

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council



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GYFRINACHOL – I'W HAGOR GAN
CYREIRIWDYD ATO UN UNIG / CONFIDENTIAL
TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY

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Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Pwnc
(Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol) / Chair of Subject
Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Social
Services)

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 643515
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Scrutiny

Ein cyf / Our ref: FB / Scrutiny

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 16 May 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Funding for Early Help and Prevention

I am writing to formally put on record the concerns of our Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 which met on 1 May 2025 to consider a report on Early Help, Prevention and Edge of Care.

During discussions, the Committee highlighted the importance of Early Help and Preventative services and recognised them as central to Bridgend County Borough Council's strategy of supporting and protecting the most vulnerable in our community.

As such, despite many of these services being non-statutory, the Committee strongly recommend that the Welsh Government give these services the utmost priority and ensure adequate funding in order to support this fundamental function as insufficient funding would present a corporate risk to the Authority.

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Cyfnwidd testun: Rhwng 18001 o flaen unrhyw un o'n rhifau ffon ar gyfer y gwasanaeth trosglwyddo testun

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhwng wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg

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

The Committee were advised that the provision of the services was heavily reliant on grant funding and that a number of staff are employed on an annual basis, which in turn is reliant upon episodic grant funding arrangements to support their continued employment.

The Committee expressed grave concerns regarding the lateness and retrospective notification of the award of funding which impacts on the Authority's financial and workforce planning and causes great stress and anxiety to the staff employed on an annual rolling basis.

The Committee seeks a commitment that late and retrospective awards will be eliminated as far as possible to assist the Directorate and the Council as a whole in better preparation and management of their Medium Term Financial Strategies and their budget.

In addition, the Committee were concerned that some grants are not accompanied by inflationary uplift which further impacts on budgetary pressures and requests that consideration be given to addressing this issue in areas of grant funding.

National Insurance Contributions for Commissioned Services

At our meeting, the Committee also considered a report on Care Inspectorate Wales Inspection of Bridgend County Borough Council's Regulated Services in Adult Social Care.

During discussions, the Committee were concerned about the lack of clarity regarding who will be responsible for meeting the cost of national insurance contributions for employees of commissioned services. The Committee requests a clear indication of whether or not these contributions will be met by additional funding in the Authority's settlement or whether this will be an additional cost pressure to Bridgend.

The Committee requests that due consideration be given to the above and look forward to your response by return please.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freya Bletsoe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Y Cyng / Councillor Freya Bletsoe
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Pwnc (Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol) / Chair of
Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 (Social Services)

cc. Sarah Murphy MS and
Huw Irranca-Davies MS