

# Public Document Pack

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(Tel: 01443 864210 Email: [evansca1@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:evansca1@caerphilly.gov.uk))

**Date: 27th January 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Social Services Scrutiny Committee** will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 2nd February, 2021 at 5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. Councillors and the public wishing to speak on any item can do so by making a request to the Chair. You are also welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, both these requests require a minimum notice period of 3 working days.

This meeting will be recorded and made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council website at [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed in a large, loopy oval shape.

**Christina Harrhy**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## A G E N D A

- |   | Pages                             |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | To receive apologies for absence. |  |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest.         |  |

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest (s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- |   |  |        |
|---|--|--------|
| 3 | Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 1st December 2020.                                    | 1 - 6  |
| 4 | Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure. |        |
| 5 | Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.                      | 7 - 16 |

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports: -

- |   |  |         |
|---|--|---------|
| 6 | Transformation of Adult Mental Health Services. - Presentation.            | 17 - 42 |
| 7 | Budget Monitoring Report Month 9.  | 43 - 62 |
| 8 | Interim Report from Task and Finish Group on Non-Residential Care Charges. | 63 - 68 |

**Circulation:**

Councillors: A. Angel, J. Bevan, C. Bezzina (Vice Chair), L.J. Binding (Chair), D. Cushing, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Gair, Ms J. Gale, D.C. Harse, V. James, L. Jeremiah, Mrs A. Leonard, S. Skivens, C. Thomas and W. Williams

Users and Carers: Mr C. Luke and Michelle Jones

Aneurin Bevan Health Board: A. Gough (ABUHB)

And Appropriate Officers

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## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE DIGITAL MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2020 AT 5.30 P.M.**

#### PRESENT:

Councillor L. Binding - Chair  
Councillor V. James - Temporary Vice Chair

#### Councillors:

A. Angel, D. Cushing, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, A. Gair, J. Gale, L. Jeremiah, S. Skivens and W. Williams.

Cabinet Member: S. Cook (Social Care).

#### Together with:

D. Street (Corporate Director - Social Services and Housing), J. Williams (Assistant Director – Adult Services), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director – Children’s Services), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Manager) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

Users and Carer – Mrs M. Jones.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J. Bevan, C. Bezzina, D. Harse, A. Leonard, C. Thomas and C. Luke (User and Carer).

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

#### **3. MINUTES – 20TH OCTOBER 2020**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 20th October 2020 (minute nos. 1 - 8) be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### **4. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

## **5. SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Scrutiny Manager introduced the report that informed the Committee of its Forward Work Programme planned for the period December 2020 to April 2021.

It was noted that there are two items scheduled for 2nd February 2021, which included a Budget Report and the Directors Annual Report, however Welsh Government have advised that due to the current pandemic, the Annual Report will not be required this year.

In addition, it was noted that a report on the Respite Facility and a presentation from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board on Mental Health and Learning Difficulties provision is scheduled for 16th March 2021.

A Member, in noting that the Grange Hospital has now opened and has received several queries and concerns from the public in relation to staffing, transport links, critical care and minor injuries and requested a presentation from the Aneurin Bevan Health Board addressing some of the issues. Members were asked to provide the Scrutiny Manager with any further questions for a presentation to be arranged.

A Member, in noting that the Annual Report is no longer required, queried whether this is as a result of the Pandemic, or whether it will continue going forward. Officers explained that the Annual Report will be produced next year but is not this year due to the Pandemic. Officers agreed to produce a report to demonstrate the developments and progress made and provide it to the Scrutiny Committee.

Following consideration and discussion, and subject to the changes proposed, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the aforementioned changes, the Forward Work Programme for the coming year be approved and published on the Councils' website

## **6. CABINET REPORTS**

There had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

## **7. DEVELOPMENT OF A MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB IN CAERPHILLY**

The report provided the Scrutiny Committee with details of the proposal to develop a multi-agency Safeguarding Hub with Gwent Police. The Hub will be based in Caerphilly but support the West of Gwent i.e. covering Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent local authorities, and sought Committee support for the operational and strategic principles underpinning this development.

Members were asked to note that Gwent Police commissioned a review of the way they were delivering their Public Protection functions and specifically their role in safeguarding.

Through engaging with partner agencies as part of the review, it soon became apparent that there was an opportunity to develop multi-agency safeguarding hubs and to support this, a pilot project commenced in Newport in the spring of 2018 involving a Police Decision Maker

being co-located in the Council's Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Service. Shortly afterwards, the pilot was extended to Blaenau Gwent and learning from both sites has been incorporated into the final review recommendations.

It was noted that based on the work to date, the Review's key recommendation was to have a Police Officer decision maker co-located in each local authority IAA service supported by Senior Officers, Conference Support Officers and Business Support in two regional hubs covering East and West Gwent. It was proposed that the East Hub will be based in Newport covering Newport and Monmouthshire and the West Hub will be in Caerphilly covering Caerphilly, Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

A Member sought clarification on the collaboration and operational challenges as a result of the hub, and whether the collaboration is effective now and going forward. Officers explained that there is effective collaboration in place, with a partnership approach being undertaken for safeguarding. Whilst the ABHB provision will not be taking the same approach as the Police, they propose to establish single points of contact in each of the relevant divisions providing a reporting mechanism will improve the existing arrangements.

A Member sought further information on the criteria to identify and map the principles. Officers explained that the review was undertaken by Gwent Police, and the findings were reported to the partner agencies and implemented. However, it was agreed that the mapping process will be clarified, and the information provided to the Committee.

Further information was sought around the virtual conferencing facilities. Officers explained that several services will be co-locating to Foxes Lane, and therefore facilities will be required in order to accommodate the various services. In addition, as a result of the Pandemic, it was found that video conferencing was very effective for enabling agencies to participate, and therefore it would be appropriate to future proof the hub and make it fit for purpose.

A Member sought further information around the co-location proposal and whether there would be a separation between specialists for safeguarding children and adults. Officers explained that similar arrangements to those currently in place will be maintained in that there will be a clear split between the service areas, but with the added advantage of police presence. The co-location will enable multi-agency decision making and involvement at the earliest point of contact, creating a more effective service.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report:

- i) The development of a multi-agency Safeguarding Hub in Caerphilly be noted and supported;
- ii) The broad strategic and operational principles that will inform the development be agreed.

## **8. THE SAFE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER IN CAERPHILLY**

The report provided the Scrutiny Committee (Committee) with an update on the actions taken to implement Welsh Government's expectation to safely reduce the numbers of Children Looked After in Caerphilly.

It was noted that the First Minister for Wales made a manifesto pledge to reduce the numbers of Children Looked After in Wales by 2022. As part of a national programme of work, Welsh Government officials and advisors visited Caerphilly in March 2019 and the Council was invited to submit a reduction plan to Welsh Government by the end of April 2019.

In recognition of the challenges facing Local Authorities, Welsh Government announced additional Integrated Care Funding (ICF) specifically focussed on supporting the safe reduction of the number of Children Looked After. The report included details of how this funding has been utilised within Caerphilly.

It was noted that in September 2019, Cabinet agreed that the 'Safe reduction of Children Looked After' would be included within Wellbeing Objective 6 of the Corporate Plan: *Support citizens to remain independent and improve their wellbeing*, when the Plan was reviewed next.

The reduction plan and an overview report were presented to Committee in October 2019 so the report provided a timely update for Members.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

A Member, in noting the information in the report sought reassurance that the reduction was not as a result of lowering the criteria. Officers assured Members that the main priority will always be the needs of the child. Several measures have been put in place to assist with the reduction, however, regardless of how aspirational the target set, justification can be made for every child that is Looked After and that targets are secondary, the needs of a child remain the priority.

A Member queried whether the risk assessment process has changed as a result of the Pandemic. Officers explained that there have been some changes, which have strengthened the process and the way in which social services engage. Members were reassured that even during the lockdown period, the service remained business as usual.

Queries were raised around the placements of children outside of the borough. Officers maintained that the safety and wellbeing of the child is paramount. It was noted that often children can be placed outside of the borough as a result of a lack of foster carers in the area, or to be closer to family members or schools in order to maintain relationships and links where it is safe to do so. Where it has been necessary to place a child outside of the borough into residential care, every effort is being made to bring the child back into the area within the Council's provision.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the actions taken to implement plans to safely reduce the numbers of Children Looked After and to confirm the current position in Caerphilly be noted.

## **9. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARDS - UPDATE**

The report provided the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work and decisions taken over the last 4 months by the Regional Partnership Board.

It was noted that at its meeting on the 4th February the Scrutiny Committee received an update report regarding the work of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board, which was appended to the report at Appendix 1. One of the recommendations made, after members had considered the report, was for the Social Services Scrutiny Committee to receive quarterly reports on the work and priorities of the Board.

Members were asked to note that in March 2020 the local authority and its statutory partners began their response to the Coronavirus pandemic and as a result the Regional Partnership Board did not meet again until July 2020.

It was noted that Part 9 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 required local authorities and Health Boards to establish Regional Partnership Boards (RPB's). RPB's were established on Health Board footprints with consequently seven Boards being established. The RPB for the Caerphilly area is titled the Gwent Regional Partnership Board.

Members noted that since their inception in 2016 the RPB has become increasingly influential in developing integrated health and social care services across the region. The Board has also been the recipient of significant amounts of grant funding from WG to support and develop an integrated service.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

Members raised several concerns around the governance of the RPB, which have been expressed to Welsh Government.

A Member queried the cause for the delay in the RPB meeting during the pandemic. Officers explained that this was as a result of conflicting priorities within their own fields, however members were assured that joint working continued on a daily basis, but it was difficult arranging for a meeting for the board, when members were dealing with the impact and issues caused by the pandemic.

Concerns were raised around grant funding and the sustainability of the provision should this end. Officers explained that this is a concern, and should funding stop, it would require a formal evaluation of services, ceasing those which have not met their targeted outcomes.

A Member raised concerns around the difficulties recruiting to posts as a result of the uncertainty of grant funding. Officers agreed that there is a difficulty as secondment may not be an option, and a permanent position cannot be offered as a result of uncertainty with funding. However, recruitment campaigns are underway and links with colleges and universities can be utilised to encourage recruitment.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officer's report the content therein be noted.

## **10. SOCIAL SERVICES RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

The report provided the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the Directorate's response to the coronavirus pandemic to date and an the approach taken to identify, mitigate and manage the risks that emerged during the first phase of the Pandemic and to identify the issues that continue to challenge the local authority as the end of the year approaches.

It was noted that the emergence of Coronavirus at the beginning of 2020 has presented unprecedented demands on public services and required Members, Officers and the people who rely on services to accept the delivery of services in a different way to the manner they would normally be delivered.

The report outlined the principle challenges faced and explained how the Directorate has responded to these challenges.

It was noted that clearly the Directorate has not responded to the virus in isolation and many of the actions taken have been as part of the Council's overarching response to the Pandemic. To that end, Members were asked to consider the report in conjunction with the report submitted to the meeting of Council on 10th September 2020.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and wished the thanks noted to all staff who worked above and beyond their normal duties during the pandemic, to continue delivering services to those most in need.

A Member sought further information on the impact the pandemic has had on Domiciliary Services. Officers explained that there was an early decrease in the demand for services, as families were caring for their relatives due to furlough or concerns with contamination, prior to the implementation of testing. However, demand has since increased and relied upon more so to keep vulnerable people at home and out of hospitals or care homes. However, links with the private sector in this area has also improved, becoming more streamlined and building a relationship of trust whilst working more closely together to deliver services.

Clarification was sought on whether there was a timeframe allocated for the re-opening of Day Centres, and if they would re-open. Officers explained that there is no timeframe set now, with the pandemic ongoing, but provision is available from many community services. Members noted that feedback from users has highlighted that the community provision is often preferred and therefore consideration may be given to a change in service provision in the future. Members were assured however that any proposals will be subject to scrutiny approval.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report: -

- i) The Directorate's response to the emergence of Coronavirus in early 2020 and the ongoing challenges/ pressures that are likely to continue for some months be noted;
- ii) That further reports are provided in due course in relation to specific areas of the broad-based report.

The meeting closed at 7.16pm

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd February 2021.

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CHAIR



## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND FEBRUARY 2021**

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To report the Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

**2. SUMMARY**

2.1 Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholder.

**3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 That Members consider any changes and agree the final forward work programme prior to publication.

**4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

**5. THE REPORT**

5.1 The Social Services Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the scrutiny committee meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period February 2021 to April 2021.

5.2 The forward Work Programme is made up of reports identified by officers and members. Members are asked to consider the work programme alongside the cabinet work programme and suggest any changes before it is published on the

council website. Scrutiny committee will review this work programme at every meeting going forward alongside any changes to the cabinet work programme or report requests.

- 5.3 The Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1, which presents the current status as at 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Cabinet Work Programme is attached at Appendix 2. A copy of the prioritisation flowchart is attached at appendix 3 to assist the scrutiny committee to determine what items should be added to the forward work programme.

#### 5.4 **Conclusion**

The work programme is for consideration and amendment by the scrutiny committee prior to publication on the council website.

### 6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions are necessary.

### 7. **LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000. The Local Government Wales Measure 2011 and subsequent Statutory Guidance include requirements to publicise the work of scrutiny committees. The operation of scrutiny committee forward work programmes was agreed following decisions by Council in October 2013 and October 2015.

#### 7.2 **Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

Scrutiny Committee forward work programmes contributes towards and impacts upon the Corporate Well-being Objectives by ensuring that the Executive is held to account for its Corporate Objectives, which are:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all

Objective 2 - Enabling employment

Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of homes throughout the county borough and provide advice, assistance or support to help improve people's well-being

Objective 4 - Promote a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and minimises the adverse impacts on the environment

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being

### 8. **WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

8.1 This report contributes to the well-being goals and is consistent with the five ways if working as defined within the sustainable development principle in that by ensuring the scrutiny function is effective when reviewing services and policies and ensure is considers the wellbeing goals.

8.2 The Forward Work Programmes contribute to the following Well-being Goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2016 by ensuring there is an effective scrutiny function and that council policies are scrutinised against the following goals:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- A globally responsible Wales

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Mark Jacques, Scrutiny Officer - jacqu@carphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Dave Street, Corporate Director Social Services  
Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services/ Monitoring Officer  
Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer,  
Legal Services  
Councillor Lyndon Binding, Chair of Social Services Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Carmen Bezzina, Vice Chair of Social Services Scrutiny  
Committee

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
- Appendix 2 Cabinet Forward Work Programme
- Appendix 3 Forward Work Programme Prioritisation Flowchart

Forward Work Programme - Social Services				Appendix 1
Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
02/02/21 17:30	Engagement for the Transformation of Adult Mental Health Services	ABUHB Presentation		Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
02/02/21 17:30	Social Services Budget Monitoring Report Month 9		Jones, Mike J;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
02/02/21 17:30	Interim Report from the Task and Finish Group on Non-Residential Care Charges	To recommend to Members that they request that Cabinet extends the current rate increases for the 2021/22 financial year. This would allow the Task and Finish group to continue their inquiry and to draft recommendations for Cabinet consideration on the charge for non-residential care from 2022/23 onwards.	Jacques, Mark;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
16/03/21 17:30	Social Services Position Statement		Street, Dave;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
16/03/21 17:30	New Respite Facility	To inform Members of proposals to develop a new respite care facility for Adults within the County Borough.	Street, Dave;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;
16/03/21 17:30	Directorate Performance Assessment (6 Months) Social Services		Street, Dave;	Cllr. Cook, Shayne;

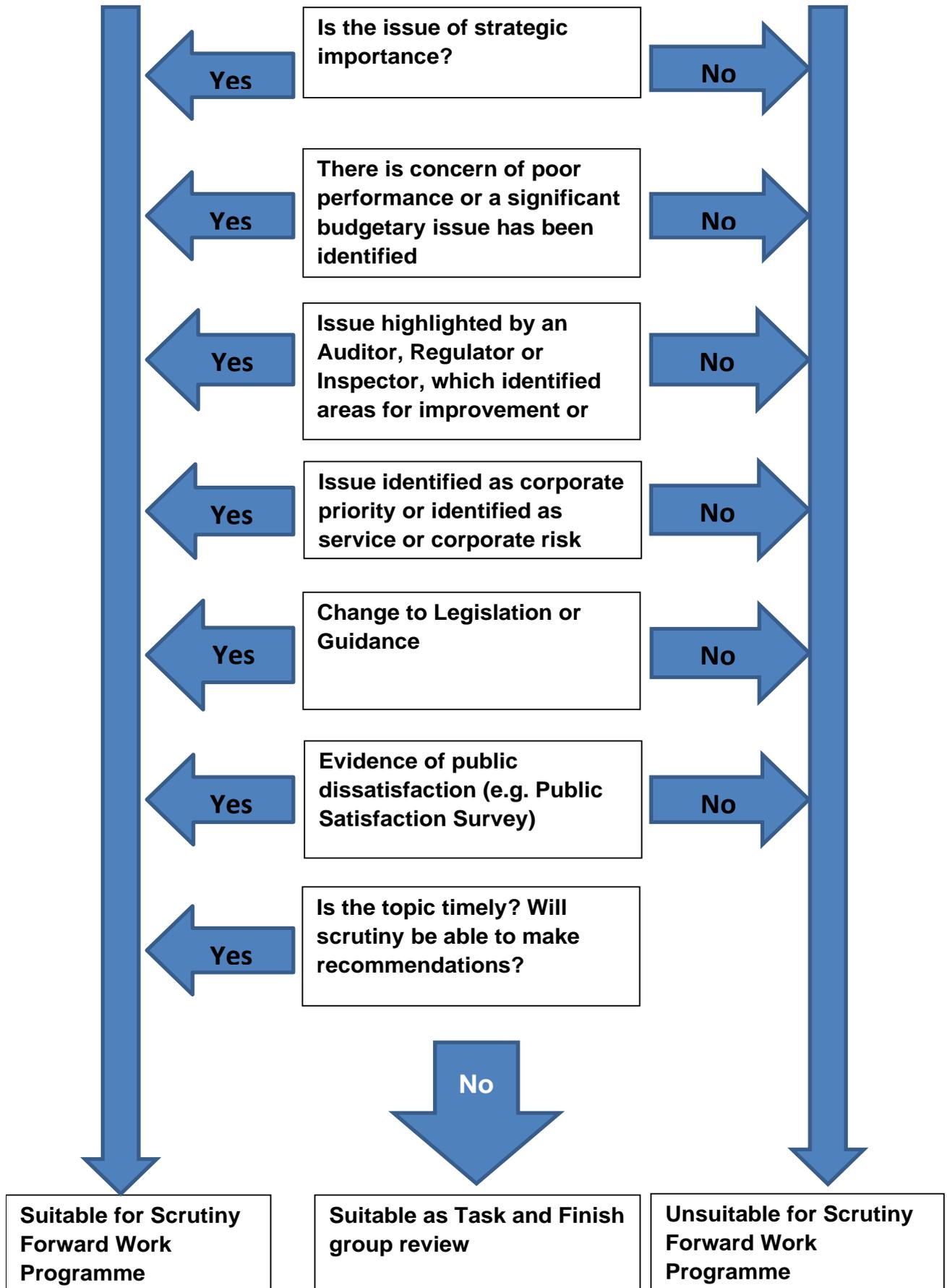
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## Appendix 2

Cabinet Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
27/01/21 10:30	Pentrebane Street Caerphilly - Use of CPO Powers	To update Cabinet on the use of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to facilitate the redevelopment of the southern side of Pentrebane Street, Caerphilly. This report also requests the allocation of up to £200,000 to the Pentrebane Street redevelopment project to cover the costs associated with the CPO process and to facilitate with the acquisition of the privately-owned properties.	Dallimore, Allan	Cllr. Morgan, Sean;
27/01/21 10:30	Bus Emergency Scheme 2 Funding	To obtain Public Sector agreement for emergency bus funding with operators until July 2022.	Williams, Mark S;Lloyd, Marcus;	Cllr. Ridgewell, John;
27/01/21 10:30	Whole-authority budget monitoring position for 2020/21	To provide Cabinet with an update on the projected outturn position for the 2020/21 financial year.	Harris, Stephen R;	Cllr. Stenner, Eluned;
27/01/21 11:30	Blackwood Miners' Institute Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2019/20	To advise Cabinet as Trustees of the Blackwood Miners' Institute of the operational activities and financial position of Blackwood Miners' Institute for the financial year ending 31st March 2020	Kyte, Rhian;	Cllr. Morgan, Sean;

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### Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation



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Division Of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

## Transformation of Adult Mental Health Services

January 2021



**Our Priorities**



**Our Service Model**



**Ideas we would like to share**



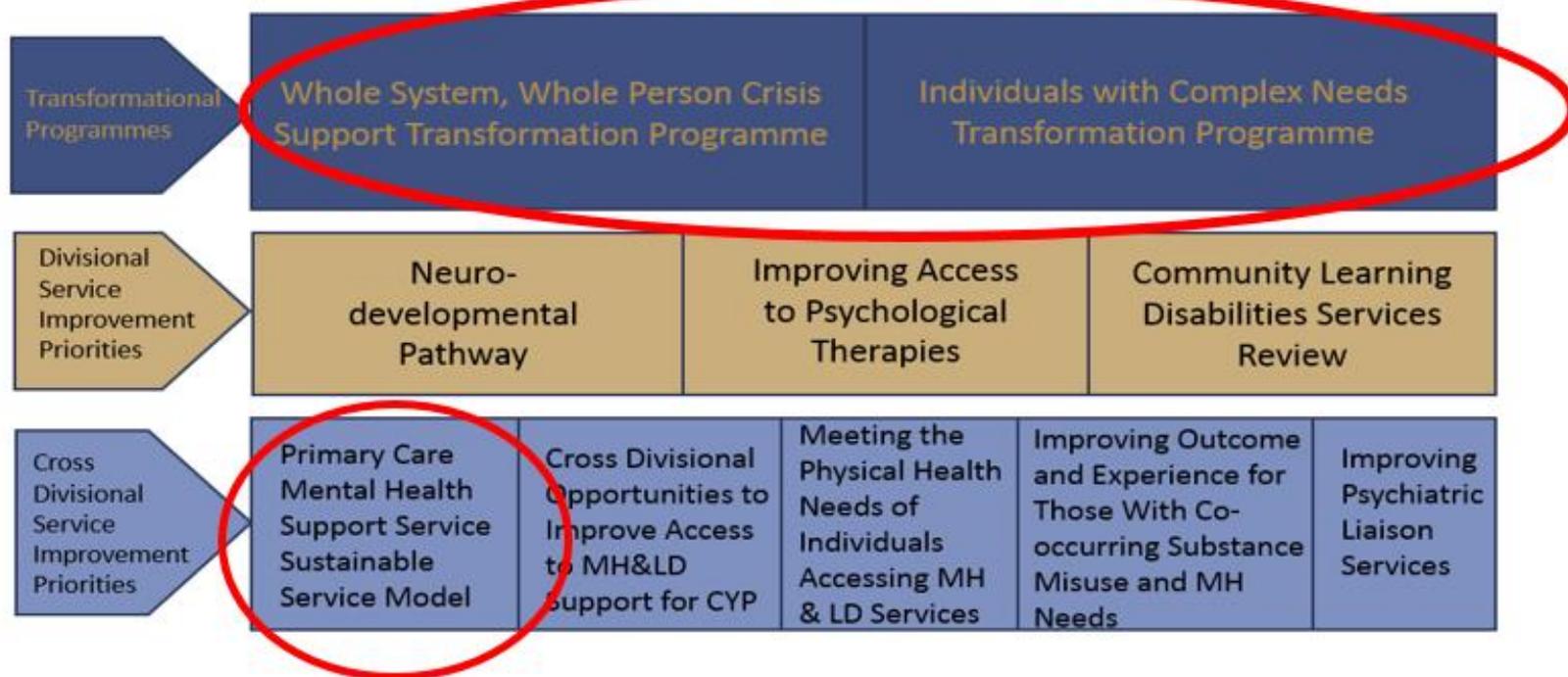
**Engaging**

# Our Vision

Our vision is to provide:

**“High quality, compassionate, person-centred mental health and learning disabilities services, striving for excellent outcomes for the people of Gwent”**

# Our Divisional Priorities in 2020/21



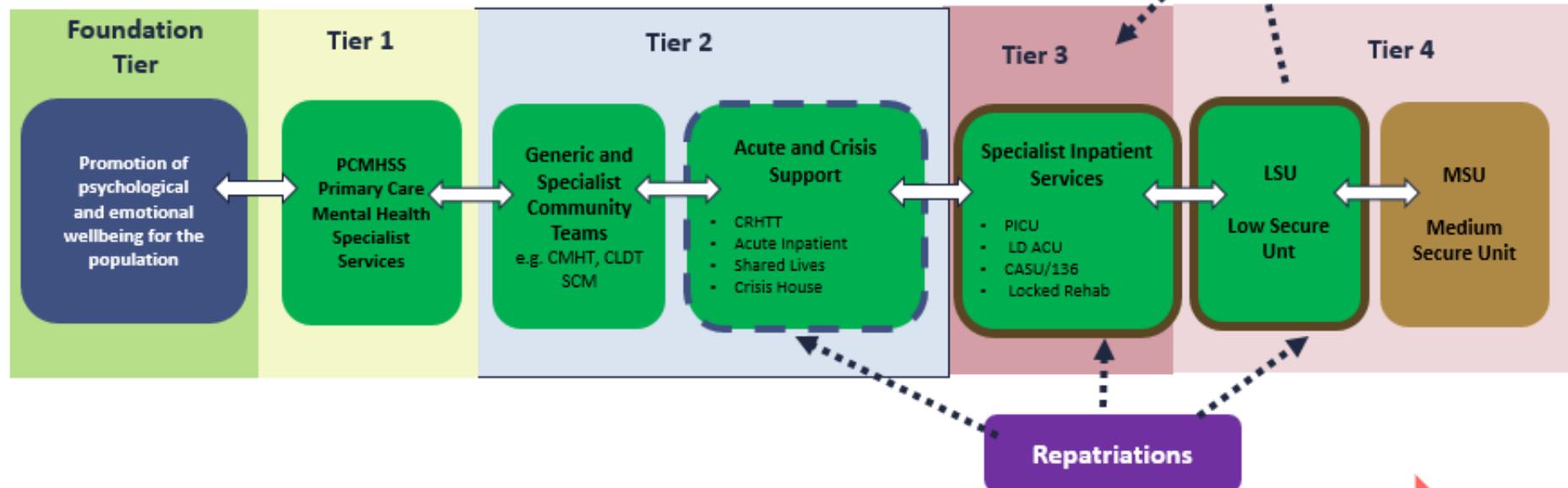
# Transforming Adult Mental Health Services in Gwent



**A whole 'Clinical Futures' approach for adult mental health services in Gwent**

# Proposed Whole System Pathway

- Provided by ABUHB or Third Sector
- Provided by ABUHB
- Commissioned by WHSSC
- Referrals HMP
- ABUHB new or enhanced provision
- ABUHB Crisis Transformation



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## Ideas We Would Like to Share :

### “Improving Services Across All Tiers of Adult Mental Health”

- Enhancing support for the wider community in the **Foundation Tier**
- Strengthening mental health support for **Primary Care** and developing a sustainable model for delivering **Primary Care Mental Health Support Services**
- Transforming **Crisis Services**
- Transforming services provided locally to better support individuals with complex needs, including the development of a new **Specialist Inpatient Unit**.

# The Foundation Tier



***“There is no health without good mental health”***

Mental wellbeing means how you are feeling and how you can cope with everyday life. Everyone is different and what affects one person’s well-being will not necessarily affect another person’s mental wellbeing in the same way.

There is a strong link between mental and physical health, therefore, it is beneficial for everyone to do all they can to look after their mental wellbeing. There are many evidence based actions and self-help tools that can support people to do this.

With our partners, we currently provide a range of self help resources, courses and materials to support people’s mental wellbeing within the community.

## Enhancing the Foundation Tier.

### “Why do we need to change”

Limited Knowledge About the Range of Support and Resources Available locally.



Limited Co-ordination between local services providing or promoting self-help resources



Variation in the provision of services and resources across communities within Gwent.



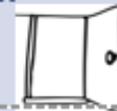
Inconsistencies in the range and availability of self help resources



Lack of confidence in frontline staff on raising mental health issues and lack of knowledge on where to signpost for help.



Variable access to services, making it particularly difficult for groups with the greatest needs to access resources



## The Foundation Tier – Our Ideas

- **Free self help resources** that you can directly access yourself – information leaflets, mobile apps, web-sites, books, face to face and on line courses, local websites and social media platforms.
- **Central point of contact** - a branded website with up to date information and resources that can signpost you to local support and resources
- **Raising awareness**- a sustained campaign to raise awareness of the support available to individuals within the community
- **A focused approach** - reaching out to groups or individuals at the greatest risk of having poor mental health and wellbeing
- **Training for front line staff**- to help them feel confident and competent in talking about mental health and wellbeing and to signpost people to resources or services where they can get the right support

# Mental Health Services for Primary Care

Around a quarter to a third of all GP consultations have a mental health component.

Our current PCMHSS service is provided through clinicians attached to GP practices, with around three quarters of the work taking place in GP surgery premises. More recently the service has been delivered by phone or using on-line video.

## The service provides:

- **Mental Health Assessments** -for people referred by their GP.
- **Therapeutic Interventions** - either for individuals or in a group.
- **Information and guidance** – on resources to support individual needs.
- **Consultation and advice to GPs** - to enable GPs to safely manage and care for people with mental health problems.
- **Supporting Onward Referral** - to secondary care specialist mental health services.



# Mental Health Services in Primary Care.

## “Why do we need to change?”

Limited GP time and we are seeing increasing numbers of patients with mental health difficulties



Difficulty in matching the right staff member/skills to best meet the needs of each patient.



Difficulty in managing workforce challenges due to the way services are currently organised



Differences in demand and the way waiting lists are managed across boroughs and practices



Reduced availability of consulting rooms in GP surgeries to deliver our services locally



Predicted increase in demand for mental health support as a result of the pandemic



## Ideas to Support Primary Care Mental Health Services; Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners

- Introducing new **Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners (PWP)** roles to help support General Practitioners to meet the needs of individuals with low level mental health problems such as anxiety and depression.
- Working **across a number of GP practices** and offer assessments, advice and signposting to other services.
- Support individuals whose conditions are not severe enough to need referral to more specialised mental health teams; but whose needs cannot currently be fully met in Primary Care.
- Provide advice and support for individuals with low severity mental health issues and free up GP time to see other patients

Increased access closer to home for specialist advice and support for individuals with lower level Mental Health needs

*Supports more effective use of GP time, to see more Patients with other conditions*

## Ideas to Support Primary Care Mental Health Services; Community (NCN) Hub Based Model

- Patients can attend appointments in community based 'hubs' servicing a small number of GP practices.
- Full range of specialist assessments and interventions can be provided within each Hub
- In order to provide more timely support and advice to GPs from Mental Health Teams, a dedicated electronic advice service will be introduced.
- A named practitioner will be allocated to each surgery to attend practice meetings etc.
- Patients will have the choice to attend appointments in person or 'virtually' using video technology or telephone

*More sustainable workforce, with specialist staff better able to cross cover in this model*

*increased access for patients to a range of specialist interventions closer to their home*

*Increased choice of virtual and face to face 'in-person' specialist assessments and interventions*

# Improving Services for Individuals in Crisis;

## Current Crisis Services

Over the last three years we have been working with our Service Users and our service Partners to better understand the Mental Health Crisis Support System to redesign and implement a 'Whole Person, Whole System Crisis Support' model.

## Progress made to date includes:

- Strengthening our Crisis Assessment and Home Treatment services, making them 24/7 and increasing capacity.
- Introducing a 'Shared Lives' service in one borough, providing support within a family environment.
- Providing a service to improve transport for patients in crisis.
- Employed Mental Health Practitioners to work within Primary Care Out of Hours and Gwent Police control room.
- Completed a review of our inpatient services

# Supporting People in Crisis. Why do we need to change?

**Improve Experience and Outcomes for Individuals in Crisis.** Services offer variable access and support, dependent on the time of day and day of week.



## High Demand

We have high admission and readmission rates compared to other Health Boards/Trusts in the UK.



## Workforce Challenges.

Difficulties in recruiting and sustaining staff on some inpatient units, with gaps and variation in multidisciplinary teams



## Lack of some components of a whole system model.

The Health Board do not offer a full range of alternatives to admission for individuals in crisis.



## Poor Inpatient Experience and Environment.

Existing ward layouts and quality of the environments are variable and are not always the best environments to support recovery.



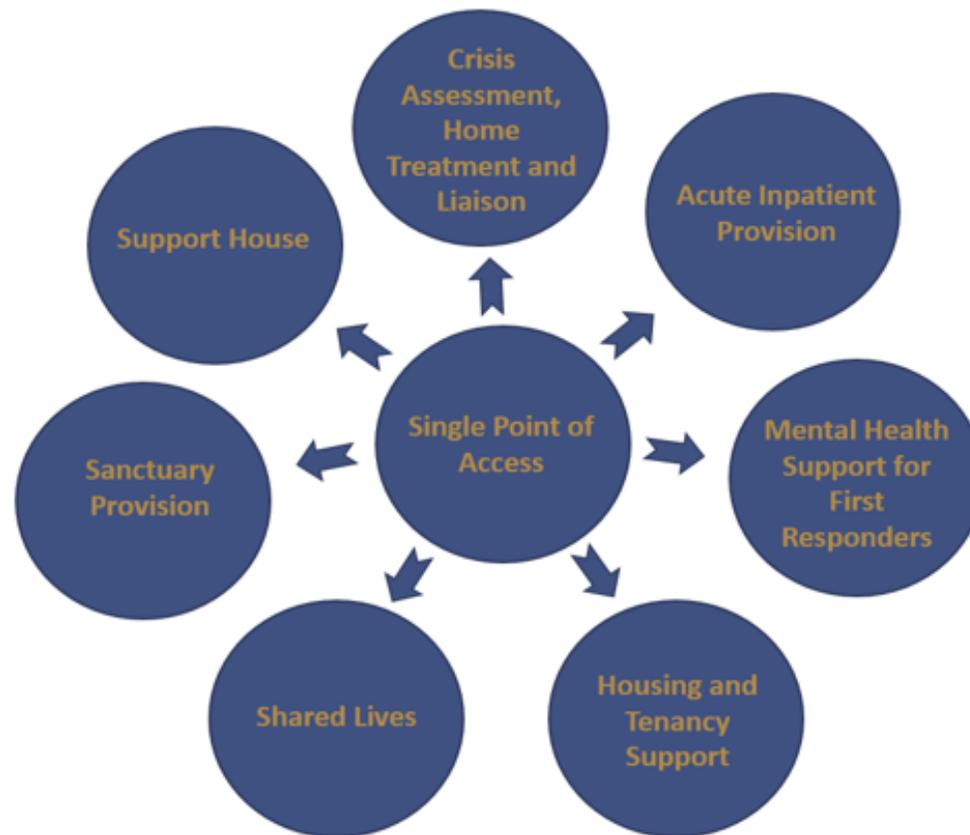
## Listening to What People Were Telling Us.

People who have used our services and our staff have shared some of their experiences which have helped to shape our ideas through our Transformation Programme.



# Improving Services for Individuals in Crisis

## Whole Person, Whole System Crisis Transformation Model



## We want to:

- Improve our Crisis Assessment Services
- Redesign our Inpatient Services to improve patient outcomes and experience.
- Continue to increase the options available to individuals as an alternative to hospital admission, ***TY Lles -our Support House opens in 2021.***
- Work with Partners to develop:
  - A Single Point of Contact that is accessible 24/7
  - Sanctuary provision in local areas for people starting to experience a deterioration in their mental health.

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# Improving Our Service for Individuals in Crisis;

## Sharing our ideas - Crisis Assessment Service Unit

- Establishing a **Centralised Crisis Assessment Service Unit (CASU)**, providing a 24/7 service, next to the 136 suite.

This will provide a 'one point of referral' for all agencies (eg police, WAST)

- 9am-5pm; Crisis assessment appointments will continue to be offered by **Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Teams (CRHTT)**, but will be co-ordinated centrally.

- Initially CASU will be based at St Cadocs Hospital.

*Subject to the outcome of our engagement and consultation it may at a later date relocate to any new purpose built Specialist Inpatient Unit.*

**Improved patient experience** by co-location of assessment, 136 and inpatient services on a single site

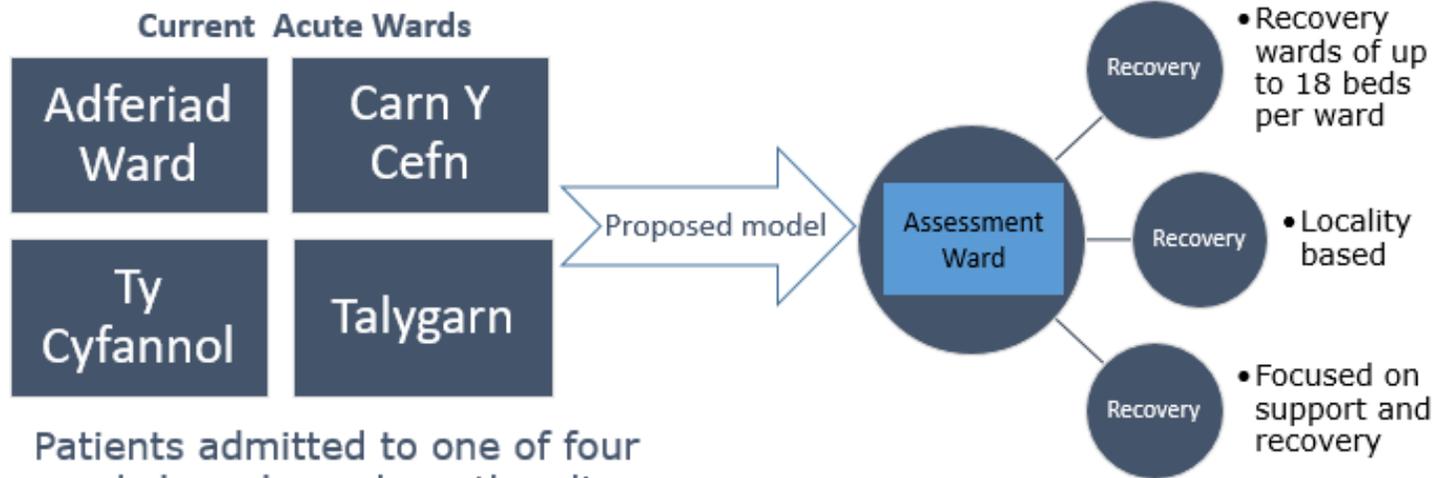
**Specialist staff co-located offers most appropriate expertise and more timely response to crisis incidents out of hours**

**Increased timely access to specialist services with option for an appointments at CASU where local capacity is not available**

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# Improving our Service for individuals in Crisis

## Sharing our ideas – Inpatient Services



- Patients admitted to one of four wards based on where they live
- Patients at different stages of the inpatient pathway on every ward
- All wards do the same thing – 'generalist' approach

- Recovery wards of up to 18 beds per ward
- Locality based
- Focused on support and recovery
- Specialist admissions assessment ward, co-located with CASU, 136 suite and PICU
- A number of specialist recovery wards in localities

*Further development of specialist skills improving evidenced outcomes in Assessment and Recovery of patients*

*Improved patient experience & outcomes by separation of admission and recovery stages*

*Improvement in experience & outcomes evidenced in patient pathway from co-location of core Crisis Services*

# Supporting People With Complex Needs

## Where are we today?

Outside of our hospitals and community services, we have;

- **178** people with Complex Mental Health Needs
- **139** people with a Learning Disability Complex Needs.

For their specific individual needs we commission specialist packages of support for them. This costs £31.9m a year

## In 2019:

- We expanded the **Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)**.
- Invested in a **Structured Clinical Management** service to enable intensive community support for some with complex needs.



Slide  
Number

## Our ideas for the future?

Our ambition is that no individuals with complex needs from Gwent will be placed Out of Area.

## We can achieve this by:

- Developing more local specialist inpatient services unit, to include provision for individuals who require low secure care.
- Further developing our community capacity to support those with complex needs; from the learning from our the Structured Clinical Management service.
- Exploring more opportunities for working differently with our Partners.



# Supporting People with Complex Needs. Why do we need to change?

**Improve Experience and Outcomes for Individuals** distance makes it hard in maintaining links with family. Individuals placed in restrictive environments for longer than necessary and poor continuity of care which impacts on supporting individuals recovery



## Financial Sustainability

By 2021/22 LSU and locked rehab placements are forecast to increase to an annual cost of £13.2m.



**Inadequate Service Delivery / Environment** Existing infrastructure is not fit for purpose and does not provide appropriate environments



## Increasing demand for specialist placements

Number of patients who require specialist placements is increasing



## Lack of whole service model

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board does not currently have Low Secure provision



## Ability to influence care providers is limited

Rely on external clinical decision making, often with big geographical separation and different governance structures

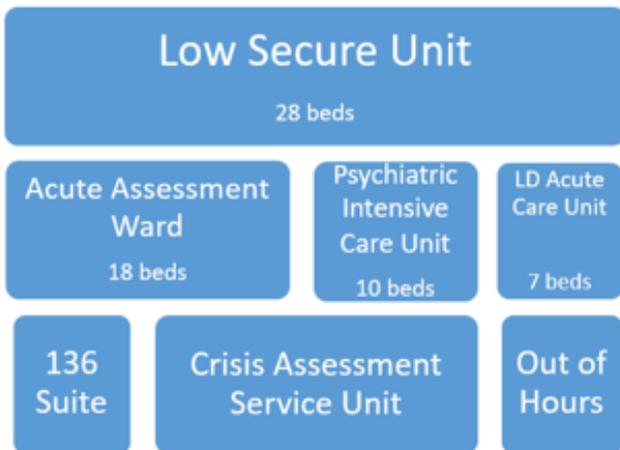


GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Aneurin Bevan  
University Health Board

# Supporting People with Complex Needs; Specialist Inpatient Services Unit

We believe that linking the components outlined below together in a new building will enable the best way to meet the needs of an individual requiring a crisis assessment or admission. This will enable a clear pathway for admission and transfer of patients to the appropriate environment, irrespective of how or when they access the service.



**Implementing value based health care for those with complex needs**

Ensuring the best use of resource to maximise outcomes  
Developing sustainable models of support

**Improve the experience and quality of care for individuals and families**

Timely access to evidence based interventions that promote recovery and independence  
Maintain significant relationships with families, social networks and care team  
Supporting individuals in the least restrictive environment

**Enrich the wellbeing of the workforce**

Improve staff safety  
Improve experience and wellbeing  
Sustainable workforce for the future

## Engagement and Consultation Approach

- Focus on Virtual Engagement
- All Stakeholders to be contacted /mailshot
- Use of Social Media, Virtual Coffee Mornings, Teams Meetings, Internet etc
- Videos, presentations and press releases, social media
- Utilising community connectors, third sector, groups and existing networks and resources to reach out
- Internal workforce engagement



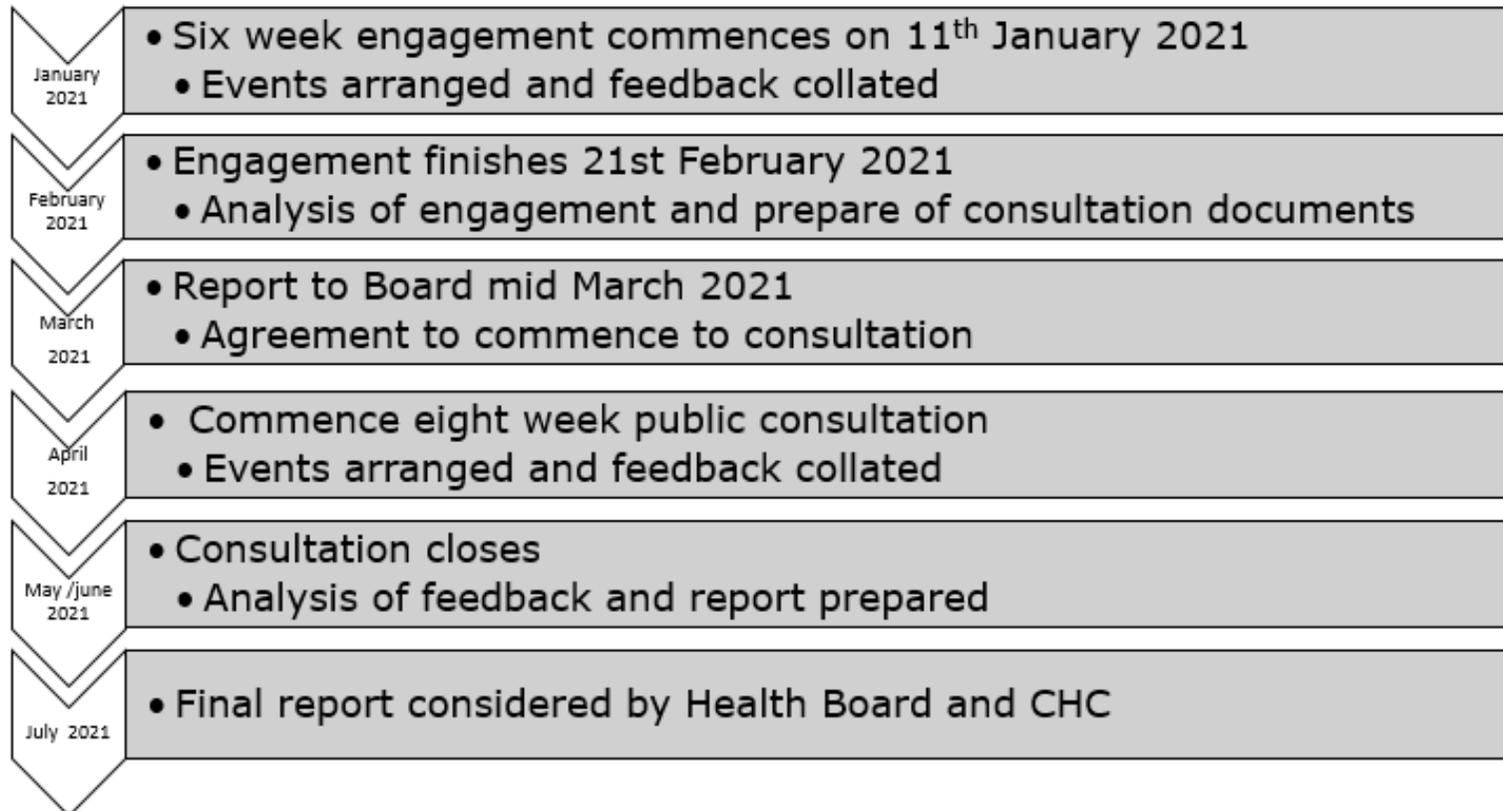
**Public 'Virtual' Meetings hosted by Division SMT Leads**

Wednesday	13 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	10:00 -11.30
Sunday	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	13:00-14:30
Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2021	14:00-15:30
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	14:00-15:30
Wednesday	10 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	10:00-11:30
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	17:00-18:30

To obtain virtual ticket to attend [Email: ABB.MHLDEngagement@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:ABB.MHLDEngagement@wales.nhs.uk)

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## Proposed Timetable for Engagement and Consultation





[ABB.MHLEngagement@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:ABB.MHLEngagement@wales.nhs.uk)



Freepost; Gwent MHL Division  
Lodge Rd,  
Caerleon,  
Newport  
NP18 3XQ



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Website;

<https://abuhb.nhs.wales>

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## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2ND FEBRUARY 2021**

**SUBJECT: BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 9)**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Members of projected revenue expenditure for the Social Services Directorate and the financial impact of the Covid 19 pandemic upon the Directorate for the 2020/21 financial year.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report will identify the reasons behind a projected underspend of £2,210k for Social Services in 2020/21, inclusive of transport costs.
- 2.2 It will also identify the funding made available to Social Services during the 2020/21 financial year through the Welsh Government Covid 19 Hardship Fund.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the budget virement in to the Social Services budget during the current financial year in response to the 2020/21 local government pay award.
- 3.2 Members are asked to note the projected underspend of £2,210k against the Social Services budget for 2020/21, inclusive of transport costs.
- 3.3 Members are asked to note the delegated decision posted by the Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing on 16th December 2020.
- 3.4 Members are asked to note the financial impact of the Covid 19 pandemic upon Social Services in 2020/21.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To ensure Members are apprised of the latest financial position of the Directorate.

## 5. THE REPORT

### 5.1 Directorate Overview

- 5.1.1 The 2020/21 original budget held within Social Services amounted to of £93,236,499 (excluding transport costs). In addition to this, an original budget for 2020/21 of £1,552,829 was held within the Communities Directorate in respect of social care transport provision.
- 5.1.2 These original budgets included provision for a pay award of 2% with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. However, the actual pay award awarded to local government staff with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 amounted to 2.75%. In response to this an additional £312k has been vired in to the Social Services budget for 2020/21 with an additional £4k being vired in to the Communities Directorate budget in respect of staff involved in the transportation of Social Services service users.
- 5.1.3 Information available as at 31st December 2020 suggests a potential underspend of £2,105k against the budget held within Social Services (see appendix 1 for details), while the social care transport budget is forecast to be underspent by £105k following the closure of day care facilities in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. This would result in a total net underspend of £2,210k in respect of social care provision for 2020/21

Division	Previously Reported Budget (£000's)	Pay Award Virements (£000's)	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Children's Services	25,124	92	25,216	26,042	826
Adult Services	65,981	213	66,194	64,316	(1,878)
Service Strategy & Business Support	2,131	7	2,138	1,085	(1,053)
<b>Sub Total Directorate of Social Services</b>	<b>93,236</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>93,548</b>	<b>91,443</b>	<b>(2,105)</b>
Transport Costs	1,553	4	1,557	1,452	(105)
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>94,789</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>95,105</b>	<b>92,895</b>	<b>(2,210)</b>

- 5.1.4 This potential underspend equates to a movement of over £3million from the potential overspend of £860k that was reported to Members at month 5. However, it should be noted that while some progress has been made in reducing the number of children's residential placements, the bulk of this movement is due to continued restrictions as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and through the maximisation of grant funding.
- 5.1.5 During December 2020, tenders were received for the work required to bring the MyST Hub building in Bargoed High Street up to a usable standard. As a result of these tenders, a shortfall in funding for the project of £88k was identified. However, on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020, a delegated decision was taken by the Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing in consultation with the Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer to earmark £88k of Social Services service reserves to underwrite the shortfall. Therefore, the 2020/21 projections do not include any provision for this project.

## 5.2 Children's Services

5.2.1 The Children's Services Division is currently projected to overspend its budget by £826k as summarised in the following table: -

	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Management, Fieldwork & Administration	9,042	8,254	(788)
Residential Care Incl. Secure Accommodation	6,324	7,612	1,288
Fostering & Adoption	8,029	8,550	521
Youth Offending	395	395	0
Families First	49	49	0
After Care Support	834	740	(94)
Other Costs	543	442	(101)
<b>Totals: -</b>	<b>25,216</b>	<b>26,042</b>	<b>826</b>

### *Management, Fieldwork and Administration*

5.2.2 The projected underspend in respect of children's services staff costs has increased by £507k to £788k since the month 5 position was reported to Members in October. Around £165k of this relates to reduced mileage claims following the extension of restrictions linked to Covid 19. A further £76k of the movement is as a result of maximising grant funding, with core staff undertaking grant related work due to difficulties in recruiting to newly created, grant funded posts. The remainder of the movement can be attributed to the well documented challenges of recruiting to posts within Children's Services.

### *Residential Care Including Secure Accommodation*

5.2.3 The projected overspend in respect of residential care for children has reduced by £326k to £1,288k since month 5. £110k of this movement is due to the delay in opening Ty Isaf Residential Home due to additional work required to make the building safe. The remainder of the movement has been achieved as a result of 3 children having moved on to foster care or supported lodgings.

### *Fostering and Adoption*

5.2.4 Transitions of children from residential care into foster care and supported lodgings has added an additional pressure within this area of just £72k over the past two months. However, the division experienced a significant increase for foster care between September and October which added a further pressure of £200k. As a result of these additional pressures we are currently projecting an overspend of £521k in this area.

### *Aftercare*

5.2.5 An underspend of £94k is projected in respect of Aftercare Services and can be attributed to the termination of one expensive placement.

### *Other Costs*

5.2.6 An underspend of £101k is forecast in respect of other children's services costs. Around £33k of this underspend has been achieved as a result of restructuring the services that were previously delivered by Barnardo's until the contract came to an end in August. A further £21k has been achieved by utilising new Welsh Government grant funding to underwrite the cost of some of the services that were previously delivered by Barnardo's. The remainder of the underspend can be attributed to changes to the regional arrangements in respect of Integrated Family Support Services and the Gwent Missing Children Project.

### 5.3 Adult Services

5.3.1 The Adult Services Division is currently projected to underspend its budget by £1,878k as summarised in the following table: -

	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Management, Fieldwork & Administration	8,413	8,189	(224)
Own Residential Care and Supported Living	6,643	5,955	(688)
Own Day Care	4,104	3,668	(436)
Supported Employment	70	66	(4)
Aid and Adaptations	786	653	(133)
Gwent Frailty Programme	2,392	2,288	(104)
Supporting People (net of grant funding)	0	0	0
External Residential Care	15,127	14,567	(560)
External Day Care	1,486	946	(540)
Home Care	11,790	12,260	470
Other Domiciliary Care	14,039	14,598	559
Resettlement	(1,020)	(1,020)	0
Services for Children with Disabilities	1,392	1,393	1
Other Costs	972	753	(219)
<b>Totals: -</b>	<b>66,194</b>	<b>64,316</b>	<b>(1,878)</b>

#### *Management, Fieldwork and Administration*

5.3.2 The current projection in respect of Adult Services management, fieldwork and administrative staff is an underspend of £224k. This compares with a potential overspend £65k that was reported to Members at month 5. Of this movement, £103k relates to reduced mileage claims following the extension of restrictions linked to Covid 19 with the remainder attributable to staffing vacancies across the structure.

#### *Own Residential Care and Supported Living*

5.3.3 Around £130k of the £688k underspend in this area relates to delays in recruiting to posts at the facilities at Ashfield Road and Mill Street. A further £76k can be attributed to vacancies within the Peripatetic Team and £60k is due to additional income from other local authorities. A further £31k of the underspend within this service area relates to income from service users within our own residential homes. However, it should be noted that income levels have fallen since the month 5 position was reported to Members, reflecting the increased vacancy levels in our residential homes as a result of Covid 19. The remaining £391k of the underspend in this area largely reflects the level of staff vacancies and absence cover across our residential homes, respite care and supported living homes. Much of the absence cover has been provided through the redeployment of day care staff at no additional cost.

#### *Own Day Care*

5.3.4 The £436k underspend forecast against our own day care services can be attributed to the closure of day care facilities in response to the Covid 19 pandemic as some posts will have remained vacant during the closures. This underspend includes provision for a £15k contribution towards capital costs to enable the purchase of a vehicle to replace a leased vehicle utilised within the Links Project.

## *Aids and Adaptations*

- 5.3.5 Difficulties in engaging contractors to undertake works of adaptations in service users' homes due to Covid 19 has led to a projected underspend of around £133k in this area.

### *Gwent Frailty Programme*

- 5.3.6 The underspend of £104k in respect of the Gwent Frailty Programme can largely be attributed to Reablement Support Worker vacancies and a reduction in mileage claims.

### *Supporting People*

- 5.3.7 No variance is currently anticipated in respect of Supporting People Services.

### *External Residential Care*

- 5.3.8 An underspend of £86k is predicted in respect of respite care provision for adults aged under 65, reflecting the reduced level of demand for traditional respite care in a residential setting that was experienced in 2019/20. Further underspends of £438k and £171k are predicted in respect of long term residential care for older people and people with learning disabilities respectively while Covid 19 has prevented many residential programmes in respect of substance misuse, adding a further underspend of £49k. These underspends are partially offset by increased demand for long term placements for people with physical disabilities and people with mental health problems, resulting in a net underspend of £560k in respect of external residential care. It should be noted that this underspend has increased by around £499k since month 5 which can largely be attributed to the effects of Covid 19.

### *External Day Care*

- 5.3.9 An underspend of around £540k is forecast in respect of external day care provision. This is largely due to the temporary suspension of some services in response to Covid 19.

### *Home Care (In-House and Independent Sector)*

- 5.3.10 Demand for domiciliary care has continued to grow throughout the current financial year with the projected overspend in this area now amounting to £470k. Much of this additional demand can be attributed to restrictions on residential care admissions and avoidance of hospital admissions as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

### *Other Domiciliary Care*

- 5.3.11 Demand for supported living placements and shared lives placements has increased since month 5, resulting in a projected overspend of £559k in this area.

### *Children with Disabilities*

- 5.3.12 Increased demand for respite care for children with disabilities has been largely offset by reductions in residential care placements, foster care placements and direct payments arrangements resulting in a net overspend of £1k.

### *Other Costs*

- 5.3.13 The £219k underspend in this area includes £40k in respect of the termination of the Dewis advocacy contract and £42k relating to the over provision for core costs at the Caerphilly Children's Centre. The remainder of the underspend can be attributed to a reduction in demand against voluntary sector spot purchasing contracts due to Covid 19 restrictions.

## 5.4 Service Strategy and Business Support

5.4.1 The service area is currently projected to underspend by £1,053k as summarised in the following table: -

	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	Over/(Under) Spend (£000's)
Management and Administration	913	871	(42)
Office Accommodation	223	207	(16)
Office Expenses	152	98	(54)
Other Costs	850	(91)	(941)
<b>Totals: -</b>	<b>2,138</b>	<b>1,085</b>	<b>(1,053)</b>

### *Management and Administration*

5.4.2 The underspend of £42k in respect of management and administration includes £30k in respect of staffing vacancies and £12k in respect of reduced mileage expenses due to Covid 19 restrictions.

### *Office Accommodation*

5.4.3 The underspend of £16k in this area is largely due to over provision for recharges from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in respect of the shared facilities at the North Resource Centre in Rhymney.

### *Office Expenses*

5.4.4 Restrictions on staff attending our office buildings due to Covid 19 has led to a reduction in printing and postal costs which has contributed to a projected underspend of £54k in this area.

### *Other costs*

5.4.5 The underspend of £941k projected in this area includes around £24k through maximisation of Integrated Care Fund grant, around £5k in respect of insurance premiums and around £10k in respect of over provision for our contribution towards the regional transformation team. However, the bulk of the underspend can be attributed to the W.G. Covid 19 Hardship Grant Scheme.

5.4.6 Around £562k has been claimed through this grant scheme up to December 2020 to support in-house service provision and a further £450k is expected to be claimed between January and March 2021. While some additional in-house costs due to Covid 19 are easily identifiable (e.g. Covid 19 testing in care homes) much of the additional costs are less identifiable such as sickness cover provided by existing staff and lost income due to reduced occupancy. These less identifiable costs are captured within the Adult Services projected costs reported in section 5.3 of this report while the grant funding has been captured within the Business Support projections reported in section 5.4 of this report. As a result, a net underspend of £901k relating to the Covid 19 Hardship Grant is now included within the £941k underspend identified within other costs. This apparent surplus had not been anticipated when the month 5 forecasts were reported to Members. Further details relating to the Covid 19 costs and grant funding are provided in section 5.5 below and in appendix 2.

## 5.5 Welsh Government's Covid 19 Hardship Fund

- 5.5.1 The month 5 budget monitoring report presented to Members in October 2020 identified potential additional social care costs of £6,095k in 2020/21 as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. The report also identified potential grant income of £6,090k through Welsh Government's Covid 19 Hardship Fund leaving a potential net cost to the Authority of just over £5k.
- 5.5.2 However, at the Social Services Scrutiny meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October, the Financial Services Manager informed Members that the month 5 report had assumed that certain costs that had been claimable under tranche 1 of the Welsh Government Hardship Scheme would not be claimable under tranche 2 of the Scheme. These costs largely related to the additional one-to-one personal support that has been provided to service users since the outbreak of the pandemic and amounted to £593k.
- 5.5.3 The Financial Services Manager also pointed out that since the month 5 report had been written, Welsh Government had agreed to fund these additional costs which meant that instead of the potential shortfall of £5k identified in the month 5 report there could be an apparent surplus of £588k. It should be noted that this is not a real surplus as much of the additional costs incurred as a result of Covid 19 cannot be readily distinguished from the usual costs of providing social care.
- 5.5.4 For example, staff absence cover within our own in-house services is often provided by existing staff working additional hours. However, it is difficult to identify how many of these additional hours have been necessitated by Covid 19 and how many were due to other staff absences. Also, Welsh Government have recognised the cost of providing meals in our residential homes has increased over the course of the pandemic but it is difficult to determine how much of this increase is due to the pandemic and how much is due to normal inflationary pressures. Furthermore, it is also difficult to predict what occupancy rates in our residential homes might have been had it not been for the pandemic so it is difficult to quantify how much income has been lost due to reduced occupancy caused by Covid 19.
- 5.5.5 Due to the above difficulties in separating out these costs, much of the costs incurred within our in-house services are hidden within the costs discussed under sections 5.2 and 5.3 of this report while the associated grant income is captured under section 5.4 of this report.
- 5.5.6 Since the month 5 report was presented to Members, the potential identifiable costs associated with the pandemic have increased by almost £1million to £7.045million. Around £152k of this increase relates to the Statutory Sick Pay Enhancement Scheme which was introduced by Welsh Government in November in order to encourage care staff to stay away from work if they display any Covid 19 symptoms or are contacted through the Track and Trace Scheme.
- 5.5.7 A further £153k of the increased potential costs is due to increases in the numbers of service users requiring additional one-to-one personal support while the remaining increase can largely be attributed to additional financial support for care providers, mainly due to increasing vacancies within residential homes.
- 5.5.8 Of the £7,045k projected additional cost, around £20k will not be reimbursed by Welsh Government. Around £10k of this is due to a change in the terms and conditions from tranche 1 to tranche 2 of the scheme which meant that residential care costs for children could not be reclaimed beyond 30<sup>th</sup> June. The remaining £10k of costs were considered by Welsh Government to be incurred as a result of a local decision rather than a national requirement. This means that around £7,025k of grant funding could be claimed in respect of identifiable additional costs.
- 5.5.9 Tranche 2 of the Covid 19 Hardship Grant scheme entitles local authorities to claim top up funding in respect of their in-house residential care services, their in-house supported living

services and their in-house domiciliary care services. It is anticipated that Caerphilly C.B.C. will be entitled to claim around £1,012k of Welsh Government Hardship Grant in respect of these services during 2020/21. The £7,045k of identifiable costs identified in paragraph 5.5.6 above includes just £90k in respect of these in-house services, which means that around £922k of grant funding will be claimable in respect of the hidden costs of in-house service provision described in paragraph 5.5.4.

5.5.10 In short, current projections suggest that we could claim around £7,947k in 2020/21 through the Welsh Government's Covid 19 Hardship Fund while incurring £7,045k of identifiable additional costs with the remaining £922k being available to underwrite the hidden additional costs within in-house services. This position is summarised in appendix 2.

## 5.6 Conclusion

5.6.1 An underspend of £2,210k is currently forecast for Social Services for 2020/21. However, the Covid 19 pandemic has significantly curtailed service activity in many areas during the current financial year and has also led to increased staffing vacancies, reduced travel costs and reduced office running costs. These underspends are unlikely to recur in future years once Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted. However, there is an underlying increase in demand for child care placements and for domiciliary care and supported living placements for adults which will require addressing in future years' budget deliberations.

5.6.2 The pandemic has also highlighted the fragilities in the social care market which in turn has led to pressure on fee levels. Therefore, it is critical that the Directorate continues to focus on initiatives to manage demand and provide cost effective services.

## 6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 The projections within this report assume that demand for services will remain at existing levels until the end of the financial year unless there is strong evidence to suggest otherwise.

6.2 The projections within this report assume that Covid 19 restrictions will remain in force for the remainder of the current financial year.

## 7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

7.1 The provision of budget monitoring information is required as part of the budgetary control requirements contained within the Council's Financial Regulations.

### 7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

The expenditure of the Directorate is linked directly to its ability to shape and deliver its strategic objectives, which in turn assists the achievement of the Authority's stated aims and well-being objectives.

## 8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 Effective financial management is a key element in ensuring that the Well-being Goals within the Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are met.

## 9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only, therefore the Council's full EIA process does not need to be applied.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 As detailed throughout the report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into this report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

13.1 Local Government Acts 1972 and 2003 and the Council's Financial Regulations.

## **14. URGENCY (CABINET ITEMS ONLY)**

14.1 This report is for information only and as such does not require a Cabinet decision.

Author: Mike Jones, Financial Services Manager, jonesmj@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: David Street, Corporate Director for Social Services,  
Jo Williams, Assistant Director for Adult Services,  
Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director for Children's Services,  
Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services & S151 Officer,  
Cllr. Shayne Cook, Cabinet Member for Social Services,  
Cllr. Lyndon Binding, Chair,  
Cllr. Carmen Bezzina, Vice-Chair,

### Appendices:

Appendix 1 Social Services Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21 (Month 9)

Appendix 2 Social Services - Covid 19 Related Costs and Welsh Government Hardship Fund  
Grant Income - Forecast as at 31st December 2020

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**APPENDIX 1 - SOCIAL SERVICES BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2020/21 (MONTH 9)**

	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projection	Over/ (Under) Spend
	£	£	£
<b><u>SUMMARY</u></b>			
CHILDREN'S SERVICES	£25,216,354	£26,041,485	£825,131
ADULT SERVICES	£66,193,906	£64,315,729	(£1,878,177)
RESOURCING AND PERFORMANCE	£2,138,183	£1,085,391	(£1,052,792)
<b>SOCIAL SERVICES TOTAL</b>	<b>£93,548,443</b>	<b>£91,442,605</b>	<b>(£2,105,838)</b>

	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projection	Over/ (Under) Spend
	£	£	£
<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>			
<b>Management, Fieldwork and Administration</b>			
Children's Management, Fieldwork and Administration	£10,904,147	£10,056,472	(£847,675)
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£247,521)	(£236,507)	£11,014
Social Services Grant	(£527,367)	(£527,367)	£0
Transformation Grant	(£220,292)	(£171,012)	£49,280
Intermediate Care Fund Contribution	(£867,263)	(£867,263)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£9,041,704</b>	<b>£8,254,322</b>	<b>(£787,382)</b>
<b>Residential Care Including Secure Accommodation</b>			
Own Residential Homes	£1,643,235	£1,276,156	(£367,079)
Gross Cost of Placements	£4,753,288	£6,406,422	£1,653,134
Contributions from Education	(£71,988)	(£70,785)	£1,203
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£6,324,535</b>	<b>£7,611,794</b>	<b>£1,287,259</b>
<b>Fostering and Adoption</b>			
Gross Cost of Placements	£7,087,095	£7,512,722	£425,627
Social Services Grant	(£122,400)	(£39,310)	£83,090
Other Fostering Costs	£129,321	£129,321	£0
Adoption Allowances	£69,572	£81,452	£11,880
Other Adoption Costs	£369,200	£369,200	£0
Professional Fees Inc. Legal Fees	£496,503	£496,503	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£8,029,291</b>	<b>£8,549,887</b>	<b>£520,596</b>
<b>Youth Offending</b>			
Youth Offending Team	£395,152	£395,152	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£395,152</b>	<b>£395,152</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Families First</b>			
Families First Team	£195,271	£205,949	£10,678
Other Families First Contracts	£2,551,032	£2,540,354	(£10,678)
Grant Income	(£2,697,747)	(£2,697,747)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£48,556</b>	<b>£48,556</b>	<b>(£0)</b>
<b>Other Costs</b>			
Preventative and Support - (Section 17 & Childminding)	£58,989	£58,989	£0
Aftercare	£834,195	£740,158	(£94,037)
Agreements with Voluntary Organisations	£659,249	£587,938	(£71,311)
Intermediate Care Fund Contribution	(£300,000)	(£300,000)	£0
Other	£264,479	£224,148	(£40,331)
Transformation Grant	(£139,796)	(£129,460)	£10,336
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£1,377,116</b>	<b>£1,181,774</b>	<b>(£195,342)</b>
<b>TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	<b>£25,216,354</b>	<b>£26,041,485</b>	<b>£825,131</b>

	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projection	Over/ (Under) Spend
	£	£	£
<b>ADULT SERVICES</b>			
<b>Management, Fieldwork and Administration</b>			
Management	£131,870	£133,737	£1,867
Protection of Vulnerable Adults	£345,214	£299,200	(£46,014)
OLA and Client Income from Client Finances	(£293,267)	(£336,237)	(£42,970)
Commissioning	£687,582	£687,138	(£444)
Section 28a Income Joint Commissioning Post	(£17,175)	(£17,175)	£0
Older People	£2,302,715	£2,224,645	(£78,070)
Less Wanless Income	(£44,747)	(£44,747)	£0
Promoting Independence	£2,694,451	£2,588,372	(£106,079)
Social Services Grant	(£22,493)	(£22,493)	£0
Provider Services	£405,415	£428,497	£23,082
ICF Funding	(£254,781)	(£254,781)	£0
Learning Disabilities	£850,628	£852,022	£1,394
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£258,122)	(£106,586)	£151,536
Contribution from Health and Other Partners	(£44,253)	(£44,253)	£0
Mental Health	£1,400,812	£1,472,799	£71,987
Section 28a Income Assertive Outreach	(£94,769)	(£94,769)	£0
Drug & Alcohol Services	£346,637	£307,578	(£39,059)
Emergency Duty Team	£276,994	£276,994	£0
Further Vacancy Savings	£0	(£160,690)	(£160,690)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£8,412,711</b>	<b>£8,189,251</b>	<b>(£223,460)</b>
<b>Own Residential Care</b>			
Residential Homes for the Elderly	£6,819,995	£6,656,555	(£163,440)
Intermediate Care Fund Contribution	(£92,563)	(£92,563)	£0
-Less Client Contributions	(£2,230,000)	(£2,260,980)	(£30,980)
-Less Section 28a Income (Ty Iscoed)	(£115,350)	(£115,350)	£0
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£55,161)	(£73,985)	(£18,824)
Net Cost	£4,326,921	£4,113,677	(£213,244)
Accommodation for People with Learning Disabilities	£2,783,700	£2,338,624	(£445,076)
-Less Client Contributions	(£89,641)	(£89,641)	£0
-Less Contribution from Supporting People	(£41,319)	(£41,206)	£113
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£336,671)	(£366,577)	(£29,906)
Net Cost	£2,316,069	£1,841,201	(£474,868)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£6,642,990</b>	<b>£5,954,878</b>	<b>(£688,112)</b>

	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projection	Over/ (Under) Spend
	£	£	£
<b>External Residential Care</b>			
Long Term Placements			
Older People	£10,970,457	£10,532,292	(£438,165)
Less Wanless Income	(£303,428)	(£303,428)	£0
Less Section 28a Income - Allt yr yn	(£151,063)	(£151,063)	£0
Physically Disabled	£469,988	£520,786	£50,798
Learning Disabilities	£3,539,313	£3,367,625	(£171,688)
Mental Health	£759,512	£893,934	£134,422
Substance Misuse Placements	£61,341	£12,292	(£49,049)
Social Services Grant	(£621,424)	(£621,424)	£0
Net Cost	£14,724,696	£14,251,013	(£473,683)
Short Term Placements			
Older People	£259,125	£259,125	£0
Carers Respite Arrangements	£40,959	£40,959	£0
Physical Disabilities	£42,853	£14,182	(£28,671)
Learning Disabilities	£16,937	£1,604	(£15,333)
Mental Health	£42,023	£0	(£42,023)
Net Cost	£401,897	£315,870	(£86,027)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£15,126,593</b>	<b>£14,566,883</b>	<b>(£559,710)</b>
<b>Own Day Care</b>			
Older People	£655,465	£557,555	(£97,910)
-Less Attendance Contributions	(£16,869)	(£7,355)	£9,515
Learning Disabilities	£2,903,908	£2,661,183	(£242,725)
-Less Attendance Contributions	(£20,691)	(£14,583)	£6,108
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£24,986)	(£312)	£24,674
Mental Health	£775,634	£639,906	(£135,728)
ICF Funding	(£87,100)	(£87,100)	£0
-Less Section 28a Income (Pentrebane Street)	(£81,366)	(£81,366)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£4,103,995</b>	<b>£3,667,929</b>	<b>(£436,066)</b>
<b>External Day Care</b>			
Elderly	£21,603	£29,942	£8,339
Physically Disabled	£106,284	£83,116	(£23,168)
Learning Disabilities	£1,354,252	£890,057	(£464,195)
Section 28a Income	(£72,659)	(£72,659)	£0
Mental Health	£76,815	£15,284	(£61,531)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£1,486,295</b>	<b>£945,740</b>	<b>(£540,555)</b>
<b>Supported Employment</b>			
Mental Health	£70,410	£66,100	(£4,310)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£70,410</b>	<b>£66,100</b>	<b>(£4,310)</b>

	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projection	Over/ (Under) Spend
	£	£	£
<b>Aids and Adaptations</b>			
Disability Living Equipment	£657,818	£638,255	(£19,563)
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£100,000)	(£100,000)	£0
Adaptations	£221,208	£110,030	(£111,179)
Chronically Sick and Disabled Telephones	£7,168	£5,180	(£1,988)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£786,194</b>	<b>£653,464</b>	<b>(£132,730)</b>
<b>Home Assistance and Reablement</b>			
Home Assistance and Reablement Team			
Home Assistance and Reablement Team (H.A.R.T.)	£4,480,526	£4,265,587	(£214,939)
Wanless Funding	(£67,959)	(£67,959)	£0
ICF Funding	(£32,306)	(£32,306)	£0
Transformation Grant	(£133,854)	(£97,594)	£36,260
Independent Sector Domiciliary Care			
Elderly	£6,928,364	£7,671,327	£742,963
Physical Disabilities	£992,052	£1,056,186	£64,134
Learning Disabilities (excluding Resettlement)	£349,865	£319,053	(£30,812)
Mental Health	£238,052	£193,170	(£44,882)
Social Services Grant	(£964,817)	(£1,047,907)	(£83,090)
Gwent Frailty Programme	£2,456,408	£2,352,410	(£103,998)
Appropriation from Specific Reserve	(£64,116)	(£64,116)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£14,182,215</b>	<b>£14,547,852</b>	<b>£365,637</b>
<b>Other Domiciliary Care</b>			
Shared Lives			
Shared Lives Scheme	£1,399,862	£1,521,678	£121,816
ICF Funding	(£173,790)	(£173,790)	£0
Net Cost	£1,226,072	£1,347,889	£121,817
Supported Living			
Older People	£0	£108,671	£108,671
-Less Contribution from Supporting People	£0	(£2,457)	(£2,457)
Physical Disabilities	£1,624,928	£1,686,486	£61,558
-Less Contribution from Supporting People	(£20,226)	(£17,769)	£2,457
Learning Disabilities	£9,571,709	£9,935,579	£363,870
Less Section 28a Income Joint Tenancy	(£28,987)	(£28,987)	£0
-Less Contribution from Supporting People	(£253,299)	(£239,383)	£13,916
Mental Health	£1,991,071	£1,873,754	(£117,317)
-Less Contribution from Supporting People	(£10,018)	(£9,303)	£715
Social Services Grant	(£66,661)	(£66,661)	£0
Net Cost	£12,808,517	£13,239,930	£431,413
Direct Payment			
Elderly People	£158,349	£99,253	(£59,096)
Physical Disabilities	£687,763	£707,714	£19,951
Learning Disabilities	£679,687	£696,683	£16,996
Section 28a Income Learning Disabilities	(£20,808)	(£20,808)	£0
Mental Health	£3,691	£2,829	(£862)
Social Services Grant	(£42,537)	(£42,537)	£0
Net Cost	£1,466,145	£1,443,134	(£23,011)

	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projection	Over/ (Under) Spend
	£	£	£
Other			
Extra Care Sheltered Housing	£521,339	£537,459	£16,120
-Less Contribution from Supporting People	(£13,454)	£0	£13,454
Net Cost	£507,885	£537,459	£29,574
Total Home Care Client Contributions	(£1,970,008)	(£1,970,008)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£14,038,611</b>	<b>£14,598,403</b>	<b>£559,792</b>
<b>Resettlement</b>			
External Funding			
Section 28a Income	(£1,020,410)	(£1,020,410)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>(£1,020,410)</b>	<b>(£1,020,410)</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Supporting People (including transfers to Housing)</b>			
People Over 55 Years of Age	£428,115	£442,809	£14,694
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities	£47,000	£40,346	(£6,654)
People with Learning Disabilities	£144,531	£139,981	(£4,550)
People with Mental Health issues	£1,226,921	£1,211,486	(£15,435)
Families Supported People	£510,000	£525,023	£15,023
Generic Floating support to prevent homelessness	£873,600	£870,528	(£3,072)
Young People with support needs (16-24)	£1,044,142	£989,900	(£54,242)
Single people with Support Needs (25-54)	£402,275	£412,951	£10,676
Women experiencing Domestic Abuse	£468,100	£468,816	£716
People with Substance Misuse Issues	£413,639	£448,483	£34,844
Alarm Services (including in sheltered/extra care)	£261,770	£259,903	(£1,867)
People with Criminal Offending History	£112,000	£136,499	£24,499
Contribution to Social Services Schemes	£370,697	£356,065	(£14,632)
Newport CC funding transfer	(£70,000)	(£70,000)	£0
Less supporting people grant	(£6,232,790)	(£6,232,790)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>(£0)</b>
<b>Services for Children with Disabilities</b>			
Blackwood Resource Centre	£326,871	£377,522	£50,651
Residential Care	£357,050	£327,342	(£29,708)
Foster Care	£482,644	£452,655	(£29,989)
Preventative and Support - (Section 17 & Childminding)	£9,631	£9,631	£0
Respite Care	£57,214	£80,043	£22,829
Direct Payments	£162,963	£150,120	(£12,843)
Social Services Grant	(£4,532)	(£4,532)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£1,391,841</b>	<b>£1,392,781</b>	<b>£940</b>

	Revised Budget 2020/21	Projection	Over/ (Under) Spend
	£	£	£
<b>Other Costs</b>			
Telecare Gross Cost	£637,262	£663,156	£25,894
Less Client and Agency Income	(£397,759)	(£397,759)	£0
Agreements with Voluntary Organisations			
Children with Disabilities	£356,801	£196,625	(£160,176)
Elderly	£153,472	£94,731	(£58,741)
Learning Difficulties	£62,981	£60,904	(£2,077)
Section 28a Income	(£52,020)	(£52,020)	£0
Mental Health & Substance Misuse	£44,527	£27,396	(£17,131)
MH Capacity Act / Deprivation of Libert Safeguards	£111,117	£103,746	(£7,371)
Other	£56,080	£56,080	£0
Gwent Enhanced Dementia Care Expenditure	£278,878	£278,878	£0
Gwent Enhanced Dementia Care Grant	(£209,692)	(£209,692)	£0
Intermediate Care Fund Contribution	(£69,186)	(£69,186)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£972,461</b>	<b>£752,858</b>	<b>(£219,603)</b>
<b>TOTAL ADULT SERVICES</b>	<b>£66,193,906</b>	<b>£64,315,729</b>	<b>(£1,878,177)</b>
<b>SERVICE STRATEGY AND BUSINESS SUPPORT</b>			
<b>Management and Administration</b>			
Policy Development and Strategy	£176,761	£175,149	(£1,612)
Business Support	£735,882	£695,618	(£40,264)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£912,643</b>	<b>£870,767</b>	<b>(£41,876)</b>
<b>Office Accommodation</b>			
All Offices	£282,478	£265,873	(£16,605)
Less Office Accommodation Recharge to HRA	(£59,047)	(£59,047)	£0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£223,431</b>	<b>£206,826</b>	<b>(£16,605)</b>
<b>Office Expenses</b>			
All Offices	£152,210	£98,573	(£53,637)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£152,210</b>	<b>£98,573</b>	<b>(£53,637)</b>
<b>Other Costs</b>			
Training	£330,271	£306,271	(£24,000)
Staff Support/Protection	£9,561	£9,561	£0
Information Technology	£32,852	£32,852	£0
Management Fees for Consortia	(£51,869)	(£51,869)	£0
Insurances	£252,474	£248,254	(£4,220)
Other Costs	£276,610	(£635,844)	(£912,454)
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£849,899</b>	<b>(£90,775)</b>	<b>(£940,674)</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCING AND PERFORMANCE</b>	<b>£2,138,183</b>	<b>£1,085,391</b>	<b>(£1,052,792)</b>

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**Appendix 2 - Social Services - Covid 19 Related Costs And Welsh Government Hardship Fund Grant Income**  
**Forecast as at 31st December 2020**

	Costs Accrued to 31st December 2020	Potential Costs January 2021 to March 2021	Total Anticipated Cost for 2020/21	Comments
<b>Children's Services</b>				
Residential placements	£158,462	£0	£158,462	Welsh Government funding ended 30th June
Support for care leavers	£13,254	£3,510	£16,764	£10 per week top-up and additional transport costs due to self isolation
Support for children with disabilities	£52,078	£0	£52,078	Respite care during school closures and agency social worker
Emergency out of hours staff cover	£22,291	£0	£22,291	Due to self isolation
Rejected costs	£14,018	£0	£14,018	Largely due to changes in terms and conditions from Tranche 1 to Tranche 2
<b>Sub Total Children's Services</b>	<b>£260,103</b>	<b>£3,510</b>	<b>£263,613</b>	
<b>Adult Services</b>				
Financial support to care providers	£3,592,854	£1,213,166	£4,806,020	Top up payments and void beds became more focused under tranche 2
Additional support for service users	£700,616	£293,931	£994,547	Due to day centre closures and social distancing requirements
Personal Protection	£771,208	£16,350	£787,558	National shortages in initial stages of the pandemic
Staff testing	£20,732	£15,000	£35,732	Began in July
Rejected costs	£6,500	£0	£6,500	Small grant fund and Legionella work required due to day centre closures
<b>Sub Total Adult Services</b>	<b>£5,091,910</b>	<b>£1,538,447</b>	<b>£6,630,357</b>	
<b>SSP Enhancement Scheme</b>	<b>£37,908</b>	<b>£113,724</b>	<b>£151,632</b>	Scheme commenced in November to encourage self isolation
<b>TOTAL IDENTIFIABLE COSTS</b>	<b>£5,389,921</b>	<b>£1,655,681</b>	<b>£7,045,602</b>	
<b>ADD HIDDEN IN-HOUSE COSTS</b>	<b>£506,754</b>	<b>£415,156</b>	<b>£921,910</b>	Staff cover, travel costs and price increases and lost income due to vacancies
<b>LESS REJECTED COSTS</b>	<b>-£20,518</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>-£20,518</b>	see above
<b>TOTAL W.G. GRANT CLAIMABLE</b>	<b>£5,876,157</b>	<b>£2,070,837</b>	<b>£7,946,994</b>	

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## **SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2ND FEBRUARY 2021**

**SUBJECT: INTERIM REPORT FROM TASK AND FINISH GROUP ON  
NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE CHARGES**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Members of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee on the Task and Finish inquiry into charging for non-residential social care within the county borough. This inquiry is being carried out by a sub-group of the Committee and they held their initial meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- 1.2 To recommend to Members that they request that Cabinet extends the current rate increases for the 2021/22 financial year. This would allow the Task and Finish group to continue their inquiry and to draft recommendations for Cabinet consideration on the charge for non-residential care from 2022/23 onwards.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report will give a brief summary of information received by Members of the Task Group thus far, and outline how disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that final recommendations have not yet been reached and therefore cannot be applied to the rates for the 2021/22 financial year.
- 2.2 The report will give a synopsis on the background to the current Task and Finish inquiry into charging for non-residential care within the county borough.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the Social Services Scrutiny Committee request that Cabinet extends the decision to increase non-residential charges by 10% per annum for hourly rates and 20% per annum for daily rates for a further year in to the 2021/22 financial year. The Task and Finish group on Non-Residential Care charges would then make recommendations for Cabinet consideration on the charge from 2022/23 onwards.

#### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 To allow the revised charges for non-residential care to be applied for 2021/22 and the continuation of the ongoing Task and Finish inquiry into charging for non-residential care within the county borough.

#### **5. THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The Task and Finish Group on non-residential care charges met for the first time on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
- 5.2 At this initial meeting the Interim Financial Services Manager advised the Group that just under £11M of the Adult Services budget came as a result of charging service users in 2018/19. The section of this figure that came as a result of Non-Residential Charging income was £2.865M.
- 5.3 The group were given an introduction to the legal framework for charging which was set out in the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2015 and its supporting Regulations. Section 59 of the Act gives the power to impose charges. The presentation to Members focussed specifically on the Regulations on Financial Assessment and Charging. It was explained that under Care and Support Regulations there was a legal requirement for the Council to disregard the value of the service user's main home when calculating the available income for charging for non-residential care. Earnings from employment and other specified sources of income were also disregarded under the legislation, but certain capital assets could be included to reach the available income for charging figure. It was also pointed out that the current maximum weekly charge for non-residential care and support was £90 per week. This maximum weekly charge has since been increased by Welsh Government to £100 for the current financial year.
- 5.4 Members heard how a buffer is added the personal allowance and pension premium to calculate the Minimum Income Amount which is an amount disregarded as part of the financial assessment to cover the individual's expenditure such as utility bills. Officers also advised Members that Caerphilly County Borough Council applies an additional 10% buffer across the board, on top of the statutory figure of 35%, to allow for any additional Disability Related Expenditure and therefore to avoid any dispute. This Minimum Income Amount is disregarded when calculating an available income for charging purposes.
- 5.5 Members were advised that even with the increases of 10% per annum for hourly rates and 20% per annum for daily charges for the past 6 years, Caerphilly County Borough Council was in the lower quartile of Standard Charges for all Welsh local authorities.
- 5.6 The weekly charge was determined based on the lower of (i) the standard charge, (ii) the maximum weekly charge and (iii) available income. The Task Group heard how under this assessment process nobody is expected to pay more than they can afford.
- 5.7 At the first meeting of the Task Group the possibility of having to draft an Interim Report requesting that the current increase be extended for the 2021/22 financial year was discussed by Members. This was due to timescale issues.
- 5.8 The second meeting of the Task and Finish Group on non-residential care charges took place on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

- 5.9 During a presentation Members were shown a graphic outlining the number of people accessing services charged for on an hourly rate. It was explained to Members that of the 1,167 service users in the County Borough, it was only the 216 people paying full standard charges who would be affected by any future increases in charges for this type of non-residential social care. Therefore, based on figures as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the vast majority of care recipients are unaffected by a charge increase.
- 5.10 Members asked about the charging policy for the Telecare Service. The Interim Financial Services Manager advised that there was a charge for this service but that it was not included as part of charges for non-residential social care. Officers outlined that Telecare had now been adopted by the Social Services department, but previously had been administered by Housing Services. Discussion ensued on the possible impact of incorporating Telecare into the package of non-residential social care services. It was generally acknowledged that this would require further consideration and should possibly be considered as part of a future review.
- 5.11 At the second meeting Members agreed to consultation suggestions such as engaging with stakeholders via GAVO (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations). Contact was also made directly with associated organisations such as Age Cymru and Disability Rights UK. Subsequently, this consultation process proved challenging due to a lack of engagement from organisations. A Stakeholder Engagement Session scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest. Planned face-to-face consultation sessions at events organised by Caerphilly People First also had to be cancelled following the national lockdown because of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020.
- 5.12 Plans to restart the inquiry with an evidence gathering meeting via Microsoft Teams were made during Autumn, 2020. The Wales School for Social Care Research in Swansea, and Social Care Wales were both approached and a Social Care Management expert from the University of South Wales agreed to speak to the Task and Finish group on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. But this session had to be cancelled due to a family bereavement.
- 5.13 Previously a cross party members task and finish group consisting of scrutiny members was established to examine the requirements and impact of charging for non-residential services, the services that had a charge and the application of charges and disregards. The findings of the task and finish group were presented to the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013, and an annual increase of 10% per hour for home care and supported living and a annual increase of 20% per day for day care services was endorsed and recommended to Cabinet. These increases were to be reviewed after 5 years.
- 5.14 On the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019 a Non-Residential Social Services Charging report came before the Health, Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. It was endorsed and recommended to Cabinet that the level of charges for non-residential care for 2019/20 and the subsequent financial year continue to increase by 10% per annum for home care and supported living and by 20% per annum for day care services and be subject to review by a Task and Finish Group thereafter.
- 5.15 **Conclusion**  
Due to disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the Task and Finish group are not in a position to make recommendations on the application of charges for non-residential care for the 2021/22 financial year. It is therefore recommended that Cabinet extends the current increase for this period and that the Task and Finish

inquiry continues in order to make recommendations for Cabinet consideration on the charge from 2022/23 onwards.

## **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 No related assumptions have been felt to be necessary in relation to this report.

## **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

7.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000. The Local Government Wales Measure 2011 and subsequent Statutory Guidance include requirements to publicise the work of scrutiny committees.

### **7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.**

This report contributes to the following Corporate Well-being Objectives:

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

## **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

8.1 This report contributes to the following Well-being goals: -

- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the council's full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no financial implications with respect to this report.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no personnel implications with respect to this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

12.1 All responses from the consultations have been incorporated in the report.

### **13. STATUTORY POWER**

- 13.1 The Local Government Act 2000.  
Social Care and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2015

### **14. URGENCY (CABINET ITEMS ONLY)**

- 14.1 Non-urgent, but would need to be considered prior to setting the 2021/22 rates for non-residential care.

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