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THURSDAY, 4 MARCH 2021

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WHICH
WILL BE HELD IN THE VIRTUAL MEETING AT 10.00 AM ON
THURSDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2021 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF
THE BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.**

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Emma Bryer
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Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 MEMBERS

PLAID CYMRU GROUP – 7 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Kim Broom |
| 2. | Councillor | Karen Davies |
| 3. | Councillor | Tyssul Evans |
| 4. | Councillor | Jean Lewis |
| 5. | Councillor | Emlyn Schiavone |
| 6. | Councillor | Gwyneth Thomas [Chair] |
| 7. | Councillor | Dorian Williams |

LABOUR GROUP – 4 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|-------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Rob Evans |
| 2. | Councillor | Amanda Fox |
| 3. | Councillor | Ken Lloyd |
| 4. | Councillor | Kevin Madge |

INDEPENDENT GROUP – 2 MEMBERS

- | | | |
|----|------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Sue Allen |
| 2. | Councillor | Ieuan Wyn Davies [Vice-Chair] |

NEW INDEPENDENT GROUP – 1 MEMBER

- | | | |
|----|------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Councillor | Louvain Roberts |
|----|------------|-----------------|

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.
3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)
4. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2018/23 - UPDATE APRIL 2021 5 - 48
5. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CARMARTHENSHIRE'S ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES 49 - 62
6. UNPAID CARERS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE- STRATEGIC , LOCAL AND COVID RELATED DEVELOPMENTS 63 - 74
7. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT 75 - 76
8. FORTHCOMING ITEMS 77 - 90
9. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH JANUARY, 2021 91 - 96

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Agenda Item 4

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11th March 2021

Corporate Strategy 2018/23 - Update April 2021

To update the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives relevant to this Scrutiny Committee.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

The adjustment to the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives adopted in June 2018 to reflect developing priorities and the impact of the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic, Brexit and climate change.

Reasons:

- It is good practice to ensure our Corporate Strategy is up to date to ensure resources are allocated to priorities.
- Legally we must publish our Improvement Objectives annually under both the Local Government (Wales Measure 2009) and The Well-being of Future Generations Act.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: YES

Executive Board: YES (22nd March) / County Council: YES (14th April)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Corporate Overview:

Cllr. Mair Stephens (Deputy Leader)

Well-Being Objective Portfolio Holders:

Cllr Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health)

Directorate:	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses:
Communities		
Names of Heads of Service:		
Avril Bracey	Head of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities	01267 242492 abracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Alex Williams	Head of Integrated Services	AlexWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Jonathan Morgan	Head of Homes & Safer Communities	01267_228960 JMorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author:	Performance Planning & Business Officer	01267 224486 RNJames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Rob James		
Silvana Sauro	Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager	01267 228897 ssauro@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11th March 2021

Corporate Strategy 2018/23 - Update April 2021

The Draft updated Corporate Strategy 2018-23 document together with the relevant Well-being Objective (WBO) delivery plans for this Scrutiny Committee

1. The following sections within the document are **relevant to Social Care & Health Scrutiny:**

- Introduction
- WBO 8. Supporting Community Cohesion and Resilience
- WBO 9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years.
- Appendices

2. Statutory requirements. The Corporate Strategy published in June 2018 consolidated statutory planning obligations and brought together a duty to publish Improvement Objectives and Well-being Objectives. By updating the Corporate Strategy, we meet our duty to:

- publish our Improvement Objectives by the 30th June
- review our Well-being Objectives to ensure they are still valid and current.

3. Good Practice. Its good practice to ensure that our Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives are kept up to date.

What has changed

4. Mergers. Previously we had 15 Well-being Objectives and we have taken the opportunity to merge some to reduce the number to 13.

Old		New	
WbO#	Well-being Objectives 2018-21	New WbO number	Mergers <i>Well-being Objectives Merged for 2021-22</i>
3	Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners	3	Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners
4	Reduce the number of young adults that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)		

10	Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years	9	Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years
11	A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire		

5. **Specific focus for 2021/22.** These will be embedded in Well-being Objectives.

- Tackling poverty
- Community/social cohesion
- Tackling inequality
- Support for small business as part of wider economic recovery
- Local housing crisis
- Bilingual county
- Net zero carbon
- Rural regeneration
- Delivery of Pentre Awel
- Climate change with a particular focus on flooding

6. **Renaming.** To reflect the focus of a Well-being Objective it has been renamed as below: -

WbO#	Well-being Objective 2018-21	New WbO number	Re-titled for 2021-22
9	Supporting good connections with friends and family and safer communities.	8	Supporting Community Cohesion and Resilience

7. We will be consulting on the Well-being Objectives as part of budgetary consultation.

8. Departmental and Service business plans will be aligned to support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy and Well-being Objectives. Key actions and targets will be identified, and their delivery monitored quarterly.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed:

Avril Bracey Head of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities

Alex Williams Head of Integrated Services

Jonathan Morgan Head of Homes & Safer Communities

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Our key strategic policies are addressed throughout our Well-being Objectives

Crime and disorder are identified and addressed through the *Well-being Objective 8*:

Equality implications are addressed within the Well-being Objective 13: Better Governance and Use of Resources

2. Legal

The law states that:-

- a) We must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The sustainable development principle is
'... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'
- b) We must demonstrate 5 ways of working:
 Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative
- c) We must work towards achieving all of the 7 national well-being goals in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards.
 1. A prosperous Wales
 2. A resilient Wales
 3. A healthier Wales
 4. A more equal Wales
 5. A Wales of cohesive communities
 6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
 7. A globally responsible Wales

3. Finance

We need to continue to strengthen the links between Strategic and Financial Planning. The Act requires the publication of a statement detailing how a public body proposes to ensure that resources are allocated annually for the purpose of taking such steps to meet the well-being objectives. Para 53 SPSF 1

4. ICT

ICT implications are being taken forward within our Digital Transformation Strategy and feature within the *Well-being Objective 13*

5. Risk Management Issues

Our key strategic risks are identified and addressed within Service Business Plans that underpin our Well-being Objectives

6. Physical Assets

The key strategic Asset Management Plan incorporates our Well-being Objectives, Capital prioritisation takes into account the Objectives.

7. Staffing Implications

People Management Strategy issues are identified in Well-being Objective 13

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed:

Avril Bracey, Head of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities

Alex Williams, Head of Integrated Services

Jonathan Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities

1. Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Committee	Date	Outcomes
Community and Regeneration	25 th Feb	
P+R	2 nd March	
Environment and Public Protection	5 th March	
Social Care and Health	11 th March	
Education and Children's Services	17 th March	

2. Local Member(s)

NA

3. Community / Town Council

NA

4. Relevant Partners

NA

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

NA

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
YES

Include any observations here

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		The Essentials Guide
Shared purpose: shared future Statutory guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015		SPSF 1 Core guidance SPSF 2 Individual Role (public bodies)
Local Government Measure (2009)		Local Government Measure (2009)
Moving forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years		Moving forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years
Corporate Risk Register		Risk-with score 16+ (October 2020)
Budget Consultation on Well-being Objectives		Consultation Top 5
Community Impact Assessment -Coronavirus Covid-19 September 2020		Link
The Auditor General for Wales - 4 challenges to public sector 2020-25		Audit Wales
Future Generations Commissioner Post COVID-19 – 5 recommendations to public bodies		Post COVID-19 –5 recommendations
<u>8 Welsh Government Reconstruction Priorities</u>		① Full document

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Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire

The Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2023

Updated April 2021



'Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy,
safe and prosperous environment'

carmarthenshire.gov.wales

Cyngor **Sir Gâr**
Carmarthenshire
County Council



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Update News in Brief....

1. We last published an update in June 2019
2. We published an Annual Report on 2019/20 in October 2020
3. We published a Community Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in September 2020 and this has informed our approach
4. We have reviewed the Well-being Objectives and will consult upon them as part of budget consultation
5. We have amalgamated some Well-being Objectives and tweaked the names of some - *Appendix 1*

Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years

In January 2018, Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board presented its key aspirations for the next 5 years – *'Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years'*.

Given this direction, the Council published a Corporate Strategy that consolidated and aligned our plans and we have kept this strategy up to date over the last few years. This document is a refresh of the previous update of July 2019. It is important to keep our plans updated and it is a statutory requirement.

Further Challenges Facing the Council

The impact of COVID-19, Brexit uncertainty and climate change are all unprecedented challenges that we now face in addition to other pressures. Our strategic plans must take account of the challenges that we face most of which are driven by factors outside of the Council's control. However, they are factors that we have to consider as we develop and, in some instances, change the way that we work and do things. Below is an outline of key challenges.

1. The impact and recovery of the Coronavirus pandemic
2. Developing a dynamic economy in the context of Brexit
3. Addressing a climate emergency
4. Acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WbFG principle)
5. Increasing demand and complexity for services
6. Increasing expectations of provision at the same time as managing tightening budgets
7. Challenging economic position and support for local economy
8. Increasing need to strengthen the digital infrastructure and support digital inclusion for individual residents as well as public, private and third sector organisations looking to develop economic prosperity.
9. To understand our ways of working and how customer expectations have changed
10. Changing demographic profile of the county and in particular its ageing population
11. Increasing risks to ensure children and young people are protected from harm
12. Increasing deprivation and poverty with growing inequities between communities
13. Increasing legislation and regulation from Welsh Government
14. Managing the workforce risks associated with the pace of change required by the organisation.
15. New requirements as a result of the Local Government and Elections Act.
16. Welsh Government priorities may change as a result of Senedd elections

The impact of COVID-19

In September 2020 we published a [Community Impact Assessment of COVID-19](#).

This initial period of response was an enormous challenge and the organisation pulled together in a crisis to ensure that we supported our residents and communities. It saw the best of us in commitment, conscientiousness, compassion, and creativity for the well-being of our communities. The Pandemic continues and we are still adapting to ensure continued provision of services. This will be an on-going challenge and although there is now hope with the vaccine being rolled-out that the end is in sight for the initial crisis the challenges and need to find new ways of working for the longer-term will continue.

To make sure that we learn from this unprecedented experience as we reintroduce our services and re-set our strategic and operational priorities, we have been identifying our key learning points at an organisational level and across the breadth of our services. One thing is evident, we cannot and will not be returning to the pre COVID-19 "status quo". This learning will shape and reset our Well-being Objectives.

The Council's Core Values

In delivering this strategy it is important that we maintain our core values in everything we do:-



Equality and Diversity

Carmarthenshire County Council has developed a [Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24](#).

This strategic plan sets out the principles of our commitment to equality and diversity as well as outlining our objectives and how we intend to fulfil our responsibilities and ensure that we follow our principles through into practice. These objectives focus on:

1. Being a leading employer
2. The needs and rights of people with Protected Characteristics shaping the design of services
3. Safe and Cohesive communities that are resilient, fair and equal
4. Improving access to our services and access to our environment.

We will fulfil these objectives ensuring we fully take account of our duty under the Equality Act 2010 to the following **protected characteristics**:

- Age
- Race
- Sex
- Disability
- Religion and belief
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity

Bringing Plans together

This Corporate Strategy consolidates the following requirements and plans into one document:

1. It incorporates our Improvement Objectives as required by the Local Government Measure 2009 (See *Appendix 2*)
2. It includes our Well-being Objectives as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Our Well-being Objectives are set to maximise our contribution to the shared vision and set of national goals that all public bodies work towards (See *Appendix 2*)
3. It includes Carmarthenshire County Council's Executive Board key projects and programmes for the next 5 years as set out in '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years*'.

Delivering on our Plans

We have set out the steps we will take to *deliver* each objective. These steps, and the way we work will be supported by actions and targets set out in Service Business Plans.

The '*delivery plans*' behind each Well-being Objective will be monitored quarterly and scrutinised. We will report annually on progress.

We have set out how we will measure our success against our Well-being Objectives in *Appendix 5*.

'Life is for living, let's start, live and age well in a healthy, safe and prosperous environment'



Well-being Objectives

1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.

2. Help children live healthy lifestyles.

3. Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learner.

4. Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work and improving the lives of those living in poverty.

5. Create more jobs and growth throughout the county.

6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.

7. Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity).

8. Support community cohesion, resilience & safety.

9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years.

10. Look after the environment now and for the future.

11. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.

12. Promote Welsh language and culture.

13. Better Governance and Use of Resources

Start Well



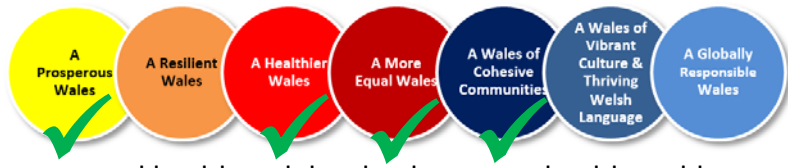


Well-being Objective 1

Start Well - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences

So why is this important?

- Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing inequalities across the life course.
- Children who experience stressful and poor-quality childhoods are more likely to experience poor mental health and develop long term health problems as they move into adulthood.
- What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being - from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status.
- There is a growing recognition of the detrimental impact which exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences in childhood, particularly multiple ACEs, can have upon physical and mental health and well-being, relationships with others, educational attainment and prosperity outcomes into adulthood.
- Looked After Children (LAC) are more likely to have been exposed to high rates of **Adverse Childhood Experiences** (ACE's) associated with poor long term outcomes before entering care.



Why this should concern us?

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) have harmful impacts on health and well-being across the life course. For every 100 adults in Wales, 47 have suffered at least one ACE during their childhood and 14 have suffered 4 or more. Children who experience stressful and poor-quality childhoods are more likely to adopt health harming behaviours. (*National Survey of ACE's in Wales*)
- Children in workless households are more likely to experience ACE's. 8.7% of children in Carmarthenshire are living in workless households, this is lower than the 2017 figure of 10.2% and is currently below Wales (12.6%) and the UK (10.5%).
- In Carmarthenshire there are currently 70 children on the Child Protection Register, 148 Looked After Children and 839 children in receipt of care and support (@ 14/12/20).

What do we need to do?

- We need to give every child the best start in life and ensure development throughout early childhood.
- We need to build resilience against adverse experiences.
- We will ensure that children with complex needs and disabilities and their families get the right support to enable them to participate as fully as possible in their communities.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will **support families** by:
 - a. working together to reduce the number of children who suffer ACEs.
 - b. working together to reduce the number of children who need to be in the care of the Local Authority.
 - c. promoting bonding and attachments to support positive good parent-child relationships.
 - d. better equipping parents and care-givers with the necessary skills to avoid ACEs arising within the home environment and encourage development of social and emotional well-being and resilience in the child.
 - e. identifying and intervening where children may already be victims of abuse, neglect or living in an adverse environment.
 - f. continuing to provide attachment awareness training in schools to ensure they become *attachment awareness schools* and are able to meet the emotional well-being needs of vulnerable children.
- B. We will ensure that every child with identified **additional learning needs (ALN)** in all Carmarthenshire schools will have access to appropriate integrated support services – e.g. Educational and Child Psychology, Sensory Impairment Service support, Specialist Advisory Teacher and Teaching Assistant support, Behaviour Support Community Team and access to family support through Family Liaison Officers.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Glynog Davies

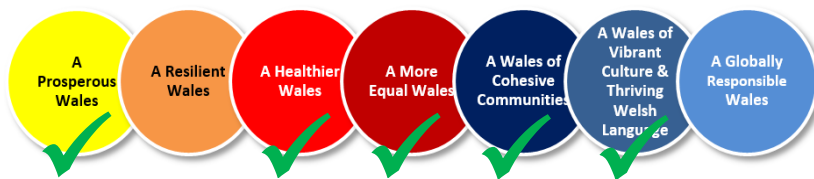


Well-being Objective 2

Start Well - Help children live healthy lifestyles

So why is this important?

- Projections suggest an increase in trends for childhood obesity with figures showing males between the ages of 2 – 15 being at greatest risk.
- Assessment engagement activity with primary school children showed being physically active to be the second most important factor for positive well-being of children aged 6 – 11, after connections with family and friends.
- Living healthy lives allows children to fulfil their potential and meet education aspirations.
- Habits established early in life remain with people to allow them to play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.



Why this should concern us?

- Carmarthenshire has the 12th highest levels of childhood obesity in Wales with 26.6% (492) of 4-5 year olds being overweight or obese, just above the Welsh average of 26.4%. *Child Measurement Programme for Wales 2017/18*
- Engagement with primary schools identified a strong link between physical activity and opportunities to play in outside spaces, and to feel safe in that environment.
- Mental health disorders in children and young people are equally as prevalent, with 1 in 10 children and young people aged five to sixteen suffering from a diagnosable mental health disorder. Between the ages of one to twelve, 1 in 15 young people deliberately self-harm.

Source: - *Our Health Our Future, Hywel Dda Interim Integrated Medium Term Plan 2016/17 - 2018/19 (page 56)*

What do we need to do?

- We need to work with partners to ensure children across Carmarthenshire: eat healthily, are physically active and maintain good mental health.
- We will address the Wales Audit Office recommendations following their review of this Well-being Objective under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.
- We need to measure activity through schools.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will increase the range of **physical activity** opportunities available for children, and target those at higher risk of inactivity.
- B. We will **address mental health** including reducing exposure to adverse childhood experiences.
- C. We will **promote eating healthy**, including through school meals, the *Healthy Schools scheme* and the *School Holiday Enrichment Programme*.
- D. We will **increase awareness** of healthy lifestyles through the Healthy Schools scheme.
- E. We will continue to develop, promote and deliver the **Flying Start Programme**.
- F. We will work with partners to deliver the Early Years Transformation Programme.
- G. We will develop a multi-agency strategy and delivery plan to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Glynog Davies

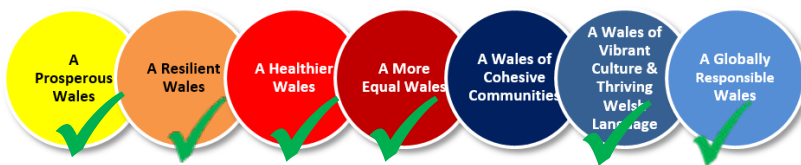


Well-being Objective 3

Start Well - Support and improve progress, achievement and outcomes for all learners

So why is this important?

- We all want all of our children and young people to have the best possible start in life by supporting them to gain the skills and knowledge they need to lead happy, healthy, fulfilling lives.
- We want to improve outcomes for all ages through lifelong learning, to enable them to thrive in 21st Century living and the world of work.
- Research by *The Institute of Education* suggests that attending a good pre-school and primary school can have more impact on children's academic progress than their gender or family background (Taggart, 2015)
- Our service remains committed to both the principles and priorities as outlined in the Welsh Government's most recent strategic document '[Education in Wales: Our National Mission.](#)'



Why this should concern us?

- There is currently a gap nationally (including Carmarthenshire) between the performance of vulnerable pupils including those eligible for free school meals (eFSM) and those who are not. This aspect of our end of key stage performance and achievement continues to challenge and concern us.
- We have a number of schools that have identified key areas of improvement through the means of their annual self-evaluation processes.
- Outcomes of international comparison activities continue to show Wales adrift from the rest of the UK.
- OECD Reports monitoring the Welsh Government's curriculum review programme acknowledges that whilst substantial progress has been achieved there are aspects to address in [specific areas](#)

What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure that all children and young people in Carmarthenshire have the best possible opportunities to study, train and gain worthwhile employment locally, regionally or nationally.
- We will ensure that all vulnerable learners including those with a disability or additional learning needs are fully included in all learning programmes.
- We will continue to further improve progress, well-being and outcomes for all learners with a focus on those who are vulnerable including those entitled to eFSM and - see also *Tackling Poverty Well-being Objective 4*.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will ensure a relentless emphasis on **improvement in pupil progress, well-being and outcomes** for all children and young people across all learning phases (focusing on vulnerable and eFSM learners) in line with the vision and aims of '*Education in Wales: Our National Mission.*'
- B. We will continue to **address low school attendance** and learner well-being.
- C. We will provide **an excellent school in the right place**.
- D. We will continue **workforce development and succession planning**.
- E. We will continue the **development of Welsh in all our services**, thus moving towards ensuring that every pupil is confidently bilingual.
- F. As part of the Carmarthenshire Curriculum development, we will focus on skills demands and employability of new and existing labour market entrants to ensure that local and regional demands are met.
- G. We will implement the **Youth Engagement and Progression Framework** to support vulnerable learners.
- H. We will ensure continuation of planning and delivery for **externally funded projects**.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Glynog Davies

Live Well



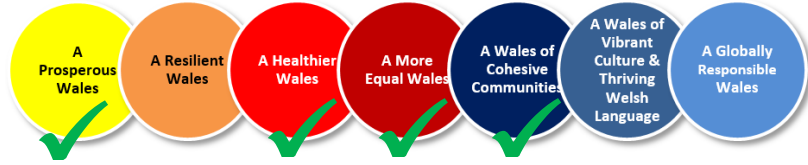


Well-being Objective 4

Start Well/Live Well - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work & improve the lives of those living in poverty

So why is this important?

- Poverty and deprivation have serious detrimental effects across all aspects of well-being. It limits the opportunities and prospects for children and young people, damages the quality of life for families and communities.
- Poverty can be a barrier to full participation in society and is too often an intergenerational experience which poses a significant threat to experiencing positive well-being both now and in the future.



Why this should concern us?

- 33.8% (27,691) of households in Carmarthenshire can be defined as **living in poverty**, 13th highest in Wales (Welsh average 32.9%). *Welsh Government defines poverty as when "household income is less than 60% of the GB median income". This means a household where income is less than £19,967 a year (2020 - 60% of £33,278).*
- We have a new statutory Socio-Economic Duty to reduce inequalities of socio-economic disadvantage.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic may have impacted more significantly on the most deprived communities.

What do we need to do?

- We need to better understand the challenges facing our county and develop a focused plan to respond accordingly. We will need to look at this in the round across the spectrum of Council and partner services with a focus on key geographical areas (akin to the current programme of work in Tyisha) and population groups who face particular disadvantages.
- We need to **prevent poverty** – there is a strong correlation between being born poor and experiencing a lifetime of poverty and many of the triggers of poverty experienced in childhood and later life are preventable if identified and addressed in a timely manner. Providing early, targeted, and holistic interventions can therefore help reduce the likelihood of poverty occurring in our communities.
- We need to **help people into work** - work is one of the most fundamental and effective means of tackling poverty in all its forms. Work provides income and opportunities for improved health and well-being.
- We need to **improve the lives of people living in poverty** by supporting those in poverty and improving access to help to maintain basic standards of living.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will undertake a fundamental review of our approach to Tackling Poverty and prepare a cross-departmental Council action plan to respond to key issues relating to poverty, rural poverty and child poverty. We will discuss this further with relevant stakeholders and Carmarthenshire PSB members
- B. Our children and education services will work to **prevent poverty** through delivering key early intervention programmes such as flying start and team around the family (TAF), and ensure that financial literacy is on the school curriculum. In addition, services such as housing will take a more proactive, preventative approach to addressing key triggers of poverty to prevent escalation of issues such as homelessness and fuel poverty.
- C. We will **help people into work** by building their confidence and skills through the dedicated Communities 4 Work and Communities 4 Work Plus programmes and targeted support for those who are furthest from the labour market e.g. those who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). We will continue to extend the Hwb model as a one stop shop for employment advice and support.
- D. We will **improve the lives of those living in poverty** through promoting and supporting greater financial literacy via services such as trading standards and housing benefits. We will also deliver initiatives to support key vulnerable groups including the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP), Toy Box & Hamper appeal (**Rural Poverty** – see also Well-being objective 5c)



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Cefin Campbell

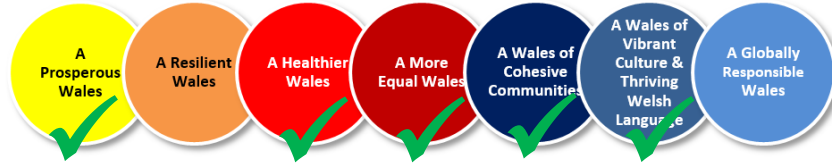


Well-being Objective 5

Live Well - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county

So why is this important?

- Providing secure and well-paid jobs for local people is central to everything we are seeking to achieve.
- Increasing employability is fundamental to tackling poverty, reducing inequalities and has a dramatic impact on our health and ability to function in everyday society.



Why this should concern us?

- As at March 2020, of the 71.5% of Carmarthenshire's workforce, 60.7% were employed in the professional/technical/skilled trade occupations - well *below* the Welsh average of 63.8%, whilst 39.2% were employed in the caring/leisure/customer service/machine operative occupations – well *above* the 35.8% Welsh average.
- We must tackle a GVA (gross value added) gap that is widening between UK GVA and Wales GVA; Total GVA in Carmarthenshire represents 4.8% of Wales total GVA, which is a relatively high share. However, GVA per job is low (£44,833), ranking 18th out of 22 authorities, indicating low productivity. *GVA is the measure of the value of the wages and profits from goods and services produced in an area.*
- The economy of Carmarthenshire has been badly affected by COVID-19 in 2020, and the employment impacts are likely to get worse in 2021. We will develop and implement a business and economy recovery plan that will enable the authority and our key partners to co-ordinate and target available resources to contain the scale of the likely economic downturn and to stimulate demand and confidence during the recovery, ensuring that Carmarthenshire's economy can recover as quickly as possible to become one which is more productive, more equal, greener, and with healthier and more sustainable communities.
- We must also strengthen the foundational economy with a particular emphasis upon developing a progressive procurement principle and supporting businesses to become more productive and able to pay higher wages.

What do we need to do?

- We need to build a knowledge-rich, creative economy by maximising employment and training places for local people through creating jobs and providing high quality apprenticeships, training and work experience opportunities, in order to have an on-going skilled and competent workforce to face the future
- We need to evolve Carmarthenshire's position in the Swansea Bay City Region (Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Neath Port Talbot) into a confident, ambitious and connected county.
- We need to continue to invest in our local rural infrastructure, including transportation to attract businesses, tourism/leisure to the county to promote economic growth and activity by building better connections and generating a strong tourism industry (see *Improving highway & transport infrastructure & connectivity* WBO13)
- We need to continue to invest in the strategic regeneration of our 3 principal towns, 10 rural market towns, key strategic employment sites and continue to support business growth.
- We need to support Welsh Government's - [Prosperity for All-the National Strategy: Economic Action Plan](#)
- Monitor the impact of Brexit on the economy of Carmarthenshire, so we can mitigate any problems and embrace all opportunities which may arise
- We need to address the issues facing rural communities as identified in the [Moving Rural Carmarthenshire Forward](#) report
- We will support those everyday businesses that are all around us and are the foundation of our economy.
- We will look to support and upscale our grounded businesses as part of our COVID-19 recovery plan, through strengthening local procurement and supply chains, supporting business diversification, upskilling and the development of fit for purpose premises for businesses to grow and flourish.

- A.** Regionally, by co-ordinating and delivering the Swansea Bay City Deal and specifically the Carmarthenshire based project of Pentre Awel
- B.** Locally, by delivering the 6 Transformational Strategy Area Plans targeting urban, coastal and rural Carmarthenshire
- C.** To develop the rural economy of Carmarthenshire in line with the emerging Rural Vision for Wales and the Council's Rural Action Plan. There will be a particular focus on the 10 Towns Initiative
- D.** To strengthen the foundational economy and community resilience. There will be a particular emphasis upon developing a progressive procurement principle and supporting businesses to become more productive and able to pay higher wages
- E.** By developing learning, skills, employability and encouraging a spirit of entrepreneurship throughout the county to support new businesses in the county (Regional Learning & Skills Partnership)
- F.** By ensuring clear business support plans in order to support any implications from Brexit
- G.** By supporting local and digital economic growth
- H.** Continue the Council's own recruitment of graduates and apprentices.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Emlyn Dole (Leader)



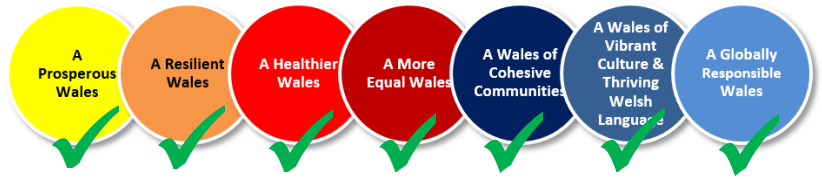


Well-being Objective 6

Live Well - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes

So why is this important?

- Good quality affordable homes promote **health and well-being**, meeting the individual needs of the residents, building strong sustainable communities and places where people want to live.
- Good quality energy efficient affordable homes are good for the **People and the Environment** - as the energy use within the home will be reduced, having a significant effect on reducing the fuel costs for the occupying residents. It will also have a significant effect on reducing pollutants in the atmosphere and mitigating fuel poverty in our communities.
- It's good for the **Social Structure** - well-placed affordable housing developments allow communities to welcome a wide range of families and to create a vibrant, diverse, group of residents. This is true for rural and urban areas.
- It's good for the **Economy** - in order to thrive, new businesses need easy access to its workforce. Affordable housing developments ensure that working families will remain in their community.



Why this should concern us?

- People told us during our consultation on affordable Housing in 2015 that we need to:
 - Target help where the need is highest, in both urban and rural areas, by delivering more affordable homes for rent and buy.
 - Be more flexible - whether by bringing wasted homes back into use, buying existing homes or building new ones.
 - Do whatever it takes by developing innovative and creative ways to deliver more homes.
 - Use our resources in the best possible way to ensure as many new homes as possible.
 - Use the expertise, skills and resources of those we work with.

What do we need to do?

- We need to provide additional affordable homes to meet the needs of residents in Carmarthenshire.
- We need to build new council homes across the County.
- We need to actively work with private landlords to encourage them to make their properties available at affordable rental levels, including bringing more private sector homes into the management of our in-house 'Simple Lettings Agency'.
- We need to work in partnership with Housing Associations in Carmarthenshire to maximize the supply of new build affordable homes.
- We need to actively work with property owners to bring empty homes back into use.
- We need to purchase homes from the private sector and increase the Council Social Housing stock.
- We need to maximize the number of affordable homes delivered through developer contributions from the planning system.
- We need to maximize all funding opportunities for both the Council and Housing Associations.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A.** We will deliver all of the above through our [Affordable Homes Delivery Plan](#) and the Council's new build programme. Our plans to increase the supply of affordable homes to buy and rent will have a huge impact on the health, economic, social and cultural well-being of the County. We will also continue to bring empty homes back into use to increase choice and provide the right type of home in the right areas.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Linda Evans

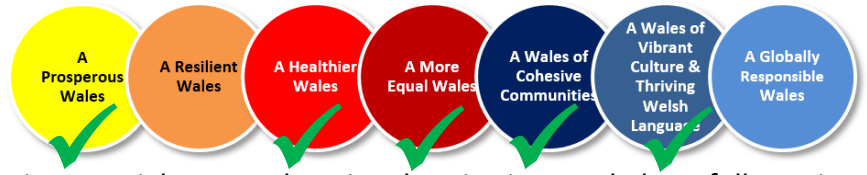


Well-being Objective 7

Live Well - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)

So why is this important?

- Our way of life is changing, people are living longer with a higher quality of life.
- The challenge is to prevent ill health.
- Living healthy lives allows people to fulfil their potential, meet educational aspirations and play a full part in the economy and society of Carmarthenshire.
- Many of the preventive services and interventions required to maintain health, independence and well-being lie outside health and social care.
- Playing a part in providing accessible, inclusive, exciting, sustainable services, which promote and facilitate learning, culture, heritage, information, well-being and leisure.



Why this should concern us?

- There is a significant gap in life expectancy and a healthy life expectancy. In Carmarthenshire:
 - Life expectancy for males is 77.8 years (2016-18) compared to a healthy life expectancy of 65 years (2010-14)
 - Life expectancy for females is 82.3 years (2016-18) compared to a healthy life expectancy of 66 years (2010-14)
 - Healthy life expectancy of both males and females are below the Welsh average of 65.3 and 66.7 years.
- 16.2% of adults are still smoking in Carmarthenshire and 63.6% of adults are overweight or obese (Welsh Average of 59.9%) National Survey for Wales 2018/19 & 2019/20
- Referrals to substance misuse services have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and we are seeing an increase in associated issues such as Alcohol Related Brain Damage.
- The comorbidity of mental health and substance misuse is also a matter of concern.

What do we need to do?

- We need to work with partners to ensure people across Carmarthenshire:
 - Eat and breathe healthily
 - Are physically active; and
 - Maintain good mental health.
- We need to remove inequalities around opportunities for people to address these areas

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. Eat and breathe healthily:** We will provide healthy food and drink options at our Culture, Leisure and Outdoor Recreation facilities, whilst making more and more of these services available online as well. We will ensure that our outdoor recreation facilities i.e. Country Parks, open spaces and Rights of Way networks are maintained and can be accessed safely and enjoyed by everyone.
- B. Physical Activity:** We will continue investment in the new state of the art Pentre Awel (Wellness Village) in Llanelli; work in partnership with schools and the voluntary and health sectors to get “more people more active more often”; and, enable employers to support Workplace Health initiatives.
- C. Mental Health:** We will continue to work with health and third sector partners to transform mental health services and respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of our population in Carmarthenshire. We will collaborate to improve access to information, advice, preventive and crisis services. We will aim for people to experience the positive health benefits of taking inspiration from our Cultural collections to promote creativity, mindfulness and self-confidence.
- D. Substance Misuse:** We will collaborate with partners to raise public awareness of Substance Misuse and develop a range of collaborative interventions to improve outcomes in this area.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Peter Hughes Griffiths

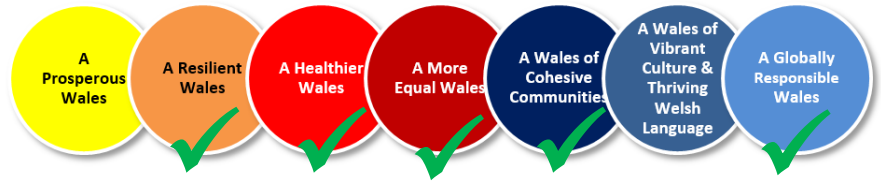


Well-being Objective 8

Live Well/Age Well - Support community cohesion, resilience & safety

So why is this important?

- Safety and a feeling of belonging are important to personal well-being and more people now appreciate the value of kindness and being part of a community.
- Public bodies have clear obligations to create and support cohesive communities in Wales. Cohesive Communities is one of the National Goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. A cohesive community is an area where those from different backgrounds share positive relationships, feel safe in their neighbourhood, and have a sense of mutual respect and shared values.
- **Community Resilience** is also essential to enable communities to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. The COVID-19 crisis has shown what can be achieved when communities work together.



Why this should concern us?

- Only half (51.5%) of Carmarthenshire residents feel they live in cohesive communities, where people treat each other with respect and consideration, that people from different backgrounds get on well together, and feel they belong to their local area. Five years ago, the figure was 73% and we had the 5th best result in Wales whereas now we are ranked 14th out of the 22 local authority areas (National Survey for Wales, 2018/19).
- Feeling safe at home and in the local community impacts on everyone's sense of well-being. In particular, the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of our population is significant.

What do we need to do? [See FG Report May 2020 – A Wales of Cohesive Communities](#)

- We need to continue to build greater community cohesion and to support and empower communities to address their safety, collective well-being, and the well-being of those within the community.
- We will collaborate with partners to ensure a multi-agency response to mental health and well-being.
- We need to ensure services provide proactive information, advice, access, and assistance fairly to all.
- We need to work with partners to help communities feel safer. This includes road safety, public protection, tackling anti-social behaviour and protecting vulnerable people including victims of domestic abuse.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will continue to develop and implement how we provide information, advice, and assistance.
- B. For greater community cohesion we will:
 - Increase understanding of our communities by engaging and communicating key issues
 - Ensure individuals whose safety is at risk understand the support available
 - Encourage communities to be empowered to improve their circumstances
 - Support a culture of tolerance and raise awareness of minority communities' experiences
- C. We will encourage resilience and develop an early intervention and community resilience strategy to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and well-being of our population.
- D. We will continue to work with partners to help our residents feel safe, building on the partnership and regeneration work taking place in Tyisha.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Cefin Campbell

Age Well



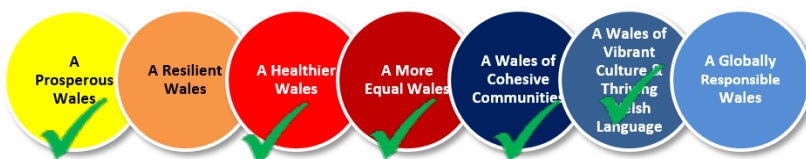


Well-being Objective 9

Age Well - Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years

So why is this important?

- Carmarthenshire has a high proportion of residents over 65 who are a vital and vibrant part of the community. We want the county to be a place to age well.
- Consultations have demonstrated that 'what matters' to older people is to be able to be as independent and as well as possible for as long as possible.
'Being respected as an older person and not being seen as a burden on the local health and social care system'
- Research shows that a vital factor of healthy ageing is for older people is social participation, respect and inclusion.
- Older people contribute to the economy in Carmarthenshire by caring for their grandchildren or other family members.
- Wider services can make an important contribution in supporting and sustaining the independence of older people and reducing the demand on Social Services and Health Care.
- The Council has determined to make Carmarthenshire a dementia friendly County along the lines of the [Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friendly Community Programme](#).
- The impact of COVID-19 on our care homes



Why this should concern us?

- Current projections suggest that the population of people over 65 living in Carmarthenshire is growing and by 2030 this will increase by 60%. There has been, and continues to be, a significant increase in the 'oldest of the old' with the greatest rise represented in the over 85 age group: with a predicted growth of 116%.
- Older people are statistically more likely to have a life limiting health condition with 55% of the over 65 population reporting having a long-term illness or disability. Demand for hospital and community services by those aged 75 and over is in general more than three times greater than from those aged between 30 and 40.
- Whilst the people of Carmarthenshire are living longer there is not a similar trend in increased years of being well. This is defined as healthy and disability-free life expectancy and it is rising more slowly than life expectancy. In simple terms this means that people are living longer with illness and disabilities. For males in the area, life expectancy is 77.4, with disability free life estimated at 59.4 and healthy life at 64. For females, it is 82, with 61.2 disability free years and 65.7 healthy ones.
- It is essential that we lay robust foundations to future proof the availability of services that promote and support ongoing well-being and independence for our frail older adult population.
- Older people are a significant asset to Wales, worth over £1bn to the Welsh economy annually. We must take forward an asset-based approach which, rather than focusing on the costs of providing services for older people, considers instead the cost of not investing in older people.
- When surveyed older people have told us that they want as much support as possible to help them do the things they enjoy and to be able to manage day to day.

What do we need to do?

- The introduction of vaccine centres is a way out of the COVID-19 pandemic
- We need to continue to integrate health and social care at population health level to address the complex needs associated with age related multiple conditions and frailty.
- We need to work with individuals and communities together with the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop and promote Age-friendly Communities in Carmarthenshire across the domains of civic participation, communication and information social participation, outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, respect and social inclusion, housing and community support and health services.

- We need a 'joined-up' approach across all Council departments to support independent living and to help older people live in their communities. Making sure that the impact of all service changes on elderly people are carefully thought through.
- We need to involve older people who are often '*experts by experience*' and know the services they need to remain active and independent in their communities.
- We need to work with Public Services Board (PSB) to achieve the Older People's Commissioner for Wales' targets for inclusion in the PSBs *Well-Being Plan*.
- We need to reflect on research undertaken by the Older People's Commissioner's Office 'Leave no-one behind: Action for an age-friendly recovery' and respond to the Welsh Government's Strategy for an Ageing Society: age friendly Wales, as we transition from the pandemic
- We need to focus on outcome-based approaches to draw out the changes and improvements seen in an individual's life – we need to build services around the outcomes that older people need.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our [Departmental and Service Business Plans](#)

The Welsh Government commissioned a Parliamentary Review of the Long-Term Future of Health and Social Care: '*A Healthier Wales*' is the Welsh Government's response to that Review. The report adopts a '*Quadruple Aim*'. They are to continually work towards:

- A.** Improved population health and well-being;
- B.** Better quality and more accessible health and social care services;
- C.** Higher value health and social care; and
- D.** A motivated and sustainable health and social care workforce.

In response, we have developed our approach in partnership to delivering '*A Healthier Carmarthenshire*', and in doing this we have looked at how we will improve outcomes for older people in the County. In doing this, the Council will also take account of the *Older People's Commissioner's* priorities, Welsh Government *Strategy for an ageing society: age friendly Wales*, and the *World Health Organisation's* age friendly priorities for action.



Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment



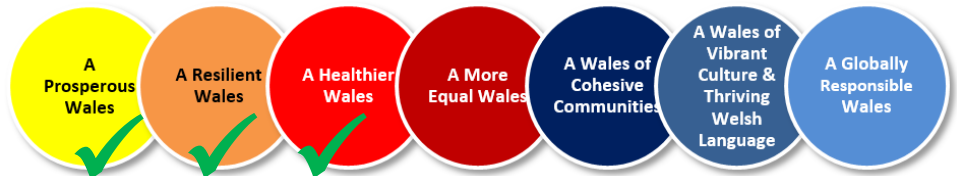


Well-being Objective 10

Healthy & Safe Environment - Look after the environment now and in the future

Why is this important?

- The *Natural Environment* is a core component of sustainable development. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 expands the duty placed on public bodies, requiring them to *maintain & enhance biodiversity & promote ecosystem resilience*.
- A biodiverse natural environment, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience. Carmarthenshire's natural environment is the natural resource on which much of our economy is based – *tourism, farming, forestry, and renewable energy*. It is a major factor that attracts people, both young and older to live, work and visit the county, bringing inward investment with them.
- The *conservation and enhancement of biodiversity* is vital in our response to climate change and key ecosystem services such as food, flood management, pollination, clean air and water.
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic showed the strong relationship between *residents' well-being and their surrounding natural environment* from providing recreational opportunities, to psychological positivity, health benefits and a connection to heritage and culture.
- We have declared a *climate emergency* as a Council and were the first in Wales to have published our [Route Towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030](#). In July 2020 public services across Wales [pledged to ensuring decarbonisation](#).



Why this should concern us?

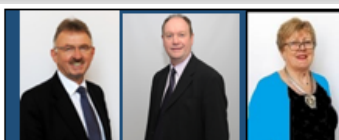
- The environment contributes £8.8 billion of goods and services annually to the Welsh economy, 9% of Welsh GDP and 1 in 6 Welsh jobs; with the environment being relatively more important to the Welsh economy than is the case for the other UK nations.
- Annual budget consultation results show that 'Looking after the environment now and for the future' is the second most important Well-being Objective to citizens.
- A biodiverse natural environment, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supports social, economic and ecological resilience, as well as our health and well-being. Ash Dieback will see significant tree loss.
- The COVID-19 pandemic saw an increased appreciation of the benefits of access to the natural environment and air quality, and concerns about fly-tipping, littering and recycling.
- Rising sea levels are likely to impact not only the 6,388 properties in Carmarthenshire already at risk of tidal and rising river level flooding, but additional properties along our coastal and river communities as a result of increased frequency and intensity of storm events such as storms Callum and Dennis. A biodiverse natural environment will be more resilient to both climate change, and changes in sea level.

What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure that in delivering all our strategies, plans, projects and programmes for development, the road to economic growth and the attraction of inward investment, we deliver our Environment (Wales) Act duties and actively maintain and protect biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience.
- We need to sustain and enhance natural & built spaces to encourage healthy living for residents & visitors.
- We need to support ecological resilience within our rural and urban communities.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- We will work to improve the environment, biodiversity and ecosystem resilience and comply with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and play our role in ensuring nature recovery.
- We will plan, design, and build sustainable communities and infrastructure for the future to address long term challenges and ensure well-being and embrace the spirit of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.
- We will implement the Route towards becoming a Net Zero Carbon Local Authority by 2030 and support the Carmarthenshire Global Goalkeepers Climate Action 8-point Manifesto.
- We will mitigate the effects of flooding and damage caused by rising sea levels and increased frequency of storms as far as is reasonably practicable with respect to our natural and built environment, including properties, through delivering our obligations under the Flood and Water Management Act; we will address the lessons learnt from storms Callum and Dennis. We will manage our coastline assets in accordance with the Shoreline Management Plan.
- We will deliver actions from the 'Towards Zero Waste strategy', to become a high recycling nation by 2025 and a zero-waste nation by 2050.



Lead Executive Board Members:
Cllr Phillip Hughes, Cllr Cefin Campbell
& Cllr Hazel Evans

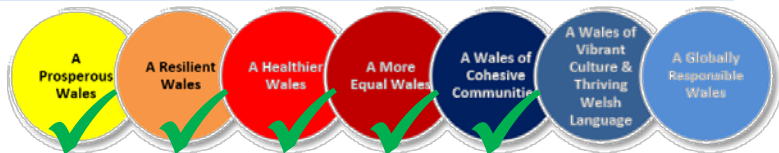


Well-being Objective 11

Healthy & Safe Environment - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity

Why is this important?

- Transportation & highways play a key role in sustaining our community and deliver 'Prosperity for All.' A modern, successful economy is reliant upon the safe and efficient movement of people and goods; providing opportunities for people to gain access to employment, education, health, leisure and shopping.
- *United and connected* is one of the four Welsh Government aims in its 'Taking Wales Forward' plan. Providing integrated and affordable access for businesses, for residents and visitors can stimulate economic development, reductions in deprivation and social exclusion and an increase in well-being.
- Sustaining access to services will deliver improvements in health and well-being for all sections of the community e.g. that includes walking, cycling, passenger and road transport.
- By 2030 South West Wales will be a confident, ambitious and connected City Region.



Why this should concern us?

- Our highway network is the second largest in Wales covering 3,545 Kilometres, more than double the Welsh average of 1,566 Kilometres; covering 16 million square metres of carriageway.
- The condition of our roads was ranked 17th out of 22 across Wales in 2017/18.
- 18.8% of residents do not have access to a car or van. However, 43.5% of households have one car per household, which may indicate reduced accessibility in areas not well served by public transport.
- Only 55% aged 80 or over have access to a car/van therefore public transport and community based services are important to enable people to continue to live within their communities; it can mean the difference between a person staying independent at home or entering residential care.
- Air quality is a concern in Llandeilo, Carmarthen and Llanelli. [Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on Air Quality.](#)

What do we need to do? [The FG Commissioners May 2020 Report - Transport](#)

- We need to improve connectivity and support access to services.
- We need to develop a transportation system that will enable businesses to grow and flourish in line with our economic ambitions as an authority
- We need to sustain investment into our public and community transport systems and facilitate travel to and from schools to support our Modernising Education Programme.
- We need to also invest in infrastructure to support more sustainable journeys and Active Travel. For example, through cycle ways, footpaths and public transport infrastructure.
- We need to continue to sustain investment in our existing highway infrastructure to improve connectivity.
- We need to ensure our fleet of vehicles are safe, modern and efficient, and design our replacement strategy to adapt to changes in vehicle technology.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will develop the highway infrastructure to meet the priorities of our Regeneration Plan and Swansea Bay City Deal. We will continue to develop a new highway at Cross Hands and develop strategic schemes to connect communities to promote 'Active Travel' and tourism.
- B. We will continue the successful integrated public transport network such as Bwcabus/LINC and Traws Cymru, develop a Metro for South West Wales to integrate Active Travel, bus and rail stations and work with regional colleagues to improve rail connectivity and journey times to West Wales.
- C. We will plan to redesign our school transport network to support the Modernising Education Programme.
- D. We will continue to support community and rural transport (see Well-being Objective 5, Step C)
- E. We will meet our objectives set out in our Road Safety Strategy.
- F. We will continue to modernise our vehicle fleet to improve efficiency and reduce emissions, and support the development of electrical vehicle charging infrastructure.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Hazel Evans



Well-being Objective 12

Healthy & Safe Environment - Promote Welsh Language and Culture

So why is this important?

- Carmarthenshire is a stronghold for the Welsh language and is considered to be of high strategic importance in its future.
- Bilingualism is beneficial to both the economy and individuals through cognitive and social benefits.
- It is a unique selling point. Tourist and hospitality industries throughout Europe are now realising the importance of offering unique experiences. Having two languages and a sense of Welsh history and culture places Carmarthenshire in a strong position.
- Engaging in cultural activity has demonstrable positive impact on starting well, living well and ageing well.



Why this should concern us?

- According to the results of the 2019/20 National Survey for Wales **37.4%** of people in Carmarthenshire said that they spoke Welsh. *(Based on a sample of 12,400 in Wales)*
- The 2011 Census showed that the number of Welsh speakers in Carmarthenshire had reduced to **43.9%** compared to 50.1% in 2001.
- The Welsh Government's ambition, through the [Cymraeg 2050 - Welsh language Strategy](#), is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using Welsh reach a **million by 2050**.
- The Welsh Government's [Light Springs through the Dark: A Vision for Culture in Wales](#) is reinforcing the importance of culture as a priority.

What do we need to do?

- We need to ensure compliance with the [Welsh Language Standards](#)
- We need to continue to implement and promote the 'WESP' [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#) in partnership with school leaders for the benefit of all Carmarthenshire learners. *(Also see WBO3)*
- We need to promote the use of the Welsh Language in our communities working with partners such as Mentrau Iaith, Urdd and Mudiad Meithrin to realise the vision set out in our [Welsh Language Promotion Strategy](#)
- We need to promote ourselves as a bilingual employer & explore the possibilities of doing so in cooperation with other public sector organisations in the County, with a key focus on our apprenticeships programme
- We need to develop the language skills of our staff and the use of the Welsh Language in the workplace and ensure that we take advantage of technological developments to this aim
- We need to ensure that economic development and prosperity of the Welsh language happen side by side by regenerating rural economies and communities
- We need to increase the number of people participating in cultural activity
- We need to ensure that our County's heritage assets are protected and accessible for future generations.

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

- A. We will implement and monitor the **Welsh Language Standards** under the Welsh Language Measures 2011.
- B. We will continue the **development of Welsh in all our Education services**, thus moving towards ensuring that every pupil is confidently bilingual. Pupils can fulfil their potential in gaining skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide.
- C. We will assess the impact of **Language Promotion Strategy**, which will facilitate the use of Welsh in everything we do across all communities and start revising the strategy with key partners
- D. We will promote our **Welsh Culture & Heritage**
- E. We will continue to support our Annual Cultural awards, whilst working with local communities to promote the annual village and town of Culture.



Lead Executive Board Member
Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths

Better Governance & Use of Resources



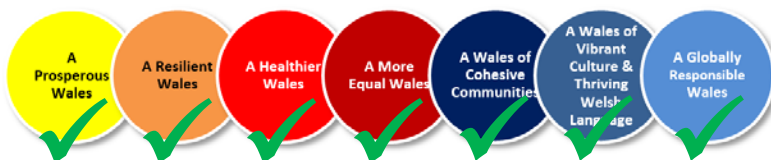


Well-being Objective 13

Better Governance and use of Resources

So why is this important?

- The general purpose of the *Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015*, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the Well-being of Wales take the needs of future generations into account. To make this work there are key areas of corporate change that are required by the Act.
- There are increasing demands and expectations yet less resources are available. Under these conditions we need to work even more efficiently and effectively to maintain services and improve where we can, delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.
- The way we work needs to focus on the long term, working in partnership and collaboration, involving people more, preventing problems before they materialise and ensuring we work in an integrated way to maximise our resources and reduce duplication; one of the ways we do this is through the Public Services Board (PSB).



Why this should concern us?

- There are further financial pressures as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Brexit.
- The Pandemic has shown the importance of digital connectivity and new ways of working.

What do we need to do?

- Our Transform, Innovate and Change (TIC) approach will make sure that we take the opportunity to learn the lessons of the COVID-19 Pandemic and build on the of the new ways of working that were successful.
- We will comply with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act on the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance, and performance.
- We will apply the new Socio-Economic Duty to reduce inequalities due to socio-economic disadvantage.
- We will invest in regeneration through the council's capital programme by developing and building employment space for businesses and providing financial support to the private sector for development.
- We will make better use of our resources which will help to minimise the impact on services primarily by making smarter use of our buildings, our people, and our spending.
- We need to embed tackling inequality across all Services. See A More Equal Wales

Our steps to improve this Actions to deliver these are in our Departmental and Service Business Plans

A. By transforming innovating and changing the way we work and deliver services.

Our *Transform, Innovate and Change* (TIC) programme is aimed at thinking differently, acting differently and therefore delivering differently.

B. We shall follow the 7 Principles of Good Governance set out Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/ Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE):

B1. Integrity and Values (*Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law*)

B2. Openness and engagement (*Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement*)

B3. Making a difference (*Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, & environmental benefits*)

B4. Making sure we achieve what we set out to do (*Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes*)

B5. Valuing our people; engaging, leading and supporting (*Developing capacity and the capability of leadership and individuals*)

B6. Managing risks, performance and finance (*Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management*)

B7. Good transparency and accountability (*good practices, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability*)



Lead Executive Board Members
Cllr David Jenkins &
Cllr Mair Stephens

APPENDICES



Well-being Objective - Mergers and rewording

Life is for living. Let's start well, live well, age well in a healthy safe and prosperous environment.

	OLD		NEW		
	No.	Well-being Objective's 2018-21	No.	Well-being Objective 2021-22	Specific focus for 2021/22
Start Well	1	Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences	1	Continue	• Expansion of Flying Start under the auspices of the Early years transformation programme
	2	Help children live healthy lifestyles (Childhood Obesity)	2	Continue	• Tackling children's mental health issues – possibly resulting from lockdown measures
	3	Support and improve progress and achievement for all learners	3	Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure learners are supported to re-engage in learning and regain any learning lost due to COVID • Ensure that those in examination group are well supported in order that they can follow their chosen pathway
	4	Ensure all young people are in Education, Employment or Training (EET) and are following productive learning and career pathways.			
Live Well	5	Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, helping people into work and improving the lives of those living in poverty	4	Continue	• Tackling Poverty
	6	Create more jobs and growth throughout the county	5	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SME & foundational economy • Rural regeneration • Pentre Awel
	7	Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes	6	Continue	• Local housing crisis - escalating costs and second homes
	8	Help people live healthy lives (Tackling risky behaviour and Adult obesity)	7	Continue	
	9	Support good connections with friends, family and safer communities	8	Support community cohesion, resilience, and safety	• Community Cohesion
Age Well	10	Support the growing numbers of older people to maintain dignity and independence in their later years	9	Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years	• Age Friendly Communities
	11	A Council wide approach to supporting Ageing Well in Carmarthenshire			
In a healthy and safe environment	12	Look after the environment now and for the future	10	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change with particular focus on flooding • Net Zero Carbon
	13	Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity	11	Continue	
	14	Promoting Welsh Language and Culture	12	Continue	• Supporting national target of a million Welsh speakers
Corporate Governance	15	Building a better Council Making Better use of Resources	13	Better Governance and use of Resources	• Embed tackling inequality across all of the Council's objectives

Statutory Requirements

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 are separate but interconnected legal obligations and the requirements of both are fully aligned and combined in this Corporate Strategy.

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009

- The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 requires the Council to set Improvement Objectives every year. They do not have to change every year or be deliverable within one year.
- Our Improvement Objectives are essentially the same as our Well-being Objectives as they are based on a thorough evidence-based understanding of the communities we serve and local needs. We compare our service performance and satisfaction results with all councils in Wales to make sure we improve where we most need to.
- We have a duty to improve, often delivering 'more (or even the same) for less'.

Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

The general purpose of the Act, is to ensure that the governance arrangements of public bodies for improving the well-being of Wales, take the needs of future generations into account. The Act is designed to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, in accordance with sustainable development principles. The law states that: -

- a) We must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The sustainable development principle is
'... the public body must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'
- b) We must demonstrate use of the 5 ways of working:
Long term, integrated, involving, collaborative and preventative
- c) We must work towards achieving all of the 7 national well-being goals in the Act. Together they provide a shared vision for public bodies to work towards.

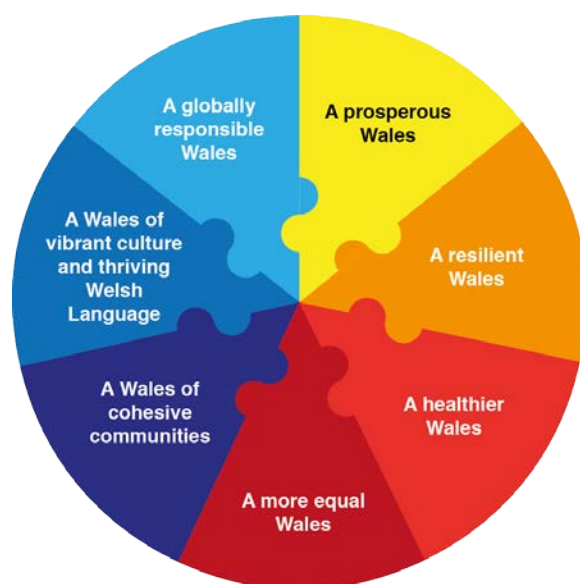
For the first time in Wales, the Well-being of Future Generations Act, provides a shared vision for all public bodies in Wales to work towards. As a public body subject to the Act we are required to set and publish Well-being Objectives that maximise our Contribution to the Well-being Goals.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance, and performance. The Act will replace the current improvement duty for principal councils set out in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. We will report on 2021-22 under the terms of the new Act.

Socio-economic duty

From 31st March 2021, this duty will require councils, when taking strategic decisions such as 'deciding priorities and setting objectives', to consider how their decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage.



Financing the Council's Well-being Objectives

The financial position faced by local authorities has had a consistent theme over the last decade, with the level of resources available to public services seeing significant reductions, which means that we have less money to invest in services now than we have in the past. Over the last five years we have had to manage reductions in service budgets of around £**m, whilst at the same time the pressures on the budget have been increasing in terms of demand and expectations. We strive to manage this situation by reducing our spending without any significant impact on the frontline services valued by our communities.

1. Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences



To Follow.....

2. Help children live healthy lifestyles



3 Support and improve progress, achievement and outcomes for all learners



4 Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty



5 Create more jobs and growth throughout the county



6. Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes



7 Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour and obesity)



8. Support community cohesion, resilience and safety



9. Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years



10. Look after the environment now and for the future



11. Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity



12. Promote Welsh Language and Culture



13. Better governance and use of resources



Statements of Intent

Well-being Statement

We welcome our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act. We have already addressed much of the new Act's requirements but recognise that we can do more.

1. We feel that our Well-being Objectives contribute significantly to the achievement of the National Well-being Goals. Our Well-being Objectives relate to different aspects of life's course and address well-being in a systematic way.
2. These Well-being Objectives have been selected with considerable consultation feedback and a basket of different sources of information on need, performance data and regulatory feedback. In developing action plans to achieve these objectives we will involve people (in all their diversity) with an interest in achieving them.
3. The steps we take to achieve the Well-being Objectives (our action plans) will look to ensure that long term, preventative, integrated, collaborative and involvement approaches are fully embraced.
4. An Executive Board member has a specific responsibility for the overall Act. In addition, each Executive Board portfolio holder/s will have responsibility for the relevant Well-being Objectives.
5. To ensure that we take these action plan steps we will use our in house developed Performance Information Monitoring System dashboard. All the action plans will be monitored and reported on quarterly to Department Management Teams, Corporate Management Team and Executive Board. In addition, progress will be reported to Scrutiny Committees. The Council will prepare an Annual Report on its Well-being Objectives and revise the objectives if required.
6. The content of action plans to achieve the Well-being Objectives are adequately resourced and embedded in service business plans (see financial breakdown Appendix 3). To achieve these objectives services will 'join-up' and work together, work with partners and fully involve citizens in all their diversity.
7. Our Objectives are long term, but our action plans will include milestones that will enable monitoring and assurance of progress.
8. To ensure that our Well-being Objectives are deliverable and that the expectations of the Act are embraced we will adapt financial planning, asset management, risk assessment, performance management and scrutiny arrangements.
9. In May 2020 the Future Generations Commissioner published the Future Generations Report 2020 and made recommendations for public bodies that we will consider for 2021/22 in Service Business Plans.

How we measure the success of our Well-being Objectives

The Council is working with local, regional and national partners to improve the following measures.

Well-being Objectives		Success measures
Start Well	WBO 1 - Help to give every child the best start in life and improve their early life experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in care with 3 or more placements in the year
	WBO 2 - Help children live healthy lifestyles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children overweight or obese
	WBO 3 - Support and improve progress, achievement, and outcomes for all learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average Capped 9 points score for pupils Primary & Secondary School attendance rates Satisfaction with child's primary school Year 11 & 13 leavers Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)
Live Well	WBO 4 - Tackle poverty by doing all we can to prevent it, help people into work and improve the lives of those living in poverty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap in average Capped 9 points score for those eligible for Free School Meals and those who are not eligible Households successfully prevented from becoming homeless Households in material deprivation Households Living in Poverty
	WBO 5 - Create more jobs and growth throughout the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment figures Jobs created with Regeneration assistance Average Gross weekly pay Number qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above People moderately or very satisfied with jobs
	WBO 6 - Increase the availability of rented and affordable homes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of affordable homes in the County
	WBO 7 - Help people live healthy lives (tackling risky behaviour & obesity).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults who say their general health is Good or Very Good Adults who say they have a longstanding illness Adult mental well-being score Adults who have fewer than two healthy lifestyle behaviours
	WBO 8 - Support community cohesion, resilience and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People that have a sense of community People feeling safe

Well-being Objectives		Key success measure
Age Well	WBO 9 - Support older people to age well and maintain dignity and independence in their later years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rate of people kept in hospital while waiting for social care People agree there's a good Social Care Service available in the area Number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant People who are lonely
	WBO 10 - Look after the environment now and for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable energy generated Waste reused, recycled or composted
In A Healthy, Safe & Prosperous Environment	WBO 11 - Improve the highway and transport infrastructure and connectivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road conditions Road casualties
	WBO 12 - Promote Welsh Language and Culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can speak Welsh People attended arts events in Wales People visited historic places in Wales People visited museums in Wales
	WBO 13 - Better Governance and use of Resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Do it online' payments People can access information about the Authority in the way they would like to People know how to find what services the Council provides People have an opportunity to participate in making decisions about the running of local authority services Staff sickness absence levels Organisational 'running costs' We ask for people's views before setting the budget

Outcome Measures

The Well-being of Future Generations Act promotes a shift in focus from service productivity, to all public bodies working together to progress outcomes that improves the quality of life of citizens and communities, both now and in the future.

How Services 'Join-up' to deliver Well-being Objectives

Dec 2020

Lead Officer		✓	WBO 1	WBO 2	WBO 3	WBO 4	WBO 5	WBO 6	WBO 7	WBO 8	WBO 9	WBO 10	WBO 11	WBO 12	WBO 13
Supporting Officer		✓													
CEX	Admin & Law	Linda Rees Jones													✓
	People Mgt	Paul Thomas				✓	✓		✓						✓
	Regeneration	Jason Jones				✓	✓						✓		✓
	ICT & Corp Policy	Noelwyn Daniel			✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓
CS	Financial Services	Randal Hemingway													✓
	Revenues & Financial Compliance	Helen Pugh				✓									✓
Communities	Head of Adult Social Care	Avril Bracey		✓					✓	✓	✓				
	Regional Collaboration	Martyn Palfreman		✓						✓	✓				
	Integrated Services	Alex Williams							✓	✓	✓				
	Homes & Safer Comm.	Jonathan Morgan				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
	Leisure	Ian Jones		✓					✓			✓		✓	
E&CS	Edu & Inclusion	Aneurin Thomas	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓					
	Curr & Wellbeing	Aeron Rees	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	
	Access to Education	Simon Davies	✓	✓	✓		✓								
	Children	Stefan Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓					
ENV	Property	Jonathan Fearn			✓		✓	✓				✓			✓
	Planning	Llinos Quelch		✓			✓	✓	✓			✓			✓
	Trans.& Highways	Stephen Pilliner	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Waste & Env.	Ainsley Williams		✓							✓	✓			✓

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SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2021

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CARMARTHENSHIRE'S ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the report is accepted, and that the immediate and longer-term impact of Covid-19 is considered.

Reasons:

To provide Scrutiny Committee with a position statement regarding how adult social care services have continued to manage during the second wave of the pandemic and highlight the service priorities going forward.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Jake Morgan Report Author Avril Bracey Alex Williams Jonathan Morgan Chris Harrison	Designations: Director of Community Services Head of Adult Social Care Head of Integrated Services Head of Homes and Safer Communities Head of Strategic Commissioning	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses: 01267 248900 AlexWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11TH MARCH 2021

**IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CARMARTHENSHIRE'S
ADULT SOCIAL CARE SERVICES**

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This document is a position statement regarding the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on Adult Social Care services in Carmarthenshire.

The report describes how we have managed the second wave of the pandemic, lessons learnt and how this is informing our priorities going forward.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

Yes

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Avril Bracey

Head of Adult Social care

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
YES	NONE	YES	YES	NONE	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

We must make sure that we learn from this unprecedented experience as we reintroduce our services and re-set our strategic and operational priorities. We must identify our key learning points at a service and organisational level.

We will need to align our vision and business plans with the revised corporate '*Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire 5 Year Plan*', *Corporate Strategy* and *Well-being Objectives*.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to inevitable widespread changes to the way in which services are delivered by local authorities. We will need to reprioritise services and our resources in budget setting.

It is critical that Local Authorities involve those who use services and their carers and adhere to equality policies when resetting social care service priorities.

3. Finance

We have continued to draw down financial support from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund, to help offset some of the additional costs associated with Covid. It is difficult to predict at this stage how this crisis will impact on long-term demand and consequently spend, but we continue to monitor.

We have continued to see some challenges in achieving our predicted PBBs this year. This is offset to an extent by reduced costs following changes in service provision such as Day Services.

4. ICT:

Digital solutions will play an ever-increasing role in shaping what we do. Technology and forms of virtual communication have been invaluable through this time

6. Staffing implications:

Staffing has remained relatively stable during the pandemic and staff have demonstrated remarkable resilience. The pandemic has required our workforce to be flexible and adaptive and this will need to continue in the long-term due to future uncertainties.

7. Physical Assets:

Significant implications on current and future use of physical assets, with greater challenges for building based services including reduced capacity, enhanced infection control and safe working practices.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Alex Williams

Head of Integrated Services

1. Local Member(s)- N/A
2. Community / Town Council – N/A
3. Relevant Partners – N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Monthly meetings with trade unions ongoing. Corporate staff surveys informing service. Regular team meetings and briefing ongoing via Teams online.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED:**

YES

Cllr J. Tremlett, Executive Board Member for Social Care & Health has been kept up to date regarding how we have managed the pandemic, our recovery plans and priorities going forward. Cllr. Tremlett is fully supportive and thanks staff for their dedication during this challenging time.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

None

Impact of COVID-19 on Carmarthenshire's Adult Social Care Services

Social Care & Health
Scrutiny Committee
11th March, 2021

carmarthenshire.gov.uk



Health and Social Care Scrutiny Report: Covid-19 Position Statement

Introduction

The Committee will recall that an update was provided at the meeting on 19th November 2020 surrounding how the Council had continued to deliver adult social care services, in the face of the pandemic. This report provides an updated position on how we have continued to support those who receive services and their families, continued to do this safely, and continued to protect our staff and the people of Carmarthenshire.

1. Impact of Covid on Services

From an Integrated Services and Adult Social Care perspective, we have continued to as far as possible maintain business as usual. We have continued to support people who need our help in the community and need support to be discharged from hospital. We have continued to offer Information Advice and Assistance (IAA) in line with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act and carried out social care assessments where required.

It is fair to say that the second wave has been very different to the first, and brought with it very different challenges. Our staff and managers have continued to be remarkable and no degree of thanks or appreciation will have been able to demonstrate how truly grateful we are for their ongoing support and commitment to the service. This was most recently recognised in our recent CIW Assurance Check which took place during the first week of February. We will be receiving formal feedback in due course, but the headline feedback we had at the end of the inspection week was testament to how committed our staff have been through this most challenging of times.

The most significant area of risk and greatest impact of Covid-19 has continued to be in relation to the care home sector in Carmarthenshire, in particular care homes for older people. In the second wave, we have experienced significantly more care home outbreaks and a very high level of homes under 'exclusion' to new admissions due to positive cases. In total, 33 older people care homes were subject to exclusion and of these, 16 were deemed as outbreak status. In addition, 23 care homes for people with a learning disability and or mental health were also subject to exclusions with 8 of these experiencing an outbreak. Outbreaks have looked very different in the second wave due to very high community transmission rates, and significant advances in both TTP (Test, Trace and Protect) and testing regimes.

Approximately twice as many residents in care homes in Carmarthenshire have very sadly passed away with Covid in the second wave compared to the first wave. We thankfully haven't experienced the same high numbers of residents passing away in individual care homes in the second wave, but the challenges on staff have been much greater.

Acknowledgement should be given, however, to the in-house Care Home team who have supported a number of independent homes who have been experiencing difficulty in terms of staffing. Without this assistance, some homes would have closed.

The advances in testing and TTP processes have of course led to much greater protection for both staff and residents and have undoubtedly helped reduce the number of potential deaths. However, these developments have also brought significant challenges which has meant that we have on several occasions been in positions whereby it has not been usual for 80% of a workforce establishment to be off work at the same time. Covid test results tend to come back in batches, so it has not been unusual to become aware that significant numbers of staff need to self-isolate at once. We have therefore had to develop a suite of options to be able to support homes with a workforce response when needed.

This has included block contracts with agencies, deployment of our own staff, mutual aid from both Pembrokeshire County Council and the Health Board to support with staffing, management on call arrangements over weekends and bank holidays and in the two most serious cases the Local Authority temporarily taking over the management of the home. Thankfully, following the reduction in community transmission of Covid and the roll out of the vaccination programme, we are starting to see a decrease in the number of outbreaks/homes under 'exclusion'. At the time of writing the report, only 12 residential homes were under 'exclusion' with 3 service users and 4 staff confirmed as positive in total.

Most of the care and support in Carmarthenshire is delivered by the independent commissioned sector. The Commissioning team in Carmarthenshire has played a significant part in supporting these services during the pandemic. The range of support has included:

- Coordination of the numerous communications and guidance.
- Coordination and supply of PPE.
- Proactive communications including a 24/7 helpline at the peak of the pandemic.
- Support for risk assessments surrounding admissions/returns from hospital.
- Initiating provider performance arrangements to address any Covid-19 or other concerns in relation to service provision.
- Support with testing and infection control.
- Financial support.
- Coordination of support and liaison with care homes experiencing outbreaks.

Visiting care homes by families and friends has, and remains, a challenge. Within our own homes, we continue to follow Welsh Government guidance which has allowed us to implement a plan to allow managed visits, balancing infection control issues with the need for residents to see their loved ones. With external homes, we have encouraged them to follow the Welsh Government guidance.

In-house and external care homes continue to face the following challenges:

- Increased number of vacant beds, due to the numbers of residents who have sadly passed away during the pandemic, and difficulties surrounding new admissions linked to 'exclusion' status.
- Financial impact in terms of increased staffing needed due to shielding staff and residents being isolated; and

- Managing the mental and physical impact on staff e.g. Additional workload, dealing with end of life situations with little or no family involvement and pressures for the teams.

Unfortunately, the majority of our day services have had to remain closed and we have also had to suspend in most cases planned respite in care homes, due to the challenges linked to the pandemic. We have however tried to look at innovative ways of how we can continue to support those we support to meet their preferred outcomes and provide some degree of respite for families.

In relation to older people's day services, we carried out a consultation with those that previously attended day services and their families in November last year on a proposal to provide alternative support whilst day services remained closed. We are hoping to pilot a new interim model shortly to see whether it can meet the needs in a different way until day services can reopen. This model will include 1 to 1 support at home, as well as greater digital connection where appropriate. Emergency respite can also still be arranged at a range of care homes across the County on a risk assessed basis, subject to a negative Covid-19 test and isolation for 14-days on admission to the care home.

In relation to Learning Disability and Mental Health day service, whilst some buildings have been closed, we have continued to provide care to our most vulnerable and we have in some instances provided support in buildings following robust risk assessments. Our current position is that we have reopened most of our buildings and we are gradually accommodating more numbers, prioritising those individuals and families who are struggling. However, this will be on a significantly reduced basis, so that we can maintain everyone's safety. Many services will not operate as they previously did. They will not be able to offer the range of activities or be able to support as many people as they did previously, as our priority is to keep everyone safe.

We are continuing to offer support at home and a range of online virtual activities which remain popular with those who use our services and their carers. Activities provided include exercise, quizzes, and cookery sessions. Woodwork and craft activity packs have also been delivered to individual homes to enable them to join in with the virtual demonstrations.

2. Changes to service provision due to Covid

We have inevitably, had to change the way we do things, and wherever possible we have tried to support people virtually when providing IAA or undertaking assessments. We have however, also continued to visit people at home when needed on a risk assessed basis, to ensure that our assessments are thorough to inform what support we might be able to provide.

In relation to Safeguarding of Adults, we have seen an increase in safeguarding activity and an increase in the complexity of referrals. We are now seeing in the region of 100 to 120 referrals a month. Multi-agency forums have continued to meet virtually. We are part of a Regional Multi Agency Covid-19 response group which now meets monthly. MAPPA, MARAC and VAWDASV arrangements have also continued.

A robust regional approach to managing new and existing Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard authorisations has been agreed, in the light of us being unable to visit care homes. This approach ensures the principles of the Mental Capacity Act are upheld and is consistent with the guidance received from Welsh Government

Within Learning Disability Services, virtual activities have been arranged via skype or teams and individuals have accessed buildings on a 'one to one' basis where this has been necessary. Activity packs have been delivered to people's homes and home visits have also been facilitated to support families.

Carmarthenshire has continued to work with its TEC trading company Llesiant Delta Wellbeing, to develop a TEC Prevention Strategy for the region, and the Connect project in particular has come into its own. The programme combines proactive integrated tele-monitoring and wellbeing calls, with a rapid response and community-based support.

There have been two key developments over recent months, which are providing great hope for the future. The first is the vaccination programme. The Council has worked very closely in partnership with Hywel Dda University Health Board to ensure that the programme is delivered to the first 9 identified priority groups by the end of April. The Council has coordinated the roll out to eligible Council staff as well as independent sector staff. In addition, we have ensured that all of our older care home residents have received their first dose of the vaccination, with some already having had their second doses. At the time of writing the report, over 110,000 people had received their first dose of the vaccination in the Health Board area. This included almost 53,000 Carmarthenshire residents which equates to 28% of the eligible population. There is still a long way to go, but initial signs surrounding efficacy of the vaccine are proving hugely positive.

The second development is surrounding Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing for the health and social care workforce, as well as care home visitors. We are working with the Health Board to ensure that we are supporting the care home and community care sectors (eg domiciliary care, supported living etc) with the new testing regime of twice weekly testing. It is anticipated that LFD roll-out will be happening across the sector in the coming weeks.

3. Workforce implications

During the second wave, our workforce has continued to amaze us with their flexibility and resilience. Most notably, our in-house residential staff have been deployed to support independent sector care homes where needed at times of Covid outbreaks. Their commitment and compassion can only be described as outstanding.

Our own social care workforce has inevitably been hit by Covid, particularly when community transmission was high, as well as other sickness. Thankfully, no staff have been seriously affected with the illness, but high sickness levels have at times been difficult to manage. Within domiciliary care in early January sickness levels reached 18%, a third of which was Covid related. Staffing levels seem to be starting to stabilise again which is very much welcomed.

Engagement has been maintained with the Trade Unions via the Communities Department Trade Union forum, and issues have been addressed as needed.

The most positive impact on our workforce has of course been the vaccination programme, and the Council has worked very closely in partnership to ensure that all Council and independent sector staff in the nationally defined Priority 1 and 2 groups have received their first vaccination.

Whilst it is hugely positive that staff and those vulnerable people we work with have been considered as the highest priority for the vaccination, we continue to remind our staff that they still must ensure that they maintain social distancing, use PPE in line with guidance and follow good infection control procedures. We will continue to ensure that our staff adhere to these key principles, until national guidance suggests otherwise.

We recognise that the pandemic has had a huge emotional and psychological impact on staff, and the impact of this should not be underestimated. We are therefore doing everything we can to support them and starting to look at how we ensure that our staff benefit from the corporate wellbeing work. We are paying particular attention to how we can support staff who have been involved in care home outbreaks, as we recognise how distressing this has been and the huge emotional toll that it has played. From a management perspective, we will continue to ensure that we keep oversight of the wellbeing of our entire workforce to ensure that they have the resilience to help see us through the challenges ahead.

4. Service user and carer implications

Whilst we have entered into a new business as usual in the way that we support our service users and carers, we have noticed the impact particularly that the length of the pandemic has had on families and loved ones and people are presenting with more complex needs and at crisis point.

The numbers of referrals that we are receiving is at unprecedented levels, with on average 1,100 to 1,200 new referrals coming through Delta Wellbeing each month, 800 to 900 of which require a further Social Services and Wellbeing Act (SSWBA) assessment. The following table provides a summary of the number of referrals that have come in.

SSWBA forms Carmarthenshire Access team and ASRF forms					
Period	IAA	Further Assessment	Total SSWBA forms	Safeguarding assessment	Total Forms
Apr-20	435	617	1052	81	1133
May-20	317	689	1006	99	1105
Jun-20	433	959	1392	110	1502
Jul-20	343	977	1320	126	1446
Aug-20	276	972	1248	128	1376
Sep-20	378	944	1322	132	1454
Oct-20	357	829	1186	105	1291
Nov-20	425	789	1214	102	1316
Dec-20	358	761	1119	93	1212
Grand Total	3322	7537	10859	976	11835

At the moment it is very difficult to predict future demand. We hope that, once vaccinations roll out and we start to see their effect, we can start to reintroduce more options in terms of day support and respite, but in the meantime, we have to do everything we can to support individuals and families to maintain their independence wherever possible and keep safe.

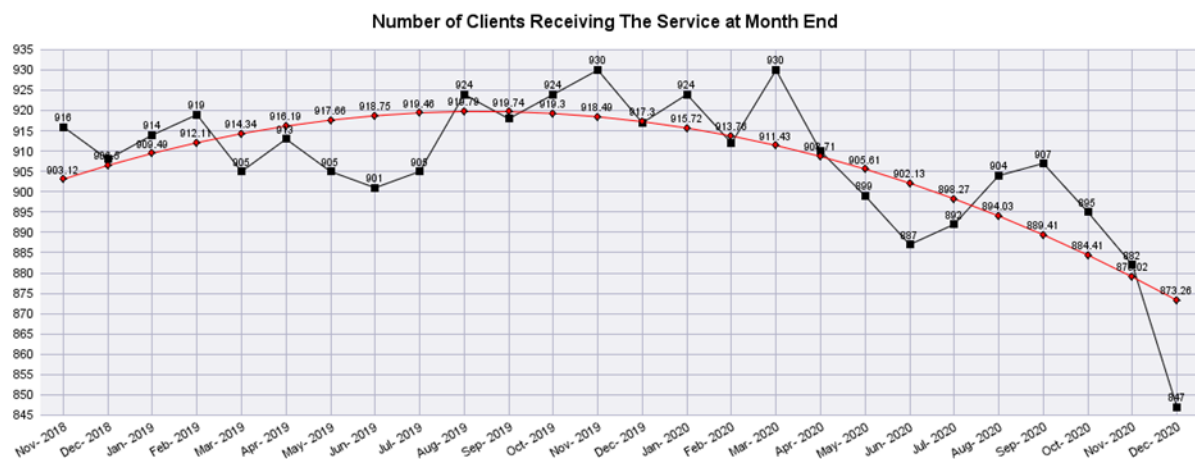
In terms of support for carers, the Committee is receiving a separate report on this today.

5. Financial issues

We have continued to draw down substantial financial support from the Welsh Government Hardship Fund, to help offset some of the additional costs associated with Covid. We have claimed a total of £9,055,542 to date. It is difficult to predict at this stage how this crisis will impact on long-term demand and consequently spend, but we continue to monitor.

We have also benefited from just over £1.2million from the Welsh Government Winter Protection Fund, which has been particularly targeted at ensuring flow through the health and social care system.

We have seen an overall reduction in the number of funded residential and nursing placements for older people, which has had a positive impact on the budget. The decrease in number of placements is shown in the graph below:



Within Mental Health and Learning Disability we did see a slight increase in residential placements and high-cost community packages, as the work to place people in alternative settings was paused for the first six months of the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on mental health, substance misuse and safeguarding and demand for services is likely to be significant and we are preparing for this in our budget setting for 2021/2022.

We have continued to see some challenges in achieving our predicted PBBs this year. This is offset to an extent by reduced costs following changes in service provision such as Day Services.

6. Communication and engagement

Good and regular communication continues to be critical to supporting staff, as well as recognising the achievements of staff and taking each opportunity to thank them.

There is regular communication with staff via the internet, newsletters, individual letters and published guidance. Team meetings have continued via teams and training modules are being made available via e-learning programmes, wherever possible. The Director of Communities has started to do a regular video message to staff, which has been well received.

Within Adult Social Care and Integrated Services, staff have kept in touch with individuals and families so that we can determine when people may be struggling and respond in a timely fashion. Those who used services and their carers also receive regular letters to update them on what is happening with front line services.

Senior Officers meet 3 times a week to focus particularly on Covid related pressures. Regular contact has also been maintained between Heads of Service and the Executive Board Member, to provide regular briefings regarding issues as they develop.

7. Moving forward

We must make sure that we learn from this unprecedented experience as we reintroduce our services and re-set our strategic and operational priorities. It is not

going to be a case of restarting and getting back to the way we were. This is an opportunity to refresh and renew. Moving forward we will:

- Continue to change and adapt the way we work. For example, we will not be able to fully reopen our day services buildings for some time, to comply with social distancing and minimise risk of infection.
- Continue with virtual activities and provide a service to those most at risk safely. This will impact on families and carers who will continue to need support. So, we will need to do this creatively.
- Escalate our modernisation plans for some services e.g. less building-based services, agile working.
- Require our workforce to be flexible and adaptive in the long term in the event of future uncertainties.
- Prioritise and transform services to respond to those who are most vulnerable.
- Ensure we continue to work really closely with our health colleagues, to ensure that we take a whole Carmarthenshire system approach.

The combination of the vaccination programme and roll out of lateral flow testing gives us all hope that we will in time be able to safely return to some semblance of normal life. It is too soon to do this, but we will consider how we do this in a safe and managed way as soon as we are able to do so.

8. Lessons learnt

Wherever possible, we are taking the opportunity to reflect on how we can improve and do things better in the future. We for example commissioned an independent piece of work to evaluate our approach to supporting care homes in the first wave, and this has been hugely valuable in informing how we have responded in the second wave.

The huge strides forwards in how we have used technology is something that will remain with us, and going forward we need to get the right balance between the use of digital solutions and face to face interaction.

We need to continue to encourage the flexibility of our staff, but also recognise the general fatigue and fear surrounding the future. Reflecting on this, we need to ensure that we have all of the support in place to allow our staff to be resilient and flourish.

This pandemic has taught us that we can do none of this on our own, and working with our partners and staff is absolutely critical. All our processes continue to be in place to manage the various scenarios, so we are confident that we will be able to learn the lessons and manage the challenges ahead together.

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SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2021

UNPAID CARERS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE- STRATEGIC , LOCAL AND COVID RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

To consider and comment on the following issues:

That the report which details the work of the West Wales Regional Carers Development Group , together with local Carmarthenshire initiatives, including Covid related developments for unpaid carers is considered and accepted.

Reasons:

To provide Scrutiny Committee with a position statement regarding the work undertaken in 2020/21 in relation to unpaid carers by both the Regional West Wales Carers Development Group and the Carmarthenshire Strategic Partnership Board for Carers.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: **NO**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: -

Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Social Care & Health Portfolio Holder)

Directorate Communities Jake Morgan Report Author Avril Bracey Alex Williams Jonathan Morgan Chris Harrison	Designations: Director of Community Services Head of Adult Social Care Head of Integrated Services Head of Homes and Safer Communities Head of Strategic Commissioning	Tel Nos./ E Mail Addresses: 01267 242485 Chris.harrison@pembrokeshire.gov.uk
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
11TH MARCH 2021

**UNPAID CARERS IN CARMARTHENSHIRE-
STRATEGIC , LOCAL AND COVID RELATED
DEVELOPMENTS**

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This document provides an overview of the work that has been progressed by both the Regional West Wales Carers Development Group (WWCDG) and by the Carmarthenshire Strategic Partnership Board for Carers during 2020/21. It details a range of initiatives in place to support unpaid carers, including Covid related services.

During 2020 the WWCDG, in consultation with carers published a West Wales Carers Strategy, which was structured around four key priorities:

- Improve the early identification and self-identification of Carers, including Young Carers and Young Adult Carers
- Ensure a range of services is available to support the wellbeing of carers of all ages, in their life alongside caring
- Support carers to access and maintain education, training and employment opportunities
- Support carers to become digitally included

Work is now being undertaken by the WWCDG member to refresh their action plan to support the strategic priorities identified.

During the Covid pandemic the role and importance of unpaid carers has become more evident. The West Wales Carers Development Group have worked together to ensure carers continue to be supported with information, advice and support. Collaborative working across all partners and close working relationships with our commissioned service providers has enabled us to respond to the needs of carers including access to PPE & testing. During the first wave of the pandemic welfare calls to carers registered with the carer's information service were prioritised. Many carers took the decision to shield or to isolate themselves to protect those whom they carers for.

We recognise the impact that Covid has had on carers, and how it has been difficult at times to offer the usual menu of support. We have therefore had to adapt the offer so that it can be delivered during Covid.

The attached report details a range of carer support services and service initiatives which are in place and or are being developed to support carers in their caring role.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	Yes
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CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: Chris Harrison

Head of Strategic Commissioning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 provides the statutory framework for improving the well-being outcomes of adults and children who need care and support and carers who need support. It has a particular focus on voice and control so people have control over their own care and support and can make decisions about it as an equal partner.

3. Finance

Carmarthenshire is committed to support and values the contribution that unpaid carers make. Collaborative working with partner organisations including the voluntary sector, community groups and health will ensure we maximise use of available resources.

It is acknowledged that budgetary pressures will be a key challenge, which will be compounded by the impact of Covid. However resources such as the Integrated Care Fund, and Transformation Fund are supporting the delivery of carer's services.

4.ICT:

Digital has been highlighted as a key priority within the regional strategy and digital solutions have been an important part of ensuring continued support to unpaid carers during the covid pandemic. It will continue to play an important role in shaping how and what we provide going forward.

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Chris Harrison

Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning

- 1. Local Member(s)- N/A**
- 2. Community / Town Council – N/A**
- 3. Relevant Partners – yes**
- 4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations –N/A**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED:**

YES

Cllr J. Tremlett, Executive Board Member for Social Care & Health is a member of the Carmarthenshire Strategic Partnership Board for Carers.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

There are none

Unpaid Carers in Carmarthenshire Strategic, Local & Covid Related Developments

Social Care & Health
Scrutiny Committee
11th March, 2021

carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Addressing the needs of Carers in Carmarthenshire

Overview

This report outlines the work undertaken in 2020/21 in relation to unpaid carers, the support provided during Covid and details the action being undertaken based on what carers have told us is important to them.

The report details both Carmarthenshire specific work and also details the regional West Wales action being taken to support unpaid carers.

Background

According to data from the last Census (ONS, 2011) there are approximately 47,000 unpaid carers within West Wales, representing 12.5% of residents and we know there is a considerable number of 'hidden' carers who do not define themselves as carers. In Carmarthenshire we also know from Census data that there are over 24,000 Carers who declared that they were providing care for another adult or a disabled child.

Carers are defined as *"anyone, of an age who provides unpaid care and support to a relative, friend or neighbour who is disabled, physically or mentally ill, or affected by substance misuse. Unpaid Carers are the single largest provider of care to people with support needs in our communities, and they save the NHS and Social Services millions of pounds a year."* Welsh Government (2013)

The West Wales Population Assessment (West Wales Care Partnership, 2017) identifies that the impact of caring on an individual can affect their emotional and physical wellbeing, finances, education/employment/training, life opportunities and relationships. Having said that the role of carers is invaluable and many carers feel a sense of pride and purpose in caring for their loved one.

Legislative Context-Social Service and Wellbeing Act

The Social Services and Wellbeing Act (2014) entitles carers to have an assessment of their caring needs, irrespective of their age, amount of care they provide or their financial position. Within the assessment, there is a duty to consider the following:

- Whether the carer has needs for support or are likely to do so in the future
- The extent that they are able and willing to provide care and will continue to be able and willing to do so
- What matters to the carer and the personal outcomes that they wish to achieve
- The extent to which support, preventative services, provision of information, advice and assistance can assist the carers with achieving those outcomes
- Whether the carer works, wish to work and whether they are participating or wish to participate in education, training or leisure activities.

As well as individual carers' needs assessments, it should be noted that in many cases carers needs' are considered as part of integrated assessments where a Social Worker will look at the needs of the carer and the cared-for simultaneously.

Regional Context-West Wales Carers Strategy

During 2020, the West Wales Carers Development Group (WWCDG), consisting of Hywel Dda University Health Board, Carmarthenshire County Council, Ceredigion County Council and Pembrokeshire County Council, developed a West Wales Carers Strategy.

<https://www.wwcp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Carers-Strategy-Final-20.10.20-Eng.pdf>

<https://www.wwcp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/cym-Carers-Strategy-Final-20.10.20.pdf>

In developing this strategy, 558 people provided their views and feedback via an online survey, with 35% of respondents coming from Carmarthenshire. In addition feedback from stakeholder events prior to Covid held in January and March 2020 shaped the feedback together with other partner agencies.

The strategy is structured around four key priorities:

- Improve the early identification and self-identification of Carers, including Young Carers and Young Adult Carers
- Ensure a range of services is available to support the wellbeing of carers of all ages, in their life alongside caring
- Support carers to access and maintain education, training and employment opportunities
- Support carers to become digitally included

Work is now being undertaken by WWCDG members to refresh their action plan to ensure that the above priorities are delivered against for 2021/22 onwards.

Support for carers in Carmarthenshire

Support for carers across Carmarthenshire is overseen by the Carmarthenshire Strategic Partnership Board for Carers. This is a multi-agency group that brings together key stakeholders, including carers, to improve the quality of life for carers of all ages by supporting them both in the caring role, but also to have a life outside of caring.

During the Covid pandemic the role and importance of unpaid carers has become more evident. The West Wales Carers Development Group have worked together to ensure carers continue to be supported with information, advice and support. Collaborative working across all partners and close working relationships with our commissioned service providers has enabled us to respond to the needs of carers including access to PPE & testing. During the first wave of the pandemic welfare calls to carers registered with the carer's information service were prioritised. Many carers took the decision to shield or to isolate themselves to protect those whom they are carers for.

We recognise the impact that Covid has had on carers, and how it has been difficult at times to offer the usual menu of support. We have therefore had to adapt the offer so that it can be delivered during Covid.

An overview of the services and support provided to carers is detailed as follows:

Service Provision/Developments

Refreshing Respite Regional work, supported by the University of Swansea, has been taking place to review and refresh what is understood by the term respite. 'Carers breaks' are now seen as a spectrum of opportunities, and work is being undertaken to take forward the concept of 'respitality' and maximising opportunities within our local tourism and hospitality sectors.

During Covid, offering planned bed-based respite has been an ongoing challenge due to the need to minimise any potential of infection getting into a care home setting. For older people, a limited offer has been available in one Local Authority care home and it has been possible to arrange emergency respite. However, for infection control reasons, these arrangements have been subject to a period of self isolation on arrival which has impacted on the positive experience that individuals normally have when receiving the respite service. This has meant that many individuals/carers have decided that they do not want to take up the offer of respite at the current time. We will need to closely monitor to consider at which point we can start to reintroduce bed-based respite in the way that it was previously offered.

Emergency Respite has continued at Tir Einon for those with complex needs and planned respite is now being reintroduced as part of the recovery plan.

Some day services have remained open throughout the pandemic to provide respite for individuals and their carer's, this has been on a one-to-one basis and following robust risk assessments.

Day services staff have kept in touch with carers and provided support at home or in the community when families have been struggling.

Community activities A range of activities and groups that offer carers breaks, whether through carer-specific provision or more general e.g. carers' yoga, dementia choirs and virtual cuppa clubs, befriending life links etc. Many of these can be found on Connect Carmarthenshire platform - <https://connectcarmarthenshire.org.uk/activities>

Short Term Replacement Care In partnership with Crossroads Sir Gar and commissioned by Carmarthenshire, this service provides carers with replacement care at home in response to carers needs. This often benefits carers who may be accessing services and support for the first time, but at a point when they may be finding the caring role difficult. This service has been enhanced during Covid, as normal forms of respite such as bed-based planned respite have been more difficult to offer and day services have in the majority of cases had to close. Hafan Glyd provides overnight and emergency replacement care and other services such as carers grants and carers counselling services combined to provide a supportive offer during covid.

In addition the Local Authority offered emergency short term respite (up to 4 nights) and planned respite within its own care homes.

Innovations Grants Funded by the Integrated Care Fund, grants have been awarded to organisations and groups across West Wales and a number of these include breaks for provision for carers in Carmarthenshire, including one-off short breaks to give carers the space to have time away from the caring role, developing sport-based community activities for carers and the people they look after and food-based breaks that support carers to have a break whilst learning about the importance of good nutrition.

Carers Rights Day and Carers Week Celebrated annually in Carmarthenshire, these events not only offer support for carers, but raise the profile of the caring role across society and the rights of carers in terms of employment, social care, financial support etc. With the theme of Carers Week 2020 being “know your rights”, this short video was produced to promote the importance and value of unpaid carers:

English:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/yd6gh2sqd3y9chj/CCC-CarersDay_v4.0.ENG.SUBS.mp4?dl=0

Welsh:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/pog0o0m6qzinebz/CCC-CarersDay_v4.0.CYM.SUBS.mp4?dl=0

Carers Trust Crossroads Sir Gar, in partnership with the Carers Support Services Network and Carmarthenshire Local Authority organised programme of activity for carers over a four day period in November 2020. Activities included :

Yoga, managing change during Covid, resilience building, energise, mindfulness, stay positive, carers in the bake house (bread making) and much more. Over 450 unpaid carers received either an afternoon tea hamper or a wellbeing hamper.

Carers Provider Networks Carmarthenshire Carers Forum is an independent charitable organisation and is supported by the Local Authority to connect unpaid carers across the county. Working alongside Crossroads Sir Gar the Forum provides a peer support for carers across the county, linking carers with one another and encouraging the development of a network of mutual support groups.

Carers Recognition Card / emergency The carers' identity card is a system where by the carer is allocated an identity card to carry with them. The system provides re-assurance to the carer that their caring responsibilities will be acknowledged in the event of an emergency and that an immediate response can be arranged to ensure the safety and on-going care for the cared for person. The carers' card is administered by Delta wellbeing who also respond to an emergency situation as per the contingencies contained within the carers' application.

Small carers grants scheme Funded by Welsh Government/ Carers Trust Grant, Crossroads Sir Gar processed and awarded over 180 small grants to support carers impacted by covid. Grants were awarded for IT, essential household items, fuel and food payments, goodie bags & counselling sessions. In total over £44,500 was awarded across both Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire.

A further 'top up' grant of £20,000 will be available and is due to open shortly.

Employers for Carers(EfC) Developed to support carers in the workplace, Carmarthenshire is a member organisation and is developing its approach to supporting working carers across the organisation. However, progress of this work has been impacted by Covid.

Carers Exceptional Circumstances Direct Payments (previously known as carers grants)

The aim of the exceptional payments direct payment is to be responsive to urgent need, quick & efficient to enable carers to continue their vital role. A carer's assessment is required to access this and can cover a range of situations such as replacement/ faulty white goods, contribution to carer's breaks etc. The solution is very person centred & tailored to meet the individual circumstances.

Investors in Carers An accredited quality framework led by Hywel Dda University Health Board, this West Wales initiative is designed to recognise organisations and services that support carers both in terms of the people they deliver services to, but also in terms of their workforce. Within Carmarthenshire all Teams in Adult Social Care are working towards the Investors in Carers award following on from the success of Learning Disability day services where three teams achieved their Bronze awards and are working towards their Gold.

The social work teams are progressing as follows:

- Substance misuse team – will be submitting in March

- 0-25 Disabilities team (split into three teams) all have had training and working on bronze.
- Community Learning Disability and Safeguarding Teams have just commenced.
- All three CMHT teams (Wellfield Rd, Swn y Gwynt and Brynmair) all at Bronze, Wellfield had started their Silver.

Within Education:

- St John Lloyd, Coedcae (wanting to do silver), Strade and Glan y mor all at Bronze and so is Coleg Sir Gar. Queen Elizabeth High and Bro Dinefwr working on their bronze. Crossroads Education officers are also supporting the schools and linking in with the LiC scheme.

One to one support- Many third sector organisations have moved to on line services and provided support such as befriending. Hafal have provided activity packs and one to one sessions of support including 'zoom' support groups. Alzheimer's, the Stroke Association and many others supporting carers have all adapted their offer during covid. However, it is acknowledged that a digital platform may not be accessible for all so continued efforts to support people in a safe way as is possible still continues.

Social Work Support. Face to face visits have continued where necessary, especially where families are struggling to support those with complex needs. Social workers have also kept in touch with individuals and families and carers by telephone, on teams and using I pads provided by the LA. In many cases contact has been significantly increased to support carers at this difficult time.

Carmarthenshire Digital Connections The importance of digital inclusion has been highlighted during the covid pandemic.

- **Enhanced digital offers-** during covid we have seen enhanced digital offers to support carers eg mind, day opportunities, Crossroad Sir Gar etc. There is a regional digital programme of work to take more strategic approach to digital inclusion with our third sector partners and communities. The Connectkindness campaign was launched in July '20 recognising the importance of community connectedness and wellbeing.
- **CONNECT2Carmarthenshire-** Covid was a catalyst for this development providing a digital platform to promote community connection, it has community listings and a platform for mutual exchange/ support.
- **Delta CONNECT** this includes pro-active wellbeing calls & support and TEC enabled packages for example life line, sensors, falls detection, medication

dispensers etc, access to 24/ 7 community response service to respond to crisis giving families peace of mind and supports digital connections.

- **Care Homes connections-** a major concern for many carers has been not being able to visit their loved ones living within care homes. Care homes for older people have been supported, in partnership with Digital Communities Wales by the loan of ipads and digital equipment to support residents to keep connected with their families. In addition, the Integrated Care Fund has funded small grants to care homes to promote digital inclusion and covid related modifications to support family / carer visits. (@ £700,000 has been made available across the west wales region)
- **Virtual Activities-** learning Disability day services have been creative in offering virtual activities to those who use services, and this offer has been extended to carers to join in with those they care for. Feedback has been that this has been invaluable.

Conclusion

We are aware that the pandemic is having a significant impact on carers as services which provide much needed respite have been reduced in order to keep people safe. We are planning collaboratively with partners to be able to respond to the impact of Covid on carers.

Across West Wales there is a strategy to ensure that carers are supported both in their caring role and to have a life outside of caring. This is supported by a robust work programme of activity within Carmarthenshire to target the issues that carers report will support them to feel more included, connected and valued within communities and society.

EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE : Social Care & Health

DATE OF MEETING : 11th March, 2021

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	EXPLANATION	REVISED SUBMISSION DATE
Learning Disability Strategy	Head of Joint Strategic Commissioning, Pembrokeshire & Carmarthenshire County Council	Report not yet available.	20/04/21

DATE OF MEETING : 20th April, 2021

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	EXPLANATION	REVISED SUBMISSION DATE
Dementia Action Plan	Alex Williams	The work surrounding a regional dementia strategy has now moved forward, and the West Wales Care Partnership is about to commission a piece of work to draft the regional strategy. It has therefore been agreed that it would be better to delay work on a Carmarthenshire Dementia Action Plan until the regional work is completed. Timescales for completion are not yet known, but it is proposed that the local plan is added to the Scrutiny FWP at some point early in the next municipal year.	Date to be agreed early in next municipal year.

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SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11TH MARCH 2021

FORTHCOMING ITEMS TO BE HELD ON 20TH APRIL 2021 [10.00 A.M.]

In order to ensure effective Scrutiny, Members need to be clear as to the purpose of requesting specific information and the outcome they are hoping to achieve as a consequence of examining a report. Limiting the number of agenda items may help to keep meetings focused and easier to manage.

Discussion Topic	Background	Reason for report
Budget Monitoring Report	This item enables members to undertake their monitoring role of the Health & Social Care revenue and capital budgets.	The Committee is being requested to scrutinise the budget information as part of their scrutiny role.
Compliments & Complaints Report	This item will provide the Committee with a report providing details of the compliments and complaints received in relation to Adult Social Care.	To enable the Committee to understand and review the complaints and compliments received and identify any areas of concern or good practice.
Communities Department Business Plan 2021/22 – 23/4	The Committee is consulted on the Business Plans for the Communities Department on an annual basis.	This item will enable the Committee to consider and comment on the Communities Departmental Business Plan relevant to its remit.
Learning Disability Strategy (2019-2023)	The draft strategy was presented to the Committee on the 19 th April, 2018. The strategy has been updated and is being presented to the Committee for endorsement.	For Scrutiny to have an opportunity to comment on and endorse the strategy.

Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. National Exercise Referral Scheme (NERS) – 2nd February 20212. Out of County Placements Statistics – 2nd February 2021

Briefings provided to the Committee since the last meeting
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. RPB & ICF / Transformation Update – 27th January 20212. Community Access to Hot Meals – 27th January 20213. Vaccination Update – 27th January 20214. Older People's Day Services Recovery Plan – 27th January 20215. Tackling Poverty – 11th February 20216. HDUHB – Covid 19 Vaccination Briefing – 24th February 2021

The following document(s) attached for information
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The latest version of the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme 2020/21
<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. The latest version of the Executive Board Forward Work Programme 2020/21

SC&H Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Programme 2020/21

19th November 20	22nd December 20	27th January 21	11th March 21	20th April 21	Joint Scrutiny E&PP + SC&H (TBC)
Covid-19 Position Statement	Progress report following CIW Inspection of Integrated Services	Revenue Budget Consultation 2021 – 2023	Covid-19 Update – Include mental health update (Moved from Jan)	Budget Monitoring 2020/21	Area Planning Board's Drug & Alcohol Misuse Annual Report (TBC)
Budget Monitoring 2020/21		Budget Monitoring 2020/21	Carers Update	Compliments & Complaints Report	Area Board Substance Misuse Service Annual Report (TBC)
SC&H Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2019/20		Annual Performance Report – half year	Learning Disability Strategy (2019–2023) (Moved to April)	Communities Department Business Plan 2021/22 – 23-24	
Social Care & Health Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2020/21		Corporate Strategy (moved to March)	Corporate Strategy (Moved from Jan)	Learning Disability Strategy (2019- 2023) (Moved from Jan)	
		Communities Department Business Plan 2021/22 – 23-24 (Move to April)		Dementia Action Plan – (Moved from Jan – new date TBC)	
		Older People's Day Services Recovery Plan (Moved from March) Informal session 27/01/21			
		Services & Support for Children & Young People (Multi Agency Forum Update) (Moved to May)			
		Dementia Action Plan – (Moved to April)			

19th November 20	22nd December 20	27th January 21	11th March 21	20th April 21	Joint Scrutiny E&PP + SC&H (TBC)
		Learning Disability Strategy (2019 – 2023) (Moved to March)			
		Covid 19 Update – Include mental health update (Moved to March)			

ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PROGRAMME:

- Living Units for people with learning disabilities - Martyn Palfreman (Action 011 18/19) – **to be included in update re Shared Lives Placement. (Avril Bracey)**

DEVELOPMENT / INFORMAL SESSIONS:

22ND December (following Scrutiny)

- Covid Testing (including care home testing) – Alex Williams
- Covid Vaccination – Alex Williams
- General Covid update – Alex Williams

27th January 2021

- Community access to hot meals - Alex Williams
- Transformation/ICF Programme Update – Alex Williams
- RPB update – Martyn Palfreman
- Older People's Day Services Recovery Plan – Alex Williams (moved from main scrutiny 27/01/21)

11th February 2021 – 2pm (moved from 16th December)

- Food Poverty / Tackling Poverty - Cefin Campbell

17th March 2021 (TBC with officers)

- Befriending Service – Sue Smith
- DEWIS – Sue Smith
- Connect to Kindness – Julia Wilkinson

7th April 2021 – Forward Work Programme

- Forward Work Programme – 2021/22

TASK & FINISH REVIEW: (ongoing)

- Early Intervention & Prevention of Suicide in Carmarthenshire.

REPORTS REQUESTED:

Items identified / carried forward for Scrutiny 2021/22 (post April)

- Mental Health Update
- Mental Health of Carers and Young People
- Annual Safeguarding Report
- Services & Support for Children & Young People (Multi Agency Forum Update) (Moved to May)

Items identified/carried forward for Development Sessions 2021/22

- Shared Lives Placement (inc. Living Units for people with learning disabilities) – Avril
- Respite Service – Avril
- Recruitment and Retention of OT & Social Workers – Alex / Avril
- Double Handed Care (update on the process and service) – Alex
- Social Worker Hospital Assessment - Alex

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EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21
–as at 18/11/2020 (For the period November 20 – Oct 21)

Introduction

This plan is published to encourage and enable greater understanding between the Executive, all Councillors, the public and other stakeholders. It assists the Scrutiny Committees in planning their contribution to policy development and holding the executive to account.

The plan gives the public and stakeholders a chance to see the forthcoming major decisions to be made by the Executive Board over the next 12 months. It is reviewed and published quarterly to take account of changes and additional key decisions.

WORKING DRAFT

EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21
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CHIEF EXECUTIVES				
Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Executive Board
CROSS HANDS EMPLOYMENT SITE	Jason Jones – Head of Regeneration	Leader	N/A	30/11/2020
TARGETED REGENERATION INITIATIVE	Jason Jones – Head of Regeneration	Leader	N/A	30/11/2020-
BREXIT	Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration	Leader	Not applicable	21/12/2020
INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND COVER SHEET	Wendy Walters, Chief Executive/Gwyneth Ayres	Deputy Leader	No	To be confirmed
WELSH LANGUAGE ANNUAL REPORT	Wendy Walters, Chief Executive/Gwyneth Ayres	Culture, Sport & Tourism	June	July
WELLBEING OBJECTIVES	Wendy Walters Chief Executive	Communities and Rural Affairs		
WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS	Wendy Walters Chief Executive	Deputy Leader	If applicable	If applicable
REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOUNDARIES & ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS	Wendy Walters, Chief Executive	Resources		As and when required
REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION (LEGISLATION CHANGES) - CRWG	Linda Rees Jones Head of Administration & Law	N/A CRWG - FEB	N/A	As And When Required
CITY DEAL UPDATE (INCLUDING PENTRE AWEL)	Wendy Walters Chief Executive	Leader		As & When Required
ANNUAL REPORT	Noelwyn Daniel -Head of ICT & Corporate Policy	Deputy Leader	Date to be confirmed	Date to be confirmed
NET ZERO ACTION PLAN - REVIEW	Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration	Communities and Rural Affairs	Date to be confirmed	Date to be confirmed

EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21
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COMMUNITY SERVICES				
Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Executive Board
SOCIAL CARE FUNDING – COVID-19 RESPONSE	Jake Morgan - Director of Communities	Social Care & Health		
PPE - CURRENT POSITION & FUTURE NEED/UPDATE REPORT	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities / Adele Lodwig	Housing		
FOOD & FEED SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer /Sue Watts	Culture, Sports & Tourism		21/12/20
OLDER PEOPLE’S DAY SERVICES RECOVERY PLAN	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer / Alex Williams	Social Care & Health		NOV/DEC 2020
HOMELESSNESS AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION REPORT	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer /Jonathan Willis	Housing		21/12/20
TYISHA	Robin Staines	Housing		
FUTURE PRESSURES IN ADULT SOCIAL CARE	Avril Bracey – Head of Adult Social Care	Social Care & Health		
COMMUNITY COHESION UPDATE	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and SC/Les James	Housing		11/01/21
FUTURE OF HOUSING SERVICES ADVISORY PANEL	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and SCr/Les James	Housing		11/01/21
UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND RENTS UPDATE RENT ARREARS POSITION STATEMENT	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Jonathan Willis	Housing		11/01/21
ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities /Les James / Sue Watts/Robert David Williams	Culture, Sports & Tourism	E&PP Scrutiny 21/01/21	08/02/21
LD STRATEGY	Chris Harrison Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning/ Avril Bracey - Head of Adult Social Care	Social Care & Health	SC&H 27/01/21	08/02/21
CHS+ DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS BUSINESS PLAN	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Rachel Davies/ Gareth Williams	Housing	18/01/21 Community Scrutiny	08/02/21 (Budget)
DOG BREEDERS LICENCE UPDATE (Change of policy/legislation)	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Roger Edmunds	Public Protection		24/05/21

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Pending				
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20	Jake Morgan – Director of Communities/Silvana Sauro	Social Care & Health		TBC
2020 REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Emyr Jones	Culture, Sports & Tourism		TBC

WORKING DRAFT

EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21
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CORPORATE SERVICES				
Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Executive Board
BI-MONTHLY REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORTS	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	SEPT NOV JAN MARCH
QUARTERLY TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	SEPT/OCT JAN APR
ANNUAL TREASURY MANAGEMENT & PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR REPORT	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	JULY
5 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	ALL JAN/ FEB	JAN
COUNCIL TAX BASE	Chris Moore / Helen Pugh	Resources	N/A	DEC
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Chris Moore / Helen Pugh	Resources	N/A	FEB
BUDGET STRATEGY (Revenue and Capital)	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	ALL JAN/ FEB	JAN
HIGH STREET RATE RELIEF	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services /Helen Pugh	Resources	N/A	March
CORPORATE RISK REGISTER	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services / Helen Pugh	Resources	– Audit Committee March & SEPT	

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CORPORATE SERVICES				
Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Executive Board
TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	22 ND FEBRUARY – BUDGET MEETING
FINAL BUDGET Revenue & Capital	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	22 ND FEBRUARY – BUDGET MEETING
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND RENT SETTING REPORT	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	HOUSING	22 ND FEBRUARY BUDGET MEETING
BUDGET OUTLOOK	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	NOV

WORKING DRAFT

EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21
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EDUCATION & CHILDREN				
Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Executive Board
SCHOOL UPDATE REPORT- COVID 19, SCHOOLS CAUSING CONCERN AND FINANCE	Gareth Morgans – Director of Education and Children	Education & Children	N/A	
LA EDUCATION SERVICES SELF EVALUATION	Aneirin Thomas – Head of Education and Inclusion	Education & Children	tbc	To be confirmed
UPDATE ON NEW CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS	Aeron Rees – Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing	Education & Children	tbc	To be confirmed
POST 16 EDUCATION	Aeron Rees – Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing	Education & Children	tbc	TBC
RESULTS OF 2020 EXAMINATIONS	Aneirin Thomas – Head of Education and Inclusion	Education & Children	N/A	TBC
PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE YSGOL GYNRADD BLAENAU AND TO INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND CHANGE THE NATURE OF PROVISION AT YSGOL GYNRADD LLANDYBIE (STAGE 1, 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	YES	21/12/20 (Stage 1) 10/05/21 (Stage 2) 05/07/21 (Stage 3)
ALN TRANSFORMATION ACTION PLAN	Aneirin Thomas – Head of Education and Inclusion	Education & Children	28/01/20	tbc
CHILDREN’S SERVICES PAPER- TBC	Stefan Smith - Head of Children’s Services	Education & Children	N/A	tbc
CARMARTHENSHIRE 10 YEAR STRATEGY FOR EDUCATION	Gareth Morgans – Director of Education and Children	Education & Children	23/11/20	October 2020
PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE YSGOL HEOL GOFFA AND TO INCREASE ITS CAPACITY (STAGE 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	YES)	21st December
PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE YSGOL RHYDYGORS (STAGE 1, 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	YES	21/12/20 (Stage 1) 10/05/21 (Stage 2) 05/07/21 (Stage 3)
PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE AT YSGOL SWISS VALLEY (TBC) (STAGE 1, 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	YES	21/12/20 (Stage 1) 10/05/21 (Stage 2) 05/07/21 (Stage 3)
PROPOSAL TO DISCONTINUE YSGOL GYNRADD MYNYDD Y GARREG (STAGE 1, 2 AND 3)	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children	YES	21/12/20 (Stage 1) 10/05/21 (Stage 2) 05/07/21 (Stage 3)

EXECUTIVE BOARD FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 20/21
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ENVIRONMENT				
Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Executive Board
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN DEPOSIT	Llinos Quelch- Head of Planning / Ian R Llewelyn	Planning		21 st December 20
REGIONAL TECHNICAL STATEMENT	Llinos Quelch- Head of Planning /Hugh Towns	Planning	TBC	21 st Dec 20
WASTE COLLECTION STRATEGY REVIEW	Ainsley Williams. Head of Waste & Environmental Services Dan John /Geinor Lewis	Environment	TBC	Feb 2021
CARMARTHENSHIRE POLLINATOR ACTION PLAN	Llinos Quelch- Head of Planning /Rosie Carmichael	Planning	TBC	27th April 21
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE MANUAL	Steve Pilliner - Head of Transportation & Highways/ Chris Nelson/ Richard Waters	Environment	EPP Feb 21	July 21
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	Ainsley Williams. Head of Waste & Environmental Services Rhys Davies	Environment	TBC	27 th September 21
AMR PLANNING	Llinos Quelch- Head of Planning	Deputy Leader		27 th September 2021
APR	Llinos Quelch- Head of Planning	Deputy Leader	TBC	27 th September 21
EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY	Steve Pilliner - Head of Transportation & Highways /Caroline Ferguson	Environment		25 th October 21

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 27 January 2021

PRESENT: Councillor G. Thomas (Chair)

Councillors:

S.M. Allen, K.V. Broom, D.M. Cundy (In place of A.L. Fox), I.W. Davies, K.Davies, R.E. Evans, W.T. Evans, R. James (In place of K. Madge), M.J.A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, E.M.J.G. Schiavone and D.T. Williams

Also in attendance:

D.M. Jenkins, Executive Board Member for Resources
J. Tremlett, Executive Board Member for Social Care and Health

The following Officers were in attendance:

J. Morgan, Head of Homes & Safer Communities
A. Williams, Head of Integrated Services
R. Hemingway, Head of Financial Services
A. Thomas, Group Accountant
R. Page, Senior Business Support Manager
S. Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator
J. Corner, Technical Officer
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
M.S. Davies, Democratic Services Officer
R. Lloyd, Democratic Services Officer
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 - 11.40 am

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amanda Fox, Kevin Madge and Louvain Roberts.

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS INCLUDING ANY PARTY WHIPS ISSUED IN RELATION TO ANY AGENDA ITEM.

Councillor	Minute No (s)	Nature of Interest
Ken Lloyd	4 - Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21. 5 - Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2021/22 To 2023/24	Close family member is a carer in the Shared Lives Scheme.

There were no declarations of prohibited party whips.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2020/21

[NOTE: Cllr. K. Lloyd had earlier declared an interest in this item].

The Committee considered the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report in relation to the Social Care and Health Service, which provided an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st October, 2020 in respect of the 2020/21 financial year.

The Social Care & Health Service was projecting an overspend of £933K on the revenue budget and net variance of -£157K against the 2020/21 approved capital budget.

The following questions / observations were raised on the report:

- In response to the use of the £157k capital variance the Head of Financial Services advised that this was not unusual and confirmed that there were no accounting concerns regarding this.
- Concern was raised that the overspend would have been higher if some services hadn't closed. It was stated that unfortunately, difficult circumstances had contributed to a positive impact on the budget and with the return of services this would have to be carefully monitored.
- It was asked if care workers would be receiving a second payment from Welsh Government. The Committee was advised that future payments was a Welsh Government decision but that the question would be asked via the WLGA.
- It was stated that complaints had been received that some had been eligible for the carers payment despite only working an hour. The Head of Integrated Services advised that the eligibility criteria for payment was set by Welsh Government.
- Clarification was asked what the term 'rightsizing' meant. The Head of Integrated Services advised that this was ensuring that the level of care packages and support provided was at the right level.
- Concern was raised regarding the availability of funding in meeting the increased demand on Mental Health services. It was stated that the Head of Adult Social Care was monitoring the situation carefully to ensure that funding was allocated to the right budget areas to service the increased demand.
- Concern was raised regarding the vacancies within the Occupational Therapy team and staffing levels in general. The Committee was advised there were very few vacancies and that two Occupational Therapy vacancies had recently been filled. It was also stated that when an underspend is shown at the start of the year, it would remain for the rest of the financial year as there is no back payment of salary cost. The Group Accountant stated additional information could be included within the report to clarify the position.
- It was stated that now was the time to look at developing a workforce development strategy. The Head of Integrated Services confirmed that the Communities Department were already developing a strategy and that various programmes were in place providing opportunities for apprentices to gain qualifications while working. The department was also looking to

link with various colleges to develop new courses. The Executive Board Member for Social Care and Health advised that Pentre Awel would also provide opportunities for on-site training.

- An update was requested on Cwm Aur and the partial delivery of savings. It was stated that costs had not increased and that at the time of setting the contract potential savings had been identified but not delivered but that this was on the workplan to be revisited.
- It was asked how many out of County placement the Authority had. The Head of Integrated Services advised that there were very few placements outside of County but she did not have the actual figures to hand, but would confirm at a later date.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

5. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2021/22 to 2023/24

[NOTE: Cllr. K. Lloyd had earlier declared an interest in this item].

The Committee considered the Revenue Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24 which had been considered by the Executive Board at its meeting on the 18th January, 2021. It was also noted that members of the Committee had recently attended consultation events on the budget which had provided them with an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on various aspects of the budget.

The report provided Members with the current view of the Revenue Budget for 2021/22 together with indicative figures for the 2023/24 financial years.

The Committee considered the following detailed budget information appended to the Strategy relevant to its remit.

- Appendix A – Corporate Budget Strategy 2021/22 to 2023/24
- Appendix A(i) – Efficiency summary for the Social Care & Health Service
- Appendix A(ii) – Growth Pressures summary for the Social Care & Health Service
- Appendix B – Budget monitoring report for the Social Care & Health Service
- Appendix C – Charging Digest for the Social Care & Health Service

The Head of Financial Services provided an overview of the report. He stated that the increase in the provisional settlement was 3.8% and that the Aggregate External Finance (AEF) increased to £284.820 million in 2021/22. This included £244k in respect of Teachers pay.

The social care workforce grant had been increased from £40m to £50 million across Wales. The increase was estimated at £600k for Carmarthenshire.

The Committee was advised that the minister's letter which accompanied the provisional settlement stated that Local Authorities should meet any future pay awards from their budgets. It was also stated that while £500K had been set aside in the budget specifically for Mental Health services, it would be difficult to predict the demand.

Due to delays with settlement figures publication of the final settlement would not be until the 2nd March.

The following questions/issues were raised on the report:

- Due to concerns regarding Mental Health, it was asked if any planning had taken place for post Covid and had discussions been had with other statutory services and the third sector. The Head of Integrated Services advised that the community mental health teams were fully integrated and that throughout the pandemic a clear working infrastructure had been established. Specific working groups were in place looking at the way forward and would inform changes to commissioning services ensuring that the level of needs could be met. It was stated that the transformation in mental health programmes had not stopped but there was recognition that requirements were different due to the pandemic.
- It was asked what impact Brexit would have on the Council. The Head of Financial Services advised that it was too early to quantify but that there would be an impact on free movement of goods and potential further increase in inflationary levels.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- 4.1 The 2021/22 – 2023/24 Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation be received;**
- 4.2 The Charging Digest for the Social Care & Health Service, as detailed in Appendix C to the report, be endorsed.**

6. CORPORATE STRATEGY 2018/23 - UPDATE APRIL 2021

The Committee had been advised that the Corporate Strategy 2018/23 - Update April 2021 had been withdrawn and would be considered at the next Scrutiny Committee on the 11th March, 2021.

7. 2020/21 HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT (1ST APRIL TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020) RELEVANT TO THIS SCRUTINY

The Committee considered the Performance Monitoring Report for the period 1st April to 30th September 2020, which focused on the performance measure included in the Corporate Strategy.

The report highlighted that a half year Covid-19 Community Impact Assessment had been produced to enable services to focus on dealing with emergencies instead of the previously set actions.

The Executive Board Member for Social Care and Health highlighted that adult obesity, the exercise referral scheme and the 16 week exercise referral programme were off target. This was due to Covid and the closure of the Leisure Centres, but it was hoped that these would resume soon.

The following observations / questions was raised on the report:-

- It was asked if the potential of providing on-line rehabilitation classes had been explored. The Committee was advised that the leisure department provided a comprehensive number of on-line exercise classes but that some of these would not be suitable for people from the referral scheme.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

8. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

The Committee received an explanation for the non-submission of the following scrutiny reports.

- Older People's Day Services Recovery Plan
- Services & Support for Children & Young People (Multi Agency Forum Update)
- Dementia Action Plan
- Departmental Business Plan

RESOLVED that the explanation for the non-submission be noted.

9. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on the 11th March, 2021 be noted.

10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 22ND DECEMBER, 2020

UNANAMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 22nd December, 2020 be signed as a correct record.

CHAIR

DATE

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