

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
13-Feb-19	SOSC 2	Direct Payment Scheme	Details on the revised policy including how the legislation has affected it. How Direct Payments are delivered. Are Service users able to purchase services directly from the Authority. Details on how we market ourselves? What support has been provided to service users since the launch of the new scheme. How was the scheme launched to service users.		Corporate Director proposed November	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Jacqueline Davies, Head of Adult Social Care; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;	
25-Feb-19	SOSC 3	Empty Properties	SOSC 3 requested that this item continue on FWP - reasons and purpose to be confirmed - 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.		Prioritised by SOSC3 for February 2018	Mark Sheppard, Interim Chief Executive Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Possible input from Communities for the Commercial side Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Cllr Hywel Williams, Deputy Leader Helen Rodgers, Benefits Manager	
18-Mar-19	SOSC 3	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		Mark Sheppard, Interim Chief Executive Sue Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing Martin Morgans Lynne Berry Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Ryan Jones, Supporting People Strategy Planning and Commissioning Officer Jonathan Flower, Senior Strategic Officer	
18-Mar-19	SOSC 3	Homelessness Strategy	Informal Cabinet have requested for Scrutiny to be involved as a consultee in the Homelessness Strategy. Members have requested that the report include the Council's definition of homelessness.			Mark Sheppard, Interim Chief Executive Martin Morgans, Head of Performance and Partnership Services Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future Generations and Wellbeing Lynne Berry, Group Manager, Housing & Community Regeneration	
27-Mar-19	SOSC 2	CAMHS	With reference to the responses received in relation to Child Adolescent Mental Health Services Members on 12 December 2017, 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 2017. Details of other mental health services provided Cwm Taf and BCBC. Update on work being undertaken throughout Wales looking at causes of mental health: 'Working Together for Mental Health'. To include an update on how we are getting on moving into Cwm Taf.		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family support; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Chair and CEX of ABMU and Cwm Taff Health Boards; Chairperson of Bridgend Community Health Council. Royal College of GP's Social Services Rep - Laura Kinsey	

29-Apr-19	SOSC 1	<p>Review of Fostering Project</p> <p>Information only</p>	<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>COSC have proposed that this item be considered by a future SOSC 1 for continuity purposes</p>	<p>Corporate Director proposed October 2018 Prioritised by SOSC1 for February 2019</p>	<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. <i>A BCBC contracted Foster Carer.</i></p>	
29-Apr-19	SOSC 1	<p>Home to School Transport</p>	<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>	<p>Corporate Director proposed March 2019 as the external review would not be completed until January 2019</p>	<p>Lindsay Harvey, 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. Input from Communities Directorate Robin Davies, Group Manager Business Strategy and Performance Sue Cooper, Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing</p>	

TABLE B

For prioritisation					
Item		Rationale for prioritisation	Proposed date	Suggested invitees	
CIW National Review into LAC Information only	The Committee requested that the outcome of the CIW investigation into Looked After Children be provided to Scrutiny for information when it becomes available.		Self assessment and action plan due at end of year. Outcome report should be ready for March.	N/A	
Review of Enforcement Vehicle	In February 2018 SOSC 3 requested to receive an update on the enforcement vehicle to enable Members to monitor performance 6-12 after implementation. Possibly an information report.				
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. <i>A report is due to go to Corporate Parenting 6 March 2019. Do Members want to receive as information only or as a discussion item?</i>		Corporate Director proposed early 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director, Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help;	
Communication and Engagement	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			Mark Sheppard, Interim Chief Executive Corporate Communications Representative Cllr Dhanisha Patel, Cabinet Member Future generations and Wellbeing	
Safeguarding	To include: Safeguarding activity in both Children and Adult Services; Safeguarding arrangements in Cwm Taf.		Should receive an annual update. Last received in July 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; Terri Warrilow, Adult Safeguarding and Quality Manager; Representation from Police; Representation from Health.	
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	
POST 16 ALN Review	SOSC 1 requested to add to FWP. Raise with LH in next Officer Planning Meeting.				

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: • Regional Annual Plan • Bridgend Social Services Commissioning Strategy				
Cwm Taf Regional Working	Update on situation and way forward with Regional Working with Cwm Taf?				
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 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.		If received as an item - Corporate Director has suggested May/June 2019	Susan Cooper, Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing; Cllr Phil White, Cabinet Member – Social Services and Early Help; Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director - Education and Family Support.	