

Meeting of the Social Services, Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9 July 2026

Responses to Recommendations / Additional Information Requested

	Recommendations / Information Requested:	Response:	Accepted / Partially Accepted / Not Accepted:
Shared Lives			
Recommendations			
1	Given that the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) is designed to cover the cheapest 30% of properties in the rental area and the disparity between the cheapest market rent of properties in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan, the Committee expressed concern that residents of Bridgend in private accommodation are at detriment and recommended a review of LHA in line with the Consumer Price Index.	LHA Rates are determined at national UK level by the Department of Works & Pensions (DWP). The comparative LHA rates for the whole of Wales will be included in the follow up Scrutiny Report (see Point 3 below).	Partially Accepted.
2	The Committee expressed pride and gratitude for the Shared Lives Service, that many people were likely to be unaware of it and recommended that a briefing be brought to full Council to raise awareness, which may assist with recruitment of more carers and growing the service.	All-Members Briefing scheduled for 28 October.	Accepted.

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3	The Committee expressed concern regarding the potential impact of the proposed changes on individuals and Band 1 carers, acknowledged that options to explore the no detriment approach were ongoing, requested that the Shared Lives report be put on their Forward Work Programme for September and that the following be included within the scope of the report: a. Detail of the work being undertaken by the Financial Safeguarding Team to include the impact of the proposed changes on individuals' disposable income and affordability; b. Detail of all of the proposed changes to terms and conditions; c. Full cost analysis of the cost of a Shared Lives Placement compared to alternative accommodation such as Supported Living, etc.; d. The rationale for aligning individuals' contributions to the same level as those in the Vale of Glamorgan who receive a higher level of Local Housing Allowance; e. The outcome of discussions with legal regarding a possible two-tier approach to	Scrutiny have added Item to the Committee's Forward Work Programme and information requested as been included in the scope of the report requested on 20 July 2026.	

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	ensure Band 1 carers are at no detriment; f. Detail regarding how each carer and service user were consulted and how the impact on each was presented and explained to them and their responses; g. The consultation paper and all anonymised responses to the consultation as an Appendix; and h. The Banding criteria as an Appendix.		