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## 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

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

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /  
643694 / 643513

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Friday, 8 November 2024

Dear Councillor,

### **SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2**

A meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 will be held Hybrid in the Council Chamber - Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB/ Remotely via MS Teams on **Thursday, 14 November 2024 at 10:00.**

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008 (including whipping declarations)
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 8  
To receive for approval the minutes of a meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 of the 23/09/24.
4. Integrated Substance Misuse Service in Bridgend 9 - 22

#### Invitees:

Councillor Jane Gebbie - Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.

Claire Marchant - Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing

Jacqueline Davies - Head of Adult Social Care

Mark Wilkinson - Group Manager - Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse

Sian Bunston – Manager – Regional Substance Misuse Team

Greg Robinson – Senior Manager – Substance Misuse - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

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5. Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2023/24

23 - 48

Invitees:

Councillor Jane Gebbie - Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.

Claire Marchant - Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing

Jacqueline Davies - Head of Adult Social Care

Laura Kinsey - Head of Children's Social Care

Raeanna Grainger – Group Manager, IAA & Safeguarding

Charlotte Pickin - Safeguarding and Secure Estate Manager

Nichola Echanis - Head of Education, Early Years and Young People

Ryan Jones - Strategic Housing Commissioning Manager

Kirsty Williams – Partnership and Community Safety Partnership Manager

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

7. Forward Work Programme Update

49 - 68

8. Urgent Items

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

**Note: This will be a Hybrid meeting and Members and Officers will be attending in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street Bridgend / Remotely via Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you would like to view this meeting live, please contact [cabinet\\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk) or tel. 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513 / 643159.**

Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:

S Aspey

F D Bletsoe

C Davies

P Ford

Councillors

GH Haines

D T Harrison

M Lewis

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

Councillors

RL Penhale-Thomas

R J Smith

A Wathan

R Williams

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

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, 23 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

GH Haines

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

R J Smith

Present Virtually

C Davies  
R Williams

P Ford

M Lewis

A Wathan

Apologies for Absence

D T Harrison and RL Penhale-Thomas

Invitees:

Councillor Jane Gebbie  
Claire Marchant  
Jackie Davies  
Shagufta Khan  
Michelle King  
Sophie Moore  
Julia Wilkinson

Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing  
Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing  
Head of Adult Social Care  
Social Work Lead in Adult Social Care  
Group Manager - Integrated Community Services - Community Reablement  
Group Manager - Prevention and Wellbeing  
Directorate Manager for Community Services - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board

Officers:

Stephen Griffiths  
Meryl Lawrence

Democratic Services Officer - Committees  
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Llewellyn-Hopkins – personal - item 4 – Family reasons.

Cllr R J Smith – personal – Item 5.

Claire Marchant – prejudicial – Item 4 – Family reasons.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 dated 8 July 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2024

**7. Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:  <u>Recommendations</u>  1. The Committee welcomed the comprehensive report and responses provided by the Cabinet Member and Officers, however the report highlighted issues and performance on a regional basis, and it was challenging to understand and scrutinise the specific issues in Bridgend County Borough. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that future reports based on services provided on a regional basis need to provide at least in part, an overview and a critical analysis of specific issues and performance in Bridgend County Borough.
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	<p>2. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that Employability Bridgend be utilised on an on-going basis to undertake specific targeted campaigns in a local area to recruit people to work in social care.</p> <p>3. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the Chair write to the responsible Welsh Government Minister to outline Members concerns about the demand for services and the resources available to provide them.</p> <p><b><u>Additional Information</u></b></p> <p>4. Members discussed that in addition to a ward in the Princess of Wales Hospital, there were beds in community hospitals in the other two local authority areas in the region that were not allocated per local authority area, and commented that for a variety of reasons, these might not be suitable for patients from Bridgend and their families. The Committee welcomed that there were currently discussions at the design and development stage, to re-develop Maesteg Community Hospital and <b>requested</b> that a further update be provided on the re-development of Maesteg Community Hospital, when available.</p> <p>5. The Committee <b>requested</b> more detailed information on the composition, work programme, and performance of the Integrated Discharge Delivery Board.</p> <p>6. The Committee <b>requested</b> that they be sent the most recent Annual Report of the CTM Regional Partnership, the Market Stability Report, and the Commissioning Strategy Reports.</p> <p>7. The Committee <b>requested</b> information about current and proposed consultations on an on-going basis, so that opportunities are not missed to input to service developments locally, regionally, and nationally.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 September 2024

**Proposal To Extend the Term of the Healthy Living Partnership with GLL / HALO Leisure**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>8. Members noted the controls, including determining the number of leisure centres and their opening hours, the Council would maintain if the current contract with HALO Leisure was extended in the short-term. These controls provided the Council with opportunities to achieve budgetary efficiencies through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and a short-term extension of the partnership agreement would provide the time needed to confirm the Council’s longer term strategic direction and for greater economic stability to emerge. As such, Members expressed confidence in the approach presented in the report in respect of the benefits of extending the relationship with HALO Leisure in the short-term and on that basis, the Committee <b>recommended</b> that the Partnership with HALO Leisure be extended in the short-term.</p> <p>9a. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that a further report be submitted at the appropriate time regarding the ongoing long-term strategy and the consequent practical implications for delivering well-being services for the people of the County Borough and that the report should contain more critical analysis of all the options available to the Council.</p> <p>9b. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that representatives of HALO leisure be invited to future Scrutiny Committee meetings that consider the Healthy Living Partnership with GLL / HALO Leisure.</p> <p><b><u>Additional Information</u></b></p> <p>10. The Committee <b>requested</b> more information on the exercise being undertaken with external partners to determine a long-term strategy for well-being services. The report identifies how a short-term extension of the partnership agreement may provide the time needed to confirm the Council’s longer term strategic direction and for greater economic stability to emerge.</p>
Date Decision Made	23 September 2024

**Information Report - 2023-24 Quarter 4 Performance**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  The Committee noted the publication of the information report on 2023-2024 Quarter 4 Performance report.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2024

**10. Forward Work Programme Update**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  11. Members <b>recommended</b> that, given the number of pre-decision reports that are likely to need scrutiny in the coming months, that consideration be given to organising an additional meeting of the Committee before Christmas.
Date Decision Made	23 September 2024

**11. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	23 September 2024

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#).

The meeting closed at 13:10.

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<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>14 NOVEMBER 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>INTEGRATED SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE IN BRIDGEND</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES &amp; WELLBEING</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>MARK WILKINSON GROUP MANAGER, LEARNING DISABILITY, MENTAL HEALTH &amp; SUBSTANCE MISUSE</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>This report provides:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. The background to substance misuse services in Bridgend.</b></li> <li><b>2. Information about the demand for services.</b></li> <li><b>3. An overview of current activity in this service area.</b></li> <li><b>4. A description of the service's current priorities.</b></li> </ol>

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report provides information regarding the provision of substance use treatment and support services in the Bridgend County Borough area through the Integrated Substance Misuse Service.
- 1.2 The report enables members to evaluate the effectiveness of the current arrangements and advise on future developments.

## 2. Background

### 2.1 What is Drug and Alcohol misuse?

- 2.1.1 Drug misuse is defined as the use of a substance for a purpose not consistent with legal or medical guidelines (World Health Organisation, 2006). It has a negative impact on health or functioning and may take the form of drug dependence, or be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour (Department of Health).

2.1.2 It can also be dependence on, or regular excessive consumption of, psychoactive substances, leading to physical, mental or social problems. This term does not include occasional or experimental drug use in adults (NICE Guidelines).

2.1.3 Alcohol misuse is a term that describes alcohol consumption that puts individuals at increased risk for adverse health and social consequences. Alcohol misuse can have negative impacts on a person's life and health and to their concerned others.

## 2.2 Area Planning Boards (APBs)

2.2.1 The responsible Authorities that form Community Safety Partnerships have the statutory responsibility for combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in their local area. In order to meet this responsibility APBs were established in 2010 as part of new arrangements to deliver the Welsh Government Strategy "Working Together to Reduce Harm 2008-2018". APBs align with the Health Board footprint and provide a Regional Framework to:

- Strengthen partnership working and strategic leadership in the delivery of the Substance Misuse Strategy
- Enhance and improve key functions of planning, commissioning and performance management.
- Pool resources to ensure value for money and reduce duplication.

## 2.3 Funding

2.3.1 The Substance Misuse Use Action Fund (SMAF) was established to enable the Welsh Government to allocate revenue funding to APBs on a regional basis. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) is the responsible authority acting as banker for the grant in the Cwm Taff Morgannwg (CTM) region. An APB Commissioning Team is employed by RCTCBC to manage the grant and facilitate the requirements of the APB and Welsh Government.

2.3.2 Within the SMAF revenue grant there are specific "ring-fenced" allocations for Children and Young People and Tier 4 services (Inpatient Detoxification and Residential Rehabilitation).

2.3.3 The SMAF also has capital funding which is allocated on an annual basis via a national bidding process.

2.3.4 As well as this Health Boards (HBs) ring-fence funding for substance misuse services Welsh Government requires that APBs work collaboratively with HBs to ensure that plans are co-ordinated to provide the most effective use of funding and avoid duplication. Each year, the APB will scrutinise and "sign off" the HBs expenditure plan to enable the HB to draw down their allocation from Welsh Government.

2.3.5 Funding for Substance Use treatment and Support is also provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). This funding provides services through the criminal justice system delivered by G4S / Dyfodol who are a key partner of the CTM Integrated Substance Misuse Service.

### 2.3.6 Drug and alcohol related deaths in Bridgend.

The following table shows drug related deaths in Bridgend and CTM since 2019. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures are deaths that have been recorded as drug related, the reviewable figures relate to figures where the cause of death has not been concluded, these figures include five deaths in Parc Prison in 2024 and two in 2023.

Year	ONS Bridgend	ONS CTM	Reviewable Bridgend	Reviewable CTM
2024 (Jan-Oct)			17	49
2023	14	51	17	47
2022	11	34	20	69
2021	14	43	16	45
2020	11	24	16	53
2019	10	30	9	33

The table shows the pattern of deaths in Bridgend is similar to that in CTM.

The type of drugs involved are illegal drugs including cocaine, heroin and other opiates, illicit diazepam and nitazenes which can be taken by mistake and are easy to transport as they can be soaked into paper. There are also over the counter, prescription drugs and uncontrolled substances.

The figures on alcohol related deaths according to the ONS is 14 in every 100,000 people and there is an increasing awareness of alcohol related brain damage particularly in older people with a history of alcohol misuse.

The figures from the ONS for 2020 to 2022 are below:

	2022	2021	2020
Wales	486	472	438
Bridgend	30	25	34
CTM	80	87	81

## 3. **Current situation**

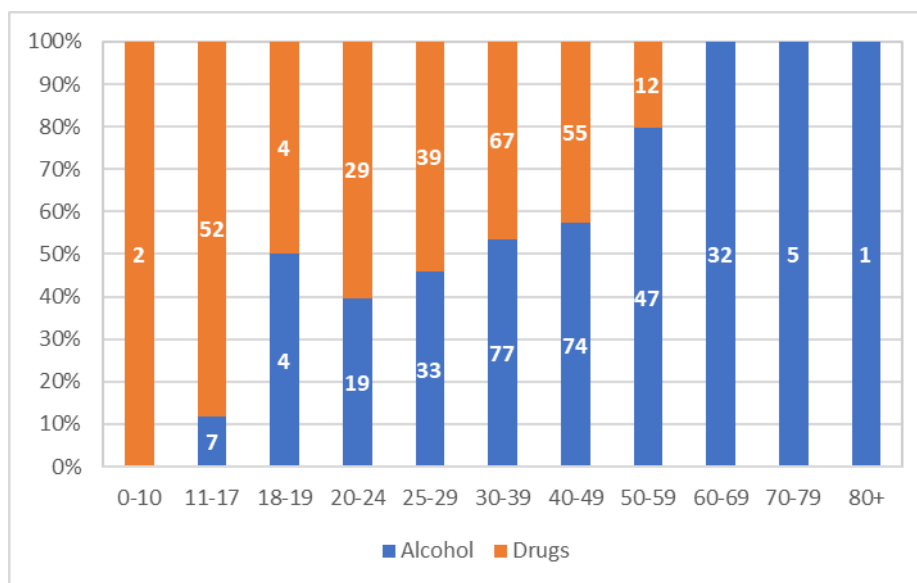
### 3.1 Substance misuse services are delivered within four levels or tiers;

- Tier 1 Prevention and early identification / intervention
- Tier 2 Advice and Support Services
- Tier 3 Specialist Treatment Services
- Tier 4 Inpatient Detoxification and Residential Rehabilitation

Across CTM, Tier 1 and 2 Services are provided by an independent sector group called Barod and Tier 3 and Tier 4 detoxification services by CTM UHB in partnership with the local authorities. Residential Rehabilitation (Tier 4) placements are “spot purchased” and sourced through a National Framework which has been commissioned by Welsh Government. The PCC commissions G4S / Dyfodol to provide substance use treatment and support.

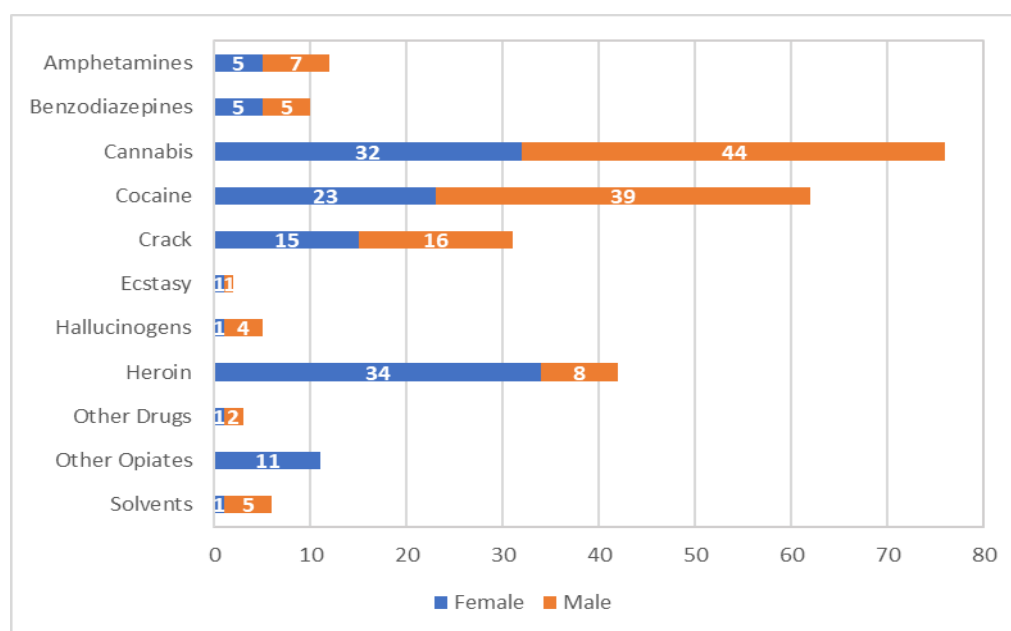
The two charts below show the relevant assessment activity carried out by substance misuse services in Bridgend during 2023/24.

**Chart 1: Number Assessed 2023-24 by Age and substance group.**



Please note: Data excludes unknown.

**Chart 2: Number Assessed 2023-24 by Problem substance and gender (All ages)**



Please note: Data excludes Alcohol, and unknown.

### 3.2 Partnership Working

The CTM Substance Misuse Service Model was developed in 2017, following an extensive review of services. The model brings together statutory and non-statutory providers to address the full range of support and treatment needs related to substance use across all age groups in CTM.

### 3.3 The model comprises a number of interconnected components.

- Prevention and Early Intervention.
- Drug and Alcohol Single Point of Access (DASPA).
- Children and Young People Services including a specialist treatment service (Tier 3).
- Transition Service for 18 – 25-year-olds.
- Low intensity treatment and support.
- Specialist treatment for adults (Tier 3) including Primary Care Drug and Alcohol Service and Community Detox.
- Sustained Recovery Service.
- Pathways for access into Tier 4 services detoxification and residential rehabilitation services.

3.4 Bridgend services are delivered from Celtic Court, Tremains Road, Bridgend. CTM UHB Community Drug and Alcohol team, BCBC Substance Misuse Social Work Team, Barod and Dyfodol are co-located to provide a holistic response to meet the needs of those using services. A needle exchange is provided as well as on-site dispensing of Opiate Substitute Treatment (Dyfodol). Satellite clinics are also held at Hartshorn House Maesteg.

3.5 The Specialist Mental Health and Substance Misuse Housing Outreach Service (HOS) was developed in 2020 following the successful multi-agency application to the Welsh Government Covid-19 Homelessness and Housing Related Support Services. (Phase 2 funding). The service has increased with the help of additional funding from the SMAF. This service provides treatment in the community to individuals in homeless hostels, emergency bed and breakfast, Housing First projects, and more recently individuals in supported housing who are at risk of losing their tenancies due to issues with their mental health and / or substance use. The HOS team work in partnership with Bridgend colleagues from the Wallich and liaise closely with housing colleagues to target areas throughout the Borough utilising existing schemes such as the breakfast run.

3.6 There are currently two new services in the development stage: the Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Service and the Community Alcohol Care Team (CoACT). These are expected to commence in 2025.

### 3.7 Bridgend Key Performance Information 2023-24 (Data source: DHCW 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024)

- During 2023-24 there were a total of **1,062** referrals into substance misuse services from across Bridgend.
- Of these referrals, **763** individuals were assessed by specialist substance misuse providers.
- The number of individuals assessed for problematic drug use was **374** compared with **336** assessed for problematic alcohol use.
- Within problematic drug use, Cannabis accounted for **98** of all assessments, Heroin accounted for **90**, and Cocaine **70** of all assessments.
- The total number of individuals starting treatment in 2023-24 was **677**.
- **10.61%** of people Did Not Attend (DNA) treatment or the contact ended before treatment began following the assessment stage. **KPI1, target; less than 20%.**

- **88.33%** of people received treatment within 20 working days of referral. **KPI2, target; more than 80%.**
- **80.82%** of people reported a reduction, abstinent or no change in their substance misuse. **KPI3, target; 86.5%.**
- **79.13%** of people reported improved quality of life. **KPI4, target; 84.2%**
- **87.68 %** of individuals completed treatment either problematic substances free or have reached their treatment goals. **KPI5, target; 76.9%**

### 3.8 Service Involvement Groups (SIG)

3.8.1 The APB recognises that service users and concerned others have unique experience and knowledge, which enables them to provide valuable advice and guidance in all aspects of substance misuse services. Our ambition is to deliver services which put service users' views, needs, aspirations, experiences, and expert knowledge at the heart of what we do. One of the vehicles to ensure this are the three active Service Involvement Groups across the region: Bridgend, Merthyr and RCT.

Some of the experiences of people who have used substance misuse services are described in **Appendix A** in three case studies.

3.8.2 The Bridgend SIG meetings are held fortnightly on a Tuesday in Celtic Court. There have been 13 Bridgend SIG meetings since April 2024 with 10 unique participants attending. The following is a snapshot of key areas of work that the group has assisted with:

- Design of the Housing Outreach Service.
- Naloxone training following nitazene awareness information.
- Review of the Readiness for Change poster and training Programme.
- Barod's Glossary of Terminology
- Participating on interview panels for provider agency posts.
- Focus Group – Recruitment of the APB Compliance & Monitoring Officer.
- Presenting at the CTM APB Learning Together event

### 3.9 Current Priorities

3.9.1 The current priorities for the ongoing development and delivery of substance misuse services are as follows:

- In line with National agreements, progress the work with partners to finalise the Information Sharing Protocol for non-fatal incidents.
- Provide a partnership response to the reduction of fatal and non-fatal drug poisonings.
- Continue to support the Service User Involvement agenda across CTM.
- Continue to monitor the Specialist Mental Health and Substance Misuse Housing Outreach Service to ensure service provision is in accordance with identified need.
- In collaboration with partners and key stakeholders, review the Health Equity Audit and agree the next steps of development.

- In collaboration with the HB, continue to respond to the Welsh Health Circular of October 2022 to promote the increase of screening and testing of Hepatitis B and C to achieve the WHO elimination target.
- Continue to support the Alcohol Related Brain Damage (ARBD) working group to scope and agree a collaborative response to the prevalence of ARBD in the Region
- Continue to offer training for new staff on the Tier 4 process in CTM for residential rehabilitation.
- Work with Providers to ensure the establishment and delivery of the additional projects supported by increased SMAF funding 2023-2025.
- Continue to support the CoACT working group to ensure the links are in place with the ACT Service and ensure all the necessary monitoring arrangements are in place.
- Continue to support the Co-occurring Project Group to provide clarity and consistency on service delivery and partnership working.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report; therefore, it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 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.** The plans for and operation of substance misuse services are designed to be robust and sustainable with long term goals and objectives and service developments which enable the services to adapt and change according to changes in demand for services.

**Prevention.** As described above many of the community services have a strong emphasis on prevention and providing people with information, advice, and support at an early point to help people avoid the need for services at tiers 3 and 4.

**Integration.** Substance misuse services are founded on an ethos of partnership and integrated working between health, social care, voluntary sector and service user and carer organisations. All developments are made in partnership and on a multi-agency basis.

**Collaboration.** All the services described in this report are provided on a collaborative basis through partnerships between the council, the health board and the independent sector.

**Involvement.** One of the basic principles of the operation of substance misuse services is the involvement of people who are using services in the design and delivery of the services they receive at individual, service and strategic levels.

**6. Climate Change Implications**

6.1 There is no impact or link to Bridgend County Borough Council's climate change aspirations because of this report.

**7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 Substance misuse services are targeted at children and young people with ring fenced funding for this age group.

**8. Financial Implications**

8.1 Substance misuse services operate within the council and regional budget allocation.

**9. Recommendation(s)**

9.1 That committee note the contents of this report and make comments on the current and future delivery of substance misuse services.

**Background documents**

None.



## **Appendix A. Case studies.**

### **Case study 1.**

## **I CAN ONLY CONTROL THE CAR I DRIVE**

You know when you're driving, shall we say" on the motor way" and for some unknown reason traffic comes from nowhere and you're at a complete stand still, this happens at many times in our lives and there is nothing you can do about it !! except wait for the traffic to clear, you have to just sit tight and be patient, no point in getting upset, beeping your horn or trying to find out what's taking so long. This is how life is, there is not a lot we can do about it.

We think we cannot change things that are life, or so it seems!!

Once you start moving again there seems to be no reason why there was so much traffic, (what's taken me so long to get what I want in life).

We only look in the rear view mirror for a short time because that's our past what we have left behind us so we don't need to focus on the past. You are now continuing your journey on route to your destination.

There are times we break down and don't know how to fix the problem and reach out to the wrong people or items (drink or drugs) in times of need we are lucky to have the AA / RAC. Which I would see as family. friends or the support service's (NHS & PROBATION/CDAT) we can reach out to for help!!

They will helps us to get our car back on the road or take us to where it can be fixed, but they then have to go on to help others that doesn't mean they don't care, just that they have to drive their car also.

Now your back on route to your destination remember to keep your self serviced and remember your in control of your car. On route many cars will be over-taking you, they be in the wrong lane, people cut you up, keep indicating but not turning, get too close be-hide you, tail gating or driving too slow, so don't worry about what other people are indicating, what

you think they are doing because they are driving their car not yours, so sometimes you are invisible to the other cars on the road but is nothing personal .

There are things on route to be aware of like the services on motorway (substance dealers) as they know you're low on fuel (in a bad place, lost or feeling low and take advantage of your situation) by the prices they charge you even the food services like McDonald charge twice the price of the food because they can!

**(DRUGS OR DRINK)** are like lorries give them a wide birth or just avoid them because they don't care or pay any attention to the other cars on the road because they think they own the road and are in control as their cars are back where they work parked up.

So don't let them start becoming a part of your life. But that's only if you let them remember you are in control and you will pay the fine for anything your car is involved in (parking tickets speeding fines etc) so take control of what you are doing, most accidents can be avoided!!!

Some accidents can happen for example I got hit by a fire engine I was going to work going through a green traffic light and the fire engine was on call and it jumped a red light and hit me.

I then like many of us do started lived for today and not checking on my car making sure everything was up to date serviced properly and taken care of.

I been sitting in traffic because I wasn't sure what to do I've been settling for stuff in life as oppose to going after what I want but we need to remember traffic we can't control.

I've kind of got lost until the help from Probation, CDAT which led me to detox ward Neath port Talbot where I was able to reflect on my life. My car has now had a service and a MOT everything renewed and I'm ready to continue my journey to my destination.

Many thanks to those services especially Probation and CDAT who help me to diagnosed the problems with my car (my life issues) then they helped me to set the route for me to follow in order to get everything back on the road to recovery so I would recommend them 1000000% as they have so much passion in helping us **BECAUSE THEY CARE ABOUT US.**

**Case study 2.**

I started using drugs when I was 11 years old, I'm 64 now. I started sniffing petrol, then moved on to speed, Valium, heroin, street methadone and street subutex.

I did inject heroin from when I was about 30 but had to change to smoking it after a few years because I lost all my veins.

I used to commit burglaries to get money to buy drugs. I would chose heroin first, but if I couldn't get some I would buy methadone or subutex.

I started using drugs when I was 11 because I was in a children's home because my mum said I was uncontrollable but it was really because she found a new boyfriend and then had 2 more kids and didn't want me and my sister anymore.

When I was in the children's home bad things happened to me and taking drugs was the only escape I had.

I left the homes when I was 16 and stayed with my sister, but ended up in Borstal for 3 years when I was 17.

I've spent a lot of time in jail over the years – usually for burglaries that I would do to get money to buy drugs.

The last time I was in jail was 2004 when I was charged with possession with intent to supply.

Over the years I have had scripts of different agencies, I can't remember the name of the first people who I saw, but they gave me subutex. I kept using heroin at the same time. I ended up back in prison and Dyfodol gave me a methadone script. They ended my script in 2021 because I never stopped using heroin and wouldn't turn up for appointments when I should have.

I brought a friend of mine to CDAT for an appointment and started talking to the people on reception and they told me that I could refer myself to CDAT and took my details there and then.

I had an assessment with a CDAT nurse on 31/7/21 and she told me about the different treatments and that's how I heard about Buvidal. I saw the Dr and kept seeing my nurse and then started on Buvidal.

I stopped using heroin almost straight away after starting Buvidal, but did still dabble now and again when I bumped into old friends. I told my nurse that I was having problems with my housing and she referred me to a social worker in the team who managed to find me somewhere of my own to live and I've been there 2 years and haven't used any drugs since.

I think that Buvidal should be the first treatment offered to everyone. Not having to take a tablet, or drink something every day really helped me to stop thinking about drugs. Having to

go to a pharmacy every day for meds meant I would keep bumping into people that I used to use with and I wasn't strong enough to say no if they asked me if I wanted any heroin.

Since starting Buvidal my life is the best it's ever been. I have my own home, no debts, haven't been in trouble with the police, I got back in touch with my Dad and would visit him in London all the time before he died, I'm back in touch with my sister in London and my relationship with my sister who lives local is the best it's ever been.

CDAT and Buvidal have saved my life and I can't believe that I get to live the life I am now.

I have tried all other meds to help with heroin and no others are as good as Buvidal.

### **Case study 3.**

I came into services 15 years ago, with a heroin addiction. It was so hard to be on a methadone prescription and try to stop using drugs, when all the friends in my village were still using. To stay away from everyone was really hard and quite lonely.

I eventually dropped out of treatment. I came around a few times before I realised that I needed to make and stick to changes.

My girlfriend got pregnant and she was also using heroin. We got back on a script within 3 months of each other. My daughter was born and I was determined to be a better Dad than I was to my first son, who I hadn't seen for 13 years until recently.

My keyworker got me back on to a Methadone script and saw me regularly. I was living with my girlfriend and knew that I had to take it seriously in order to stay living with my daughter.

I stayed heroin free for 4 years and then started working on my cannabis use. If it wasn't for CDAT, I would never have stayed drug free.

I did relapse prevention work with my keyworker and started talking about stuff that happened to me when I was young and my drug use as well. I didn't feel comfortable at all but it got much easier over the months.

I started a slow reduction on my Meth early last year and my keyworker was happy for me to stop it if I started clucking. I didn't feel pressured at all. I liked the way it was done. I had loads of calls and meetings from my keyworker while I was reducing and I saw the doctor a few times. I was on 95mls and now I am down to 10mls and hoping to get discharged from CDAT before the end of 2024.

I know it took ages until I finally stopped using drugs.

I look back at some of the things I did and I feel ashamed. I have been able to tell my keyworker stuff and she has not made me feel bad.

I am now in touch with my oldest son and he tells me that he is proud.

My life has changed completely in the past 2 years and I could not thank CDAT enough.



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<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>14 NOVEMBER 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>ANNUAL CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2023/24</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>JOE BOYLE POLICY OFFICER SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<b>This report provides details of the corporate safeguarding activity undertaken for the year 2023-24 including data on the number of safeguarding referrals to both adults and children’s services. It outlines the way in which Bridgend County Borough Council’s (BCBC) directorates have worked to safeguard its citizens along with information on future planned work.</b>

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to provide the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report for 2023-24 for consideration and comment.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse, and neglect. It is a corporate responsibility for BCBC to safeguard vulnerable individuals from harm, abuse, and neglect.
- 2.2 Under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014, Section 7 refers to safeguarding and created new legislation against which the Council is required to function regarding safeguarding. It provides the legal framework for improving the well-being of people who need care and support, carers who need support, and for transforming social services in Wales. The Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report

attached as **Appendix 1** provides details as to how the Council has performed against those statutory duties.

### **3. Current situation/ proposal**

3.1 The Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report includes details on:

- Adults Social Care
- Children and Family Services
- Education, Early Years and Young People
- Workforce
- Housing
- Partnership and Community Safety and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
- Placement Sufficiency, Out of County Placements and Operating Without Registration (OWRs)
- Other areas of key focus

3.2 The report highlights the changes to both Adults and Children and Family Services operating models and restructures that have been completed. Referrals continue to be high across both services, which resulted in continued high levels of caseloads pressures placed upon social work teams. However, this increased demand continues to be processed and managed successfully within compliance targets.

3.3 The report details information regarding the number of safeguarding referrals made to both adults and children's teams, including those where thresholds were not met. It provides information relating to the number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) that have been applied for, as well as detailing information regarding children that have been required to be deprived of their liberty. This can be for a number of reasons such as if they are in a residential setting requiring high staff ratios or if they are unable to access the community without constant supervision.

3.4 Provided in the report is information as to how many children have been placed on the Child Protection Register (CPR) throughout this time period, as well as providing information relating to how Public Law Outline (PLO) and Care Proceedings (CP) have been processed and supported.

3.5 The report contains details relating to concerns held by the Education, Early Years and Youth Services directorate relating to increasing rates of both Permanent and Fixed Term exclusions from schools, along with details of the number of children and young people that are Educated Other Than At School (EOTAS) and Electively Home Educated (EHE).

3.6 The report provides information relating to the new DBS process being followed in relation to DBS renewals and how HR/OD continue to provide workforce information to the Corporate Safeguarding Board, including data on training completion rates.



- 3.7 The report highlights the leveling off of numbers of people living in temporary accommodation, and where work has been completed to cross reference these individuals with the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate.
- 3.8 The report contains information relating to work completed by the Community Safety Partnership, including about the Assia Domestic Abuse service achieving the “Leading Lights” accreditation, making it the only council-led provision in Wales to hold this standard.
- 3.9 Details of placement sufficiency, out of county placements and placements operating without registration are contained and discussed within the report as well as details relating to the work undertaken to support reductions and interventions for child exploitation.

**4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. 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, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

**5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 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,

Involvement	In the formation of this report, relevant officers from the Corporate Safeguarding Board, which is formed of officers and representatives from across the Council’s directorates, have contributed to the final version.
Long term	This Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report provides an overview of the safeguarding activity from the previous year. This allows the Council to project what future safeguarding activity and requirements may be required of the Social Services and Wellbeing (SSWB) Directorate and thus provide additional safety to our most vulnerable individuals in Bridgend.
Prevention	The report highlights developments by the Directorate in line with the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. These developments help the Council improve its safeguarding processes and responses to safeguarding

	matters and thus preventing the likelihood of additional harm coming to vulnerable individuals.
Integration	Safeguarding is a mandatory corporate training module for all to complete and to integrate the learning and understanding across the Council.
Collaboration	Work continues in collaboration with the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board (RPB) and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board (CTMSB), as well as multi-agency working with South Wales Police, social landlords, health colleagues, and the third sector.

## **6. Climate Change Implications**

6.1 There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

## **7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 Details provided within the Annual Report on how staff are supported and continue to improve and strengthen safeguarding arrangements is a key theme throughout the Annual Report and remains a key priority for 2023/24. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all Council Directorates. With a view to promoting awareness of this and raising the profile of Safeguarding across the whole of the Council.

## **8. Financial Implications**

8.1 Whilst there are no direct financial implications from this report, the medium- and long-term sustainability of statutory services provided by the Council continue to present growing challenges on the Council to meet these responsibilities and deliver a balanced budget.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 It is recommended that the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the 2023-24 Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report and provide any comments as necessary.

## **Background documents**

None

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

[www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk)



# **Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report**

**2023-2024**

## 1. Introduction and Background

The purpose of this report is to provide information relating to Bridgend County Borough Council's (the Council) performance regarding safeguarding vulnerable individuals across the services provided by the Council's directorates. This report sets out how each area has been performing regarding the following areas:

- Adults Safeguarding
- Safeguarding children
- Education safeguarding
- Workforce
- Housing
- Partnership and Community Safety and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
- Placement Sufficiency, Out of County Placements and Operating Without Registration (OWRs)
- Other areas of key focus
- Priority Areas for future focus and development

Safeguarding all remains a key priority of all services provided by the Council with the focus being put on ensuring and protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, whilst enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Following the implementation of Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014) (SSWBA), sets out responsibilities for Local Authorities and relevant partner agencies to work together to safeguard vulnerable individuals at risk. The Council forms a part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board (CTMRSB). For more details on the activity of CTMRSB, it's annual report can be found [here](#).

This report has been prepared through contributions from relevant members of the council's Corporate Safeguarding Board (CSB). The CSB meets on a monthly basis, is chaired by the Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing, and consists of officers representing service areas from the following areas:

- Adults Services
- Children and Family Services
- Education, Early Years and Young People's Services
- Workforce and Human Resources
- Housing
- Partnership and Community Safety and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)
- Employability
- Social Care Workforce Development Programme (SCWDP) team

The Council's CSB is responsible for ensuring the compliance of all directorates with key safeguarding requirements in relation to vulnerable individuals, agreeing and implementing clear actions for the group within the annual action plan, ensuring effective cross directorate safeguarding practice, and monitoring corporate safeguarding measures. The board advises the Cabinet Corporate Management

Board (CCMB) and recommends relevant action in relation to corporate safeguarding standards and policy. At the monthly meeting, the CSB Dashboard is reviewed and discussed, which is then presented to CCMB at their following meeting by the Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing.

## 2. Adults Safeguarding

Across this past year a significant piece of work has been completed regarding the future operating model of Adults Social Care which has resulted in a new three tier model of practice including the new Early Intervention and Prevention Hub (EIPH) front door. The function of this new front door team is as follows:

- Respond to unknown individuals from the 'ASC front door' or hospital setting
- Combines the functions of the Common Access Point (CAP) and the Short Term Social Work Team (STSWT), with the functions of the Community Support Workers and Social Work Assistants from EIPT
- The Intensive Support Service will be based within the Early Intervention and Prevention Hub
- The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) will consist of Social Work Practitioners, Nurse, an Occupational Therapist response, links with Local Community Connectors and representation from Tu-veda and the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO).
- As per Adult Social Care Practice Model, all practitioners in the hub will deliver highly **strengths-based, outcome focused** practice
- There will be a focus on maximizing community assets and preventative approaches to avoid early entry in to the higher, specialist tiers, 2 and 3
- To ensure flow, individuals are assessed and supported within no longer than 12 weeks, after which individuals will be transferred to the next tier of the model or closed due to the ethos of the hub successfully managing any escalation in needs.

Within this new front door Early Intervention and Prevention Hub team, a new screening and consultation process has been identified in order to identify and appropriately support referrals into Adults Services in order to make the best and correct decision regarding any safeguarding concerns and reports of an adult at risk. Processes have been identified to support the team in dealing with email consultations, Adult at Risk reports, Professional Concerns, requests for checks to be completed, and telephone contacts for consultation appropriately.

The SSWBA places a duty on all to report an "adult at risk". Local Authorities must make enquiries where it has reasonable cause to suspect that a person within its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there) is an adult at risk. Where there is reasonable cause to suspect that an adult is at risk of abuse or neglect the Local Authority has a duty to undertake section 126 safeguarding enquiries. These should be completed within seven days and enquiries should be made to determine what actions may be required to support the adult at risk and any ongoing protection planning that may be required.

These enquiries should be person centred and ensure that the adult is consulted and spoken with to determine their understanding of the situation and any support needs they may have as well as considering potential risks. The duties placed on the Local Authority by the SSWBA, have resulted in a significant increase in the number of safeguarding enquiries being undertaken. This has resulted in increased numbers of citizens coming to the attention of Social Services.

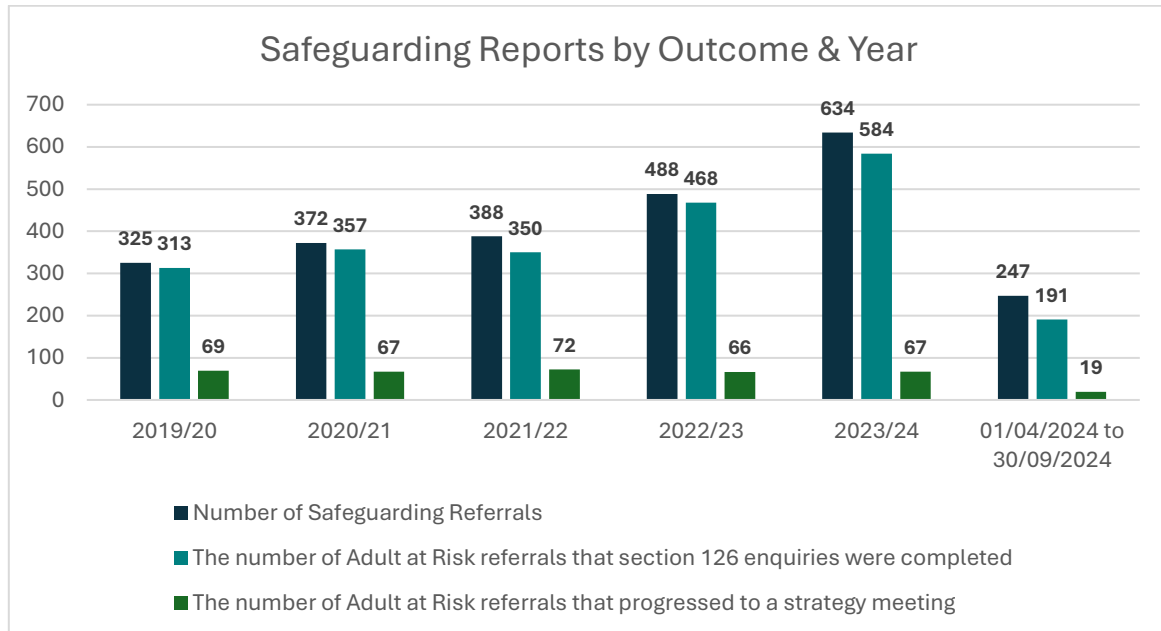
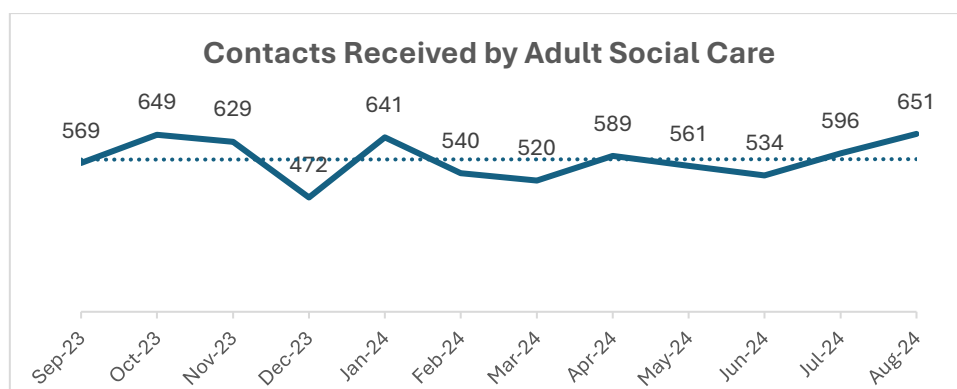
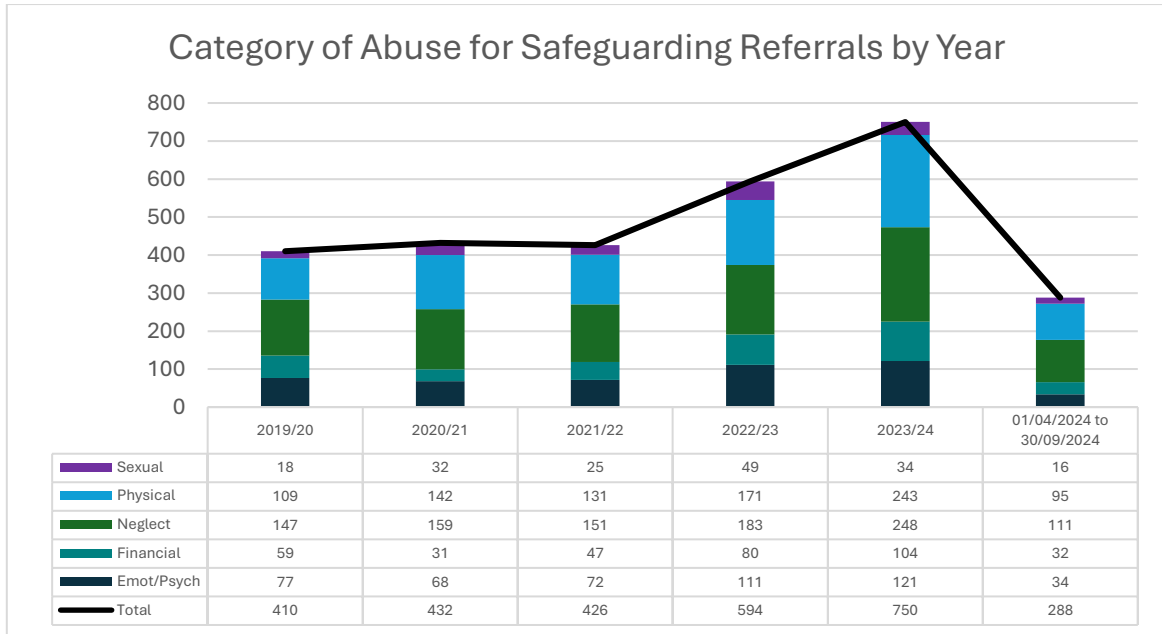


Table 1, above, shows comparative data from the previous 5 years involving the number of safeguarding referrals received, as well as the number of referrals that progressed through the relevant stages, demonstrating the continued increase in numbers of contacts and subsequent enquiries that have been completed.

Although the total number of safeguarding referrals across adults' services has been on the increase since the implementation of the act, across this past year, the total number of referrals received by adults services has remained at a consistent level across the year as can be seen from the below graph.



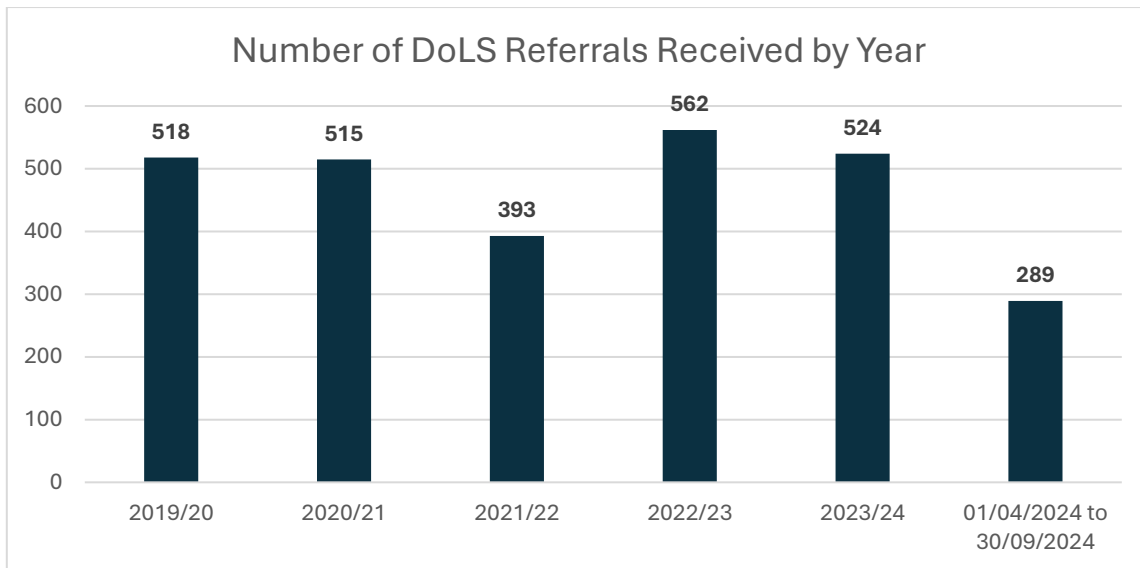
The following chart provides a breakdown of the category of abuse for Adults Safeguarding Referrals by year, showing that Neglect and Physical Abuse are consistently the highest categories for referral.



The number of Initial Professional Abuse strategy meetings held in Adult's Services continues to show a downward trend and reduction in numbers over the past 5 years as can be seen from the following graph. This is in spite of a slight increase in strategy meetings from the previous year. To date, there have been 20 strategy meetings held for professionals this year.



Court of Protection Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) referrals across Adults Services have remained at a relatively consistent level in comparison to the previous 5 years.



### 3. Safeguarding children

A significant piece of work has been undertaken within this area of the Social Services and Wellbeing directorate which has incorporated the integration of Edge of Care and Early Help services into Children’s Social Care as part of the future operating model for Children’s services and leading to the creation of the Children and Family Services division. The Council initiated an improvement programme for Children’s Services in February 2022 following the declaration of a critical incident in which the Council was highly challenged in meeting statutory duties to safeguard and protect children at risk of harm. To develop the sustainable operating model, the Corporate Management Board (CMB) commissioned a detailed review of the evidence base for effectively supporting children and families who, if there is not effective preventative intervention, will require statutory children’s services involvement; best practice across Wales; and analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data on the current arrangements in Bridgend. The review reported to CMB and the Council’s Improvement Board. Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB), CMB, and the Improvement Board, accepted the findings of the review and the evidence base and analysis has been used to support the development of a three-year strategic plan ‘Think Family, Sustainably Improving Outcomes for Children and Families’, which received Cabinet and Council approval in September 2023. The strategic plan is now the policy of the Council and commits the Council to introducing new proposed arrangements for an integrated IAA, early help, locality social work, locality early intervention and edge of care teams’ service. Consultation was conducted on Early Help and Edge of Care and concluded in April 2024 with operational restructures taking place on 1 July 2024 with both service areas moving from Education, Early Years and Young People directorate to the newly formed Children and Family Services. It is anticipated and expected that by bringing the Edge of Care and Early Help services into the directorate, this will create a more streamlined, smoother and improved experience for those families supported by services who are required to be stepped up or stepped down to and from early help support. The continued implementation of this operating model between preventative



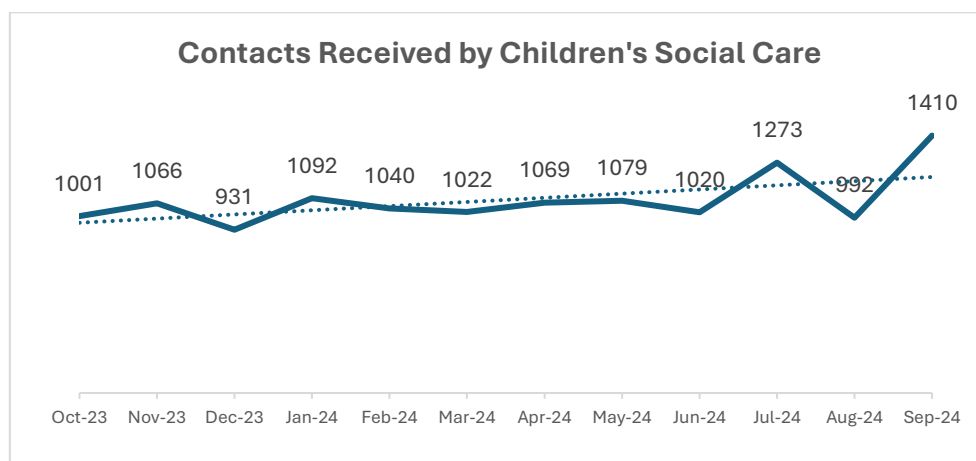
and statutory services to provide an integrated service, where more children and families with complexity of need are supported preventatively, and where families are motivated and consent to change, remains a priority area for action.

In addition to this, over the past year, work has been undertaken that has resulted in a fourth Locality Safeguarding Hub being created in Children and Family Services. Initially the team formed part of the East Locality Hub taking on work related to Public Law Outline, and child exploitation cases, where its remit was then expanded to match the case allocation across the East Locality Hub. This team has since been renamed the Central Hub and will focus on the Bridgend Town area and thus creating more capacity across the East Locality team.

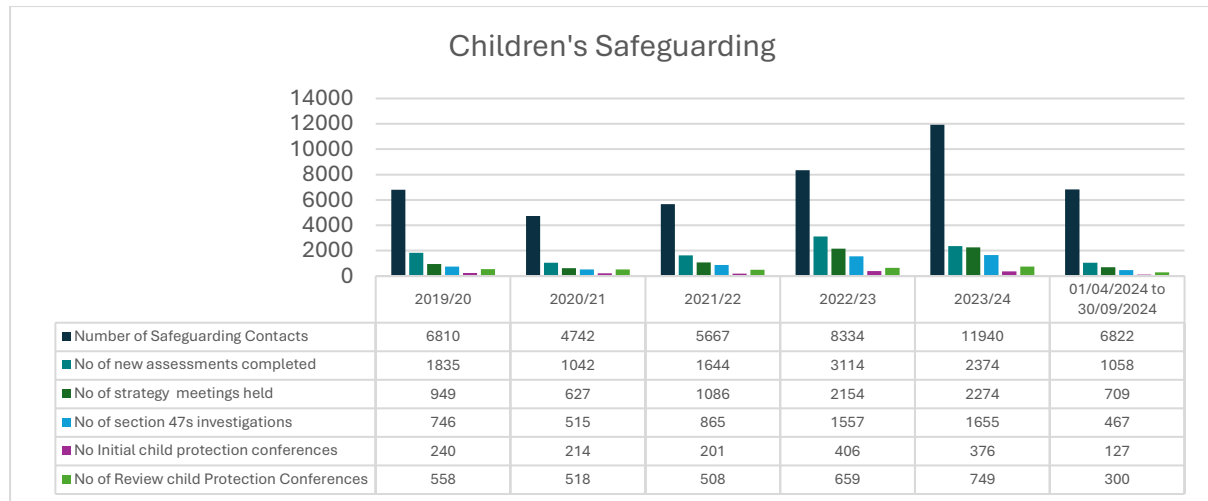
The continued implementation of the Signs of Safety practice model has had a significant impact on how partners work with families and assess risk. The strength-based model places greater emphasis on identifying areas of risks, strengths and protective factors but also seeks to identify what resources there are within the family to resolve their difficulties.

Implementing this model at the front door enables us to ask the right questions following a referral and this has supported the reduction of cases progressing to strategy meetings and potential subsequent child protection registration. It slows down thinking and enables further information gathering to mitigate risks. However, where risks cannot be mitigated, the model utilises the existing strengths within the family, and hones in on what needs to change, enabling better evidence of sustained change. This results in families receiving the right intervention, at the right time and for the appropriate length of time. As a result of this our numbers of children subject to the Child Protection Registration has reduced as have our numbers of Care Experienced children.

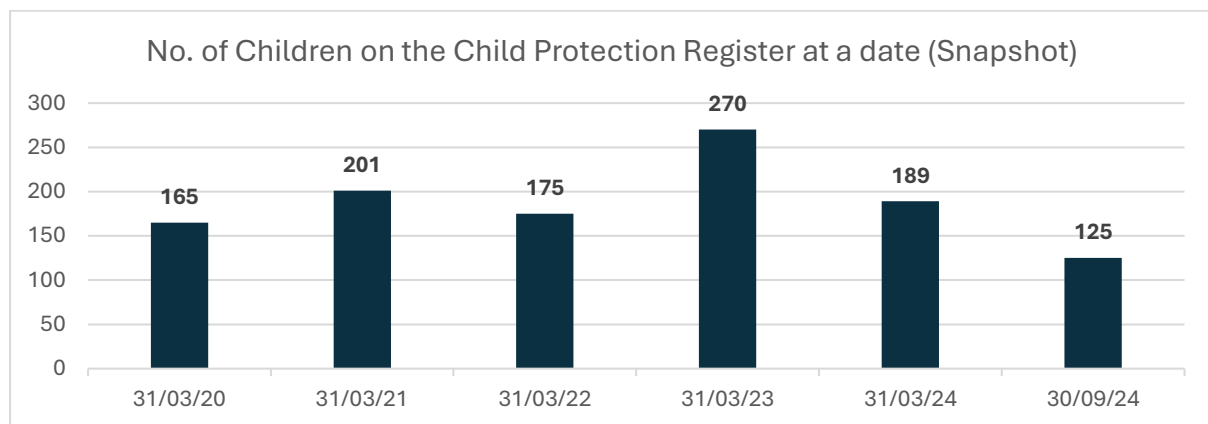
Contacts received to Children and Family Services over the past 12 months have fluctuated in line with school holidays. August 2024 shows a 6.7% decrease in the level of contacts when compared to July 2023. Contacts in July 2024 are the highest over the 12 month period, with the highest referrer being Police. However as can be seen from the below graph, the average number of contacts across the past year has remained fairly stable and consistent.



A breakdown of the total contacts received by Children and Family Services can be seen in the table and graph below showing the comparative data from the past 5 years for the number of contacts received, assessments completed, strategy meetings held, section 47 enquiries undertaken, number of initial child protection conferences and number of child protection review conferences held.



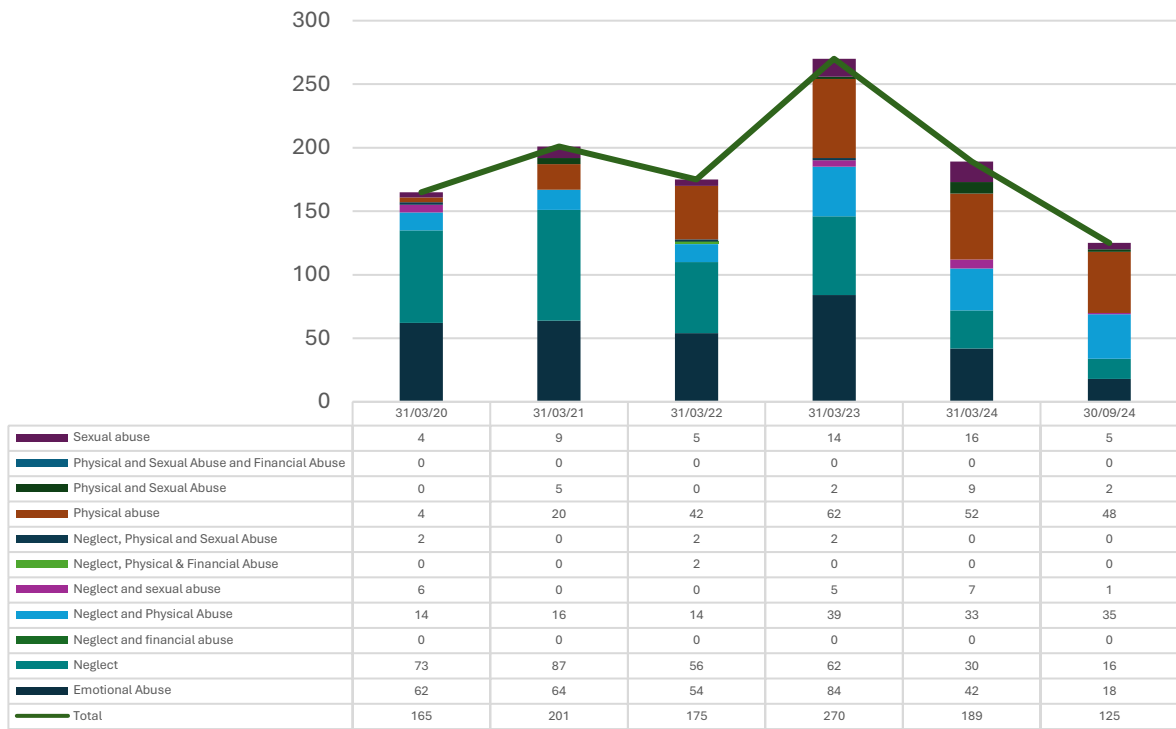
At the start of 2023, Children and Family Services were experiencing a significant increase in children being made subject to the Child Protection Register (CPR), however, following targeted work and a more stable workforce in the Safeguarding Hubs, a steady reduction in these numbers can be evidenced from the following graph.



An Independent audit has been commissioned to look at numbers of children becoming looked after with future findings and actions to be identified and acted upon.

The following chart provides a breakdown of the reasons for registration on the Child Protection register by category, where across the past year physical abuse has been the primary reason for the registration with neglect and physical abuse the second most prevalent category.

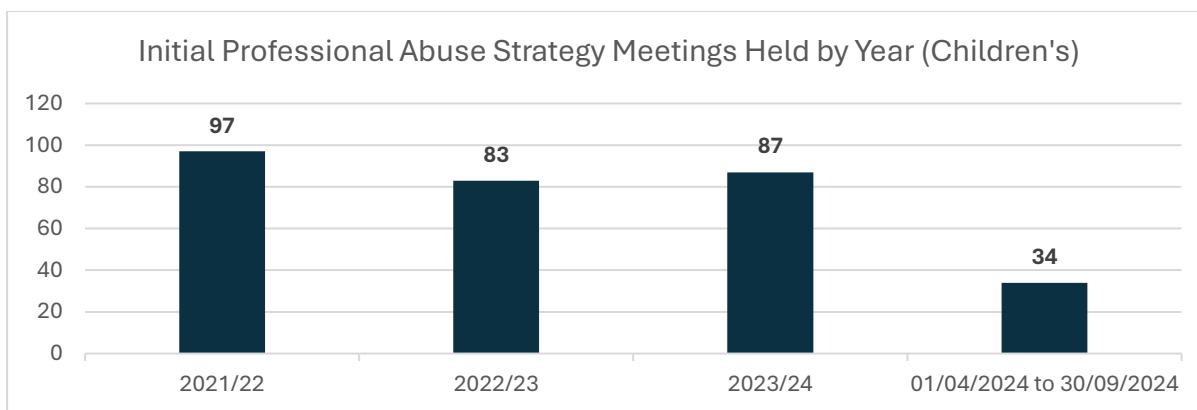
Number of Children on the Child Protection Register by Category of Abuse as at a date (Snapshot)



The following table provides a breakdown of the numbers of children and young people registered on the Child Protection Register by age and by category of abuse.

Category of Abuse	Age Group					Total
	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-15	16-18	
Emotional Abuse	0	3	7	8	0	18
Neglect	0	2	2	9	3	16
Neglect and Physical Abuse	5	7	10	12	1	35
Neglect and Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	1	0	1
Physical abuse	4	11	11	20	2	48
Physical and Sexual Abuse	0	0	0	2	0	2
Sexual Abuse	0	1	3	1	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>125</b>

Across the past year, there were 87 Professional Abuse Strategy meetings held as shown by the below graph, which is consistent with previous years, however there remains no current identifiable pattern due to monthly referral fluctuations. To date there have been 34 Professional Abuse Strategy meetings conducted for this financial year. Professionals across education remain the dominant profession to see referrals from.



The table below sets out the current position for this year's number of Children's Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) referrals that have been made. As can be seen from the comparative data from this time last year, this is a significant reduction in number of applications made. Data is not currently available for a 5-year trend analysis.

	01/03/23 to 30/09/23	01/04/2024 to 30/09/2024
<b>Number of DoLS Referrals Received</b>	8	2

The Council remains committed to providing a coordinated, multi-agency response to children, young people and vulnerable adults who are currently at risk, or likely to be at risk of, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation, County Lines activity and gang affiliation.

To progress the multi-agency management of exploitation a panel has been established. The panels have been ongoing since May 2023 with the first full panel taking place in June 2023. The impact of the exploitation screening tools and multi-agency collaboration is already evident. Two senior social workers have been appointed to lead on exploitation within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)/Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) and the Locality Teams. The safeguarding exploitation senior social workers undertake a range of safety mapping tasks as well as developing the relationships between the multi-agency partners and in particular the development of the missing protocol and continues to support frontline practitioners in completing the exploitation screening tools.

Since June 2023, there have been 85 people discussed at the Exploitation Prevention Panels and the panels have taken place monthly, apart from January 2024, June 2024 and September 2024.

The multi-agency response panel consists of partnership agency attendees from:

- Police
- Youth Justice Service
- CAMHS
- Education Engagement Team
- Schools

- School Health Nurse
- Choices Programme
- Independent Child Trafficking Service
- BAROD
- Community Partnership Team
- Adult Services
- Health and Wellbeing Team
- Housing

A Senior Social Work Practitioner for Exploitation has been in post since July 2023 and who chairs the majority of strategy meetings regarding cases of exploitation in order to promote consistency of approach. Termly meetings are held with the heads/safeguarding leads of the local comprehensive schools in relation to exploitation and mapping of young people, these meetings allow comprehensive schools to raise concerns around children they feel are vulnerable to exploitation and it aids in linking peer groups/associations across the Bridgend area. It also allows schools to be aware of the ongoing issues in the area, any persons of concerns, emerging themes of locations of concern. Weekly meetings are held with Police colleagues focussing on missing persons so that any shared intelligence/concerns can be discussed. Representatives from Children and Family services were involved in a British Transport Police (BTP) operation that took place across South Wales in April 2024 targeting County Lines operations. Bridgend Children's Services were present with BTP at relevant train stations across South Wales. A further Police Operation is being undertaken in December which Children and Family Services will also be supporting. The Senior Social Work Practitioner has currently attended 2 Primary Federation of Headteachers meetings to provide education around Exploitation and County Lines, been part of the steering group for Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board to assist in creating regional policy/assessments in relation to Child Exploitation, and is currently part of a Steering Group for Children and Young People who are reported missing from home or care. This Steering Group is part of the Welsh Government approach to tackle concerns around missing children.

Work continues to be completed to ensure and monitor the safety of vulnerable individuals to exploitation.

#### **4. Education, Early Years and Youth Services**

This year, the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate has experienced similar patterns of challenges as in the previous year.

The past school year has seen the highest number of permanent exclusions the Directorate has ever experienced. The following table shows the trend of permanent exclusions across the past five years. Please note data is not available for 2019-2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

	2018/19	2021/22	2022/23	2023-24	2024 up until 30/9/2024
Primary Schools	1	0	1	7	0
Secondary Schools	7	9	13	23	3
Special Schools	0	0	1	0	1

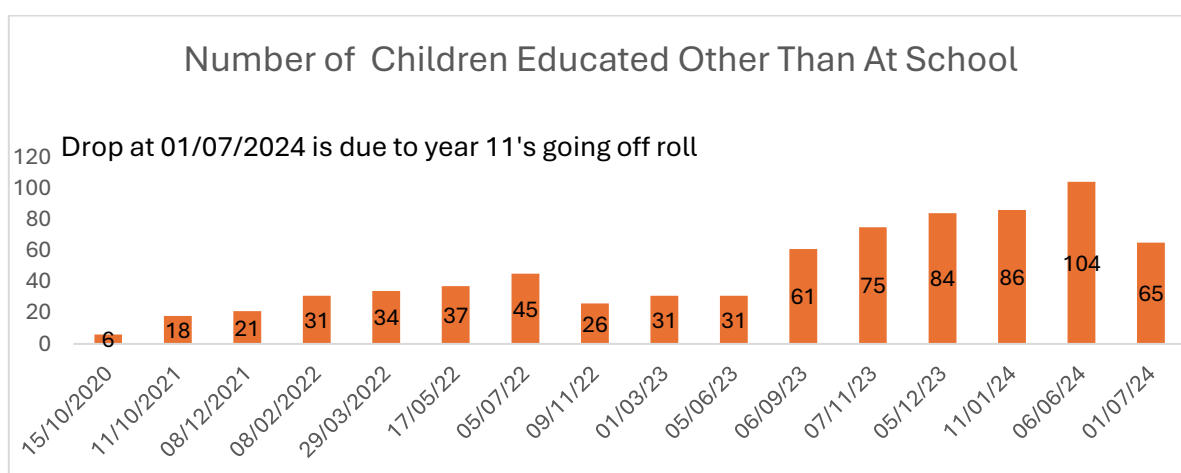
This trend that has continued into the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, where there have already been four permanent exclusions. An examination of permanent exclusions from the last school year has concluded that they are all justified and reasonable. However, schools are dealing with complex situations in ever-increasing numbers and severity. The Directorate's focus is on what is happening in schools to manage situations before they become so complex.

The Directorate has undertaken a focussed piece of work to understand the complexities of the situation and has considered systems implemented in other local authorities in Wales. The Directorate is hoping to implement a new system to manage moves between schools. It is hoped that this will have a positive impact. However, it must also be recognised that financial cuts mean that there will be less support staff available in schools and also less Directorate services available to assist schools with complex pupils.

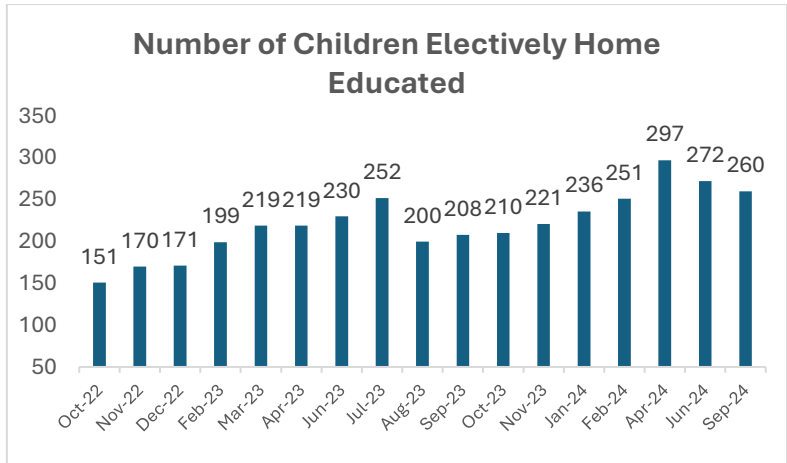
In a similar trend, the number of fixed-term exclusions has continued to increase over the past few years as can be seen from the table below.

	Number of fixed term exclusions			Number of lost days		
	Primary	Secondary	Special	Primary	Secondary	Special
2021-2022	166	1224	74	351.5	2395	124.5
2022-2023	248	1355	67	441	2574.5	152.5
2023-2024	269	1309	97	537.5	2400.5	204.5
1/9/2024 to 30/9/24	15	84	2	20	138	1.5

The numbers of children that are being educated other than at school (EOTAS) has increased considerably over the past school year with a significant proportion of these students being from last year's Year 11 cohort as there was a significant drop in EOTAS numbers following this year group going off roll.

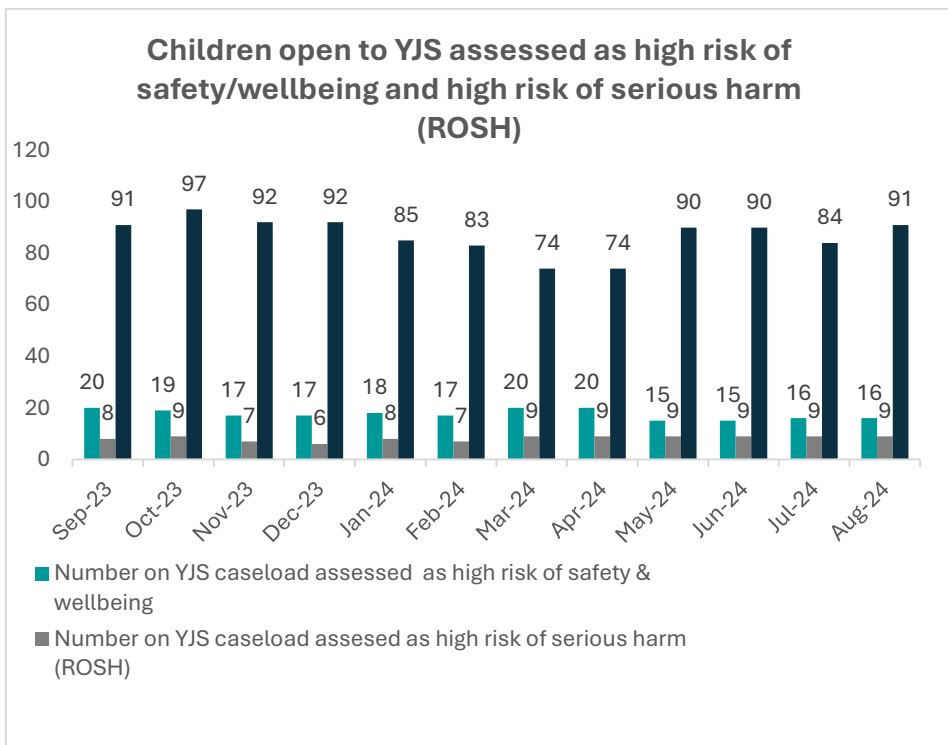


The number of children who are electively home educated has continued to follow similar patterns over this past school year as can be seen from the graph below.



Findings from school safeguarding audits for the 2023-2024 school year highlight that 54 education settings have rated themselves as green and 6 education settings have rated themselves as amber. No school has rated itself as 'red' during the 2023-2024 school year. This represents an increase of two schools who are now rated as green, and a reduction of 1 school that was rated 'red' across the previous school year. The school safeguarding audits are due to be completed by December 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year.

Across the year, the number of children and young people that have been open to the Bridgend Youth Justice Service (BYJS) has reduced. However, the numbers of children and young people on the BYJS caseload that are assessed as having a high risk to their safety and wellbeing, along with those assessed as being at a high risk of serious harm (ROSH) has increased.



## 5. Workforce

Human Resources & Organisational Development (HR/OD) continue to provide workforce information to the Council's Safeguarding Board which meets monthly. The information includes a monthly update on the status of DBS checks and renewals as well as quarterly data relating to completion rates for safeguarding training.

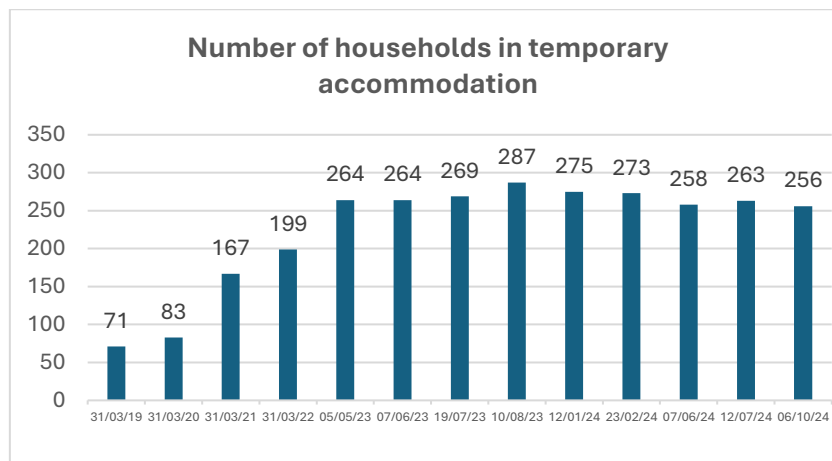
The Council's DBS policy has been reviewed and updated to include checks on those posts covered by regulated services. An escalation process has been agreed by the Corporate Safeguarding Board to deal with non-completions and renewal applications. The process includes monthly reports to be sent to Heads of Service and Group Managers for actioning.

In relation to Safeguarding e-learning, this is monitored by the Learning & Development team and escalation reports are issued to managers for actioning on a quarterly basis.

The Council also has a Recruitment and Selection Protocol to support managers when undertaking recruitment. It is expected that all managers who participate in recruitment complete the mandatory e-learning programme.

## 6. Housing

Across the year, as demonstrated by the following graph, the number of individuals in temporary accommodation is stabilising, following a period of significant increase in recent years. Temporary Accommodation numbers are a corporate concern with numbers and costs having gone up a lot in recent years. Whilst we have had a slight decrease in numbers, the overall picture is still very high compared to previous years.



Analysis of these individuals in temporary accommodation has been undertaken and will continue to be undertaken at quarterly intervals in order to understand the numbers of individuals that are open and known to Adults and Children's Services. Since the initial set of analysis has been completed, the number has halved. More work is needed to understand this further. The sharp increase in temporary accommodation placements in 2020/21 was largely due to emergency legislative guidance, from Welsh Government, leading to increased statutory duties to provide temporary



accommodation. This legislative change is now permanent and as such still impacting on the number of placements, however wider issues such as the cost of living crisis and the particularly challenging private rent market are significant factors, causing both increase in demand and making it harder for households to move on from temporary accommodation.

The following table shows the percentage of care leavers experiencing homelessness during the year and its reduction from the previous year. This is an accumulative total across the year and so the current position shown is only anticipated to rise across the year.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Qtr 1 2024/25	Qtr 2 2024/25
The Percentage of care leavers who experience homelessness during the year	8.23%	10.27%	7.17%	1.81%	4.00%

## **7. Partnership and Community Safety and Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)**

Bridgend Community Safety Partnership (CSP) involves various agencies from the public, private and voluntary sector that work together to reduce crime, disorder and fear of crime locally, in order to improve the quality of life and to create a safer living and working environment.

There has been new guidance produced by Welsh Government relating to the unification of practice reviews into a new Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process. Guidance on this can be found [here](#). This year, there have been three SUSRs (formerly Adult/Child Practice reviews) published regarding Child F, Child Q, and Child C from Bridgend County Borough which can be found on the CTM Safeguarding Board website [here](#).

As updated previously, the partnership landscape for Cwm Taf Morgannwg (incorporating Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhondda Cynon Taf) has changed over the last few years. There is one regional Public Services Board (PSB), and now one strategic Community Safety Partnership which is aligned to the PSB. Both Boards work on the basis of a regional strategy, but a local delivery model based on our communities. Recent reviews of the governance structures have also taken place.

Local community safety structures remain in place, including town centre anti-social behaviour (ASB) management meetings for Bridgend and Maesteg. These groups are well attended from a diverse range of agencies and meet to resolve problems. Successes over the last twelve months have seen drug dealing tackled on our buses, setting up joint patrols between Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Barod substance misuse workers and utilising our youth outreach team to attend hot spots for youth ASB and engage in diversionary activities, such as the successful 'Tackle After Dark' and 'Caerau Kicks' with the Ospreys and Cardiff City football club respectively.

Reports of ASB are generally reducing which is positive, but we continue to encourage communities and residents to report their concerns to the Police through online reporting and 101. Our activities are undertaken using ASB as an evidence base, so

this reporting is vital for us understanding and addressing the challenges seen in our communities and supporting these communities to feel safe and inclusive.

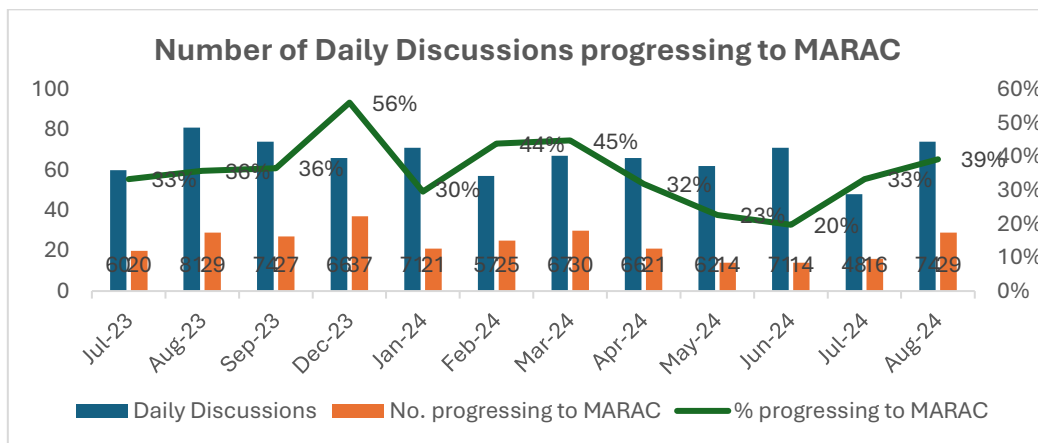
Initiatives such as ‘Trecco Watch’ have been created in response to concerns in Porthcawl, with the model looking to be replicated at Park Dean sites elsewhere in the county. Wildmill has been the focus of partnership working, including holding a community day in August as part of International Youth Day, developing a Crimestoppers Zone there to encourage anonymous reporting and targeted police operations. This is part of a ‘Clear, Hold, Build’ initiative taken forward by the community safety partnership for the area,

Acquisitive crime continues to be a challenge, and likely linked to the cost-of-living crisis and there is active engagement in the partnership with Bridgend Business Against Crime and Bridgend Traders Forum, as well as targeted operations throughout the year.

Bridgend’s Community Cohesion officer post is vacant following the previous job holder taking up a regional position in Western Bay. Bridgend still benefits from support from the Western Bay Community Cohesion team and have supported a lot of work in the borough resulting in visual improvements, such as the popular street art work, and the ‘Bridgend Celebrates Diversity’ project with Bridgend College which is showcased in a vacant property in Bridgend town centre. The team have also been involved in administering small grants to community groups undertaking relevant work and supported Bridgend with tension monitoring, equality support and learning and training opportunities.

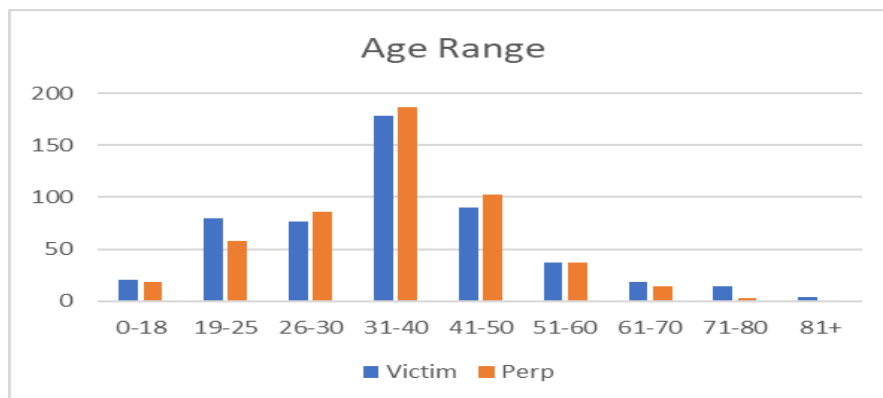
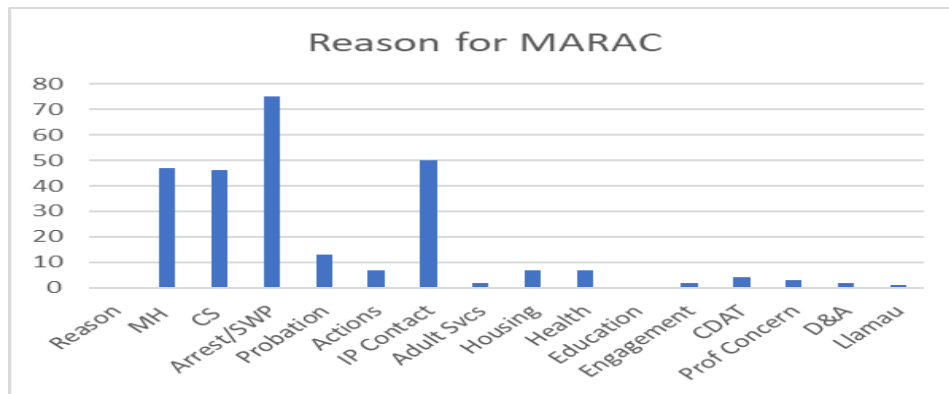
Assia domestic abuse service has seen further expansion and offers a diverse range of bespoke support to meet the wide range of service users. This includes a dedicated older persons independent domestic violence adviser (IDVA), a young person’s IDVA and a male victim IDVA. The high quality of service provided has been recognised by Assia achieving ‘Leading Lights’ accreditation, making it the only council-led provision in Wales to hold the standard.

The following graph shows the number of daily discussions that have progressed to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), which is a meeting specifically set out to discuss how to help victims of domestic violence.



At present, 39% of daily discussions are progressing to a full MARAC, and included in this data above are a number of cases which are listed as information only, this is due to the victim having been listed previously but there have since been further incidents.

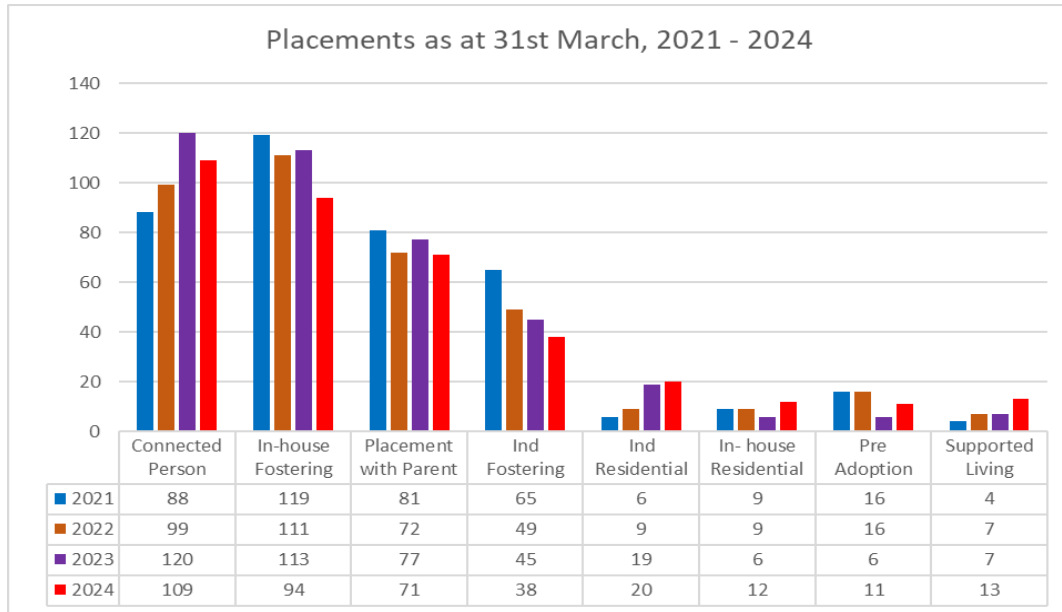
The following two graphs provide a current breakdown of the reasons for MARAC's being convened along with a breakdown of the age ranges of individuals involved, both victims and perpetrators.



## 8. Placement Sufficiency, Out of County Placements and Operating Without Registration (OWRs)

In 2022, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Partnership Board undertook a Population Needs Assessment, and a Market Stability Report produced, to assess current and future needs which contributed to informing local and regional strategies. A Children, Young Person and Transition Commissioning Strategy 2023-2028 has been developed by the Council which outlines the plan on how Bridgend will address these challenges, with a key priority being placement sufficiency across fostering, residential and supported accommodation. In addition to this, the Council is required by Welsh Government to have a Placement Commissioning Strategy (PCS) which is also being developed. The PCS will specifically focus on placements and placement sufficiency across the county borough.

The following graph shows the position and trend of different types of placements utilised across Children and Family services in Bridgend.



29% of care experienced children are living with connected persons, which is the majority of placements, closely followed by those living with in-house foster carers at 25%. 10% are placed with Independent Foster Agency (IFA) and 3% are placed in a pre-adoption placement. 19% were subject to Placement with Parents regulations, at the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2024. These children’s plans are scrutinised at the Local Authority’s bi-monthly Permanency Monitoring Group Meetings, with clear plans in place regarding timescales for revocation applications where that care plan is deemed to be appropriate. Of those children who require a residential placement, 3% of the total care experienced population are looked after in Bridgend children’s homes and 5% of the total care experienced population are looked after with independent providers.

A degree of placement movement can be healthy for some children, indicating a progression in care and support plans in a timely manner which is in the best interests of a child as their placement needs change. This planned movement is most likely in the first 6 to 12 months of a child becoming care experienced as their permanence plans are determined. Where a child’s plan for permanence is to remain care experienced, long term stability is evidenced to deliver best outcomes. Lack of sufficiency and placement choice can have dual impact on stability; a reduction in planned moves due to lack of appropriate match to move a child onto in their best interests, or an increase in unplanned and emergency moves where a child has been placed in an inappropriate match unable to meet their needs, resulting in disruption.

BCBC remain above the Wales Average for children with 3 or more placements moves per year, and is generally higher than the comparator local authorities for the period 2019 to 2023 (latest published data on Stats Wales). However, it is positive to note that recent local data indicates that BCBC’s three or more placement moves figure has decreased from 10.8% at 31st March 2023 to 6.2% at 31st March 2024.

Placement sufficiency across the county borough remains an area of concern and will continue to be monitored and actioned. Further information relating to the ongoing

work and plans to improve placement sufficiency can be found in the commissioning strategy.

Across the past year there has been work undertaken looking at the number of placements for children and young people who are placed outside the boundaries of Bridgend County Borough. It is an unfortunate position that most Local Authorities find themselves in regarding requiring placements outside their local authority borders but this can be related to a number of factors and not just solely availability of suitable placements. The needs of Children and Young People will dictate as to whether an Out of County Placement is required, this could be to manage and mitigate risks associated with the individual, or in order to access specialist support which is unavailable within the county borders. BCBC strives to provide and identify suitable placements for care experienced children and young people within its county borders, if individual children or young people do not meet the threshold for an out of county placement in order to mitigate risks or access specialist services, an out of county placement will only be used if there is no other possible placement available. As can be seen from the below graph, the number of Care Experienced Children and Young People placed outside of Bridgend but inside Wales, as well as those placed Outside Wales have reduced across the past year.

	<b>01/10/22</b>	<b>As at</b>
	<b>-</b>	<b>at</b>
	<b>30/09/23</b>	<b>30/09/24</b>
Placements out of Bridgend but in Wales	88	72
Placements outside of Wales	15	14

30 children placed out of county currently are residing in Foster Wales Bridgend placements with General and Connected Persons carers. 19 of these children are placed with their parents. 18 are placed with independent fostering providers. The remaining children are placed with residential providers including 1 that is Operating Without Registration.

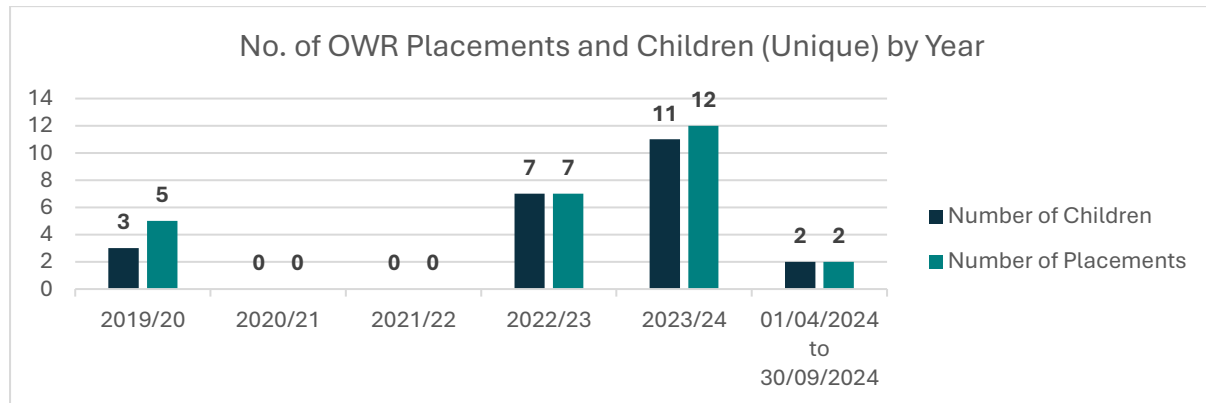
Operating Without Registration (OWR) placements are emergency placements made where the provider is not registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) in accordance with legislation.

Local authorities place children within such arrangements when there is an overriding need for a placement and where there are no other options available. Such considerations are subject to the highest levels of scrutiny and can only be agreed by the Director of Social Services and Wellbeing or the Head of Children and Family Services in their absence. In all cases CIW are notified of the placement and regular updates provided evidencing the additional oversight in place to support and safeguard the child, and the continued search activity of the Placement Team to secure a registered provision. These arrangements can vary:

- In some cases, the local authority places children with a provider who is in the process of setting up a new residential home but has not secured registration at the point this is needed.

- In others, a child can be placed with a Supported Living provider, a home for children aged 16+ who have support needs but with an additional package to meet any identified care needs of the child/ren.
- A child may also be placed in a home that is rented by the local authority with the support of a staff team recruited from an agency and/or supported by local authority staff.

The following graph shows the trend of OWR placements from across the past year.



## 9. Other Key Areas of Focus

The level of demand continuing to be received into Children's Social Care continues to exceptionally high. PPN's continue to be a main source of the high levels of demand. Meetings with South Wales Police have been held to look at how the demand can be best managed. A variety of workshops will be held with staff to develop an approach that ensures children and families access support from the right service at the right time.

There continues to be challenges related to children in out of county residential placements. The Health and Social Care Bill, which when on the statute books will provide the legislation for moving away from profit in children's social care in Wales, has been laid before the Senedd. Urgent consideration will need to be given in the coming years as to how the local authority can develop resources that can meet the needs of those children within Bridgend.

There have been a cluster of deaths by Suicide within the Secure Estate. There has been a multi-agency response. A working group, which mirrors the escalating concerns process for regulated care settings, has been established and regular updates are being received by the CTMRBSB. In addition to this, between January 2023 to February 2024, there were 18 referrals relating to deaths by Suicide to the CTM Immediate Response Group (IRG) panel, 36.8% were females, 63.2% were males. There were 15 suicides in Bridgend in 2021 and in 2022 up until September there were 20 deaths.

A new Corporate Volunteering policy, which was approved by Cabinet in November 2023, sets out and identifies any areas for consideration regarding the use of volunteers, especially in services that may support vulnerable individuals.

Staffing challenges have continued to be experienced across both Children and Family Services and Adult Social Care Social work teams. In Children and Family services, international recruitment of social workers has continued to take place to support with the vacancy position experienced across its Social Work teams and is now in a more stable position regarding permanently employed staff than when international recruitment processes were begun. The total number of agency social workers is also down across Children and Family social work teams, including the successful transition away from the managed team that was providing support to the front door IAA team since April 2022. Following the model that has been utilised when the managed team were in place, a second IAA team has been created to support with capacity in the front door. Through the implementation of a second permanent team, not only will there be a positive impact upon service budgets through the reduction of agency costs allowing for more money to be spent elsewhere supporting vulnerable children, young people and families, but greater consistency of process and support will be provided to children, young people and families who are referred for assessment, including supporting appropriate registrations and reducing inappropriate registrations onto the Child Protection Register. This will remain an area of focus and development for the coming year.

Across Adults Services Social Work teams, recent challenges relating to capacity and availability have begun to arise, particularly across the new Early Intervention and Prevention front door team. This is related to some long-term sickness absence as well as vacant positions. New processes have been identified working alongside colleagues from the Corporate Front Door Customer Services team which are supporting in ensuring the appropriate allocation and redirection of contacts into Adults Services, along with the new Consultation process that is underway as previously mentioned. This remains an area of concern and will continue to be monitored and acted upon into the coming year.

## **10. Priority areas for future focus**

In line with the process undertaken within school and education settings regarding their safeguarding audits, a process is being identified and agreed through the Corporate Safeguarding Board to support service areas in assessing and improving their safeguarding performance. This process is being adapted from the School Safeguarding Audit process in order for continuity and familiarity of process to be undertaken. This will allow each service area to fully understand their performance regarding safeguarding in a meaningful way, and where they can improve upon their existing performance in safeguarding the vulnerable individuals they support.

Following a Regional Safeguarding Board meeting, where a presentation was shared regarding Cybercrime and the continued development of types and means of Cybercrime by criminals, the same presentation was organised to be shared with CSB. Discussions were held around the prevalence of Cybercrime and how this may become something more prevalent across safeguarding referrals in both Adults and Children's safeguarding services. Work is planned to increase and raise awareness of

Cybercrime and its prevalence in a team and service specific and targeted manner for the coming year.

Following the challenges that have been experienced across the county borough and the secure estate regarding suicide, a local multi-agency Suicide Prevention Group (SPG) has been organised and implemented across the County Borough in order to support individuals and services. It's purpose is:

- To improve awareness, knowledge and understanding of suicide and self-harm amongst the public, individuals who frequently come in to contact with people at risk of suicide and self-harm and professionals in Wales;
- To deliver appropriate responses to personal crises, early intervention and management of suicide and self-harm;
- To provide better information and support for those bereaved or affected by suicide and self-harm;
- To support the media in responsible reporting and portrayal of suicide and suicidal behaviour;
- To reduce access to the means of suicide;
- To continue to promote and support learning, information and monitoring systems and research to improve our understanding of suicide and self-harm in Wales and guide action.
- To be a focused multi-agency working group to work on preventative measures and strengthen our support from lessons learned
- to identify any gaps in services particularly at the primary prevention, groups at greater risk and crisis intervention levels in order to bring about change.

The SPG reports to the Bridgend Safeguarding Partners Joint operational group and has been in operation since July 2024. Work continues towards identifying an appropriate local preventative support group.



# Agenda Item 7

<b>Meeting of:</b>	<b>SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>14 NOVEMBER 2024</b>
<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE</b>
<b>Report Owner / Corporate Director:</b>	<b>CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL &amp; REGULATORY SERVICES, HR &amp; CORPORATE POLICY</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER – SCRUTINY</b>
<b>Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:</b>	<b>The work of the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committees relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Council’s Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental wellbeing in the County Borough of Bridgend. Any changes to the structure of the Scrutiny Committees and the procedures relating to them would require the Bridgend County Borough Council Constitution to be updated.</b>
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p><b>The Council’s Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.</b></p> <p><b>The Council’s Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council’s Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and refer any cross-cutting topics to a Committee or Research and Evaluation Panel.</b></p> <p><b>The Committee is asked to consider and agree its Forward Work Programme, identify any specific information it wishes to be included in and any invitees they wish to attend for the reports for the next two Committee meetings, identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the criteria set out in the report, consider the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet and note that the Forward Work Programmes for the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be reported to the next meeting of COSC.</b></p>

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Present the Committee with the Forward Work Programme updated at the previous Committee meeting (**Appendix A**) for discussion and consideration;
- b) Request any specific information the Committee identifies to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;
- c) Request the Committee to identify whether there are presently any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.6 of this report;
- d) Present the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet (**Appendix B**) to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meetings;
- e) Advise that the Committee's updated Forward Work Programme, any feedback from the Committee and the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet will be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC), with the comments from each respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC), following consideration in this cycle of Committee meetings.

## 2. Background

2.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.

2.2 The Council's Constitution also provides for each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework, for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight and refer any cross-cutting topics to a Committee or Research and Evaluation Panel.

### Best Practice / Guidance

2.3 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's (CfGS) Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the Forward Work Programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be coordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

2.4 Forward Work Programmes need to be manageable to maximize the effective use of the limited time and resources of Scrutiny Committees. It is not possible to include every topic proposed. Successful Scrutiny is about looking at the right topic in the right way and Members need to be selective, while also being able to demonstrate clear arguments for including or excluding topics.

- 2.5 The CfGS's guide to effective work programming 'A Cunning Plan?' makes the following reference to the importance of good work programming:

*'Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well it can help lay the foundations for targeted, incisive and timely work on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done badly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any work done is likely to be minimal.'*

### **3. Current situation / proposal**

#### Forward Work Programme

- 3.1 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 15 May 2024, the standing statutory reports to Scrutiny Committees of: the Corporate Plan, the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Budget, Performance and Budget Monitoring, etc. have been mapped to the appropriate timely meeting dates into a Forward Work Programme.
- 3.2 The Forward Work Programmes for each Scrutiny Committee have been prepared using a number of difference sources, including:
- Corporate Risk Assessment;
  - Directorate Business Plans;
  - Previous Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme report topics / minutes;
  - Committee / Member proposed topics;
  - Policy Framework;
  - Cabinet Work Programme;
  - Discussions with Corporate Directors;
  - Performance Team regarding the timing of performance information.
- 3.3 There are items where there is a statutory duty for Policy Framework documents to be considered by Scrutiny, e.g., the MTFS including draft budget proposals scheduled for consideration in January 2025, following which COSC will coordinate the conclusions and recommendations from each of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committees in a report on the overall strategic overview of Cabinet's draft Budget proposals to the meeting of Cabinet in February 2025.
- 3.4 An effective Forward Work Programme will identify the issues that the Committee wishes to focus on during the year and provide a clear plan. However, at each meeting the Committee will have an opportunity to review this as the Forward Work Programme Update will be a standing item on the Agenda, detailing which items are scheduled for future meetings and be requested to clarify any information to be included in reports and the list of invitees. The Forward Work Programme will remain flexible and will be revisited at each COSC meeting with input from each Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee reported and any updated information gathered from Forward Work Programme meetings with Corporate Directors.
- 3.5 The Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programmes will be reported to the next meeting of COSC, with the comments from each respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee for coordination and oversight of the

overall Forward Work Programme. The SOSC Forward Work Programmes will be included in the standing Forward Work Programme Update report from then on with any feedback from each SOSC meeting included.

### Identification of Further Items

- 3.6 The Committee are reminded of the Criteria Form which Members can use to propose further items for the FWP which the Committee can then consider for prioritisation at a future meeting. The Criteria Form emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation and to maximise the impact scrutiny can have on a topic and the outcomes for people. Criteria which can help the Committee come to a decision on whether to include a referred topic, are set out below:

#### Recommended Criteria for Selecting Scrutiny Topics:

PUBLIC INTEREST:	The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
ABILITY TO CHANGE:	Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence, and add value to;
PERFORMANCE:	Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council is not performing well;
EXTENT:	Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the County Borough, or a large number of the Authority's service users or its population;
REPLICATION:	Work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

#### Reasons to Reject Scrutiny Topics:

- The issue is already being addressed / being examined elsewhere and change is imminent.
- The topic would be better addressed elsewhere (and can be referred there).
- Scrutiny involvement would have limited / no impact upon outcomes.
- The topic may be sub-judice or prejudicial.
- The topic is too broad to make a review realistic and needs refining / scoping.
- New legislation or guidance relating to the topic is expected within the next year.
- The topic area is currently subject to inspection or has recently undergone substantial change / reconfiguration.

### Corporate Parenting

- 3.7 Corporate Parenting is the term used to describe the responsibility of a local authority towards care experienced children and young people. This is a legal responsibility given to local authorities by the Children Act 1989 and the Children Act 2004. The role of the Corporate Parent is to seek for children in public care the

outcomes every good parent would want for their own children. The Council as a whole is the 'Corporate Parent', therefore all Members have a level of responsibility for care experienced children and young people in Bridgend.

- 3.8 In this role, it is suggested that Members consider how each item they consider affects care experienced children and young people, and in what way can the Committee assist in these areas.
- 3.9 Scrutiny Champions can greatly support the Committee in this by advising them of the ongoing work of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting and particularly any decisions or changes which they should be aware of as Corporate Parents.
- 3.10 The Forward Work Programme for the Committee is attached as **Appendix A** for the Committee's consideration.
- 3.11 The Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet to track responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meetings is attached as **Appendix B**.

#### **4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)**

- 4.1 The Protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

#### **5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives**

- 5.1 The Act provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with 5 Ways of Working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The following is a summary to show how the 5 Ways of Working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:
  - Long-term - The approval of this report will assist in the planning of Scrutiny business in both the short-term and in the long-term on its policies, budget and service delivery.
  - Prevention - The early preparation of the Forward Work Programme allows for the advance planning of Scrutiny business where Members are provided an opportunity to influence and improve decisions before they are made by Cabinet.
  - Integration - The report supports all the wellbeing objectives.
  - Collaboration - Consultation on the content of the Forward Work Programme has taken place with the Corporate Management Board, Heads of Service and Elected Members.

- Involvement - Advanced publication of the Forward Work Programme ensures that stakeholders can view topics that will be discussed in Committee meetings and are provided with the opportunity to engage.

5.2 When setting its Forward Work Programme, the Committee should consider how each item they propose to scrutinise assists in the achievement of the Council's 7 Wellbeing Objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** as follows :-

1. A County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable
2. A County Borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns
3. A County Borough with thriving valleys communities
4. A County Borough where we help people meet their potential
5. A County Borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency
6. A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community
7. A County Borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives

## 6. **Climate Change Implications**

6.1 The Committee should consider how each item they scrutinise affects climate change, the Council's Net Zero Carbon 2030 target and how it meets the Council's commitments to protect and sustain the environment over the long term. There are no Climate Change Implications arising from this report.

## 7. **Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications**

7.1 The Committee should consider how each item they scrutinise affects care experienced children and young people, and in what way the Committee can assist in these areas. Safeguarding is everyone's business and means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. There are no Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications arising from this report.

## 8. **Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## 9. **Recommendation**

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider and approve the Forward Work Programme for the Committee in **Appendix A**.
- b) Identify any specific information the Committee wishes to be included in the items for the next two meetings, including invitees they wish to attend;

- c) Identify whether there are presently any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the selection criteria in paragraph 3.6 of this report.
- d) Note the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in **Appendix B** to track outstanding responses to the Committee's recommendations made at previous meetings;
- e) Note that the Forward Work Programme, any feedback from the Committee and the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet will be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC), with the comments from each respective Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC), following consideration in this cycle of Committee meetings.

### **Background documents**

None.

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Forward Work ProgrammeSubject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

Monday 8 July 2024 at 10.00am		
Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<b>Building on Strengths, Improving Lives – A Three-Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council.</b>	Pre-decision.  The purpose of the report is to provide Members of the Committee with an opportunity to scrutinise the three-year plan for sustainable care and support for adults in Bridgend County Borough Council.	<b>Cabinet Member</b> Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.  <b>Officers</b> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; and the Head of Adult Social Care; and Head of Adult Social Care; Social Work Lead in Adult Social Care; Group Manager - Direct Care Provider Services; Group Manager - Integrated Cluster Network Service; Group Manager - Learning Disability, Mental Health, and Substance Misuse.
<b>Corporate Parenting Champion Nomination Report</b>	To nominate one Member as its Corporate Parenting Champion to represent the Committee as an invitee at meetings of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting in addition to the Chairperson of SOSOC 2 who is automatically appointed.	N/A
<b>Draft Outline Forward Work Programme</b>		N/A

Monday 23 September 2024 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<b>Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)</b>	To consider the current issues being experienced in the County Borough and specifically how the Authority is working with the Health Service to support individuals who require support at home including reablement care when discharged from hospital.	<b>Cabinet Member</b> Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.  <b>Officers</b> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.  Head of Adult Social Care Social Work Lead in Adult Social Care Integrated Community Services Manager – Reablement  Clinical Service Group Manager - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
<b>Proposal to extend the Term of the Healthy Living Partnership with GLL / HALO Leisure</b>	Pre-decision.  The report offers Members the opportunity to scrutinise the benefits of an extension to the existing healthy living partnership agreement with GLL/Halo Leisure. The current agreement is due to end in March 2027 and the report will provide information on the legal and procurement considerations that the Council may need to make. The report will identify how the current partnership has delivered on outcomes for the Council and supported its wellbeing objectives whilst improving the leisure facilities and delivering financial savings. The report will identify the reasoning as to why an extended relationship may be a cost-effective way forward for the Council in comparison to alternatives.	<b>Cabinet Member</b> Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing  <b>Officers</b> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.  Group Manager - Prevention and Wellbeing

Thursday 14 November 2024 at 10.00am		
Theme/ Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<b>Integrated Substance Misuse Service in Bridgend</b>	To evaluate the effectiveness of the current arrangements and to provide an opportunity for Members to advise on future developments.	<b>Cabinet Member</b> Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.  <b>Officers</b> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; and the Head of Adult Social Care; and service users/ partners – Police and Health colleagues - TBD.
<b>Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2023-24</b>	To include an update on Child Exploitation, placement sufficiency, and staffing challenges.	<b>Cabinet Member</b> Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.  <b>Officers</b> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; and the Head of Adult Social Care; Head of Children's Social Care; Group Manager, IAA & Safeguarding; Team Manager – Older People - Mental Health.

Friday 17 January 2025 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<b>Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29 and Budget Proposals</b>		<b>Cabinet Members</b> Leader of Council; Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance; Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share).  <b>Officers</b> Chief Executive; Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Chief Officer - Finance, Housing and Change; Chief Officer - Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy; Head of Adult Social Care; Head of Children's Social Care; Deputy Head of Finance; and Finance Manager – Social Services & Wellbeing / Chief Executive's Directorate.
<b>Assisted Transport Policy Consultation (TBC)</b>	Pre-decision	<b>Cabinet Member</b> Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing.  <b>Officers</b> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.

Thursday, 13 March 2025 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<b>Library and Cultural Services</b>	Pre-decision.	<b>Cabinet Members</b> Leader of Council; Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance; Cabinet Member for Resources (Job Share).  <b>Officers</b> Chief Executive; Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing.

Thursday, 1 May 2025 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
TBD		<b>Cabinet Member</b> <b>Officers</b>

## Briefings and Workshops:

Briefings/ Workshops:		
Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
<b>The Elimination of Private Profit from the Care of Looked After Children</b>	<p>The Welsh Government introduced legislation, The Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill, on 20 May 2024. Amongst a number of aims, the Bill contains provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>restrict the making of profit</b> by providers of children's homes services, secure accommodation services and fostering services for looked after children.</li> <li>• require local authorities to submit a <b>sufficiency plan</b> to Welsh Ministers in respect of accommodation for looked after children, and to take all reasonable steps to secure sufficient accommodation provided by not-for-profit entities, either within or near to its areas to meet their needs.</li> </ul> <p>The aim is to ensure that public money invested in accommodation for care experienced children is not extracted as profit, but instead is reinvested back into the system to support sustainable and better outcomes, services and professional development.</p> <p>The initial briefing for all Members, and the subsequent Workshop for Members of SOSC 2, will explore what this could mean for the future care of children in the Borough.</p>	<b>Members and officers for the Briefing and Workshop – 5 December 2024 at 3pm.</b>
<b>Member Briefing - SS - Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014</b>	Part 9 of the Act requires local authorities to make arrangements to promote co-operation with their relevant partners and others, in relation to adults with needs for care and support, carers and children.	<b>Members and officers for the Briefing 7 January 2025 at 3pm.</b>
<b>Day Opportunities Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advise Members of the proposals and the consultation</li> <li>• Allow Members the opportunity of asking any questions for clarification or queries raised with them over these subjects by their own constituents.</li> <li>• The report can then be scheduled for detailed pre-decision scrutiny near the end of the consultation or following the consultation to enable the Committee to provide their own views and recommendations towards the final decision of Cabinet.</li> </ul>	<b>Members and officers for the Briefing 10 January 2025 at 10am.</b>
<b>Accommodation Based Service Review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To advise Members of the proposals and the consultation</li> <li>• Allow Members the opportunity of asking any questions for clarification or queries raised with them over these subjects by their own constituents.</li> <li>• The reports can then be scheduled for detailed pre-decision scrutiny near the end of the consultation or following the consultation to enable the Committee to provide their own views and recommendations towards the final decision of Cabinet.</li> </ul>	<b>Members and officers for the Briefing 10 January 2025 at 10am.</b>
<b>The Replacement System for CareDirector (WCCIS)</b>	The Committee requested a briefing on COR-2024-01 on the Corporate Risk Assessment: The threat to business continuity if the Council is unable to procure and implement major ICT systems which support critical services such as a replacement system for CareDirector (WCCIS). CareDirector is a Cloud-based case management solution for social care organisations that	<b>Members and officers for the Briefing and Workshop – TBD.</b>

	supports integrated working across health and social care.	
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**Other Items:****Reports to be scheduled for pre-decision scrutiny near the end of the consultation:**

- Day Opportunities Review
- Accommodation Based Service Review

**15 April postponed reports:**

- A 3 Year Sustainability Plan to Improve Outcomes for Children and Family Services in Bridgend: Year 1 Report on Progress – 2023/24 - updated version to be provided as an Information Report during 2024-25.

**Reports requested by the Committee:**

- Progress on the Learning Disability Transformation Programme – 6 monthly updates to be provided during 2024-25.
- Direct Payments – TBD.

**Other Potential Items:**

- Social Services Transport Policy.
- The Social Partnership.

**Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2**

**RECOMMENDATIONS MONITORING ACTION SHEET 2024-2025**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
8 Jul 24	Building on Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council	Given the need for increased partnership working, Members recommended that there was a need to ensure that the proposals for the future of Sustainable Care for Adults were integrated with and compatible with the work of Employability Bridgend.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 8 November 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28July24ResponsetoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28July24ResponsetoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf</a>
8 Jul 24	Building on Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council	The Committee expressed concern over the lack of performance data which made the evaluation of future plans difficult and recommended that this be considered for the future plan and reports.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 8 November 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28July24ResponsetoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28July24ResponsetoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf</a>
8 Jul 24	Building on Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council	Members were complimentary regarding the Plan and felt the Service Area needed to promote it further to highlight the work that had been undertaken in developing the Plan, the proposals and the resulting positive outcomes for the community as a whole. The Committee therefore recommended there was an urgent need to demonstrate further and promote the value of the new operating	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 8 November 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28July24ResponsetoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28July24ResponsetoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf</a>

**APPENDIX B**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		model, as a potential exemplar to other services areas in terms of how to deliver services differently within defined budgetary constraints.			
8 Jul 24	Building on Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council	The Committee recommended that there was a need to revisit the correspondence with the local member of the Senedd about attending the mental health round table, and that a follow-up request should be sent.	Scrutiny	Scrutiny Team actioning with Scrutiny Chair.	
8 Jul 24	Building on Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council	The Committee requested that relevant performance data should be sent to Members as soon as it is available, rather than waiting for future meetings.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 8 November 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28July24ResponsetoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28July24ResponsetoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf</a>
8 Jul 24	Building on Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council	The Committee requested that Members receive information about the BAVO consultation exercise by email.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided. Chased.	
8 Jul 24	Building on Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan for Sustainable Care and	The Committee requested that Members receive a copy of the Quality Assurance Framework via email.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/s33792/SOSC28</a>

**APPENDIX B**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
	Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council		Services and Wellbeing	circulated 8 November 2024.	<a href="#">July24Respon estoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf</a>
8 Jul 24	Building on Strengths, Improving Lives - A Three- Year Plan for Sustainable Care and Support for Adults in Bridgend County Borough Council	In addition to the mental health round table, there was a need to identify other local groups and fora that provide relevant services but the workings of which are not necessarily known to Members.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 7 November 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/33792/SOSC28_July24Respon estoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/33792/SOSC28_July24Respon estoRecommendationsandRequests.docx.pdf</a>
8 Jul 24	Forward Work Programme Update	The Committee requested a briefing on COR-2024-01 on the Corporate Risk Assessment: The threat to business continuity if the Council is unable to procure and implement major ICT systems which support critical services such as a replacement system for Care Director (WCCIS).	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	To be discussed in Work Planning Meeting / with Scrutiny Chairs.	
8 Jul 24	Forward Work Programme Update	There was a need to resolve which scrutiny committee addresses the issue of Disabled Facilities Grants.	Scrutiny	To be discussed in Work Planning Meeting / with Scrutiny Chairs.	
23 Sep 24	Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)	The Committee welcomed the comprehensive report and responses provided by the Cabinet Member and Officers, however the report highlighted issues and performance on a regional basis, and it was challenging to	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing /	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	

**APPENDIX B**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		understand and scrutinise the specific issues in Bridgend County Borough. The Committee recommended that future reports based on services provided on a regional basis need to provide at least in part, an overview and a critical analysis of specific issues and performance in Bridgend County Borough.	Head of Adult Social Care		
23 Sep 24	Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)	The Committee recommended that Employability Bridgend be utilised on an on-going basis to undertake specific targeted campaigns in a local area to recruit people to work in social care.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	
23 Sep 24	Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)	The Committee recommended that the Chair write to the responsible Welsh Government Minister to outline Members concerns about the demand for services and the resources available to provide them.	Scrutiny / Chair of SOSC 2	Scrutiny Team actioning with Scrutiny Chair.	
23 Sep 24	Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)	Members discussed that in addition to a ward in the Princess of Wales Hospital, there were beds in community hospitals in the other two local authority areas in the region that were not allocated per local authority area, and commented that for a variety of reasons, these might not be suitable for patients from Bridgend and their families. The Committee welcomed that there were currently discussions at the design and	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	



Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		development stage, to re-develop Maesteg Community Hospital and requested that a further update be provided on the re-development of Maesteg Community Hospital, when available.			
23 Sep 24	Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)	The Committee requested more detailed information on the composition, work programme, and performance of the Integrated Discharge Delivery Board.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing / Head of Adult Social Care	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	
23 Sep 24	Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)	The Committee requested that they be sent the most recent Annual Report of the CTM Regional Partnership, the Market Stability Report, and the Commissioning Strategy Reports.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	
23 Sep 24	Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays (PoCD)	The Committee requested information about current and proposed consultations on an on-going basis, so that opportunities are not missed to input to service developments locally, regionally, and nationally.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	
23 Sep 24	Proposal To Extend the Term of the Healthy Living Partnership with GLL / HALO Leisure	Members noted the controls, including determining the number of leisure centres and their opening hours, the Council would maintain if the current contract with HALO Leisure was extended in the short-term. These	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		<p>controls provided the Council with opportunities to achieve budgetary efficiencies through the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and a short-term extension of the partnership agreement would provide the time needed to confirm the Council's longer term strategic direction and for greater economic stability to emerge. As such, Members expressed confidence in the approach presented in the report in respect of the benefits of extending the relationship with HALO Leisure in the short-term and on that basis, the Committee recommended that the Partnership with HALO Leisure be extended in the short-term.</p>			
23 Sept 24	<p>Proposal To Extend the Term of the Healthy Living Partnership with GLL / HALO Leisure</p>	<p>a. The Committee recommended that a further report be submitted at the appropriate time regarding the ongoing long-term strategy and the consequent practical implications for delivering well-being services for the people of the County Borough and that the report should contain more critical analysis of all the options available to the Council.</p> <p>b. The Committee recommended that representatives of HALO leisure be invited to future Scrutiny Committee</p>	<p>Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.</p>	

**APPENDIX B**

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome	Response
		meetings that consider the Healthy Living Partnership with GLL / HALO Leisure.			
23 Sep 24	Proposal To Extend the Term of the Healthy Living Partnership with GLL / HALO Leisure	The Committee requested more information on the exercise being undertaken with external partners to determine a long-term strategy for well-being services. The report identifies how a short-term extension of the partnership agreement may provide the time needed to confirm the Council's longer term strategic direction and for greater economic stability to emerge.	Scrutiny / Corporate Director -Social Services and Wellbeing	Recommendations circulated requesting response - to be provided.	
23 Sept 24	Forward Work Programme Update	Members recommended that, given the number of pre-decision reports that are likely to need scrutiny in the coming months, that consideration be given to organising an additional meeting of the Committee before Christmas.	Scrutiny	<b>ACTIONED</b> – response and information circulated 8 November 2024.	<a href="https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/33793/SOSC223Sep24ResponsestoRecsandRequests.docx.pdf">https://democratic.bridgend.gov.uk/documents/33793/SOSC223Sep24ResponsestoRecsandRequests.docx.pdf</a>

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