

**SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2) - THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2) HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 10:00**

**Present**

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe

S Easterbrook

GC Haines

D M Hughes

**Present Virtually**

C Davies  
W J Kendall

P Ford  
M Lewis

RM James

P W Jenkins

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor R Williams

**Invitees:**

Councillor Jane Gebbie

Deputy Leader/Cabinet Member for Social Services, Health and Wellbeing

Claire Marchant  
Kelvin Barlow  
David Wright  
Sarah Tripp

Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing  
Head of Adult Social Care  
Deputy Head of Children and Family Services  
Compliments and Complaints Resolution Manager

**Officers:**

Jessica Mclellan  
Meryl Lawrence

Scrutiny Officer  
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

**This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**Declarations of Interest**

RM James – Personal – Wife is the Chairperson of the Bridgend Fostering Panel

**41. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b>  That the minutes of the meeting of Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 9 July 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	11 September 2025

**42. Draft Social Services Annual report 2024-25**

Decision Made	<b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b>  The report was welcomed as an excellent picture of the service provision and in some areas, such as the workforce, for example, even excellence. The Committee wanted to pass on their thanks to Officers within the Directorate for the good work undertaken.  However, the Committee expressed concern regarding financial considerations, in particular, the reliance on grant funding and were keen that the Directorate maintain momentum to ensure sustainability of the level of excellence that it is reaching and striving towards within budgetary constraints.  Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information:  <b>Recommendations:</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Members were advised that the Early Intervention and Prevention Hub operates an answerphone service and returns calls within set timescales which allows them to have detailed and meaningful discussions to enable proportionate assessments and that there is an alternative number for</li></ol>
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	<p>emergencies. The Committee expressed concern that the information on the Council's website does not make this clear and <b>recommended</b> that the information relating to the Hub be updated to provide clarity for the public.</p> <p>2. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that correspondence be sent to the Welsh Government expressing the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The sustainability of service delivery which is often reliant on grant funding including short term funding when recurring funding is required, e.g. Elimination of Profit Grant Funding;</li> <li>b. Short notice of funding impacting on the Council's financial planning and implementation;</li> <li>c. That national policy commitments resulting from legislative changes should be fully funded both in terms of capital funding and ongoing revenue funding including a commitment to fund employer national insurance payments for individuals employed by agencies who provide services to the Council;</li> <li>d. The unavailability of all-Wales. comparative data.</li> </ul> <p><b>Requests for Additional Information:</b></p> <p>3. The Committee <b>requested</b> weekly costs for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Foster Placement and Residential Placement for a Care Experienced Child; and</li> <li>b. Residential Placement for an adult (including information regarding contributions from Health).</li> </ul> <p>4. The Committee <b>requested</b> sight of the Council's Fostering Strategy and welcomed the offer for this to be included as an Appendix to the <i>Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Fostering Service Inspection June 2025</i> report scheduled to the meeting of the Committee on 25 September 2025.</p> <p>5. The Committee <b>requested</b> that the <i>Community Resource Team Package of Care Delays</i> report presented to the Committee on 23 September 2024 to be circulated to Members of the Committee.</p> <p>6. The Committee requested a written briefing paper to better understand the proposed 'core and cluster' model of supported living for people with learning disabilities.</p> <p>7. The Committee <b>requested</b> an all-Member Briefing detailing the <i>Building Resilient and Co-ordinated Communities</i> programme and highlighting the role of the Local Community Connectors, Navigators and Co-ordinators.</p>
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	<p>8. The Committee queried how the Council is making the public aware of and encouraging them to utilise community-based services and requested that consideration be given to using the Council Communications team and social media to raise awareness.</p> <p>9. The Committee <b>requested</b> further information regarding the Australian 2.0 step care model relating to mental health referenced during the meeting.</p> <p>10. The Committee <b>requested</b> that future Annual Social Services Reports contain comparative data from comparable Welsh local authorities, where available.</p>
Date Decision Made	11 September 2025

#### **43. Social Services Representations and Complaints Annual Report 2024-25**

Decision Made	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following requests for additional information:</p> <p>11. In relation to Table 4 – Complaint Themes, the Committee <b>requested</b> the number of complaints for each of the percentages shown.</p> <p>12. The Committee <b>requested</b> that future Annual Reports contain comparative data from comparable Welsh local authorities, where available.</p> <p>13. The Committee <b>requested</b> copies of the Accessible Complaints Information referred to in the Objectives section of the report and the Child-Friendly version that has been produced.</p>
Date Decision Made	11 September 2025

**44. Forward Work Programme Update**

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>The Committee approved the draft Forward Work Programme (FWP) in Appendix A subject to the inclusion of the recommendations below, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B and noted that the FWP would be reported to the next meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information together with those from the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, following their consideration in this cycle of Committee meetings.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Committee requested that the following items be added to their Forward Work Programme:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Future Arrangements for Advocacy for Adults and Children;</li><li>b. A closed session detailing confidential information presented to Social Services Improvement Board including anonymised live case studies.</li></ol></li><li>2. The Committee requested that Care Experienced Young People be invited to attend for the Support for Care Leavers report, when scheduled.</li></ol>
Date Decision Made	11 September 2025

**45. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	11 September 2025

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 14:03.