

SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2)- THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 10:00

Present Virtually

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

S Aspey
RM James
AJ Williams

S J Bletsoe
W J Kendall
R Williams

N Clarke
M Lewis

D M Hughes
J Llewellyn-Hopkins

Apologies for Absence

None.

Invitees:

Councillor Jane Gebbie

Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing

Claire Marchant
Kelvin Barlow
David Wright
Joe Boyle
Richard Thomas
Sarah Tripp

Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Head of Adult Social Care
Acting Head of Children and Family Services
Policy Officer - Social Care Workforce
Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer
Compliments and Complaints Resolution Manager

Linda Woodley

Shared Lives – Vale of Glamorgan Council

Officers:

Jessica McLellan
Nimi Chandrasena

Scrutiny Officer
Democratic Services Officer – Support

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Declarations of Interest

RM James – Personal – Wife is the Chairperson of the Bridgend Fostering Panel

J Llewellyn-Hopkins – Personal – Close family member receives support from the Council's dementia services

W J Kendall – Personal – Close family members employed by Care and Repair

75. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the meetings of Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 8 June and 9 July 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	10 September 2026

76. Draft Social Services Annual Report 2025-26

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information: Recommendations 1. The Committee expressed that greater clarity around Governance and Accountability was needed in relation to the role of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the process within the Social Services and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee demonstrating the cross-party questions and answers throughout the committees. Additionally, the Committee recommended that specific reference be made the Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Budget Working Groups. 2. The Committee recommended that Social Services Annual Reports in future years include: a. A technical Appendix demonstrating the evidence for statements made in the report, e.g. a link to the staff survey for 'staff feel supported'; and b. reference to work with Care and Repair and how adaptations and preventative measures have
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	contributed to a reduced escalation of need. 3. The Committee recommended that a letter be written to Welsh Government expressing their concerns regarding the reliance on grant funding to fund core services, the risk of the loss of these services should the grant funding be discontinued and that all new policies should be fully funded. 4. The Committee were advised of the useful content available on the Council's Social Care recruitment webpage, requested a link and recommended that consideration be given to using Member platforms to better promote the opportunities and benefits of working for Social Care in Bridgend. Additional Information Requested 5. The Committee requested a copy of the recent inspection report(s) of HM Parc Prison. 6. The Committee requested up to date information regarding the increased support for unpaid carers. 7. The Committee requested the percentage of staff who completed the staff survey referenced in the report. 8. The Committee expressed concern regarding core services which could be lost should grant funding cease and requested a copy of the video produced by Merthyr Tydfil's Third Sector Leaders Forum, '<i>Because We Weren't There...</i>' which demonstrates what might happen if the support relied upon was no longer available. 9. The Committee requested the take up rate of the active offer of child and adult advocacy.
Date Decision Made	10 September 2026

77. Social Services Representations and Complaints Annual Report 2025-26

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers the Committee made the following recommendation:
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	10. The Committee discussed the impact of artificial intelligence on the length and complexity of complaints received and the time taken to breakdown and respond to them and recommended that consideration be given to how artificial intelligence could be utilised to assist with complaints handling whilst still retaining the personal approach referred to by the Compliments and Complaints Resolution Manager.
Date Decision Made	10 September 2026

78. Shared Lives

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member, Senior Officers and Invitees the Committee made the following recommendation and request for additional information: Recommendation 11. The Committee welcomed the proposed no detriment approach for Shared Lives Carers set out at option 4 in the report, but expressed concern regarding the proposed increased rates of Individual's Contributions and recommended that Cabinet give consideration to a no detriment approach also being applied to Individual's Contributions. Additional Information Requested 12. The Committee requested links to the ITV News item and episode of Sharp End regarding the Shared Lives Scheme.
Date Decision Made	10 September 2026

79. 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
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	of the following, noted the content of the Corporate Performance Quarter 4/Year End 2025-26 report, the Corporate Performance Dashboard Quarter 4 2025-26 and the Regulatory Tracker updated for Quarter 4 2025-26 within the remit of this Committee and had regard to the dashboard and the tracker when considering the FWP, 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 for information: a. a report regarding the range of support and services available to residents with dementia and their carers and families.
Date Decision Made	10 September 2026

80. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	10 September 2026

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

The meeting closed at 14:13.