

**SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2) - THURSDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 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, 6 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 10:00**

**Present**

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe

C Davies

S Easterbrook

GC Haines

**Present Virtually**

S Aspey  
M Lewis

P Ford

RM James

W J Kendall

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillors D M Hughes, J Llewellyn-Hopkins and R Williams

**Invitees**

Councillor Jane Gebbie

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

Claire Marchant  
David Wright  
Raeanna Grainger  
Charlotte Pickin  
Sophie Moore  
Mark Lewis  
Kirsty Williams  
Jessica Ware

Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing  
Deputy Head of Children and Family Services  
Group Manager, IAA & Safeguarding  
Service Manager – DoLS/LPS and Secure Estate  
Group Manager - Prevention and Wellbeing  
Group Manager – Early Years and Young People  
Partnership and CSP Manager  
Housing Strategy Planning and Commissioning Officer

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**Officers**

Jessica Mclellan  
Meryl Lawrence

Scrutiny Officer  
Senior Democratic Services Officer - Scrutiny

**Declarations of Interest**

Claire Marchant – Personal – Item 4 – Chair of the Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru

GC Haines and WJ Kendall – Prejudicial - Item 5 – As Members of Development Control Committee in relation to discussions regarding the proposed plans to extend HMP Parc Prison

F D Bletsoe and S Easterbrook – Personal – Item 5 – As Town Councillors

S Bletsoe – Item 5 – As a trustee registered at Companies House for Wildmill Community Centre

M Lewis – Personal – Item 5 – Operates William Trigg Community Centre in Blaengarw on license from Bridgend County Borough Council

**51. Approval of Minutes**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  That the minutes of the meetings of Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee dated 11 and 25 September 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	6 November 2025

**52. Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report 2024/25**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and request for additional information:  <b>Recommendations</b>  1. Members referred to a planning application proposing an expansion to HMP Parc Prison and expressed their concerns regarding the increased pressures this could place on Social Services
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	<p>including the provision of additional social care and supportive arrangements on release including the provision of housing and the possible impact on the safeguarding of inmates. The Committee therefore <b>recommended</b> that the Corporate Director consider responding to the consultation highlighting the additional pressures this could place on the Service.</p> <p>2. The Committee acknowledged the improvements made at HMP Parc Prison to reduce rates of suicide and self-harm and improve relationships between the prison and the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate and <b>recommended</b> that correspondence be sent to the Governor of the prison recognising the work and seeking clarification on how the prison proposes to continue to maintain and ensure safeguarding of all prisoners should the proposed expansion to the prison be approved and to invite them to attend and speak at a meeting of the Committee regarding safeguarding.</p> <p>3. The Committee expressed concern regarding the significant corporate risk posed by the timescales involved around Digital System Replacement and recognising that the implications are Council-wide, <b>recommended</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. the budgetary requirements to deliver the transformation within the tight timescale be quantified and that consideration be given to additional resources being allocated to achieve the transition;</li><li>b. consideration be given to a dedicated ICT Lead Officer being allocated to the replacement project;</li><li>c. Members receive an urgent written progress update regarding the transition; and</li><li>d. that correspondence be sent to Lindsey Phillips inviting her to speak to Members regarding the Welsh Local Government Association's Digital in Social Care Framework which was launched in October 2025 and Bridgend's place within it.</li></ol> <p>4. Members expressed concern that home-educated learners may not have adequate contact with the Local Authority and the Committee were advised that the level is set by National Guidance. The Committee <b>recommended</b> that legal advice be sought as to whether the Guidance can be tailored to have increased contact with the learners and ensure they are appropriately safeguarded. The Committee further <b>recommended</b> to refer the matter to the Education and Youth Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider adding the matter to their Forward Work Programme to monitor the situation.</p>
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	<b>Additional Information Requested</b>
	<p>5. The Committee expressed concern regarding the perceived delay in utilising the £1m non-recurring budget approved by Cabinet to support schools in reducing permanent exclusions and <b>requested</b> an update regarding the use of the funding, when it will be utilised and the proposal being developed in partnership with schools including when it will be considered for decision.</p>
Date Decision Made	6 November 2025

### 53. Community Hubs Strategy

Decision Made	<p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u></b></p> <p>Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member and Senior Officers, the Committee made the following recommendations and request for additional information:</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>6. Members were advised that key stakeholders in each community would be consulted on the proposed Strategy and their views sought to shape how the Hubs look in their particular area and the Committee <b>recommended</b> that an all-Member workshop be arranged to allow Councillors to also feed into the Strategy and that local Members are specifically consulted regarding proposed Hubs within their respective Wards.</p> <p>7. The Committee discussed the lack of alignment between education and the Strategy and <b>recommended</b> that consideration be given to the possibility of utilising some of the school estate as potential Hubs and that this aspect be included in the Strategy.</p> <p><b>Additional Information Requested</b></p> <p>8. The Committee discussed priority areas within Bridgend and <b>requested</b> a copy of the Regional Partnership Board Strategy which identified the seven priority areas for Bridgend County Borough based on level of need and current service provision.</p>
Date Decision Made	6 November 2025

**54. Forward Work Programme Update**

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u>  That the Committee approved the 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 as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee:  1. External Review of Strength Based Outcome Focused Practice Model being embedded into Adult Social Care; and 2. Further Report regarding the Community Hubs Strategy (at the appropriate time early in 2026)
Date Decision Made	6 November 2025

**55. Urgent Items**

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	6 November 2025

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

The meeting closed at 13:31.