



Meeting of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

1 May 2025

Responses to Recommendations / Information requested.

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
Early Help, Prevention and Edge of Care			
Recommendations			
1	The Committee expressed concern at the number of acronyms being used within reports causing a barrier to full understanding of reports and terms included. and recommended that future reports contain a glossary of abbreviations to assist the Committee and the public.	Report authors will be reminded about the importance of drafting in plain English	Complete
2	The Committee expressed concern that early intervention services may not be prioritised as they are non-statutory and recommended that a letter be written to the Welsh Government (and copied to the local Senedd Members) setting out the following:	<p>Please see below a copy of the letter emailed to Welsh Government:</p>  <p>Letter from SOSC 2 to Welsh Government</p> <p>Please see response below:</p>  <p>Letter from WG to SOSC 2 re Early Help</p>	Accepted

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	<p>a. that Early Help and prevention are central to the Council's strategy of supporting and protecting the most vulnerable in our community;</p> <p>b. that it would present a corporate risk to the Authority if such services are not sufficiently funded; and</p> <p>c. highlighting the impact:</p> <p>i) of late notification and retrospective grant funding on financial and workforce planning;</p> <p>ii) on grant funded staff on rolling annual contracts; and</p> <p>iii) of the lack of inflationary uplift on budgetary pressures and workforce funding.</p>		
3	<p>Whilst acknowledging the timescales in the Action Plan were specified by the Institute of Public Care, the Committee expressed concern regarding the</p>	<p>A revised action plan and timescales will be developed in conjunction with partners. The plan will be monitored through a range of boards as highlighted within the report.</p>	

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	<p>achievability of the ambitious timescales set out in the Action Plan and recommended that accurate and measurable milestones with timescales be included in the Action Plan, and to assist with monitoring.</p>		
Additional Information requested			
4	<p>The Committee requested information regarding LGBTQ+ support available for children and young people, having been advised that most of the support available is from the Education, Early Years and Young People Directorate.</p>	<p>Bridgend Youth Support runs an LGBTQ+ specific youth centre (YPOP – Young People of Pride) from our Youth Hub in Evergreen Hall, providing a safe, welcoming space for LGBTQ+ young people and their allies to connect, express themselves, and access tailored support.</p>	

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Care Inspectorate Wales Inspection of Bridgend County Borough Council's Regulated Services in Adult Social Care			
Recommendations			
5	The Committee expressed concern about the lack of clarity regarding the responsibility for meeting the cost of national insurance contributions for employees of commissioned services and recommended that a letter be written to the Welsh Government to request 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.	<p>Please see below a copy of the letter emailed to Welsh Government:</p>  <p>Letter from SOSC 2 to Welsh Government</p> <p>Please see response below:</p>  <p>Letter from WG to SOSC 2 re Early Help</p>	
6	The Committee highlighted the value Member rota visits provide and recommended	Complete	Accepted

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	that the importance of them be reiterated and communicated to all Members of the Council.										
Forward Work Programme Update											
7	<p>The Committee requested that the following reports be added to their Forward Work Programme:</p> <p>a. Social Services Representations and Complaints; and</p> <p>b. Early Help – Operating Arrangements at the Front Door.</p>	Scrutiny Actioned with Scrutiny Chair and Corporate Director in Work Planning Meetings.	Accepted								
8	<p>Following consideration of the Corporate Performance Dashboard for Quarter 3 2024-25, the Committee requested a written update on the performance of the following:</p>	<p>Reablement Packages 2024/25:</p> <table><tr><th>Metric Description</th><th>2024/25</th></tr><tr><td>SSWB38 a) Reduced need for support</td><td>17.49%</td></tr><tr><td>SSWB38 b) Maintained same level of support</td><td>15.72%</td></tr><tr><td>SSWB38 c) Mitigated need for support</td><td>55.99%</td></tr></table>	Metric Description	2024/25	SSWB38 a) Reduced need for support	17.49%	SSWB38 b) Maintained same level of support	15.72%	SSWB38 c) Mitigated need for support	55.99%	
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	<p>a. Percentage of reablement packages completed that reduced the need for support, maintained the same level of support and mitigated need for support (SSWB38).</p> <p>b. Number of people who access independent advocacy to support their rights within children’s social care and adult’s social care (SSWB61).</p> <p>c. Average waiting time on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards waiting list (SSWB63).</p>	<p>Children’s Advocacy:</p> <table><tr><th>Metric Description</th><th>2024/25</th></tr><tr><td>SSWB61a - No. of children where an Independent Advocate was provided</td><td>39</td></tr></table> <p>Adults Advocacy:</p> <table><tr><th>Metric Description</th><th>2024/25</th></tr><tr><td>SSWB61b - No. of Adults where IPA was provided</td><td>67</td></tr></table> <p>Average waiting time on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) waiting list (SSWB) as at 31/03/2025 – 10 Days</p>	Metric Description	2024/25	SSWB61a - No. of children where an Independent Advocate was provided	39	Metric Description	2024/25	SSWB61b - No. of Adults where IPA was provided	67	
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8	<p>The Committee requested a Member Briefing setting out the provision of accommodation based regulated support services in Bridgend to include the following:</p> <p>a. whether they are private, public or charity sector;</p>	<p>We have a list of our accommodation-based services – linked to the recent review undertaken across ASC – and based on readily available info can include (a) relatively easily.</p> <p>However, we will need to seek clarification on point (b) as to what they mean by ‘how staff are contracted’, as there are many staff contract variables and hundreds of staff employed in this area, so probably a significant piece involved which might be the same for (c) too in some areas.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>A short presentation on accommodation-based services (covering both internal and commissioned services) will be produced and shared</p>								

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	b. how staff are contracted; and c. the ownership of the buildings.		with Members shortly.