors.

What we have done

Extra Care housing enables older people to live in their own homes and maintain their independence in a safe and secure environment with an onsite care service that is specifically tailored to meet individual needs. Extra Care services can act as a community hub and can meet the needs of the wider community. It is possible to offer day services with activities and respite. It can also offer employment opportunities to the local community.

The ongoing challenge to Older People Services has been how the service can continue to get more for less. The introduction of the council's first Extra Care service in 2012 evidenced how a dated Council Owned Residential Home could be converted into a modern fit for purpose Extra Care scheme that delivers cost effective benefits that deliver better outcomes for individuals. The success of the early model and the financial challenges has led to the Council to work in partnership with a care provider (Linc-Cymru) to develop 2 new Extra Care Schemes (Ty Ynysawdre and Ty Llynderw) that replaced two of its previous owned

Residential Homes (Glanyrafon and Hyfrydol). This development and closure programme was based in recognition that the previous Residential Homes were not sustainable and there was a need for the council to modernise its residential care services with the creation of two new Extra Care Schemes that provide a total of 25 Residential beds and 45 Extra Care beds.

This extension of service provides a very cost effective alternative to the traditional Residential Service and is another example of how Bridgend has made difficult decisions to transform its delivery of Adult Social Care Services. Furthermore, Bridgend has also converted parts of another of its Residential Home (Bryn Y Cae) to deliver a Residential Reablement service that provides a “Step Up” and “Step Down” model that enables people to be discharged from hospital, and be provided intense reablement services that assists them to return home, rather than be admitted into Residential Care

What else we need to do:

- To evaluate and learn from what has been achieved to date and to identify opportunities to develop the future Model
- Ensure arrangements in extra care are responsive to the wishes of tenants and allow them to meet their personal outcomes.

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4.6.3 Adult Placement

What we said we would do

Adult Placement - to broaden the model of shared lives, where an adult carers share their home with an adult needing support, to include a greater number of people who are at risk of being isolated and/or losing their independence.

Desired outcome:

People are given a choice of opportunities for community living, community integration and independence in a family setting. People receive the support they need to become valued members of their local community and achieve their potential in all aspects of their lives.

We propose to:

- Increase the coverage and remit of Shared Lives to ensure the scheme is recognised as a flexible, naturalistic and responsive, value for money solution to addressing individual need.
- Prioritise and respond to issues of difficulty such as support when leaving care for young people and the delayed discharge from hospital of older people.
- Explore options for forming local and regional partnerships with health and other local authorities to widen the remit of the service to support people with more complex needs.
- Continue to offer this service to other authorities as appropriate and to utilise the skills of the scheme in offering specialist placements to people with complex needs.
- Continue to diversify the scheme in response to the needs for skill development, combating social isolation, supporting families to care as well as offering periods of support to enable development of the skills for independent living.

What we have done

- The Council has undertaken an independent review of its Shared Lives/Adult Placement service for people with a Learning Disability to inform the development of an internal options paper that set out options that allowed the service to continue and be developed further in a cost effective way.
- The council made a decision that allowed Bridgend to make an agreement with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to provide a collaborative Adult Placement Scheme that includes Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan Councils.
- The collaborative scheme commenced in May 2019

What else we need to do

- The quality and outcomes of the new collaborative service that are being monitored to ensure that the service "beds in".
- The service will be developed and expanded to ensure that the benefits of the new Adult Placement Scheme are continually extended to meet other service needs including Dementia.

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4.7 Interventionist approaches

Interventionist approaches will be necessary to protect and support people in circumstances where support networks in the community are unable to maintain their independence without the need in some cases for the provision of care packages of intensive support. The model of residential reablement will provide a critical stage of interventionist approaches involving both specialist inputs from the NHS and social care to help adults regain their ability to look after themselves and continue to live in the community. For those for whom independence is no longer an option e.g. people with progressive life-limiting conditions in the latter stages of their life, more specialist inputs will be required which can offer a choice of quality support in a residential care home and or nursing care home.

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4.7.1 Integrated specialist health and social care resources

What we said we would do
Integrated specialist health and social care resources – to develop integrated NHS and social care resources based on the reablement model of assistance and support tailored to 'individual needs' rather than 'specific conditions'.
Desired outcome:
A person with complex and challenging needs which cannot be met in their own home, is able to live in the least restrictive environment possible and is able to access, as appropriate, flexible care and support in residential care and nursing care home settings.
We propose to:

- explore options for de-commissioning models of non specialist residential care provision in order to develop alternative, specialist health and social care resource(s), supported living schemes and extra care housing.
- develop with partners specialist integrated health and social care resources to meet higher level of needs such as traumatic injury, dementia, mental health conditions or profound and multiple disabilities.
- develop short-term residential rehabilitation and reablement placements with a coherent set of step up and step down facilities following hospital discharge or deterioration at home.
- commission supported living or a 'Shared Lives' placement for people with complex and challenging needs who want to move on from the more traditional model of residential care.
- develop more diversified models of care in the last year(s) of life in residential and nursing care homes in partnership with the third and private sectors.
- continue administering a mechanism for determining a fair price for care home fees, that will promote quality and consistency of care within a sustainable financial framework.

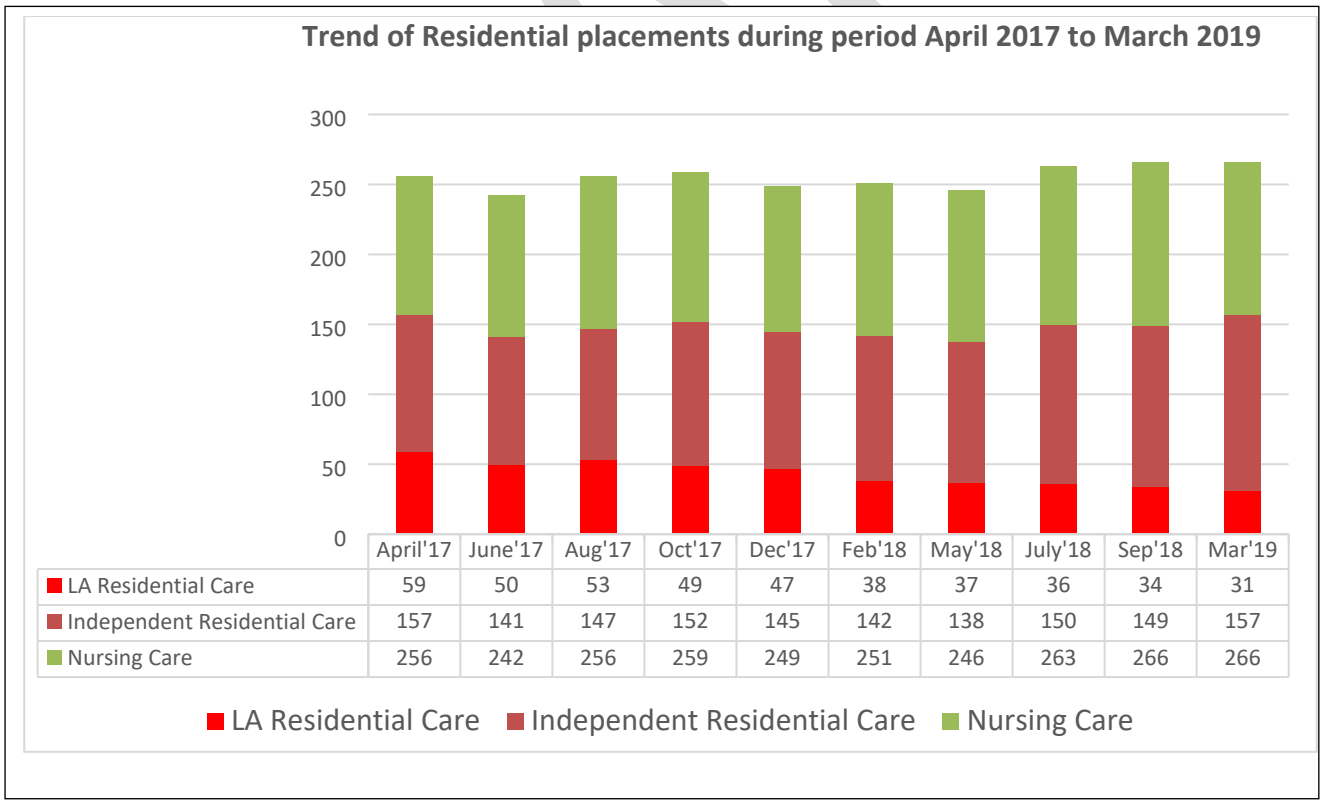
Residential Placements

The Remodelling of Adult Social Care programme has seen significant changes to the commissioning of Residential and Nursing placements which continues to contribute a major cost to Older People Services.

Figure 6 below shows that during the two year period April 2017 to March 2019, the total number of residential placements increased from 256 to 266 and in particular there has been the decrease in LA provision due to the closures of Glanyrafon and Hyfrydol Residential Homes. These planned closures were to accommodate the development of Extra Care Housing in the County Borough, which is regarded as being a much more sustainable model that better fits with the ethos of services that support Independence.

Figure 6: Number of Placements to Residential Care during Period April 2017 and March 2019

Despite reshaping of services, the increases in the ageing population ensures that the demand for Residential placements continues



	April'17	June'17	Aug'17	Oct'17	Dec'17	Feb'18	May'18	July'18	Sep'18	Mar'19
LA Residential Care	59	50	53	49	47	38	37	36	34	31
Independent Residential Care	157	141	147	152	145	142	138	150	149	157
Nursing Care	256	242	256	259	249	251	246	263	266	266

In June 2017, Bridgend produced a Market Position Statement (MPS) for Residential and Nursing Care Homes that was designed to assist current and potential service providers to make informal decisions about if and how to invest and develop services. This document fed into the former Western Bay Regional MPS. The key messages from the Bridgend MPS identified that:

- The number of placements into residential care is falling. This situation conflicts with the projections of an ever increasing Older Persons population profile.
- The availability of alternative forms of care which enable people to remain independent for longer are resulting in admissions to residential care increasingly being those individuals with complex or multiple care needs.
- The level of vacancies in those homes providing specialist and/or Dementia nursing care is minimal (with these homes stating that a waiting list is in place) and hence the current level of supply may not be sufficient to the current level of demand. This tends to support the preceding comment i.e. that increasingly, admissions are for people with more complex care needs.
- The development of the new model of intermediate care will further impact on the preceding point, in that the enhanced multi-disciplinary support to be provided in the community will result in a reduced level of placements to care homes, with those people with complex needs that cannot be met in a community based setting.

It was concluded that:

- The need for more specialist care will continue increasing, as service users needs become more complex and demanding, and this will require the market to respond by providing differing types of care that meet service users changing needs.
- With the incidence of dementia increasing rapidly in the 85+ population, and with others in the same population group having multiple and complex needs, the focus will need to be on providing services that meet such needs.
- Given the alternative support mechanisms in place and being developed, the need for residential care facilities for frail Older People will continue to reduce which could have a significant impact on demand for the residential care beds currently available in the Borough.

Whilst this detail needs to be updated, it provides important context for the availability of Residential/Nursing Care Homes in the Bridgend Locality.

What else we need to do

- We need to continue to work with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board and providers to develop more provision for Dementia care
- To work with providers to develop more Extra Care Accommodation options
- Working closely with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board, we need to increase the numbers of community based Reablement “Step Up, Step Down” beds in the County Borough so that we have the flexibility to meet current needs.
- Ensure services can meet the growing number of older people with LD who may have additional age related needs such as dementia or physical frailty
- In summary we need to identify and commission different accommodation options.

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SECTION 5.0 Wellbeing Services

The introduction of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act in 2015 challenged the Council to understand how its Wellbeing services could respond to the increasing challenges being presented by key legislation (including the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act). Consequently in 2017 the previous roles of Sport, Play and Active Wellbeing services was reviewed and the opportunity was recognised for the service to focus more fully on prevention and wellbeing. This approach has enabled prevention and wellbeing to be strategically aligned more closely to Social Services which has seen a progressive growth in prevention and wellbeing work across the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and this focus is becoming embedded in teams.

This was confirmed by the Care Inspectorate Wales Report published in January 2020 which was positive about Bridgend's "*relatively advanced focus on early intervention and community services to relevant escalation of need*" which was confirmed as benefitting Older People in the County Borough. The Inspectorate recognised how the Council is able to evidence at an operational and strategic level, examples of good practice that confirmed the positive contribution that well-being services are making to communities and individuals on the edge of social care.

Much of this success has been achieved by working in partnership with BAVO and broader third sector, communities, including delivery partners Awen Cultural Trust and GLL/Halo Leisure to identify areas of need. This has resulted in an extensive range of targeted activity programmes for Adults and Children being delivered.

The strength of partnership with BAVO, has enabled the development of a successful bid for Welsh Government Transformation Funding, an "Ambition" of which was to develop and deliver "Resilient and Coordinated Communities". Some of the operational elements of this "Ambition" include:

- With the CVC develop a third sector brokerage service that will operate alongside core services providing support for service deliverers as well as information to individuals
- The brokerage would support a single information access point approach, on what is available in local communities in relation to community activities, groups, services and facilities. This includes public, third sector and private provision.
- Create a long-term and sustainable approach to Resilient Coordinated Communities by developing effective information that enables a service that ensures "every contact counts" which is recognised as being essential to promoting wellbeing and resilience

and is founded on good connections between local services and accessibility of support.

Many of the achievements of Wellbeing services are set out below.

What has been achieved

- Bridgend has invested in a targeted phase of local community coordination that has evidenced some achievement but also served to identify some areas for review and opportunity. This programme connects to the objectives of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014).
  - Supporting and enabling people to make their own choices and to be more independent.
  - Making sure that people are given voice and control to achieve what they want in life and that they are able to express the outcomes that they want for themselves.
  - Recognising that carers also have support needs and that these should be given equal importance.
  - Finding different ways to support people that will involve local communities.
- The 'Olympage' programmes have been developed to support older adults to live more active and healthier lives. Such programmes have grown from day care and residential care settings to programmes linked to the community hubs, programmes for people with learning disabilities, activities in community centres and leisure / cultural venues and independent care settings also.
- By working in partnership with Awen Cultural Trust, the Olympage theme has been extended in the creation of 'Cultural Olympage', which has focussed on enabling cultural and creative activities to be integrated and potentially linked to social prescribing. This has highlighted the value of creative and cultural activity to improving mental wellbeing in addition to physical activity opportunities.
- Engagement with primary and secondary schools is increasing and the ability of schools to contribute to Ageing Well in Bridgend intergenerational working and the development of age friendly communities, is being progressed. Consequently projects have been developed that include:
  - Dementia friends and champions training in secondary schools (Archbishop McGrath School, Pencoed Comprehensive School). This has involved strong partnership working with BAVO;

    - Inter-generational activities between primary schools and older adults (Local Community Coordinator programme – Ogmore Valley, nursery school visits to Bryn Y Cae etc.);
    - Facility projects that help to bring people together (Bryn Y Cae dementia garden).
- Other activities to support Older Adults have been developed and include:
    - Park Lives Programme regional programme has been working with older adults to access doorstep opportunities in the natural environment
    - The Community Chest Scheme is managed by the Council on behalf of Sport Wales and has supported local projects with funding.
    - The Love to Walk programme supports volunteer led community walking opportunities that are inclusive and contribute to mental wellbeing.
- A website (Ageing Well in Bridgend) has been developed to provide information about available activities and related information
- Three Local Community Coordinator (LCC) roles have been developed, one for each of the Ogmore, Garw and Llynfi valleys. The objective is to help local communities to be inclusive, self-supporting places that help people to stay strong, preventing or reducing the need for services in their lives
- In partnership with BAVO, the council is introducing five “community Navigator roles that have been designed to complement the role of the LCC to develop “Resilient and Coordinated Communities” and with a pathway that avoids duplication.
- The partnership between the council and GLL/Halo Leisure (Healthy Living partnership) is responding to the prevention and wellbeing challenge and supporting local people and carers to be healthy and resilient. For example:
    - Participation by the over 60’s in the National Free Swimming programme is consistently amongst the highest in Wales
    - The Healthy Living Partnership successfully delivers the National Exercise Referral Scheme providing access to tailored and supervised activity for those who are inactive or at risk of or currently experiencing a long term or chronic health condition

    - Halo have developed a mobile falls prevention programme in the Ogmore Valley linked to sheltered accommodation and community venues
    - There is a growing focus on the importance of carer wellbeing and Halo are consulting with carers to identify activities and opportunities that could improve lives and wellbeing.
- In 2015 the Council established a twenty year partnership with the Awen Cultural Trust to assist in the provision of facilities for culture and to jointly increase participation in cultural activities. The following provide some examples of how this partnership has enabled a range of targeted activities to be developed:
    - Awen support the Hynt scheme which is a national access scheme that works with theatres and arts centres to support visitors with an impairment or specific access requirement (and carers or personal assistants)
    - Awen support the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate by operating the B-Leaf and Wood B supported training and employability programmes
    - The Council has been supported by Awen to develop a carers' choir project as a pilot social prescribing opportunity with support by Bridgend Carers' Centre
    - Bridgend libraries have integrated a range of social prescribing opportunities including dementia supportive activities and community cafes in partnership with community groups
    - Awen have also introduced the 'Live and Loud' programme providing affordable access to the arts in library settings
- The Wellbeing Hub at Bridgend Life Centre has been supported by Welsh Governments Integrated Care Funding and Halo Leisure and was completed in October 2019. The facilities will support employability, community and workforce development, Third Sector engagement space and group activity rooms. The outcomes will focus on dementia support, falls prevention, combatting loneliness and isolation and physical and mental wellbeing.
- Social business is active in Bridgend and can include co-operatives and mutual (including social enterprise) or employee owned organisations. In 2019 there were 2022 social businesses identified across Wales employing an estimated 55,000 people and with a sector value of £3.18 billion.

- In 2018, Bridgend had seen a growth in social business with 83 identified and placed 9th in terms of the contribution of social business to overall business stock. For BCBC ,the approach that is being taken forward progressively with BAVO, through the Welsh Government Transformation funding as part of the "Building Resilient and Co-Ordinated Communities" ambition is well aligned to mutually understand the current and potential for such partnerships as a collaborative cross sector approach.

- The transformation investment introduced in 2019/20 has helped identify the health and social care pressures that could be supported by third sector including social business with small, medium and larger collaborative investment schemes commencing and continuing in 2020-21 also.

What else we need to do

- We need to develop our resilient communities so that they are able to contribute to the objectives of the Council and partner organisation such as:
    - Develop links with the voluntary sector to promote and support self-care and independence (includes communication and integration).
    - Increase wellbeing, resilience and early intervention to support the health and wellbeing of the population.
    - Increase integration with other sectors to provide a key focus on wellbeing and prevention through engagement and active promotion of social prescribing.
    - Use a 'make every contact count' approach to advise and educate citizens how to manage self-care.
    - Reduce obesity in clusters through education and the promotion of wellbeing and prevention messages.
    - Proactive identification and signposting of people living with dementia to community based wellbeing and support opportunities.
    - Increase integration with the third sector and focus on prevention and wellbeing via promotion and engagement.
    - To expand the number of opportunities that are available for Older People to remain active and to encourage their contribution to communities and feel a sense of purpose and value in their lives
    - Promote Choose Well and health and wellbeing approaches across clusters/primary prevention programmes.

    - Develop local cluster counselling services to maintain access to mental health and wellbeing support.
    - Improve access to weight management interventions for overweight and obese patients within the cluster.
    - Early identification and proactive management of respiratory patients (e.g. pulmonary rehabilitation in the community).
- We want to increase some of the programmes such as falls prevention to maximise their benefits to the wider population
- To continue to seek opportunities to work in partnership to continue to expand Prevention and Wellbeing services for the benefit of the population of Bridgend.
- Further work is required to continually develop alternative community models including social enterprises and cooperatives that contribute to the ambition of developing resilient communities. This will be achieved by the ongoing seeking of opportunities to identify suitable facilities or potential services that can be developed to meet the needs of local communities. This will require close working with partners including the Third Sector and ensure that where available, community resources are maximised by co-productive design and delivery of services where appropriate.
- There are identifiable opportunities to support local people and communities to maintain or enhance their wellbeing by further developing our partnership and new approaches with the third sector. This approach would include a recognition of the current and potential contribution to the prevention and wellbeing agenda of social business.
- A focus on encouraging collaborative working and use of co-production is being taken forward.
- By working with Wales Co-Operative Centre we will start exploring how a “Connecting Carers” programme can promote collaboration and co-operation within 3-4 themed networks or groups including parent carers with children with additional needs, older adults who connect to social prescribing opportunities and also people with physical wellbeing challenges .There will be engagement with Digital Communities Wales recognising digital exclusion challenges.
- BCBC will build on its successful Healthy Living Partnership with social enterprise Halo Leisure and also the Awen cultural trust to improve community wellbeing and develop innovative responses to the prevention and wellbeing agenda.

SECTION 6: SUMMARY

Bridgend has been able to progress some significant service delivery transformation despite the challenges of increasing demand and budget pressures. There is still more to do to make sure that new service delivery models are fully bedded in and it is important that the momentum of change does not suffer as result of budget pressures. Since 2014/15 the Social Services and Well-being Directorate budget has been reduced by nearly 14 million pounds (20%). It is of note that such significant reductions in budget have resulted in the Directorate becoming more dependent on grant funding such as the Integrated Care Fund. Since 2015/16, grant funding has increased from 2.04 million to 5.14 million in 2018/19 which is an increase of more than 250% and whilst this presents a notable and needed increase, it does not replace the overall 14 million reduction that has been consumed since 2014/15. Even so, grant funding has become a critical source of funding to not only assist the transformation of service delivery, but also sustain services such as the Community Resource Team which remains largely dependent on ongoing Integrated Care Fund. The benefits of Integrated Care Fund would not have been achieved without successful collaborative working in the Western Bay Region that Bridgend is committed to achieving in the new region of Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

The changes in budget to the Social Services and Well-being Directorate has required the Directorate to make informed decisions including the careful targeting of resources. This has enabled Adults and Children services to pursue their commitment to service transformation. The transformation has been overseen by the Remodelling Programme Boards which have prioritised and managed the service change projects that have ensured that services and support are more preventative, person centred and cost effective. Examples of service changes achieved to date include:

- ✓ The Council has developed a range of “Early Years” services that are designed to deliver preventative services to families and children with the intention of preventing escalation of problems that previously would have resulted in reaching crisis before they were dealt with.
- ✓ To retain staff in Children Services, a Recruitment and Retention strategy has been developed.
- ✓ The Council has developed a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) that brings together a range of partners to collectively respond to “vulnerable” children and ensure that each referral is dealt with appropriately.

- ✓ Advocacy Services for Adults and children services have been developed and improved.
- ✓ A range of preventative services that include IFSS (Integrated Family Support Services), and Connecting Families have been developed to work with families to take positive steps to change and improves their lives.
- ✓ The transformation of previous Children's accommodation into new models such as Sunnybank and Maple Tree House has enabled the implementation of new services that are designed to provide support to the most vulnerable of children looked after in a time effective way.
- ✓ Bridgend has also expanded its in-house Foster Care service by recruiting and supporting a wide range of carers and reduce the previous need to commission similar services from more costly Independent Foster Carers. In addition other services such as Reunification Support workers have been introduced to support Foster Carers and children to reduce the number of Foster Care Placements.
- ✓ A Transition Team has been created that will better support Children with Disabilities into Adult Services. This Transition Team will better plan the transition of children by sharing and combining assessments to ensure that information is shared between Adults and Children Services.
- ✓ An Accommodation Plan has been developed that identifies the need to have effective transition planning for "Looked After Children" accommodation needs as they approach Adulthood. This includes the development of a range of Supported Accommodation options for care leavers that support "Step Down" accommodation for Care Leavers
- ✓ The Council has introduced Local Community Coordinator roles to the three valleys of Ogmore, Garw and Llynfi. The focus of developing community resilience with vulnerable individuals and connecting them into supportive community based opportunities continues to be progressed by working closely with Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations, to continue the growth of the Third Sector in supporting communities.

- ✓ The Council will continue to increase the use of Direct Payments as a means of delivering increased choice and control, and also as a means to better support carers.
- ✓ To better support carers, Bridgend has commissioned services from the Third Sector to provide welfare benefit advice and other advice and support.
- ✓ By “mainstreaming” carers so they are considered a service user in their own right means that carer’s assessments are offered and provided more consistently.
- ✓ Whilst commissioning of domiciliary care from the independent sector has increased, Bridgend has ensured that it has retained a necessary balance of in-house domiciliary care services.
- ✓ The Council has developed preventative and wellbeing approaches by establishing a “Well-being” project workstream that is aligned to the contribution of wellbeing services to the delivery of social care.
- ✓ Programmes have been developed that increase services that support dementia
- ✓ Traditional models of Learning Disability Day Services have been replaced by Community Hubs that is based on the principle of localised support services.
- ✓ The use of Telecare and assistive technology services have increased and wrap around services such as “Bridgelink” Mobile Response Team have developed to provide services that keep people safe in their own homes.
- ✓ Occupational Therapy Services have been developed and are targeted so that the service is responsive to needs in different settings.
- ✓ Following a consultation approach with carers, the short break service has been improved and now includes an Adult Placement Scheme which also offers Short Break services.
- ✓ The development and expansion of a range of integrated services provided by the Community Resource Team has resulted in the Council increasing its success in keeping people at home for longer and supporting earlier hospital discharge.
- ✓ The Council has also developed and expanded a range of accommodation services that include Extra Care services, “Closer to

Home" and "Core and Cluster". Such services whilst adding more choice, have also reduced the dependency on traditional models such as Residential Care, but also enabled people to be provided suitable care settings closer to home, thereby reducing the need for out of county specialist placements.

The above evidence the transformation of services that have resulted in a shift in culture and a re-balance towards increasing preventative services that where possible target those situation that would have previously been subject to more expensive Long Term Care. However as services become leaner this shift of resource from Long Term services is becoming increasingly more difficult as whilst Preventative Services can slow down the need for Long Term Care, the need for Long Term services will continue, particularly with changes in the ageing population and socio economic circumstances that impact upon children.
The Directorate budget is also at constant risk of volatile cases especially in Learning Disability and Children's Services that can result in unavoidable costs that can exceed 400k per annum. This plus the ongoing expectation that the council will be required to reduce their budget by a further £30 million over the next three financial years. This will inevitably impact on the Social Services and Well-being Directorate budget which could be expected to be reduced by a further £10 million over the same period. This additional challenge will require even more careful consideration as to how it can be achieved. Services are now "less fat" and therefore there is a real risk that to make service changes incoherently, will result in the balance of services becoming destabilised and the delivery of care becoming more costly.

6.1 Delivery Action Plan

The table below presents a summary of the identified actions for each service area that are described as "What else we need to do", and also includes a description as to how this will be achieved

Children Services

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
Universal Services • Continue to increase children and young people physical, emotional and educational development • Continue to work with schools so that they increase their contribution to Ageing Well in Bridgend intergenerational working and the development of age friendly communities.	The design of universal services is that we provide services to a wide range of children to provide support and where necessary early intervention services, that prevent unnecessary deterioration that can result in the need for higher level services. Closer working with schools is critical to develop knowledge of teachers and how to refer and access appropriate services as required.	• The provision of Universal Services which support children and families • Schools understand the range of services on offer and how they can be accessed appropriately.
Additional Services • To continually develop the service so that it better supports Information, Advice and Assistance. This will ensure that contacts and referrals to Children Services will be dealt with appropriately by the right level of service at the right time. In addition the service will continue to deliver its strategic plan that includes: ○ High quality universal and additional services are the building blocks of effective early help.	To continue to work closely with other professionals to advise on how services can be accessed appropriately. In addition to develop available information by continually improving content to provide information that is clear, concise and provides confidence.	• Maximisation of the benefits that can be achieved from the provision of good quality information that is timely and accessible and

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○ Develop Childrens workforce so that it is able to identify additional needs at an early stage. ○ To review the service directory to ensure that it assists the children's workforce to have a clear understanding of how services are designed to support levels of need, and how all services, including those provided by partners, can be accessed. ○ There is a clear process in place to support effective multi- agency co-ordination of targeted support. ○ There is a clear Step Up and Step Down process in place. ○ A co-ordinated delivery programme of early help services and support across all ages and stages of a child's development.	The streamlining of pathways between services is also important in order that different levels of services are widely understood and reduces inappropriate referrals and contacts.	• Reduction in inappropriate contacts and referrals.
Vulnerable Services • **Reunification Support Workers**: A service has recently been introduced that is targeting a reduction in the number of breakdowns of Foster Care Placements. Following review of support services for children and young people in March 2018 which identified gaps in service		

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delivery. This included a need for support for children in the care system whose foster placements are at risk of placement breakdown or require support to Step Down in terms of placement provision or to be reunified into the care of their birth family. Historically our edge of care Rapid Response Team (RRT) has been called upon to work on these type of cases, this had meant that the RRT had less opportunity to prevent children from coming into the care system. Therefore to increase capacity the Reunification Support Workers are being introduced and needs to be developed further. • **Family Support Workers**: The introduction of the Early Help service and associated "Hubs" has seen a significant increase in service demand. Therefore in order that more cases are prevented from escalating, additional Family Support Workers are being introduced to work with families. • Bridgend is also currently working with Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr CBCs to develop a service linked to setting up a regional Reflect project. This project will aim to work with mothers who have had children removed	The creation and development of a range of "vulnerable services" has resulted in the availability of new services that have successfully delivered intended benefits. However the range of available services that have been developed means that some are better resourced and in some cases more mature than others. The intention therefore is to continue to seek opportunities to increase capacity of those services that have the potential to deliver additional benefits. This will require the performance management of these services so that their capacity is fully utilised and service shortfalls identified.	Increased capacity in a wide range of support services for those deemed 'vulnerable' that will meet a variety of needs and keep people out of statutory services.

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from their care to prevent any further pregnancies which may lead to further statutory intervention. The development of this project is in its infancy and will be led by Barnardos • **IFSS Service**: The IFSS is required to be developed further. In particular increasing the number of referrals into the service is stretching the existing resources available, and Welsh Government has issued further guidance in respect of the criteria for IFSS in which the service could work with families affected by domestic abuse and mental health issues as well as parental substance misuse. Bridgend is evaluating this guidance to ensure that the service is upskilled to respond to these issues. • To continue to develop the use of the Advocacy service through the use of the "Active Offer" to ensure that all children receiving statutory care and support intervention are provided equal access to an Advocacy service.		

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Complex and Acute Services • Establish a new model of residential provision for "Looked After Children" and young people and seek the best ways of meeting their individual needs including support beyond the age of 18 by offering specialist accommodation • We are working with partners in the new Cwm Taf Morgannwg Region to develop and introduce a MAPPS service to the benefit of the Region, whilst ensuring all services commissioned under the current arrangement with our former MAPPS partner, (which ends march 2020) continue. • To develop closer working with other Council services and in particular Housing services in order that Housing needs are identified and housing strategies are developed. • Fully Implement the Supported Accommodation solutions and ensure the service delivers the intended outcomes. • Further develop accommodation and placement opportunities for children and young people by greater collaboration with partners such as health and housing • Consider how children's therapeutic needs can be met through further commissioning of	The very nature of Complex and Acute services is that they are available to support and assist children that are either Looked After or Children in Need. Therefore to better support the most vulnerable of children we will continue to work with others to develop new and expand existing services to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are supported. This will require us to work closely with other Council services such as Housing in order that Housing strategies are better informed and a better range of accommodation is commissioned. In addition we will work in collaboration with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board and Local Authorities in the region to develop new regional services and to continually improve existing service provision.	• A range of cost effective services that better support our most vulnerable children will be available

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services within placement services and within reunification team. Continue to have discussions with current therapeutic providers with a view to 'securing a menu' of bespoke options, which meet the individual needs of children within a common model or framework, to be phased in by the end of the current financial year. • Review of Brain based attachment trauma and reliance training programme (BBAART) which will continue to be rolled out during 2019/2020 to social worker and foster carers and residential workers. The training department will lead this review to ensure that the programme is revised, maximising learning and development for all social care staff. • We will meet and reflect on a quarterly basis, to ensure that all models of therapeutic intervention and learning will work in a complimentary way, and that each will have mechanism for reviewing and measuring outcomes		

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Transition Services

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
• The Directorate Transition Project Board will continue to oversee the implementation of the Transition Team and ensure that its creation delivers the anticipated benefits. • Establish ways to engage with Education and Early Help services with the long-term goal of them being virtual members of the transition team. This engagement will attempt to ensure that transition is not seen as a social services only issue, but to ensure that services are better joined up and delivered holistically. • Discuss and agree with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to identify how they can be engaged as appropriate to jointly work cases in transition and ensure that children and adults are provided effective and equitable specialist health services. This also includes children access to appropriate mental health services as required. • To develop a Commissioning Model that is supported by the development	The service strategy to improve Transition arrangements is based on the creation of a Transition Team that is already under development. This team will create the essential bridge between Children's and Adult's services and ensure that the care arrangements for young people in transition will be planned for from 14 years of age. The Transition Team will also be provided with a "pooled budget" that will consist of funding provided by Children and Adult services	• The planning arrangements for young people in transition into adulthood will be effectively managed from 14 years of age.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
of a “pooled budget” made up of budget from Adults and Children services in order that services are better designed to meet the needs of young people in transition. • To continue the previous regional vision that was developing in Western Bay with Cwm Taf Morgannwg region to ensure that potential benefits to support transition services that could be achieved by a collaborative approach are identified and implemented as appropriate.		

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Adult Social Care

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
INFORMATION AND ADVICE • Give people more choice and control over what support they receive by providing early access to advice and information; • Continue to improve the ways in which the Council provides good information, advice and assistance to the public, including increasing the support available through local community co-ordinators; • To develop long term sustainability by working with the Third Sector to: o Connect local people with their communities, develop the use social prescribing opportunities to signpost people to support networks o Increase the use of Local Community Coordinators beyond the "valleys" to other areas in the County Borough o Introduce "Community Navigator" roles that support people to meet their needs in	Adult Social Care is already working in collaboration with Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations to expand the use of community resources that can build "Resilient Communities". The expansion of community resources such as "Navigators" and Coordinators will provide an accessible service that understands available local services and provide information and advice as appropriate. Such developments will be underpinned by the development of the Common Access Point and closer working with the Corporate Contact Centre in order that the services are coordinated and better support the public to receive the right level of service when needed. This will require the ongoing development of quality service information that can be easily accessed in a timely manner.	• Effective maximisation of the benefits that can be achieved from the provision of good quality information that is timely and accessible and reduces inappropriate contacts and referrals.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
community settings and reduce the need for managed care o To ensure that the roles and responsibilities of all services are understood so that cases are appropriately managed by the correct service. This will require the development of criteria and pathways that enable people to be escalated and de-escalated between services as necessary. • To make better use of available resources such as DEWIS and Info engine so that citizens will increase their use of such services before contacting Common Access Point • Develop a culture within Adult Social Care so that all staff make better use of available information resources. • To continually develop information and how it is used for community resources in order that practitioners are able to consider the potential of community groups as a mainstream		

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
service to provide additional care and choice.		
ADVOCACY • Develop our Advocacy service further so that it supports local knowledge exchange via a Bridgend advocacy network • Link the Advocacy Network 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. • 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. • Continue to work strategically with Golden Thread Advocacy Programme to help refine and to continually	Whilst Bridgend has made considerable progress with improving available and accessible Advocacy services, there is more to be done. Therefore Bridgend will continue to work closely with others such as the Golden Thread Advocacy Programme and expand the Advocacy services available	• Individuals will be better supported as they seek assistance from Adult Social Care in Bridgend and will also ensure that service users have access to Advocacy services when needed.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
improve the Bridgend Voice & Choice service.		
DIRECT PAYMENTS • To continue to increase the use of Direct Payments • To broaden the use of Direct Payments beyond the traditional additional groups of Learning Disabilities and Physical Disabilities • Develop the use of "pooling" Direct Payments to ensure that they are used in a cost effective way and available "personal assistant" resources are used effectively. • To explore the use of developing cooperatives in relation to the provision of direct payments	The use of Direct Payments has been increased considerably over recent years. This has resulted in providing better choice to individuals and reduced individuals dependency on traditional services such as Domiciliary Care and Day services. Direct Payments therefore enable service users to live more independently and therefore we will continue to offer Direct Payments appropriately Build on existing relationships with Wales Co-operative Centre and third partner organisations such as BAVO	• Individuals who access a Direct Payments will benefit from greater flexibility, independence and choice
CARER SUPPORT • Support carers in maintaining their roles; • Bridgend will continue to work collaboratively within the new region arrangements to improve support and services for carers	Bridgend remain committed to ensuring that services for Carers are well informed and are developed to ensure that there are a range of services available.	• Carers will be better supported to provide

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
• Improved identification of carers of all ages • The mainstreaming of carers services to make it 'common practice' as opposed to a separate provision/consideration • Increasing access to support from an early stage in the caring role, making carers aware that there is help and where to access it • Ensuring a single point of contact for carers where they can access information, advice (including financial advice) and signposting • Increasing the awareness and uptake of carers assessments • Increasing the use of direct payments and being more creative with the use of direct payments • Engaging the Third Sector in the provision of services for carers • Increasing respite provision, group support and other support services for carers	Therefore we will continue to ensure that carers are identified and we will work closely with regional partners to develop collaborative services that are aligned to services that are commissioned locally.	essential care and support to those that they care for.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES • Ensure that stakeholders and our teams have knowledge and understanding of the support that the local community co-ordination resource and the navigators can provide which will relate to the geographical populations and locations supported and the roles and capabilities of the staff to support various levels of need and complexity. • Support the development of a new generation of community health and wellbeing centres for our residents with health partners; • Reshape the current model of Older People Day Services so that people are supported to access a wider range of day time opportunities. • Work in partnership with the Third Sector, town and community councils and community groups to meet local needs;	We will develop community opportunities that are local by design and supported of targeted groups such as Mental Health and Dementia. This will be achieved by the ongoing seeking of opportunities to identify suitable facilities or potential services that can be developed to meet the needs of local communities. This will require close working with partners including the Third Sector and ensure that where available, community resources are maximised by co-productive design and delivery of services where appropriate. To work closely with Town and Community Councils to ensure that joint approaches are developed to address similar ambitions.	• A greater range of community services that will deliver targeted services and support the development of Resilient Communities.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
• Work with partners and the Third Sector to strengthen communities and identify the best way of providing services locally; • Enable community groups and the Third Sector to have more choice and control over community assets; • To develop a means of measuring and monitoring impact of preventative interventions • To continue to increase the contribution of schools to the "Age Friendly" communities • Invest into community based services that provide a wider range of mental health services including the expansion of more community based help and support. • The Council needs to develop and align transport links that better support people to access and benefit from the range of wellbeing services that have and continue to be developed. This will require a	To work more closely with more schools and extend the current programmes.	

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
corporate approach to resolving this critical issue. • Develop the multi-agency model to create a brokerage type service in the community areas that recognise the broader range of opportunities to connect people to. • Ensure that there are clear pathways in place for individuals to self-refer or for professionals to connect people into community support opportunities. This will include establishing clarity on the need for people to be able to be connected into community based opportunities sustainably including those run by volunteers and the Third Sector. • Development of a communication plan that ensures the range of stakeholders are aware of the objectives of the transformation investment and its objective of accelerating the pace of change for a defined period of time. • In partnership with BAVO and the Third Sector, to work with navigators	The council will take opportunities to improve Transport links that improve access to available Wellbeing services	

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
to identify gaps that exist within communities and to utilize the transformation related grant schemes to build Third Sector capacity. • To ensure that there is a focus on medium term sustainability and to ensure that investment into the Third Sector and volunteer effort builds a resilient model for when funding might no longer be available for roles identified. • In discussion with health colleagues to identify the development of a specialist dementia model. This will be progressed as part of the development of localised services and in particular the unlocking of specialist capacity at Bridgend Resource Centre		
COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT, AIDS, ADPATATIONS AND TELECARE • Explore expanding the access to assistive technology and Bridgelink Mobile Response Team to individuals who do not have a Care & Support i.e. a Private Pay option.	The use of assistive technology is still developing. Advancements in this technology is increasing at speed and we will therefore ensure that such advancements inform our future use of such technology that is becoming	• More people will be supported to live at home for longer.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
• Explore the use of assistive technology and how it can support Adult Social Care's ambition of supporting people to stay at home for longer.	increasingly important to support people to live safely and independently in their own homes.	
SHORT BREAKS • Increasing respite provision, group support and other support services for carers • Increase the availability and uptake of short break/respite services considering alternative models that ensure flexibility of provision	As the numbers of carers increase, the availability of short breaks needs to increase. This will be achieved by commissioning more respite beds and services that are flexible to provide respite at home	• Carers will have access to essential breaks which will enable them to continue in their caring role.
COMMUNITY RESOURCE TEAM • We need to further develop our working relationships with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to ensure integrated services are continually improved and better support Hospital Discharge and unplanned admissions and other critical processes.	The Community Resource Team plays a critical role in supporting Early Hospital Discharge and preventing unnecessary Hospital Admission, but its restriction to five day working is recognised as being a constraint on the service potential. The ambition therefore to extend the service	• There will be greater ability to prevent

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
• Further modernise our in-house provision of assistance and support for people in their own home to promote independence and to maximise their potential. • Provide a common access point open seven days a week 8 AM to 8 PM for access to coordinated community health and social care and Third Sector support • Provide a non-selective reablement/enabling services accessible over seven days, • An expansion of the better at home bridging service, learning from the Cwm Taf regions Stay Well At Home project accessible over seven days • Increased the capacity of the Mobile Response Team and introduce capacity to deliver care at night • Expanded Acute Clinical Team supporting admission avoidance from the community • Step Up Step Down facility focusing on reablement, recovery and enabling respite, with the potential of delivering	over 7 days and from 8:00am until 8:00pm will be piloted through the "Healthier Wales" Transformation Funding that is available until March 2021. The evaluation of the effectiveness of the outcomes from the Transformation Funding will identify if the extended hours are delivering the intended benefits, which if are proven, it is expected that Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board will continue the investment as a means of saving hospital bed days and freeing up essential inpatient capacity.	unplanned Hospital Admissions and support earlier discharge from Hospital to home.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
further alternatives to post-acute stays in secondary care, for example out of hospital assessment for long term care		
INTEGRATED LIVING • We need to continue to develop a range of housing accommodation that supports independence for those with complex and challenging needs.	We will continue to invest into a range of housing options such as "Core and cluster" to provide accommodation that promotes independence and choice. In the absence of Local Authority Capital Funding, we will continue to seek funding opportunities such as Integrated Care Fund to work in partnership with housing partners	• Increased number of people will have their needs met and will have greater opportunity to have choice and independence.
EXTRA CARE HOUSING • To evaluate and learn from what has been achieved to date and to identify opportunities to develop the future Model • Ensure arrangements in extra care are responsive to the wishes of tenants and allow them to meet their personal outcomes.	The development of additional Extra Care facilities will be explored with Housing providers.	• There will be a greater choice of alternative care settings to Residential Care.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
ADULT PLACEMENT • The quality and outcomes of the new collaborative service that are being monitored to ensure that the service "beds in". • The service will be developed and expanded to ensure that the benefits of the new Adult Placement Scheme are continually extended to include other services including Dementia.	The Adult Placement Scheme will be developed in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council (the contracted service provider) to provide cost effective alternative services to other service groups such as dementia, as a means of providing carer relief.	• Greater choice of alternative family based care and support.
<u>RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS</u> • We need to continue to work with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board and providers to develop more provision for Dementia • To work with providers to develop more Extra Care Accommodation • Working closely with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board, we need to increase the numbers of community based Reablement "Step Up, Step Down" beds in the County Borough so that we have the flexibility to meet current needs.	Working collaboratively with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board and Housing partners will help us develop a range of improved cost effective alternatives to Residential Care that would deliver benefits to service users and partners	• Greater availability of suitable accommodation that meets increasing demands and range of needs.

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What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
• Ensure services can meet the growing number of older people with LD who may have additional age related needs such as dementia or physical frailty • In summary we need to identify and commission different accommodation options.		

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Wellbeing Services

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
• We need to develop our resilient communities so that they are able to contribute to the objectives of the Council and partner organisation such as: o Develop links with the voluntary sector to promote and support self-care and independence (includes communication and integration). o Increase wellbeing, resilience and early intervention to support the health and wellbeing of the population. o Increase integration with other sectors to provide a key focus on wellbeing and prevention through engagement and active promotion of social prescribing. o Use a 'make every contact count' approach to advise and educate citizens how to manage self-care. o Reduce obesity in clusters through education and the	This will be achieved by the ongoing seeking of opportunities to identify suitable facilities or potential services that can be developed to meet the needs of local communities. This will require close working with partners including the Third Sector and ensure that where available, community resources are maximised by co-productive design and delivery of services where appropriate. There are identifiable opportunities to support local people and communities to maintain or enhance their wellbeing by further developing our partnership and new approaches with the third sector. This approach would include a recognition of the current and potential contribution to the prevention and wellbeing agenda of social business.	To build resilient communities that are able to work in partnership with the Council and contribute to joint objectives

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
promotion of wellbeing and prevention messages. o Proactive identification and signposting of people living with dementia to community based wellbeing and support opportunities. o Increase integration with the third sector and focus on prevention and wellbeing via promotion and engagement. o To expand the number of opportunities that are available for Older People to remain active and to encourage their contribution to communities and feel a sense of purpose and value in their lives o Promote Choose Well and health and wellbeing approaches across clusters/primary prevention programmes. o Develop local cluster counselling services to maintain	A focus on encouraging collaborative working and use of co-production is being taken forward. By working with Wales Co-Operative Centre we will start exploring how a "Connecting Carers" programme can promote collaboration and co-operation within 3-4 themed networks or groups including parent carers with children with additional needs, older adults who connect to social prescribing opportunities and also people with physical wellbeing challenges .There will be engagement with Digital Communities Wales recognising digital exclusion challenges. BCBC will build on its successful Healthy Living Partnership with social enterprise Halo Leisure and also the Awen cultural trust to improve community wellbeing and develop innovative responses to the prevention and wellbeing agenda.	

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
access to mental health and wellbeing support. ○ Improve access to weight management interventions for overweight and obese patients within the cluster. ○ Early identification and proactive management of respiratory patients (e.g. pulmonary rehabilitation in the community). • We want to increase some of the programmes such as falls prevention to maximise their benefits to the wider population • To continue to seek opportunities to work in partnership to continue to expand Prevention and Wellbeing services for the benefit of the population of Bridgend. • Further work is required to continually develop alternative community models including social enterprises and cooperatives that contribute to the		

What else we need to do	How will this be achieved	Desired Outcome
ambition of developing resilient communities.		

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6.2 Consulting on the Service Delivery Plan

This Service Delivery Plan has attempted to capture the range of service transformations that have occurred over the last decade for Adult Social Care and more recently for other service areas. Many of these changes have been guided either by legislative changes such as the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act and or, in the case of Adult Social Care, intended as a result of the 10 year Commissioning Plan that was developed in 2010.

However the real purpose of this document is to provide strategic direction that identifies future service change for Social Care and Well-being services that will continue to provide transformational change. These ambitions cannot be developed in isolation, and any future changes will be underpinned by our commitment to engage and consulting with service users, citizens and partners to ensure that services are developed in a co-productive manner.

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Appendix 2

Draft Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 year Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025

Consultation report

Date of issue: 30 April 2020

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1. Overview

The draft Social Services and Wellbeing directorate 5 year service delivery plan 2020-2025 consultation was launched on 9 March 2020. The survey received 297 responses through a combination of online and paper surveys. This report details the analysis associated with this survey.

At the beginning of the live period paper copies of the survey and electronic links were sent to all 1401 Citizens' Panel members and to 170 stakeholders identified by the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. The consultation was shared with BAVO to share with their stakeholders in order to gather feedback on the delivery plan.

2. Introduction

The survey based on Bridgend County Borough Council's Draft Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 year Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025 was completed over a six week period between 9 March 2020 and 21 April 2020. The survey was available to complete online via an emailed link or paper copy sent to Citizens' Panel members whose survey choice is paper.

In total, there were 11 questions which required a reply from respondents. All survey responses offered the option of anonymity. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey, this is recommended good practice for all public facing surveys carried out by the council.

3. Promotional tools and engagement methods

This section details the specific communications and engagement methods used to reach people and encourage them to share their views during the consultation period.

3.1 Community engagement/meetings/events

Five community meetings were arranged to enable stakeholders and Citizens' Panel members to meet and share their views with senior members of the Social Services and Wellbeing team throughout the live period, however due to the social distancing restrictions in place due to COVID-19 the events had to be cancelled.

3.2 The draft strategic equality objectives 2020-2024 survey

The online and paper surveys contained 11 questions which required a reply from respondents.

The Draft Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 year Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025 survey was sent to all 1401 Citizens' Panel members in the format of their choice, and to 170 stakeholders identified by the Social Services and Wellbeing team via an email link. BAVO also shared the consultation with their stakeholders in order to gain feedback on the Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025.

Surveys were available in English and Welsh as well as a large print version in both languages. Alternative formats were available on request.

4. Response rate

In total, there were 297 survey responses, representing 19 per cent of Citizens' Panel members and identified stakeholders.

5. How effective was the consultation?

The social demographic data of the Citizens' Panel reflects a good cross section of the county borough's population, all respondents lived in the county borough.
The data collection methods, which include the online survey, a paper survey and large print survey, were all developed using plain English to maximise understanding. These response methods were designed to give a consistency to the survey across multiple platforms.

6. Headline figures

6.1 Overall 67% of respondents agreed that the structure of the Service Delivery Plan provided a good understanding of the Directorate as a whole. 56% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 11% strongly agreed;

6.2 Overall 76% of respondents agreed that the developments within Children Social Care Services would assist the council to improve the current support provision available. 58% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 18% strongly agreed;

6.3 Overall 67% of respondents agreed that the developments within Transition Services would assist the council to improve the current support provision available. 52% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 15% strongly agreed;

6.4 Overall 77% of respondents agreed that the developments within Adult Social Care Services would assist the council to improve the current support provision available. 56% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 21% strongly agreed;

6.5 Overall 72% of respondents agreed that the developments within Transition Services would assist the council to improve the current support provision available. 54% of respondents agreed with the developments and a further 18% strongly agreed.

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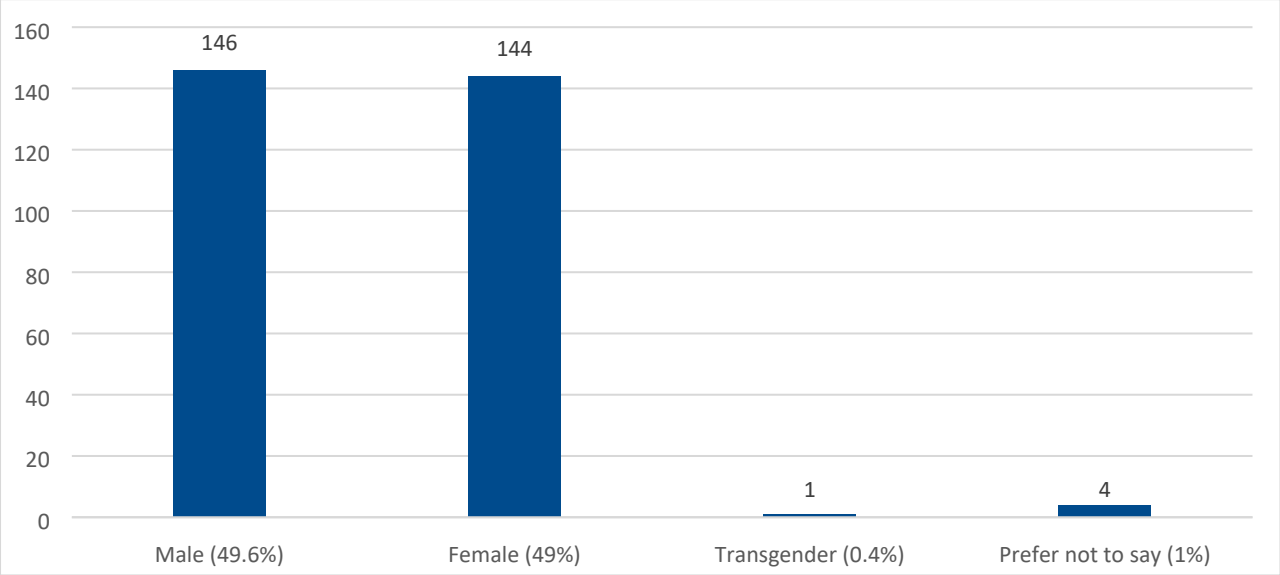
7. Question and analysis - consultation survey

Section seven of the report looks at the questions asked in the consultation survey – with 297 respondents in total.

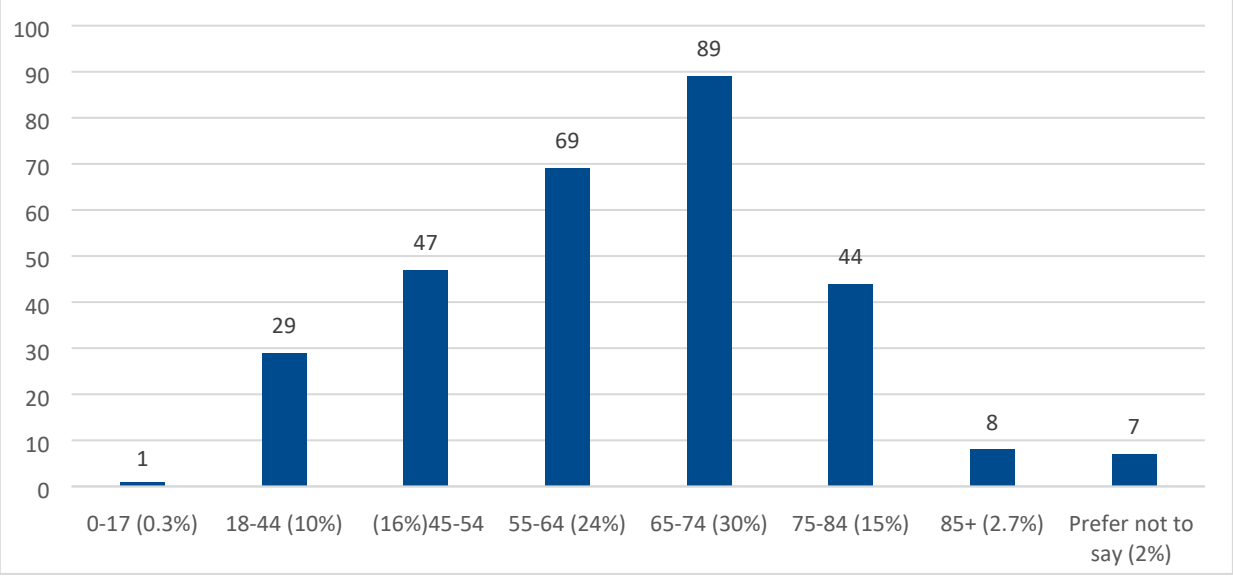
7.1 About you

7.1.1 Please tell us your gender:



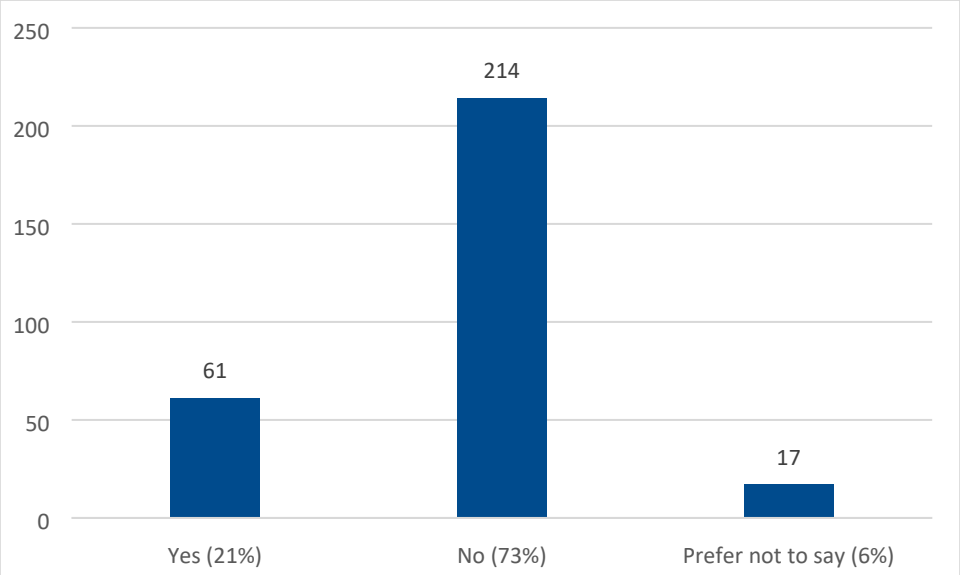
49.6% of respondents stated that they were male and 49% stated female. 1% stated that they preferred not to say and 0.4% stated they were transgender.

7.1.2 Please tell us your age:



The majority of respondents were in the age bracket 65-74 (30%), followed by 55-64 (24%) and then 45-54 (16%).

7.1.3 Do you have a disability?



73% of respondents stated that they did not have a disability. 21% of respondents stated that they did have a disability. 6% of respondents stated that ty would prefer not to say. Respondents who said that they did have a disability were asked to give details of their disability, the following responses were received:

- Dyspraxia
- Registered blind and have a chronic spinal disability.
- Dual sensory impairment, cancer
- Diabetes
- Visually and hearing impaired
- Mental health issues
- Spinal nerve Damage
- Left leg amputated
- Mobility issues
- Visually impaired as a result of a brain haemorrhage
- deafness
- Walking and standing
- physical disability and a number of health conditions
- Kidney failure
- Mobility Problems (Unable to walk far)
- MS, AD, Osteoporosis
- Depression arthritis
- Heart and mobility problems
- Wheelchair user
- I have side effects of Cancer treatment to deal with.
- Degenerative Disk Disease
- Mobility (knee) and restricted arm use owing to both shoulder joints.
- Arthritis
- Parkinson's
- RA and Fibromyalgia
- Mental health
- Learning disability
- amputation above the knee left leg

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- Chronic asthma
- COPD, asthma, high blood pressure, cholesterol and multiple bone fractures, tissue damage due to RTA.
- Nerve damage to knees I'm taking MST for pain and gabapentin. Severe anxiety and depression on medication for that.
- I have arthritis in my right knee and hip I am not registered as disabled.
- stenosis - manageable
- Sleep apnoea, CPAP breathing machine. Type 2 diabetes
- Right leg amputation below knee. Left leg amputation above knew. I also have a stoma (due to previous bowel cancer).
- Chronic arthritis, Glaucoma, Heart problem
- 4 knee replacements
- Ankylosing spondylitis, hard of hearing
- Epilepsy
- Chronic pain diabetic, angina
- deaf in left year
- heart problems, arthritis
- COPD
- Heart and lung disease
- Diabetes type 2
- Mental Health ADHD OCD
- Heart complaint and depression
- Arthritis in knee, unable to lift right arm
- Fractured spine and arthritis
- Diabetic and rheumatoid arthritis
- Blind in one eye
- Heart problem spinal problem
- Osteoarthritis
- Arthritis
- ASD
- Stroke has resulted in left sided weakness and problems with balance as well as being unable to move neck side to side due to fusion of cervical vertebrae and deaf on left side

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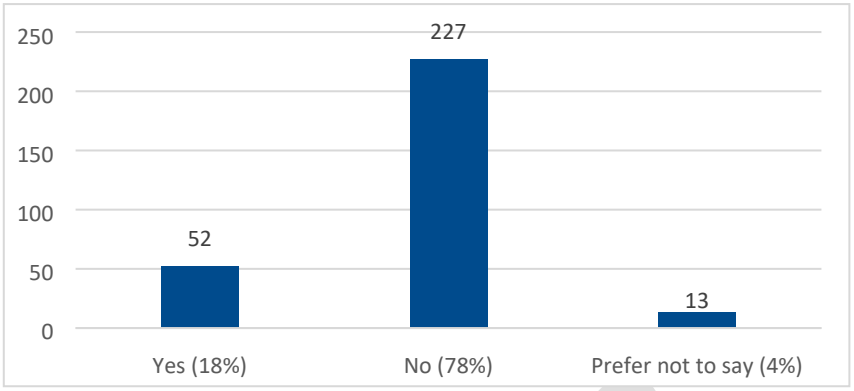
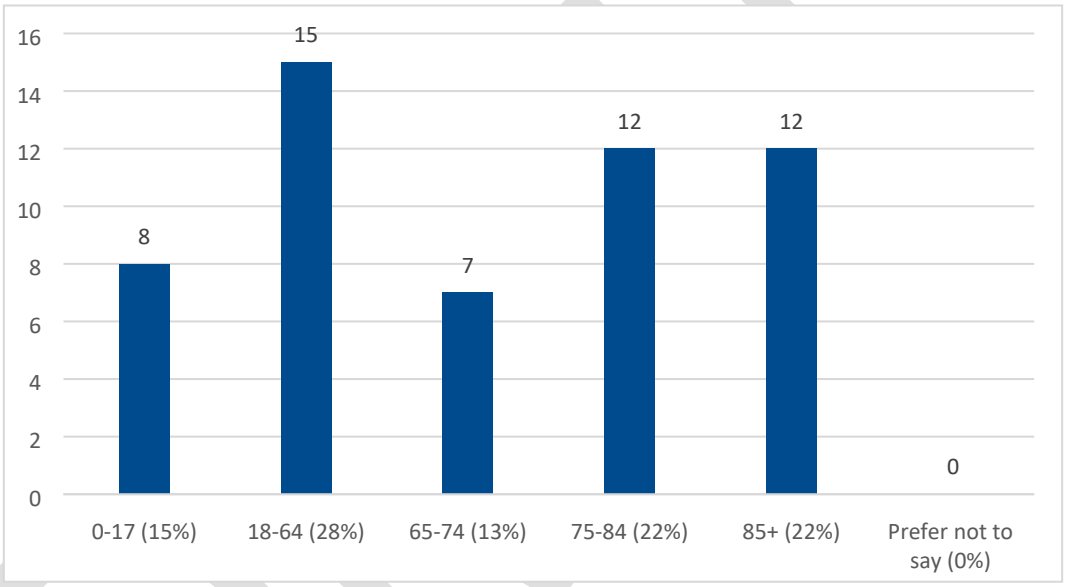
7.1.4 Are you a carer?



78% of respondents stated that they were not a carer, 18% of respondents stated that they were a carer.

7.1.5 If yes, are you a carer for someone who is aged (tick all relevant boxes)



Respondents could provide more than one age category if they stated that they were a carer.

28% of respondents stated that they were a carer for someone aged 18-64, 22% stated that they were a carer for someone aged 75-84, and a further 22% stated that they were a carer for someone aged 85 and over.

7.2 The Draft Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 year Service Delivery plan 2020-2025 survey

Respondents were given an overview of the draft developments for the council based on the following overarching themes:

- The structure of the Service Delivery Plan
- Children Social Care Services
- Transition Services
- Adult Social Care Services
- Wellbeing Services

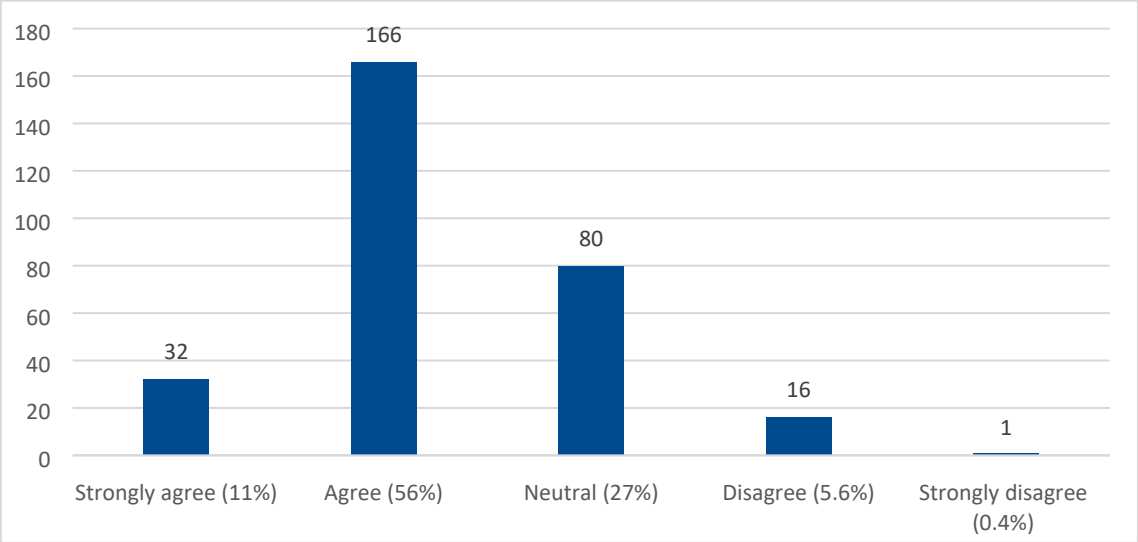
They were asked to tell us if they agreed that the developments would assist the council to improve the current support available and then given the opportunity to comment on each theme.

7.2.1 The structure of the Service Delivery Plan

The Service Delivery Plan is based on recognised service areas of the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate. These are:

- Children Social Care Services
- Transition Services – Children and Young People receiving Social Care support that are in Transition to Adult Social Care
- Adult Social Care
- Wellbeing Services

Do you agree that this structure provides a good understanding of the Directorate as a whole?



There were 295 responses to this question.
56% of respondents agreed and a further 11% strongly agreed with this development. 27% gave a neutral response and overall 6% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this development.
Where respondents provided comments on this objective these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Unsure of what 'wellbeing' means/'wellbeing' is too open ended	5
More promotion is needed of services that are available	3
Difficult to read (produce a 'plain English' format)	2
Ensure staff are fully qualified	2
More support workers/adult care in the community are needed	2
No explicit reference to 'families' and support	2
There have been too many financial cuts	2
Agree with a multi-agency approach	1
Could do better	1

Do not make further cuts in this area	1
Funding may be an issue	1
Children and adult services should work as a joined up system, transition services wouldn't be needed	1
More focus on preventative measures around wellbeing	1
Not in line with SSWBA, age specific	1
Pooling budgets will be difficult to manage	1
Nothing for the older generation	1
Transition services are important	1

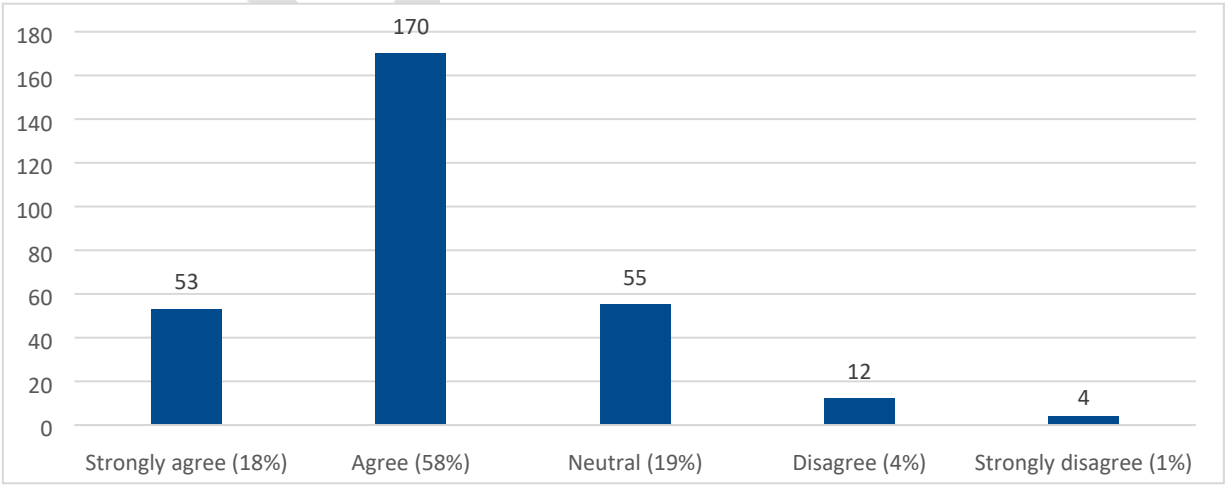
The most common themes were unsure of what 'wellbeing' means/'wellbeing' is too open ended (5), followed by more promotion is needed of services that are available (3).

7.2.2 Children Social Care Services

The Service Delivery Plan identifies a range of future developments for Children Social Care Services that are designed to complement existing support available and identified areas of improvement. Some examples of future developments include:

- Continue to develop services that increase children and young people physical and emotional health and wellbeing
- Establish a new model of residential provision for "Looked After Children" and young people and seek the best ways of meeting their individual needs including support beyond the age of 18 by offering specialist accommodation
- Consider how children's therapeutic needs can be met through further commissioning of services within placement services and focussing support on enabling them to stay at home.

Do you agree that these developments will assist the council improve the current support provision available?



There were 294 responses to this question.

58% of respondents agreed and a further 18% strongly agreed with the developments. 19% gave a neutral response and overall 5% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with these developments.
Where respondents provided comments on this objective these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Provision for children's services/ looked after children is important	5
Parent/ family responsibilities/support should be made explicit	3
Support should be available beyond 18 years of age if needed	3
Too vague/broad statements	3
Children should be placed within the county/Placing children out of county is a waste of money	2
Physical and emotional help does not seem to fit with the cut back on sports clubs	2
Support should include finding employment/life skills	2
Assessments should be more robust	1
BCBC will probably cut this service next year	1
Looked after children should have the same social worker into adulthood - for consistency and rapport	1
Develop - seek - offer - consider. wrong words, you have a duty written in law	1
Children with autism should be included	1
Looked after provision seems an expensive option	1
Mental health support services should be included	1
Looked after children should have the same social worker into adulthood - for consistency and rapport	1
My concern would be the loss of connection with Western bay	1
Preventative approach is better than reactive	1
Preventative approach is better than reactive	1
Should services focus on all children, rather than the few?	1

The most common themes were provision for children's services/ looked after children is important (5), followed by parent/ family responsibilities/support should be made explicit (3), support should be available beyond 18 years of age if needed (3) and too vague/broad statements (3).

7.2.3 Transition Services

The Service Delivery Plan identifies a range of future developments for Transition Services that are designed to complement existing support available and identified areas of improvement. Some examples of future developments include:

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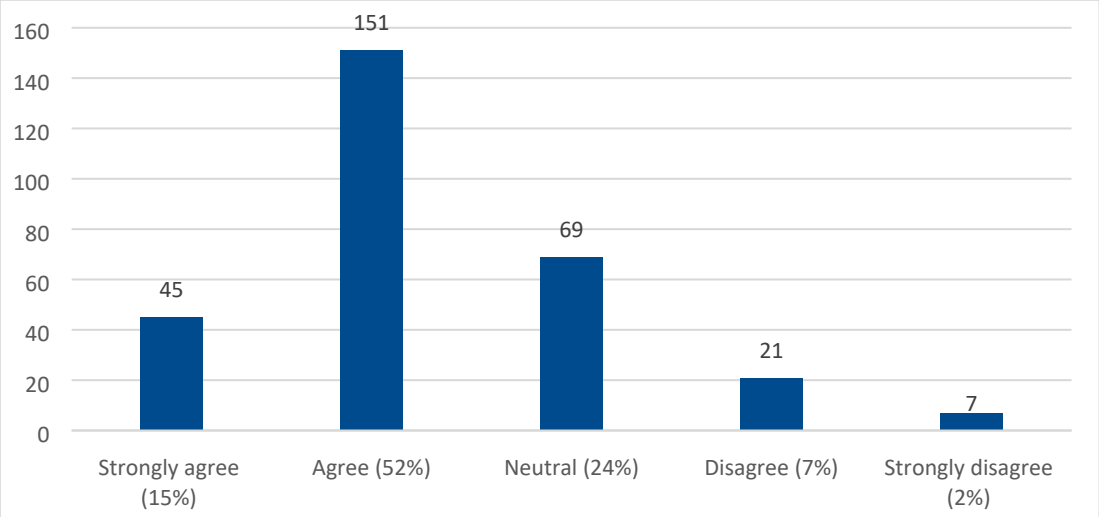
- A multi-agency Transition Project Board will be established to oversee the implementation of the Transition Team and ensure that its creation delivers the anticipated benefits. This engagement will attempt to ensure that transition is not seen as a social services only issue, but to ensure that services are better joined up and delivered holistically
- To develop a commissioning model that is supported by the development of a "pooled budget" made up of budget from adults and children services in order that services are better designed to meet the needs of young people in transition.

Do you agree that these developments will assist the council improve its current support provision available?



There were 293 responses to this question.
52% of respondents agreed and a further 15% strongly agreed with the developments. 24% gave a neutral response and overall 9% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with these developments.
Where respondents provided comments on this objective these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
The board creates another layer of bureaucracy - should focus on actions not talking	7
Pooled budgets will be difficult to manage/cause friction between departments/stretch staff	5
Agree with a holistic approach	4
Board may become expensive/too big/ineffective	4
It is difficult to understand/ sounds too complicated	4
Agree with multi agency working (should also include medical teams)	3
Looks like too much management	3
Agree with this development	2

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Include the views of children and young people	2
Unsure of what 'transition' means	2
Assessments that are performed to identify needs of an individual needs to continue not changed due to finances	1
Communication between all services and three departments is not going to improve the issues	1
Looked after children should be taught life skills as part of their care	1
No need for an additional agency	1
No costings for this	1
Still need consultation with workers.	1
This team needs to be a proper team that is fully developed and not an add on	1
You have a duty	1

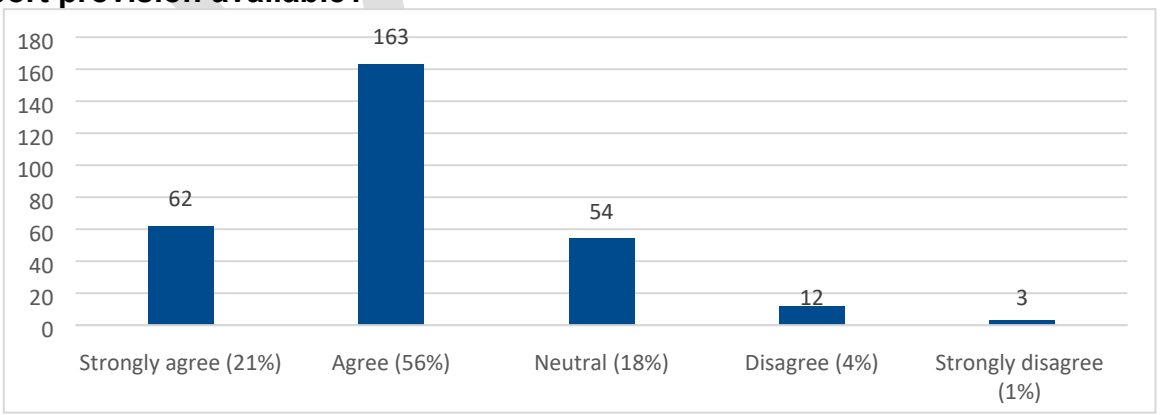
The most common themes were the board creates another layer of bureaucracy - should focus on actions not talking (7), followed by pooled budgets will be difficult to manage/cause friction between departments/stretch staff (5).

7.2.4 Adult Social Care Services

The Service Delivery Plan identifies a range of developments for Adult Social Care Services that are designed to complement existing support available and identified areas of improvement. Some examples of future developments include:

- To work closely with Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board to maximise the benefits that are associated with Integrated Health and Social Care for all Adults
- Develop community based services that provide day time opportunities for all Adults
- To develop community residential placements that provide “recovery beds” to support and increase independence

Do you agree that these developments will assist the council improve its current support provision available?



There were 294 responses to this question.
56% of respondents agreed and a further 21% strongly agreed with the developments. 18% gave a neutral response and overall 5% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with these developments.

Where respondents provided comments on this objective these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with this development/multi agency working/supporting people in their communities	7
Releasing hospital beds must be a priority/Recovery beds are very important/more residential places are needed, not everyone can stay home even with help	6
Need clear lines of responsibility and robust processes/communication/evaluations	3
Too vague/does not say how this will be achieved, or at what cost	3
Health boards working together does not work/it will become uneconomic and take adults away from their domestic surroundings	2
Public transport is needed to access community services	2
Workers should have a realistic caseload/Abuse towards care staff should not be tolerated	2
Bowls clubs are good for isolated older people but are no longer funded	1
As some care comes from Swansea NHS, why are they not involved?	1
Preventative approach is better than a reactive approach	1
Older people should be a priority	1
Promotion of what services are available is needed	1
Respite for mental health conditions should be equal physical health	1
The excellent service of Western Bay cannot be lost to adopters in Bridgend	1
We already do too much.	1
Social worker decisions should be better scrutinised	1
You have a duty	1

The most common themes were agree with this development/multi agency working/supporting people in their communities (7) followed by releasing hospital beds must be a priority/recovery beds are very important/more residential places are needed, not everyone can stay home even with help (6).

7.2.5 Wellbeing Services

The Service Delivery Plan identifies a range of developments for Wellbeing Services that are designed to complement existing support available and identified areas of improvement. Some examples of future developments include:

- Develop resilient communities to ensure that they contribute to the council objectives
- Continue to deliver targeted programmes that support independence and prevention such as falls prevention

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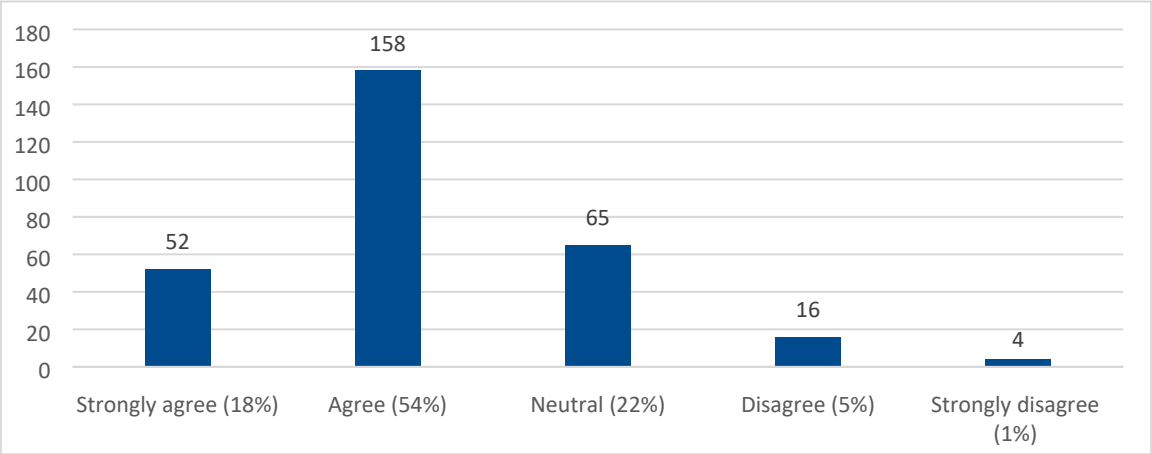
- Develop sustainability with the third sector by creating social enterprises and cooperatives

Do you agree that these developments will assist the council improve its current support provision available?



There were 295 responses to this question.
54% of respondents agreed and a further 18% strongly agreed with the developments. 22% gave a neutral response and overall 6% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with these developments.
Where respondents provided comments on this development these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Terminology is difficult to understand (including 'wellbeing' and 'third sector')	7
Third sector needs support if it is to provide support	5
Agree with community approach but puts responsibility on communities rather than the council	4
More mental health support is needed inc. for men and counselling for young people	4
Too vague/broad statements	3
Anything better is better than you had in the last twenty years	1
Bring back free swimming for over 60s	1
Bear in mind that some older people may not have internet facilities	1
Budgets are limited so council should focus on core needs	1
Not all priorities seem to have been identified, such as dementia patients	1
Don’t let people misuse these services	1
I would like to see more input and discussions between the medical profession and the council on this matter. I see there is no provision for that in the plan.	1
Should encourage the use of online services to release pressure on services	1

Suppliers make the public sector their principal customers knowing that delivery/pricing is less stringent than the commercial sector	1
The indoor bowls club this needs to be extended to the outside during the summer	1
There are many aspects of "Wellbeing" that are not included in the plan but are in the Act	1
Wellbeing should be integral to all services not a separate entity	1

The most common themes were terminology is difficult to understand (including 'wellbeing' and 'third sector') (7) followed by third sector needs support if it is to provide support (5).

7.3 Qualitative responses

Finally respondents were asked if they had any other comments about the developments. Where respondents provided comments on this objective these have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Themed comment:	Number of responses:
Agree with developments/multi agency working/ BCBC is doing a good job	10
Difficult to understand/ not enough information, especially if you have little knowledge of these services	8
Good in theory - needs to be implemented effectively/does not say how it will be funded	8
Management: robust recruitment, processes, reviews (including services provided by the third sector)and social worker decisions better scrutinised/no extra layers of bureaucracy	7
Focus services on those who really need it/implementing practical support	4
Mental health services should be included (including out of hours services)	4
There has been no mention of: learning disabilities/ASD and ADHD/purpose built facilities for people with dementia	3
Promote services better/make them easier to access	2
As long as the services are not being designed to become PFI's of the future	1
Council cuts have had a negative impact	1
Difficult to make "one size fits all" programmes and initiatives: localised approach is needed	1
Look holistically at the needs and not department level	1
Greater vision for development of third sector / volunteers within the community who will be willing to give their time to help implement and deliver these services at ground level.	1
It would be a shame to lose Western Bay services	1
On the wellbeing of future generations. A university report shows for every £1 spent on sports the council saves £2: 88p privatisation	1

More consultation with people who work in these teams	1
Working across departments/organisations does not work	1

The most common themes were agree with developments/multi agency working/ BCBC is doing a good job (10), followed by difficult to understand/ not enough information, especially if you have little knowledge of these services (8) and good in theory - needs to be implemented effectively/does not say how it will be funded (8).

8. Conclusion

A sample of 297 survey completions is subject to a maximum standard error of ±5.681 at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within ±5.681% of the percentages reported. This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 44.319% and 56.681%.

8.1 Equality Impact Assessment

The Full Equality Impact Assessment will support the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 year Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025.

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

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment will support the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate 5 year Service Delivery Plan 2020-2025.

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

CARE INSPECTORATE WALES (CIW) LOCAL AUTHORITY ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- inform Cabinet Committee of the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) review of Bridgend Social Services for the period April 2019 – March 2020.
- Seek Cabinet approval of the annual review.

2. Connection to well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective/objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The code of practice for review of local authority social services in April 2019 outlines the intention of CIW to write and publish an annual letter for local authorities, which will:

- provide feedback on inspection and performance evaluation activity completed by CIW during the year;
- report on progress the local authority has made in implementing recommendations from inspections and/or child and adult practice reviews;
- outline our forward work programme.

3.2 CIW acknowledge that, due to the unprecedented circumstances relating to COVID-19, that they were unable to complete the Bridgend annual performance review meeting. However, CIW believe that there remains significant benefits in identifying and drawing the attention of the local authority and its partners to the areas of both strengths and improvements required. The letter is intended to assist the local authority and its partners to continually improve.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The annual review letter was published on 3rd August 2020 and the letter summarises the CIW review of Bridgend County Borough Council's performance in carrying out its statutory social services functions from April 2019 – March 2020.

4.2 The performance review follows the four principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and takes account of the increasingly collaborative and strengths based approach to supporting improvement.

4.3 The content of the 2019-20 performance letter is informed by the performance evaluation activity undertaken by the inspectorate during the course of the year. This activity was the inspection of older adults' services in September 2019, and various discussions and visits with the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate during the course of the year. Planned focused activity in March 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19.

4.4 The annual performance letter is attached at **Appendix 1**. It summarises the strengths and areas for improvement in line with the principles of the 2014 Act under the headings of Wellbeing, People, Prevention and Partnerships. The content is an accurate reflection of the CIW discussions with the directorate and their ongoing findings which have been consistently shared with BCBC.

4.5 The action plan that has been developed following the inspection of older adults' in September 2019 is attached at **Appendix 2**

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report

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

7.1 The implementation of the duties and responsibilities under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) 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. By promoting 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.

7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve wellbeing goals have been considered in this report:

- Long Term – Social Services is demand led and the SSWBA focusses on sustainable prevention and wellbeing outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of rising demographics and increasing complexity, the remodelling and transformation of services continues to be a priority.
- Prevention – the report is about the new approaches adopted by the Directorate in line with the SSWBA, for example, the provision of information, advice and assistance to enable people to remain independent for as long as possible. This will ensure that need is anticipated and resources can be more effectively directed to better manage demand.
- Integration – the implementation of the SSWBA requires local authorities to work with partners, particularly the NHS and the Police, to ensure care and support for people and support for carers is provided. The report evidences work with the Third Sector, enabling people to remain linked to communities, and work with young people to enable access to employment.
- Collaboration – The collaborative approaches described in the report, are managed and monitored through various remodelling and collaborative boards, for example, the Western Bay Partnership Board where there is cross sector stakeholder representation at both political and Officer level. The strategic planning and local delivery of integrated support and services are developed and agreed at a regional basis in order to provide the best possible intervention to people.
- Involvement – the key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The actions relate to work that has already commenced across the service and which are part of the transformation agenda and funded through a number of sources including core budgets, the transformation fund and/or the integrated care fund.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Cabinet receive the Report and endorse the findings of the CIW.

Susan Cooper
Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
August 2020

Contact officer: Jackie Davies/Laura Kinsey
Head of Adult Social Care/ Head of Children's Social Care

Telephone: (01656) 642121/642314
Email: Jacqueline.davies@bridgend.gov.uk
laura.kinsey@bridgend.gov.uk
Postal address: Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

Background documents: **None**

Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru
Care Inspectorate Wales

Susan Cooper
Director of Social Services
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Date: 03 August 2020

Dear Susan Cooper,

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Local Authority Performance Review
April 2019 - March 2020

The code of practice for review of local authority social services in April 2019 outlines our intention to write and publish an annual letter for local authorities, which will:

- provide feedback on inspection and performance evaluation activity completed by us during the year
- report on progress the local authority has made in implementing recommendations from inspections and/or child and adult practice reviews
- outline our forward work programme

This letter summarises our review of Bridgend County Borough Council's performance in carrying out its statutory social services functions from April 2019 - March 2020.

We acknowledge, that due to the unprecedented circumstances relating to COVID-19, that in many instances we were unable to complete the annual performance review meeting.

However, we believe that there remains significant benefits in identifying and drawing the attention of the local authority and its partners to the areas of both strengths and improvements required. The letter is intended to assist the local authority and its partners to continually improve.

Arolygiaeth Gofal Cymru (AGC)
Swyddfa Llywodraeth Cymru
Sarn Mynach
Cyffordd Llandudno
LL31 9RZ
www.arolygiaethgofal.cymru

0300 790 0126
ciw@gov.wales

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW)
Welsh Government Office
Sarn Mynach
Llandudno Junction
LL31 9RZ
www.careinspectorate.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

It follows the four principles of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and our increasingly collaborative and strengths based approach to supporting improvement.

The content of this letter is informed by the performance evaluation activity undertaken by the inspectorate during the course of the year. This activity was the inspection of older adults' services in September 2019. We cancelled planned focused activity in March 2020 due to COVID-19.

During the course of the year we have been in discussions with you, and as such, our annual performance letter content is an accurate reflection of our ongoing findings which we have consistently shared with you.

Summary of strengths and areas for improvement in line with principles of the 2014 Act

Well-being

Bridgend County Borough Council's social services has strong corporate support and a clear vision for adult social care, which was strongly articulated across social care and partner agencies at inspection. Overall, we found practice to be pro-active, person-centred and outcome-focused. Assessments and care and support plans were good, evidencing the views and wishes of people. We found carers did not always have access to a short break from caring responsibilities and identified this as an area for improvement.

Reablement and enablement was not always available when people needed it. A review of brokerage and the delivery model for domiciliary care may identify opportunities to increase capacity. The local authority developed an improvement plan to address all areas identified from our inspection and we recognise the pace of improvement will be affected by the challenges of COVID-19.

There was an identified lack of capacity in care homes for people with dementia and nursing needs, which meant some people were delayed in being discharged from hospital.

There was a reduction in performance in 2019 in timescales for completion of assessments of children, which has been addressed. More children than expected were being placed on the child protection register for a second or subsequent time. Senior managers found some children had come off the register too soon, or care and support for families after registration was not sufficiently robust or for a long enough period. Managers were ensuring practice and decision-making was improved.

We could not be confident that children on the child protection register or in the care system were visited by social workers frequently enough. Senior managers sought to reassure us that this was a recording issue. The local authority will wish to ensure it sets performance targets at an appropriately high level, given the importance of visiting the most vulnerable children.

Overall, the numbers of care-experienced children in the local authority has not reduced. The current focus is on increasing the numbers ceasing to be looked after. The local authority has created reunification worker posts to aid this and managers are promoting applications for Special Guardianship Orders where appropriate.

Managers have worked to improve choice and quality of placements for children and therapeutic services available. New services have opened for young people over 16 years with additional planned services stalled due to COVID-19. Senior managers recognise ongoing challenges in achieving the therapeutic approach envisaged across placement provision. Inspections of one of the local authority's children's home has evidenced areas of non-compliance. Necessary staff recruitment, training and building work are delayed by the current crisis.

The local authority has continued to experience significant challenges in identifying suitable placements for a small number of children with the most complex needs, despite the remodelling of its own provision. The local authority have placed three young people in bespoke, unregulated, arrangements in the last year. CIW, Welsh Government and the courts continue to review these arrangements, which present enormous challenges.

People

Bridgend County Borough Council engages well with people to inform and shape service developments and the Chief Executive is committed to this approach. The voices and choices of older adults is heard and responded to. Practice to establish whether people have mental capacity to make specific decisions is robust. An outcome-focused social work model is being introduced in children's services.

The local authority must ensure people are always given the Active Offer to receive services in the Welsh language as we identified some deficits in this at inspection.

The positivity and commitment of staff is a noteworthy feature of adult social care. Staff feel supported by managers. There is a stable leadership team; changes are pending due to the retirement of the Director of Social Services.

Some improvements were required in consistency and recording of staff supervision in adult services. Some managers had a large span of control that impacted on their ability to oversee staff and undertake quality assurance work. The local authority was experiencing difficulties in recruitment and is providing more support for people to obtain qualifications during their employment.

We continue to monitor the implementation of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Senior managers assured us there was no backlog of applications. The team are considering the implications of the new Liberty Protection Safeguard legislation. Our joint national report on DoLS will be issued in due course.

Prevention

We saw evidence of strong financial commitment to preventative services by the Chief Executive and cabinet and a good range of community groups of particular interest to older people. Heath and social services have invested in posts to connect people with resources. We found effective early intervention to prevent escalation of need, including robust safeguarding procedures and targeted preventative work undertaken with specific groups of vulnerable people.

There is creative use of direct payments. The mobile response service for people using the alarm system is an example of good practice. The local authority takes a proactive approach by ensuring people have anticipatory or contingency planning in place.

During 2018 our programme of work focused on care experienced children and young people. The report is published on our website. Nationally, key findings highlight areas for improvement in respect of profile, sufficiency, practice, partnerships, stability, governance and corporate parenting. Many of the areas we have identified for improvement continue to be considered by Welsh Government's Ministerial Advisory Group on improving outcomes for care experienced children and young people and we hope local authorities will consider their own contribution to addressing these findings.

In December 2019 we wrote to all local authorities asking for information about the Public Accounts Committee report following their enquiry into care-experienced children, specifically recommendation 5 concerning the effectiveness and frequency of end of placement reviews. The response from the local authority sought to provide reassurance. A placement support worker provides support for carers when there are risks of placement instability. Placement stability meetings are held within 48 hours. The independent reviewing officer (IRO) convenes a 'LAC Review' meeting within 20 working days of an unexpected end to a placement and identifies learning to inform the young person's next placement.

Partnerships

Bridgend County Borough Council entered into new regional working arrangements in April 2019 and there was considerable work to establish new operational and strategic partnerships across Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB). Senior managers in the local authority were committed to develop robust and effective joint working arrangements and integrated health and social care delivery. Senior managers are working with the NHS delivery unit to develop an improved regional approach for people leaving hospital. At inspection, we found quick decision-making and a joined up approach was of clear benefit to older people in the local authority. Senior managers are active members of the regional partnership board and other regional fora.

We identified areas for improvement at inspection, most of which reflected service developments already planned. These included ensuring the structure, practice and transfer processes within the short-term teams were efficient and minimised delay.

We also identified the need for improved commonality of approach with mental health and hospital ward staff to improve joined up services and discharge arrangements at the Princess of Wales Hospital. Social care presence at the hospital has been increased since inspection and additional funding has provided further support to prevent admissions, improve flow and facilitate discharge.

Anticipated changes in the arrangements and structure of governance within CTMUHB will impact on joint working arrangements with the local authority. Senior managers and people using services reviewed the Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) prior to the changes in health board boundaries and this is due to be reconsidered when new health

structures are in place. The regional partnership board is reviewing placement sufficiency for children with complex needs, with a view to joint commissioning.

CIW Performance Review Plan for 2020-2021

Our scheduled thematic inspection programme for 2019-2020 focused on prevention and promoting independence for older people, and for the current the children's services thematic inspection, the focus is on prevention, partnerships and experiences of disabled children. Due to the current emergency relating to COVID-19, we have paused the publication of our older people's report and paused all activity relating to the disabled children's review. We will advise you in due course when we envisage recommencing our inspections.

We hope to publish the older people's national report in due course and want to take this opportunity to thank you for your local authority's contribution to this.

Due to the unforeseen circumstances we find ourselves in, we are currently reviewing and considering our work plan for the remainder of 2020-2021.

CIW worked together with HMI Constabulary (HMICFRS), HMI Probation, Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) and Estyn to develop a model of joint inspection of child protection arrangements in Wales (JICPA). This approach was piloted during the autumn of 2019. This was a fantastic example of new ways of working across wales and a real drive towards collaboration and integration in public services.

We continue to work closely with Social Care Wales to support improvement in social care services.

You will note that this letter has been copied to colleagues in Audit Wales, Estyn and HIW. CIW works closely with partner inspectorates to consider the wider corporate perspective in which social services operate, as well as local context for social services performance.

We will publish the final version of this letter on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Lou Bushell-Bauers
Head of Local Authority Inspection

Cc.
Audit Wales
HIW
Estyn

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Priority	Tasks	Date	Monitored By	Lead Officers
CIW Inspection of Older Adults' Services September 2019 - Priorities for Improvement				
WELLBEING				
Reablement and enablement is not always available when people need it, which delays the achievement of people's outcomes.	• Develop a new operational model for the support at home service. • Consider options afforded by the transformation funds e.g. establish clear process to ensure right service, right time. • Develop and implement a new staffing structure following a staff consultation process. • Implement the electronic scheduling system for the support at home service.	July 2020	Remodelling Programme - Support at Home work stream. Service Delivery Plan.	Group Manager Integrated Community Resource Team and Provider Service Manager.
BCBC should review its practice for sending people information to self-fund care in such circumstances to ensure this is in line with legislation.	Practice has been reviewed and it has been adjusted accordingly.	January 2020	Remodelling Programme - Support at Home work stream.	Group Manager Integrated Community Resource Team.
BCBC should ensure arrangements in extra care are responsive to the wishes of tenants and allow them to meet their personal outcomes.	• Continue with the Ethos in Extra Care initiative. • Hold a workshop on "What is Extra in Extra Care" to determine a shared vision with shared expectations in the delivery of care. • Quality Care reports. • Collation of feedback from tenants, families and other professionals.	March 2020	Remodelling Programme. Responsible Individual regularity requirements.	Head of Adult Social Care and Integrated Community Services Manager and Provider Service Manager.
BCBC should continue to look at how it organises domiciliary care and any other steps to achieve more capacity to respond to people's individual needs and wishes for care they receive.	• Develop a new operational model for the support at home service to increase capacity. • Work with colleagues across the Council to develop new ways of recruitment and retention of direct care staff. • Implement the electronic scheduling system for the support at home service. • Management of the domiciliary market. • Develop a self-directed care model for people with requirements for support at home.	July 2020	Remodelling Programme - Support at Home work stream. Service Delivery Plan.	Group Manager Integrated Community Resource Team and Integrated Community Cluster Network, and Provider Service Manager and Group Manager Commissioning.
PEOPLE – VOICE AND CHOICE				
Delays for people accessing certain services impacts on meeting their identified needs at the earliest opportunity.	Consider options afforded by the transformation programme to determine how people are managed through our assessment services to ensure that those pathways are seamless. Develop a multidisciplinary triage that ensures that people have the right type of assessment service	July 2020	Remodelling Programme - Support at Home work stream. Changing the Culture board. Sustaining Social Work programme.	Integrated Community Service Managers.
BCBC should ensure the active offer to provide services in Welsh is operational.	• Review of current practice. • Working within the Council to recruit more Welsh speaking staff.	April 2020	Changing the Culture Board and Extended Managers.	All Managers.
Improvements are required in consistency and recording of staff supervision.	• Reinvigorate the Supervision Policy. • Review and amend the recording tool for staff supervision. • Benchmark activity in children's services to establish how they recording advice on cases from supervision within WCCIS and monitoring supervision compliance.	April 2020	Monitored by the Remodelling Programme - Changing the Culture Board work stream.	Head of Adult Social Care.

BCBC will wish to ensure there is sufficiency of individual managers to supervise and oversee those for whom they are responsible.	• Review of structures and management arrangements to determine the social work model across adult services. • Review where social work is provided from and how it is supported.	June 2020	Transformation programme Ambition 1 Ambition 2	Head of Adult Social Care and Group Managers.
PARTNERSHIPS, INTEGRATION, AND CO-PRODUCTION DRIVES SERVICE DELIVERY				
Ensure structure and transfer processes within short term teams maximises timely help available to people. Case holding practice must be subject to appropriate management oversight and expedites 'flow' through the system to allow more people to receive help at the right time.	Review of structures and management arrangements to determine the social work model across adult services need to review where social work is provided from and how it is supported.	June 2020	Transformation programme Ambition 1 Ambition 2	Group Managers.
Improved commonality of approach with mental health and hospital ward staff to improve joined up services for people.	Develop a consistent approach to best interest decision-making for people in hospital and the community. Review the business support function with the discharge team	June 2020	Changing the Culture and Sustaining Social Work Programme.	Group Managers.
Discharge arrangements at the Princess of Wales hospital require improvement to ensure older people's health and wellbeing does not deteriorate due to unnecessarily extended periods of hospital admission.	• Continue to support and engage with the Health Board's improvement agenda. • Take all opportunities to discuss with the Health Board the opportunities to increase the range of community beds as alternatives to an acute hospital bed. • Review current pathways for people going home who are new to health and social care services and require an assessment and intervention service for up to 6 weeks. • Review current pathways for people already known and in core services to return them home. • Explore options to develop a service that supports families in identifying placements.	July 2020	Transformation programme Ambition 1 Ambition 2	Group Managers Integrated Community.
Production of revised BCBC medication policy to ensure care workers help people to take medication safely and practices is consistent.	• Review the NICE guidelines and identify current gaps • Review the Cwm Taf Morgannwg policy. • Discuss current regional arrangements between health and social care with partners. • Set up Advisory Group to revise current medication policy and plan implementation and roll out including a cost benefit analysis.	May 2020	Local Task and Finish group establish to ensure compliance with national guidelines for medication for domiciliary care services.	Head of Adult Social Care.
PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION				
Ensure practitioners are confident they have access to current and comprehensive information on community activities.	• Overlay and align all third sector navigators with the cluster networks making them accessible to all members of our community. • Access to Dewis on all desktops for professional staff.	May 2020	Transformation Programme – Ambition 1 Ambition 3	Group Managers Integrated Community.
BCBC should improve on consistent signposting, quality assurance and ensuring sufficiency of ongoing staffing in the Common Access Point (CAP).	• Deliver on the CAP aspect of Ambition 1 including learning and development. • Review and evaluate the current Business Continuity plan with decisions that are informed of the maximum/minimum productivity to resource ratio. • Procure specialist knowledge and best practice for managing contact/ call centres to determine the most appropriate model for access, advice and assistance.	July 2020	Transformation Programme – Ambition 1	Group Manager Integrated Community Resource team
BCBC must ensure all 15 minute calls in domiciliary care meet legislative requirements and address any concerns of provider agencies.	• Accelerate the implementation of Outcomes Focussed commissioning. • Monitor the use of 15 minute calls to ensure their use is	April 2020	Remodelling Programme	Group Manager Commissioning.

	appropriate.			
BCBC should seek to involve people subject to safeguarding processes or their families as much as possible.	• Review of current processes in line with national safeguarding procedures. • Develop and implement any changes required.	May 2020	Safeguarding Board.	Head of Adult Social Care and Safeguarding Manager
BCBC must ensure sufficient support to carers who need a short break from caring responsibilities.	• Ensure the effective delivery of the current short term contract. • Explore opportunities for respite in 24 hour settings. • Maintain Carer engagement/ communication.	June 2020	Changing the Culture.	Group Manager Commissioning.

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

CABINET COMMITTEE - CORPORATE PARENTING TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This report sets out the work being taken forward across Welsh Government to strengthen and extend corporate parenting for care experienced children.

1.2 Cabinet is recommended to note the local implications of this work programme and what a new approach to corporate parenting can achieve to enable delivery of an improved Wales public sector response to the needs of care experienced children.

1.3 To seek approval from Cabinet to proceed with a review of the current Terms of Reference and membership for the Cabinet Committee - Corporate Parenting and approve the establishment of a Working Group to undertake the review.

2. Connection to well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 The Programme for Government, Taking Wales Forward, commits to "examine ways of ensuring looked after children enjoy the same life chances as other children and if necessary reform the way they are looked after". This is reinforced by the national strategy Prosperity for All, with social care as 1 of the 5 priority areas, with actions to:

- raise the educational attainment and improve the life chances of children in care, adopting a child centered approach, through the collaboration of education, social services and others;

- strengthen edge of care services to provide families with timely support to reduce the numbers needing care provision and provide assistance in the key transitional phase post 16 to access further education, jobs and housing for all those leaving care.

3.2 Improving outcomes for looked after children requires all public services to take ownership of their respective corporate parenting responsibilities – working collectively to safeguard and promote the life chances of looked after children.

3.3 As part of the conversations Welsh Government have been holding with local authorities to discuss the First Minister's priorities to reduce the numbers of children in care, corporate parenting and the responsiveness of key agencies including Health and the justice system has been highlighted as a priority.

3.4 The concept of corporate parenting - the collective responsibility of all those within local authorities to safeguard and promote the life chances of looked after children is well established. Section 78 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 imposes a duty upon a local authority to safeguard and promote the well-being of each child it looks after. Under sections 104 – 118 of the Act, a local authority has similar duties to promote the well-being of care leavers.

3.5 The role of a corporate parent is to seek for children in public care the outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. Local authorities in Wales have a legal and moral duty to provide such support to the children it looks after. Elected Members have a responsibility to ensure that children looked after by a local authority are able to thrive, are nurtured, supported, educated and prepared for adult life in the way any parent would want for their own children.

3.6 It has been observed across Wales that whilst local authorities take the responsibility of corporate parenting seriously, it is often seen as a function for children's social services and Elected Members, rather than a responsibility spanning the functions of the whole authority. Welsh Government policy intent is to strengthen corporate parenting across all departments within the local authority, to enable better partnership working and improved transitions between services provided for care experienced children, in education or housing for example.

3.7 Care experienced children also engage with and require the support of a wide range of public services outside of local authorities, in both the devolved and non-devolved sphere – i.e the NHS, the Police and the justice system. Welsh Government want to widen the concept of corporate parenting across all key agencies that provide services to looked after children, to instill accountability and ensure they are provided with the best response and support from these services.

3.8 By extending corporate parenting responsibilities across the public sector, it is anticipated outcomes will include greater accountability and delivery of:

- the provision of safe and stable accommodation for looked after children and care leavers;

- secure, positive educational outcomes for care-experienced children;

- an increase in the number of care leavers in education, training and employment;

- ensuring physical, mental health and substance misuse concerns are identified early and addressed quickly; and

- a reduced number of looked after children and care leavers who enter the youth and criminal justice systems.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 Welsh Government are now embarking on an extensive programme of work and engagement activity to take forward a new 'refreshed' approach to corporate parenting. The new approach is about doing things differently and to organisations' best abilities including a new Voluntary Charter referred to in paragraph 4.2 below. Whilst other elements will be about strengthening what is already in place by raising awareness and increasing knowledge about organisations' roles and responsibilities.

4.2 The programme of work includes engagement with a wide cohort of care experienced children to identify what corporate parenting means to them and their expectations from the services they routinely engage with. Working with this cohort, Welsh Government will look to co-produce a Voluntary Charter that organisations can sign up to setting out their commitment and unique offer to care experienced children. This Voluntary Charter will enable all stakeholders, across the public and private sector and the devolved and non-devolved spheres, to sign up to a common statement of improved support and action when working with care experienced children. It is anticipated the Charter will allow signatories to describe how they engage with care experienced children and what they propose to do differently or offer in addition to care experienced children in the future.

4.3 To build on the agreements as set out in the Voluntary Charter, they will also look to use existing legislative powers to strengthen statutory guidance, clarifying roles and responsibilities and extending duties across the public sector. This will be achieved by:

- Developing a new 'corporate parenting' chapter within the Part 6 Code of Practice under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, providing clear statutory guidance to all departments within local authorities about their responsibilities and duties towards care experienced children.
- Updating the Part 9 Code of Practice under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, providing statutory guidance to Regional Partnership Boards on the issue of corporate parenting and enabling improved partnership working between local authorities and Local Health Boards.
- Seeking to embed the concept of corporate parenting beyond that of local authorities. Existing powers are available to Welsh Government under the Children Act 2004 and Education Act 2002 to develop statutory guidance to embed corporate parenting beyond local authorities.

4.4 The membership of the Council's existing Cabinet Committee - Corporate Parenting comprises of 15 Elected Members (6 of whom are Cabinet Members and have voting rights), Corporate Management Board (CMB) and relevant Heads of Service. The current Terms of Reference outline its key functions as follows:

- To ensure that Looked After Children are seen as a priority by the whole of the Authority and by the Children and Young People's Partnership;
- To seek the views of Children and Young People in shaping and influencing the parenting they receive;
- To determine appropriate policies, opportunities and procedures;
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Authority in its role as corporate parent against Welsh Assembly guidance;
- To approve the Permanence Policy in relation to Looked After Children;
- To approve individual Statements of Purpose for the service areas of Fostering, Adoption and Children's Homes;
- To receive information specifically relating to Looked After Children and the Authority's Corporate Parenting Role;
- To approve the Placement Strategy.

4.5 At its most recent meeting on 4th March 2020 the Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting discussed how it could be strengthened and the value of extending membership to key partner agencies. Importantly the Committee were also keen to ensure that the voice of the looked after child (or care experienced child) was heard.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 There is no effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7. 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) 2014 (SSWBA), 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. By promoting 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.

7.2 The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the relevant well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- **Long Term** – Social Services is demand led and the SSWBA focusses on sustainable wellbeing outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of rising demographics and increasing complexity, the transformation of services continues to be a priority.

- **Integration/ Collaboration** – Improving outcomes for looked after children requires all public services to take ownership of their respective corporate parenting responsibilities – working collectively to safeguard and promote the life chances of looked after children.

- **Involvement –** the key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9.0 Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to note the local implications of the Welsh Government work programme and approve the commencement of a review of the existing Cabinet Committee - Corporate Parenting Terms of Reference and membership.

9.2 Approve the establishment of a Working Group to conduct the review to be led by the Head of Children's Social Care and to include corporate colleagues and representation from key external partners and young people who are or have been looked after by the Authority.

9.3 Note that the findings of the Working Group and any proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference and membership of the Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting will be reported back to Cabinet.

Laura Kinsey
Head of Childrens Social Care
September 2020

Contact officer: Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care
Telephone: (01656) 642314
Email: laura.kinsey@bridgend.gov.uk
Postal address: Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices,
Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB

Background Documents

NONE

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

LEARNER TRAVEL POLICY

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update Cabinet on the outcomes of the consultation exercise approved by Cabinet regarding the proposed changes to the local authority's Learner Travel Policy;
- assist Cabinet in determining whether or not it should progress with any of the proposals;
- identify how the proposals would contribute to the overall saving to the Council's medium-term financial strategy; and
- report on the outcomes of the independent strategic review of transport.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

1.1. The Council's statutory responsibilities in relation to home to school/college transport are set out in the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 (the Measure).

1.2. Local authorities must:

a) assess the travel needs of learners in their authority area;

b) provide free home to school transport for learners of compulsory school age attending primary school who live two miles or further from their nearest suitable school;
c) provide free home-to-school transport for learners of compulsory school age attending secondary school who live three miles or further from their nearest suitable school;
d) assess and meet the needs of 'looked after' children in their authority area;
e) promote access to Welsh-medium education;
f) promote sustainable modes of travel; and
g) where learners are not entitled to free transport, local authorities have the power to provide transport on a discretionary basis.

1.3. In Bridgend, the term 'nearest suitable school' applies to the local catchment area school and this can be an English-medium, Welsh-medium, voluntary aided, voluntary controlled or maintained special schools.

1.4. Section 2 of the Measure requires local authorities to assess the travel needs of all learners under the age of 19 who receive education or training and who are ordinarily resident in the local authority's area. This includes those who have reached the age of 19 but started a course when under the age of 19 and continue to attend that course. However, there is no statutory duty in the Measure to provide free transport for the following learners:

- those who are not of statutory school age, and this includes nursery-aged children as well as post-16 students; or

- those who, by parental preference, attend a voluntary aided (VA) school, where the school is not the nearest suitable school.

1.5. The Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014 was published in June 2014. This guidance includes statutory provisions, which local authorities must consider in undertaking their responsibilities under the Measure. This guidance includes statutory guidance on risk assessing walked routes to school.

1.6. The Measure also provides guidance on circumstances in which local authorities may choose to make their own discretionary arrangements.

1.7. The Learner Travel Policy is closely aligned with the local authority's School Admissions Policy although it does not form part of the admission arrangements. Nevertheless, the Council's Learner Travel Policy will be a material consideration in respect of the choice of school for many parents and is therefore detailed in the local authority's Admissions Policy ie the 'Starting School' Booklet for parents.

1.8. The learner transport budget has been under significant financial pressure for many years. Ongoing annual budget reductions under the medium-term financial strategy (MTFS) have been significant with efficiency savings of £1.869m between 2014-2015 and 2020-2021. There has, however, also been some budget growth of £906k to support increased pressure on the home-to-school transport budget in the period 2018-2018-2019 to 2020-2021. Table 1 below provides further detail of these savings and growth.

Table 1 MTFS savings/growth 2014-2015 to 2020-2021

MTFS savings	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	TOTAL
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Retender learner transport contracts	250	400	100					750
Rationalise special education needs transport	200	100	150					450
School transport route efficiencies		200	200	40				440
Phased implementation of Learner Transport Policy regarding statutory distances for free travel				20	67	67	75	229
TOTAL	**450**	**700**	**450**	**60**	**67**	**67**	**75**	**1,869**

MTFS growth	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	TOTAL
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	
Increasing costs associated with home-to-school transport, including demand for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) and demographic growth						427		427
Transport costs for Welsh Government's Junior Apprenticeship Programme						42		42
Increase in costs of learner travel due to re-tender exercise that took place in 2017-2018					81			81
Retendering of contracts for buses and taxis							356	356
TOTAL					**81**	**469**	**356**	**906**

1.9. However, ongoing pressure on the home-to-school transport budget, as a result of the significant savings set against the budget identified in Table 1, has meant that year-on-year spend has exceeded the available annual budget, leading to a £774k overspend position in 2019-2020. While there has been additional budget growth of £906k over the 2018-2019 to 2020-2021 period, this has only addressed the additional costs brought about primarily through increased contractor prices, changes to eligibility for pupils and additional costs associated with transporting pupils with additional learning needs (ALN).

1.10. In September 2015, Cabinet determined changes to the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy in order to meet MTFS savings identified from 2016-2017 to 2019-2020. The policy change and corresponding budget MTFS budget reduction proposals were implemented in September 2016. However, initial savings were predicated on the full implementation of a change to statutory distances of 2 miles for primary school-age children from the previous 1.5 miles and 3 miles for secondary school-age children (including post-16 learners) from the previous 2 miles. No change was proposed to nursery-age children eligibility of 1.5 miles. On implementing the policy change, Cabinet determined to protect the entitlement of all pupils currently benefitting from home-to-school transport at the former distances until they moved schools or moved from one phase of education to another. Furthermore, protection was provided for siblings of children already in receipt at the former distances, where they too would benefit from free transport at the same distance.

1.11. Cabinet was not minded to remove the discretionary arrangements for post-16 learners, who would therefore continue to benefit from home-to-school/college transport at the 3-mile distance.

1.12. The 'in-receipt' and the 'sibling rule' entitlement has meant that, year-on-year, the number of pupils the policy change applies to, is relatively small. However, parents have challenged this inequality and have been critical of its intention, especially as children without siblings are disadvantaged.

1.13. Parents who have been aggrieved that their child has been at detriment in comparison with their peers (ie a child without siblings in the same school, entering their statutory education in reception or transitioning from primary education into secondary education in Year 7) have typically challenged the safety of walked routes to school in order to address this inequality. Without sufficient formal assessments under the requirements of the Learner Travel (Wales) Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014 (the Operational Guidance), it has been difficult for the local authority to contest much of the challenge on the availability of walked routes to school. On this basis, the School Transport Team issues a number of temporary bus passes each year to pupils where there has been a challenge to the availability of a walked routes to school.

1.14. Without adequate assurances that routes considered as available by the local authority had followed the procedure outlined in the aforementioned Operational Guidance, the local authority would not be able to fully implement its policy decision made in September 2015.

1.15. Therefore, in August 2017, the local authority agreed to progress the formal assessments of walking routes in accordance with the operational guidance to identify the major safe walking routes to schools. These formal assessments did not include

all possible walked routes, as such an assessment would be unfeasible, but included an assessment of all major routes across the county borough from the main residential areas to local schools. Routes that were generally considered as 'well-travelled' as part of the 'public realm' (eg modern streets through residential estates where sufficient pavements/footways were present with good street lighting were automatically considered to be 'available' as per the operational guidance or as per previous assessments undertaken by officers).

1.16. The physical assessments of the main routes were progressed by an independent consultant. Physical assessments were undertaken before routes were deemed available, taking into consideration the statutory provisions contained within the Operational Guidance. An officer of the local authority was appointed to progress statutory consultations with schools, learners and parents, to ensure that their views were heard as part of the assessment and engagement process.

1.17. Twelve reports were produced covering the following geographical areas/school catchments:

- Abercerdin Primary School
- Blaengarw Primary School
- Brynteg School
- Bryntirion Comprehensive School
- Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
- Cynffig Comprehensive School
- Garw Valley
- Maesteg School
- Nantymoel Primary School
- Ogmore Vale Primary School
- Pencoed Comprehensive School
- Porthcawl Primary School

1.18. All assessment undertaken fully followed the statutory requirements outlined in the aforementioned operational guidance.

1.19. Section 5 of the local authority's current Home to School/College Transport Policy identifies the local authority's response to the identification of available routes and states that in determining the comparative safety of a walking route where routes are reviewed, 'provision may be withdrawn where for example, identified hazards have been mitigated against. This will then be classed as an identified and available safe walking route. Parents will be given at least one term advance notice of the withdrawal of transport and any withdrawal will normally be implemented to coincide with the start of an academic year.'

1.20. Following these assessments, officers identified that the impact of fully implementing the available walking route assessments on those learners currently benefitting from free home-to-school transport where routes had previously been challenged by parents as 'unsafe', would be significant.

1.21. With this in mind, and in order to make sufficient savings to address the current £774k overspend in 2019-2020 and the MTFS proposal in 2020-2021 of an additional £75k,

it was proposed to seek the views of the public on a number of policy proposals, not least the implementation of available walked route assessments.

1.22. Therefore, in July 2019, Cabinet agreed to undertake a full 12-week public consultation on a new set of proposals that would both address the inherent inequality in the current Home-to-School/College Transport Policy (principally the 'sibling rule' and 'in-receipt' protection) and to provide sufficient savings to support the £1.869m of budgets savings made since 2014. Therefore, the following proposals to the Learner Travel Policy were approved for consultation by Cabinet in July 2019:

- removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses (excluding those transporting pupils with special education need) of less than 8 passengers;
- withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an identified and available (safe) routes to school in line with statutory distances of 2 miles for primary school-age pupils and 3 miles for secondary school-age pupils;
- removal of 'sibling' and 'in receipt' protection for pupils;
- removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport;
- removal of all transport for nursery pupils; and
- removal of all post-16 transport.

1.23. The public consultation took place over a 12-week period from 14 October 2019 to 5 January 2020. The consultation was available bilingually and through a variety of alternative formats. Consultation with learners took place throughout January at specially arranged events in the Council Chamber and in support of the separate consultation on the review of Post-16 education in Bridgend.

1.24. Two of the proposals agreed by Cabinet for consultation in July 2019 were combined as material issues into five total proposals that formed the proposals detailed in the public Consultation Document (see Appendix 1) and summarised as follows:

Proposal 1

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils.

Proposal 2

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers.

Proposal 3

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

Proposal 4

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college other than those pupils who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend or who wish to pursue a faith-based education in a sixth-form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend.

Proposal 5

To stop providing free transport for nursery-age pupils (aged three and four-years-old).

1.25. Table 2 below provides a summary of the impact of these proposals on learners if they were to be approved by Cabinet.

Table 2 - Current and proposed learner travel policy arrangements

Post-16 transport		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
Post-16 student (English-medium) Attending Bridgend College or the nearest college offering the course eg Coleg Cymoedd	Free home-to-college transport provided over three miles from college or where there is no available walking route (normally this is provided via a public service bus pass)	No home-to-college transport provided
Post-16 student (English-medium) Attends sixth-form at • Brynteg School • Pencoed Comprehensive School • Cynffig Comprehensive School • Porthcawl Comprehensive School • Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen • Maesteg School • Bryntirion Comprehensive School	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	No home-to-school transport provided
Post-16 student (Welsh-medium) Attends sixth-form at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route	No change

Post-16 transport		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
Post-16 student (faith-based education) Attends sixth-form at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route	No change
Post-16 student with additional learning needs (ALN) in specialist provision	Free home-to-school transport provided if over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route Free home-to-school transport also provided at the discretion of the local authority	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority following an assessment of the needs of the learner
Post-16 student with ALN not in a specialist provision	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority following an assessment of the needs of the learner

School transport for secondary school-age pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
Secondary school-age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over three miles from the school or	Free home-to-school transport provided	No change

School transport for secondary school-age pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
no available walking route exists		
Secondary school-age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school but it is not their nearest suitable school, as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school	No home-to-school transport provided	No change
Secondary school-age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over two miles from the school and they were previously in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance when the policy changed in September 2016	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route

School transport for secondary school-age pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
Secondary school-age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school which is their nearest available school and they live over 2 miles from the school as they became eligible for free transport when the policy changed in September 2016 as a sibling was already attending the same school and was already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route

School transport for primary school-age pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
Primary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over two miles from the school or no available walking route exists	Home-to-school transport provided	No change

School transport for primary school-age pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
Nursery-age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school, but it is not their nearest suitable school as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school	No home-to-school transport provided	No change
Primary school-age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school, as they were previously in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance when the policy changed in September 2016	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over two miles from school or where there is no available walking route
Primary school-age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school which is their nearest suitable school and they live over 1.5 miles from the school and they became eligible for free transport when the policy changed in September 2016, as a sibling was already attending the same school and was already in receipt	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over two miles from school or where there is no available walking route

School transport for primary school-age pupils		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
of free home-to-school transport at this distance		

Transport for nursery children		
Learner type	**Current arrangement**	**Proposed arrangement** (from September 2021)
Nursery age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 3-4 Attends nursery school which is their nearest suitable school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school or no available walking route exists	Home-to-school transport provided	No home-to-school transport provided
Nursery age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 3-4 Attends nursery school, but it is not their nearest available school as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school	No home-to-school transport provided	No change

1.26. Some learners with ALN who are of compulsory school age have their needs met within a mainstream school setting, but with prescribed support (confirmed on their Statement of Special Education Needs). For these learners travel assistance will be assessed and provided on an individual basis.

1.27. The consultation report (see Appendix 2) provides detail of the consultation approach taken and results.

1.28. In total, there were 1396 interactions during the consultation. The method of response is detailed below in Table 3 below.

Table 3 - Consultation response interactions

Interactions	Number
Survey completions	943
Parents meetings	97
Pupil workshops	305
Emails	13
Letters	3
Social media comments	35
Total interactions	**1396**

4. Current situation/proposal

1.29. The outcome of the consultation is as follows and is detailed in the Consultation Report (see Appendix 2) and in the thematic 'Emerging Themes' summary (see Appendix 3). However, the main issues from the responses are summarised below

1.30. Proposal 1 - Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and 3 miles for secondary school-age pupils

1.31. There were three main responses relating to this proposal (for a full breakdown see consultation report in Appendix 2).

- 57% of the respondents and 76% of learners did not agree with the proposals.
- 29% of the respondents did agree with the proposal and 14% were unsure. Whereas 18% of learners agreed with this proposal and 6% were unsure.
- Of the 456 respondents disagreeing with the proposal 27% identified that it was too far to walk and would take too long especially in bad weather and 24% identified that children would be unsafe walking to school.
- Of the 296 learners responding, 14.5% identified that it would be too far to walk, 11% identified that the local authority should keep all transport and 9% identified that there was no safe walking route to school.

1.32. There did seem to be some misunderstanding of the already implemented distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils. The local authority's current Home-To-School/College Transport Policy was approved in September 2015 and implemented from September 2016. The local authority's current policy matches the statutory distances of two miles for primary school children and three miles for secondary school children are laid down in national legislation ie the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.

1.33. Proposal 2 - Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

1.34. There did appear to be some confusion regarding this proposal, as many public respondents as well as learners, assumed that this proposal included the complete removal of escorts on vehicles for pupils with additional learning needs, even though this is not part of the proposal as clarified in the consultation document.

- 43% of the respondents and 35% of learners did not agree with the proposals.
- 37% of the respondents did agree with the proposal and 20% were unsure. Whereas 37% of learners agreed with this proposal and 28% were unsure.
- Of the 264 respondents disagreeing with the proposal 16% identified that there could be safeguarding issues for both children and driver and 15% identified that child safety could be compromised.
- Of the 303 learners responding 40% provided reasons for their responses, 18% of these commented that escorts were not needed, 18% commented that an escort was not needed if the driver makes the pupil feel comfortable and safe and 16% commented that escorts provide personal/medical support.

1.35. It is important to note that the role of escorts is not to provide any form of medical support to pupils, merely to ensure pupil and vehicle safety by communicating with the driver who takes ultimate charge of the safety of the vehicle and occupants. Any emergency situation would be dealt with via the vehicle stopping and the emergency services being contacted. Escorts are not authorised to administer medication to pupils or provide any personal support.

1.36. Proposal 3 - Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport

1.37. There did appear to be some confusion regarding this proposal, as it does not identify a specific reduction of provision, merely the refinement of the Home to School/College Transport Policy.

- 37% of the respondents and 31% of learners did not agree with the proposal. 20% of respondents and 44% of learners agreed with this proposal.
- 43% of respondents and 25% of learners were unsure.
- There 138 comments from respondents disagreeing with the proposal. Of these 25% identified that each pupil should be assessed on a case by case basis and 14% identified that the service is needed.
- 78 learners responding provided comments. 34% of these commented that it will encourage more people to apply and 26% commented that pupils with special circumstances should have this transport.

1.38. Proposal 4 - To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college

1.39. A significant 71% of public respondents and 85% of learners did not agree with this proposal.

- 18% of public respondents and 8% of learners agreed with this proposal.
- 11% of public respondents and 7% of learners were unsure.
- There were 412 comments received from respondents disagreeing with the proposal. Of these, 19% identified that 'it will discourage young people from attending sixth form' and 54% identified that it will be costly to pay for transport.

13% commented that it would negatively impact young people living in poverty/deprived areas and a similar 13% commented that we should encourage young people to attend sixth form.
- 136 learners responding provided comments. 41% of these commented that pupils will be unable to pay for travel and 20% commented that this proposal limits opportunities for pupils.

1.40. Respondents and learners were asked to identify who they believed should still receive free post-16 transport if this was to be removed. Disabled young people (694) and young people in care (572) were the two highest responses from public respondents. Learners chose disabled young people' (155) followed by 'care leavers' (96).

1.41. Proposal 5 - To remove all transport for nursery pupils

- 58% of the respondents and 63% of learners did not agree with the proposals.
- 25% of the respondents did agree with the proposal and 17% were unsure. Whereas 26% of learners agreed with this proposal and 11% were unsure.
- Of the 246 respondents disagreeing with the proposal 19% identified that it would impact negatively on Welsh-medium education and 15% commented it would be difficult for working parents.
- 117 learners responded with comments 27% commented that Welsh-medium education should be protected.

1.42. The community engagement workshops primarily identified concerns in relation to safe walking routes and the distance from home-to-school and how this is measured. The impact on post-16 learners was also identified as a concern and that the proposal to remove post-16 transport should be considered alongside the proposed options for post-16 education in Bridgend.

Assessment of the impact of the policy proposals

1.43. It is clear that the current home-to-school/college transport policy is complicated.

1.44. The policy has been subject to change but not consistently applied due to:

- nuances in policy (sibling rule and 'already in-receipt' retention of eligibility;
- historic insecurities in up-to-date assessments of availability of walking routes (now resolved);
- nursery transport at 1.5 miles and over;
- primary transport - a mix of over 1.5 and 2 miles eligibility (dependent on local challenges over the availability of walked routes to school, as well as the 'sibling' and 'in-receipt' rules); and
- secondary transport - a mix of over 2 and 3 miles eligibility (dependent on local challenges over the availability of walked routes to school as well as the 'sibling' and 'in-receipt' rules).

1.45. Some historic anomalies also exist where there is no eligibility under any previous or current policy (eg North Cornelly to Cynffig Comprehensive School.) and therefore for many years there has been a legitimate expectation that such an arrangement will continue unchallenged.

1.46. Assessment of impact of proposal 1 - Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils.

1.47. The majority of all school transport provided to learners in both primary and secondary schools is provide by 'big bus' transport. A 'big bus' is defined as having 22 or more seats.

1.48. 4,638 Bridgend pupils travel to school on a 'big bus' (January 2020).

1.49. Big bus transport is provided for 20 schools (12 primary schools and 8 secondary schools). The 12 primary schools include all of Bridgend's Welsh-medium and Catholic schools (along with three English-medium schools in Bridgend and two out-of-county bilingual/Welsh-medium schools).

1.50. Big bus transport is also provided to Dolau Primary School and YG Llanhari in Rhondda Cynon Taf because of the current eligibility for pupils to attend these schools under the local authority's Schools Admission Policy (however, this arrangement will end from 2020 for new admissions).

1.51. The only secondary school where big bus transport is not required is Bryntirion Comprehensive School. This is because the proximity of the local population to the school means that in general, very few pupils are eligible under the current or previous Home to School/College Transport Policies.

1.52. Table 4 below identifies the numbers of pupils on 'big bus' transport in January 2020 and the estimated impact on eligible pupils travelling if all safe routes were implemented as per the most recent assessments. Cohorts of learners and their address/geographical location can vary dramatically year-on-year and such an analysis is therefore meant to be representative only. However, a large number of learners benefitting from transport currently are predicted to lose their eligibility if this policy proposal was to be implemented. This is because of a large number of secondary school pupils in certain schools who live between the former 2 mile distance, (where under the former policy they would have been eligible) and the now 3 mile distance implemented in 2016 eg Brynteg School and Cynffig Comprehensive School. For other secondary schools, the change is less significant eg Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen as the majority of learners travelling from the valley communities travel much further distances already. Similarly for primary age pupils it would be those in faith schools and in Welsh-medium schools who would be most impacted by this proposal. Table 4 below provides an estimate of this impact based on known cohorts of learners.

Table 4 – Number of pupils on big buses January 2020 and estimated reduction following the implementation of Proposal 1

Primary schools	Pupil Nos. Jan, 2020	Estimated Pupil Nos. September 2021	Estimated Percentage reduction in eligible learners

Faith schools			
St Robert's Catholic Primary School	63	63	0.0%
St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	66	32	-51.5%
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	171	66	-61.4%
Welsh-medium primary schools			
Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr	98	45	-54.1%
YGG Calon y Cymoedd	134	121	-9.7%
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	138	90	-34.8%
YG Bro Ogwr	289	148	-48.8%
English-medium schools			
Coety Primary School	27	27	0.0%
Pencoed Primary School	42	42	0.0%
Ogmore Vale Primary School	106	106	0.0%
Secondary schools			
Faith schools			
Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	667	600	-10.0%
Welsh-medium schools			
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	647	560	-13.4%
English-medium schools			
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	137	49	-64.2%
Pencoed Comprehensive School	152	91	-40.1%
Cynffig Comprehensive School	237	10	-95.8%
Brynteg School	356	10	-97.2%
Maesteg School	398	100	-74.9%
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	844	780	-7.6%
Bilingual/Welsh-medium schools not in Bridgend			
Dolau Primary School	23	23	0.0%
YG Llanhari	43	43	0.0%
TOTAL	**4,638**	**3,006**	**-35.2%**

1.53. The impact on pupils utilising smaller vehicles eg taxis and minibuses would likely be far less, as these tend to be used where the learners are located geographically distant from their local school eg outlying farms without any available walking route to school or where the community is small and geographically isolated (eg Coytrahen to Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen or Heol Y Cyw to Pencoed Primary and Pencoed Comprehensive Schools). Given the local authority's statutory responsibility to assess the transport needs of learner's, in particular those with ALN or with disabilities, it is not envisaged that transport will be withdrawn for these learners unless that assessment identifies their ability to walk to school within the statutory distances.

1.54. The local authority has a statutory duty to promote the Welsh language and this is enshrined in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

1.55. The disproportionate impact on Welsh-medium learners may influence a parent/carer's choice of progressing a child into Welsh-medium education.

1.56. If Cabinet are therefore minded not to implement this policy proposal immediately, due to the impact highlighted in Table 4, it must determine a point in time by which the assessed routes become considered as available. Whereas the sibling rule and in receipt policy elements could remain in the policy, Cabinet must accept the identification by local authority officers of available walked routes to school utilising Welsh Government guidance and therefore approve their implementation, otherwise any parent/carer or pupil, could challenge whether any walked route is available. In such a situation, the demand for free home-to-school transport could outstrip both available budget and the supply of vehicles available from school transport operators. The options available to Cabinet are therefore detailed in Table 5 below:

Table 5: Proposal 1 – Policy elements options and risks

Policy element	Option	Risk
Sibling protection	removal	Some increased numbers of learners ineligible for free home-to-school transport
	continuation	Ongoing disparity and inequality amongst pupils, particularly those starting at reception and Year 7 without siblings already in school.
In-receipt rule	removal	Some increased numbers of learners ineligible for free home-to-school transport
	continuation	Ongoing disparity and inequality amongst pupils, particularly those starting at reception and Year 7. Older children would still be eligible, younger children would not be (unless the sibling rule is applied).
Implementation of walking route assessments identifying all routes now considered to be 'available'	Full implementation from September 2021	Significant impact on learners with potential 65% reduction in pupils, no longer eligible for free home-to-school transport
	Routes assessed as newly available are accepted as available, but implementation is	Reduced impact on current cohort of learners. If a delay is chosen, with a greater

	delayed eg 3 years (September 2023)	lead-in, parents/carers and pupils may feel more able to adapt to a future policy change. The local authority would be able to put in place some additional measures to support greater numbers of learners walking to school eg improved active travel arrangements and would likely have benefitted during this period from further funding opportunities to support a number of supportive active travel initiatives. If the implementation of this policy element is withheld, those routes now assessed as available could be officially classified as such, transport for learners using these routes could continue to be provided on a discretionary basis as permitted by the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.

1.57. Assessment of impact of Proposal 2 - Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

1.58. There is no statutory responsibility on the local authority to provide escorts on any school transport vehicle. However, the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 does require local authorities to assess the travel needs of learners.

1.59. Table 6 below identifies that numbers of contracts (vehicles) that currently provide escorts.

1.60. Table 6: Escorts on home-to-school transport contracts – July 2020

	Buses	Special Taxi	Taxi	Heronsbridge School	Special Minibus	Minibus	Total
Vehicles operating	82	76	40	42	48	16	**304**

Vehicles with escorts	28	35	8	42	27	6	**146**
Vehicle over 8 seats vehicle with escort	28	0	0	8	10	5	**51**
Under 8 seats with escort	0	35	8	34	17	1	**95**

1.61. It is important to note that some contracts do run without an escort where it has been assessed by the local authority in liaison with the transport operator that the role is not required.

1.62. The role is primarily one of safety and communication including the following principle responsibilities:

- Keeping doors closed until the vehicle is at a complete standstill.
- Not allowing children to open or close vehicle doors.
- Getting off the bus to ensure that all children are well clear of the vehicle, and that nobody is going back for property they have left behind.
- Helping parents / teachers to assist pupils boarding and alighting.
- Discouraging children from crossing in front of, or immediately behind the vehicle.
- Closing doors before moving off and ensuring that pupils catch nothing in doors.
- Ensuring they seat all children before the vehicle starts.
- Stowing all bags, luggage etc safely.
- Ensuring, with the driver that any harnesses, restraints and wheelchair securements are correctly fastened.
- After dropping pupils off at schools or day centres, check all seats for lost property and that no children have been left on the vehicle before instructing the driver to leave the site.

1.63. The cost of each escort per day is approximately £10 for each contract. Therefore the cost annually is negligible, although given that the risk associated with the removal of escorts on mainstream contracts is minimal as the driver is able to adequately monitor pupils in smaller vehicles, hence the threshold that has been set per this proposal relates to vehicles of less than 8 seats. Therefore, given there are very few (currently 9) mainstream contracts (highlighted in Table 6 above) with escorts that could be removed as a result of this policy proposal the financial savings would be a potential £35k per annum.

1.64. Local authority officers would, in conjunction with advice from the school transport operator and school, assess the needs of learners travelling on a contract proposed to run without an escort, and therefore determine the suitability of running such a contract on a case-by-case basis.

1.65. **Assessment of impact of Proposal 3 - Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport**.

1.66. As mentioned previously, the consultation responses and public meetings identified confusion regarding the use in the current Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples where the local authority can use its discretion under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. The current policy provides the following examples:

- where a learner has had to change address, to move to a different area of the county borough to escape a domestic violence situation;
- short term emergency situations which necessitate a learner having to move to a different area of the Borough;
- where a learner has a medical condition which requires transport to be made available in the short term (eg broken leg).

1.67. These three specific examples are considered to be far too constraining on the local authority's ability to offer discretion to all pupils equally. Furthermore, they do not identify how officers would provide parity. For example, the policy suggests that the local authority should provide free discretionary transport to all learners with a broken leg who, without consideration of whether this is practical, feasible or cost effective. The removal of these specific examples would allow officers the ability to make a judgement based on individual circumstances and evidence (including medical evidence) rather than on categorisation.

1.68. Assessment of impact of Proposal 4 - To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college other than those pupils who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend or who wish to pursue a faith-based education in a sixth-form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend.

1.69. An outcome form the consultation identified this proposal as the most contentious of all the proposals, as the impact is likely to be significant.

1.70. There are currently 1,425 learners studying in Year 12 & 13 in all secondary schools in Bridgend. Of these approximately 54% currently benefit from eligibility of free home-to-school transport, although take-up is varied. This is detailed in Table 7 below

Table 7: Post-16 pupil numbers at secondary schools benefitting from free home-to-school transport - January 2020.

School	Post-16 pupil numbers on transport
Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	139
Brynteg School	110
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	136
Cynffig Comprehensive School	66
Maesteg School	133
Pencoed Comprehensive School	43
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	38

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	85
Ysgol Llanhari	17
Bishop Of Llandaff Church in Wales High School	4
Total	**771**

1.71. This policy proposal would see the removal of all of these learners from transport other than those attending Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd and Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School.

1.72. This is because the local authority has a statutory duty to promote the Welsh language and this is enshrined in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. It is considered that if free home-to-school transport is removed for Post-16 learners, given the limited geographical choice of Welsh-medium schools in the county borough ie one secondary and four primary schools, a parent/carer considering putting their child into Welsh-medium education may choose not to proceed on the basis of the loss of free transport at post-16. As many parents/carers will have high aspirations for the ongoing education of their child beyond their statutory education, a clear barrier to that continuity of education is considered to be the availability of free transport at post-16. The outcome of the public consultation clearly identified concerns associated with the availability of transport, with learners stating they would potentially not progress into sixth-form in particular, if free transport was removed.

1.73. The local authority's duty to ensure that its provision of learner transport complies with section 10 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure (2008) "to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh', is further strengthened through the Welsh Government's strategy for Welsh Medium Education.

1.74. The vision of the Welsh Medium Education Strategy is "To have an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education, reaches out to and reflects our diverse communities and enables an increase in the number of people of all ages and backgrounds who are fluent in Welsh and able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace".

1.75. This vision is supported by six strategic aims. Strategic aim 1: "To improve the planning of Welsh-medium provision in the pre-statutory and statutory phases of education, on the basis of proactive response to informed parental demand" is supported by 11 objectives one of which is "To promote access to Welsh-medium statutory primary and secondary provision, and to institutions providing further education and nursery education, when exercising functions under the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008".

1.76. The strategic aims and key outcomes set out in the local authority's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP). Bridgend County Borough Council's vision is that our provision of Welsh-medium education and support for the teaching of the Welsh language should:

- deliver the key principles of equality, choice and opportunity for all;
- respect, promote and embody the linguistic and cultural diversity of Bridgend and Wales;
- recognise a common Welsh heritage;
- reflect the social, economic and cultural needs of Wales in the 21st century;

- provide opportunity to reflect on and develop personal identity and a sense of place and community;
- be consistent with the national aspirations set out in the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy (WMES);
- take into account 'A Living language, A Language for Living – the Welsh Government's Welsh language Strategy 2012-2017'

1.77. The WESP is also explicit that BCBC as an authority fully complies with the requirements of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure (2008) and that currently it exercises discretion with regards to distance criteria.

1.78. The authority is also bound by the Welsh Language Standard 2015. Schedule 2 of this relates to policy making standards and the duty on public bodies to ensure that when consulting on and formulating new (or revising existing policy decisions) policies that the effects (whether adverse/positive) on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language are considered, and that the authority is treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

1.79. This is an important consideration in respect of any school, not least Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (YGGL) as it is the only Welsh-medium secondary school in the county borough and there is likely to be some impact of the policy on the sustainability of the school should it be implemented. See Table 8 below for the geographic location of pupils at the school.

Table 8: Geographical location of pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd

Location	Pupil numbers
Bridgend	433
Bryn	1
Maesteg	142
Pencoed	3
Penybont	2
Penyfai	1
Port Talbot	8
Porthcawl	21
Other	9
Grand Total	**620**

1.80. Table 8 above identifies that only 32% of the pupils attending YGGL are local to Maesteg, with the vast majority (68%) domiciled elsewhere, mostly in Bridgend. Therefore, the concern would be that the parents of those pupils may not, beyond the implementation of the policy, chose a Welsh-medium education for their children knowing that they would not be eligible for free home to school transport post-16. They may therefore determine that an English-medium education would be better give the closer geographical location and larger numbers of English-medium secondary schools within Bridgend.

1.81. In light of this, the proposal presented to Cabinet ensures that the duty of the Local Authority to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh contained in section 10 of the Measure is met by this proposal as is the public sector equality duties, in respect of having due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination,

advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out its activities.

1.82. Although there is no similar statutory requirement to promote a faith-based education, it is important to note that an identical number of schools are available to learners wishing to attend faith schools as there are Welsh-medium schools. This limited number of schools is again, considered as a barrier to those choosing a faith-based education for their child and as such the protection of post-16 education is considered to be important in ensuring the decision about a child entering faith-based education, is not prejudiced with the knowledge that post-16 transport would not being available in the future.

1.83. The support for constructive diversity in education is at the heart of national and local policy. The duality of a faith and non-faith based system offers learners the opportunity to be educated in accordance with the wishes of them, their parents/carers. This accords with the duty under Article 2 of Protocol 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR): 'to respect the right of parents to ensure education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions'.

1.84. Faith-based education is therefore particularly important, contributing to a more diverse school system within Bridgend, offering greater opportunities for learner and parental choice.

1.85. Therefore the proposal to protect post-16 transport for those learners benefitting from a faith-based education in Bridgend is protected beyond that identified in the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008. However, there are a currently four post-16 learners who are attending the Bishop Of Llandaff Church in Wales High School in Cardiff. This is because there are no Church-in-Wales secondary schools in Bridgend and therefore free home-to-school transport is provided for these learners also. It would therefore be sensible on the basis of the same argument regarding choice of opportunity for learners wishing to pursue a Church in Wales faith-based education, to also protect post-16 transport for these learners.

1.86. The significant concern for pupils who do not benefit from a Welsh-medium or faith-based education, is that the cost implications brought about by this proposal on families, and how they would be able to support their child in attending sixth-form or further education college if they had to pay for transport. Many pupils living close to a secondary school or Bridgend college would not be as disadvantaged as learners in more geographically remote areas eg the valley communities, where access to a secondary school or college is less easy.

1.87. Although, Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) provides £30/week support to families who are eligible ie in Wales, a family's income must be below £23,078. Eligibility also depends on how many dependent children there are in a household.

1.88. The issue of cost has been highlighted in the consultation responses with 18.6% stating that the cost would affect the number of pupils continuing with post-16 education.

1.89. 19.4% of respondents felt that the proposal would discourage pupils from choosing post-16 education.

1.90. Pupils also raised similar issues regarding the insufficiency of public transport in the area, the potential negative impact the change will have on their life outside of school, as well as questioning how sufficient the current school facilities are in supporting the introduction of the proposal (eg locker spaces, coat drying areas and facilities to support active travel to and from school).

1.91. Learners were able to select groups of learners who they believed should still receive free post 16 transport if this was to be removed. Respondents were able to select multiple categories with disabled young people and care leavers being the two most chosen categories. Further details on all the consultation responses are available in Appendix 2.

1.92. Post-16 learners attending Bridgend College utilising free transport passes provided by the local authority for the use of First Cymru bus services are identified in Table 9 below, together with the cost of this arrangement:

1.93. Table 9 – Current cost of providing free transport to Post-16 learners at Bridgend College

Bridgend College location	No. of post-16 learners currently eligible of free transport	Annual cost of passes
BRIDGEND	814	£314,500

1.94. Learners attending sixth forms utilise the same buses as those as learners of statutory school age, therefore, the likely savings are difficult to assess as no wholesale removal of specific contracts is possible. Whereas there would be a significant reduction in the number of learners on this transport, there may not be a corresponding reduction in the number of buses. However, this is the anticipated outcome over time. It is estimated that an additional saving of at least £185,500 could be brought about over time on this basis.

1.95. Although there would be an immediate saving to the local authority of the removal of transport for college students, there would likely be a corresponding impact on the numbers of young people not choosing further education. This is because the more geographically distant someone is away from Bridgend College, the likely higher the cost of transport would be. Whereas the local authority has negotiated a flat rate of £2.19/day per student attending the college with First Cymru buses, which is paid by the local authority from the budget identified in Table 9, this rate might not be available to a student acting in their own private capacity as a fare paying individual. However, they could benefit from the one-third reduction in the cost of a fare if they had subscribed to Welsh Government's 'Mytravelpass Cymru' and would also potentially benefit from the aforementioned EMA allowance of £30/week if they were from an eligible household.

1.96. The cost of a daily ticket for learners travelling with the First Cymru is £3.30/day, £14.40/week or £42/month for students age16-21showing a valid 'Mytravelpass'. EMA allowance, can therefore cover this cost but for some learners where the household earning are above the threshold for benefits, such a daily cost may still influence the ability of a family to support their child's further education.

1.97. It could be considered that on this basis, those students living outside of Bridgend town area, in the valleys communities to the north and west of the county borough, would be disproportionately impacted by the removal of free transport provision for Post-16 learners. This is turn could increase significantly the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), at a time when the local authority has made significant progress in reducing the number of NEET in to 0.9% (20018/2019) of Year 11 leavers from schools in Bridgend, well below the all Wales average of 1.6%

1.98. Assessment of impact of Proposal 5 - To stop providing free transport for nursery-age pupils (aged three and four-years-old).

1.99. Education for nursery pupils at age 3 or 4 is non-statutory.

1.100. The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 identifies that local authorities are required to assess the travel needs of learners under the age of five but there is currently no legal duty to provide free or assisted transport arrangements for nursery learners.

1.101. As home-to-school transport for nursery pupils is non-statutory, the local authority provides this by discretion.

Table 10 below identifies the numbers of nursery pupils currently on school transport (big buses).

Table 10: Nursery pupils on school transport - March 2020

School	Nursery Pupils
Dolau Primary School	2
Ogmore Vale Primary School	14
Pencoed Primary School	1
St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School	2
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	16
St Robert's Catholic Primary School	11
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd	10
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	18
Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr	9
Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr	4
Total	**87**

1.102. Recent observations by officers of nursery pupils travelling on buses has identified significant health and safety risks, in particular:

- the pupils were unable to climb the steps of the coach unaided, with the very small nursery children needing help or carrying onto the bus, to prevent them falling backwards off the entrance steps;
- the majority of nursery aged pupils were unable to reach the seat belt strap and had to be assisted by the escort, which is not part of their role; and
- the seat belt straps were laying across the necks of the pupils, not against their shoulders as required.

1.103. The impact on families of the removal of nursery pupils from school transport would create a MTFS saving of a potential £40k per annum as there are insufficient pupils per contract to warrant a significant reduction in vehicle size. However, some seats could be made available as paying places and future retendering of contracts can take into consideration the reduction is capacity brought about by this policy proposal.

1.104. This policy decision therefore should focus on safety first, rather than savings.

1.105. The safety of learners is paramount and therefore, if Cabinet are minded to agree to continue to provide nursery pupils with free home-to-school transport in line with the current policy, the carrying of nursery pupils on big buses should cease. There are in that context, two alternative options that should be considered to improve the safety of nursery learners on big buses, as follows:

- that the operator fits lap belts to their vehicles at considerable expense, which is likely to be passed on the local authority. This is because the design of coach seats does not allow for new statutory required booster seats to be fitted to coach seats. This would also limit transport operator's ability to offer these coaches for private hire work, in-between school runs, which may increase the overall cost of school transport contracts for the local authority;
- that all nursery children are transported in a minibus or taxi, with significant cost and vehicle availability implications.

1.106. There are currently 1527 nursery pupils in Bridgend schools, the 87 currently using school transport represents only 6% of all nursery learners. Although the impact on those families is therefore acknowledged, given the non-statutory nature of their children's education, it is recommended that safety should usurp any other argument as to the need to provide free home-to-school transport to these learners, including similar arguments as per the retention of post-16 transport for those learners attending Welsh-medium or faith schools.

1.107. If Cabinet is minded to determine that the local authority stops providing transport for nursery age pupils because of these significant safety concerns, it is acknowledged that this decision in particular, is likely to impact negatively on Welsh-medium and faith-based education, given the limited number of primary schools in Bridgend. Parents would therefore be required to make their own transport arrangements.

1.108. Given the identified impact, Cabinet could consider the retention of nursery transport to support both Welsh-medium nursery transport alone, or Welsh-medium and faith education, as the issues are similar. This would ensure that the transport needs of pupils seeking a Welsh-medium education or a faith-based education are met from nursery to the end of their post-16 education. Such an arrangement would unlikely provide any significant savings as the majority of nursery transport is dedicated to Welsh-medium and faith-based education. In addition, all future nursery transport would still need to be transferred onto smaller vehicles to address the aforementioned issues.

1.109. Another option, that would potentially reduce this as a burden on parents/carers, would be to offer financial support, as a direct payment, to parents/carers to

transport their own child to nursery. This would only apply to those nursery pupils who reside over the current policy distance of 1.5 miles.

1.110. Some direct payment are already made to parents of pupils with ALN where the local authority, in collaboration with parents, have determined it is in the child's best interest that they transport their own child to school. The current mileage rate is £0.15/mile. This could be increased significantly to the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) rate of £0.45/mile. The current annual cost of this arrangement is £10,269. If this new rate was to be introduced, the cost would increase to £30,685 per annum.

1.111. Therefore, based on the new HMRC rate, the annual cost to the local authority based on an example daily mileage distance of an eight mile round trip for the current cohort of nursery pupils on school transport would be £60,000/annum. However, it is likely that parents who do not currently utilise the local authority's free transport, but whose child is currently eligible, would come forward to claim this allowance. Therefore these costs are indicative only and are likely to increase significantly.

1.112. Therefore both the direct payments and the retention of any nursery transport provision, would increase the cost to the local authority, as smaller vehicles would be required to ensure pupil safety. This would require dedicated funding as pupils would be transferred off big buses and placed on smaller vehicles.

Feedback to the Cabinet from Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees 1 and 2 held on 6 July 2020

1.113. Concern was expressed about the impact of removing nursey pupil transport provision, which could have an impact on the Welsh language, if parents opt to send their child to the nearest English-medium nursery instead of a Welsh Meithrin and then continue with English-medium primary education.

1.114. There is nervousness regarding the proposal to remove escorts from taxis and mini-buses and although the point about drivers being the escort in smaller vehicles was acknowledged, there are concerns about managing issues of bullying.

1.115. Schools will need extra resources to enable them to adapt to following active travel methods of pupils getting to school (eg the provision of secure bicycle storage).

1.116. The clarification of the process for appeal if a parent challenged the safety of a safe and available route to school was welcomed.

1.117. Clarification was welcomed that the local authority would be assessing the needs of learners with ALN and disabilities on an individual basis regarding the provision of transport, however, there is concern that it would be perceived as another assessment for parents to navigate.

1.118. With regards to re-tendering of contracts and budgetary pressures concern is expressed about suggestion in the report that there would be an additional cost brought about by the increase in contract prices, and the scope to retender contracts on a competitive basis to reduce those costs needs to be explored.

1.119. It was questioned whether children of primary school age could safely walk to school within a safe and available route of two miles and how the guidance defines safe and available.

1.120. Clarification that there was no responsibility on the local authority to make arrangements for out-of-county pupils attending its schools, was acknowledged however it was questioned what discussion has there been with other local authorities on cross border harmonisation.

1.121. Clarification of the confusion around the proposal to remove examples from the policy in respect of the local authority's discretionary arrangements and the assurance it had not been significant to skew the consultation, is acknowledged, however this could have been made clearer in the report.

1.122. Concern was expressed regarding the proposal whereby post-16 learners would cease to have a place on home to school transport, to the same location as pre-sixteen learners.

1.123. While the education choice of parents and learners, opting for a Welsh-medium or faith education was supported, it was questioned whether faith and language should be treated differently in transport proposals from that of English-medium education.

1.124. Pupils from disadvantaged areas in the valleys would be discriminated against by the proposals. There is concern that proposals have the potential to discourage those in continuing their studies, in semi-rural locations who are less likely to have bus services and live in potentially more deprived parts of the borough. A wider socio-economic impact assessment of proposed models, needs to be conducted, particularly affecting those in semi-rural and deprived areas of the borough.

1.125. Concern is expressed about the impact of the proposal upon pupils eligible for free school meals, as these would likely find the cost of funding transport more financially burdensome.

1.126. Concern was expressed that the proposal to provide transport to pupils for faith education at a sixth-form voluntary aided school in Bridgend, is discriminatory against Anglican pupils who wish to receive sixth-form education at the Bishop of Llandaff School and the legal position needs to be clarified.

1.127. There was concern that the proposals are discriminatory in respect of faith schools and Welsh-medium schools against maintained schools, given the understanding of the Welsh Language Act was that Welsh should have parity with English and not take precedence or priority, so prioritising transport for Welsh medium schools was not justified.

1.128. Concern is expressed regarding the positive discrimination of travel being provided to faith schools, that there are pupils of faith attending schools not categorised as faith schools, pupils without faith that attended faith schools and there are other faiths not being considered in the proposals accessing faith schools outside of the county area.

1.129. The use of any of £620k recent funding for pedestrian and cycling crossing points and £4m active travel funding upon elements of safe routes to school for those

without them should be explored and highways' officers comments sought upon the impact of the learner travel proposals.

1.130. There is potential for savings to be made from current transport of some pupils on school buses for relatively short distances, by making small investment in small areas of footpath or crossing points and looking at active travel to school. It is recommended that ward members need to be more involved, particularly in terms of active travel as they have local knowledge of these issues.

1.131. When planning applications for new houses, large estates, or schools are submitted, the Education and Family Support Directorate not only need to be involved in consultation on the school but also in the active travel route to that school.

1.132. Concern was expressed over the removal of escorts, given the range of ALN and medical conditions of pupils in specialist transport and clarification was welcomed that the proposal was not to remove escorts form children and young people with ALN and medical conditions, however this could have been made clearer in the report.

1.133. There had been a lack of response regarding what communication had been undertaken with disability organisations.

1.134. Members were concerned that there had not been any significant analysis undertaken in respect of the costs and availability of public transport bus routes at appropriate times for Post-16 pupils in each area, which had been recommended when Home to School Transport had been scrutinised previously.

1.135. Members recommended that the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel (BREP) be requested to explore an alternative way of finding the proposed savings elsewhere.

1.136. Given the number of concerns raised above regarding discrimination, there could be a challenge to the proposals, as in an effort to meet the duty to promote the Welsh language, there may be an unintended consequence in failing to meet the "commencing the socio-economic duty" legislation.

1.137. Independent strategic review of transport

1.138. To support recovery from the current deficit budget position an independent strategic review of transport was commissioned in July 2019 and reported in November 2019

1.139. The scope of the external review has examined potential savings set against the local authority's home-to-school transport budget as well as other Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) transport services.

1.140. A cross-directorate group, which included officers from the Education and Family Support Directorate, the Chief Executive's Directorate, the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and the Communities Directorate, met to determine the key transport-related issues which might benefit from external review.

1.141. Following a procurement exercise in July 2019, PeopleToo was awarded the contract based on both a technical and commercial assessment of the tender submissions. Three work packages were required to be delivered as part of the review, as follows:

Work Package 1 (WP1) – Consideration of the opportunities available to make strategic amendments to the delivery of transport services within Bridgend

1.142. The purpose of WP1 was to establish and outline the following:

- Whether changes to school catchment area boundaries, taking into consideration the impact on admission arrangements, could support a reduction in the number of pupils eligible for home-to-school transport.

- Whether amendments to the timing of the school days across all Bridgend schools, would ensure that capital assets are maximised (eg through potential sharing of capital assets by schools) and that the timing of the school days of schools supports the most efficient provision of home-to-school transport.

- Whether opportunities exist to make efficiency savings through the enhanced use of existing school minibuses or through the additional provisioning of schools with their own transport facilities.

- Whether the current model of transport services provided by the local authority, in particular the provision by private suppliers to deliver the majority of the local authority's transport provision, is the most cost effective model of service provision.

- Whether there are benefits in bringing the majority of transport provision (in particular education and social care) in-house. This would mean that the majority of education and social care transport provision would be provided by the local authority, served by an in-house fleet, rather than outsourced to the private sector.

- Whether Adult Social Care Day Services who operate a fleet of 19 vehicles can operate more efficiently. Vehicles are positioned strategically and to meet assessed need (eg people with profound learning disabilities/older persons) within the borough. The service relies on a combination of contract transport, in-house transport and community transport to meet the needs of individuals accessing the service. Vehicles are utilised for both in-house transport at the start/end of each day and support pre-planned activity in the wider community as part of an individual's Day Time Opportunity Plan.

- There are currently 21 transport contracts that support delivery of adult services. The current value of contracts is in the region of £210k. The previous spend on transport by the service prior to developing the in-house service was in region of £680k. The service is developing a collaboration agreement with Community Transport to serve the Llynfi/Garw/Ogmore Valleys.

- Consideration of the transport arrangements for looked-after children provided by the local authority. This should include the breadth of ancillary transport services for looked-after children (of both non-statutory and statutory school

age) who rely on local authority-provided transport services (eg for respite care).

Work Package 2 (WP2) – Undertake a full assessment of the current home-to-school transport arrangements in Bridgend.

1.143. WP2 should focus on undertaking an assessment of BCBC's current home-to-school transport provision.

1.144. Provide recommendations of how any efficiencies can be achieved and report on implications of implementing recommendations including associated costs.

1.145. Areas of efficiencies to consider must relate to the assessment undertaken under WP1, but in particular focus on:

- Do nothing (maintain the status quo).
- A full in-house home-to-school transport service.
- Varying of current transport routes to maximise their efficiency.
- Identification of catchment boundary changes (if proposed under WP1) to reduce the number of pupils eligible for free home-to-school transport.
- Explore other ways to deliver transport services (eg best use of vehicles within the Council's ownership (including those in schools) or the collaboration with other councils).

1.146. The provider is expected to assess all BCBC school catchment areas/associated transport routes and is expected, for each recommendation, to outline the most suitable transport required and include evaluations of how specific eligible pupils would be allocated to specific contracts.

1.147. The provider is expected to provide detailed solutions to mitigate negative impacts of implementing each recommendation in line with any statutory legislation, regulations, standards or guidance identified in WP1.

Work Package 3 (WP3) – Undertake a full assessment of the current employee travel expenses arrangement.

1.148. WP2 focuses on undertaking an assessment of BCBC's current employee travel expenses arrangements, with a particular focus on, but not limited to:

- Whether the current mileage rate paid by the local authority to staff should be reconsidered (ie the current rate is 47p per mile for all users, which is above the HMRC rate of 45p per mile for the first 10,000 business miles, then 25p per mile). The total spent on travelling allowances in 2018-2019 was around £1.2m. If the HMRC rate had been applied, this would have generated a saving of around £45k.

- Exploration of the adoption of lease vehicles for staff rather than paying an individual mileage for their own vehicles (ie 'the grey fleet'). This approach is currently adopted by a number of other local authorities across Wales. Such leases may reduce the costs of mileage claimed in certain circumstances although this would depend on the mileage claimed, and as identified by a

number of local authorities, this may not produce a saving if the staff member's time is considered. Therefore, the review should explore in particular the most desirable mileage threshold to trigger the use of a leased fleet vehicle.

1.149. Peopletoo presented its findings in November 2019 and identified potential savings that are both predicated on a policy change (the basis of the learner travel public consultation) and those savings which are predicated on operational changes alone.

1.150. The main findings of the review can be summarised as follows:

- There is currently significant over-provision of home-to-school transport compared with the statutory minimum required by the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and the local authority's own Home-to-School/College Transport Policy. If the statutory minimum is introduced, as per the consulted policy proposals, the following savings could potentially be made:
  - 2657 (58%) of all pupils currently taken to schools via bus would be ineligible for free home-to-school transport potentially saving £1.48m per annum.
  - 28 (39%) of all pupils currently taken to school via taxi would be ineligible for free home-to-school transport potentially saving £124k per annum.
  - 71 (51%) of all pupils currently taken to school via minibus would be ineligible for free home-to-school transport potentially saving £139k per annum.

- Therefore, £1.743m could potentially be saved (subject to checks of pupil eligibility as per the availability of a walked route to school) if a policy change was introduced from September 2021, the earliest possible implementation as per the requirements of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.

- The independent review has identified a disaggregated approach to the organisation of transport provision within BCBC, with no central co-ordination. Therefore, the review recommends the creation of an Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) for the local authority. The review proposes that existing staff in relevant directorates transfer to a central ITU to maximise the knowledge and skills available to the benefit of all services requiring transport provision for clients. The review recommends that technology (potentially existing and new) should be utilised to improve GIS/route planning and fleet tracking in support of the ITU.

- The local authority does not optimise alternative forms of transport provision for its services as a lower cost alternative to contracting private operators. The review recommends a proactive approach in as much as they become the default position.

Personal transport budgets

1.151. Personal transport budgets should be considered as an alternative to provided home-to-school transport. This would provide parents with the opportunity to

receive a cash lump sum to meet the costs of taking their own children to school. It is proposed that the current mileage rate of 15p/mile (from a pupils home to their school) be increased to 40p/mile (or possibly 45p/mile as per the Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) rate).

Independent travel

1.152. 'Travel training' is seen as an opportunity to provide support to some learners who are currently dependent on the local authority's support for transport, but who would benefit from greater independence in the long term. The review identifies that the broadening of independent travel training could facilitate self-sufficiency and independence of some learners, allowing for both greater independence and financial savings over time.

Travel passes

1.153. The use of travel passes on large school buses and 'section 22' community transport can invoke some savings. Organisations that provide transport on a 'not-for-profit' basis can apply for permits under section 19 or section 22 of the Transport Act 1985 which are subject to the approval of the Traffic Commissioners. Savings can be accrued by the use of travel cards/passes on public transport vehicles for pupils of statutory school age, with the opportunity to transfer approximately 765 secondary school pupils currently on large buses over a three year period onto contracted bus routes at a substantial saving.

1.154. The review has also identified that such an approach could increase the viability of some passenger transport services to the benefit of the wider public.

Social Services transport

1.155. The use of social services transport vehicles, to decrease the reliance on externally provided transport for some pupils, is seen as an opportunity to maximise the use of the capital resources available to BCBC.

Route optimisation

1.156. There is an opportunity for BCBC to improve route optimisation through better route planning and by reviewing catchment areas.

Procurement

1.157. The procurement of externally contracted transport is considered by the review to be 'traditional'. The review proposes a more commercial approach whereby Bravo 'e-auctions' are reintroduced, and taxi frameworks are implemented on a charge per mile basis with better engagement of providers.

Mixed transport provision

1.158. The review identifies that the council should introduce a mixed transport provision across in-house externally contracted and community transport.

1.159. At this stage, local authority officers are unable to verify whether any of the above mentioned findings can be implemented or lead to annualised savings against the learner travel budget. Cabinet will therefore need to consider the findings of the review and determine whether any of the findings should be taken forward for consideration.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The report does not have any impacts on policy framework and procedure rules..

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 A full EIA accompanies this report (see Appendix 4)

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

7.1

Long-term	Ongoing reliance on the local authority to provide free home-to-school transport where this is not supported by national policy will have a significant impact on the ability of the local authority to support and sustain other critical services long-term. National government policy supports active travel and the reduction in the reliance on private and public transport. Benefits include the reduction in emissions, less dependence on fossil fuels and improvements to health and wellbeing.
Prevention	The proposal to remove discretionary transport is not taken lightly. However, there are current tensions in respect of the inequity in the current policy. The proposal, therefore, is for a public consultation to address the inequity in the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy and to ensure that further budget efficiencies.
Integration	The local authority has a strategic role in facilitating the attendance of pupils to school where they are eligible for free home-to-school transport or where it is provided under the discretion of the local authority.
Collaboration	The local authority works closely with schools and pupils to ensure that the needs of learners are taken into consideration in the identification and delivery of transport services.
Involvement	The local authority intends to involve all sectors of society in consulting on its proposals. This will involve sufficient time and resources to fully identify, understand and respond to the issues identified for individuals and their communities.

8. Financial implications

1.1. There are significant potential efficiency savings associated with this public consultation. The pressure on the home-to-school/college transport budget is significant (see Table 1).

1.2. The learner transport budget has reduced by £1.869m from 2014-2015 to 2020-2021 as part of ongoing medium-term financial strategy savings.

1.3. For 2020-2021, there is a school/college transport budget of £5.508m with a projected £395k overspend for the current financial year as at quarter 1. The potential overspend has been mitigated due to savings on 25% of contract values due to the school closures as a result of COVID-19 and without this, the underlying overspend would be £337k higher.

1.4. £906k of recurring corporate funding has been allocated to support the learner transport budget covering the period 2018-2019 to 2020-2021. The increasing pressure of ongoing savings set against an already significant budget reduction since 2014-2015, with increased demand for transport from eligible learners and more costly transport for pupils with ALN in particular, has significantly impacted the ability of the budget to sustain the local authority's own policy requirements.

1.5. Table 11 below identifies the potential savings associated with each of the five policy proposals being put forward for consideration.

Table 11 Approximate savings for learner transport policy proposals

	Proposal	**Potential Savings**
Proposal 1	Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking routes to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils	£200k
Proposal 2	Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers	£35k
Proposal 3	Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport	£0k
Proposal 4	To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college	£500k
Proposal 5	To remove all transport for nursery pupils	£40k
	Total	£775k

1.6. If the direct payment support for parents of pupils with ALN was increased to the HMRC rate the cost would increase in the region of £20k per annum. If a direct payment support for parents of the current cohort of nursery pupils was introduced, the annual cost to the authority would be a minimum of £60k.

1.7. The external review of transport (with a focus on learner travel) identifies possible savings of £2.37m, which include the savings identified at Table 12 below if Bridgend

reduces its home-to-school transport provision to the statutory minimum and employs a range of operational changes to current practice.

Table 12 – PeopleToo identified potential financial savings and investment requirements

			If Ineligibility Applied				If Ineligibility Not Applied			
Savings Initiative	**Financial Savings - Ineligibility taken in full**	**Financial Savings - Assuming no reductions to Ineligibility**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**Total**	**2020/21**	**2021/22**	**2022/23**	**Total**
Transport - Ineligible Pupils Removed Net Savings	**£1,497,066**	**£0**	**£0**	**£952,678**	**£544,388**	**£1,497,066**	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**
Managing Demand:										
Transferring contracted transport in-house 4 vehicles	£171,925	£343,851	£14,945	£121,451	£35,530	£171,925	£29,890	£242,902	£71,059	£343,851
Increase use of Travel Passes	£28,050	£56,100	£8,925	£14,025	£5,100	£28,050	£17,850	£28,050	£10,200	£56,100
Increase use of Personal Travel Budgets	£154,106	£154,106	£23,488	£58,778	£71,840	£154,106	£23,488	£58,778	£71,840	£154,106
Increase Independent Travel Training and In-house training	£198,555	£198,555	£53,255	£73,400	£71,900	£198,555	£53,255	£73,400	£71,900	£198,555
Sub-total Demand Management	**£552,636**	**£752,612**	**£100,613**	**£267,654**	**£184,370**	**£552,636**	**£124,483**	**£403,130**	**£224,999**	**£752,612**
Improved Procurement of Contracted Transport	**£156,277**	**£725,000**	**£99,449**	**£56,828**	**£0**	**£156,277**	**£461,364**	**£263,636**	**£0**	**£725,000**
Replace externally hired vehicles with in-house	**£83,500**	**£83,500**	**£83,500**			**£83,500**	**£83,500**			**£83,500**
Route Optimisation	**£80,500**	**£181,500**	**£0**	**£0**	**£80,500**	**£80,500**	**£0**	**£0**	**£181,500**	**£181,500**
Total Gross Savings	**£2,369,979**	**£1,742,612**	**£283,562**	**£1,277,160**	**£809,257**	**£2,369,979**	**£669,346**	**£666,766**	**£406,499**	**£1,742,612**
Investment required										
Route planning and optimisation software (capital)	-£25,000	-£25,000	-£25,000			-£25,000	-£25,000			-£25,000
Fleet Tracking	-£22,000	-£22,000	-£18,000	-£2,000	-£2,000	-£22,000	-£18,000	-£2,000	-£2,000	-£22,000
GIS Mapping Training and development	-£10,000	-£10,000	-£10,000			-£10,000	-£10,000			-£10,000
Total Net Savings	**£2,312,979**	**£1,685,612**	**£230,562**	**£1,275,160**	**£807,257**	**£2,312,979**	**£616,346**	**£664,766**	**£404,499**	**£1,685,612**

1.8. Some investment is required (c. £57k) for technology and training to support some aspects of the independent findings of the review.

1.9. It is important to note that these figures are as presented by PeopleToo. Further validation of these figures will be undertaken in due course.

9. Recommendation(s)

1.10. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- withdraw the transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school now identified as available following formal assessment since March 2017, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils, including the removal of sibling protection and the removal of the in-receipt protection as afforded to learners in September 2016;

- remove escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers, other than those transporting learners with additional learning needs or where a local authority assessment of the needs of the learners has identified the appropriateness of an escort;

- remove from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport;

- stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college other than those pupils who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend or who wish to pursue a faith-based education in the nearest suitable voluntary aided school;

- stop providing free transport for nursery-age pupils (aged three and four-years-old); and

- consider the outcome of the independent strategic review of transport and the approach required to implement any aspect of the review.

Mr Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director, Education and Family Support

Contact officer: Robin Davies
Group Manager (Business Strategy and Performance)

Telephone: (01656) 754881

E-mail: robin.davies@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Education and Family Support Directorate
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Appendices
Appendix 1 - Learner Travel Consultation Document, October 2019
Appendix 2 - Learner Travel Consultation Report, February 2020
Appendix 3 - Learner Travel Consultation, Emerging Themes
Appendix 4 - Equalities Impact Assessment

Background documents

An Independent Review of Bridgend County Borough Councils' Transport Arrangements

Bridgend County Borough

Appendix 1

Learner Travel

Consultation document

Date of issue: **14 October 2019**

Action required: Responses by **5 January 2020**

Tel: (01656) 643 664

Email: consultation@bridgend.gov.uk

Web: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Learner Travel Consultation Document

Overview

This consultation is to invite views on potential changes to the travel arrangements for pupils and college learners, and how any proposed changes to the Home to School/College Transport Policy will affect you and your family.

How to respond

This consultation period will begin on the **14 October 2019** and close on the **5 January 2020**. You can respond or ask further questions in the following ways:

Tel: (01656) 643 664
Email: Consultation@bridgend.gov.uk
Online: Link to survey
Post: Communications, Marketing and Engagement, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB. Alternative formats are also available upon request.

Data protection

Information provided by you on this form will be used to inform the Home to School/College Transport Policy.

The Council will take all reasonable precautions to ensure confidentiality and to comply with data protection legislation. Your information may be shared with relevant service areas for the purposes of future policy development. Your information will be retained in accordance with the Council's Data Retention Policy.

You have a number of rights under data protection legislation. You may also withdraw your consent and ask us to delete your personal information at any time by contacting us. Further information about this is available on our website or you may contact the Data Protection Officer.

If you are dissatisfied with the manner in which we process your personal data then you have the option to make a complaint to the Data Protection Officer and the Information Commissioner's Office.

Legal and Regulatory Services
Email: foi@bridgend.gov.uk
Address: Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

Information Commissioner's Office – Wales

2nd Floor, Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH

Tel. 0330 414 6421
Email: wales@ico.org.uk

Related documents

Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.
Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.
Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance June 2014

For more information on consultations in Bridgend County Borough or how to join our Citizens' panel.

Visit: www.bridgend.gov.uk/consultation

Why is the local authority consulting on proposed changes to its Home to School/College Transport Policy?

Bridgend County Borough Council is currently facing unprecedented cuts to its budget. The local authority currently faces making required savings of £35.2 million over the period 2019-2023. The local authority takes pride in the services it provides to its citizens and wants to continue to do as much as possible to support families in a difficult financial climate.

These cuts however, means that the local authority must review all of the services that it provides.

Local Authorities in Wales need to ensure that they are providing home-to-school transport where the law says they have a duty to do so. Local authorities can also provide transport on a discretionary basis.

The local authority's current Home to School/College Transport Policy sets out how the local authority provides home-to-school and home-to-college transport.

The local authority's current policy came into effect on 1 September 2016. The local authority is now seeking the views of the public and other stakeholders on proposed changes to the current policy.

This consultation is to invite views on potential changes to the travel arrangements of school pupils and students attending further education colleges.

The local authority must consider if it can continue to provide the current assistance beyond what it is required to do by law.

The review of the local authority's current Home to School/College Transport Policy contributes to the local authority's wider budget strategy by making the most efficient use of resources.

Home-to-school transport falls into two categories, as follows:

Statutory

- The arrangements the local authority needs to make by law, to enable free travel for those learners who are entitled.

Discretionary

- The arrangements made through choice by the local authority.

At present, the local authority has a legal duty to provide free transport to school for:

- all learners receiving statutory primary education (aged 5-11) living two miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school, or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all learners receiving statutory secondary education (aged 11-16) living three miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all learners who attend a specialist provision and cannot walk to school because of their additional learning need / special education need, disability or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated above.

There are currently no requirements to provide free home-to-school transport for learners who:

- are not of statutory school age - this includes nursery aged children as well as post-16 students;
- are not attending their nearest suitable school.

At present, the local authority provides free transport on a **discretionary basis** for:

- all learners attending nursery school (age 3-4) living 1.5 miles or more from their nearest suitable school, or where there are no suitable/available walking routes, even if the distance is less than those stated;
- all post-16 learners (age 16-18) who live over three miles to either their nearest suitable school (sixth-form) or to the nearest college that provides the course they wish to study and are studying their first course of full-time study.
- learners attending their nearest voluntary aided (faith) school and the distance criteria of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils is met.

- learners attending their nearest Welsh-medium school and with the distance criteria of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils is met.
- Pupils who were the siblings of pupils eligible at the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary age pupils and two miles for secondary age pupils, prior to the policy change in September 2016 and attend the same school, also receive free home-to-school transport under the same distances.
- Pupils who were already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary age pupils and two miles for secondary age pupils prior to the policy change in September 2016, continue to benefit from free-home-to-school transport under the former distances. This arrangement continues until they leave or move schools or transition from one phase of education to another, eg primary to secondary.

Active Travel

Bridgend County Borough Council needs to pay due regard to the Welsh Government's Active Travel Action Plan for Wales and the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. The action plan aims to address congestion and encourage people to walk and cycle more often. The Welsh Government estimates that one in five cars on the road at 8:50am on a weekday is for the school run. Congestion in towns is therefore a serious issue. The Active Travel Action Plan sets out the actions that the Welsh Government and its partners will take to encourage more people to walk and cycle for more journeys. It is hoped that this will not only improve the health of our young people, but also improve the health and well-being of those who live and work in the area.

What will it mean if we do not make this change?

The council takes pride in the services it provides to its citizens and wants to continue to do as much as possible to support families in a difficult financial climate. However, the savings associated with the following proposals are needed because the budget pressures for the next three years are significant and unprecedented. The learner travel arrangements currently provided by Bridgend County Borough Council are amongst the most generous to be found in Wales. Financial savings of £1.78m have already been made to the learner travel budget since 2014/2015 through efficiencies.

The Consultation Process

An important part of the process, when considering any change, is to gauge the views of the public and other stakeholders. The purpose of this consultation document is therefore to outline the **proposed** changes. This document has been prepared to provide stakeholders with information about the new proposals to allow stakeholders the opportunity to have their say.

Following the conclusion of the consultation period all comments received will be presented to the local authority's Cabinet and all views expressed will be taken into account when the Cabinet make any decision.

If it is decided to implement the proposals, these will come into effect on the **1 September 2021.**

If it is decided not to go ahead with the proposal, it may be that an alternative proposal may be sought.

The table below sets out the timetable for the consultation:

What	When
Consultation begins	**14 October 2019**
Consultation ends	**5 January 2020**
Proposed implementation date for new policy	**September 2021**

(Please note that any response received after the consultation has ended will not be considered)

Who is being consulted

- The public
- Learners and their parents/carers
- Schools and colleges
- Careers Wales
- RhAG
- Welsh Government
- Diocesan authorities
- Councillors
- Regional AMs
- Local MPs
- The First Minister
- Town and community councils
- Neighbouring councils
- Estyn
- School governors
- Public Service Board members
- The Bridgend School Admissions Forum
- Bridgend Equalities Forum (BEF) members
- Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equalities Forum (BCCEF) members

How to respond

The local authority is asking the public and other stakeholders to answer the questions and provide their views via an on-line survey. The local authority is able to provide paper copies of the survey and in accessible formats, on request. Please e-mail your request to consultation@bridgend.gov.uk or Tel. (01656) 642617

You can also respond by sending paper survey forms to:

Post: Communications, Marketing and
Engagement,
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council. If there is a decision not to proceed, that will be the end of this proposal and an alternative proposal may be sought.

If any of the proposals are accepted by Cabinet the earliest the change(s) will come into effect is 1 September 2021.

Events

For those consultees who wish the take the opportunity to ask questions about the proposed new policy, consultation drop-in events will be held. You **must** book to attend one of these events by either using the following link or by e-mailing consultation@bridgend.gov.uk or Tel. (01656) 643664.

Venue	Time	Date
Pencoed Comprehensive School	18:00	11/11/2019
Maesteg School	18:00	13/11/2019
Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	18:00	18/11/2019
Cynffig Comprehensive School	18:00	19/11/2019
Brynteg School	18:00	20/11/2019
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	18:00	21/11/2019
Bryntirion Comprehensive	18:00	26/11/2019
Porthcawl Comprehensive School	18:00	03/12/2019
Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen	18:00	04/12/2019
Bridgend College, Cowbridge Road	18:00	05/12/2019

The Proposals

Proposal 1

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from available walking routes to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils.

This would mean that from September 2021 the following would apply to the council's provision of free school transport:

- Pupils attending primary schools living two miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school would receive free transport.

- Pupils attending secondary schools living three miles or further from home to their nearest suitable school would receive free transport.

- Pupils attending the nearest faith school of their religion within the county borough, living two miles or further for primary schools and three miles or further for secondary schools would receive free transport.

- Pupils attending the nearest Welsh language schools in the county borough, living two miles or further for primary schools and three miles or further for secondary schools, would receive free transport, regardless of whether the school is considered to be the nearest suitable school.

- Any previous protection offered to sibling groups benefitting from home-to-school transport at the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary pupils and two miles for secondary pupils, will cease from 1 September 2021.

- Any previous protection offered to pupils under the former distances of 1.5 miles for primary pupils and two miles for secondary pupils will cease from 1 September 2021.

Proposal 2

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers.

There is no law to say the council needs to provide escorts on any home-to-school transport.

The change would mean that pupils travelling in smaller vehicles provided by the council would no longer have an escort on board. The driver of the vehicle would act as driver/escort.

However, the local authority would consider on a case-by-case basis the provision of an escort for any child with additional learning needs (ALN) or for a looked-after child following an appropriate assessment of their needs.

Proposal 3

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

The council may on occasion provide home-to-school transport to pupils who are not currently eligible. The current policy gives specific examples of the circumstances where discretionary transport might be considered.

This proposal will mean that specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport provided to pupils, will be removed from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy.

Proposal 4

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college other than those pupils who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend or who wish to pursue up a faith-based education in a sixth-form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend.

There is no law that says the council needs to provide free transport for post-16 pupils and students continuing into further education or sixth-form.

However, the council understands that there may be an impact on learners and their families who rely on this free service to support their learning.

The local authority is committed to support the development of, and acknowledges its statutory duty to promote the Welsh language. Therefore, as there is currently only one Welsh-medium sixth-form within Bridgend, which is located at the north of the Llynfi Valley, it is likely that the withdrawal of post-16 transport will have a disproportionate impact on learners wishing to attend this school given the distances they would need to travel from the rest of the county borough. Similarly, the local authority respects the wishes of learners who wish to pursue a faith-based education and acknowledges that as there is only one voluntary aided secondary school within Bridgend offering a faith-based education, it is likely that the withdrawal of post-16 transport will have a disproportionate impact on learners wishing to attend this school, given the distances learners would need to travel from the rest of the county borough.

It is important to note that some learners will already receive Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). This is an income assessed weekly allowance of £30 to help students with the cost of further education, including transport.

Additionally the 'mytravelpass' scheme funded by the Welsh Government, provides discounted bus fares to young people aged 16 to 21 with approximately one third off their bus fare.

Proposal 5

To stop providing free transport for nursery age pupils (ages 3 & 4)

There is no law that says the council needs to provide free transport for nursery pupils. Bridgend County Borough Council is one of the few councils in Wales offering this provision. The council understands that there may be an impact on learners and their families who rely on this free service to support their learning.

Summary of Proposals

The following table shows examples of what the proposed changes may mean if approved:

Post-16 transport		
Learner type	**Current Arrangement**	**Proposed Arrangement** (from September 2021)
Post-16 student (English-medium) Attending Bridgend College	Free home-to-college transport provided over three miles from college or where there is no available walking route.	No travel assistance offered
Post-16 student (English-medium) Attends sixth-form at • Brynteg School • Pencoed Comprehensive School • Cynffig Comprehensive School • Porthcawl Comprehensive School • Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen • Maesteg School • Bryntirion Comprehensive School	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	No travel assistance offered
Post-16 student (Welsh-medium) Attends sixth-form at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	No change

Post-16 transport		
Learner type	**Current Arrangement**	**Proposed Arrangement** (from September 2021)
Post-16 student (Faith) Attends sixth-form at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	No change
Post-16 student with ALN/SEN in specialist provision	Free home-to-school transport provided if over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route. Free home-to-school transport also provided at the discretion of the local authority	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority
Post-16 student with ALN/SEN not in a specialist provision	Free home-to-school transport provided over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.	Free home-to-school transport provided at the discretion of the local authority

Secondary age school transport		
Learner type	**Current Arrangement**	**Proposed Arrangement** (from September 2021)
Secondary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school which is their nearest available school, and they live over three miles from the school or no suitable walking route exists.	Free home-to-school transport provided	No change

Secondary age school transport		
Learner type	**Current Arrangement**	**Proposed Arrangement** (from September 2021)
Secondary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school but it is not their nearest available school, as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school.	No home-to-school transport provided	No change
Secondary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school which is their nearest available school, and they live over two miles from the school and they were previously in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance when the policy changed in September 2016.	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.
Secondary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 11-16 Attends a secondary school which is their nearest available school and they live over two miles from the school as they became eligible for free transport when the policy changed in September 2016 as a	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over three miles from school or where there is no available walking route.

Secondary age school transport		
Learner type	**Current Arrangement**	**Proposed Arrangement** (from September 2021)
sibling was already attending the same school and was already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance.		

Primary age school transport		
Learner type	**Current Arrangement**	**Proposed Arrangement** (from September 2021)
Primary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school which is their nearest available school, and they live over two miles from the school or no suitable walking route exists.	Home-to-school transport provided	No change
Primary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school, but it is not their nearest available school as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school.	No home-to-school transport provided	No change

Primary age school transport		
Learner type	**Current Arrangement**	**Proposed Arrangement** (from September 2021)
Primary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school which is their nearest available school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school, as they were previously in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance when the policy changed in September 2016.	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over two miles from school or where there is no available walking route.
Primary age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 5-11 Attends a primary school which is their nearest available school and they live over 1.5 miles from the school and they became eligible for free transport when the policy changed in September 2016 as a sibling was already attending the same school and was already in receipt of free home-to-school transport at this distance.	Home-to-school transport provided	Home-to-school transport provided only where the pupil lives over two miles from school or where there is no available walking route.

Nursery age school transport		
Learner type	**Current Arrangement**	**Proposed Arrangement** (from September 2021)
Nursery age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 3-4 Attends nursery school which is their nearest available school, and they live over 1.5 miles from the school or no suitable walking route exists.	Home-to-school transport provided	No home-to-school transport provided
Nursery age pupil (English-medium, Welsh-medium and faith-based education) Age 3-4 Attends nursery school, but it is not their nearest available school as a parent has expressed their parental preference for an alternative school.	No home-to-school transport provided	No change

Some learners with ALN/SEN who are of compulsory school age have their needs met within a mainstream school setting, but with prescribed support (confirmed on their Statement of Special Education Needs). For these learners travel assistance will be considered on an individual basis.

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Bridgend County Borough Council

Appendix 2

Learner Travel Review

Consultation Report

Date of issue: **19 February 2020**

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1. Overview

A public consultation reviewing learner travel was undertaken over a 12 week period from 14 October to 5 January 2020. The consultation received 1396 interactions from a combination of survey completions, workshops held with primary and comprehensive school pupils, social media engagements, emails and letters. This paper details the analysis associated with the consultation.

2. Introduction

The public survey was available to complete online through a link on the consultation page of the council's website. Paper copies of the consultation were made available via request to the Consultation and Engagement Team. Surveys were available in several formats, including large print, standard and a youth version was made available for the primary school engagement workshops. All were available in English and Welsh. The content of the page remains available online.

In total, there were 11 questions (within all survey formats) that required a reply from respondents. These were made up of questions about five overall proposals in relation to learner transport. The council's standard set of equalities monitoring questions were also included with the survey, in line with recommended good practice for all public-facing surveys carried out by the council.

A programme of engagement events were held in comprehensive schools across the county borough and at Bridgend College, engaging with learners, staff, parents and carers.

Comments regarding the consultation were also invited via social media, letter, email and phone call.

3. Promotional tools and engagement methods

Details of the consultation were shared with:

- The public
- Learners and their parents/carers
- Schools and colleges
- Careers Wales
- RhAG
- Welsh Government
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Diocesan authorities
- Councillors
- Regional AMs
- Local MPs
- The First Minister
- Town and community councils

- Neighbouring councils
- Estyn
- School governors
- Public Service Board members
- The Bridgend School Admissions Forum
- Bridgend Community Cohesion and Equalities Forum (BCCEF) members

3.1 Promotional tools

This section details the methods used to raise the profile of the consultation and encourage participation.

3.1.1 Social media

Facebook and Twitter have been widely used to promote the consultation.
Information was posted to the council's corporate Twitter accounts throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,110 followers on its corporate Twitter accounts. During the period, the authority 'tweeted' 54 times (27 English and 27 Welsh) and the information was seen by 39,954 people.

Information was also posted to the council's corporate Facebook page during the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation and to encourage citizens to share their views on the proposals. The council currently has 12,426 followers. During the period, the authority posted 6 times (three English and three Welsh) on Facebook and the posts were seen by 25,747 people, these posts generated 149 link clicks, 72 shares, 14 reactions and 35 comments. The comments received have been themed and can be seen in section 9.

3.1.2 Press and media

Details of the consultation were sent as part of press releases emailed to local and national press during the consultation (23 October and 6 December 2019) and supported with social media messages throughout the live period.

3.2 Engagement methods

This section details the mechanisms available for stakeholders to engage with the council and share their views.

3.2.1 The Learner Travel Review Survey

A standard survey and large print version of the survey were all made available in Welsh and English, and a youth version of the survey was made available for the primary workshops. All were available in paper format and online. The consultation feedback is contained in section seven.

3.2.2 Parents and carer meetings

Parent and carer sessions took place in all comprehensive schools across the county borough. Parents and carers were given an overview of the consultation and the proposals, and were invited to give views and comments which were recorded by the Consultation and Engagement Team and are themed in section ten.

3.2.3 School engagement sessions

In order to gather the views of young people the consultation team attended comprehensive schools across the county borough. Pupils completed the survey either via paper surveys or via clicker pads.

The consultation team engaged with **305 young people** in a variety of pupil workshops.

Engagement sessions took place in:

- Bryntirion Comprehensive School
- Porthcawl Comprehensive School
- Maesteg School
- Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen
- Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd
- Brynteg School
- Cynffig Comprehensive School
- The Bridge Alternative Provision
- Welsh-medium primary school pupils took part in an engagement session in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd
- Primary school pupils from English-medium schools took part in engagement sessions in the council chamber

The feedback from young people is detailed in section eight.

4. Response rate

In total, there were **1396** interactions during the consultation. The response rate has been segregated into several areas: consultation survey responses, engagement event attendees, social media interactions emails and letters.

Interactions	Number
Survey completions	943
Parents meetings	97
Pupil workshops	305
Emails	13
Letters	3
Social media comments	35
Total interactions	1396

5. How effective was the consultation?

The consultation was conducted over a 12 week period. The data collection methods, which include the online survey and paper survey, were developed using plain English to maximise understanding.

6. Headline figures

6.1 57% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to increase the walking distance to school to two miles for primary and three miles for secondary schools.

6.2 76% of learners did not agree with the proposal to increase the walking distance to school to two miles for primary and three miles for secondary schools.

6.3 43% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to remove escorts from taxis or minibuses with less than eight passengers.

6.4 37% of learners agreed with the proposal to remove escorts from taxis or minibuses with less than eight passengers.

6.5 43% of survey respondents were unsure about the proposal to remove specific examples from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy, 37% disagreed with this proposal.

6.6 44% of learners agreed with the proposal to remove specific examples from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy.

6.7 71% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over.

6.8 85% of learners did not agree with the proposal to stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over.

6.9 58% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to remove all transport for nursery pupils.

6.10 63% of learners did not agree with the proposal to remove all transport for nursery pupils.

7. Question and analysis - consultation survey

The consultation contained 11 questions related to the proposals. All questions were optional, so participants could chose to answer all or some of the questions.

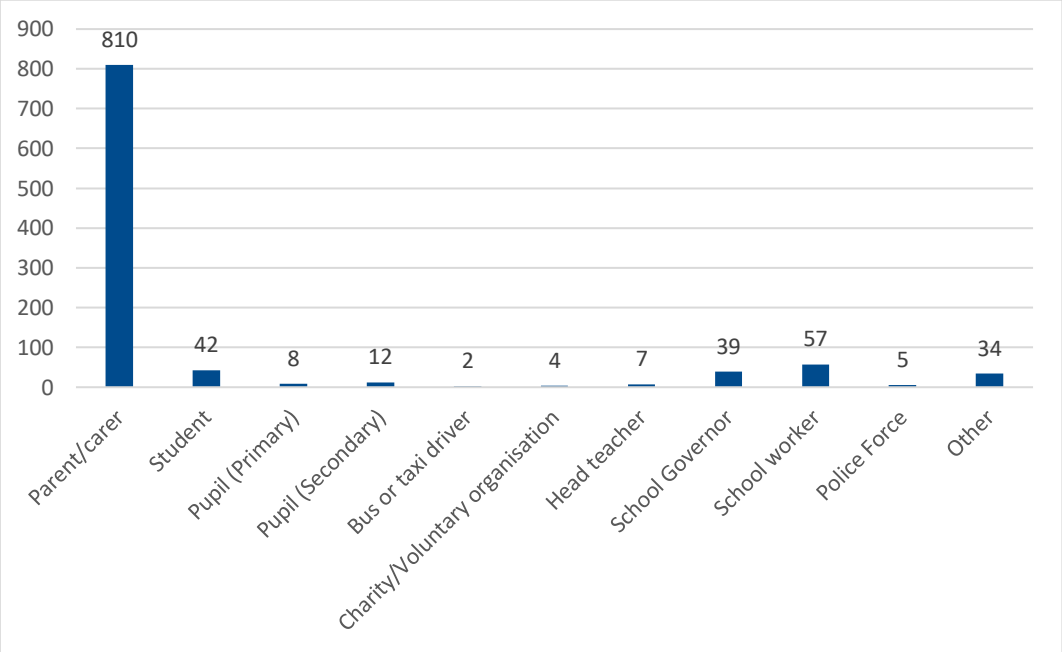
Respondents were asked to provide information about themselves and were then asked if they agreed or disagreed with the individual proposals, with reasons for their choice.

In the final question, respondents could provide anything they would like to say about the proposals.

This section details the responses received to the main survey, the responses received from learners are detailed in section eight of this report.

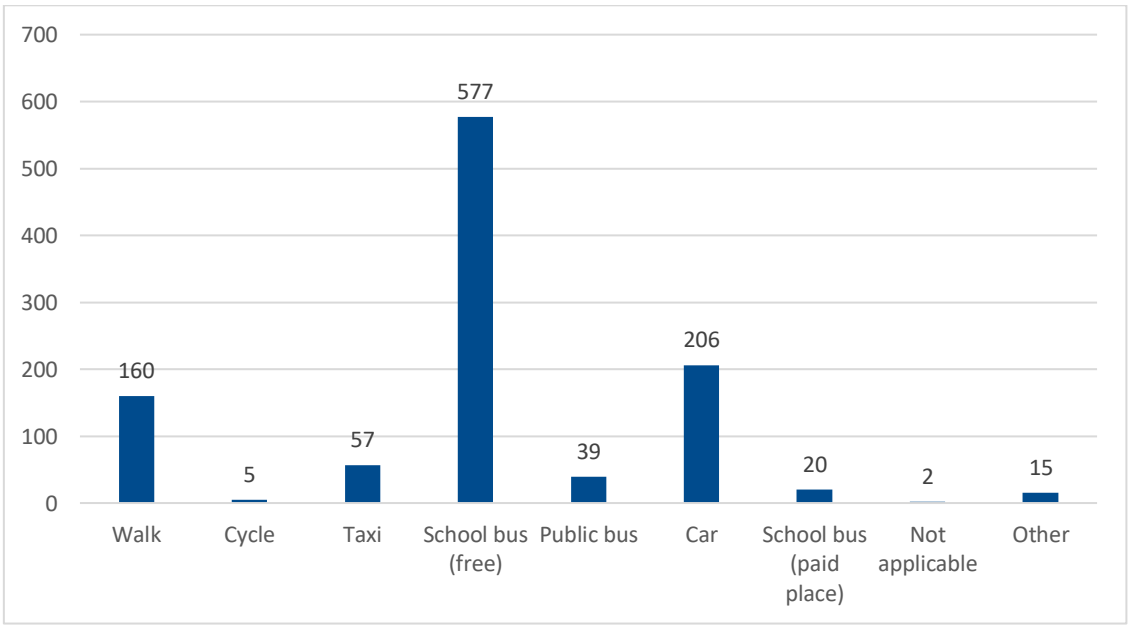
7.1 About you

7.1.1 Please tick the option that best described you as a respondent



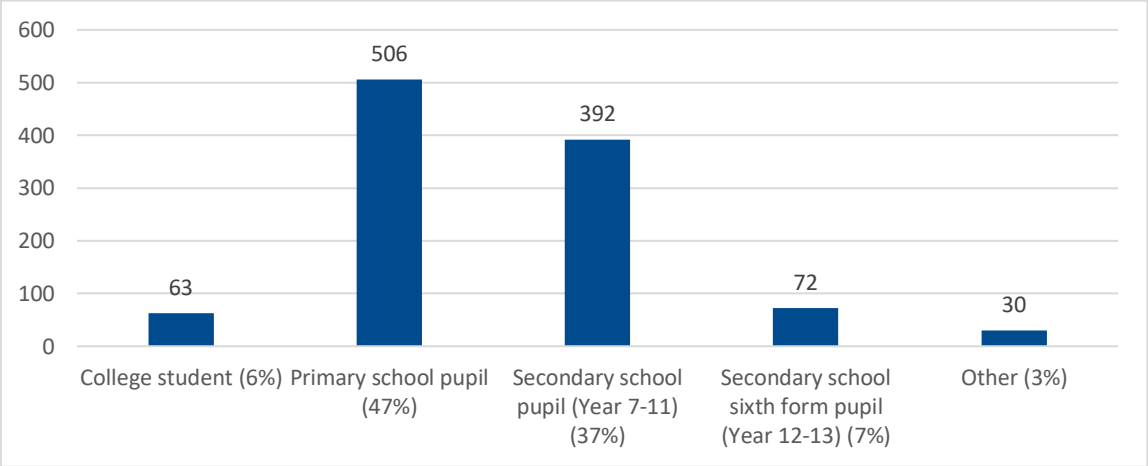
Respondents were able to choose multiple options to represent themselves. The most common respondents were parent/carer (810), followed by student (42) and then school worker (57).

7.1.2 How do you or your children travel to school?



Respondents were able to choose multiple options to this question. The most popular method of transport to school was free bus (577), followed by car (206), and then walk (160).

7.1.3 Please tick the option(s) that best describes you or your child(ren) as pupils/students?



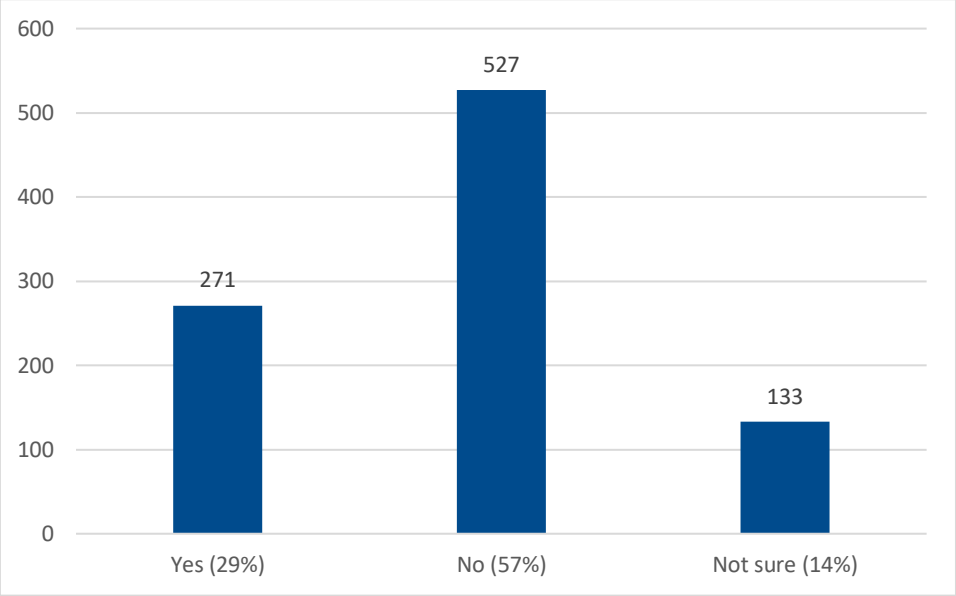
47% of respondents stated that their children were in primary school, followed by 37% in secondary schools (Years 7-11) and then 7% in secondary school sixth forms.

7.2 Survey questions

7.2.1 Proposal one.

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefiting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of 2 miles for primary pupils and 3 miles for secondary pupils.

931 people responded to this question.



The majority of respondents did not agree with this proposal (57%). 29% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 14% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 55 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Agree with proposal	19
Proposal does not affect me	10
Young people should walk/cycle	5
Parents responsibility not the councils	4
Pupils with additional needs should be supported	4
Must ensure walking routes are safe	3
Welsh education should be supported	3
Faith education should be supported	2
Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) will be in line with other authorities	2
Limit traffic outside schools	1
Offer paid places on the school bus	1
Public transport options need to be improved	1

The most common responses were ‘agree with proposal’ (19) followed by ‘proposal does not affect me’ (10) and then ‘young people should walk or cycle’ (5).

There were 456 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It will be too far to walk and will take too long especially in bad weather	124

Children will be unsafe walking to school	111
Negative impact on Welsh language schools	45
Public transport is expensive/additional costs for pupils	32
Will have negative environmental impact	29
Supports families to go to work	22
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	21
Roads are unsafe	16
Keep the free school transport	15
Will negatively impact attendance and/or attainment	13
Make internal savings	7
Faith schools need transport	6
Could cause health issues (walking in cold weather/wet clothes)	6
Would be prepared to contribute towards travel costs	5
Should not be preferential treatment for faith schools	4

The most common responses were 'it will be too far to walk and will take too long especially in bad weather' (124), followed by 'children will be unsafe walking to school' (111) and this will have a 'negative impact on Welsh language schools' (45).

There were 66 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

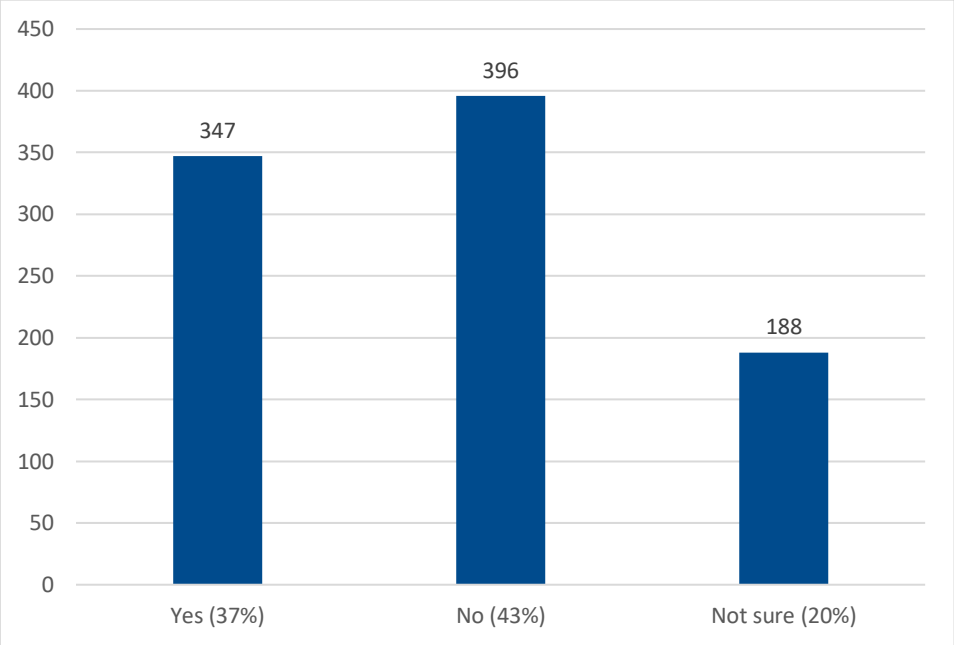
Theme	**No.**
Must ensure there are safe routes	19
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	8
Need more information/unsure of impact	8
Environmental impact/ Traffic	7
Additional expense/cost for pupils	5
Too far/long walk/bad weather	5
Welsh schools should have transport	5
May be difficult for a parents that work	3
School transport is convenient	1
Cut council wages instead	1
Faith schools should have transport	1
Negative impact on health (walking in bad weather/wet clothes)	1
Primary children should have transport	1
Reconfigure catchment areas	1

The most common responses were as must ensure there are safe routes (19), followed by pupils with additional learning needs should be supported (8) and need more information/unsure of impact (8).

7.2.2 Proposal two.

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

931 people responded to this question.



43% of respondents did not agree with this proposal. 37% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 20% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 110 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Agree with proposal	33
Drivers should have a DBS check	23
Children with additional needs should be supported	16
Escorts are not needed	17
Drivers will need training	8
As long as the children behave themselves	5
Provide CCTV in vehicles	2
It shouldn't include infant aged children	2
As long as those who need support are supported	2
Unsure of impact	1
We should be able to trust our children, especially secondary school	1

The most common responses were ‘agree with proposal’ (33), followed by ‘drivers should have a DBS check’ (23) and then ‘children with additional needs should be supported’ (16).

There were 456 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
There could be safeguarding issues (for children and driver)	43
Compromises child safety	39
Driver should focus on driving	35
Children with additional needs should be supported	31
Children need support/supervision	28
Will encourage bad behaviour/bullying	20
Children may distract driver	18
Primary are too young to travel without an escort	16
Driver is not responsible for children	14
Escorts should be on all buses	7
Assess on case by case basis	3
Cut council spending/pay	3
May incur additional cost for parents	2
Issues will arise if the driver falls ill/ has accident	2
Should not impact Welsh schools	2
Disagree with proposal	1

The most common responses were 'there could be safeguarding issues (for children and driver)' (43), 'compromises child safety' (39) and 'driver should focus on driving' (35).

There were 66 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

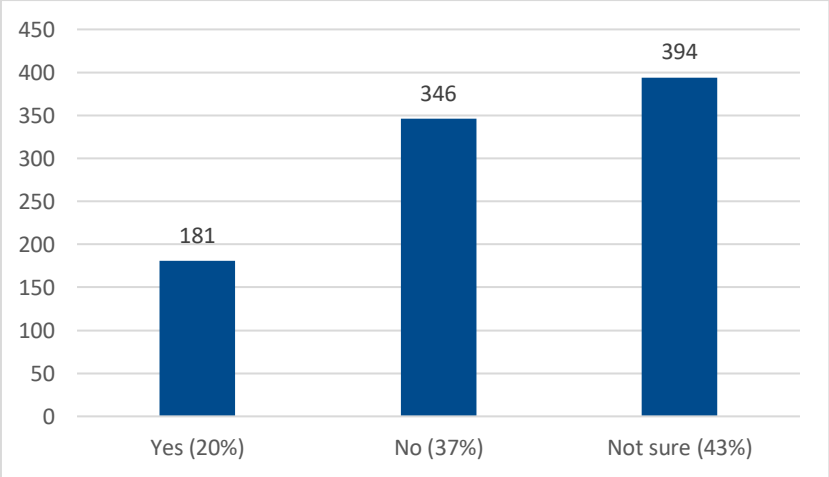
Theme	No.
Children with additional needs should be supported	17
Primary children are too young to not have an escort	15
Needs of children should be considered	13
Unsure of impact	11
Provided the children are safe	9
As long as the driver has a DBS	8
If the driver is capable for supporting the children	6
Children could distract driver	2
Escorts are needed	1

The most common responses were 'children with additional needs should be supported' (17), followed by 'primary children are too young to not have an escort' (15) and the 'needs of children should be considered' (13).

7.2.3 Proposal three.

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

921 people responded to this question.



The majority of respondents were unsure about this proposal (43%). 20% of respondents agreed with this proposal and 37% disagreed with this proposal.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 27 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Should be assessed on a case by case basis	6
Transport availability should be equal for all	5
Agree with proposal	4
Children with additional needs should be supported	3
Parents should provide/organise transport	3
They are old enough to organise own transport	2
Welsh schools should be protected	2
Ask for contributions	1
Decisions should be made available for public scrutiny	1

The most common responses were ‘should be assessed on a case by case basis’ (6), followed by ‘transport availability should be equal for all’ (5) and ‘agree with proposal’ (4).

There were 138 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Should be assessed on a case by case basis	34
The service is needed	20
Should keep all school transport	13
Children with additional learning needs should be supported	12
May compromise child safety	11
Need more information/unsure of impact	11
Expensive for families/pupils in deprived areas	10

Children have a right to education	7
Welsh education should be supported	5
Service supports families to go to work	5
Disagree with proposal	4
Make internal cuts at the council	3
How would the pupils get to school?	2
Negative environmental impact	1

The most common responses were ‘should be assessed on a case by case basis’ (34), followed by ‘the service is needed’ (20) and then ‘should keep all school transport’ (13).

There were 121 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

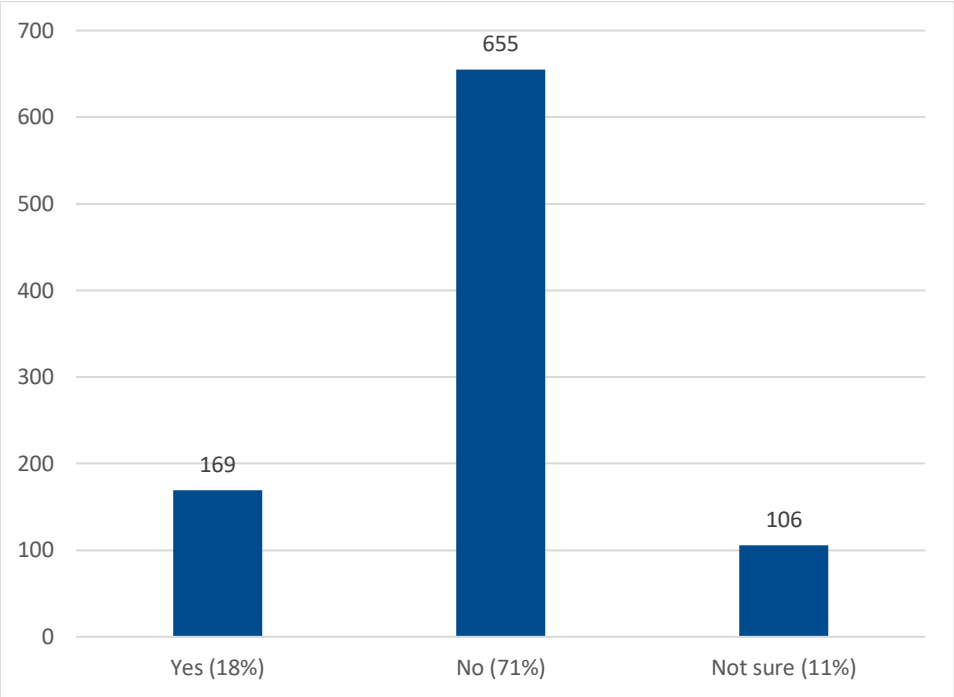
Theme	**No.**
Need more information about discretionary transport	78
Assessed on a case by case basis	21
Unsure of impact	11
This service should be available to all	3
Was unaware service was available	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2
Welsh schools should be supported	2
May incur additional costs for parents	1

The most common responses were ‘need more information about discretionary transport’ (78), followed by ‘assessed on a case by case basis’ (21) and then ‘unsure of impact’ (11).

7.2.4 Proposal four.

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college.

930 people responded to this question.



71% of respondents did not agree with this proposal, 18% of respondents did agree with this proposal and 11% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 59 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Old enough to catch a bus/organise a journey	18
Personal choice to attend college so should pay for transport	16
Effective way to save money	8
Vulnerable students should be supported	8
Students get Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) so can pay for transport	6
Students can walk	2
Agree with proposal	1

The most common responses were ‘old enough to catch a bus/organise a journey’ (18), followed by ‘personal choice to attend college so should pay for transport’ (16) and then ‘effective way to save money’ (8) and ‘vulnerable students should be supported’ (8).

There were 412 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It will discourage young people from attending sixth form	80
It will be costly to pay for transport	77
It will negatively impact young people living in poverty/deprived areas	55

We should encourage young people to attend sixth form	53
Welsh education should be protected	34
Continue with free transport (as continuing with education)	31
Limits opportunities for progression for young people	25
All pupils should have transport	14
Children with additional needs should be supported	12
Walking will be unsafe	7
How else will they get there?	6
Faith education should be protected	3
Free transport for school students but not college students	3
Too far to walk	3
Environmental impact from increased traffic	2
Council should make internal savings/ save elsewhere	2
Age discrimination	1
Young people attending bridge provision only have the option of continuing at college	1
Students could contribute to cost of transport	1
Free transport for college students but not for school students	1
Welsh and faith schools should not be protected	1

The most common responses were 'it will discourage young people from attending sixth form' (80), followed by 'it will be too costly to pay for transport' (77) and then 'it will negatively impact young people living in poverty/deprived areas' (55).

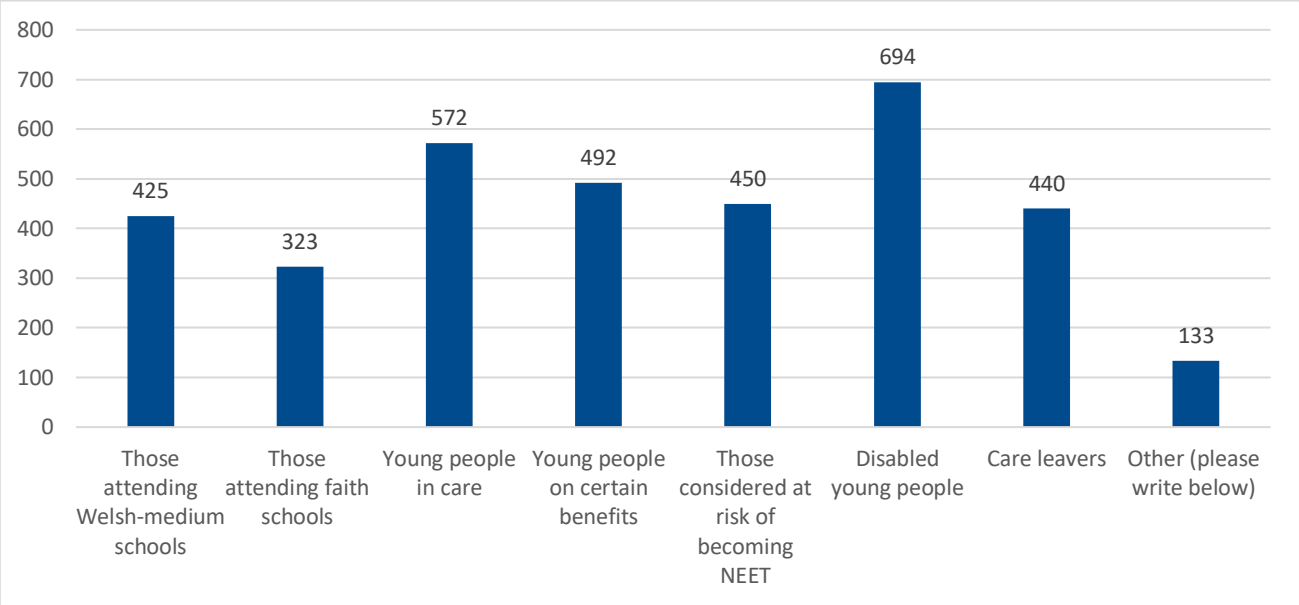
There were 54 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Could discourage pupils attending sixth form	18
Vulnerable pupils should be supported	12
Could offer reduced pass/season ticket	7
Not all post-16 students will need/want the bus	6
Free transport for college students but not school students	4
Welsh education should be protected	3
If they are working they can pay for transport	3
EMA should be used specifically for transport	1

The most common responses were 'could discourage pupils from attending sixth form' (18), followed by 'vulnerable pupils should be supported' (12) and then 'could offer reduced pass/season ticket' (7).

7.2.4.1 Are there any groups of learners aged 16 or over who you believe should continue to receive free transport?

Respondents were able to select learners who they believed should still receive free post-16 transport if this was to be removed. Respondents were able to select multiple categories.



The most popular responses were 'disabled young people', followed by 'young people in care' and then 'young people on certain benefits'.

Where other was selected respondents were asked to identify other groups of learners. The following responses were received:

Theme	No.
All pupils	72
Should be means tested – those receiving benefits/free school means/objective one areas	9
Should be based on distance from school/college	7
Learners with additional needs	5
College students	3
Pupils who can't drive	2
None	1
Young carers/ young adult carers	1
Where they have younger siblings they would be travelling with	1
Pupils attending collaboration courses	1

The most popular responses were 'all pupils' (72), followed by 'should be means tested – those receiving benefits/free school means/objective one areas' (9) and then 'should be based on distance from school/college' (7).

Respondents were then asked to give reasons for their choice. 284 comments were made. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

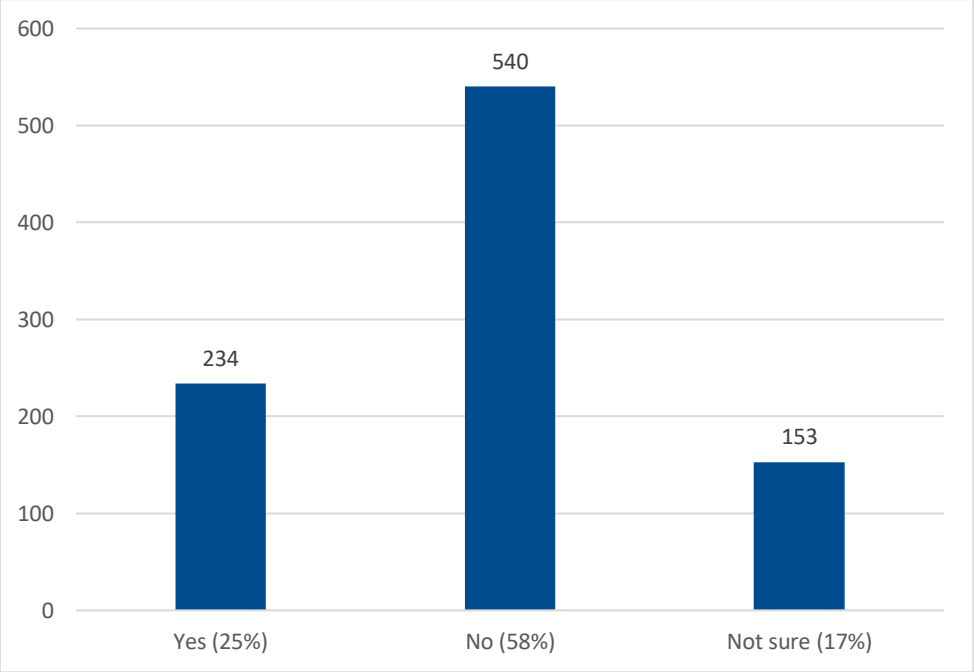
Theme	No.
All pupils should receive transport	114
We should ensure vulnerable young people are protected	55
We should encourage these young people to attend sixth form	26
Cost of transport is too high	23
Welsh and Faith schools should not be protected	19
Welsh education should be protected	17
It is harder for these young people to attend sixth form	12
Cuts will negatively impact young people from disadvantaged areas	7
Council should make internal savings	5
Will limit opportunities for these young people	4
Faith schools should be protected	2

The most popular responses were 'all pupils should receive transport' (114), followed by 'we should ensure vulnerable young people are protected' (55) and then 'we should encourage these young people to attend sixth form' (26).

7.2.5 Proposal five.

To remove all transport for nursery pupils.

927 people responded to this question.



58% of respondents did not agree with this proposal. 25% agreed with the proposal and 17% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

There were 90 comments from respondents who agreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Nursery education is not compulsory	31
It is the parent's responsibility	27
They are too young to go on the bus	11
Shouldn't be alone on bus	8
Nurseries are usually local	3
Good way to save money	2
It is unsafe for them to be on a bus	2
Unsure of impact	2
They can walk	1
Nursery children who are disabled or have a learning disability should have transport	1
I am surprised this is even available	1
But should support welsh provision	1

The most common responses were 'nursery education is not compulsory' (31), followed by 'it is the parents responsibility' (27), and then 'they are too young to go on the bus' (11).

There were 246 comments from respondents who disagreed with this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
This will negatively impact Welsh-medium education	48
Will be difficult for working parents	38
Nursery education is important	21
Too far to walk	20
If nursery place is provided then transport should be provided	17
Continue to provide transport for all pupils	15
Additional costs to families	13
Disagree with proposal	13
Should support parents/ choices will be limited	13
Families may have siblings in primary	9
It is unsafe to walk	8
Limits opportunities of children	6
Right to education - and transport	6
Environmental impact	4
Will negatively impact deprived areas	4
Contradicts free nursery/ childcare grant	3
Faith schools should be protected	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2
Council should make internal savings	2
Build more schools	1

The most common responses were 'this will negatively impact on Welsh-medium education' (48), followed by 'will be difficult for working parents' (38) and then 'nursery education is important' (21).

There were 51 comments from respondents who were unsure about this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Depends on circumstances	12
Unsure of impact	12
Unaware nursery children had transport provided	10
They may need adult support/help	4
Personal choice of parents to send their child to nursery	4
Welsh and Faith schools should be supported	4
Nursery not compulsory so transport is useful but not necessity	3
Children with additional needs should be supported	2

The most common responses were depends on circumstances (12) and unsure of impact (12), followed by unaware that nursery children had transport provided (10).

7.2.6 Do you have anything else that you would like to say about the proposals?

Finally, respondents were asked if they had anything else to add about the proposals. 406 comments were received and have been themed. These are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Make savings elsewhere/ internal savings	74
Proposals will impact on child safety	49
Keep all school transport	40
Welsh education should be protected	34
Should invest in education, it is important	33
Disadvantaged families and communities will be impacted the most	27
Support families and those who need it	22
Those with additional needs should be supported	18
Ask for contribution from parents	16
Disagree with proposals	14
Right to education and so should have a right to transport	13
Will have negative environmental impact	12
It is too far for children to walk	11
Will incur additional costs for families/students	9
Will affect attendance /students will drop out	8
Working parents rely on this service	8
Keep escorts on taxis and minibuses	5
Parents responsibility to provide/organise transport for their children	5
Keep transport for post-16 students	4
Review process as opposed to policy	2

Welsh and Faith schools should not be protected	1
Walking is good for children	1

The majority of the comments related to ‘make savings elsewhere/internal savings’ (74), followed by ‘proposals will impact on child safety’ (49) and then ‘keep all school transport’ (40).

8. Question and analysis – school engagement sessions

Pupils were able to complete the survey via clicker pads or paper questionnaire. The consultation contained 11 questions. All questions were optional, so participants could chose to answer all or some of the questions.

A total of 305 learners took part in the consultation engagement sessions. 263 Learners took part in their comprehensive schools. A further 35 primary pupils took part in engagement session held in the Council Chamber, and 7 pupils from Welsh-medium primary schools took part in an engagement session held in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

Learners were asked to provide information about themselves and were then asked if they agreed or disagreed with the individual proposals with reasons for their choice.

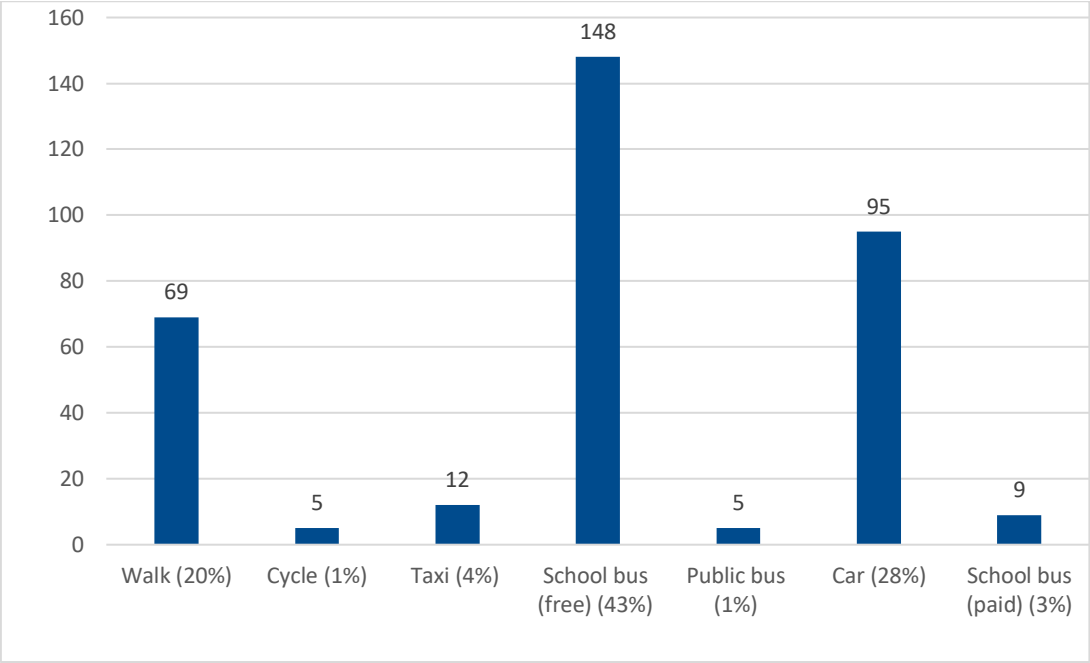
In the final question, learners could provide anything they would like to say about the proposals.

This section details the responses received from learners in the school engagement sessions.

8.1. About you

8.1.1 How do you travel to school?

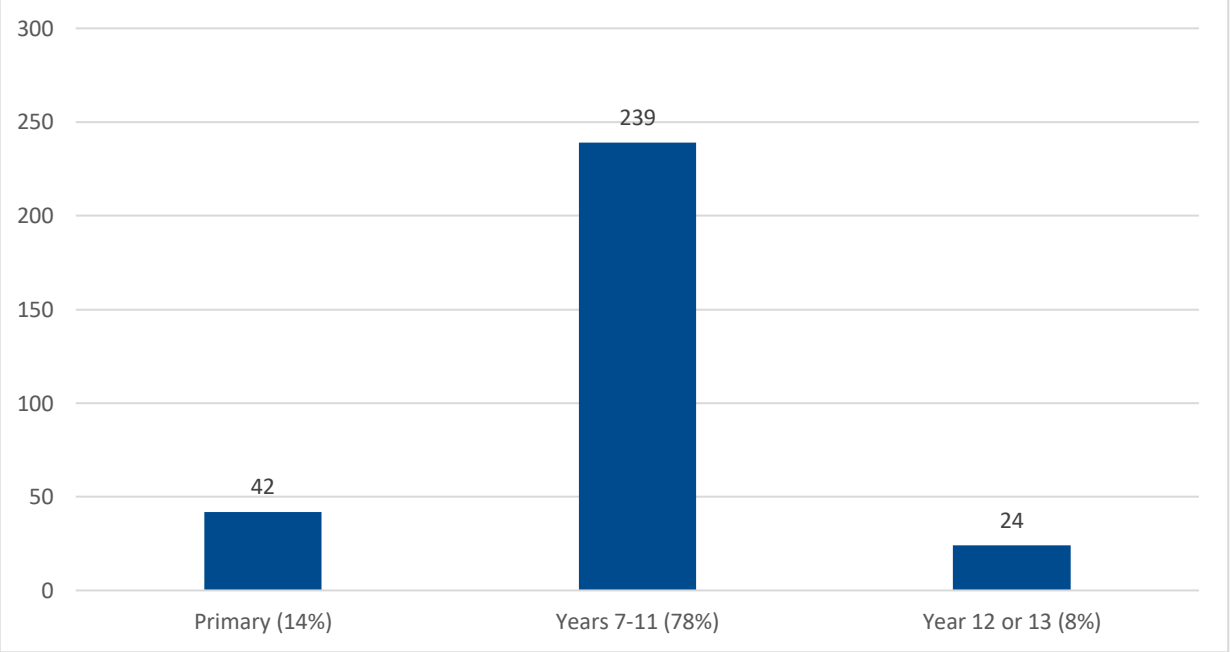
Learners were able to choose more than one option.



43% of learners identified that they used a free bus to get to school, followed by 28% car and then 20% walked to school.

8.1.1 Please tell us your year group

305 learners provided a response to this question.



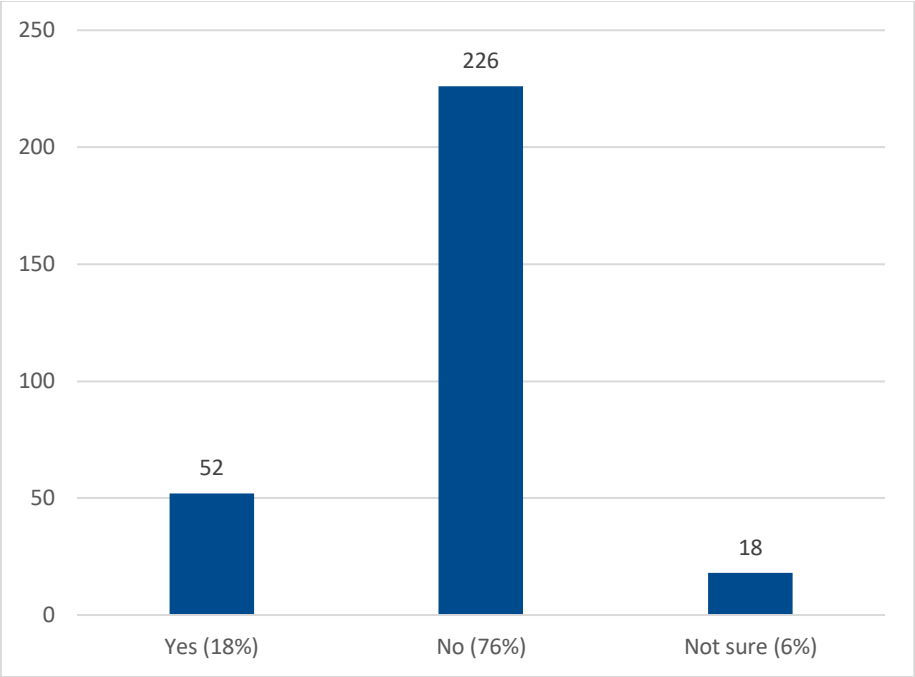
78% of participants were from Years 7-11 in comprehensive schools, 14% were from primary school and 8% were in Years 12 or 13 in comprehensive school.

8.2 Survey questions

8.2.1 Proposal one.

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefiting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of 2 miles for primary pupils and 3 miles for secondary pupils.

296 people responded to this question.



The majority of learners did not agree with this proposal (75%). 18% of learners did agree with this proposal and 6% were unsure

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

249 comments were received from learners. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
It is too far/it is a long way to walk	43
Keep all transport	34
There is no real safe route to school	29
Will negatively impact attendance/achievements	26
Pupils will more likely be late	23
dark/cold/wet	20
Pupils will be tired from walking	14
It would be expensive to catch a public bus	13
There are dangerous people around	8
Welsh education should be supported	7
Negative environmental impact from more cars on the road	5
I think it is fair to change the 2 to 3 mile distance	5

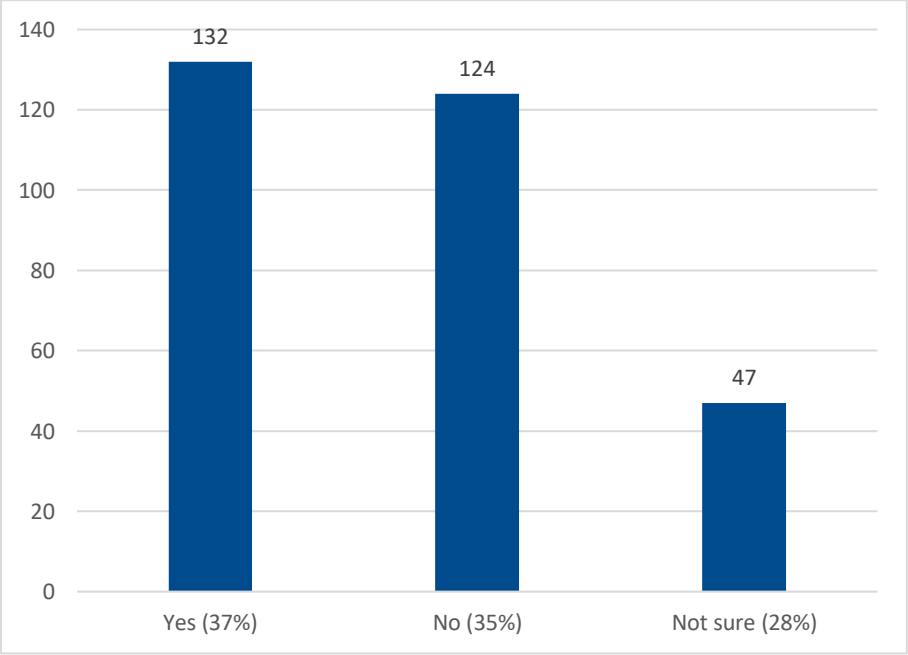
Parents can't take me/ pick me up	5
Faith schools should not be exempt	3
Increase chance of bullying incidents walking to school	3
Pupils with additional learning needs should be supported	3
It is good for pupils to walk	2
Primary pupils should have a bus	2
Pupils walking will disturb residents	1
Hard to carry all your school books and bags all that way	1
Amount of litter will increase if more people walk	1
Better bike facilities at school (if more pupils ride their bikes)	1

The most common responses were it is too far/it is a long way to walk (43), followed by keep all transport (34) and then there is no real safe route to school (29).

8.2.2 Proposal two.

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

303 learners responded to this question.



37% of learners agreed with this proposal, 35% did not agree and 20% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

121 comments were received from learners. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Escorts are not needed	22

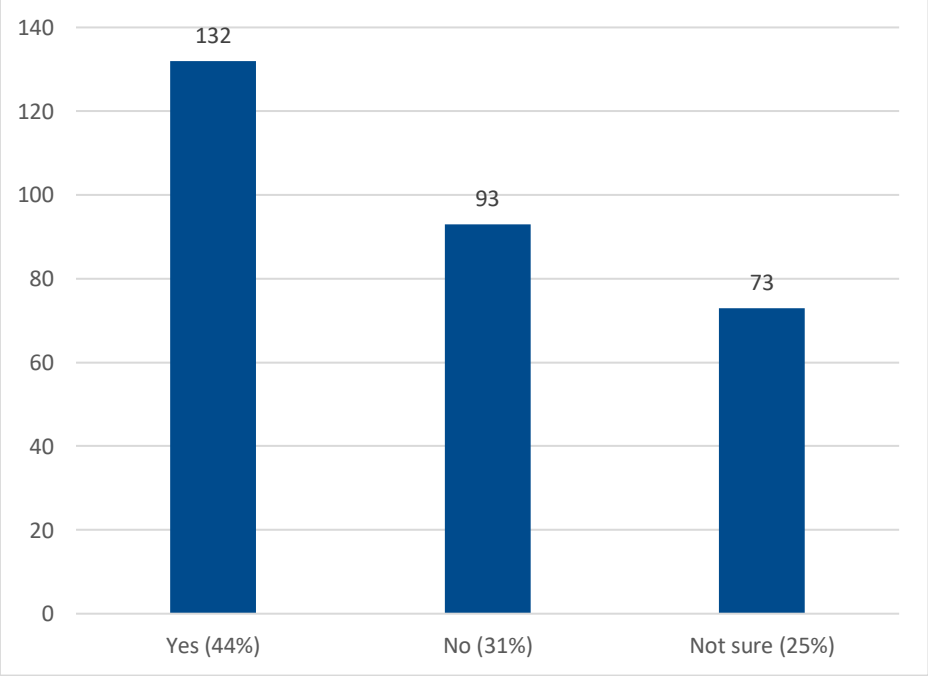
No need for an escort if the driver makes pupils feel comfortable and safe	22
Escorts provide personal/medical support	19
Pupils with additional needs need support	13
Driver should drive/ not be distracted	9
Escorts keep pupils safe	8
Primary pupils should have an escort	7
Driver will be unable to stop bad behaviour	6
Disagree with proposal	4
With no escort there will be more room for pupils	3
Young people are mature enough so do not need an escort	3
It depend on the young people	2
Better for the environment (people do not bring their cars)	1
Parents should be informed of changes	1
Pupils could use the main bus	1

The most common responses were ‘escorts are not needed’ (22) and ‘no need for an escort if the driver makes pupils feel comfortable and safe’ (22) and then ‘escorts provide personal/medical support’ (19).

8.2.3 Proposal three.

Removal from the local authority’s Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport.

298 learners responded to this question.



The majority of learners agreed with this proposal (44%). 31% of learners did not agree with this proposal and 25% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

78 comments were received from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

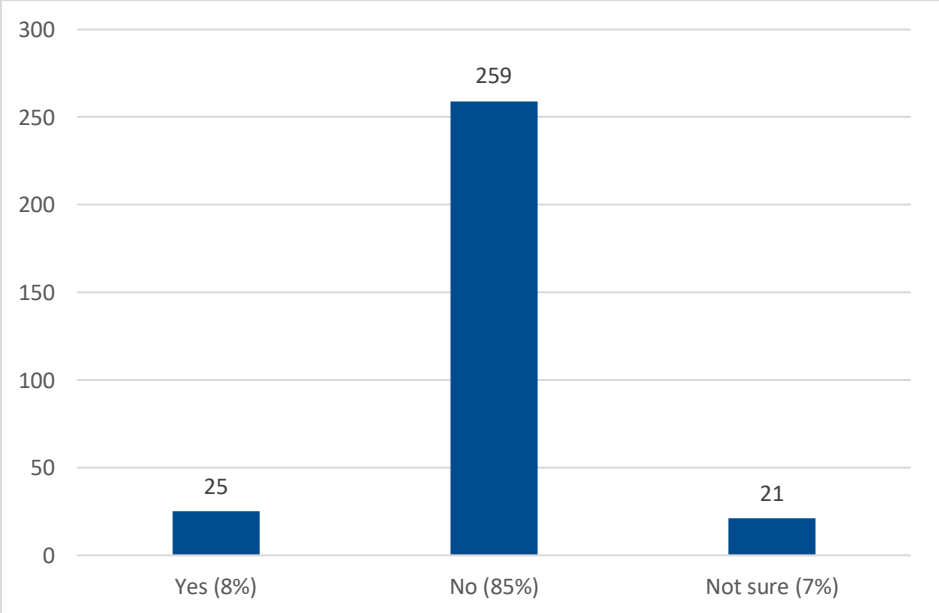
Theme	No.
It will encourage more people to apply	26
Pupils with special circumstances should have this transport	21
The service is needed	12
People may take advantage of service	7
Everyone should have access to transport	4
It might discourage people from applying	4
We pay for service through council tax	2
It is the parent's responsibility to take their child to school	1
Was unaware service existed	1

The most common responses were 'it will encourage more people to apply' (26), followed by 'pupils with special circumstances should have this transport' (21), and then 'the service is needed' (12).

8.2.4 Proposal four.

To stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over, who go to school or college.

305 learners responded to this question.



85% of learners did not agree with this proposal, 8% of learners did agree with this proposal and 7% were unsure.

Learners were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

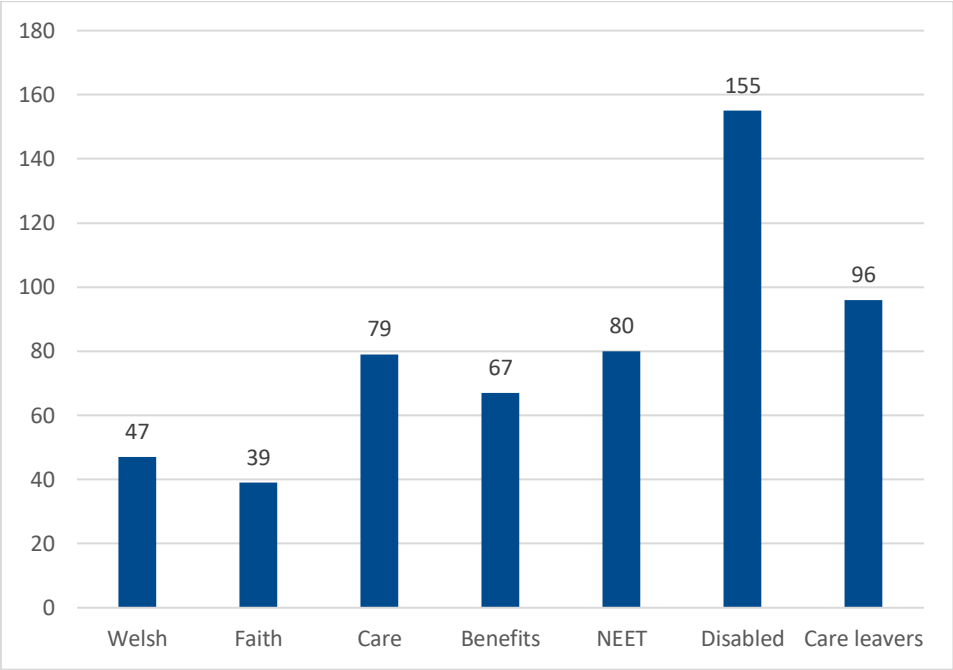
136 comments from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Pupils will be unable to pay for travel	56
Limits opportunities for pupils	27
Welsh-medium education should be supported	16
People would not go to sixth form	13
Transport should be free for all students of all ages	9
The school bus may be their only option	6
Walking to school is not safe	4
Encourages pupils to walk	2
Disabled pupils should have transport	1
Public transport is unreliable	1

The most common responses were ‘pupils will be unable to pay for travel’ (56), followed by ‘limited opportunities for pupils’ (27) and then ‘Welsh-medium education should be supported’ (16).

8.2.4.1 Are there any groups of learners aged 16 or over who you believe should continue to receive free transport?

Learners were able to select groups of learners who they believed should still receive free post-16 transport if this was to be removed. Respondents were able to select multiple categories.



The most popular responses were ‘disabled young people’ (155) followed by ‘care leavers’ (96) and then those ‘not in employment education or training (NEET)’ (80).

Learners were then asked to give reasons for their choice. 73 comments were made. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

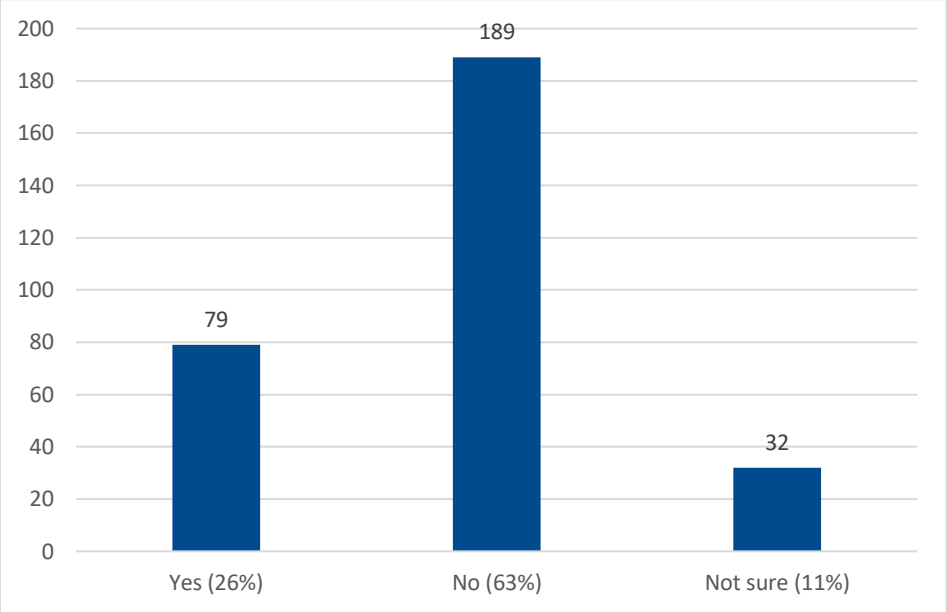
Theme	No.
Everyone should be entitled to transport to attend school	37
These groups of learners need more support	19
People who need support should be supported	14
They may have additional financial issues	2
Should encourage students	1

The most popular responses were ‘everyone should be entitled to attend school’ (37), followed by ‘these groups of learners need more support’ (19) and then ‘people who need support should be supported’ (14).

8.2.5 Proposal five.

To remove all transport for nursery pupils.

300 learners responded to this question.



63% of learners did not agree with this proposal. 26% agreed with the proposal and 11% were unsure.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons for their choice.

117 comments were received from learners in relation to this proposal. These have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Welsh-medium education should be protected	32
It might be difficult for parents to take them	28
Too young to walk far/unable to walk alone	20
It is safer for them to go on the bus	11
It should be the parents responsibility	6
Entitled to school place then they should be entitled to transport	4
Unsure of impact	4
Keep nursery transport	3
Parents might not be able to afford to get their child to school	2
Nursery education is not compulsory so do not need bus	2
Nursery is important for social growth so should support with transport	2
Nursery schools are usually local so do not need bus	2
Disagree with proposal	1

The most common responses were ‘Welsh-medium education should be protected’ (32), followed by ‘it might be difficult for parents to take them’ (28) and then ‘too young to walk far/unable to walk alone’ (20).

8.2.6 Do you have anything else that you would like to say about the proposals?

Finally, learners were asked if they had anything else to add about the proposals. 62 comments were received and have been themed. These are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Keep all transport	12
Will negatively affect attendance/lateness	8
Biggest impact will be on disadvantaged pupils/communities	7
Welsh education should be supported	7
Keep transport for all sixth forms	5
It will not be safe walking to school	5
Disagree with proposals	3
Environmental impact - more cars on the road	3
Should support children with additional needs	3
Disagrees with UNCRC (Article 2, 28 and 31	3
Will incur additional costs for pupils/families	2
Extra walking means a long day	2
Will incur additional costs for pupils/families	2

The majority of the comments were 'keep all transport' (12), followed by 'will negatively affect attendance and lateness' (8) and then 'biggest impact will be on disadvantaged pupils/communities' (7) and 'Welsh-medium education should be supported' (7).

9. Social media responses

During the consultation period there were 35 interactions on our social media channels.

The comments have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Close the council	6
The council doesn't care / Consultation just a formality	6
Comments about sports pitches and fees increasing	4
Increase in council tax less service	3
Too far for children to walk	3
Cut councillors/ cut councillors wages	3
Sack council staff	2
Stop giving money to Cardiff City Deal	2
No transport will stop children going to college	2
MP money from EU	1
Car emissions will rise	1
There have been £35 million in cuts where has the money gone	1
Need change in management	1

The majority of the comments were not related specifically to the consultation. Most common comments were related to 'close the council' (6), the 'council doesn't care/consultation is just a formality' (6), and then 'comments about sports pitches and fees increasing' (4).

Three comments were made about it being ‘too far for children to walk’, and two comments were made about ‘no transport will stop children going to college’. One comment was made that car emissions will rise.

10. Parents and carers meetings

The Consultation and Engagement Team attended engagement sessions with parents in all comprehensive schools and Bridgend College. Parents from comprehensive schools and primary schools across the county borough were informed of about the engagement sessions. We engaged with 97 parents and carers during these sessions. Comments made during these sessions have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
There is no safe route	18
How are distances measured and routes identified as 'safe'?	10
May stop pupils going to post-16/This needs to be considered alongside post-16 consultation	10
Will the proposals affect Additional Learning Needs (ALN)?	9
Takes too long/too far/wet	9
Make cuts elsewhere	8
There will be an increase in lateness/attendance	7
This will negatively affect Welsh-medium education	7
Are you working to ensure that public transport will be available for all pupils?	6
Additional costs for pupils/families	6
Decisions about sending children to Welsh-medium nursery will be affected/ wider impact upon Welsh-medium education	5
Can we buy a school bus pass/make contributions	5
Will be an increase in parents driving/traffic at school/environmental impact	5
School specific route question	4
Will negatively impact college students/vocational courses	4
Parents are unaware of discretionary payment availability	4
Clarity of proposals	3
Having no escorts is a safeguarding issue	3
Pupils in deprived areas will suffer more	3
Whose responsibility is child safety walking to/from school	3
Why aren’t the buses complying with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation	2
Can decisions be appealed/challenged	1
Are all local authorities doing this?	1
There are no escorts on school buses	1
There have been issues when older siblings have tried to pick up their brothers and sisters from the primary schools as they are not over 18.	1
Welsh/Faith should not be protected	1
Can we get together as parents and sort out our own buses and school transport.	1
Will you increase funding for Welsh-medium schools to provide their own transport	1

Has the Welsh Language Commissioner been contacted about consultation	1
New WESP include statutory targets for 3 and 4 year olds – how will cutting nursery transport affect this	1
Welsh/Faith schools should not be protected	1

The most common comments were 'there is no safe route' (18), followed by 'how are distances measured and routes identified as safe' (10) and 'may stop pupils going to post-16/ this needs to be considered alongside post-16 consultation' (10).

11. Letters and emails

13 emails were received during the consultation. The details of the emails have been themed and are detailed in the table below:

Theme	No.
Personal walking route requested	8
Survey request/submission	3
Letter attached	2

Three letters and one report from a school governing body were received during the consultation. These have been attached in Appendix one.

12. Communication regarding the consultation

Would you like to be emailed once the consultation report is available?

Yes	640	68%
No	303	32%

13. Conclusion

13.1 Summary

A sample of 943 survey completions is robust and is subject to a maximum standard error of ±3.181 at the 95% confidence level. Therefore, we can be 95% confident that responses are representative of those that would be given by the total adult population, to within ±4.752% of the percentages reported. This means that if the total adult population of Bridgend had taken part in the survey and a statistic of 50% was observed, we can be 95% confident that the actual figure lies between 46.819% and 53.181%.

13.2 Equality Impact Assessment

The Full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed to consider the impact of these proposals, and presented to Cabinet alongside the consultation report.

14. Appendix one.

14.1 Covering letter from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger Governing body.

Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr

Pennaeth : Mrs Rhiannon Dixon BA Hons. PGCE, NPQH

Re: Learner Transport Consultation

January 3rd, 2020.

Dear Sir,

Please find attached a report on behalf of our school governing body regarding the Bridgend County Borough Council Learner Travel review. The report highlights the impact of the proposed changes to school transport on Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sgêr and on Welsh medium education within our Local Authority.

Whilst we understand that the Local Authority, in the same way as schools must explore all means of making savings we are seriously concerned about the possible disproportionate effect on Welsh medium education.

In order to have our own measure for this we held a short survey at school during a recent parents meeting. We have included the results in the report.

We as a school have recently seen a reduction in pupil numbers starting at school from the Kenfig Hill area, and we feel that this is due in part to the LAs decision to revert to the statutory minimum distance as outlined in proposal 1.

Proposal 5 is a significant concern for us. Though some parents choose to transport their children to school at nursery age, a significant proportion of our nursery pupils use the school bus. Should this option be withdrawn the effect on our school and on Welsh medium education could be devastating. If we are unable to attract pupils in to our nursery they are highly unlikely to transfer in to the Welsh medium sector at reception age when they have already settled in at their nearest school, a school where parents will also have begun making associations.

Dr Rhyd Lewis, a school parent and an academic at the school of mathematics in Cardiff University who lives in the Porthcawl area has undertaken some research regarding the consultation on learner travel. He has written to the LA in regard of this. Over the past few years he has been part of a project that seeks to design efficient bus routes for schools. This has involved using automated tools to determine qualifying students, and then design bus routes that deliver children to school on time, but that optimise things like:

- minimising the number of vehicles used
- minimising journey times and walking distances from homes to suitable bus stops.

Some examples of his work can be found here.

http://www.rhydlewis.eu/bus/Bridgend-6Buses-Walk-5.749081-route-33.933333.html

Greenfield Terrace, Cornelly, Pontybont ar Ogwr, CF33 4LW
Ffôn / Tel 01656 754865
Gwefan/ Website www.yferchorsger.co.uk
ebost / email admin.yfos@bridgend.gov.uk

14.2 Consultation response from Ysgol y Ferch o'r Sger Governing body.

TRANSPORT CONSULTATION 2019

A survey of the impact of 2019 BCBC Learner Travel Review on Welsh-medium Education using data from the parents of pupils of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger

Produced by the Governing body of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger

January 2020

Main Findings

1. There is a very strong desire among the parents and pupils of Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger (YFOS) to access Welsh-medium.
2. Parents' response to the changes indicate that 70% of parents who currently have children in Welsh-medium education would not have chosen to do so if free transport at all ages had not been available to them.
3. The provision of effective free transport is crucial throughout the child's education to ensure the equality of access to Welsh-medium education as the secondary school is such a long distance from the homes of the majority of pupils.
4. Parents have a general anxiety any further changes to the funding of transport will have a detrimental effect on their ability to continue to choose Welsh-medium education.
5. The Governors have a genuine concern that removal of free transport to Nursery aged pupils will result in significant falling numbers at a time where we have shown in a recent report to Finance that it is imperative to grow the pupil numbers in order to escape the schools current financial deficit.
6. Welsh-medium schools are unique geographically in the local authority as most pupils attending the secondary school at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (YGGL) live more than 3 miles from school and nearly all students depend on a bus to attend.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Removing free Nursery transport is likely to significantly reduce pupil numbers in YFOS (and other Welsh-medium primary schools). It is unlikely that pupils will move from an English Nursery setting to Welsh-medium once they have settled and established friend groups.
2. Charging for Nursery transport will have a disproportionate impact on those who choose Welsh-medium education within the County Borough.

3. The transport charge will affect those on low incomes more than most, and will mean that those from disadvantaged backgrounds will not be able to access Welsh-medium education.
4. The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 gives Local Authorities responsibility to provide transport to school with the aim of promoting Welsh-medium education. This proposal will have the opposite affect and has the potential to be detrimental towards Welsh-medium education.
5. The Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) demands that the local authority increases pupil numbers in Welsh-medium education to support the Welsh Governments vision of achieving 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. Proposal five would have an adverse effect on this by placing additional obstacles in the way of parents choosing Welsh-medium education.
6. In an area such as Bridgend County (unlike surrounding authorities) Welsh-medium education is a considered choice due to locations and the limited number of primary schools available e.g. The Vale of Glamorgan which is similar in population, size and demographic has eight Welsh-medium primary schools in comparison to our four.
7. Previous consultations have seen a detrimental effect on pupil numbers at YFOS with parents from the Kenfig Hill area anxious about committing to Welsh-medium education if assurances could not be given to the continuity of their child's education due to free transport being withdrawn.

1. Background

In October 2019 Bridgend County Borough Council launched a public consultation on pupil transport.

Proposal One

Withdrawal of Transport for all learners benefitting from available walking routes to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary age pupils and three miles for secondary age pupils

Proposal Two

Removal of escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than 8 passengers

Proposal Three

Removal from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport

Proposal Four

To stop providing free Transport for learners aged 16 and over, who go to school or college other than those who attend a Welsh-medium sixth-form at a school within Bridgend, or who wish to pursue up a faith-based education in a sixth-form at a voluntary aided school within Bridgend

Proposal Five

To stop providing free Transport for nursery aged pupils (ages 3 & 4)

The Welsh-medium sector acknowledges the exclusion of students attending YGG Llangynwyd post-16 education in this consultation, and we are grateful.

However it appears that the impact and consequences of withdrawing free transport at nursery age for the same sector has not been sufficiently researched. This will have a detrimental impact upon:

- The number of pupils entering Welsh-medium education at nursery
- Low income families
- The local authority's commitment to Welsh Government as laid out in the WESP

The Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 gives local authorities the option, to pay the full or part cost for students whose free transport is not statutory. Part of the LA's responsibility is to provide transport which does not place a long term stress on students, and which places obstacles for them to access the education provided.

Clause 10 of the Measure notes:

> ### Promotion of access to education and training through the medium of Welsh
>
> Each local authority and the Welsh Ministers must promote access to education and training through the medium of the Welsh language when exercising functions under this Measure.

There is no evidence that the Authority has made reference to this clause in drafting proposal five, and they have not accounted for the impact this proposal would have in promoting education and training through the medium of Welsh.

2. Geography

Bridgend County Borough is comparatively compact in comparison to other local authorities in Wales. The distance East –West is approx. 12 miles and from North to South approx. 18 miles.

The majority of the population is concentrated in the south of the County Borough in the Bridgend, Porthcawl and Cornelly areas and yet YFOS is the smallest of the four Welsh-medium primary schools in the County.

3. Survey brief

It was decided to conduct a survey, which would seek to gauge the following from parents:

1. Year group of pupil
2. Home location
3. Distance from school
4. Current mode of transport to school
5. Likelihood to remain in Welsh-medium education if free transport is withdrawn
6. Had your child received free transport in Nursery (ages 3 & 4)
7. Would you have chosen Welsh-medium education had free transport not been available
8. Will your child remain at YGG Llangynwyd for post-16 education if free transport was withdrawn
9. Comments

Point 8 was included by parental request. Despite this not being an issue in the current proposals, parents remain extremely anxious about their children's access to a full learning pathway through the medium of Welsh. It is clear from the comments at the end of this report (section 9) that any withdrawal of post-16 transport would have a catastrophic effect on every Welsh school within the authority.

When responses were received, the questionnaires were processed using Excel software, which enabled responses to be compared according to the whole data collected.

This report notes the main findings of the survey, and includes further comments by parents.

4. Responses

Questionnaires were distributed to parents of children in YFOS and/or YGGL

71 responses were received. With 160 pupils currently on roll at YFOS this response was deemed a fair percentage to be assessed and to be taken as a fair reflection. There is a fair differential between home locations throughout the authority.

It was unfortunate that the consultation period included the Christmas period and some parents may simply have not responded due to other commitments. It is of course possible, that those who responded are more likely to be interested in this matter rather than those who chose not to respond, (and this is common in surveys of this nature). However, the clear pattern of responses demonstrates that there is real interest in this matter and that there are significant issues to be considered.

5. Home location and current travel to school

Respondents live in the following areas:

Bridgend	3%
Cornelly	34%
Kenfig Hill	7%
Margam Village	14%
Porthcawl	24%
Pyle	18%

6. Distance from school

30 pupils (42%) live closer than 2 miles from school. These pupils will not be eligible for free transport. Five of these pupils will lose their free transport if proposal one is adopted. Two have indicated that they are unlikely to remain in YFOS should this happen as they are within walking distance of Mynydd Cynffig primary school.

This pattern of distances from school is very different from other schools within the County Borough, where the vast majority of pupils live within 2 miles of their nearest local English medium primary school.

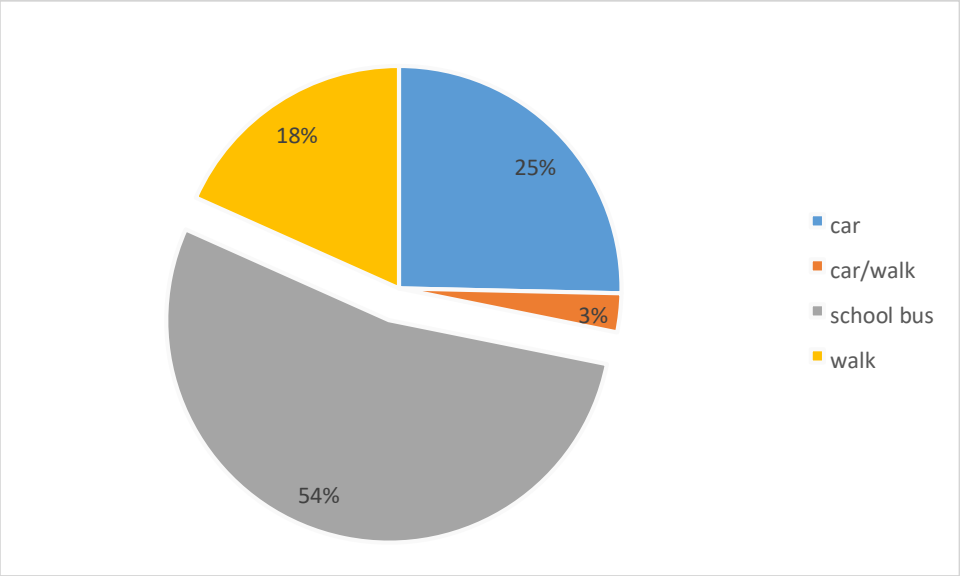
In order to ensure that access to Welsh-medium education is comparable to access to English medium education, provision of transport needs to be easily available.

7. Mode of transport to school

The provision of a free school bus service is essential in supporting parents in choosing Welsh-medium education whilst maintaining employment. Many parents' comments reflect their reliance on family members to assist in the school run.

Due to the distance of the school from the majority of pupils' homes, free school transport is crucial in securing the future of the school. 13% of pupils regularly walk to school, 25% travel by car, 3% a combination of the two. Significantly 54% travel by school bus.

Graph 1 Mode of transport to school

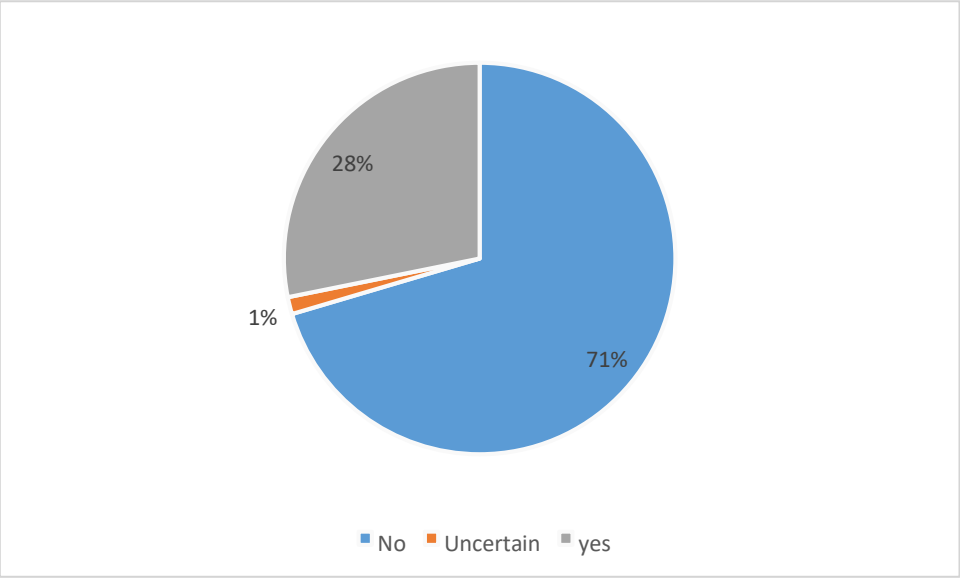


8. Likelihood to choose Welsh-medium education if free transport is withdrawn

Responses were very positive regarding the desire to access Welsh-medium education. This reflects previous surveys such as the "Measuring Demand" survey which highlighted high demand within the Porthcawl, Pyle and Kenfig Hill areas.

However, the likelihood of choosing Welsh-medium education if free transport were not available is very low due to the financial burden this will incur.

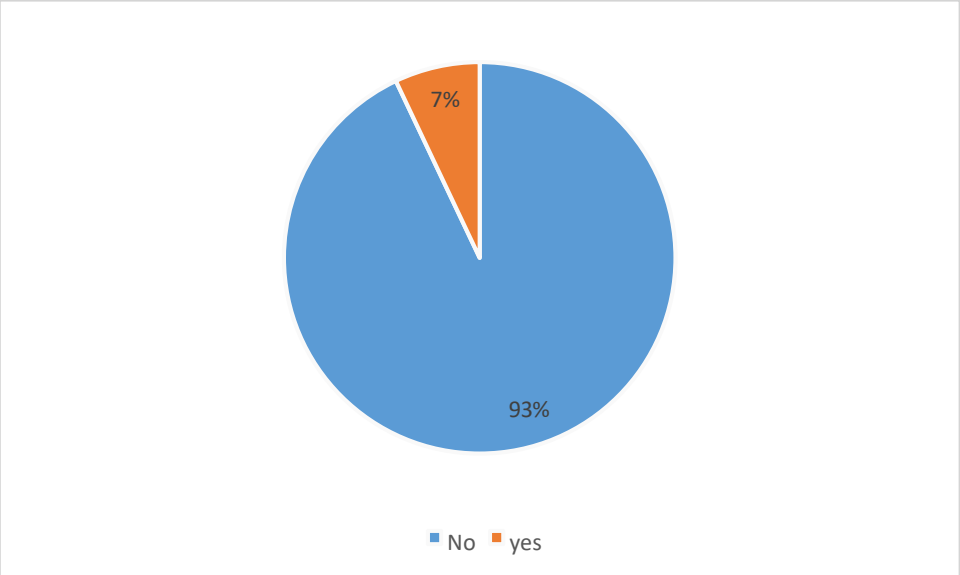
Graph 2 Likelihood to choose Welsh-medium education



Thus if parents do not choose to send their child to a Welsh-medium primary school in the first instance the secondary school at YGG Llangynwyd would no longer be viable.

Parents were therefore asked if their child would continue in Welsh-medium education should post-16 transport be withdrawn.

Graph 3 Post-16 Welsh-medium education



9 Parent Comments

The following are a sample of comments are from parents whose children already attend Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sger and/or Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.

- The withdrawal of nursery transport will have a detrimental effect on people choosing Sger because of where the school is. The same is true for Llangynwyd. I don't understand how government targets can be met (increasing Welsh Language) if choice is taken away from parents. If a child starts nursery in Welsh-medium they are likely to continue but if they start in English medium there is limited chance of them transferring to Welsh-medium. Again with post-16 where the school is makes it difficult/impossible when working to attend without a designated bus.

- Children will no longer be able to attend Welsh comp

- Transportation means a lot to us as we as a family have different time restraints and struggle to meet them now, Cutting post-16 transportation would mean that we would not be able to keep out children in Welsh-medium

- I wasn't me children to have a Welsh education being we are Welsh but if free transport is withdrawn I would be unable to get my children to school. They would then be robbed of learning their national language as Welsh schools are very few and far away.

- If transport is withdrawn, I will be seriously considering moving my child into English medium education. In prep for secondary transition. This will be a really difficult decision as she is thriving. It is a shame transport will decrease her Welsh education and the number of Welsh speakers in Wales, especially with the current drive for more Welsh speakers.

- We do not qualify for free transport currently. It's becoming more difficult to rely on grandparents dropping off & collecting. Will need to reassess Welsh education before juniors as to whether we can continue [*this child qualified for free transport under the old rules]*

- Please do not discriminate against Welsh-medium education, it should be an easy choice to make not limited by cost or distance. Diolch yn fawr.

- Luckily I live close enough atm. Will not be able to afford transport to comp

- School transport is a massive part of my kids getting to school as I work and grandparents don't drive [*4 children all received free transport to Nursery]*

- I think the local authority should continue to make reasonable adjustments to ensure Welsh-medium children can access schools free, this would include free transport to sites

- If I lived further away I would not have put them in Welsh-medium education. If transport wasn't free I would not be able to afford for all my children to attend Welsh-medium education [*3 children all received free transport to Nursery]*

- When choosing Welsh education we are protection the future of our culture and language. If this becomes lost to people then our language will die!
- Children will continue in Welsh education regardless as we have access to cars
- Sadly my children would leave Welsh education
- It would be very difficult for Welsh schools to attract pupils if transport is removed
- Welsh-medium education is important in Wales. I feel if free transport was removed many parents would not send their children, slowly resulting in less and less children attending Welsh education

Sources

Research includes:
Questionnaires to parents at YFOS and/or YGG Llangynwyd.

Published:

Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008, Welsh Government.
Bridgend Welsh Education Strategic Plan

Y Ganolfan Integredig
Boulevard de Saint-Brieuc
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 1PD

YMATEB MUDIAD MEITHRIN I DDOGFEN YMGYNGHORI TREFNIADAU TEITHIO DYSGWYR BWRDEISTREF SIROL PEN Y BONT ar OGWR

Ann Angell, Ll.B, Assoc.CIPD
Rheolwr Talaith De Ddwyrain Cymru
Regional Manager South East Wales
Mudiad Meithrin
☎ 01970 639639

Mae Mudiad Meithrin yn fudiad gwirfoddol ac mae'n cael ei gydnabod fel prif ddarparwr gofal ac addysg blynyddoedd cynnar cyfrwng Cymraeg yn y sector wirfoddol. Ein nod yw rhoi cyfle i bob plentyn ifanc yng Nghymru fanteisio ar wasanaethau a phrofiadau blynyddoedd cynnar trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Mae tua 200 o staff cyflogedig gan y Mudiad yn genedlaethol a thros 1,500 o staff yn gweithio yn y cylchoedd meithrin.

Diolchwn am y cyfle i ymateb i ddogfen ymgynghori Trefniadau Teithio Dysgwyr Pen y Bont ar Ogwr a gyhoeddwyd ar y 14/10/2019.

Byddwn yn manteisio ar y cyfle i roi sylwadau ar newidiadau posib a sut y byddant yn effeithio'n annymunol ar dwf addysg a gofal plant cyfrwng Cymraeg o fewn y Bwrdeistref yn unig.

Deallwn yn iawn fod y Fwrdeistref yn wynebu toriadau i'w gyllideb. Oherwydd ein gwaith gyda siroedd eraill yn nhalaith y De Ddwyrain, gwn hefyd bod Pen y Bont yn defnyddio disgresiwn ar hyn o bryd wrth gynnig cludiant am ddim tu hwnt i'w gofynion statudol mewn amryw amgylchiadau gan gynnwys plant 3-4 oed a dysgwyr ôl 16.

Nodwn sylwadau a chodwn bryderon yn benodol parthed y cynigion isod a hoffwn i'r cabinet ystyried ein sylwadau wrth wneud penderfyniad am drefniadau cludiant wrth edrych i'r dyfodol:

1. Cynnig 1- Rydym yn croesawu'r pwynt bwled sy'n nodi y bydd disgyblion sy'n mynd i'r Ysgol Gymraeg agosaf os yw'r ysgol ddwy filltir neu ragor o'r cartref (cynradd) neu 3 milltir neu ragor o'u cartref (uwchradd) yn derbyn cludiant am ddim p'un a'i hystyrir mai honno yw'r ysgol addas agosaf ai peidio. Yn hanesyddol disgwylir i blant sy'n derbyn addysg Gymraeg deithio llawer ym mhellach ar y cyfryw na phlant sy'n derbyn addysg Saesneg (a hynny, rhan amlaf, o fewn eu cymuned). Mae hyn yn wir am Ben y Bont ar Ogwr. Mae'r cynnig yma yn amddiffyn hawl plant a rhieni i ddewis addysg Gymraeg.

2. Cynnig 3 - Newid polisi'r awdurdod lleol ar gyfer cludiant rhwng y cartref a'r ysgol drwy ddileu'r enghreifftiau penodol sy'n dangos o dan ba amgylchiadau y byddai'r awdurdod lleol yn darparu cludiant yn ôl disgresiwn. Gwelwn y cynnig yma fel cyfle i ddefnyddio disgresiwn er mwyn sicrhau twf a chyfle am dwf yn y sector Gymraeg.

3. Cynnig 4 - Rhoi'r gorau i ddarparu cludiant i ddysgwyr 16 oed neu hyn sy'n mynd i'r ysgol neu goleg, ar wahân i ddisgyblion sy'n mynd i Ysgol neu chweched dosbarth Cymraeg ym Mhen y bont ar Ogwr ….

   Mae'r cynnig yma yn hollol allweddol i dwf addysg Gymraeg o fewn yr awdurdod. Rydym yn ymwybodol am dystiolaeth anecdotaidd gan rieni sy'n nodi eu bod yn gwneud penderfyniadau ar iaith addysg eu plant ar sail y daith addysgol o'r cychwyn cyntaf a thu hwnt i oed 16. Trwy sicrhau cludiant am ddim i blant ôl 16 rydych yn sicrhau cynnig cyfartal i blant a rhieni i ddewis addysg Gymraeg beth bynnag bo'r pellter o Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd a beth bynnag bo'u sefyllfa economaidd. Mae'r Gymraeg yn parhau yn opsiwn realistig a chyflawnadwy i rieni.

4. Cynnig 5 -Rhoi'r gorau i ddarparu cludiant i ddisgyblion meithrin (3 a 4 oed)

Credwn gall y cynnig yma gael effaith drychinebus a bell gyraeddiadol ar dwf Addysg Gymraeg o fewn y sir:

Deallwn yn iawn am bryderon Iechyd a diogelwch ac wrth gwrs, mae rhaid i lesiant plant fod wrth wraidd pob ystyriaeth cludiant. Deallwn fod y plant 3-4 oed yn teithio am fysiau mawr ar hyn o bryd. Wrth ystyried y newidiadau delfrydol y gellir eu gwneud, gofynnwn i'r cabinet ystyried:

- Taw dim ond 4 ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg sy'n bodoli o fewn y sir ac fel canlyniad, disgwylir i blant deithio tu hwnt i'w cymunedau am addysg Gymraeg. Baswn yn dyfalu taw swm gymharol fach rydym yn ei drafod ar gyfer cludiant i ysgolion cynradd Gymraeg?
- Oherwydd natur ddemograffig a daearyddol rhai ardaloedd o fewn yr awdurdod, ni fydd yn bosib i rieni trosglwyddo eu plant am addysg feithrin heb gludiant a hynny'n gludiant am ddim.
- Ni ddylid cosbi rhieni a phlant sy'n dewis addysg Gymraeg oherwydd problemau Iechyd a Diogelwch. Dylid ystyried opsiynau amgen i sicrhau cydraddoldeb mewn cyfleoedd
- Ni ddylid ystyried newidiadau i gludiant ar wahân i ofynion rheoliadol a statudol ar yr awdurdod, yn benodol parthed datblygu a chreu twf mewn addysg Gymraeg . Nid nawr (pan mae'r twf yn ddisymud) dylid rhoi cynigion mewn lle sy'n mynd i ddinistrio cynlluniau'r CSGA .
- rhoi ystyriaeth gref ar sut i symbylu twf a diddordeb mewn gofal ac addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg trwy ddefnyddio'r newidiadau a'r cynigion ar gludiant mewn modd arloesol a chyffrous i ddenu rhieni (mewn cyd weithrediad gyda chynllun marchnata gref) i ystyried gofal ac addysg Gymraeg fel opsiwn deniadol.

Ann Angell
Ionawr 2020

Y Ganolfan Integredig
Boulevard de Saint-Brieuc
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
SY23 1PD

MUDIAD MEITHRIN'S RESPONSE TO THE BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH LEARNER TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Ann Angell, LI.B, Assoc.CIPD
Rheolwr Talaith De Ddwyrain Cymru
Regional Manager South East Wales
Mudiad Meithrin
☎ 01970 639639

Mudiad Meithrin is a voluntary organisation and is recognised as the main provider of Welsh-medium early years care and education in the voluntary sector. Our aim is to give every young child in Wales the opportunity to access early years' services and experiences through the medium of Welsh.

The Movement nationally has approximately 200 paid staff and over 1,500 staff work in the playgroups.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Bridgend Learner Travel Arrangements consultation document which was published on 14/10/2019.

We will take the opportunity to comment on possible changes and how they will have an undesirable effect on the growth of Welsh-medium education and childcare only within the Borough.

We understand very well that the Borough is facing cuts to its budget. Because of our work with other counties in the South East region, I also know that Bridgend is currently exercising its discretion in offering free transport beyond its statutory requirements in various circumstances including for children aged 3-4 years and post-16 learners.

We note comments and raise concerns specifically in relation to the proposals below and would like the cabinet to take our views into account when making a decision concerning transport arrangements as we look to the future:

5. Proposal 1 - We welcome the bullet point that states that pupils who attend the nearest Welsh school, if the school is two miles or further from home (primary) or 3 miles or more from their home (secondary) will receive free transport, whether or not it is considered to be the nearest suitable school. Historically, children who receive Welsh-medium education are expected to travel much further on the whole than children receiving English-medium education (and that, most often, within their community). This is true of Bridgend. This proposal protects the right of children and parents to choose Welsh-medium education.
6. Proposal 3 – Change the local authority's policy for home to school transport by removing the specific examples which show the circumstances in which the local authority would provide discretionary transport. We see this proposal as an opportunity to exercise discretion in order to ensure growth and the opportunity for growth in the Welsh-medium sector.
7. Proposal 4 - Discontinue the provision of transport to learners aged 16 or over who attend school or college, apart from pupils attending a Welsh-medium school or sixth form in Bridgend....

   This proposal is absolutely crucial to the growth of Welsh-medium education within the authority. We are aware of anecdotal evidence from parents that they are making decisions about their children's language of education based on the educational journey from the start and beyond age 16. By ensuring free transport for post-16 children you ensure an equal offer to children and parents to choose Welsh-medium education whatever the distance from Llangynwyd comprehensive school and whatever their economic situation. The Welsh language remains a realistic and achievable option for parents.
8. Proposal 5 – Cease to provide transport for nursery pupils (ages 3 and 4).

We believe that this proposal can have a catastrophic and far-reaching effect on the growth of Welsh Education within the county:

We understand very well the concerns over health and safety and, of course, the well-being of children must be at the heart of all transport considerations. We understand that the 3-4 year old children are currently travelling on large buses. In considering the ideal changes that can be made, we ask the cabinet to consider:

- Only 4 Welsh-medium primary schools exist within the county and, as a result, children are expected to travel beyond their communities for Welsh-medium education. I would guess that the amount we are discussing is relatively small for transport to Welsh-medium primary schools?
- Due to the demographic and geographical nature of some areas within the authority, it will not be possible for parents to convey their children for nursery education without transport and that transport being free of charge.
- Parents and children who choose Welsh-medium education should not be penalised because of Health and Safety problems. Consideration should be given to alternative options to ensure equality of opportunity.
- Changes in transport should not be considered separately from regulatory and statutory requirements on the Authority, in particular regarding the development and growth of Welsh-medium education. Now (when growth is stagnant) is not the time that proposals should be put in place that will destroy the plans of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- Give strong consideration to the way growth and interest in Welsh-medium care and education may be stimulated by using the changes and proposals on transport (in conjunction with a strong marketing plan) in an innovative and exciting manner to attract parents to consider Welsh-medium care and education as an attractive option.

Ann Angell
January 2020

14.4 Letter received from Croesty Primary school council

Cyngor Ysgol Croesty School Council

Ysgol Gynradd Croesty / Croesty Primary School, Coychurch Road, Pencoed CF35 5LY

28/01/2020

Mr Robin Davies
Group Manager
Business Strategy
Bridgend County Borough Council
Bridgend

Learner Travel in Bridgend

Dear Mr Davies

Please find below our thoughts and ideas about the proposals for Learner Travel. We have written something about each of the proposals which we think might be useful to you.

Proposal 1
Five of us felt that this was a fair proposal. Getting children to walk, cycle or scoot is good for us and our environment. Two of us were worried. We can all walk to our school but when we thought about walking or cycling from Coychurch to Pencoed Comprehensive School we know that is quite far if you are going on your own. Would it be safe?

Proposal 2
We did not support this proposal. Children with special needs must always have an escort. Cerys comes to school in a special mini bus for her wheel chair. This year they don't have an escort which is ok because all the children on the bus are nice and well behaved. Last year there was a child on the bus who was badly behaved; who could get distressed and frightened the other children. That pupil had an escort to watch and keep everyone safe.

Proposal 3
We did not understand this proposal very well. We talked about what it would be like to be a looked after child who had lost their Mum and Dad and had to go and live with someone else. They might want to stay in their school where they have friends and teachers who know them. The council should pay to help keep a child like this in their school so they feel safe and feel loved.

Proposal 4
We thought that 16 year olds were able to get to college or school on their own but not everyone will have enough money to pay for the transport they need.

Proposal 5
We think nursery children a too young and small to go on a bus to school on their own. They should always have an adult with them.

Thank you for considering our ideas. We hope we have been helpful.

Yours sincerely

C.C.M J.C.O R.R H.M C.K C.E.S Y.C A.H M.K

Cyngor Ysgol / School Council

www.bridgend.gov.uk

Learner travel consultation

14 October 2019 to 5 January 2020

Emerging themes

Proposal 1

Withdrawal of transport for all learners benefitting from an available walking route to school, in line with statutory distances of two miles for primary school-age pupils and three miles for secondary school-age pupils

Aspect	Issues raised
Time	• Too long to walk, especially in bad weather
Distance	• Too far to walk, especially for younger children • Young people should walk/cycle • Public transport options need to improve
Responsibility	• Parents responsibility, not the councils • BCBC will be in line with other local authorities • The current policy supports families going to work
Safety	• Children will be unsafe • Walking routes should be safe • Limit the traffic outside schools • Roads are unsafe • Walking in cold/wet weather could cause health issues
Faith-based education	• Faith education should be supported • There should not be preferential treatment
Welsh-medium education	• Welsh-medium education should be supported • There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools
Cost	• Public transport is expensive and there will be additional costs for pupils/families • Council should make other internal savings • Some parents would be prepared to contribute towards travel costs
Environment	• There will be a negative impact on the environment
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• Pupils with ALN should be supported
Attendance/attainment	• Attendance/attainment will be negatively impacted

Proposal 2

Remove escorts from all taxis and minibuses of less than eight passengers

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	• Drivers should have DBS checks • Drivers will need training • Safeguarding concerns for children and driver • Will compromise child safety • A driver should focus on driving • As long as children behave themselves • CCTV should be provided in vehicles • We should be able to trust our children, especially those in secondary school • Children need support and supervision • This proposal will encourage poor behaviour • Children could distract the driver • Concern if the driver falls ill/has an accident
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• Pupils with ALN should be supported
Age	• This shouldn't apply to infant age pupils • Primary age pupils shouldn't travel without an escort
Expectation	• Escorts should be on all buses • The driver is not responsible for children • Each pupil should be assessed on a case-by-case basis
Cost	• Such a proposal might increase costs to parents • Council should make other internal savings
Welsh-medium education	• Welsh-medium education should be supported • There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools

Proposal 3

Removal from the local authority's Home-to-School/College Transport Policy of specific examples of the special circumstances where the local authority will provide discretionary transport

Aspect	Issues raised
Safety	• May compromise child safety
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• Pupils with ALN should be supported
Expectation	• Each pupil should be assessed on a case-by-case basis • Should keep all school transport • The service is needed

	• Children have a right to attend school • The service supports families to go to work
Cost	• Such a proposal might increase costs to parents especially in deprived areas • Council should make other internal savings
Welsh-medium education	• Welsh-medium education should be supported • May allow the council to better exercise its discretion to support Welsh-medium education • There will be a negative impact on Welsh-medium schools
Environmental	• Negative environmental impact

Proposal 4

To stop providing free transport for learners age 16 or over, who go to school or college

Aspect	**Issues raised**
Safety	• Walking will be unsafe
Distance	• Too far to walk
Age	• Age discrimination
Ongoing education	• It will discourage young people from attending sixth form • Will limit the opportunities for progression of young people • Young people attending the Bridge provision only have the option of continuing at college
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• Children with ALN should be supported • Vulnerable pupils should be supported
Expectation	• We should encourage young people to attend sixth form • All pupils should have transport • Concern over how else pupils will get to school • Not all post-16 pupils will need the bus • If they are working they can pay for transport
Cost	• It will be costly to pay for transport • There should be free transport for school students but not college students • Students could contribute to the cost of transport • Could offer a reduced pass/season ticket • Educational Maintenance Allowance should be used specifically for transport (EMA) • Should be means tested • Not everyone will be able to afford transport

	• Council should make other internal savings
Welsh-medium education	• Welsh-medium education should be protected • By ensuring free transport for Welsh-medium pupils is retained this will help support decision by parents/carers to choose Welsh-medium education for their children • Welsh-medium education should not be protected • The location of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd (YGGL) makes it difficult/impossible to attend without transport • Children may no longer attend YGGL • School transport helps get children to school
Environmental	• Environmental impact from increased traffic
Faith-based education	• Faith-based education should be protected • Faith-based education should not be protected

Proposal 5

To remove all transport for nursery pupils

Aspect	**Issues raised**
Safety	• It will be unsafe to walk • Will impact on child safety • Nursery pupils are too young to go on a bus on their ow
Distance	• Too far to walk
Family	• This will be difficult for working parents • May have siblings in primary school already • Contradicts free nursery/childcare grant • It is the personal choice of parents to send their children to nursery
Ongoing education	• Nursery education is important • Limits the opportunities for children • Children have a right to education and therefore transport
Additional learning needs (ALN)	• Children with ALN should be supported
Expectation	• If a nursery place is provided then transport is provided • Continue to provide transport for all pupils • Build more schools
Cost	• There will be additional cost to families • Will negatively impact deprived areas • Council should make other internal savings

Environmental	• There will be an environmental impact
Faith-based education	• Faith education should be protected
Welsh-medium education	• This will negatively impact Welsh-medium education • Welsh-medium education should be protected • This decision would be catastrophic to the growth of Welsh-medium education • The geographic location of Welsh-medium schools in the county borough poses an issue and a significant number of pupils live over three miles from home to school. Transport provides equality of opportunity for Welsh-medium pupils • School transport helps get children to school • Very difficult for Welsh-medium schools to attract pupils without transport • Falling numbers of pupils is a real threat to Welsh-medium schools

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Equality Impact full assessment form

When complete, this form must be signed off and retained by the service area. The Full EIA should be recorded as complete on share point (your business manager has access to share point). Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the relevant cabinet report and therefore available publically on the website.

Equality impact full assessment form

Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Learner Travel policy review
Date EIA Screening assessment completed:	TBC
Full assessment date for completion (from EIA screening):	TBC

At this stage you will need to re-visit your initial screening template to inform your consultation and refer to guidance notes on completing a full EIA

Consultation

	Method	**Action Points**
Who do you need to consult with (which equality groups)?	Parents and Carers Learners Stakeholders	Work with schools to arrange suitable dates and times for parent and carer engagement sessions Learner workshops arranged (to correspond with the consultation and engagement team attending schools for post 16 education consultation workshops) Stakeholders identified and sent details of the consultation
How will you ensure your consultation is inclusive?	Full public consultation made available on BCBC website. The consultation used plain English to maximise	The public consultation was made available in online and paper format in both Welsh and English.

	understanding and encourage participation. To encourage engagement the consultation was available online or in paper format on request. Information about the consultation shared via local press as well as BCBC corporate social media channels Engagement workshops for parents and carers held in all secondary schools – invitations also sent to primary schools Workshops arranged outside of working hours to encourage participation for all parents	Made available on the BCBC corporate website and details of the consultation shared on corporate social media channels. Parents and carers contacted via schools to attend workshops
What consultation was carried out? **Consider any consultation activity already carried out, which may not have been specifically about equality but may have information you can use**	As well as the full public consultation, learner workshops, staff and governor engagement sessions and parent and carer engagement sessions, PLASC data has been	

	considered to carry out this full EIA	

Record of consultation with people from equality groups

Group or persons consulted	Date/venue and number of people	Feedback/areas of concern raised	Action Points
Learner workshops: A total of 305 learners took part in the consultation engagement sessions. 263 Learners took part in their comprehensive schools. A further 35 primary pupils took part in engagement session held in the Council Chamber, and 7 pupils from Welsh-medium	Bryntirion Comprehensive School Porthcawl Comprehensive School Maesteg School Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd Brynteg School Cynffig Comprehensive School The Bridge Alternative Provision Welsh-medium primary school pupils took part in an engagement session in	Learner feedback: 76% of learners did not agree with the proposal to increase the walking distance to school to two miles for primary and three miles for secondary schools. 37% of learners agreed with the proposal to remove escorts from taxis or minibuses with less than eight passengers. 44% of learners agreed with the proposal to remove specific examples from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy. 85% of learners did not agree with the proposal to stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over. 63% of learners did not agree with the proposal to remove all transport for nursery pupils.	Consider feedback from learners on all proposals to produce Cabinet report and recommendations

primary schools took part in an engagement session held in Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd.	Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd Primary school pupils from English-medium schools took part in engagement sessions in the Council Chamber		
Parent and Carer Engagement sessions: A total of 97 parents took part in engagement sessions in comprehensive school across the county borough	Parent and carer engagement sessions took place in: Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School Bridgend College Brynteg Comprehensive Bryntirion Comprehensive Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen Cynffig Comprehensive Maesteg High School	Feedback from parents and carers sessions have been themed and are summarised below: • There is no safe route • How are distances measured and routes identified as 'safe'? • May stop pupils going to post-16/ This needs to be considered alongside post-16 consultation • Will the proposals affect Additional Learning Needs (ALN)? • Takes too long/too far/wet • Make cuts elsewhere • There will be an increase in lateness/attendance • This will negatively affect Welsh-medium education • Are you working to ensure that public transport will be available for all pupils? • Additional costs for pupils/families	Consider feedback from parents and carers on all proposals to produce Cabinet report and recommendations

	Pencoed Comprehensive Porthcawl Comprehensive Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd	• Decisions about sending children to Welsh-medium nursery will be affected/ wider impact upon Welsh-medium education • Can we buy a school bus pass/make contributions • Will be an increase in parents driving/traffic at school/environmental impact • School specific route question • Will negatively impact college students/vocational courses • Parents are unaware of discretionary payment availability • Clarity of proposals • Having no escorts is a safeguarding issue • Pupils in deprived areas will suffer more • Whose responsibility is child safety walking to/from school • Why aren't the buses complying with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation • Can decisions be appealed/challenged • Are all local authorities doing this? • There are no escorts on school buses • There have been issues when older siblings have tried to pick up their brothers and sisters from the primary schools as they are not over 18. • Welsh/Faith should not be protected • Can we get together as parents and sort out our own buses and school transport. • Will you increase funding for Welsh-medium schools to provide their own transport • Has the Welsh Language Commissioner been contacted about consultation	

		• New WESP include statutory targets for 3 and 4 year olds – how will cutting nursery transport affect this • Welsh/Faith schools should not be protected Main survey feedback: 57% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to increase the walking distance to school to two miles for primary and three miles for secondary schools. 43% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to remove escorts from taxis or minibuses with less than eight passengers. 43% of survey respondents were unsure about the proposal to remove specific examples from the local authority's Home to School/College Transport Policy, 37% disagreed with this proposal. 71% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to stop providing free transport for learners aged 16 or over. 58% of survey respondents did not agree with the proposal to remove all transport for nursery pupils.	

Assessment of Impact

Based on the data you have analysed, and the results of consultation or research, consider what the potential impact will be upon people with protected characteristics (negative or positive). Include any examples of how the policy helps to promote equality. If you do identify any adverse impact you **must seek legal advice as to whether, based on the evidence provided, an adverse impact**

is or is potentially discriminatory, and identify steps to mitigate any adverse impact – these actions will need to be included in your action plan.

	Impact or potential impact	Actions to mitigate
Gender	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any disproportionate impact based on gender. PLASC data (2020) shows that the school population is made us of 49.34% female and 50.66% male.	NA
Disability	Children and young people who have a disability or additional learning need attending mainstream education would be assessed individually for transport on a discretionary basis. Children attending one of the special schools within the county borough are not considered as part of these proposals, so there is no change to their current provision.	The Discretionary transport policy enables all learners to make an application for discretionary transport
Race	The PLASC data has been reviewed by school cluster and by individual school (primary and secondary) and shows that a total of 7.3% of the current school population is non-white British.	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be a disproportionate impact upon learners based on race or ethnicity. Any learners who require additional support can, under the new proposals apply for discretionary transport and will be considered on an individual basis.
Religion and belief	Learners attending the faith schools (primary and secondary) will maintain home to school transport as the faith	Work with Catholic Archdiocese and schools to ensure promotion of faith based learning, especially at pre-school

	school will be determined as their nearest available school, therefore there may be a positive impact upon faith education. This will include provision of post-16 transport. For nursery provision however parents may not choose to send their child to a faith based school if this provision is removed.	and nursery age.
Sexual Orientation	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any disproportionate impact based on sexual orientation	NA
Age	The proposals will affect all children and young people of school age in the county borough, however there is a potential that the proposals will impact more on those in areas where there is more socio-economic disadvantage. The catchment areas of Cynffig Comprehensive, Maesteg Comprehensive and Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen include areas of socioeconomic disadvantage and are therefore likely to incur additional costs for families who will have to pay for public transport when school transport is no longer available. This will also be the case for young people who live in these areas and want to attend Bridgend College. The removal of the free college bus pass will incur additional costs for	Work with local transport providers and Welsh Government to discuss routes and available funding where relevant

	these young people and the consultation indicates that enrolment numbers and attendance rates for young people attending college from these areas will decrease. Children and young people in these areas, whether attending school or college, will also be reliant on public transport and its availability, timings and capacity. The removal of the 'sibling rule' removes any inequality that has been created by this in the past.	
Pregnancy & Maternity	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any disproportionate impact based on pregnancy and maternity	NA
Transgender	There is no evidence to suggest that children and young people who are transgender or gender neutral will be disproportionately impacted by the proposals	NA
Marriage and Civil partnership	There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any disproportionate impact based on marriage and civil partnership	NA
Welsh language	Learners attending the Welsh Medium Schools (primary and secondary) will maintain home to school transport as the faith school will be determined as their nearest available school, therefore there may be a positive impact upon faith	Work with Mudiad Meithrin, Cylchoedd Meuthrin and schools to ensure promotion of Welsh Medium Education, especially at pre-school and nursery age.

	education. This will include provision of post-16 transport. For nursery provision however parents may not choose to send their child to a faith based school of this provision is removed.	

Equality Impact assessment Action Plan

It is essential that you now complete the action plan. Once your action plan is complete, please ensure that the actions are mainstreamed into the relevant Service Development Plan.

Action	Lead Person	Target for completion	Resources needed	Service Development plan for this action
Monitor admissions to faith schools (primary)	Robin Davies	Three years	Learner Support Team	Education and Family Support Directorate Business Plan
Monitor admissions to Welsh Medium nursery and	Sue Roberts	Three years	Learner Support Team	Education and Family Support Directorate Business Plan
Monitor the number for discretionary applications for home to school transport	Robin Davies	Three years	School Transport Team	Education and Family Support Directorate Business Plan
Develop and continue to monitor schools data (PLASC) for all protected characteristics	Robin Davies	Three years	Learner Support Team	Education and Family Support Directorate Business Plan

Work with Welsh Government and schools to promote opportunities for funding for young people for transport (post-16)	Robin Davies	One year	School Transport Team	Education and Family Support Directorate Business Plan
Work with transport providers in relation to routes to school, particularly for post-16 learners	Robin Davies	One year	School Transport team	Education and Family Support Directorate Business Plan

Please detail the name of the independent person (someone other than the person undertaking the EIA) countersigning this EIA below:

Countersigned:	Role:	Date:
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director (Education and Family Support)	15/07/20

Please outline how and when this EIA will be monitored in future and when a review will take place (max. three years):

Monitoring arrangements:	Date of Review:
This EIA will be monitored on an annual basis in line with the Education and Family Support Directorate's self-evaluation process (ie in January).	January 2021

Details of person completing the Full EIA:

Name:	Role:	Date:
Robin Davies	Group Manager (Business Support)	15/07/20

Publication of a Full EIA and feedback to consultation groups

It is important that the results of this impact assessment are published in a user friendly accessible format.

It is also important that you feedback to your consultation groups with the actions that you are taking to address their concerns and to mitigate against any potential adverse impact.

When complete, this form must be signed off and retained by the service area. The Full EIA should be recorded as complete on share point (your business manager has access to share point). Where a full EIA is needed this should be included as an appendix with the relevant cabinet report and therefore available publically on the website.

If you have queries in relation to the use of this toolkit please contact the Equalities Team on 01656 643664 or equalities@bridgend.gov.uk

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B

MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- apprise Cabinet of the outcome of the education and site evaluation process conducted in respect of the proposed replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School;
- seek approval for the shortlist of education options to be considered at Outline Business Case stage;
- seek Cabinet approval for the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site to be taken forward to the feasibility stage as the preferred site option; and
- seek approval for the proposed 2 form-entry (FE) plus 75-place nursery replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School to be considered through the feasibility study process as the preferred education option.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy -** taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county borough.

- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

2.2 On 3 March 2015, Cabinet approval was received for the Council to adopt revised principles as a framework for school organisation in Bridgend. Five key principles were set out to inform the organisation and modernisation of our schools. These are:

- commitment to high standards and excellence in provision;

- equality of opportunity, so that all pupils can access quality learning opportunities, regardless of which school they attend;
- inclusive schools, which cater for the learning needs of all their pupils;
- community-focused schools, where the school actively engages with its local community; and
- value for money.

2.3 The Policy and Planning Framework sets out 17 areas where these principles should be applied in practice.

2.4 The principles which are particularly relevant in the context of Band B are:

- the size of primary schools (to ensure that "all Bridgend's primary schools are large enough to make the full range of necessary provision"); and
- value for money, efficiency and effectiveness ("narrowing the gap between the most and the least expensive provision currently").

3. Background

3.1 In April 2009, Cabinet approved a number of individual projects that emerged from a feasibility study, which reviewed 3 to 18 learning provision in the Cefn Cribwr, Cornelly, Kenfig Hill and Pyle area. Approval was received to progress a project to cater for a proposed amalgamation of the then Mynydd Cynffig Infant and Junior Schools.

3.2 In December 2010, the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for the 21st Century Schools Programme was submitted to Welsh Government (WG) and a replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School scheme was identified as a Band A project. In 2011, the project was again confirmed as a priority Band A scheme in a further SOP submission to WG.

3.3 A feasibility study was undertaken in 2011 to establish the most suitable site for the primary school. That study considered the establishment of primary provision on Mynydd Cynffig Infant and Junior Schools' sites plus the site of Cynffig Comprehensive School, the outcome of which determined that the preferred site was that of the Junior School.

3.4 Following the establishment of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School in September 2015, a decision was made to undertake further feasibility work to explore the potential of remodelling Cynffig Comprehensive School, in order to accommodate Mynydd Cynffig Primary School at that location.

3.5 The feasibility study showed that Cynffig Comprehensive School site allowed for suitable alternative solutions to the critical issues of sufficient developable area and appropriate site access. It also offered sufficient space to develop a 2-form entry (FE) school plus nursery and remove some secondary surplus places.

3.6 The outcome of the feasibility study was reported to Cabinet in July 2016 and approval was provided to commence the consultation process to relocate the primary school to the secondary school site.

3.7 The outcome of the consultation was reported to Cabinet in January 2017. The community strongly opposed the proposal and Cabinet determined to consider a counter proposal from the objectors (ie to locate the new school on the junior school site).

3.8 In March 2017, the outcome of a review of the 2011 feasibility study and the counter proposal was reported to Cabinet together with concerns regarding revised budget estimates for the new school development at the secondary school site. Cabinet determined to abandon the proposal, as there was insufficient funding available to take forward the scheme at the comprehensive or junior school site.

3.9 In October 2017, Cabinet approved Bridgend's Band B priorities and agreed that further feasibility work would be undertaken for a replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School which, depending on the outcome and available funding, could be delivered as a priority scheme in Band C.

3.10 In November 2019, the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School's infant site suffered a catastrophic failure of its heating system and the repair forced the temporary closure of the school building.

3.11 A subsequent building condition survey reduced the school from its previous condition, that is, "C" to a category "D" (ie 'Bad – life expired and/or at risk of imminent closure, requiring significant immediate/urgent works'). The nature and assortment of the disrepairs highlighted within the survey made isolated repair works to individual fabric elements at the school extremely challenging and economically unfeasible. As a result of the health and safety risk to pupils and staff, it was agreed that the school building would close and alternative teaching accommodation would be provided as a matter urgency.

3.12 Funding was made available through the capital programme to procure temporary accommodation.

3.13 On 30 June 2020, Cabinet approval was received to reprioritise Band B, bringing forward the replacement school scheme for Mynydd Cynffig Primary. Approval was received to submit a revised SOP to WG to reflect this and for officers to commence an options appraisal and feasibility study for the proposed replacement primary school.

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 All Band B schemes are required to follow a rigorous WG business case process in order to ensure that projects meet their objective. A school organisation option cannot be progressed in isolation, and must be considered in conjunction with land availability and suitability.

4.2 The revised SOP has been submitted to WG and the outcome will be confirmed in due course. In order to start progressing the scheme and comply with the WG business case process and the School Organisation Code, it is necessary to consider the potential education and site options, identify a shortlist of education options and confirm the preferred site and education option which will be the basis of the feasibility study.

4.3 Education officers, using their knowledge and expertise, evaluated options in respect of school organisation.

4.4 Sites were identified by the Strategic Asset Management and Infrastructure (SAMI) Team and evaluated by officers from the Education and Communities Directorates, including Planners, Highways, the SAMI and Major Projects Team. Consideration was given to a wide range of categories which were evaluated and scored.

4.5 The following sets out the longlist of education options considered:

Option 1 Do nothing

Option 2 Refurbishment of the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School infant block, the junior building 'as is'. The school remains on two separate sites

Option 3 New-build extension for the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School infant department on the junior site

Option 4 New-build replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School - 2FE plus 75-place nursery provision on the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site

Option 5 New-build 2FE school on Mynydd Cynffig Primary School's infant site

Option 6 Refurbishment of the sixth form block and an early years new build extension for Mynydd Cynffig Primary School on the Cynffig Comprehensive School site

Option 7 Refurbishment of the sixth form block and an early years new build extension to create a 3 to 19 school on the Cynffig Comprehensive School site

4.6 Extensive feasibility work completed previously considered the development potential of the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior and infant sites and Cynffig Comprehensive School site. The project team revisited the information held (still regarded as applicable) and consideration was given to a wide range of categories which were evaluated and scored. The following list of sites was evaluated and is presented in order of highest ranking by officers:

Option 1 Mynydd Cynffig Primary School - junior site

Option 2 Cynffig Comprehensive School site

Option 3 Mynydd Cynffig Primary School – infants site

4.7 While consideration was given to locating the primary provision on the secondary site, site constraints limit what can be achieved at that location. Although the site size is sufficient, the infrastructure, configuration and arrangement of buildings/carpark, plus potential flood risk area (school playing

fields) limits the opportunity to create primary places. Also, developing primary provision at that location would impact on the available space that may be required to meet the future secondary demand for places from within the school's catchment, as the Pyle area has been identified as a proposed residential strategic growth location and is currently being considered by Planners for inclusion within the next Local Development Plan. Despite known land issues at the junior site that would need to be resolved, early indications are that they are not insurmountable and can be worked through.

4.8 Locating the primary school on the infant site was discounted during the option appraisal process as the site size is not large enough to accommodate the whole school.

4.9 It is recommended that following shortlist of education options are taken forward to the next stage in the business case process which will test each option against a series of individual key objectives and critical success factors. As part of the Outline Business Case, which is the next stage in the process, the 'do nothing' option will be explored alongside the other options detailed in the following shortlist. The exploration of the 'do nothing' option at this stage is used to demonstrate the need for investment.

Option 1 Do nothing

Option 2 Refurbishment of the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School infant block, the junior building 'as is'. The school remains on two separate sites (shortlisted – do minimum)

Option 3 New-build extension for the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School infant department on the junior site (shortlisted – do intermediate)

Option 4 New build replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School - 2FE plus 75-place nursery provision on the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site (shortlisted – do maximum)

4.10 The outcome of evaluations indicate that the feasibility study should be progressed on the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site. The study will run concurrently with the Welsh Government business case process. It is anticipated that the 'do maximum' option will require the largest landtake and therefore it is this option, a new build replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School - 2FE plus 75-place nursery which should be taken through the feasibility stage as the preferred option.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An initial screening has been undertaken for Mynydd Cynffig Primary School, the outcome of which indicates that a full Equality Impact Assessment will be required prior to any formal decision in terms of a specific proposal.

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

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long term	• Fulfils the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient pupil places. • Allows teaching and learning to take place on one site, assisting with sharing expert knowledge and resources. • Supports the day-to-day management and operation of the school. • Helps parents with drop-off and pick-up arrangements, as all pupils will attend one site.
Prevention	• Safeguards the Council's position in terms of any potential legal challenge regarding the supply of school places.
Integration	• Ensures that the curriculum can be delivered from a purpose built facility that meets social, environmental and cultural objectives.
Collaboration	• Works effectively with schools and many internal and external partners to ensure that the building meets the short-term and future needs of users and the community that it will serve.
Involvement	• Engagement of potential stakeholders including Cabinet, members, governors, staff, pupils, community, internal and external partners.

8. Financial implications

8.1 In December 2018, Council approved a programme envelope of £71.3m covering Band B new school builds of £68.2m, along with funding for potential highways works, which is currently budgeted at £3.4m across all Band B schemes (the cost of highway works will have to be met in full by the local authority, as there is no match funding from WG).

8.2 A detailed feasibility study will determine whether the £10.2m capital funding allocation in respect of this scheme is sufficient, as there is the potential for site abnormals which may impact on the funding requirement. Also, WG will only fund part-time nursery provision for rising 4s and therefore additional places required to create full-time provision for the rising 4s, plus any part-time places for rising 3s, will have to be funded through the capital programme. The financial implications for this scheme, including nursery provision and any required highway investment will be confirmed in a future report, following the completion of the feasibility study.

9. Recommendations.

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the outcome of the education and site evaluation process conducted in respect of the proposed replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School;
- approve the shortlist of education options to be considered at Outline Business Case stage, as set out in 4.8 of this report;
- approve the Mynydd Cynffig Primary School junior site be taken forward to the feasibility stage as the preferred site option; and
- approve that the proposed replacement Mynydd Cynffig Primary School be considered through the feasibility study process as the preferred education option ie a 2 form-entry (FE) plus 75-place nursery provision.

Lindsay Iorwerth Harvey

Corporate Director - Education and Family Support
September 2020

Contact officer: Nicola Echanis
Head of Education and Early Help

Telephone: (01656) 642611

E-mail: nicola.echanis@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents

Cabinet Report (28 April 2009): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: PHASE 2 3-18 PROVISION IN THE AREA OF CEFN CRIBWR, CORNELLY, KENFIG HILL AND PYLE"

Cabinet Report (2 November 2010) "THE SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND BRIDGEND'S 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC OUTLINE PROGRAMME SUBMISSION TO WELSH GOVERNMENT"

Cabinet Report (28 June 2011): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: SITE RECOMMENDATION FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MYNYDD CYNFFIG"

Cabinet Report (9 December 2014): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION: PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE MYNYDD CYNFFIG INFANTS SCHOOL AND EXTEND THE AGE RANGE OF MYNYDD CYNFFIG JUNIOR SCHOOL TO CREATE AN ALL THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL"

Cabinet Report (16 June 2015): "SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF PUBLIC NOTICE ON THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE MYNYDD CYNFFIG INFANTS SCHOOL AS AT 31ST AUGUST 2015 AND EXTEND THE AGE

RANGE OF MYNYDD CYNFFIG JUNIOR SCHOOL FROM A 7-11 TO A 3-11 SCHOOL TO CREATE AN ALL THROUGH PRIMARY WITH EFFECT FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2015

Cabinet Report (5 July 2016): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL – OUTCOME OF FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PROPOSAL TO CONSULT ON THE RELOCATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF THE SCHOOL”

Report to Council (6 July 2016): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL AND REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME”

Report to Cabinet (10 January 2017): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME: OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS TO MAKE A REGULATED ALTERATION TO MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL”

Cabinet Report (3 October 2017): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B (2019-2024)”

Cabinet Report (19 December 2018): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Council Report (20 December 2018): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Cabinet Report (19 March 2019): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Council Report (20 March 2019): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Cabinet Report (21 January 2020): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B”

Cabinet Report (30 June 2020): “SCHOOL MODERNISATION PROGRAMME – BAND B - MYNYDD CYNFFIG PRIMARY SCHOOL”

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for the appointment of local authority governors to the school governing bodies listed at paragraph 4.1.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

Supporting a successful sustainable economy – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

3. Background

3.1 In accordance with the Council's '*Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors'* approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2008, officers have considered applications received for current and forthcoming vacancies for local authority governor positions on school governing bodies (see paragraph 4.1 and Appendix A).

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 For the six schools in the table below, all eight applicants met the approved criteria for appointment as local authority governors and there was no competition for any of the vacancies. Therefore, the recommended appointments are:

Name	School
Ms Bethan Hopkins	Bryntirion Infants School
Mr Jeff Lewis	Bryntirion Infants School
Cllr Dhanisha Patel	Ogmore Vale Primary School
Mrs Neelo Farr	Porthcawl Primary School
Mr Matthew Bater	Pen y Fai Church in Wales Primary School
Mr Kevin Pascoe	Pen y Fai Church in Wales Primary School
Mrs Katie Joanne Humphrey	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd
Mrs Anwen Worsfold	Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sgêr

4.2 Subject to the above appointments being approved, there are still 25 vacancies that need to be filled in 20 schools (see Appendix A).

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An assessment of the appointment of local authority governors identifies that there are no equality issues related to this report.

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

7.1 A Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Long-term

While it is desirable for local authority governors to have previous or relevant experience of the role, in the short-term, the local authority may support any person for such an appointment who is interested in supporting schools, is not disqualified from being a school governor and is willing and able to dedicate the necessary time to the role.

Prevention

The local authority assesses the suitability of applicants for the local authority governor vacancy/vacancies applied for. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, supports governors with a comprehensive programme of both mandatory and voluntary training and access to resources, to enable them to develop and maintain their knowledge and skills, and be successful in fulfilling the role.

Integration

School governing bodies have a strategic role in running schools and ensuring that all pupils are supported to learn and achieve so that they can access opportunities for further learning and employment, know how to maintain their wellbeing, can play active roles in their communities and can contribute positively to society as a whole.

Collaboration

School governing bodies have a strategic role in ensuring that schools safeguard the health and well-being of pupils and staff. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

Involvement

The local authority treats all applications for local authority governor vacancies fairly, to ensure equality of opportunity. School governing bodies have a strategic role in ensuring that schools safeguard the health and well-being of pupils and staff. The local authority, in conjunction with the Central South Consortium, provides training to governors to enable them to develop and maintain their relevant knowledge, skills and effectiveness in this respect.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the recommended appointments listed at paragraph 4.1.

Mr Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director - Education and Family Support

8 September 2020

Contact officer: Mandy Jones
Learner Support Officer

Telephone: (01656) 642629

Email: Amanda.Jones@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Education and Family Support Directorate
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend

CF31 4WB

Background documents:

- Bridgend County Borough Council's 'Guidance on the appointment of local education authority governors', approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2008
- The Government of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2005

Appendix A

Local authority governor vacancies: current and forthcoming (up to the end of May 2020)

Name of school	Number of current and forthcoming vacancies
Abercerdin Primary School	2
Bryncethin Primary School	1
Cefn Cribwr Primary School	1
Croesty Primary School	1
Cwmfelin Primary School	1
Ffaldau Primary School	1
Litchard Primary School	1
Llangewydd Junior School	1
Llangynwyd Primary School	3
Nantymoel Primary School	1
Ogmore Vale Primary School	1
Oldcastle Primary School	1 (ending May 2020)
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	1
St Robert's Roman Catholic Primary School	2
Tondu Primary School	2
Trelales Primary School	1 (ending May 2020)
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd	1
Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School	1
Brynteg School	1
Bryntirion Comprehensive School	1
TOTAL VACANCIES	**25**

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER LEGAL, HR & REGULATORY SERVICES

CABINET, CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING AND CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

a. seek approval for the schedule of meetings of Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Committee Equalities for the period October 2020 - April 2021.

b. propose Children's and Equalities Champions who will chair the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Committee Equalities.

c. confirm the process for the nomination of Champions from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

d. seek approval of the invitees to attend meetings of the Cabinet Committee Equalities as nominated by each of the political groups represented on Council.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

1. **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focussed on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.

2. **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient -** taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3. Background.

3.1 The proposed dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and Cabinet Committee Equalities and Joint Committee meetings will be reported for noting in the proposed schedule of meetings to be reported to the Annual Meeting of Council on 30 September 2020. This prevents meetings dates of Cabinet, Council or their Committees conflicting with each other.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 Cabinet

4.1.1 Meetings of Cabinet proposed below, are planned to continue on a four weekly cycle with meetings commencing at 2.30pm.

4.1.2 The proposed schedule of Cabinet meetings for the period October 2020 – April 2021 is as follows:

2020	2021
20 October 17 November 15 December	19 January 9 February 23 February (Budget) 9 March 6 April

4.2 Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting

4.2.1 The proposed Schedule of meeting dates for the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting is detailed below:

Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting
26 November 2020 4 February 2021 8 April 2021

4.2.2 It is proposed that the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help be appointed as the Lead Member for Children and Young People and Children and Young People Champion. It is therefore appropriate that the portfolio holder be appointed as the Chairperson for the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

4.2.3 Cabinet at its meeting on 5 September 2017 established the principle of appointing one invitee from each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as Corporate Parenting Champions together with the Chairperson of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2, which takes the lead on social services items as invitees to attend meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting. It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members appointed in 2019-20 continue as invitees to attend meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting. Cabinet at its meeting on 5 September 2017 also approved the appointment of the Group Leaders of the Independent Alliance, Conservative, Plaid Cymru and Llynfi Independents Groups or their nominated substitute to represent their political groups at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

4.3 Cabinet Committee Equalities

4.3.1 The proposed schedule of meeting dates for the Cabinet Committee Equalities is detailed below:-

Cabinet Committee Equalities
7 October 2020 2 November 2020 8 March 2021

4.3.2 The Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations (the portfolio then known as the Cabinet Member Childrens Social Services and Equalities) was appointed by Cabinet at the meeting on 10 May 2016 as Lead Member for Equalities. It is appropriate that the portfolio holder continues to be the Equalities Champion and be appointed as the Chairperson for the Cabinet Committee Equalities.

4.3.3 Following discussion with the Group Leaders, the following nominations have been received to sit as invitees on the Cabinet Committee Equalities on the basis of 4 Labour Group Members, 2 Conservative Group Members, 2 Independent Alliance Group Members and 1 each from the Llynfi Independents and Plaid Cymru Groups:

Cabinet Committee Equalities - 10 Invited Members

	Political Group	**Councillors**
1	Labour	Councillor SE Baldwin
2	Labour	Councillor JE Lewis
3	Labour	Councillor J Gebbie
4	Labour	Councillor G Howells
5	Conservative	Councillor K Rowlands
6	Conservative	Councillor S Vidal
7	Independent Alliance	Councillor S Dendy
8	Independent Alliance	Councillor E Venables

9	Llynfi Independents	Councillor T Beedle
10	Plaid Cymru	Councillor JC Radcliffe

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 There will be no direct effect on the Policy Framework & Procedure Rules but, if approved, the report will provide a sound structure for Executive decision-making, improve corporate planning within the Authority and provide greater accessibility and understanding for the residents of the County Borough.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no negative equality implications arising from this report.

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

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendations.

9.1 That Cabinet approves the schedule of meeting dates for Cabinet, Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and the Cabinet Committee Equalities meetings for the period October 2020 - April 2021 as outlined in Paragraphs 4.1.2, 4.2.1 and 4.3.1 of the report.

9.2 That the Cabinet Member for Social Services and Early Help be appointed as Lead Member for Children and Young People, Children and Young People Champion and Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting.

9.3 That the process for determining the invitees for the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting as outlined in paragraph 4.2.3 be approved.

9.4 That the Cabinet Member Wellbeing and Future Generations be appointed as the Equalities Champion and as Chairperson of the Cabinet Committee Equalities.

9.5 That Cabinet approve nominations of the invitees to the Cabinet Committee Equalities on the basis of 4 Labour Group Members, 2 Conservative Group Members, 2 Independent Alliance Group Members and 1 each from the Llynfi Independents and Plaid Cymru Groups as outlined in 4.3.3.

K Watson
Chief Officer Legal, HR & Regulatory Services

1 September 2020

Contact Officer: **Andrew Rees**
Democratic Services Manager

Telephone: (01656) 643147

Email: **cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk**

Postal address: Democratic Services - Committees
Legal & Regulatory Services
Level 4 Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER LEGAL, HR AND REGULATORY SERVICES

INFORMATION REPORT FOR NOTING

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the Information Report for noting which has been published since its last scheduled meeting.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

- Smarter use of resources – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

3.1 At a previous meeting of Cabinet, it was resolved to approve a revised procedure for the presentation to Cabinet of Information Reports for noting.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Information Report

The following information report has been published since the last meeting of Cabinet:-

Title	Date Published
Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019-20	9 September 2020

4.2 Availability of Documents

This document has been circulated to Elected Members electronically via Email and placed on the BCBC website. It is also available from the date of publication.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

5.1 This procedure has been adopted within the procedure rules of the Constitution.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no negative equality implications arising from this report.

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

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial Implications.

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation.

9.1 That Cabinet acknowledges the publication of the document listed in this report.

K Watson
Chief Officer Legal, HR and Regulatory Services & Monitoring Officer
7 September 2020

Contact Officer: **Andrew Rees**
Democratic Services Manager
Telephone: **(01656) 643148**
Email: **cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk**

Postal address: **Democratic Services**
Legal and Regulatory Services
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Background documents: None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

INFORMATION REPORT TO CABINET

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF OFFICER – FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE

ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2019-20

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- Comply with the requirement of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) and Accountancy 'Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice' (the Code) to report an overview of treasury activities for the preceding financial year;
- Report on the actual Treasury Management indicators for 2019-20.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-

1. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

2.2 The Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report is integral to the delivery of the Corporate Improvement Objectives as the allocation of resources determines the extent to which the Corporate Objectives can be delivered.

3. Background

3.1 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2017 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to approve a Treasury Management Strategy (TMS) before the start of each financial year and, as a minimum, a semi-annual and annual treasury outturn report. Council approved the TMS 2019-20 on 20 February 2019 and received a half-year position report on 24 October 2019. The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003, as amended, requires the Council to undertake any borrowing activity with regard to the CIPFA Code. This report fulfils this requirement.

3.2 The Welsh Government (WG) issues Guidance on Local Authority Investments, which was most recently revised in November 2019, which requires the Council to approve an Investment Strategy prior to the start of each financial year and this is included in the TMS.

3.3 The Council's treasury management advisors are Arlingclose. The current services provided to the Council include:

- advice and guidance on relevant policies, strategies and reports
- advice on investment decisions
- notification of credit ratings and changes
- other information on credit quality
- advice on debt management decisions
- accounting advice
- reports on treasury performance
- forecasts of interest rates
- training courses

Following a recent tender process, the contract for Arlingclose has been renewed for a period of 4 years, until August 2024.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1 Economic Context

4.1.1 The UK's exit from the European Union and future trading arrangements remained one of the major influences on the UK economy during 2019-20. The original Brexit deadline of 29 March 2019 was extended to 12 April 2019, then to 31 October 2019 and finally to 31 January 2020. Politics played a major role in financial markets over the period as the UK's tenuous progress negotiating its exit from the European Union, together with its future trading arrangements, drove volatility, particularly in foreign exchange markets. The outcome of the December 2019 UK General Election removed a lot of the uncertainty and looked set to provide a 'bounce' to confidence and activity.

4.1.2 The headline rate of UK Consumer Price Inflation fell to 1.7% in February 2020, below the Bank of England's target of 2%. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in quarter 4 2019 was reported as flat by the Office for National Statistics and service sector growth slowed and production and construction activity contracted on the back of what at the time were concerns over the impact of global trade tensions on economic activity. The annual rate of GDP growth remained belowtrend at 1.1%.

4.1.3 The Bank of England, which had held policy rates steady at 0.75% through most of 2019-20, moved in March 2020 to cut rates from 0.75% to 0.25% and then swiftly thereafter brought them down further to the record low of 0.1%.

4.1.4 Towards the end of the financial year, the Covid-19 pandemic swiftly changed everything. COVID-19, which had first appeared in China in December 2019, started spreading across the globe causing falls in financial markets. In response to the spread of the virus and sharp increases in those infected, the government enforced lockdowns, central banks and governments around the world cut interest rates and introduced massive stimulus packages in an attempt to reduce some of the negative

economic impact to domestic and global growth. In conjunction with these cuts, the UK government introduced a number of measures to help businesses and households impacted by a series of ever-tightening social restrictions, culminating in pretty much the entire lockdown of the UK.

4.2 Treasury Management Outturn 2019-20

4.2.1 The Council has complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements during 2019-20. The TMS 2019-20 and the Half Year Report were reported to Council on 20 February 2019 and 23 October 2019 respectively. In addition, quarterly monitoring reports were presented to Cabinet during 2019-20.

4.2.2 A summary of the treasury management activities for 2019-20 is shown in **Appendix A**. The Council's external debt and investment position for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 is shown in Table 1 below and more detail is provided in **Appendix A** section 2, Borrowing Strategy and Outturn, and section 3, Investment Strategy and Outturn. No long term borrowing was taken out in 2019-20 and no debt rescheduling was undertaken as there were no significant savings to be made, however, the loan portfolio will be reviewed during 2020-21. Favourable cash flows have provided surplus funds for investment and the balance on investments at 31 March 2020 was £30 million, with an average interest rate of 0.82%. This was an increase in investments outstanding from the start of the financial year where investments were £27.4 million (average interest rate 0.94%). Table 2 in Appendix A details the movement of the investments by counterparty types and shows the average balances, interest received, original duration and interest rates for 2019-20.

Table 1: External debt and investment position 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

	Principal 01/04/2019 £m	Average Rate 01/04/2019 %	Principal 31/03/2020 £m	Average Rate 31/03/2020 %
External Long Term Borrowing:				
Public Works Loan Board	77.62	4.70	77.62	4.70
Lender's Option Borrower's Option	19.25	4.65	19.25	4.65
Total External Borrowing	**96.87**	**4.69**	**96.87**	**4.69**
Other Long Term Liabilities (LTL):				
Private Finance Initiative (PFI)*	17.00		16.31	
Other LTL	0.88		1.12	
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**17.88**		**17.43**	
Total Gross External Debt	**114.75**		**114.30**	
Treasury Investments:				
Banks	5.40	0.86	5.00	0.67
Building Societies	1.00	0.90	2.00	0.78
Local Authorities	21.00	0.96	21.00	0.94
DMO	-	-	2.00	0.06
Total Treasury Investments	**27.40**	**0.94**	**30.00**	**0.82**
Net Debt	**87.35**		**84.30**	

* (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 13 years remaining ter

4.2.3 The £19.25 million in Table 1 above relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054, however these may be rescheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may vary in the future depending upon the prevailing rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points (these being July and January) and, therefore, the Council being given the option to accept the increase or repay the loan without incurring a penalty. The next trigger point is January 2021 although it is anticipated that the lender is unlikely to exercise this option in the current low interest rate environment.

4.2.4 The other long term liabilities figure of £17.43 million at 31 March 2020 includes £16.31 million for the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg.

4.2.5 Both the CIPFA Code and WG Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return. Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard and Poor's to ensure that this lies within the Council's agreed minimum credit rating.

4.2.6 The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- (A3 for Moody's) or higher and the Council does not invest in any organisation below this level. **Appendix B** shows the equivalence table for credit ratings for Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's and explains the different investment grades.

4.2.7 There were two long-term investments (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding as at 31 March 2020 totalling £4 million with Local Authorities included in the £30 million in Table 1, which will mature during 2020-21. All other investments at 31 March 2020 were short term deposits including instant access and notice accounts.

4.2.8 The TM Code requires the Council to set and report on a number of Treasury Management Indicators. The indicators either summarise the expected activity or introduce limits upon the activity. Details of the estimates for 2019-20 set out in the Council's TMS, compared to the actual at year end, are shown in section 4 in Appendix A and these show that the Council is operating in line with the approved limits.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 As required by Financial Procedure Rule 20.3 within the Council's Constitution, all investments and borrowing transactions have been undertaken in accordance with the TMS 2019-20 as approved by Council with due regard to the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

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

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. As the report is for information it is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of wellbeing goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

8.1 These are reflected in the body of the report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Note the annual treasury management activities for 2019-20.
- Note the actual Treasury Management indicators for 2019-20 against the ones approved in the Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20.

Gill Lewis CPFA
Interim Chief Officer – Finance, Performance and Change
September 2020

Contact officer: Nigel Smith
Interim Group Manager – Chief Accountant

Telephone: 01656 643605

Email: nigel.smith@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal address: Raven's Court
Brewery Lane
Bridgend CBC
CF31 4AP

Background documents: None

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APPENDIX A

SUMMARY OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES 2019-20

1. External Debt and Investment Position

The Council's external debt and investment position for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 is shown below in Table 1; more detail is provided in section 2, Borrowing Strategy and Outturn, and section 3, Investment Strategy and Outturn:

Table 1: External debt and investment position 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

	Principal 01/04/2019 £m	Average Rate 01/04/2019 %	Principal 31/03/2020 £m	Average Rate 31/03/2020 %
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Total Other Long Term Liabilities	**17.88**		**17.43**	
Total Gross External Debt	**114.75**		**114.30**	
Treasury Investments:				
Banks	5.40	0.86	5.00	0.67
Building Societies	1.00	0.90	2.00	0.78
Local Authorities	21.00	0.96	21.00	0.94
DMO	-	-	2.00	0.06
Total Treasury Investments	**27.40**	**0.94**	**30.00**	**0.82**
Net Debt	**87.35**		**84.30**	

* (PFI) arrangement for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg 13 years remaining term

Although not classed as treasury management activities and therefore not covered by the CIPFA Code or the WG Guidance, the Council may also purchase property for investment purposes and may also make loans and investments for service purposes, for example in shared ownership housing, or as equity investments and loans to the Council's subsidiaries. Such loans and investments will be subject to the Council's normal approval processes for revenue and capital expenditure and need not comply with the TMS. The Council's existing non-treasury investments relate to investment properties and the balance as at 31 March 2020 was £4.63 million.

It should be noted that the accounting practice to be followed by the Council requires financial instruments in the accounts (debt and investments) to be measured in a method compliant with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The figures shown in the above table and throughout the report are based on the actual amounts borrowed and invested and so may differ from those in the Statement of Accounts which include accrued interest or other different accounting adjustments.

The other long term liabilities figure of £17.43 million as at 31 March 2020 includes £16.31 million for the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) arrangement (for the provision of a Secondary School in Maesteg – thirteen years remaining term) which includes the short term PFI liability of £0.743 million which is included as current liabilities in the Council's balance sheet in the Statement of Accounts.

2. Borrowing Strategy and Outturn for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

The Council's primary objective for the management of its debt is to ensure its long term affordability. The majority of its loans have therefore been borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at long term fixed rates of interest.

The last time the Council took out long term borrowing was £5 million from the PWLB in March 2012. With short-term interest rates remaining much lower than long-term rates, the Authority considered it more cost effective in the near term to use internal resources or would, if necessary, take out temporary short term loans. The capital programme is anticipating £5m new borrowing for 2020-21 but we will monitor this closely as the year progresses. It is interesting to note, however, that in the middle of October 2019 the UK government raised the cost of borrowing from the PWLB by 1% with immediate effect. Whilst this Council has not needed to borrow for a number of years, with the reduction in capital receipts availability going forward, this may be the only option, so it is worth noting the potential increased revenue costs associated with this.

The £19.25 million in Table 1 relates to Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which have a maturity date of 2054, however these may be re-scheduled in advance of this maturity date. The LOBO rate and term may vary in the future depending upon the prevailing market rates, the lender exercising their option to increase rates at one of the bi-annual trigger points (the trigger dates being July and January) and therefore, the Council being given the option to accept the increase or to repay the loan without incurring a penalty. The lender did not exercise their option on 22 January 2020 nor 22 July 2020, the next trigger point is 22 January 2021. The lender is unlikely to exercise their option in the current low interest rate environment, however, an element of refinancing risk remains. The Council would take the option to repay these loans at no cost if it has the opportunity to do so in the future. The current average interest rate for these LOBO's is 4.65% compared to the PWLB Loans average interest rate of 4.70%.

The Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement), has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves,

balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This is known as Internal Borrowing. This strategy is prudent as investment returns are low and counterparty risk is relatively high in the current economic climate.

3. Investment Strategy and Outturn 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020

Both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, balancing the risk of incurring losses from defaults against receiving unsuitably low investment income.

The major objectives during 2019-20 were:

- To maintain capital **security**
- To maintain **liquidity** so funds are available when expenditure is needed
- To achieve the **yield** on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity

The Annual Investment Strategy incorporated in the Council's TMS 2019-20 includes the credit ratings defined for each category of investments and the liquidity of investments. The Council's investments have historically been placed in mainly short term bank and building society unsecured deposits and local and central government. However, investments may be made with any public or private sector organisations that meet the minimum credit criteria and investment limits specified in the Investment Strategy. The majority of the Council's surplus cash is currently invested in other local authorities but the Council will continue to look at investment options in line with the limits detailed in the Investment Strategy.

Investment decisions are made by reference to the lowest published long-term credit rating from Fitch, Moody's or Standard & Poor's to ensure that this lies within our agreed minimum credit rating. **Appendix B** shows the equivalence table for these published ratings and explains the different investment grades. Where available the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. In the current climate, relying mainly on credit ratings is considered to be inappropriate and the Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard is therefore given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including financial statements, information on potential government support and reports in the quality financial press. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may meet the credit rating criteria.

On a day to day basis, the Council potentially has positive cash balances arising from its cash flows e.g. timing differences between grants being received and making various payments. These are invested on the market via brokers, direct with the institution or held in deposit accounts or a money market fund with instant access. The Council usually invests for a range of periods dependent on

cash flow requirements and the interest rates on offer having regard to the Investment Strategy.

The Council's primary objective for the management of its investment portfolio is to give priority to the security and liquidity of its funds before seeking the best rate of return. As shown in the tables below, the majority of investments have been held as short term investments with UK Local Authorities and banks of high credit quality. This has therefore resulted in more of the investment portfolio being moved into investment instruments with lower rates of return but higher security and liquidity.

Occasionally, investments are placed with the UK Debt Management Office (DMO - Executive Agency of UK Government) but only for very short term deposits and after all other options have been explored. The interest rates offered by this facility are lower than most other counterparties but this is commensurate with the high level of security and reduced risk offered. It provides another option when examining potential investments and ensures compliance with the Council's investment objective that security takes priority over yield. The value of deposits outstanding with the DMO as at the 31 March 2020 was £2 million.

Favourable cash flows have provided positive cash balances for investment and the balance on investments at 31 March 2020 was £30 million as shown in Table 2 below which details these investments by counterparty type.

Table 2: Investments Profile 1 April to 31 March 2020

Investment Counterparty Category	Balance 01 April 2019 (A) £m	Investments raised (B) £m	Investments Repaid (C) £m	Balance 31 Mar 2020 (A+B-C) £m	Investment income received** Apr-Mar 2020 £'m	Average original duration of the Investment Days	Weighted average investment balance Apr-Mar 2020 £m	Weighted average interest rate Apr-Mar 2020 %
Government DMO	-	46.70	44.70	2.00	0.017	5	1.40	0.50
Local Authorities	21.00	34.50	34.50	21.00	0.182	257	20.40	0.92
Banks (Fixed Maturity)	4.00	6.00	8.00	2.00	0.038	201	3.40	1.00
Building Societies	1.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	0.002	138	3.40	0.89
Banks Instant Access/Notice Period Account*	1.40	39.87	38.27	3.00	0.018	n/a	15.10	0.83
Money Market Fund (Instant Access)*	-	75.15	75.15	-	0.105	n/a	5.60	0.72
Total/Average	**27.40**	**206.22**	**203.62**	**30.00**	**0.363**	**150**	**49.30**	**0.84**

* An average duration is not shown as there is no original duration as instant access or notice period and money is added and withdrawn to/from these accounts as required by cash-flow

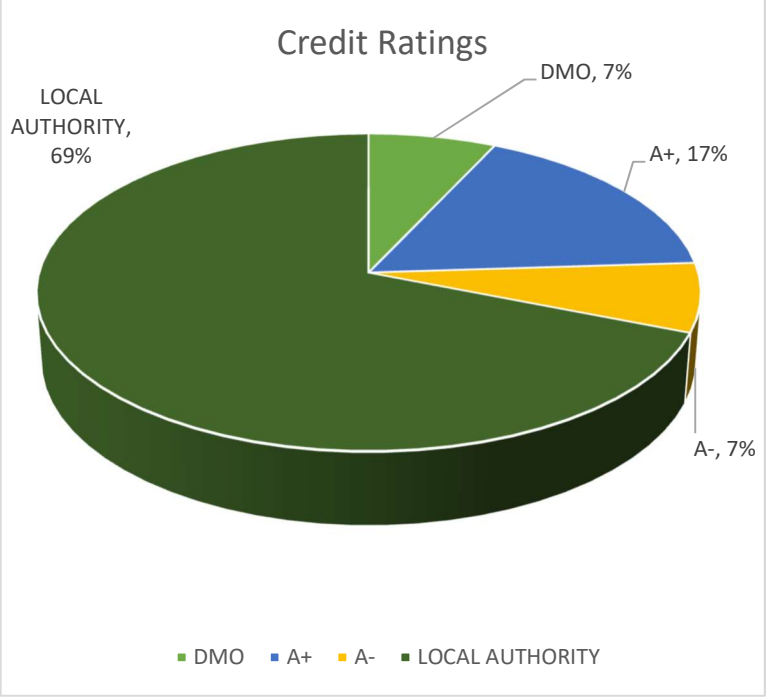
** Received in the Council's bank account not interest earned

There were two long term investments (original duration of 12 months or more) outstanding at 31 March 2020 totalling £4 million with Local Authorities included in Table 3 below, which will mature during 2020-21. All other investments at 31 March 2020 were short term deposits (including instant access and notice accounts). Table 3 below details these investments by counterparty type based on the remaining maturity period as at 31 March 2020:

Table 3: Investments Outstanding Maturity Profile 31 March 2020

Counterparty Category	Instant Access £m	Deposits Maturing Within 1 Month £m	Deposits Maturing Within 2-3 Months £m	Deposits Maturing Within 4-12 Months £m	Total £m
Local Authorities		3.00	4.00	14.00	21.00
DMO		2.00			2.00
Banks	3.00	2.00			5.00
Building Societies				2.00	2.00
Total	**3.00**	**7.00**	**4.00**	**16.00**	**30.00**

The Council defines high credit quality as organisations and securities having a credit rating of A- or higher. The pie chart summarises the above table by credit ratings and shows the £30.00 million investments at 31 March 2020 by percentage outstanding. Most Local Authorities do not have credit ratings.



4. Treasury Management Indicators 2019-20

The following indicators (which are forward looking parameters) form part of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. They enable the Council to measure and manage its exposure to Treasury Management risks.

The Council is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Council depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. Short term and variable rate loans expose the Council to the risk of short term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the Treasury Management indicator in Table 4 below to manage Interest Rate Exposures.

Table 4: Interest rate risk indicator 31 March 2020

No.	Interest rate risk indicator	Indicator £'000	Actual 31-03-20 £'000
1	One year revenue impact of a 1% rise in interest rates	(140)	(108)
2	One year revenue impact of a 1% fall in interest rates	315	301

This indicator has been set as an indicator (not a limit) to measure the net impact over one year on the revenue account of both a 1% rise and a 1% fall in all interest rates for borrowing net of treasury investments. This is calculated at a point in time on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at rates 1% higher or lower than they would otherwise have been on their maturity dates and that the treasury investment and borrowing portfolios remain unchanged over the coming year. Interest rates can move by more than 1% over the course of a year, although such instances are rare.

A further indicator for Treasury Management measures the Maturity Structure of Borrowing and is the amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate, maturing in each period as a percentage of total projected fixed rate borrowing. This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk and has been set to allow for the possible restructuring of long term debt where this is expected to lead to an overall saving or reduction in risk.

The 19.87% shown in the table below relates to £19.25 million Lender's Option Borrower's Option (LOBO) loans which may be re-scheduled in advance of their maturity date of 2054. The Code requires the maturity of LOBO loans to be shown as the earliest date on which the lender can require payment, i.e. the call date of July 2020 in 2020-21 so the maturity date is actually uncertain but is shown in the "Under 12 months" category as per the Code.

Table 5. Maturity structure of borrowing indicator as at 31 March 2020

No.	Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2019-20	TMS 19-20 Upper limit	TMS 19-20 Lower limit	Projection 31-03-20 %
3.	Under 12 months	50%	0%	**19.87%**
	12 months and within 24 months	25%	0%	**-**
	24 months and within 5 years	25%	0%	**5.76%**
	5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	**15.00%**
	10 years and within 20 years	50%	0%	**16.64%**
	20 years and above	60%	25%	**42.73%**

The Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums invested longer than 1 year indicator controls the amount of longer term investments which mature beyond the period end. This is set to control the Council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments.

Table 6. Upper limit for total principal sums invested as at 31 March 2020

No.		TMS 2019-20 (Limit) £m	Principal Outstanding Over 1 year as at 31-03-20 £m
4.	**Upper Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested for more than 1 year**	15	**0**

5. Review of the Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20

CIPFA's Code of Practice for Treasury Management requires all local authorities to conduct an annual review of its treasury management policies, practices and activities. No changes were necessary to the TMS 2019-20.

Credit Rating Equivalence Table

	Description	Fitch		Moody's		Standard & Poor's	
		Long	Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
INVESTMENT GRADE	Extremely strong	AAA	F1+	Aaa	P-1	AAA	A-1+
	Very strong	AA+		Aa1		AA+	
		AA		Aa2		AA	
		AA-		Aa3		AA-	
	Strong	A+		A1		A+	A-1
		A	F1	A2		A	
		A-		A3		A-	A-2
	Adequate	BBB+	F2	Baa1	P-2	BBB+	
		BBB		Baa2		BBB	
		BBB-	F3	Baa3	P-3	BBB-	A-3
SPECULATIVE GRADE	Speculative	BB+	B	Ba1	Not Prime (NP)	BB+	B
		BB		Ba2		BB	
		BB-		Ba3		BB-	
	Very speculative	B+		B1		B+	
		B		B2		B	
		B-		B3		B-	
	Vulnerable	CCC+	C	Caa1		CCC+	C
		CCC		Caa2		CCC	
		CCC-		Caa3		CCC-	
		CC		Ca		CC	
		C				C	
	Defaulting	D	D	C		D	D

Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's and Fitch are the three most significant rating agencies in the world. These agencies rate the creditworthiness of countries and private enterprises.

"AAA" or "Aaa" is the highest rating across all three rating agencies and indicates the highest level of creditworthiness. A "D" rating ("C" rating from Moody's) indicates poor creditworthiness of a company or government. A difference is made between short-term and long-term ratings.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14, 16 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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