

Document Pack



sirgar.llyw.cymru
carmarthenshire.gov.wales

MONDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2021

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

**I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A VIRTUAL MEETING
OF THE SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THE AT 2.00 PM ON MONDAY, 29TH
NOVEMBER, 2021 FOR THE TRANSACTION OF THE
BUSINESS OUTLINED ON THE ATTACHED AGENDA.**

Wendy Walters

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Democratic Officer:	Emma Bryer
Telephone (Direct Line):	01267 224029
E-Mail:	ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

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 | Ken Lloyd |
| 3. | Councillor | Kevin Madge |
| 4. | Councillor | Bill Thomas |

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. ANNUAL REPORT ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DOLS) (2020/21) 5 - 30
5. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT 31 - 32
6. FORTHCOMING ITEMS 33 - 46
7. SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ACTIONS AND REFERRALS UPDATE 47 - 52
8. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH OCTOBER, 2021 53 - 58

This page is intentionally left blank

Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee

29th November 2021

ANNUAL REPORT ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DoLS) (2020/21)

Purpose:

To receive the Annual Report relating to Adult Safeguarding.

To consider and comment on the following issues:

This report relates to the Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards activity during the financial year (2020/21). It summarises the national, regional and local context of adult safeguarding and provides a variety of information including:

- National and Regional position
- Local Operational arrangements
- Audits and Inspections
- Performance and Activity Information

At the time of presenting this report, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act is firmly embedded into practice and the Wales Safeguarding Procedures (Statutory Guidance) have been adopted by the Regional Safeguarding Board which is well established. This Board responsible for setting the strategic direction and governance arrangements for adult safeguarding in the Mid and West Wales region and benefits from excellent strategic leadership and strong partnership working arrangements.

The Board has strengthened Carmarthenshire's approach to ensuring every person has the right to live a life free from abuse and neglect, and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we work together to support and safeguard the most vulnerable in society.

We also consider that continuously reviewing and improving our local safeguarding arrangements, allows us to effectively respond to concerns reported to the local authority and ensures compliance with Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act and its associated statutory guidance.

Reasons:

To provide Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to consider and comment on the Authority's Annual Report relating to Adult Safeguarding.

To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: Presented to Pre Cabinet 1st November 2021

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

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

Directorate: Communities Name of Head of Service: Avril Bracey Report Author: Cathy Richards	Designations: Head of Adult Social Care Senior Manager Safeguarding/DoLS	Tel Nos.: 01267 228849 / 01267 228995 E Mail Addresses: ABracey@carmarthenshire.gov.uk CRichards@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
---	---	--

Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee
29th November 2021

Subject:

**ANNUAL REPORT ON ADULT SAFEGUARDING AND DEPRIVATION OF
LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS (DoLS) (2020-21)**

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the role, functions and activities undertaken by the Local Authority in relation to Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

The Report explains the current context of Safeguarding/DoLS and details the arrangements the Authority has established to respond effectively to such reports and applications received. As the statutory organisation responsible for adult safeguarding, the Authority is required to have effective arrangements in place to ensure adults at risk are protected from harm. The Local Authority undertakes this role in close partnership with Dyfed Powys Police, Hywel Dda University Health Board and other statutory and non-statutory organisations. The report itemises some of the key performance activity, processes and practice.

The Local Authority is also the Supervisory body for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards which ensures some of our most vulnerable citizens are properly safeguarded. This report details current DoLS arrangements and the forthcoming changes.

This report aims to reassure the committee that Carmarthenshire County Council is well placed to implement the duties and principles of the Social Services and Well Being Act and is performing well in relation to meeting the expectations of DoLS Legislation (within the Mental Capacity Act (2005)).

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 Adult Social Care

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

1. Legal

We continue to review our processes to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Wales Safeguarding procedures. We have systems in place to prioritise DoLS applications and scrutinise the quality of assessments undertaken.

2. Risk Management Issues

We have identified that there are risks associated with the waiting list for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards authorisations which has reduced. We continue to make improvements in this area each year. We currently have no DoLS assessments awaiting authorisation as all have been authorised where appropriate. Although the financial and reputational risks remain, we have introduced robust processes to mitigate these risks.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Avril Bracey Head of Adult Social Care

1. Local Member(s)

N/A

2. Community / Town Council

N/A

3. Relevant Partners

N/A

4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

N/A

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

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

THERE ARE NONE

This page is intentionally left blank

Adult Safeguarding and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Annual Report 2020-21

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) placed adult safeguarding on a statutory footing and introduced a strong, partnership approach to ensuring adults (with care and support needs) are protected from abuse or neglect. The Act established a National Independent Safeguarding Board and 6 Regional Safeguarding Boards. Carmarthenshire County Council is part of the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board.

Adult Safeguarding - National context

The National Independent Safeguarding Board was established under the SSWBA 2014 and has three primary functions

1. To provide advice and support to Regional Safeguarding Boards with a view to ensuring they are effective
2. To report on the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard children and adults in Wales
3. To make recommendations to Welsh Ministers as to how those arrangements could be improved

In 2019/20 the National Independent Safeguarding Board launched the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures and made five recommendations to the Welsh Ministers in its annual report. Please see full report below.

<https://safeguardingboard.wales/2020/11/30/annual-report-2019-20/>

Adult Safeguarding - Regional context

The Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board (RSB) has been operational since 2016 and replaced local safeguarding boards. The statutory functions of the board are carried out by Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys Local Authorities, Dyfed Powys Police, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Powys Teaching Health Board, Public Health Wales and the Probation Service (Wales). The board may also include other persons or bodies that it considers should be represented and who are involved in or have activities or functions relating to children or adults in its area.

The Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board has two distinct workstreams, one for children (CYSUR) and one for adults (CWMPAS) which are overseen by a combined regional board which meets on a quarterly basis.

The board is well organised and collaborative and has achieved a great deal through its successful joint working arrangements. This was clearly evidenced by the work undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic when weekly meetings involving all partner agencies were promptly convened to ensure all agencies shared relevant information, identified risks, and responded appropriately.

In addition to meeting the needs of children and adults within the Mid and West Wales region, the board ensures regional compliance with national legislation and policy. For more information, please see the latest information on the Mid and West Wales Regional Board Website: <http://cysur.wales/home>

Carmarthenshire County Council continues to make a significant contribution to the work of the Regional Safeguarding Board and takes a lead role in several of its associated subgroups. Carmarthenshire plays an instrumental role in progressing key initiatives and developing new policies and procedures. Carmarthenshire's Director of Communities is chair of the Children's regional workstream (CYSUR) and joint chair of the quarterly Regional Safeguarding Board meetings.

Adult Safeguarding- local context

The national and regional arrangements continue to support and strengthen Carmarthenshire's ongoing local commitment to safeguarding its citizens from abuse or neglect. This includes embedding an "everybody's responsibility" approach to keeping people safe. This is emphasised in the Safeguarding training routinely offered to internal and external staff.

The Carmarthenshire Local Safeguarding Operational Group which meets quarterly, further evidences the continued commitment of all local agencies to work together to improve safeguarding arrangements within the county. This group is chaired jointly by the Head of Children's and Adult services and continued to operate throughout 2020/21. and focuses on seeking solutions to multi agency operational challenges.

During the past year the Carmarthenshire Adult Safeguarding team with support from internal and external partners, continued to analyse and improve its safeguarding processes to ensure compliance with statutory duties and to ensure good outcomes for adults at risk. This has been done, not only as a natural process of continuous improvement but also in response to statutory

and non-statutory guidance. Carmarthenshire County Council continues to maintain robust and effective adult safeguarding arrangements which were not compromised during the global pandemic, during which time appropriately risk assessed face to face visits to adults at risk continued.

An all-Wales assurance check undertaken by Care Inspectorate Wales in February 2021 provided positive feedback in all areas including adult safeguarding.

From the files we reviewed, we found safeguarding enquiries and investigations conducted in line with statutory requirements. Strategy meetings and discussions were effective and involved relevant agencies. We found good analysis of risk, protection plans in place and action taken where necessary.

Providers and partners said they were supported by adult the adult safeguarding team: their willingness to offer advice, guidance and assist with training social care staff was acknowledged.

In addition, an internal audit of adult safeguarding enquiries (front door) procedures undertaken in June 2021 provided a high assurance rating and concluded the following:

- Good controls consistently applied
- Low risk of not meeting objectives
- Low risk of fraud, negligence, loss, damage to reputation

Please see full report below.



Final Report - Front
Door Safeguarding

Carmarthenshire county council has implemented the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures and delivered several awareness raising sessions on behalf of the Regional Safeguarding Board. The safeguarding team have also delivered regular local themed safeguarding training sessions and surgery sessions for practitioners which is ongoing.

Safeguarding Enquiry Process

Undertaking initial enquiries is a fundamental part of the safeguarding process and key to identifying early solutions to potentially abusive or neglectful situations. The Social services and Well-being Act together with its associated

guidance and procedures, sets out the expectations on Local Authorities as the responsible statutory organisation.

Initial safeguarding enquiries (s126) are expected to be undertaken within 7 days however, it is important they are not rushed. Responsibility for the enquiry can be delegated to another, more appropriate organisation however, the prescribed timescales still apply, and overall responsibility remains with the local authority. Ensuring the timescales are met for delegated enquiries remains challenging particularly at the height of the pandemic when staff resources within many organisations were depleted or deployed to critical frontline services

Enquiries (Duty) Officer Role

The introduction of the dedicated adult safeguarding enquiries (duty) officer role continues to be an effective use of resources. This role is dedicated to screening and assessing safeguarding reports received by the local authority enabling the officer to take responsive action if necessary. This often involves visiting the adult at risk where appropriate, after which the officer will decide what action, if any, is necessary to make the person as safe as possible.

The officers occupying this role have developed excellent working relationships with partner agencies, in particular Dyfed Powys Police who they work closely with daily. Due to the increased number of safeguarding reports and our commitment to ensuring comprehensive enquiries are undertaken, the team will pilot the deployment of a third officer to this role in September 2021. This will be resourced from within the current team structure.

The Adult Safeguarding Team

The safeguarding team structure comprises of six senior safeguarding officers (one of which is a new additional post, currently out to advert), four of whom are fluent Welsh speakers. Two of the six team members are dedicated to undertaking safeguarding enquiries (duty officer) as per the Social Services and well-being Act 2014, and the remaining four undertake safeguarding investigations. The team have significant experience having worked in adult Safeguarding for many years. The operational team manager post for Safeguarding and DoLS is currently vacant however, expressions of interest have been received from within the team for an acting role whilst the post is advertised on a permanent basis. The team is led by a senior manager with strategic and regional responsibilities as well managing Carmarthenshire's

Channel arrangements (early support for individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism) and Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV).

The team work closely with all partner agencies to fulfil the local authority's statutory responsibilities. This ensures the most appropriate action is taken at the right time to safeguard individuals at risk. The safeguarding team are also responsible for responding to concerns which relate to the actions or inactions of persons in a position of trust who work with adults with care and support needs.

As part of their work, the safeguarding team regularly attend and contribute to the Carmarthenshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Forum (MARAC) which considers the actions required for high-risk domestic abuse victims. They also attend Human trafficking MARAC's and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) meetings in relation to individuals who present a risk to the public.

The safeguarding team continue to undertake regular training which is appropriate to their roles and apply the learning to practice. The senior manager holds regular service development days where the team actively contribute to the analysis of team performance and the identification of service improvements. There is a shared commitment to delivering excellent service standards within the team and achieving good outcomes for adults at risk.

Person Centred safeguarding

The new Wales Safeguarding Procedures support a shift in practice which focuses on the views, wishes and feelings of the person at risk which is the obvious starting point for any safeguarding intervention. Whilst still important, there is now far less emphasis on the alleged perpetrator and investigations and more on seeking solutions and achieving good outcomes for the individual adult at risk. Carmarthenshire County council has been changing practice to reflect the new way of working since the implementation of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act in 2016.

The safeguarding team, together with support from other professionals take a proactive role in visiting and speaking directly with the adult at risk to gain a clear understanding of the situation and risks from their perspective. Solutions are based on the desired outcomes of the person and appropriately supported

by professionals involved. These visits have continued throughout the pandemic.

Audits/Inspections

Regular audits and inspections are an integral part of the safeguarding team's quality assurance mechanisms. In addition to independent internal and external scrutiny, the team routinely review their own systems, processes, decision making and outcomes to ensure standards remain high.

The audits are undertaken in a variety of ways including, self-audits, peer audits and management audits. They are discussed constructively in team meetings to ensure improvement opportunities and areas of inconsistency are identified and addressed.

The safeguarding team work closely with our contracting and commissioning colleagues on a daily basis, exchanging information and responding to concerns in relation to commissioned services, eg residential care homes. Both teams also arrange structured bi-monthly meetings to consolidate actions taken and share information on matters such as emerging concerns and changes in legislation or practice. Both teams report the benefit and constructive nature of these meetings. For continuity the safeguarding officers work with specific service providers which enables them to identify patterns or trends which are addressed collaboratively with the provider, commissioners, Care Inspectorate Wales and other appropriate partner agencies.

Adult Protection Support Orders (APSO)

The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 saw the introduction of ADULT Protection Support Orders which enable an authorised officer (and anyone else named in the order) to speak with an adult suspected of being at risk of abuse or neglect in private to establish whether they are making decisions freely, to assess whether the person is an adult at risk and establish if any action should be taken.

The use of such orders is rare with only two applications made since the implementation of the SSWB Act in 2016. However, in December 2020 Carmarthenshire adult safeguarding team felt it necessary to apply to the Magistrates Court for an APSO in response to a particular concern. This was successfully granted and used appropriately with support from legal services and Dyfed Powys Police.

Adult Practice Reviews (APR)

In accordance with the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014, the Regional Safeguarding Board must arrange for an Adult Practice Review to be held where abuse or neglect of an adult is known or suspected, and the adult has:

- died
- sustained potentially life-threatening injury or
- sustained serious and permanent impairment of health

The purpose of the review will be to identify if there is any learning for future practice and to promote future improvements in relation to inter-agency adult protection practice. A learning event will be held and attended by professionals who were involved with the adult and/or family.

Carmarthenshire Adult services currently have one current Adult Practice Review in progress.

Multi Agency Professional Forum (MAPF)

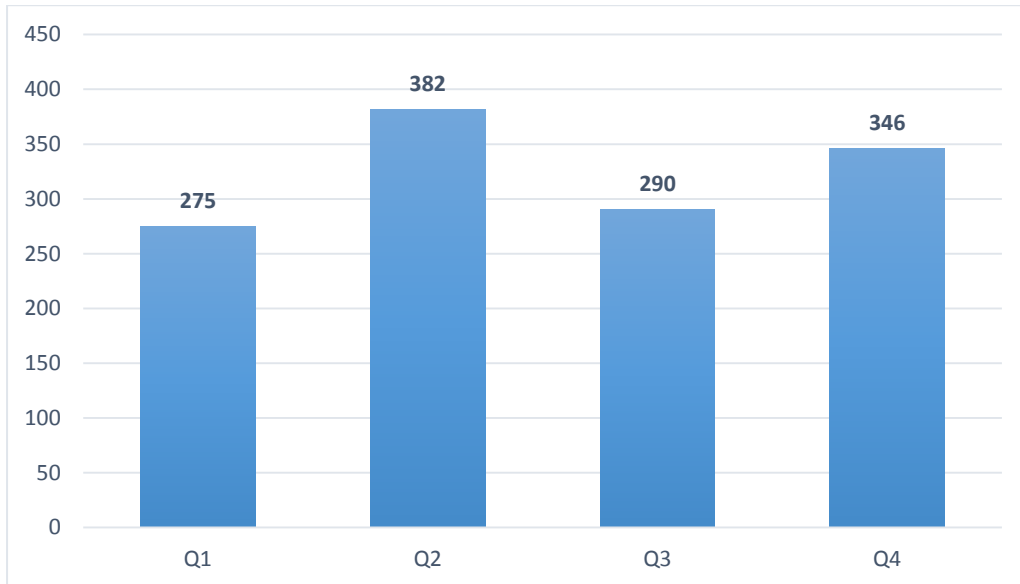
A Multi Agency Professional Forum can be held when the circumstances do not meet the criteria for an Adult Practice however, learning opportunities have been identified. The MAPF is another mechanism for identifying organisational learning, improving the quality of work with families and strengthening the ability of services to keep people safe. During 2021 Carmarthenshire County Council facilitated one MAPF learning event with three events pending. The delay is attributable in part to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Performance data

Safeguarding performance measures are set by and reported to Welsh Government on an annual basis and to the Regional Safeguarding Board quarterly. This data enables us to ensure adequate resources are in place to respond and to identify patterns and trends which influence our future prevention and protection strategies.

Safeguarding performance data

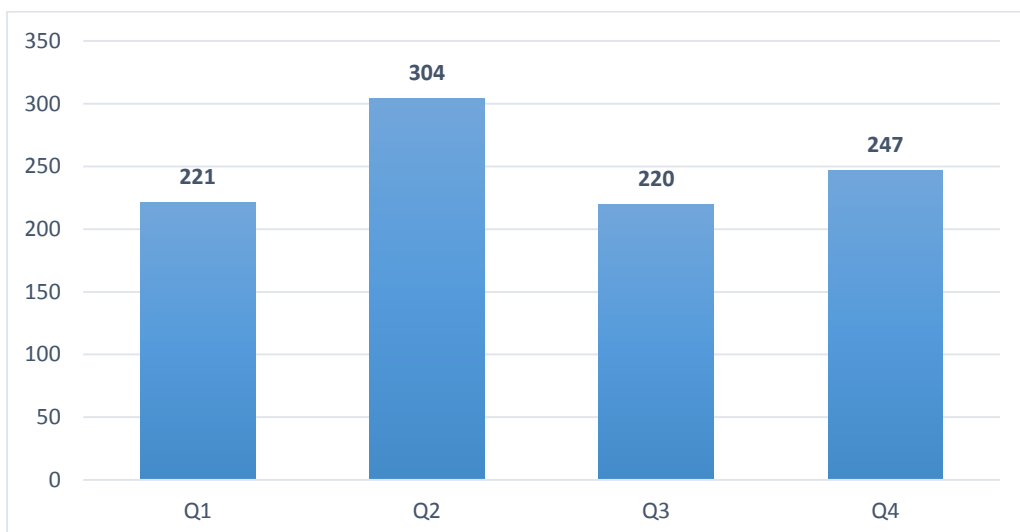
1. Number of reports of an adult suspected of being at risk received during the period



2020/21 Total = 1293

Carmarthenshire adult services received an average of 107 safeguarding reports each month during 2020/21. This does not include concerns relating to people in a position of trust and does not reflect the total number of contacts received by the safeguarding team.

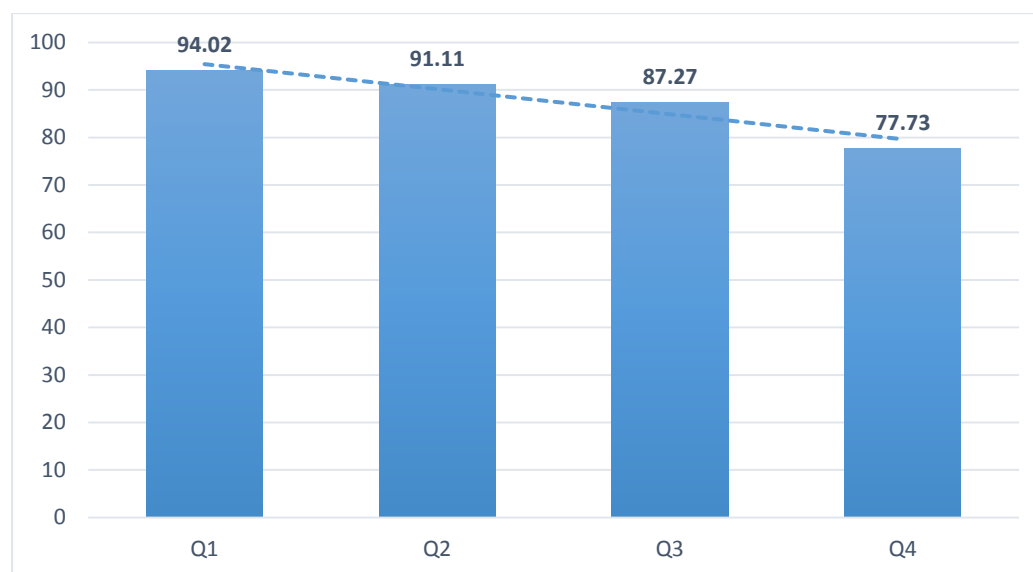
2. Number of safeguarding reports that led to an enquiry



Total Number of Safeguarding Enquiries undertaken= 992

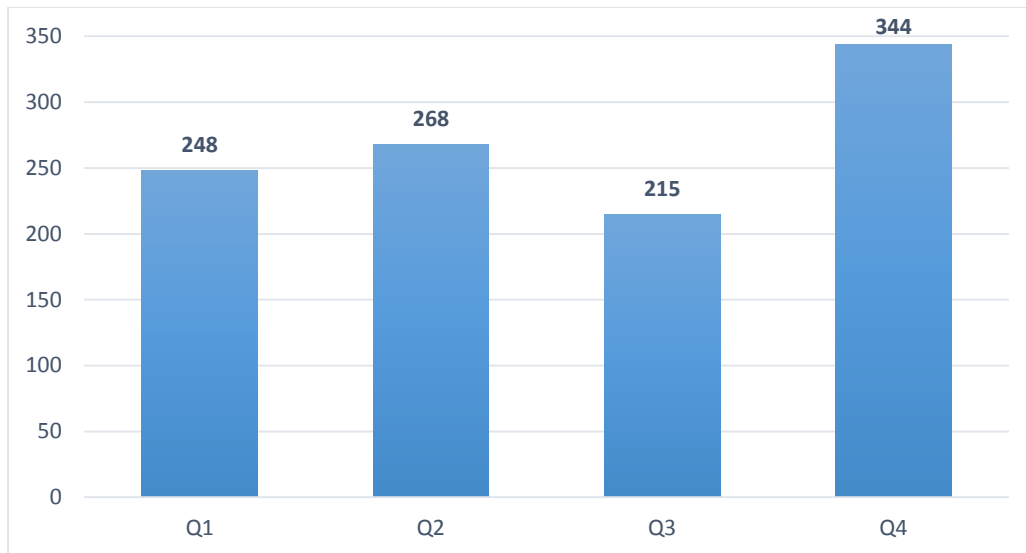
When the local authority has reasonable cause to suspect an adult is, or may be at risk of abuse or neglect, it has a duty to make safeguarding enquiries. In 2020/21, **76.7%** of safeguarding reports received were deemed appropriate to proceed to an enquiry (s126). This number is lower than in 2019/ 20 due largely to the work of the safeguarding duty officers take time to establish the facts of the report before proceeding to statutory enquiries.

3. number of safeguarding enquiries undertaken in 7 days



The number of enquiries undertaken within 7 days has been decreasing throughout 2020/21. Statutory guidance states that “***safeguarding enquiries should normally be undertaken within 7 days; however, they should not be rushed***”. Several factors have contributed to this downward trend including a change in reporting which captures the length of time taken more accurately, complex situations requiring detailed enquiries and the lack of availability of staff in partner agencies during the pandemic, i.e., staff deployed to other areas, sickness, and self-isolation. We do anticipate that this position will be improved upon this year. It is also important to note that from the local authority perspective, all safeguarding reports are screened and prioritised within 1 working day and staffing within the safeguarding team during the pandemic has remained stable.

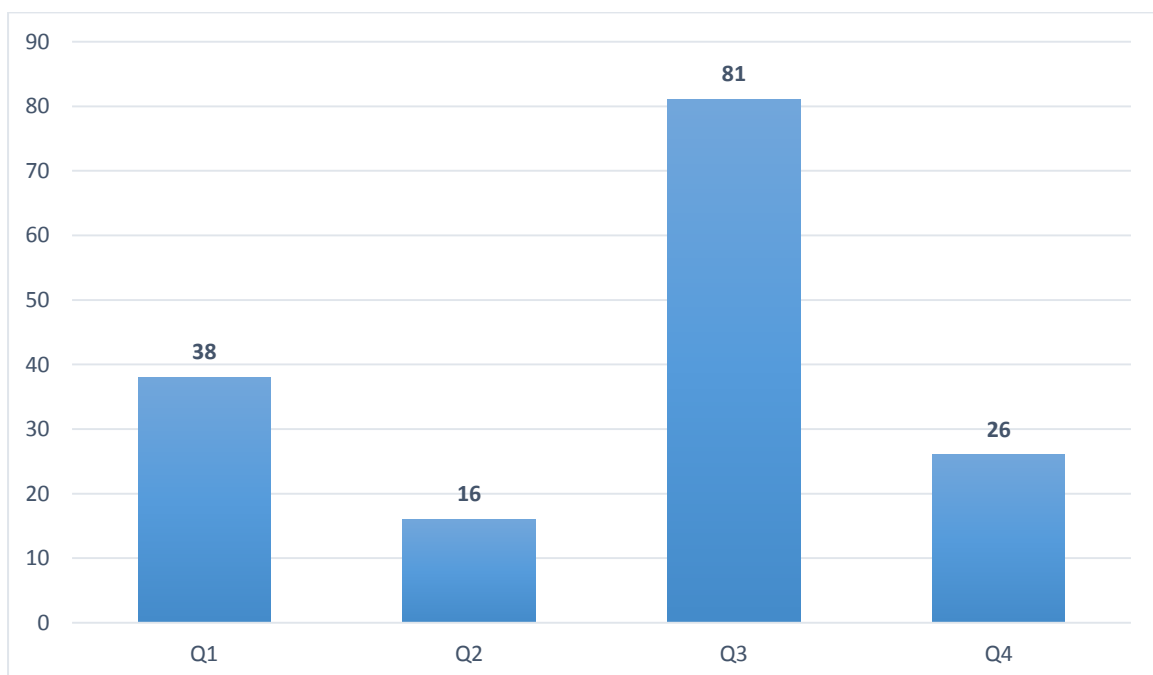
4. Number of strategy discussions during this period



Total = 1075

This PI reflects the number of strategy discussions held with Dyfed Powys Police or other partner agencies as part of safeguarding enquiries. Strategy discussions allow the local authority and partner agencies to identify situations which require collaborative intervention.

5. Number of strategy meetings during this period

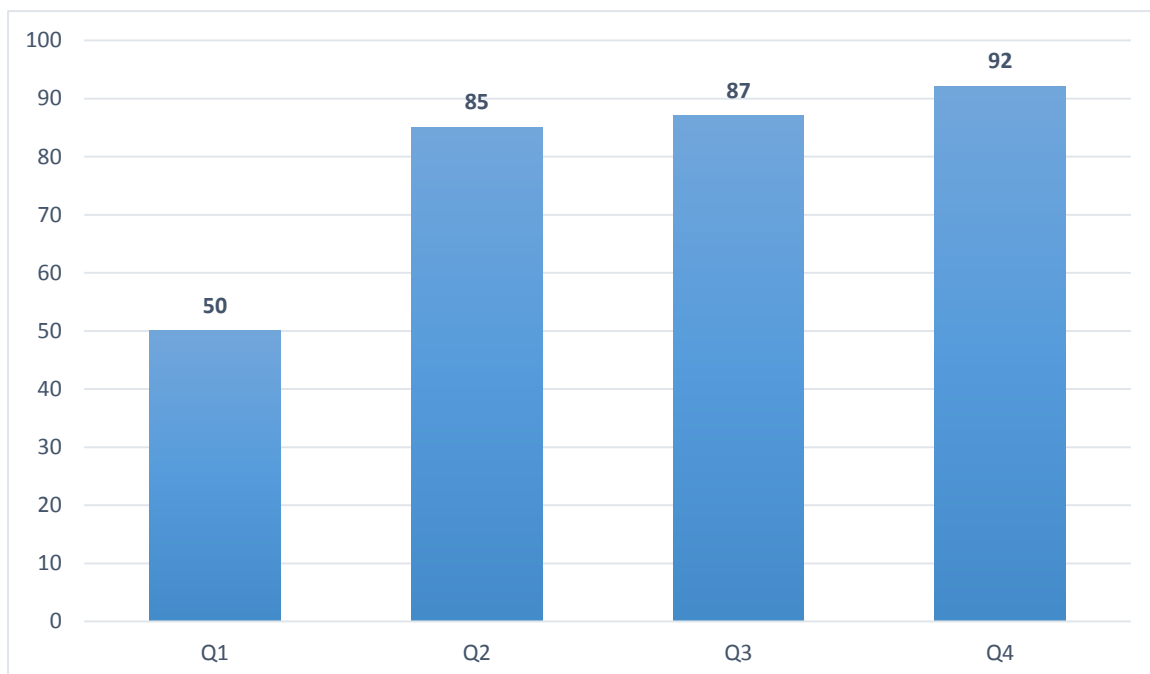


This PI is not indicative of good or poor performance. The number of strategy meetings held is dependent on several factors including the complexity of the case, ie some cases may require several strategy meetings and others may require none.

This data is captured upon closure of the intervention, therefore not a reflection of the actual strategy meeting activity occurring in each period.

A case cleansing exercise was undertaken in Q4 in preparation for the Local Authority's migration to the new Eclipse data management system.

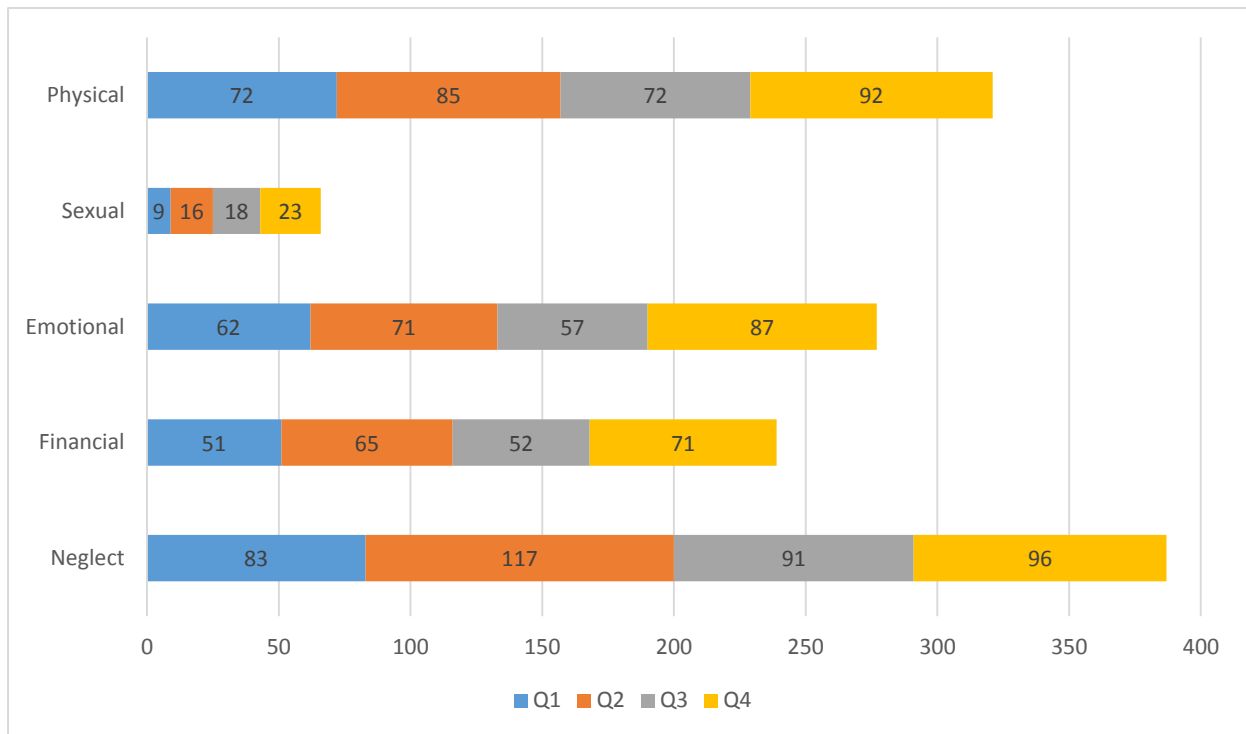
6. Number of adults with protection plans in place



Total = 314

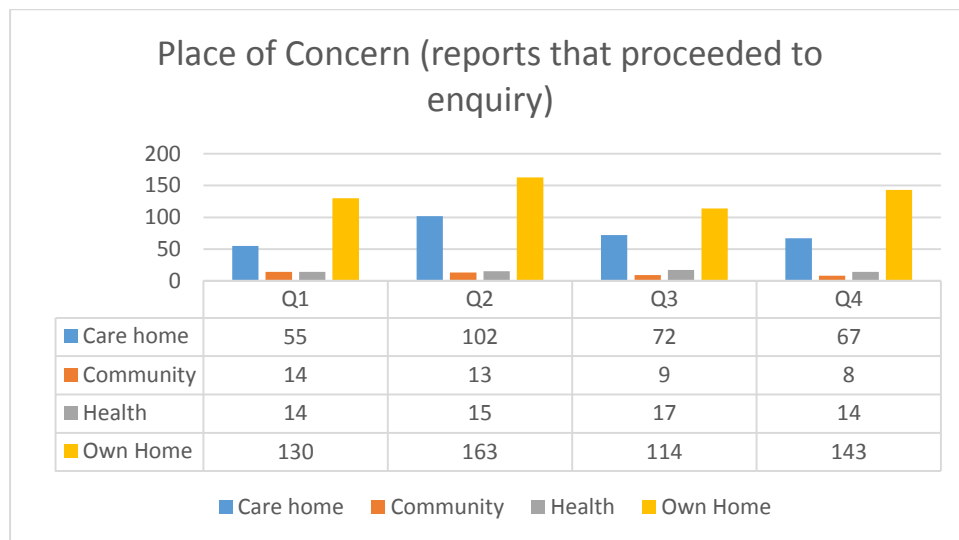
Whilst every safeguarding enquiry concludes with a plan to ensure the adult at risk is protected, this PI reflects the number of detailed safeguarding plans integrated into the persons ongoing care and support plan.

7. Categories of concern



Category	2020/21 Total
Neglect	387
Financial	239
Emotional/Psychological	277
Sexual	66
Physical	321
TOTAL	1290

8. Place of concern



A persons own home remains highest in relation to the place where the concern occurred followed by Care homes. These trends are expected due to the delivery of care in these settings.

9. Number of professional concerns 2020/21 (Person in apposition of Trust)

Q1	23
Q2	40
Q3	40
Q4	39
Total	142

These concerns relate to the actions or inactions of people in a position of trust who are cited in a safeguarding concern or behaving in a way that brings into question their suitability to work with adults with care and support needs.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Article 5, Human Rights Act 1998 states that “everyone has the right to liberty and security of person”. However, there are some instances where it is in a person’s best interest to be deprived of liberty, for example, to provide appropriate care and support to a person unable to care for themselves **and** who is lacking mental capacity to consent to the arrangements in place to keep them safe from harm. In these circumstances the arrangements considered to be in the persons best interest must be scrutinised and authorised “in accordance with a procedure set out by law”.

The procedure set out in law is detailed in the **Mental Capacity Act 2005 amendment- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)** which prescribes how the Local Authority/Health Board must satisfy itself that the deprivation of liberty is necessary, proportionate, least restrictive and in the person’s best interest. It also ensures that the person has an appropriate advocate who can act on their behalf and challenge any disproportionate or unlawful deprivation of liberty.

In March 2014, a Supreme Court judgment [P v Cheshire West and Chester Council; P& Q v Surrey County Council] effectively lowered the threshold for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. The new threshold meant that a significant number of individuals residing in residential homes, nursing homes and hospitals became eligible for the safeguards. The Local authority has the statutory responsibility for the DoLS assessments and authorisations for individuals living in residential and nursing homes.

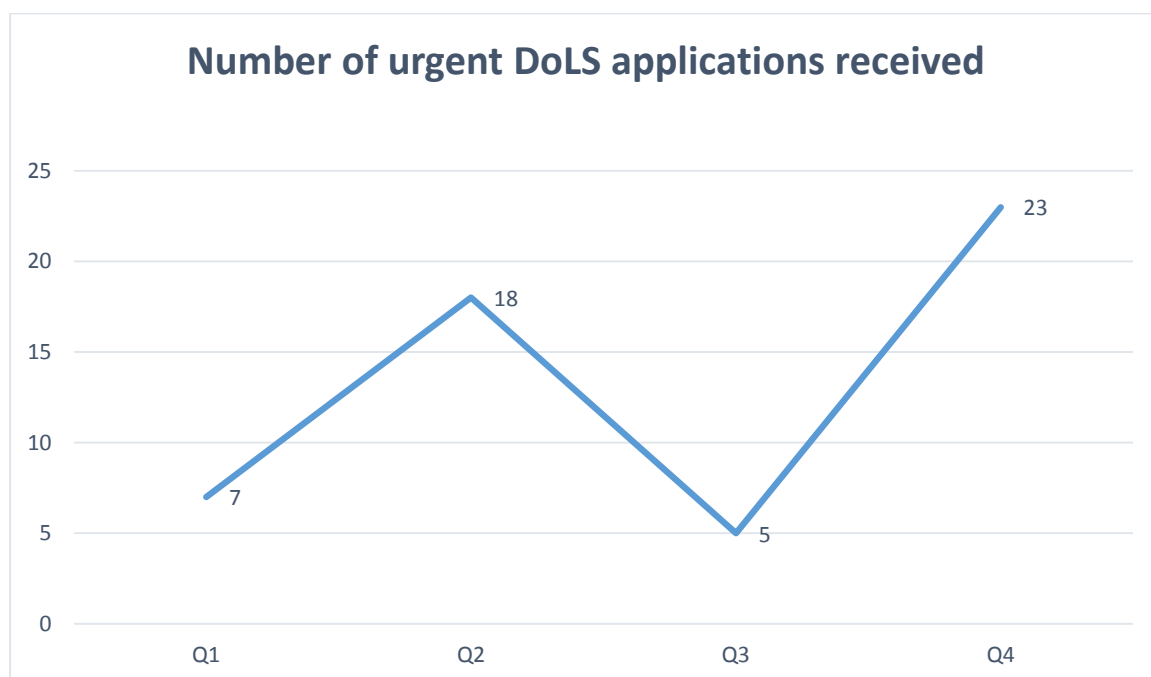
The sharp rise in demand for DoLS assessments, without additional resources resulted in an accrual of applications pending and the potential risk of individuals being deprived of liberty without lawful scrutiny and authorisation. This situation is replicated across almost all local authorities in Wales and England.

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

The global pandemic had a significant impact on Care homes in Wales and visiting restrictions were put in place at an early stage however, the local authority statutory duty to undertake assessments for DoLS remained in place. As a result, alternative methods for assessment were implemented such as remote assessments and use of historical records. Regional and National guidance supported these approaches however, it presented numerous challenges such as, internet quality, availability of remote devices, and not least some residents unfamiliarity and confusion with this method of communication.

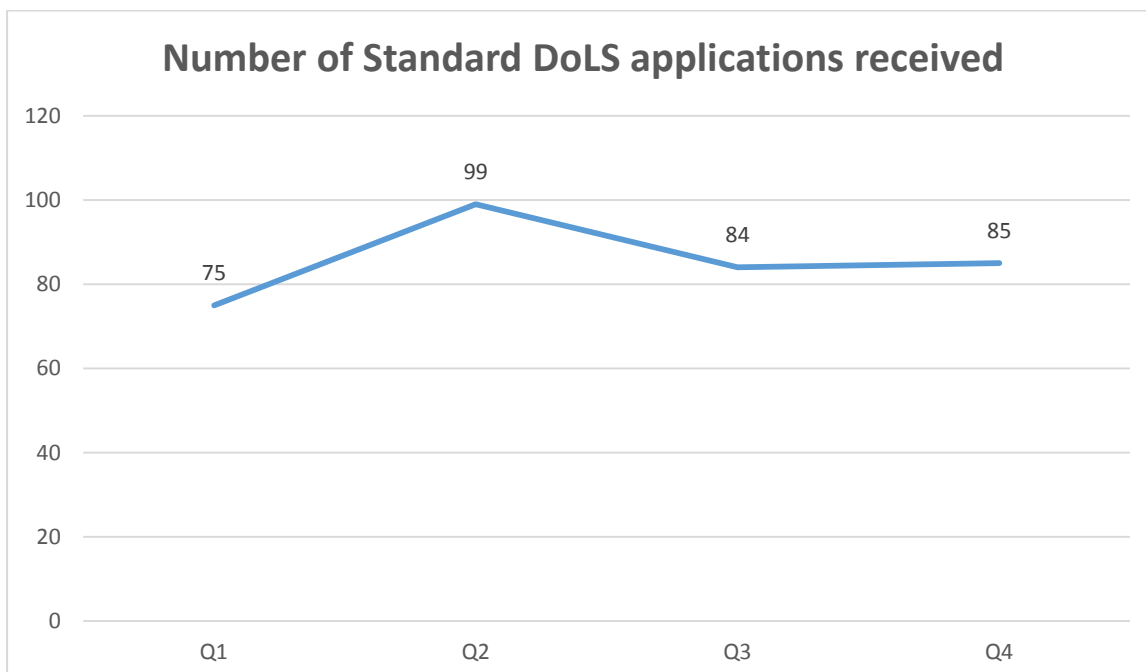
There are two types of DoLS application, a standard which requires assessment within 21 days, and a standard with an urgent which requires assessment within 7 days.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) Performance Data



Total = 53 urgent applications received

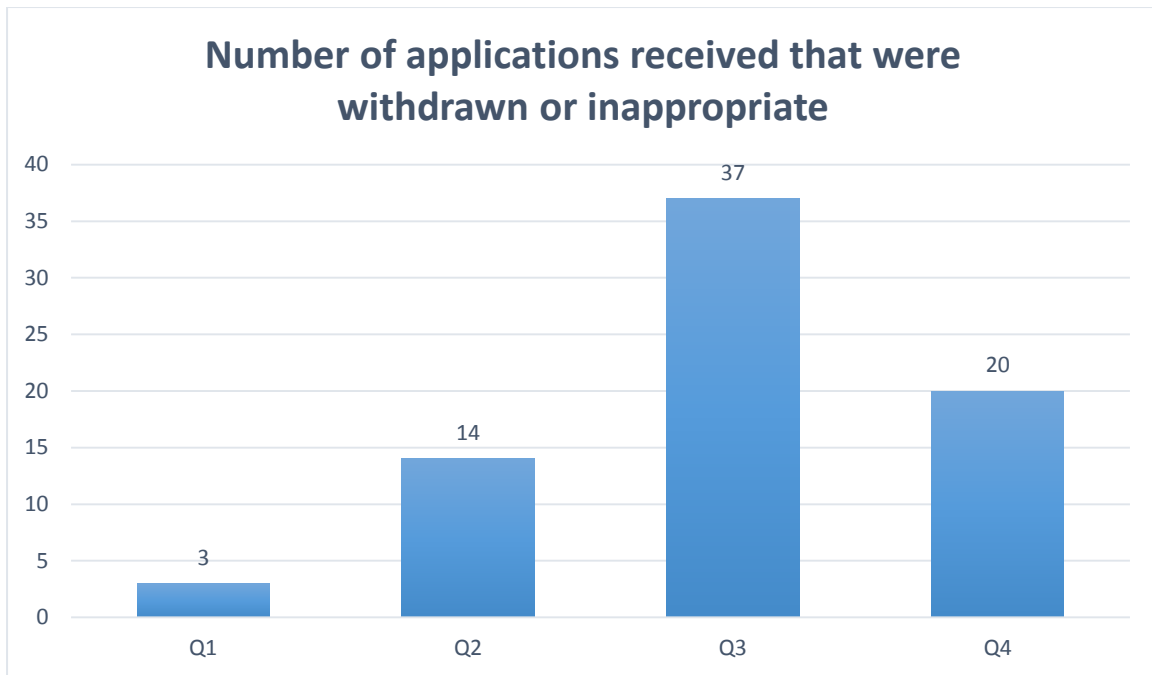
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
% of Urgent authorisations received that were completed within 7 days of receipt	0%	17%	20%	33%



Total = 343 standard applications received

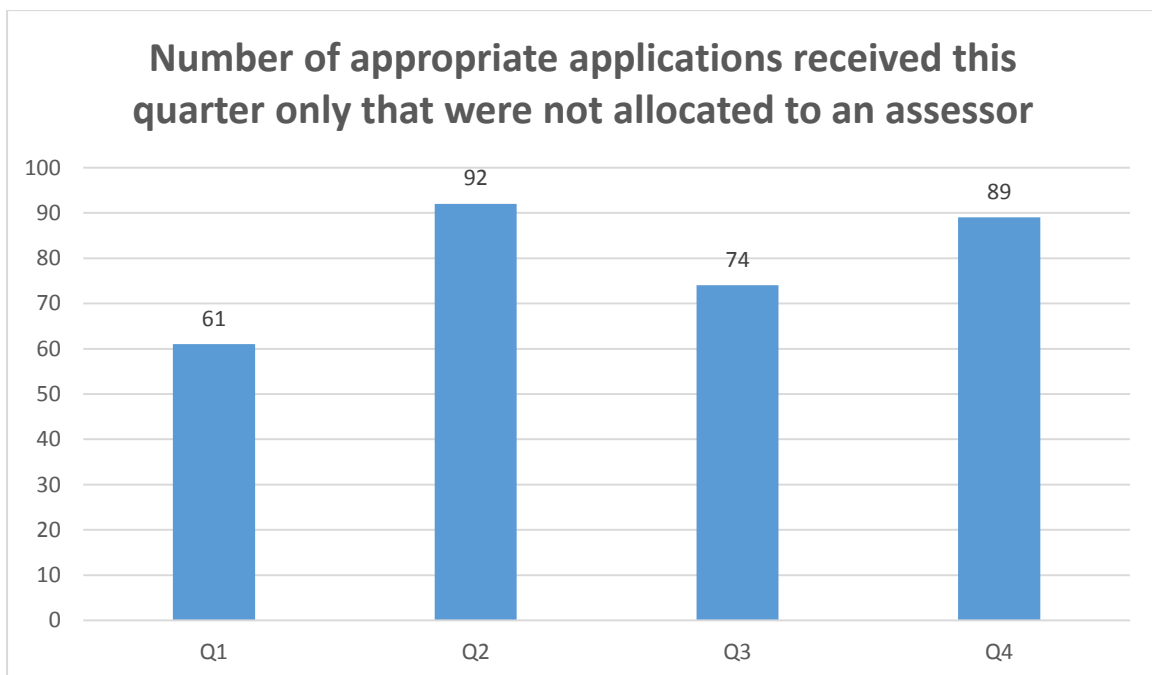
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
% of Standard authorisations that were completed within 21 days of allocation	3%	22%	38%	49%

The figures above are indicative of the challenges experienced in 2020/21, for example, access to care homes/ care home information and availability of qualified assessors. Carmarthenshire County Councils ability to complete DoLS assessments remotely improved throughout each reporting period.



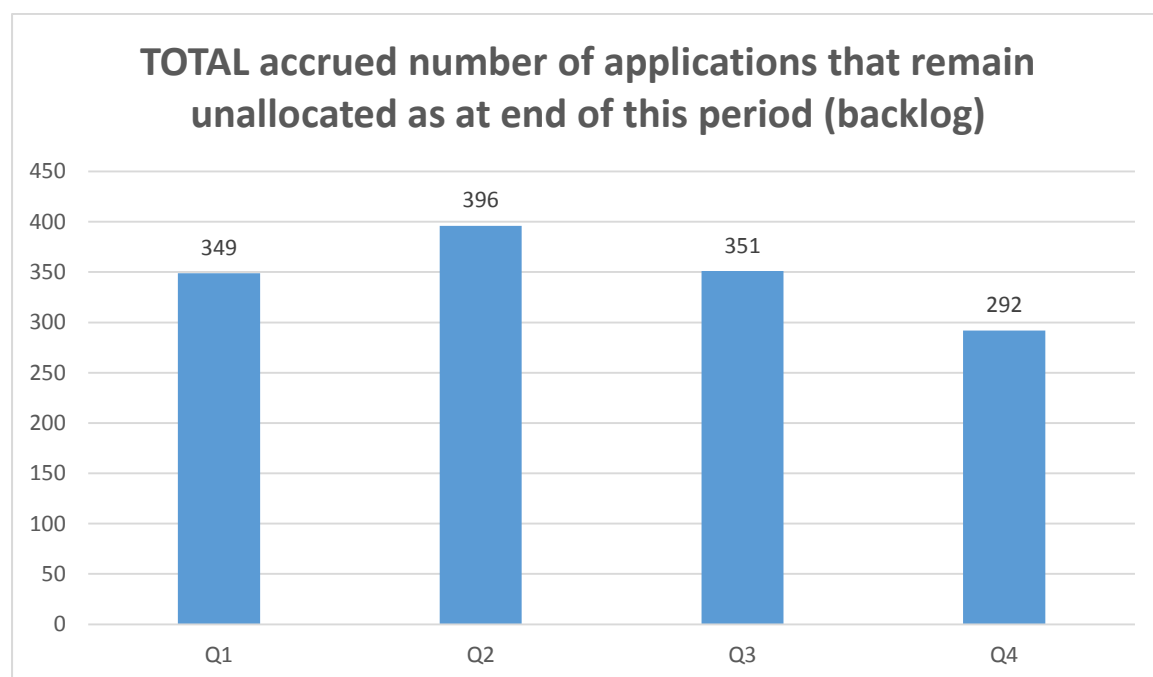
Total = 74

Applications are often withdrawn due to the death of a resident. Inappropriate applications include applications which do not meet the criteria for the safeguards.



Total = 316

As result of the increased demand since 2014 most local authorities in Wales and England are unable to respond to all applications received. A robust prioritisation mechanism is in place to ensure the most urgent and appropriate applications are allocated for assessment.



Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)

The existing Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) have been deemed “not fit for purpose” for several reasons and will be replaced by the new **Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS)**. The new safeguards were due for implementation in October 2020 however this has been delayed and will now come into effect on **1st April 2022**.

The new safeguards will include some significant changes however, most notable to consider at this point is that the safeguards extend beyond individuals residing in care home/hospital settings and will also apply to deprivations of liberty in the community. This includes, **supported living settings, shared lives arrangements and in a person’s own/family home**.

The Liberty Protection Safeguards will also apply to **16- and 17-year-olds** and therefore applicable to deprivations of liberty which occur in **special needs schools, the family home, children's homes, and foster placements etc.**

In addition, it includes deprivations of liberty which do not relate to specific residences such as, **during transportation and at day services.**

A new code of practice for Liberty Protection Safeguards is due to be circulated for consultation. The detail contained within the code will inform the resources and processes required for implementation.

In preparation for the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards, the Mid and West Wales region (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Powys) have agreed to undertake a scoping exercise which aims to obtain an informed estimate of how many people are currently being cared for in a way that amounts to a deprivation of their liberty, and which entitles them to the safeguards set out in law. This exercise will help predict demand for LPS authorisations and any associated training/resource implications.

EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE : Social Care & Health

DATE OF MEETING : 29th November 2021

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	EXPLANATION	REVISED SUBMISSION DATE
Dementia Action Plan	Alex Williams	Since this item was originally identified on the Forward Work Programme, some work has commenced via the Regional Partnership Board to commission a regional Dementia Strategy. It has therefore been agreed that the Strategy will be developed first before consideration is given as to whether a local plan is still required. The Regional Strategy will in the fullness of time be considered for approval by Cabinet, and it would be appropriate at that stage for the Committee to have consideration of the Regional Strategy.	TBC once timescales for Regional Strategy are clearer.
Residential Care Update	Jonathan Morgan/Chris Harrison	It is recommended that a report is provided after the winter period in order that a full assessment can be carried out of the on-going pressures and a comparison can be made with last year. The care home market stability report will also be available at this point	10 th March 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th October 2021

FORTHCOMING ITEMS TO BE HELD ON 29TH November 2021 [2.00 P.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
Mental Health Update – including the impact of Covid (Avril Bracey)	The Scrutiny Committee to receive an update on Mental Health and the impact of Covid on mental health and wellbeing.	For Scrutiny to be updated on mental health and wellbeing and the work being undertaken in this area.
Services & Support for Children & Young People (Multi Agency Forum Update)	To provide an overview of services currently available for young people with emotional and mental health issues and outline progress made on the services provided.	The Committee requested regular updates following presentation of the report at the Scrutiny meeting on the 17 th April, 2019.
Performance Management Report (Quarter 2)	To report on the Well-being objectives and Improvement objectives as set out in the Corporate Strategy.	This item will enable the Committee to consider and comment upon progress achieved and to enable members to exercise their scrutiny role.

Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting
1. Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 (latest budgetary position as at 31 st August 2021) – circulated 19/11/21

Briefings provided to the Committee since the last meeting
2. N/A

The following document(s) attached for information
1. The latest version of the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Programme 2021/22.
2. The latest version of the Executive Board Forward Work Programme 2021/22.

SC&H Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Programme 2021/22

21 st May 21	7 th July 21	5 th October 21	29 th November 21	20 th December 21	26 th January 22	10 th March 22	20 th April 22	Joint Scrutiny E&PP + SC&H (Date tbc)
Mental Health - General Update	Draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 20/21	Budget Monitoring 2021/22 –	Annual Safeguarding Report – moved from July & October	Mental Health Update – inc impact of Covid	Budget Monitoring 2021/22	Domiciliary Care Update	Budget Monitoring 2021/22 - to be circulated via email	Area Planning Board's Drug & Alcohol Misuse Annual Report
SC & Health Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2021/22	Annual Report on the Wellbeing Objectives	Performance Management Report (Quarter 1)	Budget Monitoring 2021/22 – to be circulated via email	Services & Support for Children & Young People (Multi Agency Forum Update)	Revenue Budget Consultation 2021 – 2023	Residential Care Update (in-house & independent) moved from November	Performance Management Report (Quarter 3)	Area Board Substance Misuse Service Annual Report
Budget Monitoring 2021/22 – to be circulated via email	SC&H Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/22	Covid-19 Position Statement – moved from July	Residential Care Update (in-house & independent) moved to March	Performance Management Report (Quarter 2)	Autism Update	Adult Social Services Complaints and Compliments Report (Q3) to be included within the main corporate annual report.	Carers Update	
	Annual Safeguarding Report moved to October	Domiciliary Care, Social Work Workforce & Market Pressures	Covid-19 Position Statement		Loneliness - Task & Finish Update		Learning Disability Strategy (2021-26)	

21 st May 21	7 th July 21	5 th October 21	29 th November 21	20 th December 21	26 th January 22	10 th March 22	20 th April 22	Joint Scrutiny E&PP + SC&H (Date tbc)
	Covid-19 Position Statement – moved to October	End of Year Budget Monitoring moved from July	Dementia Action Plan – (Moved from April – DATE TBC)				Dementia Action Plan - (DATE TBC)	
	End of Year Budget Monitoring moved to October	Annual Safeguarding Report moved from July – moved to November						
		Adult Social Services Complaints and Compliments Report (Q1) – to be included within the main corporate annual report.						
		Communities Department Business Plan 2021/22 – 23-24 (date TBC) Process of updating won't start until end Sept. To be included in FWP next municipal year.						

ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PROGRAMME:

- Services & Support for Children & Young People (Multi Agency Forum Update)
- Mental Health of Carers and Young People (incorporated into General Mental Health Update)
- Annual Safeguarding Report
- Dementia Action Plan

ITEMS FOR JOINT MEETINGS IN 2021/22: DATE TBC

- Area Planning Board's Drug & Alcohol Misuse Annual Report (E&PP and Social Care & Health)
- Area Board Substance Misuse Service Annual Report (E&PP and Social Care & Health)

TASK & FINISH REVIEW (on hold pending re-scoping exercise / due to time constraints delayed until next year):

- Early Intervention & Prevention of Suicide in Carmarthenshire.

{NOTES: Age group 18-24/ males. 1 area of national strategy – PREVENTION (what are we doing). 6 priorities in WG National Strategy}.

TASK & FINISH REVIEW – FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- Mental Health of Children – joint with Education (Chair to arrange with E&CS Chair)
- Social Care in the Home – Review of how other Countries are working / Best Practice

DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS:

21st May

- Overall approach to supporting discharge to hospital – Alex

7th July

- ~~Shared Lives Placement (inc. Living Units for people with learning disabilities) – Avril~~
- Day Services & Respite Service – Avril
- Overview of Delta Wellbeing & Social Care Services Delivery

5th October

- ~~Overall approach to right sizing and review of domiciliary care – Alex (included with COVID update 05/10/21 Scrutiny)~~
- ~~Recruitment and Retention of OT & Social Workers – Alex / Avril (included with COVID update 05/10/21 Scrutiny)~~
- ~~Shared Lives Placement (inc. Living Units for people with learning disabilities) – Avril (moved from 7th July – Moved to December)~~

1st December

- Shared Lives Placement (inc. Living Units for people with learning disabilities) – Avril (moved from 7th July – Moved to December)

10th March

- CHC / Citizens Voice Body [Chair to confirm date]

20th April

REPORTS REQUESTED / CIRCULATED VIA E-MAIL:

- Budget Monitoring Report (18/05/21)
- Budget Monitoring Report (18/11/21)

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22
–as at 23/09/2021 (For the period September 21 – September 22)

Introduction

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

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

WORKING DRAFT

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22
–as at 23/09/2021 (For the period September 21 – September 22)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Cabinet Portfolio	Scrutiny Committee to be consulted	Date of expected decision by Cabinet
ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLANS (TOWN CENTRES)	Jason Jones, Head of Regeneration	Resources	Community	25.10.21
CITY DEAL – PROCUREMENT UPDATE	Wendy Walters, Chief Executive	Leader	Community	31.01.22
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY TASK & FINISH GROUP	Wendy Walters, Executive	Communities & Rural Affairs		8.11.22
WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS	Wendy Walters Executive	Deputy Leader	If applicable	As and when requirede
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

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22
–as at 23/09/2021 (For the period September 21 – September 22)

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 Cabinet
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22	Jake Morgan – Director of Communities/Silvana Sauro	Social Care & Health	07/07/21 & 08/07/21	13/09/2021
DOG BREEDERS LICENCE UPDATE (Change of Policy / Legislation – awaiting WG confirmation)	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Roger Edmunds	Public Protection		TBC
PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PITCHES FOR GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS IN THE LLANELLI AREA	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/Rachel Davies	Housing	TBC	18/10/2021
HRA BUDGET SERVICES CHARGES AND RENT SETTING 2022/23	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/Rachel Davies	Housing		January 22
CHS+ DELIVERING WHAT MATTERS BUSINESS PLAN	Jonathan Morgan – Head of Homes and Safer Communities/ Rachel Davies/ Gareth Williams	Housing	February 2022	February 2022 (Budget)

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22
–as at 23/09/2021 (For the period September 21 – September 22)

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 Cabinet
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
BUDGET OUTLOOK	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	
TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	FEBRUARY – BUDGET MEETING
FINAL BUDGET Revenue & Capital	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	FEBRUARY – BUDGET MEETING
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND RENT SETTING REPORT	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	HOUSING	FEBRUARY BUDGET MEETING
BUDGET STRATEGY	Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services	Resources	N/A	NOV

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22
–as at 23/09/2021 (For the period September 21 – September 22)

WORKING DRAFT

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22
–as at 23/09/2021 (For the period September 21 – September 22)

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 Cabinet
MODERNISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME – MUTUAL INVESTMENT MODEL -DEED OF ADHERENCE	Simon Davies – Head of Access to Education	Education & Children		27/09/2021

WORKING DRAFT

CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22
–as at 23/09/2021 (For the period September 21 – September 22)

ENVIRONMENT

Subject area and brief description of nature of report	Responsible Officer	Executive Portfolio	Scrutiny <i>Committee to be consulted</i>	Date of expected decision by Cabinet
HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE MANUAL	Steve Pilliner - Head of Transportation & Highways/ Chris Nelson/ Richard Waters	Environment	EPP 4/10/21	25/10/21
LEQ	Ainsley Williams	Environment	EPP 4/10/21	25/10/21
FUTURE WASTE STRATEGY	Ainsley Williams / Dan John	Environment	4/10/21	25/10/21
EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY	Steve Pilliner - Head of Transportation & Highways /Caroline Ferguson	Environment	EPP 12/11/21	22/11/21
ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY	Steve Pilliner / Simon Charles	Environment	EPP 12/11/21	6/12/21
PUBLIC CONVENIENCES	Ainsley Williams. Head of Waste & Environmental Services Rhys Davies	Environment	EPP 16/12/21	January 22

This page is intentionally left blank

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29th November, 2021

Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee Actions and Referrals Update

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To scrutinise the progress made in relation to actions, requests or referrals recorded during previous meetings of the Committee.

Reasons:

- To enable members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to monitoring performance.

To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. J. Tremlett, Social Care & Health

Directorate: Chief Executive's	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
Name of Head of Service: Linda Rees-Jones	Head of Administration & Law	01267 224010 lrjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Emma Bryer	Democratic Services Officer	01267 2244029 ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29th November, 2021

Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee Actions and Referrals Update

During the course of a municipal year, several requests for additional information are made by the Committee in order to assist it in discharging its scrutiny role.

The attached report provides members of the Committee with an update on the progress made in relation to these requests.

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: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones Head of Administration & Law

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

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

NO

**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
Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee Reports and Minutes	Meetings from September 2015 onwards: http://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=169

This page is intentionally left blank

Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee Actions 2019-2020

Ref No	Meeting Date	Recommendation / Action / Referral	Description	Progress Update	Member / Officer	Status
SC&H 001-21/22	21/05/21	Action	Report on Autism Requested during Mental Health Update report discussions	Included on FWP for 26th January 2022.	Avril Bracey / Kelvin Barlow	IN PROGRESS
SC&H 002-21/22	07/07/21	Action	The authority write to Welsh Government requesting a review of the issues experienced in care homes during the pandemic.	22/11/21 - Representations have been made to WG whose stance, at the current time, is to be part of the UK wide COVID review. 15/11/21 - update requested. 29/10/21 - Update requested. 13/09/21 - Jonathan Morgan preparing response.	Jonahan Morgan / Jake Morgan	COMPLETED

This page is intentionally left blank

SOCIAL CARE & HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 5 October 2021

PRESENT: Councillor G. Thomas (Chair)

Councillors:

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

Also in attendance, Councillors:

D.M. Jenkins, Cabinet Member for Resources
J. Tremlett, Cabinet 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
C. Harrison, Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning
R. Page, Senior Business Support Manager
A. Thomas, Group Accountant
S. Sauro, Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager
G. Morgan, Head of Democratic Services
M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
S. Rees, Simultaneous Translator

Virtual Meeting - 10.00 am - 12.40 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. E. Evans and B.A.L. Roberts.

On behalf of the Committee the Chair extended condolences to Cllr. Roberts and family on the sad passing of her husband.

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 2021/22 5. 2021/22 Quarter 1 Performance Report (1st April to 30th June 2021) 6. Impact of Covid-19 on Carmarthenshire's Adult Social Care Services 7. Domiciliary Care, Social Work Workforce And Market Pressures	Family member is a carer in the Shared Lives Scheme.

Kevin Madge	4. Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2021/22 5. 2021/22 Quarter 1 Performance Report (1st April to 30th June 2021) 6. Impact of Covid-19 on Carmarthenshire's Adult Social Care Services 7. Domiciliary Care, Social Work Workforce And Market Pressures	Daughter works in Social Care.
-------------	--	--------------------------------

There were no declarations of any prohibited party whips.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2021/22

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 30th June 2021, in respect of 2021/22 financial year.

The Cabinet Member for Resources advised that the Social Care & Health Service was projecting an overspend of £492K on the revenue budget and a net variance of £97K against the 2021/22 approved capital budget.

The following questions / observations were raised on the report:

Appendix A

- Concern was raised regarding the significant predicted overspend when large parts of the service had not been delivered due to Covid. It was also asked if any additional funding would be provided by Welsh Government what had not been included in the figures.
The Group Accountant advised that grant offers had been received within the last few weeks and also some Social Care recovery funding. Work was on-going on how best to spend the funding but it would be invested in providing services and interventions.

Appendix B

- In relation to Learning Disability – Private Day Service it was asked what the ‘alternative’ service was that had been provided.
The Committee was advised that it was a combination of some services being brought back in-house and 1-2-1 support provided at home when appropriate.
- Concern was raised regarding delays to the re-opening of the day centres. The Head of Integrated services advised that discussions regarding the plans for re-opening the service were well underway and that the Authority was very clear that the service would be re-opened. Three key areas had been undergoing assessment - building risk assessments, transport and staffing to ensure alignment with Government guidelines. Initially the re-opening would be a scaled down service to ensure safety of both staff and

service users.

- 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. The committee was advised that a fuller description would be included within the next report.
- It was asked why direct payments for mental health and physical disability had increased when direct payments for older people had reduced. The Head of Integrated Services advised that managing direct payments brought with it some challenges. Generally, older people had less capacity and / or capability to manage direct payment and that having the council commissioning on their behalf removed the stress. On the whole, younger people wanted to manage their own services and were often supported by family.

Appendix E

- Further clarity was requested regarding the Capital budget which was stated as Awaiting 2022/23 awards and which financial year would the awards be received.
The Committee was advised that a response would be provided following the meeting.

Appendix F

- It was asked how confident officers were that savings proposals would be achieved.
The Group Accountant advised that it was a reasonable assumption that the savings would be achieved as they were well established and had been delivered in previous years.

RESOLVED that the report be received

5. 2021/22 QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE REPORT (1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE 2021)

The Committee received the 2021/22 Quarter 1 Performance Report for the period 1st April to 30th June 2021 presented by the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health in respect of the area falling within her portfolio and the Committees remit.

The report detailed the progress made against the actions and measures within the Corporate Strategy and on the delivery of the 13 Well-Being Objectives. The Committee noted that 2021/22 was the first year the Council would self-evaluate and report on under the terms of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, especially Part 6 relating to Performance and Governance.

The following issues were raised on the report:-

- Officers were asked to provide further information regarding 'Rita' in care homes. It was stated that Rita was assistive technology being used with patients suffering cognitive problems such as dementia. The Committee was advised that Rita could help calm distressed or anxious patient by for example playing music and viewing photos.
- Clarification was asked regarding Dementia Navigators. Officers advised that Dementia Navigators were employed by the Health Board within the Older People team and provided lower-level support for dementia sufferers.

- Clarification was sought on how Care Homes voids were being let as efficiently as possible. Officers advised that voids were being used for emergency respite and temporary placements for people waiting for packages of care. The Committee was advised that the number of voids had reduced and that the Authority was looking to increase the number of placements.
- An update was requested regarding the investment programme for Care Homes.
The Head of Homes and Safer Communities advised that the Authority was undertaking a significant investment in care homes. It was acknowledged that the service provided was exceptional, but the physical environment needed improvements.
- It was asked when the Welsh Government Strategy for an ageing society: age friendly Wales would be completed.
The Committee was advised that a grant had been awarded and to be used by the end of the financial year to support the development of plans to be an age friendly county. An external company had been engaged to prepare the plan and that funding would also be used for engagement events.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

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

The Committee received a report providing a position statement regarding how adult social care services were being sustained and highlighting the demand and pressures that were emerging as a result of the pandemic.

The report described how the Authority's response was now business as usual, and how the Authority was responding to the emerging demand and pressures particularly in relation to assessment and domiciliary care demand.

The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health advised that as Covid Recovery was now business as usual bespoke Covid updates would no longer be provided.

A number of questions / observations were raised on the report. The main matters were as follows:

- It was asked if discussions had been had with the Health Board and Welsh Government regarding potential changes to the national guidance of 20-day closure for new admissions/visitors.
The Head of Integrated Services confirmed that discussions had been on-going.
- It was asked what needed to be done now to prevent the recurring frustration regarding recruitment and retention of staff.
The Committee was advised that a long-term sustainable source of funding would be required. Discussions were being held at a national level. With existing level of funding received from Welsh Government the Authority couldn't increase the rate of pay as an additional £5-6M of funding would be required. All avenues were being explored including career structures, progression and trainee routes.
- Officers were asked if the Authority offered an apprenticeship programme

and if school pupils were being targeted.

The Head of Integrated Services advised that the Authority had links with colleges and universities and that the school's option could be explored further. The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health advised that discussions had been on-going regarding potential taster sessions with six form pupils.

- It was asked if the Authority would be recruiting someone to engage with the schools.

The Performance, Analysis & Systems Manager advised the Committee that a huge recruitment marketing campaign had been undertaken and that funding would be used to recruit a project officer. Part of the project officer role would be to go into schools and colleges to drive recruitment and retention.

- Further clarification was requested regarding the in-house service sickness level of 16% and a detailed breakdown of what the nature of the sickness absence was.
- Officers confirmed that there had been a high level of covid and covid contact absences and that Carmarthenshire had a high level of covid community transmission. A breakdown of the sickness type would be provided to the Committee at a later date.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. DOMICILIARY CARE, SOCIAL WORK WORKFORCE AND MARKET PRESSURES

The Committee received a report providing an overview of the growing workforce challenges within the domiciliary care market for both in house and commissioned sectors.

The report detailed current market pressures within the domiciliary care sector and the impact on both Health and Social Care within Carmarthenshire. It also detailed Social Worker workforce pressures which was impacting on the ability to meet service user demand and having a significant impact on the performance of the department's ability to meet the needs of vulnerable people in a timely way.

The report detailed actions to mitigate risks to ensure that statutory requirements under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act (Wales) 2014 were met. Also detailed within the report were a number of recommendations for immediate action.

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

- Officers were asked to expand on the impact that officer hoped the development of micro markets would have on rural areas.
The Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning advised that work had started on tapping into very hyper local solutions. The work was being led by Pembrokeshire County Council in conjunction with various partners such as Community Catalysts, Pembrokeshire CVC and Planed. The Committee were advised that Covid has acted as a catalyst for small enterprise set up. There had been a lot of community interaction providing low level of day-to-day support which was not just restricted to health and social care.

- Concern was expressed that if the Health Board stopped recruitment it would result in extra pressure on Council services. It was asked if discussions were taking place regarding bridging plans for community care. The Head of Integrated Services advises that the Health Board and Authority were working closely and that an agreement was in place not to destabilise the rest of the workforce.
- Concern was expressed that 5 domiciliary care framework providers had experienced workforce challenges and that one provider had handed back 10 packages of care. The Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning reassured the Committee that the Authority had a duty of care and had sourced alternative suppliers

UNANIMOUSLY 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.

- Adult Social Services Complaints and Compliments Report Q1(Oct) & Q3 (March)
- Communities Department Business Plan 2021/22 – 23-24
- 2020/21 End of Year Budget Monitoring – Outturn Report
- Safeguarding Annual Report

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

9. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Committee received a list of forthcoming items to be considered at its next meeting to be held on the 29th November 2021.

It was noted that as Covid Recovery was now business as usual separate covid update reports would no longer be provided.

RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on the 29th November, 2021 be noted.

10. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH JULY, 2021

UNANAMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 7th July, 2021 be signed as a correct record.

CHAIR

DATE