

Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

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	Suggested Invitees	Prioritised by Committees
18-Oct-2018	SOSC2	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 -	18-Oct-2018	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 Elizabeth Jones, Additional Learning Needs Transformation, Central South; Denise Inger, Chief Executive Director SNAP Cymru; Caroline Rawlson, Assistant Chief Executive Director SNAP Cymru John Fabes, Specialist Officer Post 16 Education & Training.	
22-Oct-18	SOSC3	Collaboration with TCCs	Investigate and monitor the extent to which other LAs are working in collaboration with TCCs; To receive the outcome of the Review currently being undertaken by Welsh Government in relation to TCCs and its impact on BCBC; How are the LA benefiting from collaborative work - value for money and contribution to budget savings		22-Oct-2018	Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member – Communities; Deputy Leader?? Darren Mephram, Chief Executive <u>One Voice Wales</u>	
24-Jan-18	SOSC3	Revised CAT Process	What is the latest with the CAT process? How has it been streamlined since it last came to Scrutiny back in January 2018 How many CATs have now been processed and completed? How has the position improved What are the plans for CAT going forward How many CAT applications have been received altogether? How many have been progressed? How many have withdrawn and for what reasons? List of CAT 1 priorities and what is the plan for these?		Corporate Director proposed Jan/Feb 2019	Mark Shephard, Corporate Director - Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member - Communities; Guy Smith, Community Asset Transfer Officer.	

TABLE B

For prioritisation				
Item		Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested invitees
Education Outcomes	<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 as Members felt this was not incorporated into the report to a great degree; • 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. 		Jan-2019	<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; Andy Rothwell, CSC Senior Challenge Advisor; Mike Glavin, Managing Director CSC Representative from School Budget Forum Sarah Merry, Chair of CSC JOSOC (Deputy Leader Cardiff Council) Primary, Secondary and Special School Headteacher representative</p>
Revised CAT Process	<p>What is the latest with the CAT process? How has it been streamlined since it last came to Scrutiny back in January 2018 How many CATs have now been processed and completed? How has the position improved What are the plans for CAT going forward How many CAT applications have been received altogether? How many have been progressed? How many have withdrawn and for what reasons? List of CAT 1 priorities and what is the plan for these?</p>		Corporate Director proposed Jan/Feb 2019	<p>Mark Shephard, Corporate Director - Communities; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member - Communities; Guy Smith, Community Asset Transfer Officer.</p>
Review of Fostering Project	<p>Further project as part of the Remodelling Children's Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 	<p>COSOC have proposed that this item be considered by a future SOSC 1 for continuity purposes</p>	Corporate Director proposed October 2018	<p>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.</p>
Direct Payment Scheme	<p>Details on the revised policy including how the legislation has affected it. How Direct Payments are delivered. What support has been provided to service users since the launch of the new scheme. How was the scheme launched to service users.</p>	<p>Corporate Director has proposed this as a potential item</p>	Corporate Director proposed November	<p>Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;</p>
CIW investigation into LAC Information only	<p>The Committee requested that the outcome of the CIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.</p>		Self assessment and action plan due at end of year.	Cllr Phil White

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.		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;	
CAMHS	<p>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.</p> <p>Update on work being undertaken throughout Wales looking at causes of mental health: 'Working Together for Mental Health'.</p> <p>To include an update on how we are getting on moving into Cwm Taf.</p>		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Chair and CEX of ABMU and Cwm Taf Health Boards	
Empty Properties	<p>SOSC 3 requested that this item continue on FWP - reasons and purpose to be confirmed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on the Empty Properties Working Group? - Update on how the Empty Homes Strategy has been developed? - Update on how well the marketing of Empty Properties is going including Churches and Chapels? - Evidence on how successful other LA's have been in bringing empty properties back into use where they have charged 100% upwards Council tax on properties after they have been empty for longer than 6 months? - Further information on the properties that have been un-banded by the Valuation Office Agency. To include reasons why the properties would not have been banded and how many of these are there within BCBC. - Information on what the average loss of Council tax looks like in BCBC due to empty properties in the Borough. Members recommended using the average Band D property to be able to quantify the loss. - Of the 1200 properties liable for the 50% charge on Council tax for empty properties, how much of this are BCBC successful in receiving. - Has the Empty Homes Officer been employed. 		TBC	Darren Mepham, Chief Executive ; Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Possible input from Mark Shephard, Corporate Director - Communities for the Commercial side Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing	
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 Report to include 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. 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? 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>	<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 school transport</p>	Corporate Director proposed March 2019 as the external review would not be completed until January 2019	Lindsay Harvey, Interim Corporate Director - Education and Family Support; Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration; Cllr Richard Young, Cabinet Member Communities Nicola Echanis, Head of Education and Early Help. Mark Shepherd, Corporate Director Communities; Robyn Davies, Group Manager Business Strategy and Performance	
Communication and Engagement	<p>Is corporate communications meeting the needs of the various departments within the organisation to effectively communicate with residents Current data of engagement Are current KPIs an effective measurement in a fast changing digital world How do we engage with corporate communications with the digitally excluded</p>			Darren Mepham, Chief Executive Corporate Communications Representative Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future generations and Wellbeing	

Supporting People Programme Grant	Full breakdown of the various services currently supported through this grant within BCBC (inc. the various financial detail) along with how this may have changed over recent years. The number of individuals supported through the grant and in what way. How are decisions made about where to spend the grant and how much in specific areas How effective is the grant support that is provided across a variety of sectors within BCBC, and to ensure that the grant is being targeted at the services most in need.	Improved outcomes in line with the agreed objectives of the grant. Improved support for those in need of emergency housing and support		Darren Mepham, Martin Morgans? Lynne Berry? Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing	
Member and School Engagement Panel - Annual Report	Annual Update to - SOSC 1 on the work of the Member and School Engagement Panel			Plasnewydd - Q4/Spring Term The Bridge Alternative Provision Q1/Summer	

The following items for briefing sessions or pre-Council briefing

Item	Specific Information to request
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
Cwm Taf Regional Working	Update on situation and way forward with Regional Working with Cwm Taf? How will we undertake 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.