

**SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2) - THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2026**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2) HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2026 AT 10:00**

Present

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe

C Davies

P Davies

R Williams

Present Virtually

S Aspey

P Ford

D M Hughes

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

Apologies for Absence

S Easterbrook, RM James, P W Jenkins, W J Kendall and M Lewis  
Michelle Phelps, Supported Living Manager

Invitees:

Councillor Jane Gebbie

Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member for Social Services and Wellbeing

Claire Marchant

Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing

Kelvin Barlow

Head of Adult Social Care

Shagufta Khan

Social Work Lead – Adult Social Care

Mark Wilkinson

Group Manager – Learning Disability, Mental Health and Substance Misuse

Jane Lewis

Group Manager – Direct Care Provider Services

Ceri Williams

Provider Service Manager – Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and Related Services

Aimee Bowen

Senior Behavioural Specialist

Representative from People First

Officers

Meryl Lawrence

Senior Democratic Services Officer – Scrutiny

Jessica McLellan

Scrutiny Officer

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

Declarations of Interest

F D Bletsoe – Personal – Item 4 – Governor at Heronsbridge School

Item 6 - In discussions regarding a possible recommendation to work closely with the private rental sector:

S J Bletsoe – Prejudicial - In paid employment with the National Residential Landlords Association and

F D Bletsoe – Personal - husband works in the Private Rental Sector

**61. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  That the minutes of the meeting of Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 23 January 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	12 March 2026

**62. Update Report: The Learning Disabilities Transformation Programme**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  The Committee thanked the Service User Invitees and the Support Officers for attending the meeting and for the valued contributions to the discussions.  Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member, Officers and Invitees the Committee made the following recommendations and request for additional information:  <b>Recommendations</b>  1. The Committee expressed concern regarding the way in which the information contained in the tables in the financial implications section of the report is presented and that the impact on and voice of Service Users was not reflected in the report although verbal responses referred to both.
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	<p>The Committee <b>recommended</b> that the Directorate reviews its report writing, encouraging their report authors to adopt an approach that includes the impact on Service Users and ensures that their voice is included in addition to data, and that consideration be given to analysing the information received from Finance and presenting it clearly and accessibly in reports, for Members and the public.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The Committee discussed the additional 3 posts created to embed and accelerate progress through to April 2027 secured through a combination of growth and reprofiling of grant funding, expressed concern regarding the risk of not securing further grant funding and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to the posts being permanent and funded from the base budget.</li> <li>3. Members heard from Service Users that they would like access to more college courses but the number of courses offered had reduced and were fully subscribed. The Committee expressed concern that the service was starting to have an increased demand, in particular for younger people and whether the new college campus opening would offer more availability including courses specifically aimed for those with barriers to learning and <b>recommended</b> that a letter be written to the principal of the college to clarify the position.</li> <li>4. The Committee also heard from Service Users regarding the extensive housing register waiting time and <b>recommended</b> that a letter be written to the Group Manager - Housing expressing the Committee's concern and to ask that consideration be given to working more closely with the private rented sector to aim to reduce waiting times.</li> </ol> <p><b>Request for Additional Information</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Following an invitation to Members from the Service Users to attend the 'Have Our Say' Group meetings, the Committee <b>requested</b> the dates of the upcoming meetings and the necessary contact details to arrange to attend a meeting.</li> </ol>
Date Decision Made	12 March 2026

**63. Assisted Transport Policy**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member, Officers and Invitees the Committee made the following recommendation and requests for additional information:</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>6. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that an easy read version of the Policy be prepared and made available.</p> <p><b>Requests for Additional Information</b></p> <p>7. The Committee discussed Section 6 of the Assisted Transport Policy which listed circumstances when individuals will normally not be eligible for transport and <b>requested</b> examples of when individuals would be eligible for assisted transport in accordance with the Policy.</p> <p>8. The Committee <b>requested</b> the reasons why the Directorate's Day Services budget funds some individuals home to college transport rather than from elsewhere.</p>
Date Decision Made	12 March 2026

**64. 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 scheduling of the following Items, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B, noted that the FWP as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>1. Support for Care Leavers; 2. Child Protection; and</p>
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	3. Integrated Health Services / Package of Care Delays.
Date Decision Made	12 March 2026

**65. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	12 March 2026

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

The meeting closed at 12:43.