

Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

Table A

The following items were previously prioritised by the Subject OVS Committees and considered by Corporate at its last meeting where the top three items were scheduled in for the next round of meetings:

Date	Subject Committee	Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Proposed rationale for timing from Officers	Suggested Invitees	Prioritised by Committees	Webcast
19-Apr-2018	SOSC 3	Emergency Housing	<p>Is the current emergency housing provided by BCBC meeting the needs of the service users? Is the current provision a good use of public resources? Should an alternative provision be made to ensure families, in particular children, achieve their potential. Service user numbers Service user demographic –ages, disabilities, gender Outcomes Challenges faced daily by families using provision –health, dentist, mental health, schools *Members have requested a possible site visit/ Photos of facilities</p>	members asked for this item to be prioritised by the Corporate Committee to address the homelessness across the county which has increased and can be seen by the increased number of people sleeping in tents.			<p>Andrew Jolley, Corporate Director – Operational and Partnership Services; Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Lynne Berry, Group Manager Housing Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member - Wellbeing and Future Generations; Representative from Gwalia Representative from Shelter Cymru Representative from Pobl Group Representative from Llamau Representative from The Wallich</p>	SOSC3 SOSC 1	
Date TBC Following Annual Meeting	SOSC 1	Budgetary Impacts of Parc Prison	<p>How much core funding does BCBC receive to deal with the impact of a prison being located within its boundary? What is the true cost of servicing this need? Is there a different impact due to Parc Prison being privately run as opposed to being run by the Prison Service? Educational aspects in prisons and their impact; What Community Services does Parc Prison provide? What does Parc Prison give back to the County Borough of Bridgend; What 3rd Sector services are provided at Parc; Details on the impact on housing; What input does the Probation Service have with working with the Authority and with the resettlement of prisoners.</p>		Proposed by Directorate for May-June 2018	Ongoing discussions with WG over financial position -more appropriate to receive later in year	<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care Cllr P White, Cabinet Member Services and Early Help Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Representative from Parc prison; Representation from Health Service Provider; Representation from 3rd Sector – Drug and Alcohol services for example; Representation from Probation Service; Representation from housing department.</p>		
Date TBC Following Annual Meeting	SOSC 2	Home to School Transport	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings: Update on pilot that school transport team proposing to run in Spring and Summer terms 2017-2018 - to support the enforcement of bus passes on home to school transport contracts. As part of this pilot, the Authority is also investigating opportunities to track the use of our school bus services by individual pupils. Update on Recommendation from BREP: The Panel recommend the need for the Authority to adopt a Corporate approach in relation to Home to School Transport maximising the LA's minibuses such as those used for day centres. It is proposed that this be supported by slightly amending the opening and closing times of day centres so that the buses can be available for school transport. Other aspects that could be considered include the exploration of whether school staff could transport children and young people instead of hiring independent drivers. To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees to be scrutinised to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of school transport</p>	<p>To provide assurances on rationalisation of Learner Transport as far as possible in order to make budget savings. To test and scrutinise the current licensing and school transport regime to gain assurances that it provides adequate protection against the potential of putting children and vulnerable children at risk from those who are in a position of trust. Changes to the DBS status of their employees ought to be scrutinised by an Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity to ensure that children are not being put at undue risk. To provide robust scrutiny and recommendations on how the current regime can be improved. To provide assurances to the public and maintain public confidence in the system of</p>			<p>Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities;</p>		

			<p>Report to include</p> <p>Update on the current arrangements of how licensing and school transport operates within the County Borough since the change in 2015 to the Police National Policy for disclosing non-conviction information to the local authority. Information to include a report from South Wales Police on its approach to disclosing information it holds about licencees following arrests, charges and convictions.</p> <p>What is the current relationship between the local authority's licensing and school transport departments in relation to the disclosure of information from South Wales police? Is there sufficient oversight on behalf of the local authority and a risk of contractors withholding information which may prejudice the continuation of their contract?</p> <p>Further proposed that Communities be invited to add to report and attend meeting to update Committee on safe routes assessment to determine what work has been undertaken since funding was allocated to this over a year ago.</p>	school transport					
Date TBC Following Annual Meeting	SOSC3	Highways Services	To include information of efficiency savings and the impact of what the MTFS has on the service			Proposed by HOS as had been drafted previously for scrutiny but did not go due to timing issues - felt that Mmembers need to know info - <i>could this be an information report instead?</i>	Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Zak Shell, Head of Streetscene; Andrew Hobbs, Group Manager Streetworks		
	SOSC 1	School Standards	<p>Requested from SOSC 1 meeting in February to receive a further report at a meeting in the near future, (to be agreed by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny), incorporating the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Categorisation information; • In relation to Post-16 data at 4.53 of the report, the Committee requested that they receive the baseline for each school to give a better indication of how each school has improved; • Information on Bridgend's ranking for Key Stage 4 based on the latest results; • Information on what targets were set at each stage in order to determine whether the performance was expected and possibly a cohort issue or whether any actuals differed significantly from the targets set; • Information that the Consortium has gathered through drilling down into each schools' performance to determine what challenges schools face; • Further detail of the performance of those with ALN attending the PRU or Heronsbridge School 				Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help; Mandy Paish, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Mike Glavin, Managing Director CSC Representative from School Budget Forum		

			<p>as Members felt this was not incorporated into the report to a great degree;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the work that the Consortium is doing to identify the variation for each secondary school at Key Stage 4, and what is being done about it; • More information in relation to each schools performance – not necessarily more data but detail of the where, what and how in relation to good and poor performance for each school so that the Committee has an overall understanding of the current situation and priority schools in Bridgend; • What extent are schools responding to the changes recently introduced such as the removal of Btec etc, to ensure they are still meeting the needs of the pupils; • What work is being done to mitigate against future dips in performance resulting from any changes to curriculum or changes to performance measures; • Evidence of how the Consortium has made a direct impact on schools and school performance, what outcomes can they be measured on in relation to Bridgend to assure Members of value for money; • What is being done to mitigate against the impact of changes in teachers to ensure that this does not have a resulting impact on the performance of pupils; • Performance in relation to vocational qualifications and non-core subjects – where are there causes for concern and where there is excellent work taking place etc. 						
	SOSC 2	Safeguarding	<p>To include Safeguarding activity in both Children and Adult Services. To also cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Safeguarding Boards • Bridgend Corporate Safeguarding Policy • Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) • Deprivation of Liberty Standards (DOLS) <p>Report to provide statistical data in relation to service demands and evidence how quickly and effectively the services are acting to those needs.</p> <p>To evidence how the two services are working together and the impact on the LAC population.</p> <p>To receive the outcome of the in depth analysis which was currently being undertaken within the Council.</p> <p>What costs are associated to assessments that are contracted out.</p>	Members stressed that this subject must be considered by Scrutiny on their FWP as is a huge responsibility of the Authority and Scrutiny must ensure the work being undertaken to protect some of the most vulnerable people is effective and achieving outcomes.	Pilot for Advocacy ends April. Therefore proposed date May/June 2018.		Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children’s Social Care; Elizabeth Walton James, Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Richard Thomas, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer	SOSC2 Jan 18	
	SOSC 3								

Table B

The following items were deemed important for future prioritisation:

Item	Specific Information to request	Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date		Suggested Invitees		Webcast
ALN Reform	When the Act has been further progressed, report to include consideration of the following points: a) How the Authority and Schools are engaging with parents over the changes to the Act? b) What the finalised process is for assessments and who is responsible for leading with them? c) What involvement/responsibilities do Educational Psychologists have under the Act? d) Has the Act led to an increase in tribunals and what impact has this had? This is set against the context of the recent announcement by the Lifelong Learning Minister that instead of saving £4.8m over four years the Act could potentially cost £8.2m due to an expected increase in the number of cases of dispute resolution. e) Given that the Act focuses on the involvement of young people and their parents, what support is available for those involved in court disputes? f) Outcomes from the Supported Internship programme. g) Support for those with ALN into employment. h) Staffing - Protection and support for staff, ALNCO support, workloads and capacity. i) Pupil-teacher ratios and class sizes and impact of Act on capacity of teachers to support pupils with ALN j) How is the implementation of the Act being monitored; what quality assurance frameworks are there and what accountability for local authorities, consortiums and schools?	Needs revisiting to monitor implementation of the Bill and if needs are being met as well as impact on future budgets -	COSC agreed with comments from Officers and will await further timing advice (March 2018)	March 2018 -Officers from the Directorate have advised that as this hasn't moved on much from the last report to Scrutiny, it may be best to postpone the item until there is more to report	Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Michelle Hatcher, Group Manager Inclusion and School Improvement Third Sector Representatives		SOSC 2 highlighted this item as suitable for webcasting.
Advocacy	Advocacy for Children and Adults: • The outcome from the Advocacy Pilot Scheme • The current system • Social Services & Wellbeing Act • Regional Children Services advocacy • Adult Services – Golden Thread Project				Susan Cooper Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Elizabeth Walton James, Group Manager Safeguarding and Quality Assurance		
Annual Recommendations/feedback Update to each SOSC	Update on all feedback that required follow up and recommendations - Cabinet and Officer ones <i>(COSC Receive report - SOSCs for info)</i>		Proposed for March 2018 to inform next years FWP planning		None		
Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Inspection of Children's Services.	The Committee requested that they receive an information report detailing the progress of the plan and update Members whether or not the actions have addressed the issues raised by the Inspectorate.		Going to Corporate Parenting on 24 Jan - Scrutiny Officers to pick up and send to Committee				
Remodelling Fostering Project	Further project as part of the Remodelling Children's Social Services - Detail regarding the upskilling of three internal foster carers to provide intensive, therapeutic step down placements as part of Residential Remodelling project - Review of the foster carer marketing and recruitment strategy at a draft/early stage to allow members input into the process	COSC have proposed that this item be considered by a future SOSC 1 for continuity purposes			Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Laura Kinsey, Head of Children's Social Care; Pete Tyson, Group Manager – Commissioning; Lauren North, Commissioning and Contract Management Officer; Natalie Silcox, Group Manager Childrens Regulated Services.		
Community Services	Rec from BREP The Committee recommend that Scrutiny consider a future item on what other Local Authorities are doing to respond to the gap in provision in Community Services. <i>(Officers proposed at fwp planning meeting to maybe use this as a bit of a reserac item in scrtuiny where represnetatives are asked form other LAs to determine what they do as this info isnt currently held by our Communities Directorate)</i>					SOSC2 Feb 18	

Remodelling Children's Residential Services Project	SOSC 1 requested that the item be followed up by Scrutiny in the future for monitoring purposes, incorporating evidence of outcomes.					
CIW investigation into LAC	The Committee requested that the outcome of the CIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.					
CAMHS	With reference to the responses received in relation to Child Adolescent Mental Health Services Members on 12 December 2018, Members note that most of the replies feature an element of work in progress and have asked to retain the item on the FWP for future review. To receive an update on current provision and further advise on current situation in relation to comments and conclusions made on 12 December 2018. Update on work being undertaken throughout Wales looking at causes of mental health: 'Working Together for Mental Health'.					
Empty Properties	SOSC 3 requested that this item continue on FWP - reasons and purpose to be confirmed					

The following items for briefing sessions or pre-Council briefing

Item	Specific Information to request
Overview of Direct Payment Scheme	To update Members on the Direct Payments Process.
Social Services Commissioning Strategy	To include information on what work has taken place following the Social Services and Wellbeing Act population assessment. To also cover the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Annual Plan Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy
Western Bay Regional Report	Update on situation and way forward with WB and Regional Working?

Residential Remodelling - Extra Care Housing	Site visit to current Extra Care Housing and then to new site once work has begun
Children's Social Services	Briefing for SOSC 1 on Child Practice Reviews - details of latest CPRs over last 12-18 months - what recommendations have come out of them, how have they been responded to, how have they helped inform future work to help safeguard children.