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For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Julie Lloyd
(Tel: 01443 864246 Email: lloydj4@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 11th October 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

A multi-locational meeting of the **Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee** will be held in Penallta House, and via Microsoft Teams on **Tuesday, 17th October, 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 website at www.caerphilly.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christina Harrhy'.

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 Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee held on 12th September 2023. 1 - 6
- 4 Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.
- 5 Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. 7 - 18
- 6 To receive and consider the following Cabinet reports*:-
1. Development and Governance Strategy – Housing – 20th September 2023;
 2. Proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infants School – 20th September 2023.

**If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Cabinet reports to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Julie Lloyd 01443 864246, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 16th October 2023.*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports:-

- 7 Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Programme - Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhmney Primary School Proposal. 19 - 24
- 8 School Organisation Code 2018 - Proposal for the Closure of Cwm Glas Infants School. 25 - 30
- 9 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report (Month 3). 31 - 44

Circulation:

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth, C. Bishop, A. Broughton-Pettit, M. Chacon-Dawson, D. Cushing, Mrs P. Cook, M. Evans, A. Farina-Childs, C.J. Gordon, T. Heron, A. Leonard, B. Miles (Vice Chair), T. Parry (Chair), J.E. Roberts, J. Simmonds, S. Skivens, J. Winslade and K. Woodland

Co-opted Members:

Cardiff ROC Archdiocesan Commission for Education Representative (with voting rights on educational matters)
Mr M. Western

Parent Governor Representatives (with voting rights on educational matters) T. Millington (Parent Governor Representative) and Mr G. James (Parent Governor Representative)

Outside Body Representatives (without voting rights)

Mrs P. Ireland (NEU) and Mrs K. Cole (NEU)

Caerphilly Governors Association (without voting rights)

Mr D Davies

Users and Carers - Vacant

And Appropriate Officers

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Agenda Item 3



EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MULTI-LOCATIONAL MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES PENALLTA HOUSE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor T. Parry – Chair
Councillor B. Miles - Vice Chair

Councillors:

E.M. Aldworth, C. Bishop, M. Chacon-Dawson, P. Cook, D. Cushing, M. Evans, C. Gordon, T. Heron, A. Leonard, J. Roberts, J. Simmonds and J Winslade.

Cabinet Member Councillors:

Councillor C. Andrews (Education and Communities) and E. Forehead (Cabinet Member for Social Care), S. Morgan (Leader) J. Pritchard (Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change)

Together with:

Officers: R. Edmunds (Corporate Director for Education and Corporate Services), S. Richards (Head of Education Planning and Strategy), K. Cole (Chief Education Officer), P. Warren (Strategic Lead for School Improvement), A. West (Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager), G. Jenkins (Assistant Director – Head of Childrens Services), J. Willimas (Assistant Director – Adult Services), C. Howells (Project Coordinator), P. O'Neill (Senior Youth Service Manager), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer) and J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer).

Also in attendance:

Co-opted Members: Mr M. Western (Cardiff ROC Archdiocesan Commission for Education Representative), Mrs T. Millington (Parent Governor Representative), and Mrs P Ireland (NEU).

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 A. Broughton – Pettit, A. Farina-Childs, S Skivens, and K. Woodland, together with Mr D. Davies (Caerphilly Governors Association).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. 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.

4. EDUCATION AND 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 September 2023 to April 2024.

The Scrutiny Committee requested that the 2023/24 Budget Monitoring report (month 3) information Item be added to the Forward Programme for the main agenda on the 17th October 2023, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved.

One Member observed that certain Information Items should be scheduled on main agendas and discussed within the public domain. The Scrutiny Officer highlighted that it was possible for the Committee to request that identified Information Reports be scheduled for discussion on meeting agendas instead, alternatively they could email any questions directly to the author.

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 14 For 0 Against and 0 Abstention).

Subject to the inclusion of the aforementioned item it was RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme as appended to the meeting papers be published on the Council's website.

5. 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.

6. SCHOOL ORGANISATION CODE 2018 - PROPOSAL FOR THE CLOSURE OF CWM GLAS INFANT SCHOOL

The Cabinet Member for Education and Communities presented a report to the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee which sought Members endorsement on the recommendation to Cabinet to proceed to consultation in respect of the closure of Cwm Glas Infant School by July 2024.

It was noted that due to the falling rolls at Cwm Glas Infant school which are projected to decrease further in future years, a meeting was arranged by the Head Teacher and the Governing Body with Local Authority representatives including the Chief Education Officer, to discuss the future viability of the school. It was agreed at this meeting the school could no longer maintain a balanced budget and an appropriate staffing level. Therefore, a decision was made by the Head Teacher and Governing Body of the School to pursue closure of Cwm Glas Infant School with effect from July 2024.

The Members further noted that currently Cwm Glas Infant School shares a catchment area with Coed-y-Brain Primary School where pupils transition to at Key Stage 2 subject to parental preference. It is proposed to transition the pupils at Foundation Phase, to deliver an inclusive all-through primary school provision. Subject to Cabinet approval, this will result in the proposed closure of Cwm Glas Infants School with effect from July 2024.

In response to queries raised from Members, the Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager advised Members that they are unable to confirm why 50% of the children attending Cwm Glas Infant school are from outside the catchment area, as the parents/guardians do not have to provide this information as part of the admission application process. The Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager also highlighted those pupils outside the catchment area still lived within 2-3 miles of the school.

The Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager confirmed that pupils outside the catchment area would be part of the proposed transition to Coed-y-Brain Primary School if the proposal went ahead. The Officer further advised that there was sufficient provision to accommodate all pupils at Coed-y-Brain but that this was subject to parental preference. The same process as was currently in place when pupils transitioned to Coed-y-Brain Primary School at Key Stage 2.

Members were also assured that the governing body for Coed-y-Brain would be fully consulted if permission were given to proceed to the consultation stage.

Members were pleased to note that Cwm Glas Infants had received a very successful ESTYN report, with no follow ups. Within the report the school was praised for the support and guidance given to the pupils.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendation be approved. By way of Microsoft Forms and with one verbal vote (and in noting that there were 16 for, 0 against and 1 abstention) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee:

1. Noted the contents of the report and endorsed the recommendation to Cabinet to proceed to consultation on the proposal to close Cwm Glas Infant School with effect from July 2024.

7. UPDATE ON PROGRESS AGAINST NEETS-REDUCTION ACTIONS AND CURRENT ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cabinet Member for Education and Communities presented the report which provided the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress regarding Caerphilly's 2021/22 NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) results (published April 2023) in the context of the current 5-year target schedule.

The Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee acknowledged the operational improvements contributing to the reduction of the number of NEET young people.

It was noted that the NEETS performance is on track against the projected targets for the current five-year period and the results for 2021/22 have met the stated target.

The Scrutiny Committee were pleased to note that other services combine well to identify those at risk of becoming NEET and Caerphilly is in the top three highest performing authorities in Wales in this regard.

It was further noted that Caerphilly County Borough Councils NEETs-reduction actions now require review and amendment to best meet the authority's ambitions and associated targets for the coming year(s).

The Strategic Lead for School Improvement advised the Education and Social Services Committee that over the past 12 months the Authority has looked at resetting the priorities through the Education Strategy, and NEETS is very much one of those main priorities.

It has looked at ways in which to improve and add extra support for the children and young people who are at risk of leaving school without suitable education, employment or training in place.

In response to queries raised by the Scrutiny Committee the Senior Youth Service Manager advised Members that sometimes maintaining contact with the young people can be one of the greatest problems. This is due to pupils' telephone numbers often changing, including over the 6-week school holiday period and some NEET situations cannot be resolved due either to pregnancy or imprisonment'.

The Senior Youth Service Manager directed the Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Members to the Caerphilly Pathways website which is designed to be a single point of contact, where information on further education and partnerships can be found.

The Scrutiny Committee Members were pleased to note that funding had been secured to employ a team of staff, known as the Inspire Team. The team has worked with a cohort of identified pupils to regain their focus on attendance, attainment and behaviour by offering bespoke one to one or small group support. From September 2023, this team will have a dedicated support officer based in each secondary school. During the 2023 school summer break, Inspire Officers supported Year 11 leavers to secure appropriate destinations in employment or training.

A Member sought clarification on the type of work the Inspire Team have carried out. The Project Coordinator for the team advised the Scrutiny Committee that the team works with a cohort of pupils that the schools have identified as pupils they feel could achieve more with the support of the Inspire Team. Each individual will have different needs; therefore, the team will identify the individual needs to create a better pathway whilst they are at school. There is a great amount of work carried out in relation to mental health needs along with school avoidance issues. Since COVID, there has been a huge increase in school avoidance, therefore the Officers use Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) training to support the individual.

With regards to mental health issues Members heard how Officers can offer support and make referrals to other agencies. Working within the School Improvement Team the Officers work with Educational Psychologists and also work with EWS and Healthy Schools.

In response to a query raised by one Member, The Strategic Lead for School Improvement advised the Scrutiny Committee, that out of the 360 pupils the team have been working with around 340 have secured destinations, but the cut-off date is the 31st October 2023. Therefore, it is hopeful that this number will improve.

Following discussion, the Scrutiny Committee considered the content of the report.

The Education and Social Service Scrutiny Committee placed on record their congratulations to all pupils for their GCSE results along with congratulations to all school staff for their very successful ESTYN reports.

The meeting closed at 6.10 pm

Approved as a correct record, subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th October 2023.

CHAIR

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EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17TH OCTOBER 2023

**SUBJECT: EDUCATION AND 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 Education and 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 Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee forward work programme includes all reports that were identified at the Committee Meeting on Tuesday 12th September 2023. The work programme outlines the reports planned for the period October 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 Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1, which presents the current status as at 25th September 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, Deputy Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director for Education and Corporate

Services

Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer

Gareth Jenkins, Assistant Director – Children’s Services

Robert Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Lisa Lane, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer,
Legal Services

Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny
Committee

Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Education and Social Services
Scrutiny Committee

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Education and 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 - Education and Social Services

Appendix 1

Date	Title	Key Issues	Author	Cabinet Member
17/10/23 17:30	Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Proposal – Ysgol Y Lawnt / Upper Rhyrmyey Primary	For Scrutiny Members to provide their views on the proposal for Ysgol Y Lawnt/Upper Rhyrmyey Primary in line with the requirements of the 'School Organisation Code 2018'.	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
17/10/23 17:30	Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infants School	For Scrutiny Members to provide their views on the proposal for Cwm Glas Infants School in line with the requirements of the 'School Organisation Code 2018'.	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
17/10/23 17:30	2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report (Month 3)		Jones, Mike;	Cllr. Forehead, Etaine;
17/10/23 17:30	Information Item - Elective Home Education	Numbers of EHE young people Role of the EHE officer Type of work undertaken Links with other key areas of work Areas for development	Ellis, Sarah;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
28/11/23 17:30	Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Proposal – Ysgol Y Lawnt / Upper Rhyrmyey Primary	For Scrutiny Members to consider the Consultation Report and endorse the recommendation to proceed to the publication of a Statutory Notice	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
28/11/23 17:30	Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infants School	For Scrutiny Members to consider the Consultation Report and endorse the recommendation to proceed to the publication of a Statutory Notice	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
28/11/23 17:30	Directors Annual Report For Social Services		Jenkins, Gareth;	Cllr. Forehead, Etaine;
28/11/23 17:30	Information Item - 2023/24 Budget Monitoring Report (Month 5)		Jones, Mike;	Cllr. Forehead, Etaine;
30/01/24 17:30	Caerphilly Cares/ Employee volunteering scheme update and initial 6 months review		McMahon, Tina;	Cllr. Forehead, Etaine;
30/01/24 17:30	Amalgamation report		West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
30/01/24 17:30	Key Stage 4 Outcomes - Summer 2023		Cole, Keri;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
12/03/24 17:30	Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Proposal – Ysgol Y Lawnt / Upper Rhyrmyey Primary	For Scrutiny Members to consider the Objection Report and endorse the recommendation to Cabinet to proceed to the Planning Application Stage and submission of a Full Business Case to Welsh Government	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
12/03/24 17:30	Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme - Proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infants School	For Scrutiny Members to consider the Objection Report and endorse the recommendation to Cabinet to proceed to closing the school	West, Andrea;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
12/03/24 17:30	Winter Pressures		Street, Dave;	Cllr. Forehead, Carol;
12/03/24 17:30	Information Item - Welsh Education Scrutiny Plan (WESP) Action Plan		Mutch, Sarah;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
23/04/24 17:30	Schools Causing Concern		Cole, Keri;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
23/04/24 17:30	School Inspection Update		Cole, Keri;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
23/04/24 17:30	Safeguarding	Critical areas of work undertaken Impact of the work Next steps	Ellis, Sarah;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;
23/04/23 17:30	Additional Support	Model of delegation Feedback from consultations	Ellis, Sarah;	Cllr. Andrews, Carol;

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Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 10th October 2023

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
18/10/2023 13:00	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
18/10/2023	Caerphilly Homes – Re-development of the Former Oakdale Comprehensive School	To seek Cabinet approval for the signing of a delivery agreement (DA) via SCAPE with Willmott Dixon to deliver an 85 new home mixed tenure scheme.	Jane Roberts-Waite/Mark Noakes/Steve Wilcox and colleagues from Willmott Dixon	Cllr Shayne Cook
18/10/2023	Caerphilly Homes – Re-development of the Former Ty Darran Care Home, Risca	To seek Cabinet approval for the signing of a delivery agreement (DA) via SCAPE with Willmott Dixon to deliver a 46 new, affordable home later living scheme which will set the ambition for the future of later living accommodation in the county borough.	Jane Roberts-Waite/Mark Noakes/Steve Wilcox and colleagues from Willmott Dixon	Cllr Shayne Cook
18/10/2023	Additional highway safety works - B4251 Gelligroes to Ynysddu	To seek cabinet approval for additional highway safety related works on the B4251, Gelligroes to Ynysddu	Chris Adams/Marcus Lloyd	Cllr Nigel George
18/10/2023	Recycling Contamination Process	To agree a process to reduce contamination of recycling materials key issue	Rhodri Lloyd/Marcus Lloyd	Cllr Chris Morgan

Appendix 2

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 10th October 2023

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
18/10/2023	Exempt item - Ness Tar	Exempt item subject to Public Interest Test	Rhian Kyte	Cllr James Pritchard
15/11/2023 13:00 p.m.	Annual Report for Corporate Complaints 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023	To review and assess the effectiveness of complaints handling in respect of the annual data for 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 under the Corporate Complaints Policy.	Lisa Lane	Cllr Nigel George
15/11/2023	Support for pupils unable to attend school (formerly "Tuition" report).	To seek Cabinet approval for proposals for revising the model of support for pupils accessing tuition.	Keri Cole	Cllr Carol Andrews
15/11/2023	Revised Town Centre Management Model	For Cabinet to consider the outcomes of the trial of an alternative town centre management model and determine the preferred way forward.	Rhian Kyte/Jo Hillier Raikes	Cllr James Pritchard
15/11/2023	Corporate Plan (including Well-Being Objectives) 2023 to 2028	To consider the Councils Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives 2023 to 2028	Christina HARRY	Leader/Cllr Eluned Stenner
15/11/2023	Write-off debts over £20,000 – Business Rate Arrears for LTD Companies	Cabinet is asked to determine the business rate debts detailed within the report be written-off on the grounds that they are irrecoverable.	John Carpenter	Cllr Eluned Stenner
13/12/2023 13:00 p.m.	Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Proposal – Ysgol Y Lawnt / Upper Rhymney Primary	For Cabinet to consider the Consultation Report and approve the publication of a Statutory Notice	Sue Richards/Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews
13/12/2023	Proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infants School	For Cabinet to consider the Consultation Report and	Sue Richards/Andrea West	Cllr Carol Andrews

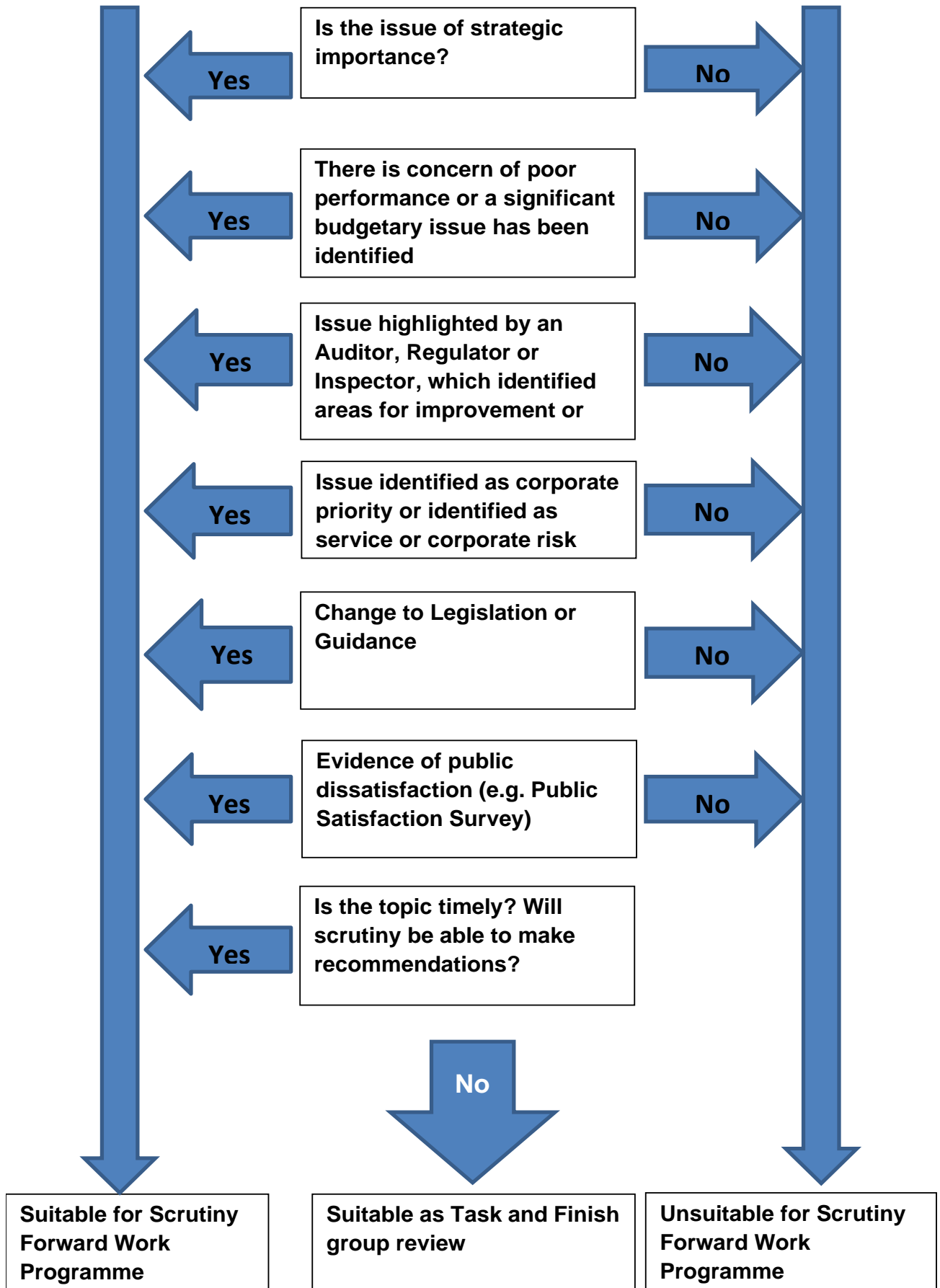
Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 10th October 2023

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
		approve the publication of a Statutory Notice		
13/12/2023	Corporate Self Assessment	For Cabinet to consider the Council Self-Assessment report 2022/23	Sue Richards	Cllr Eluned Stenner
13/12/2023	HRA Budget Outturn Report 2023	For Cabinet to consider the HRA Budget Outturn Report for 2022/2023	Lesley Allen	Cllr Shayne Cook
13/12/2023	Housing Offices Rationalisation Report	As part of a review of how we provide housing services to our customers and communities, and following a comprehensive customer consultation exercise, we are seeking approval to permanently close all existing Housing Offices, replacing them with a centralised Housing Office in Penallta House. This will facilitate service modernisation and improvements by reducing the need for customers to travel to a housing office to receive services, making housing officers more available to our customers through working agilely within our communities, thereby increasing opportunities for access and engagement and building better relationships with our customers.	Fiona Wilkins/Julie Reynolds/Nick Taylor-Williams	Cllr Shayne Cook

Cabinet Forward Work Programme – 10th October 2023

Meeting date:	Report title:	Key issue:	Report author	Cabinet Member:
13/12/2023	Greater Blackwood Masterplan	For Members to consider the Draft Greater Blackwood Masterplan. The report will seek the views of members prior to its presentation to Cabinet, where Cabinet will be asked to endorse the Draft Masterplan as the basis for a public consultation exercise.	Rhian Kyte	Cllr James Pritchard
13/12/2023	Cwm lfor Solar Farm final business case	Consideration of updated financial information and options for Cwm lfor Solar Farm to inform whether to proceed with granting additional funding for the grid connection followed by progression of the final business case.	Anna Lewis/Paul Cooke/Sue Richards	Cllr James Pritchard
17/01/2024 13:00 p.m.	Caerphilly Cares Support Package for families eligible for free school meals	Welsh Government withdrawal of free school meals for eligible families during the school holidays	Tina McMahon	Cllr Carol Andrews
17/01/2024	Draft Waste Strategy	To approve the draft waste strategy for public consultation	Marcus Lloyd/Hayley Jones	Cllr Chris Morgan
17/01/2024	Draft Budget Proposals for 2024/25	To present Cabinet with details of the draft budget proposals for the 2024/25 financial year to allow for a period of consultation prior to a final decision by Council on 27 February 2024.	Christina Harray/ Stephen Harris	Cllr Eluned Stenner

Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme Prioritisation



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EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH OCTOBER 2023

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING BAND B
PROGRAMME – YSGOL Y LAWNT AND UPPER RHYMNEY
PRIMARY SCHOOL PROPOSAL**

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

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to officially consult with Members in respect of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme proposal to relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The purpose of the report is to consult with members on the proposal outlined below:

- **Relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School**
The proposal seeks to create sustainable school buildings with some shared facilities, to accommodate Ysgol Y Lawnt, Upper Rhymney Primary School and Community use. The two schools will continue to provide both Welsh and English Medium Primary education and remain as separate entities, situated within the new dual purpose building.

2.2 The consultation process will proceed in line with the requirements of Welsh Government Statutory Code document no 011/2018 - School Organisation Code 2nd Edition 2018 where exemptions do not apply.

2.3 The consultation period for the proposal commenced on the 28th September 2023 and ends midnight on the 9th November 2023.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Note the information contained in the report and the attached consultation pack.

- b) To obtain Members views as part of the consultation process for the proposal which will be noted as part of the minutes of this meeting and included in the Consultation Report which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Members are consulted with regards to the outlined proposal and assist the Council in discharging its duty in consulting stakeholders in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018 where applicable.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Consultation in respect of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B proposal to relocate Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School.

- 5.1.1 The key aims of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B investment programme, outlined by Welsh Government, is:

- *Investment Objective One* - to provide efficient and effective educational infrastructure that will meet current and future demand for places

To include:

- The right number of places for the delivery of Welsh and English medium education
 - Addressing sufficiency issues where relevant
 - Reducing in Backlog maintenance costs for schools
 - Working towards Net Zero Public Sector Buildings in line with Welsh Government Carbon Reduction Commitments
- *Investment Objective Two* – to optimise the use of infrastructure and resources, to deliver public services for our communities.

This will include:

- Flexibility of our assets so that space and facilities available for our stakeholders are maximised.

- 5.1.2 The schemes identified for Phases 1 & 2 of the Band B programme were:

- A new and enlarged replacement Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon on the former Cwmcarn High School site.
- An extension of Trinity Fields School and Resource Centre
- The amalgamation of Llancaeath Junior School and Llanfabon Infants School to create a new Primary School provision
- A new net zero carbon replacement Plasyfelin Primary School on the existing site
- The establishment of a Centre for Vulnerable Pupils (Pupil Referral Unit) on the former Pontllanfraith Comprehensive site

- 5.1.3 This scheme identified for the next phase of the Band B programme, is the relocation

of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School to a new build dual purpose site.

- 5.1.4 The two schools will continue to provide both Welsh and English Medium Primary education and remain as separate entities.
- 5.1.5 The new school build will be designed to maximise local infrastructure, sustainability and energy efficiencies and meeting the Welsh Government Net Zero Carbon School requirements.
- 5.1.6 As part of the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018 and Section 42/44 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, proposals must be published when we make a 'regulated alteration' to a maintained school and consultation must be undertaken with Members and wider Stakeholders as outlined in the attached documentation.
- 5.1.7 The consultation period for the proposal commenced on the 28th September 2023 and will close midnight on the 9th November 2023.
- 5.1.8 Following consultation, all the comments received during the consultation period will be compiled into a Consultation Report as prescribed by Welsh Government in respect of the Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary proposal.
- 5.1.9 The Consultation Report will be taken to Cabinet who will then decide as to whether to proceed, make changes or not to proceed with the proposal.
- 5.1.10 Should Cabinet decide to proceed, a Statutory Notice will be published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so at this stage. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing and sent to the Council within the notice period. Formal Responses can only be registered following the publication of a statutory notice.
- 5.1.11 Full details of the Consultation Process for the proposal can be found in the main Consultation Document as part of the attached consultation pack.

5.2 **Conclusion**

- 5.2.1 Members are asked to note the information contained in this report and the supporting consultation pack documentation with a view to providing views on the proposal in their capacity as a 'consultee' under the School Organisation Code 2018.
- 5.2.2 Members views will be included in the Consultation Report which will be taken to Cabinet who will then decide on how the proposal will progress as outlined in 5.1.9 and 5.1.10.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report. The process outlined by Welsh Government is being adhered to ensure transparency, balanced and open decision making.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 A full Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed in relation to the proposal to ensure compliance with the socio-economic duty, Sections 1 to 3 of Equality Act 2010.

[Link to IIA \(Cymraeg\)](#)

[Link to IIA \(English\)](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The estimated proposed project cost for the relocation of Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary, which forms the next phase of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B programme, totals £17,605,140.
- 8.2 Costings are based on Building Bulletin 98 and the Welsh Government 2024 Cost allowance. Subject to approval to proceed, further verification will be undertaken by the Council's Quantity Surveyor prior to submission to Welsh Government (WG).
- 8.3 The Authority's contribution of £6,052,119 to be set aside from the Authority's Place Shaping reserve.

Project Name:	LA Contribution	WG contribution	Total Funding
New School Build	£5,777,916 (35%)	£10,730,414 (65%)	£16,508,330
SRB (16 places)	£274,203 (25%)	£822,607 (75%)	£1,096,810
TOTAL PROJECT	£6,052,119	£11,553,021	£17,605,140

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This will be dependent on specific proposals and will be considered as part of the consultation process.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013

Author: Andrea West, Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager

Consultees: Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive
Dave Street, Deputy Chief Executive
Richard Edmunds, Corporate Director of Education and Corporate Services
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Councillor Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education and Communities
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair, Education and Social Services Scrutiny
Committee
Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair Education and Social Services Scrutiny
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Sue Richards, Head of Transformation
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion and ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ben Winstanley, Head of Land and Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Appendices:

[Link to Consultation Pack – Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School \(Cymraeg\)](#)

[Link to Consultation Pack – Ysgol Y Lawnt and Upper Rhymney Primary School \(English\)](#)

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EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH OCTOBER 2023

SUBJECT: SCHOOL ORGANISATION CODE 2018 – PROPOSAL FOR
THE CLOSURE OF CWM GLAS INFANTS SCHOOL

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND
CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to officially consult with Members in respect of the proposal to close Cwm Glas Infants School by July 2024

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Due to the falling rolls at Cwm Glas Infant school which are projected to decrease further, a meeting was arranged by the Head Teacher and the Governing body with Local Authority representatives including the Chief Education Officer, to discuss the future viability of the school.
- 2.2 The conclusion of the meeting as outlined in 2.1, agreed the school could no longer maintain a balanced budget and an appropriate staffing level, therefore a decision was made by the Head Teacher and Governing Body of the School to pursue closure of Cwm Glas Infant School.
- 2.3 The purpose of the report is to consult with members on the proposal outlined below:

- **The closure of Cwm Glas Infants School**

Currently Cwm Glas Infant School shares a catchment area with Coed Y Brain Primary School where pupils transition to at Key Stage 2 subject to parental preference.

This proposal seeks to transition the pupils at Foundation Phase, to deliver an inclusive all-through primary school provision. Subject to Cabinet approval, this will result in the proposed closure of Cwm Glas Infants School with effect from July 2024.

- 2.4 The consultation process will proceed in line with the requirements of Welsh Government Statutory Code document no 011/2018 - School Organisation Code 2nd Edition 2018 where exemptions do not apply.
- 2.5 The consultation period for the proposal commenced on the 28th September 2023 and ends midnight on the 9th November 2023.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to:
- a) Note the information contained in the report and the attached consultation pack.
 - b) To obtain Members views as part of the consultation process for the proposal which will be noted as part of the minutes of this meeting and included in the Consultation Report which will be presented to Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure Members are consulted with regards to the outlined proposal and assist the Council in discharging its duty in consulting stakeholders in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018 where applicable.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Consultation in respect of the proposal to close Cwm Glas Infants School.
- 5.1.1 Cwm Glas Infants School provides education to pupils between the ages of 3 and 7 and has a published capacity figure of 55 places with a published admission number of 19.
 - 5.1.2 The current pupil roll as of September 2023 is 34 pupils (31 Full Time Equivalent) with over 50% of these pupils residing outside of the catchment area of the school
 - 5.1.3 Surplus places are currently at 50.38% rising to 57.89% in September 2024 and projected to increase in future years as the number of pupils predicted to attend the school is anticipated to decline linked to a reduction in live birth rates in the area and parental preference.
 - 5.1.4 The projected pupil numbers and resultant financial outlook for the school provides a significant challenge to the ability of the Head and School Governors to agree a balanced budget to maintain the school and an appropriate staffing level which has led to a request to the local authority to consider closing the school from July 2024.
 - 5.1.5 Under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, Individual school budgets are determined using a locally agreed funding formula in accordance with factors which are learner led. Schools must be able to demonstrate via a financial action plan that the school will work to deliver a balanced budget. However, the Head Teacher and Governing Body have acknowledged that Cwm Glas School is facing a significant

financial deficit with pupil numbers projected to further decrease moving forward.

- 5.1.6 Reasonable alternatives to closure, such as reduction in the number of classes, collaboration, federation and colocation were considered by the Head Teacher and Governing Body in partnership with the Local Authority but deemed not viable or sustainable.
- 5.1.7 Cwm Glas Infants School is a feeder school for Coed Y Brain Primary at Key Stage 2. Both schools share the same catchment area and are both located in Llanbradach within circa 1 mile of each other. Should the decision be taken to close Cwm Glas Infants School, based on current and future projections for both schools, all pupils could be accommodated within Coed Y Brain Primary School.
- 5.1.8 In order to progress the proposal for the closure of Cwm Glas Infants by July 2024, a consultation exercise is required in line with the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018.
- 5.1.9 As part of the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code 2018 and Section 42/44 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, consultation must be undertaken with Members and wider Stakeholders as outlined in the attached documentation.
- 5.1.10 The consultation period for the proposal commenced on the 28th September 2023 and will close midnight on the 9th November 2023.
- 5.1.11 Following consultation, all the comments received during the consultation period will be compiled into a Consultation Report as prescribed by Welsh Government in respect of the Cwm Glas Infants Proposal.
- 5.1.12 The report will be taken to Cabinet who will then decide as to whether to proceed, make changes or not to proceed with the proposal.
- 5.1.13 Should Cabinet decide to proceed, a Statutory Notice will be published providing a 28 day notice period for objections. The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 provides that anyone wishing to make objections to a school organisation proposal has the opportunity to do so at this stage. To be considered as statutory objections, objections must be made in writing and sent to the Council within the notice period. Formal Responses can only be registered following the publication of a statutory notice.
- 5.1.14 Full details of the Consultation Process for the proposal can be found in the main Consultation Document as part of the attached consultation pack.

5.2 **Conclusion**

- 5.2.1 Members are asked to note the information contained in this report and the supporting consultation pack documentation with a view to providing views on the proposal in their capacity as a 'consultee' under the School Organisation Code 2018.
- 5.2.2 Members views will be included in the Consultation Report which will be taken to Cabinet who will then decide on how the proposal will progress as outlined in 5.1.12 and 5.1.13.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made in relation to this report. The process outlined by Welsh Government is being adhered to ensure transparency, balanced and open decision making.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 A full Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) has been completed in relation to the proposal to ensure compliance with the socio-economic duty, Sections 1 to 3 of Equality Act 2010.

[Link to IIA \(Cymraeg\)](#)

[Link to IIA \(English\)](#)

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Under the School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010, Individual school budgets are determined using a locally agreed funding formula in accordance with factors which are learner led.
- 8.2 Schools must be able to demonstrate via a financial action plan that the school will work to deliver a balanced budget.
- 8.3 The Council's Education Finance Team have been working closely with the school for a number of years, however, the Head Teacher and Governing Body have acknowledged that Cwm Glas School is facing a significant financial deficit with pupil numbers projected to further decrease moving forward and are unable to demonstrate via a financial action plan their ability to reverse the deficit.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 This will be dependent on specific proposals and will be considered as part of the consultation process.
- 9.2 The Council's Human Resources Team will work closely with all relevant parties to ensure that processes are adhered to, and support is provided as required.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 School Organisation Code 2018 (Welsh Government)
School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013
Legislation (Wales) Act 2019

Author: Andrea West, Sustainable Communities for Learning Manager

Consultees: Christina Harray, Chief Executive
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Councillor Carol Andrews, Cabinet Member for Education and Communities
Councillor Teresa Parry, Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Brenda Miles, Vice Chair of Education and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
Sue Richards, Head of Transformation
Steve Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer
Keri Cole, Chief Education Officer
Sarah Ellis, Lead for Inclusion and ALN
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Paul Warren, Strategic Lead for School Improvement
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager
Lynne Donovan, Head of People Services
Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Service and Monitoring Officer
Ben Winstanley, Head of Land and Property Services
Steve Pugh, Corporate Communications Manager

Appendices:

[Link to Consultation Pack – Cwm Glas Infants School \(Cymraeg\)](#)

[Link to Consultation Pack - Cwm Glas Infants School \(English\)](#)

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EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17TH OCTOBER 2023

SUBJECT: 2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (MONTH 3)

REPORT BY: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform Members of projected revenue expenditure for Social Services for the 2023/24 financial year and its implications for future financial years.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report will identify the reasons behind a projected underspend of £2,938k for Social Services in 2023/24, inclusive of transport costs.

2.2 It will also consider the implications of this projected underspend on Social Services reserve balances and for future financial years.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to note the projected underspend of £2,938k along with its implications on reserve balances and future financial years.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To ensure Members are apprised of the latest financial position for Social Services.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 Social Services Overview

5.1.1 On 30th May 2023, the Social Services Scrutiny Committee received the 2023/24 Social Services Revenue Budget report, which identified a total budget for Social Services of £127,137,247. There have been no budget virements approved across service areas since that date so the revised 2023/24 budget for Social Services remains unchanged.

5.1.2 Information available as at 30th June 2023 suggests a potential underspend of £2,587k against the revised budget identified above. Details of this potential spend are provided in sections 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 of this report and in appendix 1.

- 5.1.3 In addition to the revised budget for Social Services identified above, a further £1,753,733 is included in the Economy & Environment Directorate budget in respect of transport costs for Social Services. Current information suggests a potential underspend of £351k against this budget as a result of reduced costs of transport to day centres.
- 5.1.4 This potential underspend in respect of transport costs would add to the potential underspend against the Social Services revised budget, resulting in a net underspend of £2,938k as summarised below:-

Division	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	(Over)/Under Spend (£000's)
Children's Services	35,943	35,800	143
Adult Services	87,487	85,223	2,264
Service Strategy & Business Support	3,707	3,527	180
Sub-Total Directorate of Social Services	127,137	124,550	2,587
Transport Costs	1,754	1,403	351
Grand Total	128,891	125,953	2,938

5.2 Children's Services

- 5.2.1 The Children's Services Division is currently projected to underspend its budget by £143k as summarised in the following table: -

	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	(Over)/Under Spend (£000's)
Management, Fieldwork & Administration	11,771	11,077	694
Residential Care Incl. Secure Accommodation	12,627	12,738	(111)
Fostering & Adoption	9,753	10,077	(324)
Youth Offending	478	435	43
Families First	4	4	0
After Care Support	771	1,031	(260)
Other Costs	539	438	101
Totals: -	35,943	35,800	143

Management, Fieldwork and Administration

- 5.2.2 Continuing recruitment difficulties have contributed to a potential underspend of £694k in respect of Children's Services management, administration and social work staff.

Residential Care Including Secure Accommodation

- 5.2.3 In response to Welsh Government's "Eliminating Profit" agenda, Caerphilly's Children's Services Division is in the early stages of establishing up to 4 additional in-house residential homes for children. Ultimately, these new locally situated homes will provide better outcomes for children and prove more economical as the reliance on independently run out-of-county placements will reduce. However, in the short term additional costs are being incurred in establishing the workforce to staff the new homes and in sourcing temporary premises while permanent premises are being commissioned. As a result, the division is anticipating an overspend of £111k in respect of residential care for children, despite the additional grant funding of £417k made available by Welsh Government to support this agenda.

Fostering and Adoption

- 5.2.4 An overspend of £324k is predicted in respect of fostering and adoption arrangements, largely as a result of an 11.5% increase in the number of children with Special Guardianship Orders and the associated legal costs of those arrangements.

Youth Offending

- 5.2.5 Following a freeze in contributions in to the Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service over several years, the Local Management Board (LMB) agreed to uplift contributions by 10% annually commencing in 2022/23, in order to keep pace with increasing costs. However, in light of the financial pressures faced by partner organisations in 2023/24, the LMB subsequently agreed a one-off reimbursement to partners from service reserves to mitigate the 10% increase in contributions required in 2023/24. This has resulted in a £43k underspend in respect of Caerphilly Children's Services contribution to the YOS partnership.

Aftercare and Other Children Looked After Services

- 5.2.6 An increase in the number of care leavers with continuing support packages has increased significantly since the 2023/24 budget was set, with support also being provided for longer periods. This has contributed to a potential overspend of £260k

Other Costs

- 5.2.7 The demand for advocacy and family support services funded through spot purchase arrangements has proved to be much lower than originally anticipated, as has the contribution expected from Caerphilly to support the Gwent Missing Children Project. This has contributed to an underspend of around £193k. However, this has been partially offset by a £92k increase in the cost of supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children, resulting in a net underspend of £101k in respect of Children's Services other costs.

5.3 **Adult Services**

- 5.3.1 The Adult Services Division is currently projected to underspend its budget by £2,264k as summarised in the following table: -

	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	(Over)/Under Spend (£000's)
Management, Fieldwork & Administration	10,041	9,786	255
Own Residential Care and Supported Living	9,329	8,309	1,020
Own Day Care	4,787	4,259	528
Supported Employment	77	70	7
Aid and Adaptations	865	902	(37)
Gwent Frailty Programme	2,750	2,615	135
External Residential Care	22,266	23,460	(1,194)
External Day Care	979	823	156
Home Care	12,496	10,043	2,453
Other Domiciliary Care	21,561	22,024	(463)
Resettlement	(1,020)	(1,020)	0
Services for Children with Disabilities	2,256	2,865	(609)
Other Costs	1,100	1,087	13

	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	(Over)/Under Spend (£000's)
Totals: -	87,487	85,223	2,264

Management, Fieldwork and Administration

- 5.3.2 The management, fieldwork and administration budget for both Adult Services and Children's Services include an assumption that 4.5% of core funded posts will be vacant at any one time. The £255k underspend projected in this area within Adult Services reflects that actual vacancy levels throughout the first 3 months of 2023/24 have exceeded that assumption.

Own Residential Care and Supported Living

- 5.3.3 Of the £1,020k underspend forecast in respect of our own residential care and supported living homes, around £395k can be attributed to additional service user contributions following a recovery in occupancy levels in our residential homes, post-pandemic. A further £141k of the underspend stems from the closure of South View residential home for people with learning disabilities at Graig Road, Hengoed, which was formerly occupied by service users from Rhondda Cynon Taff. The remaining underspend can largely be attributed to staff recruitment difficulties.

Own Day Care

- 5.3.4 Alternative service provision within our own day opportunities is expected to result in an underspend of £528k. This assumes that service levels will gradually recover to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the financial year.

Aids and Adaptations

- 5.3.5 The projected overspend of £37k in this area includes a £50k increase in the management charge for the Gwent Integrated Community Equipment Service. This increase has been agreed by the Management Advisory Board in response to the inflationary pressures associated with operating the service.

Gwent Frailty Programme

- 5.3.6 The underspend of £135k in respect of the Gwent Frailty Programme reflects the continued difficulties faced in recruiting Reablement Support workers and Emergency Care at Home staff.

External Residential Care

- 5.3.7 Occupancy levels within residential and nursing homes have continued to increase, post pandemic. As a result, Adult Services are currently commissioning around 13,000 more bed days during 2023/24 than when the 2023/24 budget was set (i.e. almost 36 permanent places). This in turn has resulted in a potential overspend of £1,194k.

External Day Care

- 5.3.8 External day care provision has not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels resulting in a projected underspend of £156k.

Home Care (In-House and Independent Sector)

- 5.3.9 The £2,453k underspend in respect of Home Care includes £2,115k relating to in-house service provision and £338k relating to independent sector provision. The underspends for both the in-house service and independent sector home care reflect the staff recruitment

difficulties faced across the sector that have culminated in around 330 weekly hours of unmet need and around 74 vacant posts in-house. The forecasts included in this report reflect current service provision so if staff recruitment can be improved this underspend could begin to reduce.

Other Domiciliary Care

5.3.10 The underspend in respect of home care service provision identified in paragraph 5.3.9 has impacted on the level of income receivable from service users, resulting in a potential shortfall of around £397k. Furthermore, an increase in demand for supported living has added a further pressure of £257k. These pressures have been partially offset by reimbursements of excess balances received from direct payment recipients and a slow recovery in demand for Shared Lives services. The net impact of all these issues is a potential overspend of £463k in respect of other domiciliary care.

Children with Disabilities

5.3.11 Of the £609k overspend predicted in respect of Children with disabilities, £519k can be attributed to 3 new placements in residential care that have been necessary since the 2023/24 budget was set. The remainder of the overspend can be attributed to additional staffing required at Ty Hapus respite home.

Other Costs

5.3.12 An overspend of £61k is projected in respect of additional staffing cover for the Telecare help line. However, this has been more than offset by limited demand for services purchased through spot contract arrangements, resulting in a net underspend of £13k in respect of other costs for adult services.

5.4 Service Strategy and Business Support

5.4.1 The service area is currently projected to underspend by £180k as summarised in the following table: -

	Revised Budget (£000's)	Projection/ Commitment (£000's)	(Over)/Under Spend (£000's)
Management and Administration	2,299	2,112	187
Office Accommodation	331	357	(26)
Office Expenses	133	114	18
Other Costs	944	944	0
Totals: -	3,707	3,527	180

Management and Administration

5.4.2 The underspend of £187k in respect of management and administration includes £95k as a result of the vacant director's post. The remaining £92k can be attributed to delays in filling newly created posts within the Caerphilly Cares Service.

Office Accommodation

5.4.3 Increased energy costs at the North Resource Centre and Ty Graddfa offices have contributed to a potential overspend of £26k in respect of office accommodation costs.

Office Expenses

5.4.4 The underspend of £18k in this area can be attributed to reduced printing costs as a result of a growth in virtual meetings and home working.

5.5 Impact of the Potential Underspend on Service Reserve Balances and Future Financial Years

5.5.1 The projected in-year underspend of £2,938k could increase the Social Services general reserve balance by £1,469k to £4,182k and increase corporate reserve balances by the same amount. These additional reserve balances could provide some temporary breathing space within the corporate medium-term financial plan for 2024/25.

5.5.2 The underspend forecast for Adult Services in 2023/24 is largely due to staff shortages within the domiciliary and day care market, while further staff shortages within Children's Services have masked increased demand for special guardianship arrangements and aftercare support. If these recruitment issues can be resolved then the savings achieved in 2023/24 will not be realised in future years to offset other pressures. Furthermore, the increasing costs faced by social care providers is likely to translate into demands for significant fee increases in 2024/25. The anticipated increase in Social Services reserves could help mitigate the impact of these additional pressures, in the short-term.

5.6 Conclusion

5.6.1 Despite a number of areas where sizeable cost pressures are being experienced, staffing shortages across the social care have led to projected in-year underspend of £2,938k for Social Services in 2023/24. If those staffing shortages can be resolved then the increase in service reserves that would result from the 2023/24 underspend could provide a welcome boost to the Social Services budget in 2024/25.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 The projections within this report assume that any impact of the outstanding pay award for 2023/24 in excess of 5% will be corporately funded.

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 There are no direct personnel implications arising from 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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Cllr. Elaine Forehead, Cabinet Member for Social Care, forehe@caerphilly.gov.uk
Cllr. Brenda Miles, Vice-Chair, milesb@caerphilly.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Social Services Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Month 3)

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APPENDIX 1 - Social Services Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24 (Month 3)

	Revised Budget 2023/24	Projection	(Over)/ Under Spend
	£	£	£
<u>SUMMARY</u>			
CHILDREN'S SERVICES	£35,942,914	£35,799,613	£143,301
ADULT SERVICES	£87,487,295	£85,222,926	£2,264,369
RESOURCING AND PERFORMANCE	£3,707,038	£3,526,921	£180,117
SOCIAL SERVICES TOTAL	£127,137,247	£124,549,460	£2,587,787

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Management, Fieldwork and Administration

Children's Management, Fieldwork and Administration	£13,535,801	£12,810,354	£725,447
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£876,424)	(£844,960)	(£31,464)
Less Wanless Income	(£51,115)	(£51,115)	£0
Performance & Improvement Grant	(£40,000)	(£40,000)	£0
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£797,575)	(£797,575)	£0
Sub Total	£11,770,687	£11,076,704	£693,983

Residential Care Including Secure Accommodation

Own Residential Homes	£2,784,544	£3,191,117	(£406,573)
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£401,525)	(£401,525)	£0
Welsh Government Grants	(£637,848)	(£637,848)	£0
Gross Cost of Placements	£10,965,812	£10,666,207	£299,605
Contributions from Education	(£84,162)	(£80,154)	(£4,008)
Sub Total	£12,626,821	£12,737,797	(£110,976)

Fostering and Adoption

Gross Cost of Placements	£8,615,585	£8,760,607	(£145,022)
Other Fostering Costs	£91,006	£100,195	(£9,189)
Adoption Allowances	£64,246	£58,947	£5,299
Other Adoption Costs	£403,004	£403,004	£0
Professional Fees Inc. Legal Fees	£578,899	£754,286	(£175,387)
Sub Total	£9,752,740	£10,077,040	(£324,300)

Youth Offending

Youth Offending Team	£478,133	£434,666	£43,467
Sub Total	£478,133	£434,666	£43,467

Families First

Families First Team	£266,484	£257,933	£8,551
Other Families First Contracts	£2,909,565	£2,918,116	(£8,551)
Grant Income	(£3,171,546)	(£3,171,546)	£0
Sub Total	£4,503	£4,503	£0

Other Costs

Preventative and Support - (Section 17 & Childminding)	£35,000	£35,000	£0
Aftercare	£770,814	£1,030,576	(£259,762)
Agreements with Voluntary Organisations	£617,130	£424,188	£192,942
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£100,000)	(£100,000)	£0
Other	(£12,914)	£79,139	(£92,053)
Sub Total	£1,310,030	£1,468,904	(£158,874)

TOTAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

£35,942,914	£35,799,613	£143,301
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ADULT SERVICES

Management, Fieldwork and Administration

Management	£148,171	£147,441	£730
Protection of Vulnerable Adults	£462,746	£459,211	£3,535
OLA and Client Income from Client Finances	(£385,279)	(£369,146)	(£16,133)
Commissioning	£564,680	£597,670	(£32,990)
Section 28a Income Joint Commissioning Post	(£17,175)	(£17,175)	£0
Older People	£2,661,135	£2,705,331	(£44,196)
Less Wanless Income	(£44,747)	(£44,747)	£0
Promoting Independence	£3,284,480	£3,388,167	(£103,687)
Provider Services	£614,295	£629,370	(£15,075)
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£282,079)	(£328,110)	£46,031
Learning Disabilities	£883,233	£807,178	£76,055
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£171,259)	(£145,600)	(£25,659)
MCA/LPS/DoLS grant	£0	(£62,570)	£62,570
Contribution from Health and Other Partners	(£44,253)	(£45,061)	£808
Mental Health	£1,619,523	£1,741,264	(£121,741)
Section 28a Income Assertive Outreach	(£94,769)	(£94,769)	£0
Drug & Alcohol Services	£439,418	£444,232	(£4,814)
Emergency Duty Team	£402,585	£373,171	£29,414
Further Vacancy Savings	£0	(£399,788)	£399,788
Sub Total	£10,040,705	£9,786,068	£254,637

Own Residential Care

Residential Homes for the Elderly	£9,090,388	£8,505,095	£585,293
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£435,597)	(£174,301)	(£261,296)
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£92,563)	(£92,563)	£0
-Less Client Contributions	(£2,230,000)	(£2,624,984)	£394,984
-Less Section 28a Income (Ty Iscoed)	(£115,350)	(£115,350)	£0
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£55,161)	(£47,999)	(£7,162)
Net Cost	£6,161,717	£5,449,898	£711,819
Accommodation for People with Learning Disabilities	£3,804,414	£3,169,798	£634,616
-Less Client Contributions	(£89,641)	(£61,000)	(£28,641)
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£546,971)	(£249,972)	(£296,999)
Net Cost	£3,167,802	£2,858,826	£308,976
Sub Total	£9,329,519	£8,308,724	£1,020,795

External Residential Care

Long Term Placements			
Older People	£16,096,581	£17,005,260	(£908,679)
Less Wanless Income	(£303,428)	(£303,428)	£0
Less Section 28a Income - Allt yr yn	(£151,063)	(£151,063)	£0
Physically Disabled	£1,059,617	£1,549,130	(£489,513)
Learning Disabilities	£5,000,538	£4,540,298	£460,240
Mental Health	£1,135,777	£1,385,136	(£249,359)
Substance Misuse Placements	£42,487	£42,487	£0
Social Care Workforce & Sustainability Grant	(£1,032,639)	(£1,032,639)	£0
Net Cost	£21,847,870	£23,035,180	(£1,187,310)

Short Term Placements			
Older People	£237,321	£237,321	£0
Carers Respite Arrangements	£45,063	£45,063	£0
Physical Disabilities	£17,146	£17,146	£0
Learning Disabilities	£118,634	£125,496	(£6,862)
Net Cost	£418,164	£425,026	(£6,862)
Sub Total	£22,266,034	£23,460,207	(£1,194,173)
Own Day Care			
Own Day Opportunities	£4,121,996	£3,507,325	£614,671
-Less Attendance Contributions	(£37,560)	£0	(£37,560)
-Less Inter-Authority Income	(£24,986)	£0	(£24,986)
Mental Health Community Support	£917,187	£941,641	(£24,454)
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£21,186)	(£21,186)	£0
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£87,100)	(£87,100)	£0
-Less Section 28a Income (Pentrebane Street)	(£81,366)	(£81,366)	£0
Sub Total	£4,786,985	£4,259,313	£527,672
External Day Care			
Elderly	£43,830	£34,251	£9,579
Physically Disabled	£153,843	£130,886	£22,957
Learning Disabilities	£848,914	£707,637	£141,277
Section 28a Income	(£72,659)	(£72,659)	£0
Mental Health	£5,010	£22,801	(£17,791)
Sub Total	£978,938	£822,916	£156,022
Supported Employment			
Mental Health	£77,465	£69,550	£7,915
Sub Total	£77,465	£69,550	£7,915
Aids and Adaptations			
Disability Living Equipment	£613,706	£656,189	(£42,483)
Adaptations	£243,370	£243,370	£0
Promoting Independence Grant	£0	£0	£0
Chronically Sick and Disabled Telephones	£7,887	£2,673	£5,214
Sub Total	£864,963	£902,232	(£37,269)
Home Assistance and Reablement			
Home Assistance and Reablement Team			
Home Assistance and Reablement Team (H.A.R.T.)	£6,139,346	£4,025,267	£2,114,079
Wanless Funding	(£67,959)	(£67,959)	£0
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£32,306)	(£32,306)	£0
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£159,452)	(£160,538)	£1,086
Independent Sector Domiciliary Care			
Elderly	£6,589,493	£6,123,216	£466,277
Physical Disabilities	£889,412	£1,028,539	(£139,127)
Learning Disabilities (excluding Resettlement)	£290,640	£234,961	£55,679
Mental Health	£82,397	£127,714	(£45,317)
Social Care Workforce & Sustainability Grant	(£1,235,943)	(£1,235,943)	£0
Gwent Frailty Programme	£2,749,903	£2,614,873	£135,030
Sub Total	£15,245,531	£12,657,824	£2,587,707

Other Domiciliary Care

Shared Lives			
Shared Lives Scheme	£1,681,470	£1,579,211	£102,259
Regional Integration Fund Grant	(£173,790)	(£173,790)	£0
Net Cost	£1,507,680	£1,405,421	£102,259
Supported Living			
Older People	£267,923	£343,049	(£75,126)
Physical Disabilities	£1,970,993	£1,758,947	£212,046
Learning Disabilities	£14,989,169	£15,521,807	(£532,638)
Less Section 28a Income Joint Tenancy	(£28,987)	(£28,987)	£0
Mental Health	£2,387,097	£2,248,493	£138,604
Social Care Workforce & Sustainability Grant	(£408,304)	(£408,304)	£0
Net Cost	£19,177,891	£19,435,005	(£257,114)
Direct Payment			
Elderly People	£117,541	£95,618	£21,923
Physical Disabilities	£1,004,667	£917,406	£87,261
Learning Disabilities	£782,286	£777,948	£4,338
Section 28a Income Learning Disabilities	(£20,808)	(£20,808)	£0
Mental Health	£4,339	£4,139	£200
Net Cost	£1,888,025	£1,774,302	£113,723
Other			
Extra Care Sheltered Housing	£745,323	£769,806	(£24,483)
Net Cost	£745,323	£769,806	(£24,483)
Total Home Care Client Contributions	(£1,757,767)	(£1,360,571)	(£397,196)
Sub Total	£21,561,152	£22,023,963	(£462,811)
Resettlement			
External Funding			
Section 28a Income	(£1,020,410)	(£1,020,410)	£0
Sub Total	(£1,020,410)	(£1,020,410)	£0
Services for Children with Disabilities			
Ty Hapus	£526,314	£606,467	(£80,153)
Residential Care	£910,745	£1,429,361	(£518,616)
Foster Care	£517,101	£543,259	(£26,158)
Preventative and Support - (Section 17 & Childminding)	£10,596	£10,596	£0
Respite Care	£99,421	£66,536	£32,885
Direct Payments	£192,402	£209,105	(£16,703)
Sub Total	£2,256,579	£2,865,324	(£608,745)
Other Costs			
Telecare Gross Cost	£876,579	£937,559	(£60,980)
Section 28a Income	(£6,866)	(£6,866)	£0
Less Client and Agency Income	(£417,555)	(£417,555)	£0
Agreements with Voluntary Organisations			
Children with Disabilities	£320,536	£264,366	£56,170
Elderly	£77,270	£88,129	(£10,859)
Learning Difficulties	£67,006	£78,404	(£11,398)
Section 28a Income	(£52,020)	(£52,020)	£0
Mental Health & Substance Misuse	£48,651	£8,964	£39,687
MH Capacity Act / Deprivation of Libert Safeguards	£124,534	£124,534	£0

Other	£61,699	£61,699	£0
Gwent Enhanced Dementia Care Expenditure	£152,106	£76,053	£76,053
Gwent Enhanced Dementia Care Grant	(£152,106)	(£76,053)	(£76,053)
Sub Total	£1,099,834	£1,087,214	£12,620
TOTAL ADULT SERVICES	£87,487,295	£85,222,926	£2,264,369
<u>SERVICE STRATEGY AND BUSINESS SUPPORT</u>			
Management and Administration			
Policy Development and Strategy	£198,181	£103,776	£94,405
Financial Services	£983,158	£910,737	£72,421
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£120,632)	(£49,856)	(£70,776)
Caerphilly Cares	£2,212,885	£2,050,861	£162,024
Appropriations from Earmarked Reserves	(£974,468)	(£903,750)	(£70,718)
Sub Total	£2,299,124	£2,111,768	£187,356
Office Accommodation			
All Offices	£437,926	£448,638	(£10,712)
Less Office Accommodation Recharge to HRA	(£106,654)	(£91,654)	(£15,000)
Sub Total	£331,272	£356,984	(£25,712)
Office Expenses			
All Offices	£132,662	£114,490	£18,172
Sub Total	£132,662	£114,490	£18,172
Other Costs			
Training	£370,143	£370,143	£0
Staff Support/Protection	£10,519	£10,519	£0
Information Technology	£64,549	£64,549	£0
Management Fees for Consortia	(£56,330)	(£56,330)	£0
Insurances	£277,770	£277,770	£0
Other Costs	£277,329	£277,028	£301
Sub Total	£943,980	£943,679	£301
TOTAL RESOURCING AND PERFORMANCE	£3,707,038	£3,526,921	£180,117