

SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUBJECT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2) - THURSDAY, 9 JULY 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THURSDAY, 9 JULY 2026 AT 10:00

Present Virtually

Councillor F D Bletsoe – Chairperson

S J Bletsoe
D M Hughes
AJ Williams

JPD Blundell
RM James

N Clarke
W J Kendall

P Davies
J Llewellyn-Hopkins

Apologies for Absence

S Aspey, P Ford, M Lewis and R Williams

Invitees

Councillor Jane Gebbie

Deputy Leader / Cabinet Member Social Services, Health and Wellbeing

Claire Marchant
Mark Wilkinson
Richard Thomas
Joe Boyle

Corporate Director - Social Services and Wellbeing
Group Manager – Learning Disability and Mental Health
Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer
Commissioning and Service Development Officer

Paul Marchant

Shared Lives Team Manager – Vale of Glamorgan Council

Officers:

Jessica Mclellan
Michael Pitman

Scrutiny Officer
Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Councillor RM James – Item 3 – Personal – Wife is the Chairperson of the Bridgend Fostering Panel

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

72. Shared Lives

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Committee thanked the Service User and Shared Lives Carer Invitees for attending the meeting and for their valued contributions to the discussions. Following detailed consideration and discussions with a Cabinet Member, Officers and Invitees the Committee made the following recommendations and requests for additional information: 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. 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. Requests for Additional Information 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 ensure Band 1
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	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.
Date Decision Made	9 July 2026

73. 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 Shared Lives report in their September meeting, noted the Recommendations Monitoring Action Sheet in Appendix B, noted that the FWP as approved by the Committee would be reported to the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Date Decision Made	9 July 2026

74. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None.
Date Decision Made	9 July 2026

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

The meeting closed at 12:52.