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Bridgend County Borough Council

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Rhwch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich dewis iaith.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh.



Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 / 643694 / 643513
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Dyddiad/Date: Thursday, 2 July 2026

Dear Councillor,

SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday, 9 July 2026 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 Shared Lives

3 - 10

Invitees

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

Claire Marchant - Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing

Joe Boyle – Commissioning and Service Development Officer

Richard Thomas - Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer

Paul Marchant – Shared Lives Team Manager – Vale of Glamorgan Council

By receiving this Agenda Pack electronically you will save the Authority approx. £00.40 in printing costs

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

5 Forward Work Programme Update

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6 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 meeting will be held 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 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

S J Bletsoe

JPD Blundell

N Clarke

P Davies

P Ford

D M Hughes

RM James

W J Kendall

M Lewis

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

AJ Williams

R Williams

Meeting of:	SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	9 JULY 2026
Report Title:	SHARED LIVES SERVICE CONSULTATION
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CLLR JANE GEBBIE, CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING CLAIRE MARCHANT, CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING
Responsible Officer:	JOE BOYLE COMMISSIONING AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	It is proposed that the Shared Lives Service in Bridgend update its payments and funding model, in line with the best practice models elsewhere in Wales. This requires a ‘Banded’ payment system for paying self-employed carers, based on levels of support delivered. It also requires individuals within the service to be paying realistic contributions towards the cost of daily living. The proposed changes will align the payment and funding approach with our Shared Lives partners, Vale of Glamorgan Council, who run the service on behalf of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). As the changes affect those within the Service, a public consultation has been undertaken to ensure the views of those individuals affected are fully considered. This report outlines the key areas being considered for change and highlights the main themes coming through from the consultation feedback.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with feedback received relating to the recent public consultation in respect of proposed changes and updates to the Shared Lives Service and to invite the Committee to provide feedback relating to the proposed changes moving forward.
- 1.2 This report provides an opportunity for the Committee to provide feedback in relation to the proposals prior to the final submission to Cabinet for approval.

2. Background

- 2.1 In March 2025, Cabinet approved the continuation of the Partnership Agreement for a further 5 year period with the Vale of Glamorgan (VOG) Shared Lives (Adult Placement) Scheme, where there are currently 16 individuals in long-term placements, and 13 Shared Lives households (either single or couple carers) living in Bridgend. This approval to continue the partnership included the intention of moving toward banded payments.
- 2.2 All individuals using the scheme have been assessed by Adult Services and are then referred to Shared Lives as part of their Care and Support Plan to meet eligible unmet needs and their contributions are determined by a financial assessment. A video case study can be found on the homepage of the Shared Lives Partnership website [here](#).
- 2.3 On 3 February 2026 Cabinet approved the commencement of a public consultation regarding proposed changes to the Shared Lives Partnership which aims to create a consistent service between BCBC and VOG. The consultation ran for a 12-week period from 30 March 2026 to 21 June 2026.

Current allowance rates to Shared Lives carers

- 2.4 Currently, Bridgend carers receive a fixed standard rate of £616.77 per week irrespective of the level of needs or complexity of the individual(s) they support. This can be viewed as inequitable as it does not recognise the differing levels of complexity of those cared for, and does not recognise the different levels of care provided by carers. As self-employed carers, this payment is made as an allowance where the carers themselves are responsible for managing their tax position. Some carers with lower caring responsibilities may have other paid work, whereas some carers rely solely on the Shared Lives Scheme for their income.
- 2.5 The intention of the proposed banding system is to create a more equitable approach across the partnership between BCBC and the VOG through all individuals being placed in one of three bandings:

Band 3 – high levels of care/support	Paid £670.82 per week
Band 2 – mid-level care/support	Paid £640.08 per week
Band 1 – lower levels of care/support	Paid £505.91 per week

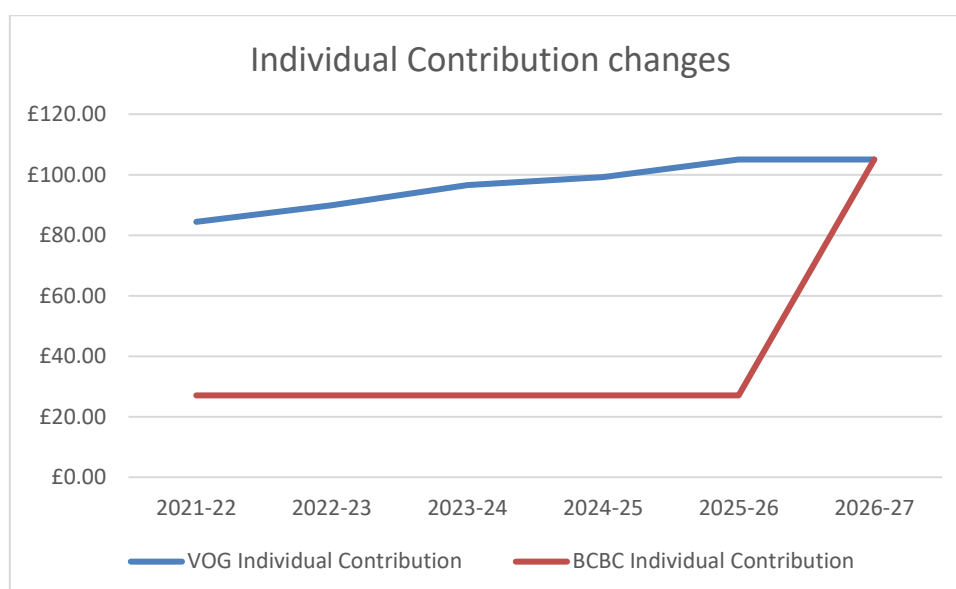
These rates are for the 2026-27 financial year and have been confirmed not to be subject to an uplift in 2027/28 following the intended implementation of these changes in January 2027.

- 2.6 This follows banding systems used in other Shared Lives partnerships across Wales and the UK. Notably, the proposed bandings for the Bridgend Scheme will utilise competitive allowance rates in comparison to neighboring schemes, where the proposed banding rates (allowances paid to carers) in the VOG/BCBC Partnership are higher, for example, than those paid by the Southeast Wales partnership (which is the largest equivalent scheme in Wales).

- 2.7 As part of the consultation, Officers have undertaken direct conversations to fully understand the impact of the proposed banding system and support the identification of the options for implementation. This is particularly important given the intention for the Shared Lives Scheme to grow and diversify. The possible identification of a 'no detriment' approach will be an option assessed, which will look at ways to mitigate any potential risks and financial impact, primarily from the weekly income reduction for carers supporting Band 1 placements.

Personal contributions towards accommodation made by individuals receiving care and support within the scheme

- 2.8 While the Council funds the social care element of the service, individuals within the Scheme pay a personal contribution towards their daily living costs, and towards their care and support. This is made up of:
- Rent (via Housing Benefit / Universal Credit) – which is set by local housing allowance rates;
 - Personal contributions towards daily living costs such as meals, heating and utilities – which form part of the allowance provided to the carers;
 - Additionally, individuals pay a contribution towards their care and support (Non Residential care charges) which is assessed in line with the Part 4 & 5 Code of Practice (Charging and Financial Assessment) issued under the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 – which is paid to BCBC, and capped at £100/week.
- 2.9 Personal contributions towards daily living costs are intended to supplement the rent as a payment towards the normal costs of living incurred by the Shared Lives carers. The total of rent and personal contributions paid by individuals in Bridgend has been static at £105 per week since 2015.
- 2.10 The following graph shows personal contributions (excluding rent) in Bridgend and the Vale. As can be seen, BCBC individuals currently pay £27.05 per week, which has never been increased in line with inflation. This is in contrast to the VOG where annual increases in individual contributions have taken place, in line with annual inflationary uplifts, creating inequality within the Scheme. The position in Bridgend is a legacy rate implemented prior to the creation of the Partnership in 2019. Because the Bridgend contribution has been static at this rate since at least 2015, and VOG individuals had already been subject to annual inflationary uplifts, this has created the difference between the starting rates shown in the graph below.



- 2.11 The move to banding is intended to bring about a unified and consistent approach to allowance payments for carers under the Shared Lives Scheme, which includes an equitable approach to individual contributions. The table below provides a breakdown of the proposed contributions:

Band	Total Carer Allowance	Individual Contribution	Total Individual Contribution (including rent)	BCBC Contribution
1	£505.91	£105.03	£197.08	£303.83
2	£640.08	£105.03	£197.08	£443
3	£670.82	£105.03	£197.08	£473.74

- 2.12 The proposal within the Partnership is for all individuals and self-employed carers supported by the Scheme to move into a banding system in order to make this fairer for all involved. Should the move to banding be approved by Cabinet, two key factors will change from current practice in Bridgend:

- A) Banded allowance rates paid to self-employed Shared Lives carers;
- B) Alignment of personal contributions towards their accommodation made by individuals supported within the scheme.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 The public consultation ended on 21 June 2026.
- 3.2 The consultation was made up of an online public form, available for any person to access, read and provide a response to; in-person consultation sessions for individuals supported by the service; along with separate meetings for their carers.
- 3.3 There were 3 group sessions organised across the county borough for supported individuals, with 9 long term supported individuals attending a session. These sessions were supported with an Easy Read version of the planned changes, and facilitated independently by People First Bridgend.

- 3.4 Shared Lives Carers were invited to separate sessions where they were able to provide direct feedback on the proposals and the potential impacts on them as carers, and also any known impacts or concerns for the individuals they support.
- 3.5 There are currently 16 individuals who are in long term Shared Lives placements. Of these, 7 did not attend an in-person session, but with communications received for 6 of them stating that the Easy Read information had been discussed with the individual. This ensured all supported individuals had been given the opportunity to engage with this consultation at a level that was appropriate to them.
- 3.6 There are currently 13 carers, or pairs of carers, providing long term support to individuals in Bridgend. Of these, 9 attended individual meetings at Civic Offices to discuss the changes and provide feedback, with a further 1 attending with their supported individual at a group session, where their feedback was obtained. Feedback was also obtained via email from 1 of the remaining 3 sets of carers. Despite repeated attempts and requests for the remaining 2 carers, they chose not to respond or comment on the proposals. One of these carers did respond regarding the individuals they support, demonstrating that they had received all the information, thus ensuring all long term carers were provided with the opportunity to engage and provide feedback on the proposals.
- 3.7 Family members were also invited, where appropriate or possible, to contribute to the consultation via the online form, or through a separate meeting organised as required. A separate meeting, facilitated by an Independent Advocate was organised for one supported individual, with their carer and their family members attending to enable feedback and concerns to be discussed.

Initial Feedback Analysis

- 3.8 As the formal public consultation only concluded on 21 June 2026, full analysis is still ongoing, and it is therefore recommended that the Committee provide further comment and feedback relating to the proposals for further analysis and consideration in the finalisation of the proposals.
- 3.9 Almost universal consensus has been found across all stakeholders that the move to a more equitable and fairer payment arrangement was understandable and appropriate. It was recognised that the banding arrangement was a fairer way to pay for the differing levels of care and support provided. It was also recognised, and agreed, that individuals should be paying a fair contribution to the real costs of living.
- 3.10 However, the major theme from individuals, family members, and the carers was in relation to the impact and financial viability of these proposed changes. In particular, around the changes to individual contributions towards their food and utility bills and the subsequent impact on the individual's daily life and ability to save.
- 3.11 As a result, financial assessment processes have begun; to support an understanding of the individual impacts of these changes and increases for each person in the service should the proposed changes be approved by Cabinet.

- 3.12 Another key theme is that under these proposed changes, carers who support an individual classed as a Band 1, would receive a reduced weekly allowance. This is due to the lower level of assessed needs that the individual they support has.
- 3.13 Of the 13 current carers (or pairs of carers), five currently support at least one Band 1 individual. Of these five, 3 carers (or pairs of carers) expressed a desire to remain on their current terms and conditions. This would mean remaining at their existing allowance rate, as well as fewer respite weeks (2 weeks currently, not 4 under the proposal). Additionally, one of these carers has also indicated that they would find it difficult to continue providing long-term care without this guarantee.
- 3.14 The mechanism for the implementation of the bandings and move to increased individual contribution is currently under consideration, including the possibility of a “no detriment” approach as referred to in paragraph 2.7 of the report, and final options for decision-making will be presented to Cabinet as part of any approval process for any relevant changes following these proposals and consultation activity.
- 3.15 As part of the family feedback, it was questioned whether the possibility of a ‘no detriment’ approach being applied to individuals regarding the increase in their contributions, alongside considering this approach for carers or the consideration of a phased increase, given the large jump in contributions needed to align with VOG arrangements.
- 3.16 In most cases, individuals supported receive a level of benefits that should allow them to continue living a good quality of life with minimal impact on their disposable income. However, the consultation process has identified some specific cases that need closer scrutiny and consideration. Examples of these situations could include where people are in receipt of benefits or in full time work and are supported through the Shared Lives service. It must be ensured, however, that this process be balanced with the intention for individuals to provide a fair, equitable and more realistic contribution towards daily living costs, and be realistic in helping people to manage their finances if able to move towards greater independence (e.g. moving to their own, unsupported accommodation).
- 3.17 All individuals, carers and family members that have responded have agreed with the rationale for the proposed changes.
- 3.18 All carers for Band 2 and 3 individuals have raised no concerns or issues in response to the proposals.

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

- 4.1 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 disadvantages or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal. As noted in the Screening, although there may be a financial impact on individuals by them needing to increase their contributions towards utility bills and food, this is a positive impact by supporting and promoting their independence by paying a more realistic contribution towards these, which then further supports their potential ability to move on from the service to more independent living.

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	Individuals, their family members, and their carers in the Shared Lives Service have been directly engaged with as part of the consultation and provided feedback. This feedback has been used to form this report.
Long term	The aim of these proposals is to create a single unified shared lives service, with consistent terms and conditions for individuals and carers across the partnership. This will in turn promote and support the expansion and development of the service by increasing the number of shared lives placements available.
Prevention	These proposals look to prevent inequity of terms and conditions of individuals and carers within the service by having consistent individual contributions towards their daily living expenses, and consistent carer allowances, regardless of if they are classed as Bridgend or the Vale.
Integration	These proposals will be integrated across the Shared Lives partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan.
Collaboration	Officers from both BCBC and VOG have contributed and been involved collaboratively in the creation and development of the partnership and these proposals.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

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

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 The use of the Shared Lives Scheme Partnership supports the Council to fulfil its corporate safeguarding requirements by allowing for greater care to be provided to adults with additional needs. The proposal enables the Council to extend these duties through the provision of a fairer, more equitable and realistic service.
- 7.2 There are no Corporate Parenting implications from this report or its associated proposals.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 While cost saving is not the driver for the introduction of these bandings, the implementation of this system should bring about savings to the Directorate. This is mainly due to the rebalancing of individual contributions, which consequently reduces the placement costs to BCBC. However, it is intended that any subsequent

savings will be reinvested into the partnership to support its growth and development.

- 8.2 Any financial implications/savings linked to the final recommended proposal will be set out in the next report to Cabinet, following the completion of analysis and identification of the final proposal to Cabinet.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the report and its content, and provide any further comments in relation to the proposals and areas discussed in this report before the proposals are submitted to Cabinet for decision.

Background documents

None

Meeting of:	SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	9 JULY 2026
Report Title:	FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL, REGULATORY AND ELECTORAL SERVICES
Responsible Officer:	MERYL LAWRENCE SENIOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER – SCRUTINY
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The work of the Overview & 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.
Executive Summary:	The Council's Constitution requires each Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee. 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 and identify any further items for consideration on the Forward Work Programme having regard to the criteria set out in the report, for this Committee.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a) Present the Committee with the Draft Forward Work Programme attached as **(Appendix A)** for consideration and approval;
- 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 3.5 of this report;

- d) Advise that the Committee's Forward Work Programme as approved will be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (COSC) for information, together with those from the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, following their consideration in this cycle of Committee meetings.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Constitution requires each Overview and Scrutiny Committee to develop and implement a Forward Work Programme for the Committee.
- 2.2 It also provides for the Committee to propose items for the Forward Work Programme having regard for the Council's Corporate Priorities and Risk Management framework. Where a matter for consideration by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee also falls within the remit of one or more other Committees, the decision as to which Committee will consider it will be resolved by the respective Chairs or, if they fail to agree, the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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

- 3.1 Following the approval of the schedule of Scrutiny Committee meeting dates at the Annual Meeting of Council on 13 May 2026, 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 2027, following which COSC will make conclusions and recommendations in a report on the overall strategic overview of Cabinet's draft Budget proposals to the meeting of Cabinet in February 2027.

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 reported to each COSC meeting for information.

Identification of Further Items

3.5 The Committee are reminded that the Scrutiny selection criteria used by Scrutiny Committee Members to consider, select and prioritise items emphasises the need to consider issues such as impact, risk, performance, budget and community perception when identifying topics for investigation to maximise the impact scrutiny can have on a topic and the outcomes for people. The 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

- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 The Forward Work Programme for the Committee is attached as **Appendix A** for the Committee's consideration.
- 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 4 Wellbeing Objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** as follows:

1. A prosperous place with thriving communities
2. Creating modern, seamless public services
3. Enabling people to meet their potential
4. Supporting our most vulnerable

6. Climate Change and Nature 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 or Nature 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. Recommendations

9.1 The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Consider and approve the Draft 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 3.5 of this report.
- d) Note that the Committee's Forward Work Programme as approved will be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information, together with those from the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, following their consideration in this cycle of Committee meetings.

Background documents

None.

Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2026-27 Forward Work Programme

Monday, 8 June 2026 at 10.00am		
Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
'Our Bravery Brought Justice' – the Bridgend response to the North Wales Child Practice Review		<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; Cabinet Member for Education and Youth Services <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People; and Head of Children and Family Services.

Thursday, 9 July 2026 at 10.00am		
Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Shared Lives	Pre-Decision and mid consultation	<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; and Commissioning and Service Development Officer.

Thursday 10 September 2026 at 10.00am		
Report Topics	Any Specific Information Requested	Invitees
Social Services Annual Report 2025-26	Pre-Decision	<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing; Head of Adult Social Care; Head of Children and Family Services. Group Manager - Prevention and Wellbeing;

APPENDIX A

		Group Manager – Commissioning; and Group Manager - Business Strategy, Performance & Improvement.
Social Services Representations and Complaints 2025-26	Pre-Decision	<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing; <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing; and Compliments and Complaints Resolution Manager.

Monday, 9 November 2026 at 10.00am		
Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2025-26		<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Head of Adult Social Care; Head of Children and Family Services; Group Manager – Information, Advice and Assistance and Safeguarding; Team Manager – Older People Mental Health; and Education and Community Safety Leads
Provision of Accommodation Based Regulated Support Services in Bridgend	Post implementation progress report To include information setting out the provision of accommodation based regulated support services in Bridgend to include the following: - whether they are private, public or charity sector; - how staff are contracted; and - the ownership of the buildings.	<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Head of Adult Social Care; and Group Manager – Commissioning.
Partnership with AWEN	To include MTFS saving proposal.	<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing

APPENDIX A

		<u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing; Group Manager – Prevention and Wellbeing <u>External</u> Representatives from Awen
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Thursday, 4 February 2027 at 10.00am

Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Support for Care Leavers	Including input from Housing and Employability. The Committee have requested that Care Experienced young people be invited for this item. Joint report between Social Services, Health and Wellbeing and the Communities and Housing Directorates	<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing. <u>External</u> Care Leaver invitees

Thursday, 4 March 2027 at 10.00am

Report Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Integrated Health and Social Care Services	To include: Progress against the Regional Partnership Agreement	<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing. <u>External</u>
Future Arrangements for Advocacy for Adults and Children		<u>Cabinet Member</u> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing <u>Officers</u> Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing. <u>External</u>

Items to be Scheduled to the Committee's Forward Work Programme

- Review of the Fostering Service – to include actions arising from Elimination of Profit Legislation. June 2027
- External Review of Strength Based Outcome Focused Practice Model being embedded into Adult Social Care – post inspection of Adult Social Care in 2026/27
- Further Report regarding the Community Hubs Strategy (at the appropriate time in 2026/27)

Briefings and Workshops:

Topic	Information Required / Committee's Role	Invitees
Regional Operating Model of the Emergency Duty Team	Out of hours operation	Representatives from RCT
Overview – Social Services & Wellbeing Directorate / Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act	Attendance from: Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing Head of Adult Social Care Head of Children and Family Services Group Manager – Prevention and Wellbeing	To be scheduled post Annual Council depending on changes of Membership to Committee
The Replacement System for CareDirector (WCCIS)	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). <i>CareDirector</i> is a Cloud-based case management solution for social care organisations that supports integrated working across health and social care.	Members and officers for the Briefing and Workshop – TBD. To be scheduled in partnership with IT and Head of Transformation and Digital – once appointed
Use of Artificial Intelligence within Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate	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.	This will form part of the Digital Strategy and to be scheduled in partnership with IT and Head of Transformation and Digital – once appointed