

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - FRIDAY, 17 JANUARY 2025

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 FRIDAY, 17 JANUARY 2025 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

S Aspey

GH Haines

D T Harrison

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

Present Virtually

C Davies
R J Smith

P Ford
A Wathan

M Lewis

RL Penhale-Thomas

Apologies for Absence

R Williams

Invitees

Councillor John Spanswick
Councillor Jane Gebbie
Councillor Hywel Williams

Leader
Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance

Mark Shepherd
Carys Lord
Claire Marchant

Chief Executive
Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change
Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing

Deborah Exton
Eilish Thomas
Joe Boyle

Deputy Head of Finance
Finance Manager – Social Services & Wellbeing / Chief Executive's Directorate
Policy Officer – Social Care Workforce

Officers:

Meryl Lawrence
Jessica McLellan

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny
Scrutiny Officer

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

17. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 dated 14 November 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	17 January 2025

18. Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2028-29

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with Cabinet Members and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendation: Recommendation 1. The Committee expressed grave concerns regarding budget reduction proposals SSW 12 and 13, highlighting the widespread ramifications that would follow from redundancies and impact on the caseloads and wellbeing of remaining staff and the reputational risk they would create. The Committee therefore recommended that budget reduction proposals SSW 12 and 13 be removed and not pursued as savings.
Date Decision Made	17 January 2025

19. Assisted Transport Policy Consultation

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations: Recommendations
---------------	---

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - FRIDAY, 17 JANUARY 2025

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The Committee recommended that the timescales of implementing the Policy needed to be clearer.3. The Committee expressed concern that the Better Together Bridgend group lead by People First were developing the training plan but that People First had failed to respond to the consultation. The Committee therefore recommended that People First be contacted to ascertain their willingness to formulate and deliver the training plan.4. The Committee recommended that the Assisted Transport Policy be added to the Committee's Forward Work Programme for future monitoring and that People First be invited for the Item.
Date Decision Made	17 January 2025

20. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>That the Committee approved the Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the inclusion of the recommendations below, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Committee recommended that there be an all Member briefing on the use of artificial intelligence within the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and how it is envisaged it could safely aid a reduction in staff numbers.2. The Committee requested that the following reports be added to their FWP:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Placement Commissioning Strategy;b. Implementation of the Home Remodelling Programme across Adult Services;c. Policy Revision to include case studies from across the demographic; andd. Assisted Transport Policy (as above in Recommendation 4).
Date Decision Made	17 January 2025

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.

21. Urgent Matters

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	17 January 2025

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

The meeting closed at 12:29.