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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Andrea Jones
(Tel: 01443 864221 Email: jonesa23@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 23rd May 2023

To Whom It May Concern

A multi-locational meeting of the **Social Services Scrutiny Committee** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 30th May, 2023 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. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

Members of the public or Press may attend in person at Penallta House or may view the meeting live via the following link: <https://civico.net/caerphilly>

This meeting will be live-streamed and a recording 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 Council's website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed within a large, loopy, hand-drawn oval.

Christina Harrhy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	

A greener place Man gwyrddach



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.

To approve and sign the following minutes: -

- 3 Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 18th April 2023. 1 - 6
- 4 Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.
- 5 Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. 7 - 18

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports: -

- 6 Notice of Motion - Motor Neurone Disease Charter. 19 - 24
- 7 Llais Presentation.
- 8 2023/24 Social Services Revenue Budget. 25 - 36
- 9 Supplementary Payment For Residential/Nursing Care Homes to Support Increased Costs of Amenities and Food Costs. 37 - 42

Circulation:

Councillors: C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, D. Cushing (Chair), M. Chacon-Dawson (Vice Chair), R. Chapman, Mrs P. Cook, K. Etheridge, M. Evans, D.C. Harse, T. Heron, L. Jeremiah, Mrs D. Price, J.A. Pritchard, J. Rao, S. Skivens and A. Leonard

Users and Carers:

Aneurin Bevan Health Board: A. Gough (ABUHB)

And Appropriate Officers

HOW WE WILL USE YOUR INFORMATION

Those individuals that attend committee meetings to speak/give evidence will be named in the minutes of that meeting, sometimes this will include their place of employment or business and opinions expressed. Minutes of Meetings including details of speakers will be publicly available to all via the Council website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk. except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items.

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SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES
PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON
TUESDAY 18TH APRIL 2023 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Cushing – Chair
Councillor M. Chacon-Dawson - Vice Chair

Councillors:

C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, R. Chapman, M. Evans, T. Heron, J. A. Pritchard,

Councillor: E. Forehead. (Cabinet Member for Social Care).

Also in attendance: Cabinet Member: J. Pritchard (Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change).

Co-Opted Members: Vacant.

Together with:

Officers: G. Jenkins (Assistant Director – Children’s Services), J. Williams (Assistant Director - Adult Services), D. Street (Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), A. Jones (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being live streamed, and a recording would be made available to view via the Council’s website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click Here To View](#).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Ethridge, D. Harse, P. Cook, L. Jeremiah, A. Leonard, D. Price, and S. Skivens,

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 24TH JANUARY 2023

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2023 be approved as a correct record and by way of Microsoft Forms (and in noting there were 9 for, 0

against and 0 abstention) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 24th January 2023 (minute nos. 1-6) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

Mark Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) introduced the report that informed the Committee of its Forward Work Programme planned for the period April 2023 to July 2023.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of electronic voting (and in noting there were 9 For 0 Against and 0 Abstention) this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that subject to the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

6. CABINET REPORTS

It was confirmed that there had been no requests for any of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda to be brought forward for discussion at the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

7. EQUIPMENT AND ADAPTATIONS

Councillor E Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care presented the report which provided members of the Social Services Scrutiny an update on the provision of equipment and adaptations to residents. Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to raise any queries.

Jo Williams advised that she was available to answer any questions and advised that there was a typing error on item 5.2. The report states the date and it should state data not date.

A Member thanked Officers for the report and stated that it was encouraging to see waiting times were not too bad but was disappointed that there was no data from other departments showing how they are doing and how successful they are to see the full picture.

Officers were asked if a timeframe for the installation of walk in showers could be provided? Members were advised that it is difficult to confirm exact timeframes as this varies for each case and there are several factors that need to be considered.

Members were advised that in relation to the disabled facility grants there is a significant waiting list and due the complexity of major adaptations and other issues, Housing have been struggling

with the technical resources needed. The Scrutiny Committee were advised that Officers would circulate information on timeframes following the meeting.

A Member asked if there was any data or analysis on falls, what causes falls and what role not having handrails plays in that.

Officers confirmed that the data held is from Health and this is about looking at the reasons why individuals have fallen which could be medical reason or accidents therefore this data is unreliable. In relation to handrails, the feedback was particularly good for the service and installation is completed quickly, however there was a lack of contractors and lack of materials following covid which has impacted on the wait.

The Chair raised a query on 5.6 of the report where it states that there is a grant up to £1000 which is not means tested and sought clarification as to whether individuals had to use Council Contractors or could they seek their own contractors.

The Scrutiny Committee were advised that works over £1000 would be classed as major adaptations and owner/occupiers would be able to apply for a disabled facility grant, which is means tested and it would be determined if any contributions need to be made in addition to the grant.

In relation to contractors the Council has an approved list of contractors but their own contractors could be appointed if requested, however many individuals prefer to have the Council undertake the full works with their approved contractors. If the works are to be undertaken on a council property, there is no financial assessment.

Following consideration and discussion the Social Services Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report.

8. REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD – UPDATE

Councillor E Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care presented the report which provided Members of the Social Services Scrutiny with an update of the work of the Gwent Regional Partnership Board (RPB) following the last report presented to Scrutiny Committee in July 2022. Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to raise any queries.

The Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing referred to the previous reports brought to the Scrutiny Committees and advised these reports will continue to be brought back to the Scrutiny Committee frequently. Members of the Scrutiny Committee were directed to the list provided in the report at paragraph 5.2 which illustrates the subjects that had been covered by the Board for the period concerned, whilst this was not a definitive list it gave a flavour of the topics being worked on. The Committee were advised that Officers attend numerous meetings regularly and that regional working is now playing a significant part in their daily roles.

The Scrutiny Committee were directed to the Appendix 1 which sets out the work undertaken between July 22 and December 22. Works over Winter and Autumn were also discussed, and the Director passed on his thanks to Jo Williams and the team for their work during the Winter which was the most difficult period anyone has had to deal with and stated that it is a testament to the work that Jo and her colleagues have done that we are now in a better position.

Members were drawn to item 5.26 of the report. Members had expressed concern previously with regard to Welsh Government proposals to taper grant monies received from the Regional Integration Fund. Whilst it was pleasing to see that these proposals had now been deferred

for 2023/24. It is not clear if this will be the case in 2024/25 and if not, a report will be provided to Scrutiny at a future date.

The Director advised the Committee that there were two reports that were intended to be brought to the Committee which were firstly, following the outcome of the Expert Reference Group which Welsh Government pulled together with a view to constructing a National Care Service in Wales and the second was a document called Further Faster which is the Health Minister's proposal to enhance integrated working in readiness for the Winter of 2023. However, Welsh Government advised that now is not the time for them to be brought forward as further guidance was anticipated. The Director apologised and confirmed these reports will be brought to Scrutiny as appropriate in the future.

A Member asked what is the Winter Plan as the difficulties are not just over the Winter period, it is all year around. The Director agreed that the pressure is all year round and explained that the title, The Winter Plan is what Welsh Government have named the document.

A Member sought clarification on the New Direction section and asked what SC2H meant. Officers confirmed that this stands for Step Closer 2 Home, Members were advised that the New Directions is a care agency commissioned by the Health Board dealing with patients being discharged from hospital. Members were advised this is successfully run service and is reported to Welsh Government every two weeks.

A query was raised on why there was only partial success in relation to additional winter capacity. The Officer confirmed that this was additional hours capacity which enabled officers from hospitals to work over the weekends to carry out assessments to prevent people being admitted to YYF. The assessments are completed on the same day and the service also dealt with patients seen on Fridays in order to try and get them home for the weekend. This service ended on the 31st of March. The care capacity was not able to be increased so this is why it was partially successful due to insufficient carers available over the winter.

A Member referred to page 32 where it states that Caerphilly had partial success and asked when would we reach optimal resilience within the system. The Director confirmed this would be difficult to say as this will depend on ability to respond to requests for support and having the capacity and staff to deliver the service. The high numbers of those attending A & E where they can get the support required elsewhere is also a contributing factor.

A Member asked what Transformation Grant is and who does it fund. Officers confirmed that this is funded by Welsh Government and is paid to the Regional Partnership Boards across Wales to fund different schemes to try and determine which ones Welsh Government take on board and roll out consistently. This is where the two reports that were due to come to the Committee will set out what has worked. There was difficulty with the funding as this was given with short notice of receiving the funds and developing the schemes and then funding stopped on the 31st of March.

A Member had a query page 37 and asked why there were no beds available in the South. Members were advised that all care homes were contacted to see if they were interested but the take up was poor. This was also due to care homes being full of long term residents and therefore not having the beds available. The beds in the North were block booked so five beds were available for individual spot contracts. This needs to be reviewed to see whether block booking or individual spot contracts work best.

It was requested that with future reports can they not be abbreviated, and the full description or detail be provided.

A Member asked for confirmation as to which initiatives were successful and were being taken forward on point 5.5 page 24. Officers confirmed that the Step Closer 2 Home is one that is being taken forward. We are also looking at keeping the capacity in Caerphilly following the

evaluations taking place across Wales and what will be introduced across Wales will then be rolled out in Gwent.

A Member expressed concerns for families. What effect is this having on carers, are families expected to look after their relatives if we do not have the workers? Officers shared these concerns and agreed that whilst the goal is to get patients out of hospital beds there is concern for people who haven't got the support from families and friends in the community to be cared for and confirmed that they do our best to mitigate and look to deploy resources across this system and community more evenly.

A comment was made that if domiciliary care workers pay was increased would this help with recruitment? Officers confirmed that yes it would but there are more general concerns about the working conditions for carers. Social Care Wales are doing work around this to look to see how to recruit and retain staff. WG increased the real living wage but admit the amount is inadequate. The wages should be higher but this is a very complicated issue to deal with.

The group discussed incentives and it was highlighted that increasing annual leave days by five days is an example of an incentive that could work. The group also discussed the removal of the 'cottage hospitals' which was an additional step before people returned home which is what the Step Closer 2 Home is looking to replicate.

Following consideration and discussion the Social Services Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report.

The meeting closed at 18:15PM

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th of May 2023.

CHAIR

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SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30TH MAY 2023

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

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
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 18th April 2023. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period May 2023 until March 2024.

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. The 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 18th May 2023. 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. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 As this report is for information only an Integrated Impact Assessment is not necessary.

8. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

9. **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

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

10. **CONSULTATIONS**

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

11. **STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 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 Donna Cushing, Chair of Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Marina Chacon-Dawson, 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

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Forward Work Programme - Social Services

Appendix 1

Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
30/05/2023 17:30	NOTICE OF MOTION – MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE CHARTER		Sullivan, Emma;	Cllr. George, Nigel;
30/05/2023 17:30	"Llais" presentation		Street, Dave;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
30/05/2023 17:30	Social Services Budget Report 23/24		Jones, Mike J;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
30/05/2023 17:30	SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL/NURSING CARE HOMES TO SUPPORT INCREASED COSTS OF AMENITIES AND FOOD COSTS	To propose reuse of the previous WG allocation for driving lessons/ driving test and electric vehicles to provide a one off payment to assist with heating bills. Also to consider as we have a 10.1% uplift to care home providers for 23/24 we are receiving representations that this isn't enough to meet costs of care homes and could impact on stability of the market.	Daye, Viv;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
11/07/2023 17:30	Day Services Update		Street, Dave;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
11/07/2023 17:30	Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report plus the Annual Safeguarding Management Information Report	To provide assurance that the Corporate Safeguarding Policy is being adhered to across all Service areas and safeguarding activity is compliant with agreed procedures	Jenkins, Gareth;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
11/07/2023 17:30	Information Item - Grants Report 2023		Jones, Mike J;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;
05/09/2023 17:30	Period 3 Budget Monitoring report		Jones, Mike J;	Cllr. Forehead, Elaine;

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Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 16th May 2023

Appendix 2

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
17/05/2023 13:00	Cancelled.			
31/05/2023 13:00	Cancelled.			
14/06/2023 13:00	Violence at Work Policy	To approve the updated Violence at Work Policy.	Emma Townsend/ Lynne Donovan	Cllr. Nigel George
14/06/2023 13:20	Youth Forum priority issues for the coming year.	Members of the Youth Forum will be requesting Cabinet support to resolve young people's priority issues 2023/24.	Clare Ewings, Community Education Manager (Participation and Inclusion)/Keri Cole	Cllr. Carol Andrews
14/06/2023 13:40	Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2022-23	To consider the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report.	Anwen Cullinane/Sue Richards	Cllr. Nigel George
14/06/2023 14:20	Centre for Vulnerable Learners	To provide Cabinet with an update on the Centre for Vulnerable Learners (Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B project) and to seek Cabinet approval on the additional budget required to deliver the project.	Ed (Edmunds)/Keri Cole	Cllr. Carol Andrews
14/06/2023 14:40	Proposed changes to the operation of the Welsh Church Acts Fund and the small Grants to the Voluntary Sector Fund	Following a review by the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Advisory Panel to recommend amendments including delegation to the Section 151 Officer for future changes.	Vicki Doyle/Stephen Harris	Cllr. Eluned Stenner
14/06/2023 15:00	Decarbonisation action plan update and proposed future approach	To seek Cabinet approval of the proposed next steps and implementation of the decarbonisation strategy.	Paul Cooke/Ben Winstanley/Mark S Williams	Cllr. James Pritchard

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 16th May 2023

Appendix 2

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
28/06/2023 13:00	Review of Licensing fees for Dog Breeders, Scrap Metal Dealers and Activities involving animals (Pet sales) 2023.	To seek approval of licensing fees following the funding review.	Lee Morgan	Cllr. Philippa Leonard
28/06/2023 13:20	Supplementary Payment for Residential/Nursing Care Homes to Support Increased Costs.	To propose the reuse of the previous WG grant allocation to provide a one-off payment to large Care Homes to assist with heating bills.	Viv Daye/Jo Williams	Cllr. Elaine Forehead
28/06/2023 13:40	Sustainable Communities for learning band B programme – Phase 3 Proposal	To agree the first phase of the place-shaping plan for the North of the county borough which focuses upon 21st Century schools.	Ed/(Sue Richards on leave)/ Andrea West	Cllr. Carol Andrews
28/06/2023 14:00	Caerphilly Town 2035 - Pentrebane Street Redevelopment Scheme	To provide Cabinet with an update on the Pentrebane Street Redevelopment Project and seeks approval for a preferred Development option.	Rhian Kyte; Allan Dallimore	Cllr. James Pritchard
12/07/2023 13:00	Court House Car Park, Blackwood – variation of parking charges	To seek Cabinet approval to vary the parking charges in Courthouse Car Park, Blackwood to allow up to 1 hour parking free of charge for all users.	Dean Smith; Marcus Lloyd	Cllr. Nigel George
12/07/2023 13:20	Collaboration and Members Agreement (the CAMA)	To seek Cabinet approval to revise the South East Wales Education Achievement Service Collaboration and Members Agreement (the CAMA)	Keri Cole	Cllr. Carol Andrews

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 16th May 2023

Appendix 2

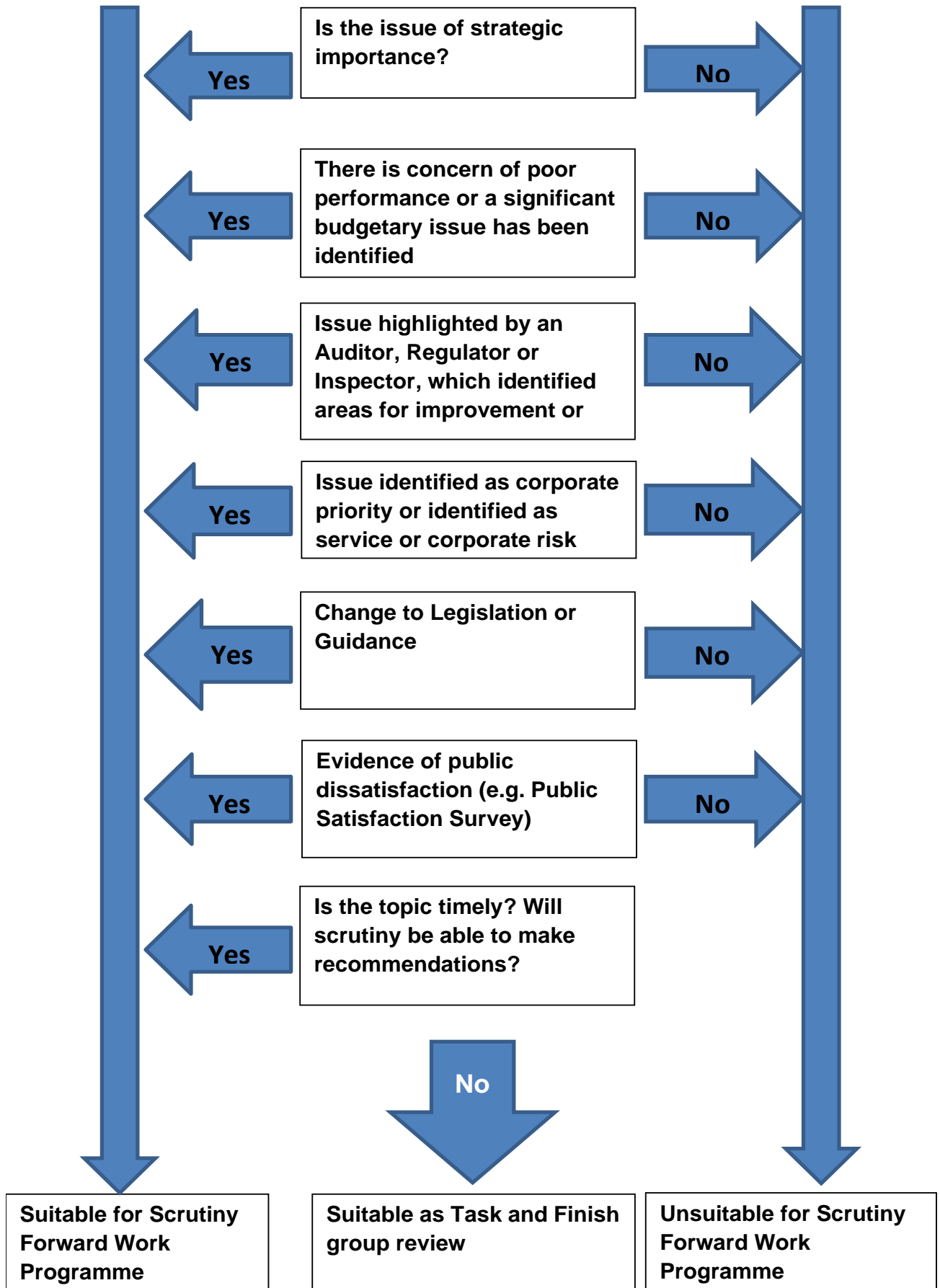
Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
12/07/2023 13:40	Waste Route Map	To agree the waste route map which will inform the development of the Council's Waste Strategy.	Marcus Lloyd	Cllr. Chris Morgan
12/07/2023 14:00	Corporate Plan (including Well-Being Objectives) 2023 to 2028	To consider the Councils Corporate Plan and Well-being objectives 2023 to 2028	Christina Harray/ Sue Richards/ Kath Peters	Leader/ Cllr. Eluned Stenner
12/07/2023 14:20	Exempt item - Proposed Mineral Working and Restoration of Bedwas Tips - extension of exclusivity agreement.	Exempt item subject to Public Interest Test.	Marcus Lloyd	Cllr. Nigel George
26/07/2023 13:00	Covid 19 - Economic Recovery Framework, Monitoring report	To provide Cabinet with an update on progress in respect of the Council's economic recovery framework.	Rhian Kyte/Allan Dalimore	Cllr. James Pritchard
26/07/2023 13:20	Default speed limit consultation on restricted roads across the county borough from 30mph to 20mph	To review proposed 30mph exemptions within the County Borough as a result of the change in the default restricted road speed limit to 20mph.	Marcus Lloyd	Cllr. Nigel George
26/07/2023 13:40	George Street Rear Walls, Cwmcarn	To seek approval to allocate additional Private Sector Housing Capital Funds and Housing Revenue Account Funds during 2023-2025	Claire Davies; Fiona Wilkins; Nick Taylor-Williams	Cllr. Shayne Cook
26/07/2023 14:00	Annual Corporate Safeguarding Report plus the Annual Safeguarding Management Information Report.	To seek approval of the Annual Safeguarding reports.	Gareth Jenkins	Cllr. Elaine Forehead

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 16th May 2023

Appendix 2

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author:	Cabinet Member:
26/07/2023 14:20	Day Services	For Cabinet to consider and approve the new proposed Day Services Model.	Jo Williams	Cllr. Elaine Forehead
26/07/2023 14:40	Provisional Revenue Budget Outturn for 2022/23	To provide Cabinet with details of the provisional revenue budget outturn for the 2022/23 financial year prior to the completion of the external audit by Audit Wales	Stephen Harris	Cllr. Eluned Stenner
06/09/2023	No items currently scheduled			
20/09/2023 13:20	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) CCBC Collaboration Agreement - Cwmcarn Forest Drive	To allow Cabinet to review the outcome of the 2-year pilot in respect of the CCBC management of the Cwmcarn Forest Drive and consider whether or not to extend the collaboration agreement for the continued management of the drive with Natural Resources Wales for a further 5 year period.	Antony Bolter/Allan Dallimore	Cllr. James Pritchard
20/09/2023 13:40	Local Housing Market Assessment and the Welsh Government Prospectus	For Cabinet to discuss and approve the Local Housing Market Assessment and the Welsh Government Prospectus.	Nick Taylor-Williams/Jane Roberts-Waite	Cllr. Shayne Cook
20/09/2023 14:00	Development and Governance Strategy - Housing	The establishment of the development strategy which details the principles, practices and governance arrangements which are needed to facilitate enable and support the new build objectives of Caerphilly Homes now and in the future.	Nick Taylor-Williams; Jane Roberts-Waite	Cllr. Shayne Cook
20/09/2023 14:20	Corporate Performance Assessment	To provide Cabinet with an update with the Corporate Performance Assessment.	Sue Richards/Ros Roberts	Cllr. Eluned Stenner

Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation



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SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30TH MAY 2023

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE
CHARTER**

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Social Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Notice of Motion as set out in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 of the report and if supported make an appropriate recommendation to Council. In accordance with Rule 11(3) of the Constitution.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 A Notice of Motion has been received from Councillor N. George and is supported by Councillors Sean Morgan, James Pritchard, Chris Morgan, Shayne Cook, Julian Simmonds, Eluned Stenner and Carol Andrews.
- 2.2 The Notice of Motion meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure is now referred to the Social Services Scrutiny Committee for consideration, and if supported, recommend to Council.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Social Services Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the Notice of Motion as outlined in paragraphs 5.1 to 5.4 and make an appropriate recommendation to Council.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Notice of Motion

In his notice of motion Councillor N. George asks Council to consider Caerphilly County Borough Council adopt the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter to raise

awareness internally and, ultimately, achieve better outcomes for people living with the disease.

MND is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord, attacking the nerves that control movement so muscles refuse to work. MND affects up to 5,000 adults in the UK at any one time and has no cure. It kills around a third of people within a year of diagnosis and more than half within two years.

The MND Charter is a statement of the respect, care and support that people living with MND and their carers deserve and should expect.

5.2 Cllr George states that there are five points to the Charter:

1. The right to an early diagnosis and information
2. The right to access quality care and treatments
3. The right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect
4. The right to maximise their quality of life
5. Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well-supported.

5.3 Whilst the Council is not responsible for everything outlined in these five points, it is a significant part of the jigsaw. The Charter asks that every time a Councillor makes a decision, they think about the impact on people living with MND and their carers in the community. As such, it is important that Councillors and all those working for and with the Council, understand the needs of people with MND and their carers.

5.4 Adopting the Charter will mean that the Council agrees to:

- Promote the MND Charter as widely as possible
- Share the promotional materials – for example with Councillors, Council staff and Health and Social Care professionals who deliver services for the Council
- Consider other ways of working together to support people with MND.

The adoption of the Charter will be the first step in a lasting relationship between the Council and the Association to ensure people with MND get the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 As a notice of motion is a procedural matter and must be dealt with in accordance with Council's Constitution, no assumptions have been made.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 This report does not require an Integrated Impact Assessment as it relates to a procedural matter under the Council's Constitution.

7.2 The procedural rules regarding a Notice of Motion are contained within Council's Constitution as adopted in May 2002. The Council's Constitution sets out the framework for the decision-making roles and responsibilities.

7.3 However the outcome of the Notice of Motion and any subsequent reports arising from it may require an Integrated Impact Assessment.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 There has been no consultation undertaken.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Act 2000

Author: Catherine Forbes Thompson Scrutiny Manager

Appendices: Appendix 1 Signed copy of Notice of Motion.

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NOTICE OF MOTION – MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE CHARTER

To consider the undersigned Notice of Motion standing in the name of County Borough Councillor Nigel George and supported by the Members listed.

We the undersigned Elected Members request that Caerphilly County Borough Council adopt the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter to raise awareness internally and, ultimately, achieve better outcomes for people living with the disease.

MND is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord, attacking the nerves that control movement so muscles refuse to work. MND affects up to 5,000 adults in the UK at any one time and has no cure. It kills around a third of people within a year of diagnosis and more than half within two years.

The MND Charter is a statement of the respect, care and support that people living with MND and their carers deserve and should expect.

There are five points to the Charter:

1. The right to an early diagnosis and information
2. The right to access quality care and treatments
3. The right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect
4. The right to maximise their quality of life
5. Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well-supported.

Whilst the Council is not responsible for everything outlined in these five points, it is a significant part of the jigsaw. The Charter asks that every time a Councillor makes a decision, they think about the impact on people living with MND and their carers in the community. As such, it is important that Councillors and all those working for and with the Council, understand the needs of people with MND and their carers.

Adopting the Charter will mean that the Council agrees to:

- Promote the MND Charter as widely as possible
- Share the promotional materials – for example with Councillors, Council staff and Health and Social Care professionals who deliver services for the Council
- Consider other ways of working together to support people with MND.

The adoption of the Charter will be the first step in a lasting relationship between the Council and the Association to ensure people with MND get the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Signed:

.....
Cllr Nigel George

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SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30TH MAY 2023

SUBJECT: 2023/24 SOCIAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGET

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with details of the 2023/24 revenue budget settlement for Social Services.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides details of the 2023/24 revenue budget for service areas within Social Services and outlines the reasons for movements in the revenue budget since 2022/23.

2.2 The report also sets out the corporate context within which the 2023/24 revenue budget has been set and considers how the 2023/24 budget has been shaped by the Directorate's financial performance in 2022/23.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That Members note the content of this report and the 2023/24 budget for Social Services set out in appendix 1.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure that Members are aware of the content and context of the 2023/24 revenue budget for Social Services.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 The Corporate Context

5.1.1 Under normal circumstances, Welsh Government announces details of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement in early October each year. However, in recent years due to economic uncertainty the announcement has been delayed until December and details of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement for 2023/24 were not released until 14 December 2022.

5.1.2 The settlement included a 6.9% uplift in Caerphilly's Aggregate External Finance, which

amounted to £22.152 million. Whilst this increase was of course welcomed it still fell well below the recent unprecedented levels of inflation and other cost pressures faced by the Council which totalled £55.478 million.

- 5.1.3 These cost pressures included £24.381 million in respect of inflationary pressures, including:-
- provision for the underfunding of the National Joint Council pay award for 2022/23 (i.e. the shortfall in the 2022/23 budget due to the difference between the £1,925 flat rate actual award per full time member of staff from April 2022 and the 3% provision that had been included in the 2022/23 original budget,
 - a clawback of the overprovision for national insurance contributions resulting from national government's decision to remove the 1.25% social care levy,
 - provision for a 5% pay award for all staff with effect from April 2023,
 - provision for the impact of an increase in the Foundation Living Wage,
 - inflationary uplifts of 210% for gas, 131% for electricity, 22.2% for fuel, 16.5% for food and beverages, and 5% for other non-staff costs and
 - an increase of 1% in employer's pension contributions.
- 5.1.4 The remainder of the £55.478 million cost pressure was made up of £18.542 million of general fund inescapable service pressures and £12.555 million of schools cost pressures.
- 5.1.5 The 2023/24 revenue budget was approved by Full Council at its meeting on 23rd February 2023 and included a 7.9% increase in Council Tax, which when coupled with the increase in the Welsh Government Financial Settlement meant that the Council faced a funding gap of £27.179 million in 2023/24. £4.972 million of permanent savings have been identified to reduce this gap whilst a further £6.862 million of temporary savings have also been identified for 2023/24 only. The remaining shortfall of £15.345 million will be funded through a one-off use of reserves in 2023/24.

5.2 **The Social Services Budget Strategy**

- 5.2.1 The original 2022/23 budget for Social Services that was approved by Council in February 2022 amounted to £102.242 million and included provision for a 3% pay award with effect from 1st April 2022. In addition to this, a further £5.716 million was earmarked within the corporate budget to address anticipated cost pressures within Social Services over the forthcoming year. This additional funding was subsequently vired in to the social services budget to address £4.066 million of independent sector fee pressures and £1.650 million of children's services placement pressures. This resulted in a revised 2022/23 budget for Social Services of £107.958 million.
- 5.2.2 The 2023/24 budget proposals approved by Council on 22nd February 2023 included the following provision for general fund inflationary pressures:-

	£million
Provision for shortfall in 2022/23 pay award	4.788
Less clawback of social care element of National Insurance	(1.407)
National Joint Council (NJC) Pay Awards at 5%	7.207
Increase in Employer's Pension Contributions of 1%	1.106
Living Wage Increases for APT&C staff	0.218
Non-pay inflation	12.469
Total	24,381

5.2.3 The Social Services budget for 2023/24 includes the following share of funding to address these inflationary pressures:-

	£million
Provision for shortfall in 2022/23 pay award	3.052
Less clawback of social care element of National Insurance	(0.506)
National Joint Council (NJC) Pay Awards at 5%	2.437
Increase in Employer's Pension Contributions of 1%	0.392
Living Wage Increases for APT&C staff	0.024
Non-pay inflation	5.267
Total	10.666

5.2.4 In addition to these inflationary pressures, £9.293 million has been included in the Social Services budget for 2023/24 to address the following inescapable service pressures:-

	£million
Increased demand and complexity of Children's placements	3.940
Increased demand for care packages for vulnerable adults	0.510
Re-provisioning of home care packages returned by independent providers	0.042
Provision for impact of enhanced fire regulations in supported living accommodation	0.303
Anticipated increases in fees for independent sector providers in relation to the Real Living Wage and wider inflationary pressures	2.833
Additional posts (3.52 FTE's) required to address increasing demands	0.158
1 day additional leave arising from the 2022/23 pay settlement and 5 days additional leave endorsed by Cabinet	0.500
Review of supported living rotas to address support needs of current service users	0.232
Contribution to Regional Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service	0.078
Review of Caerphilly Cares Service and withdrawal of short term funding	0.697
TOTAL	9.293

5.2.5 Of the £4.972 million of permanent savings identified in paragraph 5.1.5 above, £0.594 million has come through the realignment of the following social services budgets:-

	£million
Long term residential care for children with disabilities	0.069
Non-residential care income	0.068
Travel expenses (reflecting flexible working models)	0.105
Foster care recruitment and retention	0.018
Children's Services prevention	0.030
Contributions to regional posts	0.028
Short term care arrangements	0.049
Shared lives placements	0.225
Office expenses	0.002
Total	0.594

- 5.2.6 A realignment of management responsibilities for some services has meant a virement of the budgets associated with these services. As a result, £0.122 million has been vired into the Social Services budget from the Communities budget in respect of the Caerphilly Cares Services while £0.307 million has been vired from the Social Services budget to the Housing budget in respect of the Supporting People Service. The Caerphilly Cares budget has previously been reported as part of the Adult Services budget. However, it isn't a social services function despite reporting directly to the Corporate Director for Social Services and Housing. Therefore, The Caerphilly Cares budget is now captured within the Business Support budget.
- 5.2.7 The issues identified in paragraphs 5.2.1 to 5.2.6 above resulted in an original budget for 2023/24 for Social Services of £127,137,247 as summarised below:-

	Children's Services	Adult Services	Business Support	Total
	£	£	£	£
Original budget 2022/23	27,669,531	72,323,298	2,249,279	102,242,108
In year virement in 2022/23	1,743,554	3,971,801	0	5,715,355
Inflationary Pressures	2,497,048	7,936,285	232,842	10,666,175
Inescapable Pressures	4,098,800	5,194,200	0	9,293,000
Savings	(108,019)	(460,981)	(25,000)	(594,000)
Management realignment	42,000	(1,477,308)	1,249,917	(185,391)
Original Budget 2023/24	<u>35,942,914</u>	<u>87,487,295</u>	<u>3,707,038</u>	<u>127,137,247</u>

- 5.2.8 A detailed analysis of the original budget for 2023/24 is provided in appendix 1.

5.3 Conclusion

The Social Services budget for 2023/24 totalling £127,137,247 has been partially re-aligned to address known commitments as at January 2023 and to provide some financial stability within the social care market. However, demand for social care is likely to continue to rise throughout the forthcoming financial year due to an ageing population and the social effects of the current cost of living pressures. Furthermore, a national focus on the fair cost of providing social care is likely to create additional pressures on the fees that Caerphilly CBC pays to care providers. In summary, while the 2023/24 budget settlement for Social Services has been better than anticipated, any additional pressures that present throughout 2023/24 may need to be managed in-year through the use of service reserves.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 The 2023/24 budget strategy includes provision for a 5% pay award from April 2023. However, negotiations are ongoing to determine the actual National Joint Committee pay award for 2023/24.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not needed because the issues covered are for information purposes only.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 As detailed throughout the report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Any personnel implications arising from the Social Services budget strategy for 2023/24 will be managed in accordance with the appropriate HR policies and procedures.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

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

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Cllr. Donna Cushing, Chair, cushid@caerphilly.gov.uk
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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Social Services Original Revenue Budget 2023/24

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Appendix 1 - Social Services Original Revenue Budget 2023/24

	Original Budget 2023/24 £
<u>SUMMARY</u>	
CHILDREN'S SERVICES	£35,942,914
ADULT SERVICES	£87,487,295
RESOURCING AND PERFORMANCE	£3,707,038
SOCIAL SERVICES TOTAL	<u>£127,137,247</u>

Original Budget
2023/24
£

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Management, Fieldwork and Administration

Children's Management, Fieldwork and Administration	£13,319,456
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£931,166)
Less Wanless Income	(£51,115)
Performance & Improvement Grant	(£40,000)
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£797,575)

Sub Total £11,499,600

Residential Care Including Secure Accommodation

Own Residential Homes	£1,965,496
Gross Cost of Placements	£10,965,812
Contributions from Education	(£84,162)

Sub Total £12,847,146

Fostering and Adoption

Gross Cost of Placements	£8,615,585
Other Fostering Costs	£91,006
Adoption Allowances	£64,246
Other Adoption Costs	£403,004
Professional Fees Inc. Legal Fees	£578,899

Sub Total £9,752,740

Youth Offending

Youth Offending Team	£478,133
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Sub Total £478,133

Families First

Families First Team	£222,974
Other Families First Contracts	£2,479,276
Grant Income	(£2,697,747)

Sub Total £4,503

Other Costs

Preventative and Support - (Section 17 & Childminding)	£35,000
Aftercare	£770,814
Agreements with Voluntary Organisations	£617,130
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£100,000)
Other	£37,848

Sub Total £1,360,792

TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

£35,942,914

ADULT SERVICES

Management, Fieldwork and Administration

Management	£148,171
Protection of Vulnerable Adults	£462,746
OLA and Client Income from Client Finances	(£385,279)
Commissioning	£564,680
Section 28a Income Joint Commissioning Post	(£17,175)
Older People	£2,661,135
Less Wanless Income	(£44,747)
Promoting Independence	£3,300,331
Provider Services	£614,295
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£282,079)
Learning Disabilities	£883,233
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£171,259)
MCA/LPS/DoLS grant	£0
Contribution from Health and Other Partners	(£44,253)
Mental Health	£1,619,523
Section 28a Income Assertive Outreach	(£94,769)
Drug & Alcohol Services	£439,418
Emergency Duty Team	£402,585
Further Vacancy Savings	£0
Sub Total	<u>£10,056,556</u>

Own Residential Care

Residential Homes for the Elderly	£9,090,388
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£435,597)
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£92,563)
-Less Client Contributions	(£2,230,000)
-Less Section 28a Income (Ty Iscoed)	(£115,350)
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£55,161)
Net Cost	<u>£6,161,717</u>
Accommodation for People with Learning Disabilities	£3,804,414
-Less Client Contributions	(£89,641)
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£546,971)
Net Cost	<u>£3,167,802</u>

Sub Total

£9,329,519

External Residential Care

Long Term Placements	
Older People	£16,096,581
Less Wanless Income	(£303,428)
Less Section 28a Income - Allt yr yn	(£151,063)
Physically Disabled	£1,059,617
Learning Disabilities	£5,000,538
Mental Health	£1,135,777
Substance Misuse Placements	£42,487
Social Care Workforce & Sustainability Grant	(£1,032,639)
Net Cost	<u>£21,847,870</u>

Original Budget
2023/24
£

Short Term Placements	
Older People	£237,321
Carers Respite Arrangements	£45,063
Physical Disabilities	£17,146
Learning Disabilities	£118,634
Net Cost	<u>£418,164</u>
Sub Total	<u>£22,266,034</u>
Own Day Care	
Own Day Opportunities	£4,121,996
-Less Attendance Contributions	(£37,560)
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£24,986)
Mental Health Community Support	£917,187
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£21,186)
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£87,100)
-Less Section 28a Income (Pentrebane Street)	(£81,366)
Sub Total	<u>£4,786,985</u>
External Day Care	
Elderly	£43,830
Physically Disabled	£153,843
Learning Disabilities	£848,914
Section 28a Income	(£72,659)
Mental Health	£5,010
Sub Total	<u>£978,938</u>
Supported Employment	
Mental Health	£77,465
Sub Total	<u>£77,465</u>
Aids and Adaptations	
Disability Living Equipment	£613,706
Adaptations	£243,370
Promoting Independence Grant	£0
Chronically Sick and Disabled Telephones	£7,887
Sub Total	<u>£864,963</u>
Home Assistance and Reablement	
Home Assistance and Reablement Team	
Home Assistance and Reablement Team (H.A.R.T.)	£6,123,495
Wanless Funding	(£67,959)
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£32,306)
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£159,452)
Independent Sector Domiciliary Care	
Elderly	£6,589,493
Physical Disabilities	£889,412
Learning Disabilities (excluding Resettlement)	£290,640
Mental Health	£82,397
Social Care Workforce & Sustainability Grant	(£1,235,943)
Gwent Frailty Programme	£2,749,903
Sub Total	<u>£15,229,680</u>

Original Budget
2023/24
£

Other Domiciliary Care

Shared Lives	
Shared Lives Scheme	£1,681,470
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£173,790)
Net Cost	<u>£1,507,680</u>

Supported Living	
Older People	£267,923
Physical Disabilities	£1,970,993
Learning Disabilities	£14,989,169
Less Section 28a Income Joint Tenancy	(£28,987)
Mental Health	£2,387,097
Social Care Workforce & Sustainability Grant	(£408,304)
Net Cost	<u>£19,177,891</u>

Direct Payment	
Elderly People	£117,541
Physical Disabilities	£1,004,667
Learning Disabilities	£782,286
Section 28a Income Learning Disabilities	(£20,808)
Mental Health	£4,339
Net Cost	<u>£1,888,025</u>

Other	
Extra Care Sheltered Housing	£745,323
Net Cost	<u>£745,323</u>

Total Home Care Client Contributions	(£1,757,767)
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Sub Total **£21,561,152**

Resettlement

External Funding	
Section 28a Income	(£1,020,410)

Sub Total **(£1,020,410)**

Services for Children with Disabilities

Ty Hapus	£526,314
Residential Care	£910,745
Foster Care	£517,101
Preventative and Support - (Section 17 & Childminding)	£10,596
Respite Care	£99,421
Direct Payments	£192,402

Sub Total **£2,256,579**

	Original Budget 2023/24 £
Other Costs	
Telecare Gross Cost	£876,579
Section 28a Income	(£6,866)
Less Client and Agency Income	(£417,555)
Agreements with Voluntary Organisations	
Children with Disabilities	£320,536
Elderly	£77,270
Learning Difficulties	£67,006
Section 28a Income	(£52,020)
Mental Health & Substance Misuse	£48,651
MH Capacity Act / Deprivation of Libert Safeguards	£124,534
Other	£61,699
Gwent Enhanced Dementia Care Expenditure	£152,106
Gwent Enhanced Dementia Care Grant	(£152,106)
Sub Total	£1,099,834
TOTAL ADULT SERVICES	£87,487,295
<u>SERVICE STRATEGY AND BUSINESS SUPPORT</u>	
Management and Administration	
Policy Development and Strategy	£198,181
Financial Services	£983,158
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£120,632)
Caerphilly Cares	£1,373,251
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£123,334)
Sub Total	£2,310,624
Office Accommodation	
All Offices	£437,380
Less Office Accommodation Recharge to HRA	(£117,608)
Sub Total	£319,772
Office Expenses	
All Offices	£132,662
Sub Total	£132,662
Other Costs	
Training	£370,143
Staff Support/Protection	£10,519
Information Technology	£64,549
Management Fees for Consortia	(£56,330)
Insurances	£277,770
Other Costs	£277,329
Sub Total	£943,980
TOTAL RESOURCING AND PERFORMANCE	£3,707,038



SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30TH MAY 2023

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL/NURSING CARE HOMES TO SUPPORT INCREASED COSTS OF AMENITIES AND FOOD COSTS

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee with regard to the repurposing of earmarked service reserves to address exceptional cost pressures faced by providers of residential and nursing care, prior to a report being submitted to Cabinet for approval.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 In the latter part of the 2021/22 financial year Welsh Government (WG) provided additional one-off funding of £60m via the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) across all Welsh Local Authorities. Caerphilly CBC's element of this additional funding was £3.540m. While the RSG is un-hypothecated, WG strongly indicated that £595k of this additional funding should be earmarked to provide driving lessons and electric vehicles in order to reduce some of the barriers faced by workers entering the domiciliary care profession, particularly the unprecedented cost of petrol at that time. In response to this, Caerphilly CBC appropriated £595k into an earmarked reserve for future use once a firm plan had been developed to optimise the impact of this one-off funding.
- 2.2 Following consultation with domiciliary care provider organisations there has been very limited interest in the provision of electric vehicles and the personal taxation implications of paying for driving lessons for staff as a benefit in kind has meant there has been no demand for funded driving lessons. Furthermore, since the creation of the earmarked reserve, petrol prices have begun to fall, which in turn has helped to reduce the barriers to entering the domiciliary care profession.
- 2.3 Therefore, it is proposed that £507k of the earmarked reserve should be repurposed to address the exceptional cost pressures faced by providers of residential and nursing care as a result of rising energy prices and food costs.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to comment on a repurposing of earmarked reserves amounting to £507k to enable a one-off payment to providers of larger residential and nursing care homes within the Caerphilly County Borough, equivalent to £1,000 per bed that is either currently commissioned by Caerphilly CBC or is vacant.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To address the unprecedented cost of food and energy currently faced by providers of residential and nursing care at present.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Following a one-off addition to the RSG in the latter part of 2021/22, an earmarked reserve was created by Caerphilly CBC to provide driving lessons and electric vehicles in order to bring down the travel costs of domiciliary care workers, which had been cited as a barrier to entering the profession.
- 5.2 Through consultation with domiciliary care provider organisations it has become apparent that the demand for electric vehicles will be very limited. The amount of funding made available meant that only a limited number of vehicles could be purchased, which raised concerns about the inequities across the workforce. Also, the one-off nature of the funding caused concerns for providers due to the potential replacement costs once the vehicles reached the end of their useful life. Despite these concerns, some providers have decided to trial the use of electric bikes so it is felt prudent to retain around £88k of the earmarked reserve for this purpose.
- 5.3 Consultation with provider organisations also revealed concerns around the personal taxation implications for paying for driving lessons for their workers. While the provision of driving lessons would be beneficial to the workers employment, the benefits would not be solely employment related. Therefore, it is likely that the funding of driving lessons would be considered as a benefit in kind and the workers receiving this funding would be taxed on that benefit. As a result of this added complication, there has been no take up of funded driving lessons.
- 5.4 As a result of the feedback identified above, the Corporate Director for Social Services entered in to discussions with WG regarding a temporary increase to the commissioned hourly rate for domiciliary care of £1 per hour, which was being considered at a regional level across Gwent. It was felt that this increase would allow providers to pass this increase on to individual workers to assist them with the cost of travelling for work. WG agreed that this proposal would achieve the intended purpose of additional funding that had been provided through the RSG. As a result, it was agreed that the earmarked reserve could be used to fund this temporary increase for a six month period at an estimated cost of £215k. However, following slippage within the Regional Integration Fund (RIF) programme in 2022/23, the Gwent Regional Partnership Board subsequently agreed to fund this temporary increase through the RIF grant.
- 5.5 In summary, only £88k of the £595k earmarked reserve is currently committed to the provision of electric bikes leaving £507k available for other purposes. Officers considered that the recent fall in petrol prices has helped to reduce the barriers to entering the domiciliary care provision and that the remaining £507k could be better used to address the cost pressures faced by residential and nursing care providers. The Corporate Director for Social Services has discussed this with WG and while it does not address the original purpose of the one-off increase in the RSG, they recognised that the RSG is un-hypothecated and that we are still proposing to use the funding to address pressures within the social care market. Therefore, WG have given their support to the proposal.
- 5.6 While the fees payable by Caerphilly CBC to all care providers were increased by 10.1% with effect from April 2023 in response to an equivalent increase in the Real Living Wage and similar levels of general inflation, care home providers have cited the exceptional increases in energy and food costs as a reason why this 10.1% increase falls short of their increasing

costs. It is hoped that in the longer term that energy and food prices will reduce to a more manageable level. However, there is certainly an immediate pressure for larger care home providers currently, who are articulating ongoing concerns about the increases in utility costs and food costs. Smaller residential care homes are experiencing an increase associated with these costs also, but not to the extent that the larger care homes are, simply due to the scale and size of the larger homes alongside the vacancies that a number of them have.

- 5.7 If the repurposing of £507k of service reserves were to be approved by Cabinet, it would allow a one-off payment to larger care home providers, amounting to £1,000 for each bed that is either currently commissioned by Caerphilly CBC or is vacant. We do not propose to make any additional payment to care homes within Caerphilly County Borough for beds commissioned by other local authorities, the Health Board or self-funders as the provider would be expected to negotiate with the appropriate body for those places. However, as occupancy levels within some care homes have yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels, some providers would be disadvantaged if we did not extend the £1,000 payment to cover vacant beds.
- 5.8 Many of the commissioned Residential and Nursing home providers have made representation in respect of the increased costs they are experiencing that are related to the payment of bills for gas, electricity, and food – whilst the providers articulate the increased costs associated with many different areas of their service, those relating to energy and food are undoubtedly the highest and the ones that cause them significant concern.
- 5.9 All providers are mindful of and are keen to ensure that they maintain the quality of life and health and well being for the residents they support, but to do that, need to retain an environment that comfortably and effectively supports older vulnerable people who have a range of complex needs, many of whom are immobile and cared for in bed. In addition, the importance of high standards of nutrition and hydration for residents supported in care homes is key and supports the maintenance of their overall level of health and well-being.
- 5.10 Energy Costs – commissioned providers have raised serious concern about the increase in the costs associated with the energy bills they have experienced, continue to experience and will experience moving forward for the foreseeable future. The UK and other parts of the world are facing an unprecedented rise in wholesale gas and electricity prices and businesses do not see the benefit of the price cap on energy bills in the same way as domestic customers. Care Homes are high energy consumers as their job is to keep the elderly and vulnerable comfortable and safe. Residents need to be kept warmer than average, and homes are by their nature 24-hour operations. So high energy consumption goes with the territory.
- 5.11 Several different factors contribute to the high use of energy in the care home sector -
- Heating – Seventy percent of a typical care home’s energy bill goes on heating.
 - Hot Water – Water heating is responsible for 12 percent of the average care home’s energy consumption. There needs to be a constant supply of hot water to ensure that personal care needs are met, laundry is undertaken, and that the kitchen environment operates efficiently and effectively.
 - Lighting – care homes operate 24/7 and as such respond to the needs of individual people in the home – this means that the use of lighting is not restricted to evening/night-time, but is used throughout the day
 - Building Fabric – all care homes are different, and therefore the energy use will be different dependent on the fabric of the building and its efficiency.
- 5.12 Caerphilly has a mixed picture in terms of the build and fabric of the commissioned care homes – some are relatively new, purpose built care homes that will have better efficiency capability than most, whilst others are much older buildings that have undergone and need to undergo refurbishment that will improve efficiency and there are a few homes that are much older, with extensions on what were formerly domestic dwellings, and these will undoubtedly feel the effects of less energy efficiency due to their fabric and age. Regardless of energy

efficiency capability, all the commissioned care homes need to maintain a warm, safe environment for the residents, and this comes at a huge cost.

- 5.13 All commissioned care home providers are experiencing different levels of cost increases associated with gas and electric, all dependent on the differing circumstances of each home, but some of the feedback received from providers demonstrates the increased costs incurred. Several providers are indicating an increase of 25% - 30% in the costs of running a care home and that would include gas and electricity costs.
- 5.14 There is one care home in the Borough that is reliant on electricity to run everything in the home including the heating system as there is no gas supply at the home – this provider has advised that the electric bill for December 2022 fell just short of £27,000 which is clearly a significant cost. Whilst the provider is pursuing alternative methods of heating the home that are more cost effective and sustainable, this will require investment. Investment is currently proving difficult for this provider due to the number of vacancies at the home – banks/lenders view it as too much of a risk.
- 5.15 Food Costs - the issue of the increased costs associated with food and other household provisions, such as cleaning products is being widely felt by the whole of society and care homes are no different. Providers are advising of a 50% increase in some circumstances for bills relating to food and other products essential to the effective and safe running of a care home.
- 5.16 Whilst the cost of food has increased, there is additional pressure on care homes relating to nutrition and hydration and the need to have a focus on quality and the fortification of food for residents who are nutritionally compromised. The 'Food First' approach is always taken before the introduction of any prescribed supplements for residents – this means that chefs/cooks in care homes fortify food in order to increase the calorific value of the food for residents who are apt to lose weight easily or those who only eat very little. Products such as full fat milk, double cream, butter, etc... are used in vast quantities to fortify foods like mashed potato, desserts, milky/custard-based puddings, sauces and pureed food of any type for those with swallowing issues. Drinks are also fortified using ice cream for things like milk shakes and orange juice with lemonade for 'fruit boosts'. Food, snacks, and drinks have to be available 24/7 for residents in order to ensure as far as possible that all nutritional and hydration needs are met.

5.17 **Conclusion**

The proposed repurposing of £507k of earmarked reserves to address cost pressures in larger care homes has been supported by WG and would enable a one-off payment to larger care home providers, amounting to £1,000 for each bed that is either currently commissioned by Caerphilly CBC or is vacant. Any longer term effects of changes in energy and food costs would need to be considered in the usual fee negotiation process undertaken with care providers on an annual basis

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 There are no assumptions included in this report.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 No IIA has been completed because the funding referenced in the report was unhypothecated and in discussion with WG, it was agreed that it could be used to support large care homes in the Borough with the significant increase in costs

associated with utility bills and food, as explained in the report above and referenced in the conclusion at 5.17.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 A one-off payment to the 19 larger care homes within Caerphilly County Borough, amounting to £1,000 for each bed that is either currently commissioned by Caerphilly CBC or is vacant would cost £507k. This could be fully funded through the repurposing of earmarked reserves and would have no ongoing revenue budget implications:-

	CCBC Commissioned	Vacant	Sub Total	Other Commissioners
Total number of beds	413	94	507	260
Total proposed payment	£413,000	£94,000	£507,000	£Nil

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications included in this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All consultation responses have been incorporated into this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

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

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