

SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 - THURSDAY, 1 MAY 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 THURSDAY, 1 MAY 2025 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

C Davies

GH Haines

Present Virtually

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

A Wathan

R Williams

Apologies for Absence

M Lewis and RL Penhale-Thomas

Invitees

Councillor Jane Gebbie

Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing

Claire Marchant

Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing

Jackie Davies

Head of Adult Social Care

David Wright

Deputy Head of Children and Family Services

Jane Lewis

Group Manager – Direct Care Provider Services

Tania Turner

Provider Services Manager – Support at Home

Ceri Williams

Provider Services Manager – Learning Disabilities, Accommodation, Mental Health & Related Services

Officers:

Meryl Lawrence

Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny

Jessica McLellan

Scrutiny Officer

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Declarations of Interest

None.

28. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 dated 13 March 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	1 May 2025

29. Early Help, Prevention and Edge of Care

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: Recommendations: 1. The Committee expressed concern at the number of acronyms being used within reports causing a barrier to full understanding of reports and terms included and recommended that future reports contain a glossary of abbreviations to assist the Committee and the public. 2. The Committee expressed concern that early intervention services may not be prioritised as they are non-statutory and recommended that a letter be written to the Welsh Government (and copied to the local Senedd Members) setting out the following: a. that Early Help and prevention are central to the Council's strategy of supporting and protecting the most vulnerable in our community; b. that it would present a corporate risk to the Authority if such services are not sufficiently funded; and c. highlighting the impact:
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	<p>i) of late notification and retrospective grant funding on financial and workforce planning;</p> <p>ii) on grant funded staff on rolling annual contracts; and</p> <p>iii) of the lack of inflationary uplift on budgetary pressures and workforce funding.</p> <p>3. Whilst acknowledging the timescales in the Action Plan were specified by the Institute of Public Care, the Committee expressed concern regarding the achievability of the ambitious timescales set out in the Action Plan and recommended that accurate and measurable milestones with timescales be included in the Action Plan, and to assist with monitoring.</p> <p>Additional Information:</p> <p>4. The Committee requested information regarding LGBTQ+ support available for children and young people, having been advised that most of the support available is from the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate.</p>
Date Decision Made	1 May 2025

30. Care Inspectorate Wales Inspection of Bridgend County Borough Council's Regulated Services in Adult Social Care

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:</p> <p>Recommendations:</p> <p>5. The Committee expressed concern about the lack of clarity regarding the responsibility for meeting the cost of national insurance contributions for employees of commissioned services and recommended that a letter be written to the Welsh Government to request a clear indication of whether or not these contributions will be met by additional funding in the Authority's settlement or whether this will be an additional cost pressure to Bridgend.</p> <p>6. The Committee highlighted the value Member rota visits provide and recommended that the importance of them be reiterated and communicated to all Members of the Council.</p>
Date Decision Made	1 May 2025

31. Information Report – Quarter 3 Performance 2024/25

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee considered the content of the Quarter 3 Performance 2024-25 report, the Corporate Performance Dashboard Quarter 3 2024-25 and the Regulatory Tracker updated for Quarter 3 2024-25 within the remit of the Committee and had regard to the dashboard and the tracker when considering the Committee's Forward Work Programme report.
Date Decision Made	1 May 2025

32. Forward Work Programme Update

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Committee requested that the following reports be added to their Forward Work Programme:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Social Services Representations and Complaints; andb. Early Help – Operating Arrangements at the Front Door.2. Following consideration of the Corporate Performance Dashboard for Quarter 3 2024-25, the Committee requested a written update on the performance of the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Percentage of reablement packages completed that reduced the need for support, maintained the same level of support and mitigated need for support (SSWB38).b. Number of people who access independent advocacy to support their rights within children's social care and adult's social care (SSWB61).c. Average waiting time on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards waiting list (SSWB63).3. The Committee requested a Member Briefing setting out the provision of accommodation based regulated support services in Bridgend to include the following:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. whether they are private, public or charity sector;b. how staff are contracted; andc. the ownership of the buildings.
Date Decision Made	1 May 2025

33. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	1 May 2025

34. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>The following item was not for publication as it contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 and Paragraph 21 of Part 5, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as it relates to information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information). Following the application of the public interest test, the Committee resolved pursuant to the Act to consider this item in private and the public were excluded from the meeting during such consideration.</p>
Date Decision Made	1 May 2025

35. Approval of Exempt Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the exempt minutes of the 13 March 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	1 May 2025

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

The meeting closed at 12:23.