

**SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2  
HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET,  
BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 10:00**

Present

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

E L P Caparros	P Davies	P Ford	D T Harrison
M Lewis	J Llewellyn-Hopkins	RL Penhale-Thomas	A Wathan

Apologies for Absence

D M Hughes

Officers:

Stephen Griffiths	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Shagufta Khan	Social Work Lead in Adult Social Care
Marny Mainwaring	Senior Mental Health Co-Ordinator
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Jessica Mclellan	Scrutiny Officer
Andrew Thomas	Group Manager Sports & Physical Activity
Mark Wilkinson	Group Manager - Learning Disability
David Wright	Family Support Services Manager

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Della Hughes

Councillor Paula Ford had given her apologies that she would join the meeting late and Councillor Paul Davies gave his apologies that he would need to leave the meeting early.

Officers

Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care and Glynis Evans, Community Mental Health Services Manager.

Invitees

Councillors Richard Granville and Jane Gebbie gave their apologies that they would need to leave the meeting early.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

46. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of meetings of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 dated 16 February, 27 March and 10 July 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record.

47. ADULT COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Head of Adult Social Care presented the report, the purpose of which was to provide the strategic and operational context in which Adult Community Mental Health Services are delivered in the County Borough and to ask the Committee to provide comments on the future direction of services.

The Chairperson thanked the Head of Adult Social Care and Members discussed the following:

- The referral pathway into the Social Care and Recovery Team, the typical intervention period and its importance as an early intervention and prevention team.
- The notable increase in the number of referrals for young people on the autistic spectrum, the Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services in Wales and the Authority's training plan.
- Local hackathon events and adjustments to improve services and communication for all people neurodiverse conditions.
- The largely positive joint inspection of the North Community Mental Health Team and steps taken to address the areas for improvement and best practice.
- In relation to the Assisting Recovery in the Community Service:
  - types of therapeutic courses and counselling available;
  - evolution of the service;
  - age profile and reasons for people accessing the service; and
  - capturing service user experiences and feedback.
- Current waiting lists for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and the role of schools and colleges in making referrals.
- The success of the Wellbeing Retreat, the potential for the service to be extended and themes affecting users.
- Sufficiency of funding for statutory Mental Health Services, targeted investment in Prevention and Wellbeing Services to prevent escalation of need to secondary services and the importance of safe and manageable caseloads.
- Improving communication around Mental Health and reducing stigma.
- The development of a Regional Mental Health Strategy and any anticipated changes to the Interim Strategy following publication of the new National Strategy.
- The intended audience for the Interim Strategy, the importance of partnership working and the steps taken to promote the available services.
- The source and significance of the values and principles set out in the Interim Strategy and Professional Codes of Practice.
- The roll out and accessibility of identified training and how the Service works with voluntary organisations.

The Chairperson advised that there were no further questions for the Invitees, thanked the Invitees for their attendance and, advised that if they were not required for the next Item, they may leave the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee made the following Recommendation:

1. That the Committee write to the Members of the Senedd for Bridgend and Ogmore to request an invitation to the round table meetings run by them, involving third sector and voluntary organisations and relating to mental health and the *Bridgend Mental Health Pathway*.

and the Committee requested:

2. Data relating to the notable increase in the number of young people on the autism spectrum being referred to the Community Mental Health Teams and a copy of the existing Code of Practice on the Delivery of Autism Services in Wales.
3. That information relating to the pathway to independent advocacy for adults be circulated to all Members to enable them to signpost constituents requiring advocacy.

Assisting Recovery in the Community Service (ARC)

4.
  - a) Information regarding the types of courses available from ARC;
  - b) Information on how the service has evolved and adapted in recent years;
  - c) Data showing the age range of individuals accessing the service, the reasons why and the interventions of the service with them; and
  - d) Case examples of work that has been done on an individual and group level in the last 12 months.

48. DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

The Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing presented the Director of Social Services' Annual Report 2022/23 to the Committee, for scrutiny prior to consideration by Council on 20 September 2023.

The Chairperson thanked the Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing and Members discussed the following:

- The Committee's thanks to the Corporate Director for her leadership and to all staff for all of their hard work.
- The financial implications and anticipated impact of the new children's residential provision.
- The sufficiency and planning of the Social Services and Wellbeing budget, grant funding and use of earmarked reserves.
- The expert review of the spending in Learning Disability Services and the cost and value of foster carers.
- Carers assessments and the importance of assisting unpaid carers to find and access information on the support available.
- The role of the Participation Officer, steps being taken to ensure the voice of children and families are heard and further steps to be taken, including the establishment of a Parent Charter.
- The fragility of staffing the prospect of standardised Welsh National pay, terms and conditions, the Memorandum of Understanding between local authorities regarding pay and work conditions for agency workers and measures to attract Social Care workers to Bridgend.
- Factors contributing to the high numbers of Care Experienced Children and Children on the Child Protection Register and the anticipated impact of the Sustainability Plan for Children's Social Care.

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- The importance of partnership and multi-agency working and the recent Care Inspectorate Wales – Joint Inspection of Child Protection Arrangements.
- The data regarding Reablement Services, Disabled Facilities Grants, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and complaints and compliments.

The Chairperson advised that there were no further questions for the Invitees, thanked the Invitees for their attendance and, advised that they may leave the meeting.

RESOLVED: Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee made the following Recommendations:

5. That the financial modelling that is available to the Cabinet during the budget setting process, also be made available to the Budget Research and Evaluation Panel to assist with their budget discussions regarding financial sufficiency for the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.
6. That the Committee write a letter, in support of the Deputy Leader and the Council's response to the Welsh Government Consultation, *Rebalancing Care and Support Programme*, to the Welsh Minister for Social Services regarding standardised Welsh National pay, terms and conditions to prevent the “poaching” of staff by other local authorities and therefore ensuring that Bridgend retains a skilled workforce.

and the Committee requested:

7. An update on the progress and cost of the priority for Children’s Social Care to enhance in-house foster care capacity and implement therapeutic support service for foster carers

### 49. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee with the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A for discussion and consideration, requested any specific information the Committee identified to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wished to attend, requested the Committee to identify any further items for consideration on the FWP having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.5, asked the Committee to note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee’s recommendations made at previous meetings in Appendix B and that the FWP for the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC).

The Committee requested that representatives from partner agencies involved in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub be invited to attend for the scrutiny of the *Care Inspectorate Wales – Joint Inspection of Child Protection Arrangements* item scheduled on the FWP for 23 November 2023.

There were no further items identified for consideration on the FWP having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.5, and this could be revisited at the next meeting.

There were no requests to include specific information in the item for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approved the FWP in Appendix A,

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noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP, Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet and any updates from the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of COSC.

50. **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

The meeting closed at 12:56