

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

Jayne Bryant MS
Cabinet Secretary for Housing
and Local Government

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Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg A Chraffu
Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Iechyd A Lles/ Chair
of Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview
and Scrutiny Committee
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 643515
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Scrutiny

Ein cyf / Our ref: FB / Scrutiny
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 24 October 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Reliance on and Short Notice of Grant Funding, Fully Funding National Legislative Commitments and Lack of All-Wales Comparative Data

I am writing to formally put on record the concerns of our Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee which met on 11 September 2025 to consider the Draft Social Services Annual Report 2024-25.

During discussions, the Committee were advised that the provision of many services is heavily reliant on grant funding and expressed grave concern regarding the sustainability of service delivery which are reliant on one-off or funding which has only been confirmed as recurring for a certain number of years.

The Committee also expressed that national policy commitments resulting from legislative changes should be fully funded both in terms of capital funding and ongoing revenue funding and that core responsibilities should not be diluted by not fully funding national policy commitments, including a commitment to fund employer national insurance payments for individuals employed by agencies who provide services to the Council.

By way of example of reliance on grant funding to fulfil a national policy commitment arising from legislative change, the Committee were advised that the elimination of profit from the care of care experienced children arising from the Health and Social Care (Wales) Act 2025 has attracted recurring grant funding guaranteed until March 2028, but the Committee were alarmed that ongoing funding is most likely required for a number of years post the current confirmed funding arrangement in order to safely achieve the elimination of profit agenda.

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

The Committee again expressed concern regarding the lateness, short notice and even retrospective notification of the award of funding which impacts on the Authority's financial and resource planning and places a great strain on all Council finances and staff.

The Committee seeks a commitment that all national policy commitments will be fully funded with guaranteed recurring funding and that short notice, 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.

Finally, during the meeting, Members sought national comparative data in a number of areas including numbers of care experienced children and number and themes of complaints in order to identify areas of best practice that the authority could adopt or areas where the authority is already excelling. However, the Committee were troubled to learn that there is a lack of availability of all-Wales data and that any data that may be able to be provided is not publicly available and would involve a significant time lag.

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

Kind regards,

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 Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol, Iechyd A Lles /
Chair of Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee