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THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2024

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

I HEREBY SUMMON YOU TO ATTEND A **VIRTUAL MEETING** OF THE **HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** WHICH WILL BE HELD **AT 10.00 AM ON THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2024** 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:	ebyer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
The meeting can be viewed on the Authority's website via the following link:- https://carmarthenshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home	

Wendy Walters Prif Weithredwr, *Chief Executive*,
Neuadd y Sir, Caerfyrddin. SA31 1JP
County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

PLAID CYMRU GROUP - 7 Members

Cllr. Gareth John (Chair)
Cllr. Bryan Davies (Committee Member)
Cllr. Karen Davies (Committee Member)
Cllr. Alex Evans (Committee Member)
Cllr. Meinir James (Committee Member)
Cllr. Hefin Jones (Committee Member)
Cllr. Denise Owen (Committee Member)

LABOUR GROUP - 4 Members

Cllr. Crish Davies (Committee Member)
Cllr. Michelle Donoghue (Committee Member)
Cllr. Philip Warlow (Committee Member)
Cllr. Janet Williams (Committee Member)

INDEPENDENT GROUP - 2 Members

Cllr. Louvain Roberts (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Fiona Walters (Committee Member)

UNAFFILIATED

Cllr. John Jenkins (Committee Member)

A G E N D A

- 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. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2023/24** 5 - 26
- 5. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2024/25 TO 2026/27** 27 - 64
- 6. INTEGRATION IN CARMARTHESHIRE - POSITION UPDATE ON DELIVERY AGAINST PRIORITIES** 65 - 80
- 7. PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR CARMARTHESHIRE** 81 - 86
- 8. COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN** 87 - 98
- 9. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT** 99 - 104
- 10. FORTHCOMING ITEMS** 105 - 114
- 11. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH DECEMBER, 2023** 115 - 120

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**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25th JANUARY 2024**

**Revenue & Capital Budget
Monitoring Report 2023/24**

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

- receive the budget monitoring reports for the Health and Social Services and considers the budgetary position.

Reasons:

- to provide Scrutiny with an update on the latest budgetary position as at 31st October 2023, in respect of 2023/24.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

- Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health & Social Services)
- Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)

Directorate: Corporate Services	Designation:	Tel No. / E-Mail Address:
Name of Director: Chris Moore	Director of Corporate Services	01267 224120 CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Report Author: Chris Moore		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25th JANUARY 2024

Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24

The Financial Monitoring Report is presented as follows:

Revenue Budgets

Appendix A

Summary position for the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee. Services are forecasting a £9,740k overspend.

Appendix B

Report on Main Variances on agreed budgets.

Appendix C

Detailed variances for information purposes only.

Capital Budgets

Appendix D

Details the main variances on capital schemes, which shows a forecasted variance of -£49K against a net budget of £1,906k on social care projects, and a -£184k variance against the Children Services projects net budget of £517k.

Appendix E

Details all Social Care and Children's Residential capital projects.

Savings Monitoring

Appendix F

Savings Monitoring Report for 2023/24. This includes detail on the 2022/23 savings proposals that were undelivered as at 31st March 2023.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES – A list of the main variances is attached to this report

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: **Chris Moore** Director of Corporate Services

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

3. Finance

Revenue – Health & Social Services is projecting that it will be over its approved budget by £9,740k.

Capital – The capital programme shows a variance of -£233k against the 2023/24 approved budget.

Savings Report

The expectation is that at year end £1,432k of Managerial savings against a target of £2,027k are forecast to be delivered. There are no Policy savings put forward for 2023/24.

7. Physical Assets

The expenditure on the capital programme will result in the addition of new assets or enhancement to existing assets on the authority's asset register.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS 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
2023/24 Budget	Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen
2023-28 Capital Programme	Online via corporate website – Minutes of County Council Meeting 1 st March 2023

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Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Summary

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Adult Services										
Older People	76,961	-26,538	3,701	54,125	78,272	-26,235	3,701	55,738	1,614	675
Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,282	-2,381	276	7,176	-313	-370
Learning Disabilities	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	49,171	-11,782	1,475	38,864	939	811
Mental Health	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,806	-4,371	234	8,669	835	665
Support	11,260	-7,631	1,114	4,743	11,130	-7,466	1,114	4,778	35	246
Children's Services										
Children's Services	29,052	-9,054	2,630	22,628	39,451	-12,823	2,630	29,258	6,630	5,874
GRAND TOTAL	186,848	-61,535	9,430	134,743	200,111	-65,058	9,430	144,483	9,740	7,902

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report

Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Main Variances

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Adult Services							
Older People							
Older People - Residential Care Homes (Local Authority Provision)	10,354	-4,554	11,140	-4,389	951	Staff agency costs remain high due to a mixture of general higher dependency of residents, vacancies and sickness. In the coming months we will developing an in-house agency pilot for the Llanelli based homes that will deliver a more flexible pool of casual staff. It is hoped that this will be rolled out in April 2024 with a view, if successful, of deploying across the County in the summer of 2024. We will continue to monitor sickness closely and consistently as well as being more efficient in the way we recruit.	472
Older People - Residential Care Homes	31,792	-14,062	32,061	-14,062	269	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	249
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	1,508	-313	159	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	204
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	10,868	-2,638	829	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	981
Older People - Reablement	2,225	-527	1,974	-600	-324	Staffing vacancies	-386
Older People - Private Day Services	247	0	145	0	-103	Provision of day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-103
Older People - Other variances					-167		-743
Physical Disabilities							
Phys Dis - Residential Care Homes	1,652	-314	1,367	-314	-285	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-261
Phys Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,520	-174	1,252	-174	-268	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-320
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	3,531	-603	367	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	212
Phys Dis - Other variances					-127		-0
Learning Disabilities							
Learn Dis - Employment & Training	2,195	-410	1,691	-209	-303	Provision of LD day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-283
Learn Dis - Residential Care Homes	13,970	-4,524	14,358	-4,524	388	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	515
Learn Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	11,515	-2,295	12,829	-2,295	1,314	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	808

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Main Variances

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Learn Dis - Community Support	3,568	-162	3,229	-162	-338	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-102
Learn Dis - Adult Placement/Shared Lives	3,095	-2,104	3,136	-2,341	-195	Provision of respite care is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels and part-year vacant posts	-69
Learn Dis - Other variances					72		-59
Mental Health							
M Health - Residential Care Homes	6,986	-3,394	7,468	-3,394	482	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	390
M Health - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,707	-446	2,249	-446	541	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	531
M Health - Other variances					-188		-256
Support							
Support - Other					35		246
Children's Services							
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	9,554	-530	1,119	Increased agency staff costs forecast £962k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff - forecast has increased due to extending of agency staff to March 2024 and also 2 additional agency Social Workers. Increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £346k, which again is a further increase compared to August. This is partly offset by additional grant income.	536
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	948	-91	-87	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-77
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	6,120	-139	1,138	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £453k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £62k, Fostering £762k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £139k	892
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	0	0	1,603	-1,346	257	Increase in number of Unaccompanied Children resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received. Additional grant income identified since August return	322
Commissioned Residential Placements (CS)	469	0	3,369	-12	2,889	Several ongoing highly complex placements in 2023/24	2,770

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Main Variances

Division	Working Budget		Forecasted		Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000			
Residential Settings	1,421	-361	2,728	-1,444	225	£225k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover. £514k forecast overspend for new setting Ty Magu / Ross Avenue, which is being offset by £514k WG grant	191
Respite Settings	1,094	0	1,178	0	84	Increased staffing costs £54k re meeting service demand, vacancy / absence cover and impact of increased pay award in excess of budget, increased vehicle costs in relation to additional vehicles needed £20k and also additional premises maintenance costs forecast £10k in relation to essential works needed following outcome of recent playground inspection at Llys Caradog	19
Adoption Services	591	0	1,136	-409	136	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £73k. Also, additional costs in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £63k	151
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	1,880	-184	1,040	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £376k. Also increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £664k	1,229
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	1,021	-687	-46	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division	-53
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,366	-164	1,287	-208	-123	Part year vacant posts recently recruited to	-107
Other Variances					-1		2
Grand Total					9,740		7,902

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
Adult Services											
Older People											
Older People - Care Management	4,412	-642	675	4,445	4,396	-607	675	4,464	19		91
Older People - Residential Care Homes (Local Authority Provision)	10,354	-4,554	1,319	7,120	11,140	-4,389	1,319	8,070	951	Staff agency costs remain high due to a mixture of general higher dependency of residents, vacancies and sickness. In the coming months we will developing an in-house agency pilot for the Llanelli based homes that will deliver a more flexible pool of casual staff. It is hoped that this will be rolled out in April 2024 with a view, if successful, of deploying across the County in the summer of 2024. We will continue to monitor sickness closely and consistently as well as being more efficient in the way we recruit.	472
Older People - Supported Living	109	0	0	109	109	0	0	109	0		0
Older People - Residential Care Homes	31,792	-14,062	328	18,058	32,061	-14,062	328	18,327	269	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	249
Older People - Private Day Care	35	0	0	35	57	0	0	57	22		17
Older People - Extra Care	677	0	10	687	677	0	10	687	0		0
Older People - LA Home Care	8,387	0	750	9,137	8,313	-0	750	9,063	-74		-727
Older People - MOW's	6	-6	0	-0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	6	1,043	1,508	-313	6	1,201	159	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	204
Older People - Grants	2,554	-2,324	16	246	2,561	-2,325	16	252	6		13
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	116	7,516	10,868	-2,638	116	8,345	829	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.	981
Older People - Management and Support	1,704	-303	182	1,584	1,550	-195	182	1,538	-46		-36
Older People - Careline	2,219	-1,077	4	1,146	2,219	-1,077	4	1,146	0		-0
Older People - Reablement	2,225	-527	174	1,871	1,974	-600	174	1,548	-324	Staffing vacancies	-386
Older People - Day Services	852	-92	122	882	696	-31	122	786	-95		-101
Older People - Private Day Services	247	0	0	247	145	0	0	145	-103	Provision of day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-103
Total Older People	76,961	-26,538	3,701	54,125	78,272	-26,235	3,701	55,738	1,614		675
Physical Disabilities											
Phys Dis - OT Services	883	-301	42	623	759	-149	42	653	29		11
Phys Dis - Residential Care Homes	1,652	-314	13	1,352	1,367	-314	13	1,066	-285	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-261
Phys Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,520	-174	12	1,357	1,252	-174	12	1,089	-268	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-320
Phys Dis - Community Support	196	0	1	197	127	0	1	128	-69		-29
Phys Dis - Private Home Care	357	-92	3	268	357	-92	3	268	0		0
Phys Dis - Aids & Equipment	1,129	-424	190	894	1,732	-1,048	190	873	-21		28
Phys Dis - Grants	163	0	0	163	152	0	0	152	-11		-9
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	14	2,575	3,531	-603	14	2,942	367	Financial pressures from previous years remain.	212
Phys Dis - Manual Handling	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	4	0		0
Phys Dis - Independent Living Fund	55	0	0	55	0	0	0	0	-55		0
Total Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,282	-2,381	276	7,176	-313		-370

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
Learning Disabilities											
Learn Dis - Employment & Training	2,195	-410	359	2,144	1,691	-209	359	1,841	-303	Provision of LD day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.	-283
Learn Dis - Care Management	1,057	-37	144	1,163	1,105	-60	144	1,189	27		-11
Learn Dis - Residential Care Homes	13,970	-4,524	81	9,527	14,358	-4,524	81	9,915	388	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	515
Learn Dis - Direct Payments	5,906	-572	23	5,357	5,947	-572	23	5,398	41		-81
Learn Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	11,515	-2,295	84	9,303	12,829	-2,295	84	10,618	1,314	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	808
Learn Dis - Adult Respite Care	1,159	-812	119	467	1,240	-812	119	547	80		98
Learn Dis - Home Care Service	365	-161	4	208	365	-161	4	208	0		0
Learn Dis - Day Services (Local Authority Provision)	2,924	-479	401	2,847	2,661	-254	401	2,808	-39		-90
Learn Dis - Private Day Services	981	-84	11	909	889	-84	11	817	-92		-86
Learn Dis - 0 to 25 Service	570	0	97	667	542	0	97	640	-27		-14
Learn Dis - Community Support	3,568	-162	24	3,429	3,229	-162	24	3,091	-338	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023	-102
Learn Dis - Grants	540	-162	5	384	554	-162	5	398	14		-0
Learn Dis - Adult Placement/Shared Lives	3,095	-2,104	84	1,075	3,136	-2,341	84	880	-195	Provision of respite care is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels and part-year vacant posts	-69
Learn Dis/M Health - Management and Support	566	-158	38	447	624	-147	38	515	68		124
Learning Disabilities Total	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	49,171	-11,782	1,475	38,864	939		811
Mental Health											
M Health - Care Management	1,518	-155	83	1,445	1,426	-129	83	1,381	-65		-129
M Health - Residential Care Homes	6,986	-3,394	41	3,632	7,468	-3,394	41	4,114	482	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	390
M Health - Residential Care Homes (Substance Misuse)	158	-34	0	124	158	-34	0	124	0		0

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
M Health - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,707	-446	7	1,268	2,249	-446	7	1,810	541	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.	531
M Health - Direct Payments	287	-45	1	242	283	-45	1	238	-4		-11
M Health - Community Support	792	-78	13	727	715	-78	13	651	-77		-84
M Health - Private Day Services	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0		0
M Health - Private Home Care	92	-29	1	65	92	-29	1	65	-0		0
M Health - Substance Misuse Team	501	-261	88	328	413	-215	88	286	-42		-32
Total Mental Health	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,806	-4,371	234	8,669	835		665
Support											
Departmental Support	4,337	-3,022	799	2,114	4,318	-3,023	799	2,095	-19		150
Performance, Analysis & Systems	698	-162	44	580	689	-162	44	571	-10		7
VAWDASV	980	-980	8	8	980	-980	8	8	-0		-0
Adult Safeguarding & Commissioning Team	2,100	-219	100	1,981	2,155	-215	100	2,040	59		89
Regional Collaborative	1,515	-1,362	65	218	1,512	-1,362	65	215	-3		0
Holding Acc-Transport	1,629	-1,886	98	-159	1,476	-1,724	98	-150	9		-0
Total Support	11,260	-7,631	1,114	4,743	11,130	-7,466	1,114	4,778	35		246
Children's Services											
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	1,691	9,596	9,554	-530	1,691	10,715	1,119	Increased agency staff costs forecast £962k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff - forecast has increased due to extending of agency staff to March 2024 and also 2 additional agency Social Workers. Increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £346k, which again is a further increase compared to August. This is partly offset by additional grant income.	536
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	71	1,016	948	-91	71	929	-87	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on	-77
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	44	4,887	6,120	-139	44	6,026	1,138	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £453k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £62k, Fostering £762k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £139k	892
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	0	0	5	5	1,603	-1,346	5	262	257	Increase in number of Unaccompanied Children resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received. Additional grant income identified since August return	322
Commissioned Residential Placements (CS)	469	0	4	473	3,369	-12	4	3,361	2,889	Several ongoing highly complex placements in 2023/24	2,770

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes	Aug 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000			
Residential Settings	1,421	-361	115	1,174	2,728	-1,444	115	1,398	225	£225k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover. £514k forecast overspend for new setting Ty Magu / Ross Avenue, which is being offset by £514k WG grant	191
Respite Settings	1,094	0	117	1,211	1,178	0	117	1,295	84	Increased staffing costs £54k re meeting service demand, vacancy / absence cover and impact of increased pay award in excess of budget, increased vehicle costs in relation to additional vehicles needed £20k and also additional premises maintenance costs forecast £10k in relation to essential works needed following outcome of recent playground inspection at Llys Caradog	19
Adoption Services	591	0	37	628	1,136	-409	37	764	136	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £73k. Also, additional costs in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £63k	151
Supporting Childcare	1,674	-1,140	342	876	1,676	-1,150	342	868	-8		-3
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	16	672	1,880	-184	16	1,712	1,040	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £376k. Also increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £664k	1,229
Children's/Family Centres and Playgroups	399	-86	124	437	487	-167	124	444	7		5
CCG - Children & Communities Grant	6,463	-6,455	14	21	6,463	-6,455	14	21	0		-0
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	24	404	1,021	-687	24	358	-46	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division	-53
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,366	-164	25	1,228	1,287	-208	25	1,105	-123	Part year vacant posts recently recruited to	-107
Children's Services Total	29,052	-9,054	2,630	22,628	39,451	-12,823	2,630	29,258	6,630		5,874
TOTAL FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	186,848	-61,535	9,430	134,743	200,111	-65,058	9,430	144,483	9,740		7,902

Capital Programme 2023/24								
Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report for October 2023 - Main Variances								
	Working Budget			Forecasted				
DEPARTMENT/SCHEMES	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Variance for Year £'000	Comment
SOCIAL CARE	2,243	-337	1,906	2,178	-321	1,857	-49	
CHILDREN	707	-190	517	523	-190	333	-184	
Flying Start Capital Expansion Programme	190	-190	0	223	-190	33	33	
ICF - WWAL-26 - Hafan Y Gors Safe Accommodation for Children	517	0	517	300	0	300	-217	
TOTAL	2,950	-527	2,423	2,701	-511	2,190	-233	

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Children						
Capital Budget Monitoring - Scrutiny Report For October 2023						
	Working Budget			Forecasted		
Scheme	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net £'000
Flying Start Capital Expansion Programme	190	-190	0	223	-190	33
Trimsaran Early Years Centre	0	0	0	1	0	1
Flying Start 2022/24	190	-190	0	220	-190	30
Cylch Meithrin, Carway	0	0	0	2	0	2
Children Services - ICF Funded Projects	517	0	517	300	0	300
ICF - WWAL-26 - Ty Magu Safe Accommodation for Children	517	0	517	300	0	300
NET BUDGET	707	-190	517	523	-190	333
GRAND TOTAL	2,950	-527	2,423	2,701	-511	2,190

Variance for Year £'000	Comment
33	
1	
30	
2	
-217	
-217	
-184	
-233	

2023/24 Savings Monitoring Report
Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
25th January 2024

1 Summary position as at : 31st October 2023

£595 k variance from delivery target

	2023/24 Savings monitoring		
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
	Target	Delivered	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Children	100	0	100
Communities	1,927	1,432	495
	2,027	1,432	595

2 Analysis of delivery against target for managerial and policy decisions:

Managerial
Policy

£595 k Off delivery target
£0 k ahead of target

	MANAGERIAL			POLICY		
	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24
	Target	Delivered	Variance	Target	Delivered	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Children	100	0	100	0	0	0
Communities	1,927	1,432	495	0	0	0
	2,027	1,432	595	0	0	0

3 Appendix F (i): Savings proposals not on target

Appendix F (ii): Savings proposals on target (for information)

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2023/24 Delivered	2023/24 Variance	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR VARIANCE
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000		
Managerial - Off Target							
Education & Children							
Children's Services							
Children's Services	13,075	Children's Services encompasses the Social worker teams, Fostering, Adoption, Early years, Family Support Services, Specialist Care Provision, School Safeguarding & Attendance and Educational Psychology.	100	0	100	Continual review of services, maximising grant opportunities and managing vacant posts without putting the service at risk of not meeting its statutory function.	Service pressures with total forecast overspend circa £6.5m
Total Children's Services			100	0	100		
Education & Children Total			100	0	100		
Communities							
Integrated Services							
Residential Homes	37,452	Residential care homes provide accommodation as well as 24-hour personal care and support for older people and adults who struggle to live independently, but do not need nursing care. Residential care homes help people manage daily life, such as assisting with getting dressed, washing and eating.	50	0	50	Reduction on spend on residential placements, due to robust challenge in relation to those who are eligible for Continuing Healthcare and minimisation of out of county placement.	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.
Total Integrated Services			50	0	50		
Adult Social Care							
Residential and Supported Living	11,129	Supported Living is provided for those individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues who need support with daily living tasks to remain in the community. Support is provided from staff in the setting which can range from a few hours to 24/7 in some circumstances. Promoting independence is a key aspect of supported living.	225	0	225	Step down from residential care to supported living, rightsizing of packages to promote independence, reduction in core costs to mitigate over provision and recovery of non delivery, collaborative opportunities for income generation, use of Shared Lives provision, review of commissioning strategy and charging framework. This is in addition to previous savings not yet delivered due to COVID pressures. Thus overall efficiency required is greater by the service and will need to be performance managed.	Whilst we are making progress in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. There is a lack of accommodation, respite and day provision for those with complex needs and behaviours that challenge. A particular pressure is accommodation solutions for those young people in transition. We are working with colleagues in housing and commissioning to develop more in house provision and have an infrastructure to performance manage this, which will positively impact on the budget. In the meantime, we have no options but to commission with high cost independent providers and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.
Direct Payments	4,720	Direct Payments allow service users to receive cash payments from the local authority instead of care services. This can allow the service user more flexibility and control of their support package.	70	0	70	Additional income following new CHC guidance April 2022, better utilise half hour support slots, develop pooled direct payment groups.	Financial pressures from previous years remain.
Total Adult Social Care			295	0	295		
Other							
Management and back office review	800	Management and support functions for Communities Department	150	0	150	Management and back office review	Implementation of 2024/25 efficiency in progress but not expected to be realised this financial year
Total Other			150	0	150		
Communities Total			495	0	495		
Policy - Off Target							
NOTHING TO REPORT							

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2023/24 Delivered	2023/24 Variance	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	

Managerial - On Target

Communities

Integrated Services

Domiciliary Care	17,288	<p>Domiciliary Care is provided to approx. 1,000 individuals in the county in. On average over 11,000 hours per week are delivered by in-house and independent domiciliary care agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around 250 individuals receive care from two carers (known as "double handed" care). - Approx. 170 individuals receive a large package of care involving 4 calls per day. - Fulfilled Lives is a model of domiciliary care which has been developed for individuals living with dementia which has demonstrated that the service can maintain people living at home for longer than traditional domiciliary care. The plan is to expand the service to cover the entire county. - The Reablement Service provides short term domiciliary care. The number of clients who receive Reablement is over 500 and 55% leave the service with no long term care package. - Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) and the Carmarthenshire United Support Project (CUSP) are both preventative services which support individuals to maintain their independence without the need for statutory social services. By increasing the proportion of referrals that go through IAA or CUSP, it reduces the demand on statutory services. - The specialist Continence service has been established within Community Nursing. By providing the right continence products to meet the individual's continence needs, it is possible to reduce the number of visits per day of domiciliary care. 	600	600	0	Through robust and regular review of home based packages including review of double staffed packages and implementation of the releasing time to care methodology, we will reduce the number of care hours required. Calculations are based on a reduction of 610 care hours per week per year at a cost of £25 per hour minus an investment of £150K investment in the review team to provide us with additional capacity to conduct reviews. Removal of night service in Extra Care.
Extra Care	857	Extra Care facilities provide supported accommodation as an alternative to a residential care home placement. There are 4 extra care facilities (Cartref Cynnes, Ty Dyffryn, Plas y Môr and Cwm Aur) for older people. A domiciliary care service is provided to those tenants living in the Extra Care facilities who require care and support. The aim of Extra Care is to avoid or delay the need for a residential care placement. Residential care is provided in local authority and private sector care homes for individuals who can no longer live independently in the community. Depending on the nature of their needs, their placement may be made by the local authority or jointly with the health board, or entirely by the health board if they qualify for free continuing health care (CHC).	50	50	0	Review of existing Policy for Extra Care Lettings with a view to increasing Cat A flats, and consequently reducing spend on residential care. Less provision on site of Domiciliary Care .
Cwm Aur	353	Extra Care facilities provide supported accommodation as an alternative to a residential care home placement. There are 4 extra care facilities (Cartref Cynnes, Ty Dyffryn, Plas y Môr and Cwm Aur) for older people. A domiciliary care service is provided to those tenants living in the Extra Care facilities who require care and support. The aim of Extra Care is to avoid or delay the need for a residential care placement. Residential care is provided in local authority and private sector care homes for individuals who can no longer live independently in the community. Depending on the nature of their needs, their placement may be made by the local authority or jointly with the health board, or entirely by the health board if they qualify for free continuing health care (CHC).	200	200	0	Decommissioning the current Block contract model of Care in Cwm Aur with a view to repurposing accommodation to be let as standard tenancies. The Care provision will be commissioned in from the community Domiciliary Care providers. This will affect 9 Service users who receive care from the current provider.
Total Integrated Services			850	850	0	

Adult Social Care

Shared Lives	8,371	Shared Lives provides placements for individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues with families that have been approved as Shared Lives Carers.	55	55	0	Reduce offer by providing more efficient alternatives via core services.
Day Services	3,776	As part of the transformation of Learning Disability day service provision, the buildings will provide for those with most complex needs, this will also reduce the reliance on external providers for those with complex needs as more individuals with complex needs are supported by the in-house day service provision.	245	245	0	Fewer buildings will be required as we propose two merge two buildings to create a new skills hub, focusing on training, volunteering, and employment. We also propose to merge one centre into another to maximise use of resources. This will be a more cost effective strategy for the division, but will also maximise the potential, and improve outcomes for those who use our services.
Total Adult Social Care			300	300	0	

Homes and Safer Communities

Day Services - Older People	1,133	Day care for adults typically involves planned activities and support with important aspects of social, health, nutrition and daily living. These support services are typically run by social care professionals and volunteers and are often in non-residential, group settings. Day care enables adults who have care needs, and/or who are at risk of social isolation, to engage in social and organised activities, as well as providing a regular break to carers.	100	100	0	Provision of catering at Garnant Day Centre from centralised catering.
Total Homes and Safer Communities			100	100	0	

DEPARTMENT	2022/23 Budget	FACT FILE	2023/24 Proposed	2023/24 Delivered	2023/24 Variance	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
Business Support and Commissioning						
Business Support	1,000	The Business Support Division is made up of 130 staff, there are 8 core functions which are critical to supporting the Department for Communities: Collections, Payments, Financial Assessments, Audit & Compliance, Blue Badge, Transport, Buildings & Emergency Planning and Divisional Business Support	40	40	0	Restructure to reduce staffing levels and greater efficiencies in procurement.
Transport	1,605	The service provides transport support for Social Care.	125	125	0	Reduction of fleet, based on demand and efficiencies.
Total Business Support and Commissioning			165	165	0	
Other						
Regional	170	The Regional Collaboration Unit provides support to the West Wales Care Partnership. Funded mainly through Welsh Government Grants, each local authority also makes a contribution to the funding.	17	17	0	Anticipate regional agreement to reduce local authority contribution by 10%
Total Other			17	17	0	
Communities Total			1,432	1,432	0	

Policy - On Target

NOTHING TO REPORT

Savings Monitoring Report - 2022/23 brought forward
Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
25th January 2024

1 Summary position as at : 31st October 2023

£265 k variance from delivery target

	2022/23 Savings monitoring		
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
	Target	Delivered	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Children	150	0	150
Communities	115	0	115
	265	0	265

2 Analysis of delivery against target for managerial and policy decisions:

Managerial
Policy

£265 k Off delivery target
£0 k ahead of target

	MANAGERIAL			POLICY		
	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23
	Target	Delivered	Variance	Target	Delivered	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Education & Children	150	0	150	0	0	0
Communities	115	0	115	0	0	0
	265	0	265	0	0	0

3 Appendix F (iv): Savings proposals not delivered in 2022/23

DEPARTMENT	2021/22 Budget	FACT FILE	2022/23 Not achieved	2022/23 Delivered in 2023/24	2023/24 Variance	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR VARIANCE
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000		

Managerial - Off Target

Education & Children

Children's Services

Garreglwyd ASD Residential Setting	444	Provision of residential care for children aged 11-19 who are autistic and have very complex needs at Garreglwyd Special Residential Unit.	150	0	150	The intention is to generate income at Garreglwyd from the sale of beds / residential places to neighbouring Authorities. There will be 2 spare places / beds from April 2022, which should generate sufficient income to meet the identified efficiency saving if sold at market rate.	Provision required for CCC pupils, therefore income not achievable
Total Children's Services			150	0	150		

Education & Children Total

150 0 150

Communities

Adult Social Care

Residential and Supported Living		Supported Living is provided for those individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues who need support with daily living tasks to remain in the community. Support is provided from staff in the setting which can range from a few hours to 24/7 in some circumstances. Promoting independence is a key aspect of supported living.	115	0	115	Rightsizing of placements to maximise independence and mitigate against over provision, deregistration of residential care to Supported Living. Collaborative opportunities for income including grants	Whilst we are making progress in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. There is a lack of accommodation, respite and day provision for those with complex needs and behaviours that challenge. A particular pressure is accommodation solutions for those young people in transition. We are working with colleagues in housing and commissioning to develop more in house provision and have an infrastructure to performance manage this, which will positively impact on the budget. In the meantime, we have no options but to commission with high cost independent providers and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.
Total Adult Social Care			115	0	115		

Communities Total

115 0 115

Policy - Off Target

NOTHING TO REPORT

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25th JANUARY 2024

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2024/25 to 2026/27

Appendix A – Corporate Budget Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27

Appendix A(i) – Efficiency summary for Health & Social Services

Appendix A(ii) – Growth Pressures summary for Health & Social Services

Appendix B – Budget monitoring report for Health & Social Services

Appendix C – Charging Digest for Health & Social Services

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

- consider and comment on the budget strategy proposals
- consider and comment on the proposals for delivery of efficiency savings for their service area identified in Appendix A(i)
- bring forward any other proposals for efficiency savings
- examine the Departmental Budgets
- endorse the Charging Digests

Reasons:

The Cabinet at its meeting on 15th January 2024 will have considered the attached Revenue Budget Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27 (Appendix A) and endorsed the report for consultation purposes. A verbal update will be given at the meeting in relation to any changes or specific proposals made by the Cabinet if appropriate.

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holders:

- Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health & Social Services)
- Cllr. Alun Lenny (Resources)

<p>Directorate: Corporate Services</p> <p>Name of Director: Chris Moore</p> <p>Report Author: Randal Hemingway</p>	<p>Designation:</p> <p>Director of Corporate Services</p> <p>Head of Financial Services</p>	<p>Tel No. / E-Mail Address:</p> <p>01267 224120 CMoore@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p> <p>01267 224886 Rhemingway@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 25th JANUARY 2024

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2024/25 to 2026/27

The objective of the report is to allow members to consider the corporate budget strategy for the financial years 2024/25 to 2026/27 to consider the service delivery impact and options for the forthcoming years.

The report is set out as follows:

Appendix A

- The attached report is a copy of the Revenue Budget Strategy 2024/25 to 2026/27 that has been presented to the Cabinet. As part of the budget consultation process the report is presented to this Scrutiny Committee for your consideration.
- The report provides members with an initial view of the revenue budget issues for the forthcoming year and also reflects departmental submissions.

Appendix B

Current budget extracts for Health & Social Services.

Appendix C

Charging Digest for Health & Social Services. The charges for 2024/25 have yet to be adopted and any change to the proposed charges will impact on the budget/efficiency proposals.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	YES
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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: Chris Moore Director of Corporate Services

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

1. Policy and Crime & Disorder

The budget is being prepared having regard to the Improvement Plan.

3. Finance

The report provides an initial view of the Budget Strategy for 2024/25, together with indicative figures for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years. The impact on departmental spending will be dependent upon the final settlement from Welsh Government and the resultant final Budget adopted by County Council.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDERS 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
2024/25 3-year Revenue Budget	Corporate Services Department, County Hall, Carmarthen

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REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee

25th January 2024

REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY 2024/25 to 2026/27

(Copy of Cabinet report 15/01/2024)

DIRECTOR & DESIGNATION	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO.
C Moore, Director of Corporate Services	Corporate Services	01267 224121
AUTHOR & DESIGNATION	DIRECTORATE	TELEPHONE NO
R Hemingway, Head of Financial Services	Corporate Services	01267 224886

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.** Cabinet in September 2023 received a report on the Revenue Budget Outlook for 2024/25 to 2026/27 which appraised Members of the financial outlook and the proposals for taking forward the budget preparation.
- 1.2.** This report provides Members with the current view of the Revenue Budget for 2024/25 together with indicative figures for the 2025/26 and 2026/27 financial years. The report is based on officers' projections of spending requirements and takes account of the provisional settlement issued by Welsh Government on 20th December 2023.
- 1.3.** Whilst significant work has already been undertaken in preparing the budget, this report represents an initial position statement which will be updated over the coming months as the budget is further developed, council members are engaged and public consultation takes place. The final settlement is expect to be published by Welsh Government on 27th February 2024 alongside the WG budget, the day before full council meets to agree the final budget.
- 1.4.** The report is broken down into seven parts:
 - Funding Projections/Provisional Settlement
 - Budget Requirement
 - Impact on the Authority's budget strategy, including risks
 - Consultation
 - Wellbeing of Future Generations
 - Conclusion
 - Recommendations

2. FUNDING PROJECTIONS/PROVISIONAL SETTLEMENT

- 2.1.** The provisional settlement was announced on Wednesday 20th December 2023, the latest date this has ever been provided. Provisional figures for individual Local Authorities were provided for 2024/25, with no indicative figures beyond that year. The combination of these two factors exacerbate the already significant challenges faced by Local Authorities in developing plans for a legally balanced budget and our duty to prepare a Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- 2.2.** The Westminster Autumn Statement was announced in November 2023, which in previous years has provided a significant increase in the Welsh Government funding envelope, used the estimated £25bn fiscal headroom to reduce employees national insurance, with no meaningful uplift in public spending. Whilst business rates relief in England is continued at 75% for retail, leisure and hospitality, WG have reduced this figure to 40% in Wales (capped at £110,000 relief), with the NNDR multiplier also increasing by 5% from 53.5p to 56.175p
- 2.3.** The main points of the Provisional Settlement 2024/25 on an all Wales basis are as follows:
- 2.3.1. Local government revenue funding for 2024/25 set at £5.690 billion, an increase of 3.1% (£170 million) compared to 2023/24 (on an all Wales basis) .
 - 2.3.2. The Settlement figures for Carmarthenshire are an increase in the provisional settlement of 3.3% (£11.0 million). The Aggregate External Finance (AEF) therefore increases to £349.441 million in 2024/25.
 - 2.3.3. No funding allocated for either Teachers' or Firefighters' pension increases, as this mechanism has not yet been worked through between Westminster and Welsh Government. Whilst this is assumed to be a nil impact on our funding position, this is a significant risk until formally confirmed, with a value of c. £4m.
 - 2.3.4. The Minister's letter accompanying the settlement stresses that all available funding has been provided, and Local Authorities "must therefore accommodate" costs such as the September 2024 Teachers pay deal, although there is no clarity on what has been assumed.
 - 2.3.5. There is a funding floor to ensure no authority receives less than 2%, however the value is minimal (£1.3m) and so has had little effect on the actual distribution between individual Local Authorities, ranging from +2% (Gwynedd, Conwy) to +4.7% (Newport). These variances are driven by updates to key datasets which influence the funding allocation, such as relative population changes, the number of

Universal Credit Claimants and eligible Free School Meal Pupils in particular areas.

This settlement is marginally above our planning figure of a 3.0% increase and provides £0.9m more than our original assumption. Whilst this is welcome, the inflationary, pay awards and pressures increases far exceed the funding provided. To put this into context, the additional budget required in 2024/25 to meet the cost of pay awards alone totals £15m.

In particular, no additional funding has been provided to meet the inherent budget shortfall going forward as a result of either the uplift in Teachers pay (set by Welsh Government), nor the 2023 NJC pay award (set by national pay bargaining). Welsh Government recognise that this is the most challenging settlement since devolution.

- 2.4.** We have set our Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) assumptions for 2024 and beyond to accommodate the continued easing of inflation, back to the Bank of England CPI target of 2%. In line with the current MTFP, a key assumption is that across our workforce, pay awards track the prevailing inflation rate over the medium term.

Against this level of increasing costs, the outlook for Welsh Government Funding and Local Authority Settlements, as forecast by Wales Fiscal Analysis (part of Cardiff University) appears bleak, with 2 slightly different scenarios:

YoY % change (nominal)		2025/26	2026/27
Central Scenario	WG budget	1.7% (+£358m)	2.1% (+£435m)
	LA settlement	-0.3%	-0.5%
Alternative Scenario	WG budget	2.5% (+£518m)	2.8% (+£589m)
	LA settlement	1.0%	0.7%

With no formal indication of forward funding, and the added uncertainty of elections for both UK Government (before January 2025), and Welsh Government (May 2026) combined with a new Welsh First Minister, our assumptions are based on the alternative scenario, which aligns broadly with UK Government’s spending plans before the Truss/Kwarteng budget event.

Either scenario marks a de facto return to austerity. These figures are the lowest since 2019/20 – whilst that was an incredibly challenging budget to balance, the increased scale of inflationary and unavoidable pressures cannot be overstated – the 2019/20 Carmarthenshire draft

budget included a mere £2.2m for unavoidable pressures vs the £15.4m which this paper provides for in paragraph 3.4.2 below. Years 2 and 3 of the MTFP may be our hardest yet.

The financial model forecasts a requirement for £37m savings over the three year MTFP period.

Details of the many Welsh Government Service Specific Grants were provided alongside the provisional settlement on 20 December 2023 at an all-Wales level. For 2024/25, as has been standard over several years, most remain at the same cash value to previous years, which will in reality reduce outputs. This has been true for a number of years, and it is important to recognise the genuine and unavoidable impact this will have on outputs. There is a high value of grants which underpin statutory services across education, social care and universal services such as waste. With the level of general inflation as well as pay awards at a much higher level, the impact of this next year will be significant.

2.5. There are however some important updates to specific grants:

- The Social Care Workforce Grant (£45m all Wales in 2023/24) has been reduced by £10m (22%). The grant was originally introduced by WG to help meet wage cost pressures within the commissioned sector, and therefore underpins core service delivery, so is essentially an additional budget pressure.
- WG have merged around 20 historic Education grants into just four, with a total value of more than £380m across Wales. Notably funding previously earmarked for regional consortia working is now provided directly to Local Authorities. Both of these changes have the potential to increase flexibility according to local need and reduce administration costs, however this will be dependent upon actual grant terms and conditions, which are not yet known.

With the exception of c. £3-4m of temporary new curriculum funding which is diverted to pay for Mutual Investment Model financing costs going forward, Education grants are essentially flat in cash terms year on year, therefore does not allow for the obvious additional cost of either nationally agreed NJC pay awards, or the Welsh Education Minister's increase in teachers' salaries of an additional 3% announced in March 2023 following the previous WG budget.

The Funding which Welsh Government provided in 2023/24 towards both the uplifted Teachers' pay offer and holiday Free School Meal payments has ceased. This has instead been diverted to cover the additional £30m required for the rollout of Universal Free School Meals across all primary pupils. The Recruit Recover and Raise Standards (RRRS) grant has been protected, instead of the planned reduction.

Following a drawn out process, WG have finally increased the Universal FSM value from £2.90 to £3.20 per meal. Whilst this is unlikely to meet the true costs of the provision within Carmarthenshire, it should in part mitigate the current year overspend position continuing into next year.

The Minister's letter makes it clear that there is potential to transfer some current grants into the RSG as part of the final settlement. Whilst in principle this is a positive step, it requires that WG remove specific conditions around delivery/expenditure – without this change, it is unlikely to bring any efficiencies/benefits of greater local control. In addition, whilst the grant conditions may be removed by WG, there may still be a requirement to deliver this element of service at an Authority level, therefore the transfer of funding will need to be passported to the service to ensure continued delivery.

In March 2023, Full Council agreed to apply premiums to both second and empty homes, recognising the policy goal of incentivising properties being brought back into use to ease pressures of local housing demand. From April 2024, both will attract a 50% premium, which has provided a significant uplift to the tax base, as approved by Cabinet in December 2023. This increase has been applied to budget forecasts, yielding an additional estimated £1.7m. A review of the impact of this policy will take place during the year and Cabinet will consider further potential increases in premium, whilst also assessing whether more properties have come back into use.

3. BUDGET REQUIREMENT 2024/25

3.1. Current Years performance (2023/24)

3.1.1. As the Authority's core spending requirement remains constant year on year, a review of current year's

performance is important in identifying whether there are any underlying problems within the base budget

3.1.2. The current projection for the Revenue Outturn for 2023/24 (based on the October 2023 monitoring) is as follows:

Service	Approved Budget £'000	Total Expenditure Forecast £'000	Variance Forecast For Year £'000
Chief Executive	20,640	20,258	-382
Communities	131,166	134,815	3,649
Corporate Services	31,520	30,708	-812
Education and Children's Services	202,813	209,583	6,770
Place and Infrastructure	68,871	70,545	1,675
Departmental Expenditure	455,010	465,910	10,900
Unfunded Pay offers			0
Corporate contingency	1,510		-1,510
Capital Charges	-19,513	-22,513	-3,000
Levies and Contributions	13,334	13,334	0
Transfer to/ from Reserves	0	-1,078	-1,078
Net Expenditure	450,341	455,654	5,312

The main reasons for the departmental variances are as follows:

- Chief Executive's Department: underspends on member allowances and travelling and vacant posts across the department, offset by People Management overspends, increased Coroners costs and a shortfall on Land Charges income.
- Communities Department: overspends across all service areas except Physical Disabilities. The most significant areas are Older People Residential and Home Care budgets, and both supported living and residential care for adults with Learning Disabilities and Mental Health needs. Additionally, Leisure is also overspent, primarily due to challenges breaking even in the first year of the Pendine Attractor project.
- Corporate Services: there are underspends on pre-Local Government Reorganisation pension costs, and vacancies in housing benefits administration, partially offset by an overspend in card payment fees.
- Education and Children's Services: Significant overspends in children's services driven by increased demand, agency costs

and high rates for commissioned residential placements (more information provided in paragraph 3.4.2 below). There are also overspends arising from school meals and primary breakfasts.

- Place and Infrastructure Department: Temporary higher costs due to the interim phase of the waste strategy rollout, increased tender prices for school transport and reduced car park usage post-pandemic, offset by vacant posts across a range of services.

At this point the Authority is currently forecasting an overspend of £5.3 million which will need to be met from general balances. **It is imperative that any structural issues causing this are dealt with in next year’s budget as this is not a sustainable financial position.**

3.2. Validation

3.2.1. Validation reflects the changes in expenditure requirements to deliver the **current level** of services in future years. Primarily this is inflation, but also includes some service specific changes. The key validation factors are as follows:

	<u>2024/25</u> <u>Original</u>	<u>2024/25</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>2025/26</u>	<u>2026/27</u>
General inflation - Expenditure	3.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
General inflation - Fees & Charges	3.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
Electricity & Gas	-10.0%	£(3.0)m	-10.0%	0.0%
Fuel	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pay Inflation - non teaching	3.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
Pay Inflation - Teaching	3.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
NI increase	nil	nil	nil	nil
Levies (see para 3.2.9)	3.0%	8.6%	3.0%	2.0%
Pension Contributions	nil	nil	nil	nil
Capital Charges	£500k	nil	£500k	£500k

3.2.2. Following last year’s unprecedented increase in energy costs, the values have thankfully reduced, albeit not fully. The rates procured by Crown Commercial Services provide a £3m year on year saving towards bridging our budget gap, and with indications of a further £1m for 2025/26, which is built into our budget calculations.

3.2.3. The Council’s 2023/24 budget was set on the basis of a 5% pay award for both NJC staff (the largest share of our payroll by value and staff numbers) and Teachers. This was, for the

second year running, insufficient to meet nationally agreed awards, as follows:

- 3.2.4. The April 2023 NJC award has now been agreed at a flat value of £1,925 across grades up to SCP 43 (locally Grade L), with 3.88% for staff above this and 3.5% for Chief Officers. When combined with annual incremental drift (now that we are budgeting on individual officer salaries rather than top of scale), the cost is some £3.5m above budget. The “catchup” must be built into the budget calculations for 2024/25. We have assumed 4% next year on the basis of falling inflation.
- 3.2.5. In March 2023, after the WG budget had been finalised, the Welsh Education Minister responded to Teacher strike action with an improved offer covering both September 2022 and September 2023. Temporary (and insufficient) grant funding was provided for the 2023/24 financial year, however Welsh Government has not had enough resources to meet the obvious cost which needs to be built into recurrent budgets going forward, therefore leaving this as an unfunded pressure for local authorities. The value of this shortfall is £3m for Carmarthenshire, of which thankfully only £1.5m needs to be added due to prudent budget assumptions taken last year. Looking ahead to the September 2024 award, which is within WG discretion, the Minister’s letter is clear that this must be accommodated within the settlement, however the planning assumption which WG have used is neither publicly available nor are officials able to provide any greater clarity on this point. Our draft budget assumes 4% for next year, with a recognition that any extra above this would be unfunded and represent an explicit significant risk. Every 1% is worth approximately £1m.
- 3.2.6. Given uncertainty over the forward trajectory, the previous MTFP planning assumption aligned future pay awards with the prevailing rate of inflation. Whilst this remains a prudent and reasonable assumption, any lead or lag may inevitably create a temporary budget imbalance which will need to be corrected. This is compounded by a clear mismatch between actual inflation experienced in the economy and forecasts at the time of multi year budget setting. This is acutely true for Westminster department budgets, last set in the 3 year comprehensive spending review back in 2021. These in turn largely determine Welsh Government’s budget changes through the Barnett consequential mechanism, with WG stating that next year’s funding envelope is worth £1.3bn less as a result of the inflationary effect.

3.2.7. Against these extraordinary increases, we are proposing to implement a “vacancy factor”. Pay budgets have historically been set assuming all teams are fully staffed. This is in practice never achieved – there is inherent staff turnover arising from retirements, internal promotions, external recruitments etc. This budget approach is prudent but leads each year to an underspend, but this will vary from team to team, and from year to year depending on individual circumstances. To help bridge the budget shortfall, the budget includes £2m as a “vacancy factor”. This will be apportioned across council departments, with the exception of delegated school budgets (as they are governed by the fair funding formula). A proportion of this can be met from normal turnover, but where this is insufficient, departments will need to hold posts vacant for a sufficient time to achieve the target saving. This will inevitably lead to a reduction in service levels and/or longer waits in some service areas, but will help mitigate from more adverse budget reductions which could lead to the permanent removal of some services.

3.2.8. The 2023/24 budget includes a remaining contingency budget which it was recognised at the time of budget setting needed to at least partially offset the scale of the April NJC employers pay offer. This is now fully released in the 2024/25 budget, leaving no explicit in-year contingency.

Additionally, the scale of the revenue budget pressures are such that our standard assumption of a £500k increase in capital charges has been removed. This reduces the revenue budget shortfall, however it has an inevitable consequence of limiting the addition of any new schemes to the capital programme.

3.2.9. We understand from the Fire Authority that their indicative budget assumed a levy increase of 9.4%, overall, but factoring in population adjustments across constituent authorities, the increase is 10.4% for Carmarthenshire. Of this, 1.8% relates to increased employer pension contributions, with the remainder primarily driven by nationally set pay awards, combined with specific service pressures, the largest of which is Welsh Government’s withdrawal of the Firelink grant. As set out in paragraph 2.3.2 above, we must assume the pensions element will be fully provided for either through an increased final settlement or direct grant award. Our budget therefore provides

in full for the core 8.6% increase, adding £1.1m to our budget requirement.

3.2.10. As a result of these factors, validation adds over £23 million to the current year’s budget.

3.3. Cost Reduction Programme

In anticipation of the settlement challenges, significant work to review service efficiencies/rationalisation proposals has been undertaken.

3.3.1. The savings targets set for each financial year are as follows:

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Original target – MTFP (March 2023)	6.448	4.445	n/a
Budget Outlook (September 2023)	7.900	n/a	n/a
Proposed Savings (inc shortfall)	13.562	12.098	11.005

3.3.2. Accordingly, departments have developed a range of proposals, and these efficiencies are included in **Appendix A** of this report.

- The efficiency proposals are categorised as follows:

Managerial – Efficiencies that result in no perceivable change to the overall level of service delivery.

Policy – Efficiency or service rationalisation proposals that will directly affect service delivery.

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Managerial	6.439	2.465	2.024
Existing Policy	0.088	0.365	0.730
New Policy	4.234	0.574	0.685
Vacancy Factor	2.000		
Total	12.761	3.404	3.439
Shortfall	0.801	8.694	7.566

(Detail at **Appendix A**)

Whilst these budget reduction proposals cover a broad range of services, the common factor is the impact upon our workforce. It is more than a decade since the start of Austerity and the

continual pressure on staff to maintain services whilst doing more with less. Local Authorities' incredible response to the pandemic, whilst is a source of great pride, has only exacerbated this – raising the level of expectation with the public, putting increasing and potentially unsustainable pressure on staff.

- 3.3.3. More work will need to be undertaken to further develop these efficiencies. Years 2 and 3 in particular will require radical and perhaps unprecedented change to bridge the scale of the budget gap.

3.4. New Expenditure Pressures and contingency

- 3.4.1. New expenditure pressures are the combinations of additional cost to meet existing service needs e.g. increased client base/greater service take up and the costs of meeting change in service provision e.g. policy changes.
- 3.4.2. The original budget outlook report included £7.5 million per annum to meet growth pressures, an increased figure based on the experience of recent years.

Despite this adjustment, a much higher value of initial growth bids were received from departments, totalling more than £26 million. Based on an evaluation of the value and unavoidable nature of pressures submitted, initial indications are that many of the submissions are genuinely unavoidable and have already been constrained where practical. At this stage in the budget development, and pending further analysis to be undertaken by Directors, an indicative sum of £15.4 million has been allocated across departments (Appendix B).

The most significant area of pressures is within Children's services. Carmarthenshire has long had the lowest number of looked after children per capita of any Local Authority in Wales, with a strong emphasis on early intervention and prevention, and very low numbers of complex residential placements. This has provided a significant financial dividend over many years, allowing continued investment in wider services which have benefitted citizens. Nationally, there has been an unprecedented increase in demand during and since the pandemic. Increased costs were initially mitigated through covid grants, with the increase in many local authorities reporting significant overspend and consequently unavoidable pressures. In 2022/23, the service overspent by £3.6m and this is forecast to increase to £6.5m for 2023/24, due to a combination of acute social worker shortages, increased disability costs and a sharp increase in both the number and cost of residential placements. This last point is, ironically, exacerbated by the national "profit elimination" agenda, which is removing the incentive for the commissioned sector to invest in capacity building, and so leading to a market failure.

Following detailed, intensive work by senior officers, led by the deputy Chief Executive, budget growth of £5.5 million is allowed next year. This will provide sufficient funding to grow our workforce to the required level, as well as invest in two new in-house residential facilities, and meet known commitments to families of disabled children. It will need to be augmented by reserve funding for commissioned residential placements as they gradually reduce, and a further increase in the base budget in 2024/25 as new facilities become operational, including a planned third residential home.

Adult social care is also under significant financial pressure. This is largely explained by three factors:

- Another double digit increase the Foundation Living Wage, which WG mandates Local Authorities to pay the commissioned care sector, but the increased cost is not met in the settlement.
- Demand pressures were in effect suppressed both by the pandemic (families were better able to meet care needs with increased homeworking and may also have been concerned about residential care), combined with known capacity issues which have begun to abate.
- Ambitious budget reduction targets requiring transformational change, combined with whole system capacity constraints.

There is potential to ease the pressure through a possible change to the weekly cap of £100 for client contributions which applies in Wales. This has remained unchanged since 2021 despite an unprecedented increase in care costs over same period. A national debate is urgently needed over where the increasing costs should be met, as the current funding model is clearly unsustainable.

3.4.3. New expenditure pressures funding adds £15.4 million to the budget. The detail is provided at **Appendix B**.

3.4.4. In addition to new pressures, it is necessary to reinstate departmental budgets for prior year unmet savings – i.e. savings proposals relating to financial year 2022/23 which it has not been possible to deliver, totalling £646k, as shown in the following table:

Service / Proposal	Value undelivered £000s
People Mgt – realignment of OD, Income generation	67

Childrens –Garreglwd Income	150
Education – Music service travel; EOTAS recoupment and ALN assessment unit	159
Leisure – Franchises	25
Adult social care – Supported living rightsizing	115
Highways – parking and road safety	130
Total	646

It should be noted that the savings position for the current year represents a further risk looking ahead. Based on the October monitoring, there is a total of £3.3m which is not yet delivered

3.5. Schools Delegated Budgets

3.5.1 Our MTFP approach is to provide in full for known pressures to school budgets including inflationary costs and pay awards. Until last year, for a long period this also did not require any budget reduction proposals.

In 2023/24 delegated school budgets represent more than 30% of the authority’s net revenue budget. Given the scale of the financial challenge again this year, it is impossible to shield schools without having a disproportionate impact on other areas. This budget therefore includes a £3.5m saving applied, which is consistent with the level of savings required of other areas of council services.

Members should also note that as outlined in paragraph 2.5 above, the planned reduction to the RRRS grant has been reversed, which will at least provide partial mitigation.

3.6. Internal Funding

3.6.1. Generally speaking, whilst the use of reserves to support annual budgets should not be summarily discounted, it must be treated with caution. Funding on-going expenditure from such funds merely defers and compounds difficult financial problems to the following year. One-off items of expenditure within any budget proposal lend themselves better for such funding support.

3.6.2. In deliberating this point however, members must bear in mind any **inherent risks** that may be built into the budget strategy. These include:

- Constrained public finances at both Westminster and Welsh Government level, with an increased debt servicing burden and taxation levels already at an all-time high

- Schools' ability to set and deliver balanced budgets next year. This will require clear prioritisation from governing bodies and an acceptance that difficult decisions will need to be taken
- Cash-flat grants again next year, which inevitably will either reduce outputs, or increase pressure on core departmental budgets
- 2023 NJC and Teachers Pay awards – our 4% assumption may be insufficient
- Any worsening of the Children's Services position, or delays to delivery of the recovery plan.
- Adult Social care delivery – it is acknowledged that the funding position is extremely challenging
- A stable position on empty homes – with the increased premium offsetting the lost income from homes brought back into use
- Council Tax reform potentially leading to difficulties achieving current collection rates

As noted in last year's MTFP, the Westminster Government Autumn statement 2022 indicated much of the fiscal tightening is planned in the three years following the next General Election. This position remains unchanged.

3.6.3. The following table summarises the main categories of reserves held by the Authority.

	1 st Apr 2023 £'000	31 st Mch 2024 £'000	31 st Mch 2025 £'000	31 st Mch 2026 £'000
Schools Reserves	11,124	2,379	2,379	2,379
General Reserves	14,756	9,444	9,444	9,444
Earmarked Reserves	142,868	103,699	58,359	43,166

School Reserves

- Schools have delegated responsibility for the management of their own finances. The level of reserves held by an individual school at any point in time will depend on a number of factors including the level of contingency fund that the school governing body considers appropriate, and the particular plans each school has for expenditure. Officers have yet to be informed of any transfers to/from these reserves by individual schools for future years.
- Legislation allows schools to carry forward reserves from one financial period to another. The School Funding (Wales) Regulations 2010 requires schools to limit their accumulated reserves at year end to £50,000 for Primary Schools and £100,000 for Secondary and Special Schools or 5% of their

budget dependent on what is greater. School Improvement officers are currently working with schools to ensure they comply with the guidance. As at 31st March 2023, 24 primary, 2 secondary and 1 special schools were in deficit.

3.6.4. **General Reserves**

- In the changeable and challenging environment currently facing Local Government, the Authority is committed to maintaining a reasonable level of General reserves or Balances. Whilst there is no prescribed minimum level for Balances, Council has previously deemed 3% of net expenditure as being a prudent level, which has been accepted by our Auditors as being reasonable
- The overall level of balances is taken into consideration each year when the annual budget is set and has on occasions been utilised to augment expenditure/reduce council tax. The 2023/24 budget was set on the basis of no transfers from the General Reserves. Based upon the October Budget monitoring (outlined in paragraph 3.1.2 above) there could be a draw on General Reserves of £5.3m and a fall of £8.8 m in school balances at the end of the current financial year – taken together we are, in effect, spending 3% more than our current year budget. The Corporate Management Team has already responded to this position, with measures including the current recruitment freeze, the Children’s Services recovery plan and enhanced financial communication to schools regarding the severity of the situation.
- The budget proposals therefore assume nil contribution from general reserves in support of the recurrent revenue budget requirement in 2024/25.
- Taking account of the proposals within this report, and the corrective actions being undertaken in respect of the current year overspend position, the Director of Corporate Services confirms that overall the estimated level of financial reserves (as indicated above) is adequate for the financial year 2024/25, but is also very conscious of the significant risks highlighted in paragraph 3.6.2 of this Budget Strategy.

3.6.5. **Earmarked Reserves**

- The Authority holds earmarked reserves which have been set up to finance the delivery of specific projects, or in protecting the

authority against future liabilities or issues. The reserves can be summarised as follows:

	31 March 2023 £'000	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000	31 March 2026 £'000	31 March 2027 £'000
Insurance	13,655	13,655	14,155	14,155	14,155
Capital Funds	52,744	35,358	14,630	7,204	4,204
Development Fund	1,064	793	1,880	1,962	2,043
Corporate Retirement Fund	6,241	5,705	4,704	3,720	4,655
Joint Ventures	1,613	1,512	1,411	1,310	105
Other	67,551	46,676	21,579	14,815	12,881
TOTAL	142,868	103,699	58,359	43,166	38,043

- As can be seen from the table above the level of earmarked reserves fluctuates greatly year on year, and whilst the level in each fund is not an exact science it is based on an informed estimate and past experience of the likely call on the authority in future years in line with the intended purpose of each reserve. Great care must therefore be taken when considering utilising such funds for purposes other than those which they were created as this could lead to the authority being faced with substantial unfunded liabilities in the future.
- In constructing next year's budget, there are two areas when it is deemed reasonable and prudent to draw on earmarked reserves:
 - Childrens residential placements, which are expected to reduce as new Local Authority operated facilities become operational – this will be met by the RSG reserve
 - Ongoing support for Interim waste service costs, recognising that the current waste service is more expensive than the forecast cost of implementing the full WG blueprint model. Where these costs cannot be met from existing budgets, there may be a need to draw on departmental earmarked reserves.
- The Director is very conscious of the ongoing commitment to capital projects (particularly in light of acute cost escalation on high profile schemes) and of the demand on future services and

therefore feels the earmarked reserves position will need to be monitored closely going forward.

4. IMPACT ON THE AUTHORITY’S BUDGET STRATEGY

The table below provides an updated position on the current financial outlook taking account of the provisional settlement and also other recent validation changes.

4.1. The Current Financial Outlook (updated for the Provisional Settlement) is set out in the table below:

	Current MTFP		Proposed Financial Model		
	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000
Previous Year’s Budget	450,330	463,357	450,341	470,851	479,660
General Inflation	3,879	2,609	5,771	4,451	3,058
Energy	-1,408	0	-3,000	-1,091	0
Pay Inflation	8,053	5,662	15,407	8,364	5,688
Other, incl capital charges and release of corp contingency	1,452	1,279	511	1,683	1,511
Growth	7,500	7,500	15,382	7,500	7,500
Savings proposals incl vacancy factor	-4,384	-3,996	-12,761	-3,404	-3,439
Further savings to be identified	-2,064	-449	-801	-8,694	-7,566
Funding unallocated	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Net Expenditure	463,357	475,961	470,851	479,660	486,411
Funded by:					
Revenue Settlement	346,522	355,179	349,441	352,929	355,400
Council Tax Receipts	116,835	120,783	121,410	126,730	131,012
Council Tax Increase:	4.00%	3.00%	6.50%	4.00%	3.00%

4.2. The total of budget reductions now required for 2024/25 is £13.6m and for the 3 year period are estimated at £37m.

4.3. The 2024/25 budget contains a budget shortfall of £801k, which has not been met. Members will need to consider whether this should best be

delivered through increased council tax levels, fees and charges or further budget reductions (yet to be identified). This shortfall, unprecedented at this stage of the budget development, must be considered alongside:

- 4.3.1. Responses to the consultation process
- 4.3.2. Clarification of specific grants – including the inflationary impact of reduced outputs
- 4.3.3. Further growth pressures not currently addressed
- 4.3.4. Changes in assumptions on inflation and pay offers
- 4.3.5. Changes arising from the final settlement

5. CONSULTATION

Budget consultation has been planned for the coming month and a summary of the individual approaches are as follows:

- 5.1. Members seminars. (15-19 January 2024)
- 5.2. The public consultation was launched on 21 December 2023 and will run until 28 January 2024
- 5.3. Town & Community Councils meeting on 17 January 2024
- 5.4. Commercial ratepayers consultation in January 2024
- 5.5. Consultation with Scrutiny Committees 25-31 January 2024.
- 5.6. Consultation with the Schools Budget Forum on 23 January 2024
- 5.7. Trade Union Consultation meeting on 22 January 2024

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

6.1. In considering the budget proposals, members need to take into consideration the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act requires that we must carry out sustainable development, improving the economic, social environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

‘... 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’

6.2. In doing so, we must demonstrate the following 5 ways of working:

- Looking at the long-term so that we do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

- Understanding the root causes of the issues to prevent them recurring
 - Taking an integrated approach so that we look at all well-being goals and objectives of other services and partners
 - Collaboration – Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions
 - Involving a diversity of population in decisions that affect them
- 6.3.** Our Corporate Strategy was revised for 2022-27. Our revised Well-Being objectives are:

1. Enabling our children and young people to have the best possible start in life (Start Well)
2. Enabling our residents to live and age well (Live & Age Well)
3. Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe and prosperous (Prosperous Communities)
4. To further modernise and develop as a resilient and efficient Council (Our Council)

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1.** Currently the budget proposals assume the full delivery of all of the savings proposals submitted.
- 7.2.** Work needs to be undertaken to further develop the cost reductions for years 2025/26 and 2026/27 to be able to maintain the current Budget Strategy and level of council tax. Departments will be working over the forthcoming year to refine these savings, but it is likely that radical options will be required.
- 7.3.** The critical importance of minimising the level Council Tax increase for our residents is recognised alongside the requirement to set a legally balanced budget in the context of significant uncertainty in future funding settlements.
- 7.4.** Given the current risks around this Budget Strategy and the ongoing inflationary backdrop, the Council Tax increase next year has been amended to 6.5%, seeking to mitigate reductions to critical services valued by our residents. In years 2 and 3, the financial picture remains uncertain, and as such we have modelled indicative Council Tax increases of 4% and 3% purely for planning purposes, seeking to strike a balance with budget reductions. This partially alleviates the scale of the reductions proposals which the council needs to consider over future years of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

- 7.5.** Over the coming weeks and part of the refining of the Medium Term Financial Plan where the Authority gets further clarification on costs and grant funding and feedback on the consultation, the Authority will aim to limit the Council Tax increase as far as possible.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1. That Cabinet:

- 8.1.1. Note the contents of the report and approve the three year Budget Strategy 2024/25 – 2026/27. This strategy will be used to support the budget consultation and form the basis of the final budget proposals.
- 8.1.2. Note the budget reductions/savings proposals in Appendix A, which will be considered as part of the consultation.
- 8.1.3. Note the 2024/25 shortfall of £801k in the current strategy, for which increased funding or cost reductions will need to be identified at the completion of the consultation as noted in paragraph 4.3.
- 8.1.4. Note that this MTFP includes a proposal to use reserve funding to support one off costs for Children Services.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25th January 2024
Efficiency Summary

Proposals	MANAGERIAL				EXISTING POLICY PROPOSALS				NEW POLICY PROPOSALS				TOTAL PROPOSALS			
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	TOTALS	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	TOTALS	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	TOTALS	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	TOTALS
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Chief Executive	690	82	109	881	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	690	82	109	881
Education	1,005	165	155	1,325	35	320	730	1,085	300	300	185	785	1,340	785	1,070	3,195
Schools Delegated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,454	0	0	3,454	3,454	0	0	3,454
Corporate Services	320	210	0	530	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	320	210	0	530
Communities	3,182	1,474	1,535	6,191	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,182	1,474	1,535	6,191
Place & Infrastructure	1,242	534	225	2,001	53	45	0	98	480	274	500	1,254	1,775	853	725	3,353
	6,439	2,465	2,024	10,928	88	365	730	1,183	4,234	574	685	5,493	10,761	3,404	3,439	17,604

DEPARTMENT	2023/24 Budget	FACT FILE	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	

Communities

Adult Social Care

Residential Care & Supported Living - Learning Disabilities & Mental Health	23,642	Supported Living is provided for those individuals with Learning Disabilities or Mental Health issues who need support with daily living tasks to remain in the community. Support is provided from staff in the setting which can range from a few hours to 24/7 in some circumstances. Promoting independence is a key aspect of supported living.	550	445	445	1,440	I. Step Down 10 Individuals from Residential Care to supported living II. Step Down 2 Individuals to Shared Lives III. Increase Health funding contributions for 4 individuals IV. Review and 'right size' care packages used by people in supported living settings so support can be shared
Support in the community - Learning Disabilities & Mental Health	11,163	Direct Payments allow service users to receive payments from the local authority for their assessed needs, instead of care services. This can allow the service user more flexibility and control of their support package.	168	84	84	336	I. Use TEC solutions to reduce the level of 1-2-1 support hours required by people in their own homes II. Explore the use of user trusts by the NHS as an alternative to Direct Payments III. Pool Direct Payments which will allow people to share support when attending day services IV. Use grant funding to employ people attending skills hub
Day Services - Learning Disabilities	897	As part of the transformation of Learning Disability day service provision, the buildings will provide for those with most complex needs, this will also reduce the reliance on external providers for those with complex needs as more individuals with complex needs are supported by the in-house day service provision.	300	50	50	400	I. Support those with complex needs to use local authority day services as opposed to independent sector
Total Adult Social Care			1,018	579	579	2,176	

Integrated Services

Home Care - Older People	15,787	Domiciliary care support workers provide person-centred care and support for individuals to help them achieve positive outcomes and stay independent in their homes. Domiciliary care (also known as Home care) is provided to approx. 930 individuals in the county. On average approximately 10,000 hours per week are delivered by in-house and independent domiciliary care agencies.	650	400	350	1,400	Through robust and regular review of home based packages including review of double staffed packages and implementation of the releasing time to care methodology, we will reduce the number of care hours required. Calculations are based on a reduction of care hours per week per year minus increased investment in the review team to provide us with additional capacity to conduct reviews. We will improve the capacity of our in house service to deliver more hours and reduce the number of commissioned care hours.
Residential Homes - Older People	23,531	Residential care homes provide accommodation as well as 24-hour personal care and support for older people and adults who struggle to live independently, but do not need nursing care. Residential care homes help people manage daily life, such as assisting with getting dressed, washing and eating. There are approximately 850 older adults or adults with physical disabilities being supported in residential homes.	100	100	100	300	Reduction on spend on residential placements, due to robust challenge in relation to those who are eligible for Continuing Healthcare and minimisation of out of county placement.
Extra Care	161	Extra Care facilities provide supported accommodation as an alternative to a residential care home placement as described above. Cwm Aur historically provided Extra Care, but it has been difficult to let the properties so there has been a high level of voids for some time.	80	0	0	80	Removal of subsidy from Cwm Aur Extra Care facility
Carmarthenshire Integrated Community Equipment Store (CICES)	705	A joint equipment store managed by the local authority on behalf of the authority and Local Health Board for the provision of aids and equipment to clients. This is subject to a Pooled Budget Agreements between the local authority and Hywel Dda LHB	50	75	100	225	Investment in dedicated OT attached to CICES to challenge prescriptions of equipment. Saving based on saving, minus investment in OT.
Residential Care - Older People Section 117	23,531	Residential care homes provide accommodation as well as 24-hour personal care and support for older people and adults who struggle to live independently, but do not need nursing care. Residential care homes help people manage daily life, such as assisting with getting dressed, washing and eating. There are approximately 850 older adults or adults with physical disabilities being supported in residential homes.	50	50	50	150	Negotiation with the Health Board to reach a position whereby all Carmarthenshire residents placed in residential settings subject to S117 aftercare are funded on a 50/50 basis. This would include Health Board agreement to fund all those currently funded solely by the Local Authority (7 individuals currently). This would be in line with the approach already in place in relation to younger adults funded through the Health Board Mental Health and Learning Disability Directorate.
Total Integrated Services			930	625	600	2,155	

DEPARTMENT	2023/24 Budget	FACT FILE	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total	EFFICIENCY DESCRIPTION
	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Commissioning and Support Services							
Business Support	1,315	The Business Support Division is made up of 130 staff, there are 8 core functions which are critical to supporting the Department for Communities: Collections, Payments, Financial Assessments, Audit & Compliance, Blue Badge, Transport, Buildings & Emergency Planning and Divisional Business Support	75	42	42	159	Rationalisation of Supplies and Services, and final reduction / efficiency from transport.
Departmental	885	Management and support functions for Communities Department	150	0	0	150	Review management posts - subject to corporate policies
Departmental	various across the dept	Cross-departmental review of vacant posts to realise efficiencies	150	0	0	150	Review all vacant posts in department.
Business Support	1,315	The Business Support Division is made up of 130 staff, there are 8 core functions which are critical to supporting the Department for Communities: Collections, Payments, Financial Assessments, Audit & Compliance, Blue Badge, Transport, Buildings & Emergency Planning and Divisional Business Support	20	5	5	30	Administration fees for work undertaken on behalf of partner organisations.
Total Commissioning and Support Services			395	47	47	489	
Total Communities			2,343	1,251	1,226	4,820	
Education & Children							
Children's Services							
Children's services	21,343	Children's Services encompasses the Social worker teams, Fostering, Adoption, Early years, Family Support Services, Specialist Care Provision, School Safeguarding & Attendance and Educational Psychology.	100	0	0	100	Utilise grant funding where opportunities arise, and review all non staffing budgets across the division.
Total Children's Services			100	0	0	100	
Total Education & Children			100	0	0	100	
MANAGERIAL Total			2,443	1,251	1,226	4,920	

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Demographic, Legislative or continuing pressures

APPENDIX A(ii)

Service	Description	£000s
Childrens services	To meet pressures of increased demand across the service, investment in increased social work capacity, and provide recurrent budget for inhouse residential homes in line with "elimination of profit" agenda	5,500
Home Tuition	Increase demand including statementing - commitments legally required in excess of current budgets	100
Total for Education & Childrens Department		5,600
Demographic Growth	Annual budget increase, including Older peoples / Learning Disabilities / Mental Health. NB sum provided is only 50% of calculated increase in demand	1,600
Foundation Living Wage	Calculated increase on commissioned care rates based on wage component and increase from £10.90 to £12.00/hour	3,063
Pent up demand	Previous years budget pressures have been constrained by available capacity across both inhouse as well as commissioned services. Now workforce issues are easing, services are overspending based on unavoidable demand. This provides partial mitigation only.	1,600
Energy - commissioned care	Partial reversal of energy price pressure allowed for in 2023/24 budget based on falling commodity prices	-627
Total for Communities Department		5,636
TOTAL		11,236

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Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report

Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Summary

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	
Adult Services									
Older People	76,961	-26,538	3,701	54,125	78,272	-26,235	3,701	55,738	1,614
Physical Disabilities	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,282	-2,381	276	7,176	-313
Learning Disabilities	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	49,171	-11,782	1,475	38,864	939
Mental Health	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,806	-4,371	234	8,669	835
Support	11,260	-7,631	1,114	4,743	11,130	-7,466	1,114	4,778	35
Children's Services									
Children's Services	29,052	-9,054	2,630	22,628	39,451	-12,823	2,630	29,258	6,630
GRAND TOTAL	186,848	-61,535	9,430	134,743	200,111	-65,058	9,430	144,483	9,741

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Adult Services										
Older People										
Older People - Care Management	4,412	-642	675	4,445	4,396	-607	675	4,464	19	
Older People - Residential Care Homes (Local Authority Provision)	10,354	-4,554	1,319	7,120	11,140	-4,389	1,319	8,070	951	Staff agency costs remain high due to a mixture of general higher dependency of residents, vacancies and sickness. In the coming months we will be developing an in-house agency pilot for the Llanelli based homes that will deliver a more flexible pool of casual staff. It is hoped that this will be rolled out in April 2024 with a view, if successful, of deploying across the County in the summer of 2024. We will continue to monitor sickness closely and consistently as well as being more efficient in the way we recruit.
Older People - Supported Living	109	0	0	109	109	0	0	109	0	
Older People - Residential Care Homes	31,792	-14,062	328	18,058	32,061	-14,062	328	18,327	269	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.
Older People - Private Day Care	35	0	0	35	57	0	0	57	22	
Older People - Extra Care	677	0	10	687	677	0	10	687	0	
Older People - LA Home Care	8,387	0	750	9,137	8,313	-0	750	9,063	-74	
Older People - MOW's	6	-6	0	-0	0	0	0	0	0	
Older People - Direct Payments	1,349	-313	6	1,043	1,508	-313	6	1,201	159	Financial pressures from previous years remain.
Older People - Grants	2,554	-2,324	16	246	2,561	-2,325	16	252	6	
Older People - Private Home Care	10,038	-2,638	116	7,516	10,868	-2,638	116	8,345	829	Numbers on waiting lists are reducing as assessed needs are being met in alternative ways. However care packages are increasing as capacity develops in care sector.
Older People - Management and Support	1,704	-303	182	1,584	1,550	-195	182	1,538	-46	
Older People - Careline	2,219	-1,077	4	1,146	2,219	-1,077	4	1,146	0	
Older People - Reablement	2,225	-527	174	1,871	1,974	-600	174	1,548	-324	Staffing vacancies
Older People - Day Services	852	-92	122	882	696	-31	122	786	-95	
Older People - Private Day Services	247	0	0	247	145	0	0	145	-103	Provision of day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.
Older People Total	76,961	-26,538	3,701	54,125	78,272	-26,235	3,701	55,738	1,614	
Physical Disabilities										
Phys Dis - OT Services	883	-301	42	623	759	-149	42	653	29	
Phys Dis - Residential Care Homes	1,652	-314	13	1,352	1,367	-314	13	1,066	-285	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023
Phys Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,520	-174	12	1,357	1,252	-174	12	1,089	-268	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023
Phys Dis - Community Support	196	0	1	197	127	0	1	128	-69	
Phys Dis - Private Home Care	357	-92	3	268	357	-92	3	268	0	
Phys Dis - Aids & Equipment	1,129	-424	190	894	1,732	-1,048	190	873	-21	
Phys Dis - Grants	163	0	0	163	152	0	0	152	-11	
Phys Dis - Direct Payments	3,164	-603	14	2,575	3,531	-603	14	2,942	367	Financial pressures from previous years remain.
Phys Dis - Manual Handling	4	0	0	4	4	0	0	4	0	
Phys Dis - Independent Living Fund	55	0	0	55	0	0	0	0	-55	
Physical Disabilities Total	9,123	-1,910	276	7,489	9,282	-2,381	276	7,176	-313	

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Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
Learning Disabilities										
Learn Dis - Employment & Training	2,195	-410	359	2,144	1,691	-209	359	1,841	-303	Provision of LD day services is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels.
Learn Dis - Care Management	1,057	-37	144	1,163	1,105	-60	144	1,189	27	
Learn Dis - Residential Care Homes	13,970	-4,524	81	9,527	14,358	-4,524	81	9,915	388	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.
Learn Dis - Direct Payments	5,906	-572	23	5,357	5,947	-572	23	5,398	41	
Learn Dis - Group Homes/Supported Living	11,515	-2,295	84	9,303	12,829	-2,295	84	10,618	1,314	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.
Learn Dis - Adult Respite Care	1,159	-812	119	467	1,240	-812	119	547	80	
Learn Dis - Home Care Service	365	-161	4	208	365	-161	4	208	0	
Learn Dis - Day Services (Local Authority Provision)	2,924	-479	401	2,847	2,661	-254	401	2,808	-39	
Learn Dis - Private Day Services	981	-84	11	909	889	-84	11	817	-92	
Learn Dis - 0 to 25 Service	570	0	97	667	542	0	97	640	-27	
Learn Dis - Community Support	3,568	-162	24	3,429	3,229	-162	24	3,091	-338	Demand led - projection based on care packages as at October 2023
Learn Dis - Grants	540	-162	5	384	554	-162	5	398	14	
Learn Dis - Adult Placement/Shared Lives	3,095	-2,104	84	1,075	3,136	-2,341	84	880	-195	Provision of respite care is reduced compared to pre-pandemic levels and part-year vacant posts
Learn Dis/M Health - Management and Support	566	-158	38	447	624	-147	38	515	68	
Learning Disabilities Total	48,410	-11,960	1,475	37,925	49,171	-11,782	1,475	38,864	939	
Mental Health										
M Health - Care Management	1,518	-155	83	1,445	1,426	-129	83	1,381	-65	
M Health - Residential Care Homes	6,986	-3,394	41	3,632	7,468	-3,394	41	4,114	482	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.
M Health - Residential Care Homes (Substance Misuse)	158	-34	0	124	158	-34	0	124	0	

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Report
Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023 Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000		
M Health - Group Homes/Supported Living	1,707	-446	7	1,268	2,249	-446	7	1,810	541	Progress being made in the right sizing of individual packages and in developing alternatives to residential care. This is mitigated by an increase in demand and complexity in those with a learning disability or mental health issue. In the meantime, high cost independent providers are being commissioned and the current budget allocation does not reflect this demand.
M Health - Direct Payments	287	-45	1	242	283	-45	1	238	-4	
M Health - Community Support	792	-78	13	727	715	-78	13	651	-77	
M Health - Private Day Services	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	
M Health - Substance Misuse Team	501	-261	88	328	413	-215	88	286	-42	
Mental Health Total	12,043	-4,443	234	7,834	12,806	-4,371	234	8,669	835	
Support										
Departmental Support	4,337	-3,022	799	2,114	4,318	-3,023	799	2,095	-19	
Performance, Analysis & Systems	698	-162	44	580	689	-162	44	571	-10	
VAWDASV	980	-980	8	8	980	-980	8	8	-0	
Adult Safeguarding & Commissioning Team	2,100	-219	100	1,981	2,155	-215	100	2,040	59	
Regional Collaborative	1,515	-1,362	65	218	1,512	-1,362	65	215	-3	
Holding Acc-Transport	1,629	-1,886	98	-159	1,476	-1,724	98	-150	9	
Support Total	11,260	-7,631	1,114	4,743	11,130	-7,466	1,114	4,778	35	
Children's Services										
Commissioning and Social Work	8,019	-115	1,691	9,596	9,554	-530	1,691	10,715	1,119	Increased agency staff costs forecast £962k re additional demand & difficulty recruiting permanent staff - forecast has increased due to extending of agency staff to March 2024 and also 2 additional agency Social Workers. Increased demand for assistance to clients and their families £346k, which again is a further increase compared to August. This is partly offset by additional grant income.
Corporate Parenting & Leaving Care	1,035	-91	71	1,016	948	-91	71	929	-87	Maximisation of grant income supporting priorities the service had already identified and have staff working on
Fostering & Other Children Looked After Services	4,843	0	44	4,887	6,120	-139	44	6,026	1,138	Increased costs associated with providing specialist support and fostering placements for young people / children looked after, some with highly complex needs £453k, Special Guardianship Orders (SGO's) £62k, Fostering £762k. This is partly offset by additional WG grant £139k
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC)	0	0	5	5	1,603	-1,346	5	262	257	Increase in number of Unaccompanied Children resulting in more expensive placement costs in excess of the fixed income received. Additional grant income identified since August return
Commissioned Residential Placements (CS)	469	0	4	473	3,369	-12	4	3,361	2,889	Several ongoing highly complex placements in 2023/24

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Budget Monitoring as at 31st October 2023 - Detail Monitoring

Division	Working Budget				Forecasted				Oct 2023	Notes
	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000	Net non- controllable £'000	Net £'000	Forecasted Variance for Year £'000	
Residential Settings	1,421	-361	115	1,174	2,728	-1,444	115	1,398	225	£225k Garreglwyd - agency staff costs forecast due to difficulty recruiting & sickness cover. £514k forecast overspend for new setting Ty Magu / Ross Avenue, which is being offset by £514k WG grant
Respite Settings	1,094	0	117	1,211	1,178	0	117	1,295	84	Increased staffing costs £54k re meeting service demand, vacancy / absence cover and impact of increased pay award in excess of budget, increased vehicle costs in relation to additional vehicles needed £20k and also additional premises maintenance costs forecast £10k in relation to essential works needed following outcome of recent playground inspection at Llys Caradog
Adoption Services	591	0	37	628	1,136	-409	37	764	136	Overspend in relation to increased staffing costs, including agency staff and travelling costs re ongoing service demands £73k. Also, additional costs in relation to Inter Agency Adoption fees, Adoption Allowances and Therapy / Counselling costs, again in line with service demands £63k
Supporting Childcare	1,674	-1,140	342	876	1,676	-1,150	342	868	-8	
Short Breaks and Direct Payments	657	0	16	672	1,880	-184	16	1,712	1,040	Increased demand for Direct Payments with further pressures linked to post covid & lack of commissioned services available £376k. Also increased demand for 1-2-1 support under Short Breaks due to lack of available location based services £664k
Children's/Family Centres and Playgroups	399	-86	124	437	487	-167	124	444	7	
CCG - Children & Communities Grant	6,463	-6,455	14	21	6,463	-6,455	14	21	0	
Other Family Services incl Young Carers and ASD	1,023	-643	24	404	1,021	-687	24	358	-46	Maximisation of grant income, partially offsetting overspends elsewhere within the division
Children's Services Mgt & Support (inc Eclipse)	1,366	-164	25	1,228	1,287	-208	25	1,105	-123	Part year vacant posts recently recruited to
Children's Services Total	29,052	-9,054	2,630	22,628	39,451	-12,823	2,630	29,258	6,630	
TOTAL FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	186,848	-61,535	9,430	134,743	200,111	-65,058	9,430	144,483	9,741	

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APPENDIX C

CHARGING DIGEST - Social Services

2022/23 Actual £	2023/24 Budget £	2024/25 Budget £	Business Unit	Service Provided	2023/24 Charge Levied £	2024/25 Proposed Charge £	Comments
0	1,013	1,033	Laundry	Cost per person to max 1 load	3.10	3.50	Increase in line with Real Living Wage (RLW) and utilities cost pressures within the service
33,308	198,280	202,246	Community meals incl day care	Cost per meal	6.00	6.50	Increased food and utilities cost pressures
				Cost per day	8.50	9.00	Increased food and utilities cost pressures
205,154	223,373	227,840	Respite Care Charge to Clients	Adults with learning difficulties (per wk)	Full cost of placement	Full cost of placement	
				All other adults except those receiving Higher Rate Attendance Allowance / Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance (per wk)	Full cost of placement	Full cost of placement	
				All other adults receiving Higher Rate Attendance Allowance/ Higher Rate Disability Living Allowance (per wk)	Full cost of placement	Full cost of placement	
3,270,870	2,892,947	2,950,806	Non - Residential Care Charges	Max charge (per wk)	100.00	100.00	No increase confirmed yet
				Home Care Charge (per hr)	20.00	22.00	Increase in line with RLW and utilities cost pressures within the service
				Day Care - all adults (per session)	19.55	21.60	Increase in line with RLW and utilities cost pressures within the service
				Community Support (per hr)	20.00	22.00	Increase in line with RLW and utilities cost pressures within the service
				Education Support (per hour)	FREE	FREE	
				Supported Living (per hour)	20.00	22.00	Increase in line with RLW and utilities cost pressures within the service
				Adult Placement Long Term Placement (per night)	19.55	21.60	Increase in line with RLW and utilities cost pressures within the service
				Adult Placement Short/Short Breaks	19.55	21.60	Increase in line with RLW and utilities cost pressures within the service
				Replacement Care	20.00	22.00	Increase in line with RLW and utilities cost pressures within the service
				Telecare (per week)	4.20	4.90	Increase in line with RLW and utilities cost pressures within the service

APPENDIX C

CHARGING DIGEST - Children's Services

2022/23 Actual £	2023/24 Budget £	2024/25 Budget £	Business Unit	Service Provided	2023/24 Charge Levied £	2024/25 Proposed Charge £	Comments
3,030	3,100	3,100	Children's Services	<u>Childcare</u> Paediatric First Aid Course	25.00 + VAT	25.00 + VAT	Increase in line with Real Living Wage (RLW) and utilities cost pressures within the service
				Child Protection Course	25.00 + VAT	25.00 + VAT	
				Basic Food Hygiene Course	25.00 + VAT	25.00 + VAT	
				Basic Food Hygiene - Refresher	20.00 + VAT	20.00 + VAT	
				Playwork Training Level 1	35.00 + VAT	35.00 + VAT	
				Playwork Training Level 2	40.00 + VAT	40.00 + VAT	
				<u>Child/Family-Playgroups</u> Room Hire			
373	200	208		Hire per hour - Carmarthen Playgroup - Argel	12.84	13.35	4% increase built in for 2024/25 - currently charging Crossroads/ other LA's for using the venue on weekends for contact. Income target reduced 2023/24 due to low bookings from external agencies. Income target increased by 4% 2024/25 in line with increase in charge

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25TH JANUARY, 2024

SUBJECT:

INTEGRATION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE – POSITION UPDATE ON DELIVERY AGAINST PRIORITIES

Purpose:

To provide an update to Scrutiny Committee on the Integration of Health and Social Care in Carmarthenshire.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the update report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice.

Reason(s)

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on Integration of Health & Social Care in Carmarthenshire

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

<p>Directorate Communities Name of Director: Jake Morgan Report Author: Joanna Jones</p>	<p>Designations: Director of Community Services Head of Integrated Services</p>	<p>Tel Nos. 01267 224697 E Mail Addresses: jakemorgan@carmarthenshire.gov.uk jjones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTEGRATION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE: POSITION UPDATE ON DELIVERY AGAINST PRIORITIES

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

This paper provides members of the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee with a position statement on Integration of Health & Social Care in Carmarthenshire and specifically, an update with regards to specific priorities which were set out in order to deliver on a community care system for Carmarthenshire.

Following a presentation to Scrutiny Committee at its June 2023 meeting, members agreed to support the below:

To develop a plan (building on a range of initiatives including 'Home First' and a range of 'step up' and 'step down' care options) that sets out a model for community health and care provision for older adults and adults with physical disabilities that allows them to remain well and independent in their own home and community (including safe alternatives to hospital admission or extended stay). This model will include the provision of beds, equipment and functional aids, therapies, social care, clinical care and support to meet the complex needs of our frail and elderly people both now and in the future.

It was agreed that the plan must address the complex and multiple needs of people rather than the capabilities of the current provider landscape. It must consider both immediate impacts that changes can make as well as setting out a model to meet medium and long term demand of the frail and elderly.

1.1 **Priorities that were agreed during 2023**

Following presentations of the plan to further Integration and develop a Community Care Integrated System for Carmarthenshire, the following priorities were endorsed by scrutiny committee, full council & both CEO's of Carmarthenshire County Council & Hywel Dda UHB:

1. Development of a single point of access for Home First for all people & 24/7
2. Integration of Home First with GP out of hours/ Primary Care
3. Expansion of Integrated Reablement
4. Expansion of Delta Response to support GP Out of Hours & WAST
5. Repurpose Community Hospitals to support Home First (TPP model)
6. Re-design of an LA Care Home for short term use
7. Future state long term complex 24/7 options appraisal & implementation of the complex care model
8. Pooled Funds options appraisal / governance arrangements/ implementation

This paper will focus on progress against the above priorities and cover some of the performance metrics that are being monitored in order to know whether the initiatives being implemented are making a difference to people and also to both the Health Board and Local Authority.

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: **Joanna Jones**

Head of Integrated Services

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Furthering the development of Integration in Carmarthenshire seeks to implement Delivering 'Home First' was a strategy set out by the Welsh Government in May (2021) to deliver a component of the 'A Healthier Wales: Our Plan for Health and Social Care" (2018) which outlines a shift from the reliance on traditional hospital services to a seamless approach of integrated care between health, Social Care and third sector services to deliver care closer to home. Cultivating the mindset of "*Home today, if not, why not, and when*" which can be applied with the person in their home and in hospital.

This policy direction also re-affirmed the commitment made in the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 that puts people at the heart of service delivery & to ensure a preventative approach to minimise escalation of needs.

2 Legal

There is an existing s.33 overarching agreement in place between Carmarthenshire County Council & Hywel Dda UHB that puts the governance around integration arrangements in place. This agreement was developed in 2011. The current s.33 is extant and is currently under review. This includes the development of detailed schedules within to outline service delivery responsibilities within each pathway of care.

3. Finance

Existing Integration arrangements, which include joint management posts and front line staffing, are funded through a mix of core Local Authority & Health Board core funding, Regional Investment Funding (RIF) , GP cluster funding, Transforming Urgent & Emergency Care (TUEC) Funds from the Health Board and more recently, Further Faster funding from WG.

It should be noted however that there is a significant level of short term funding supporting delivery of what has become core frontline services within Integrated Services, this is a big risk to further progression of our model.

A review of all short term funding has been requested by the Head of Integrated Services to ascertain the level of risk across the Integrated Care System.

**CABINET MEMBER 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
Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee Report & Presentation – 7th June, 2023 – Health & Care System for West Wales: How Far, How Fast?		Summary.pdf (gov.wales) Integrated Community Care Service: Five Priority Population Groups (gov.wales)

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25TH JANUARY 2024

INTEGRATION IN CARMARTHENSHIRE – POSITION UPDATE ON DELIVERY AGAINST PRIORITIES

1. BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

This paper provides members of the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee with a position statement on Integration of Health & Social Care in Carmarthenshire and specifically, an update with regards to specific priorities which were set out to deliver on a community care system for Carmarthenshire.

Following a presentation by Rhian Matthews to Scrutiny Committee at its June 2023 meeting, members agreed to support the below:

To develop a plan (building on a range of initiatives including 'Home First' and a range of ('step up' and 'step down' care options) that sets out a model for community health and care provision for older adults and adults with physical disabilities that allows them to remain well and independent in their own home and community (including safe alternatives to hospital admission or extended stay). This model will include the provision of beds, equipment and functional aids, therapies, social care, clinical care and support to meet the complex needs of our frail and elderly patients both now and in the future.

This plan must address the complex and multiple needs of the patients rather than the capabilities of the current provider landscape. It must consider both immediate impacts that changes can make as well as setting out a model to meet medium and long term demand of the frail and elderly.

Members should note that work in Integration between Health and Social Care has been focussed on delivery on the frontline of seamless services to the public. Progress on wider strategic integration has not been what was envisaged last year. Significant financial pressures, changes at Chief Executive level and a reorganisation within Health make further progress in strategically integrating the Local Authority and the Health Board unlikely in the short to medium term.

1.1 Priorities that were agreed during 2023

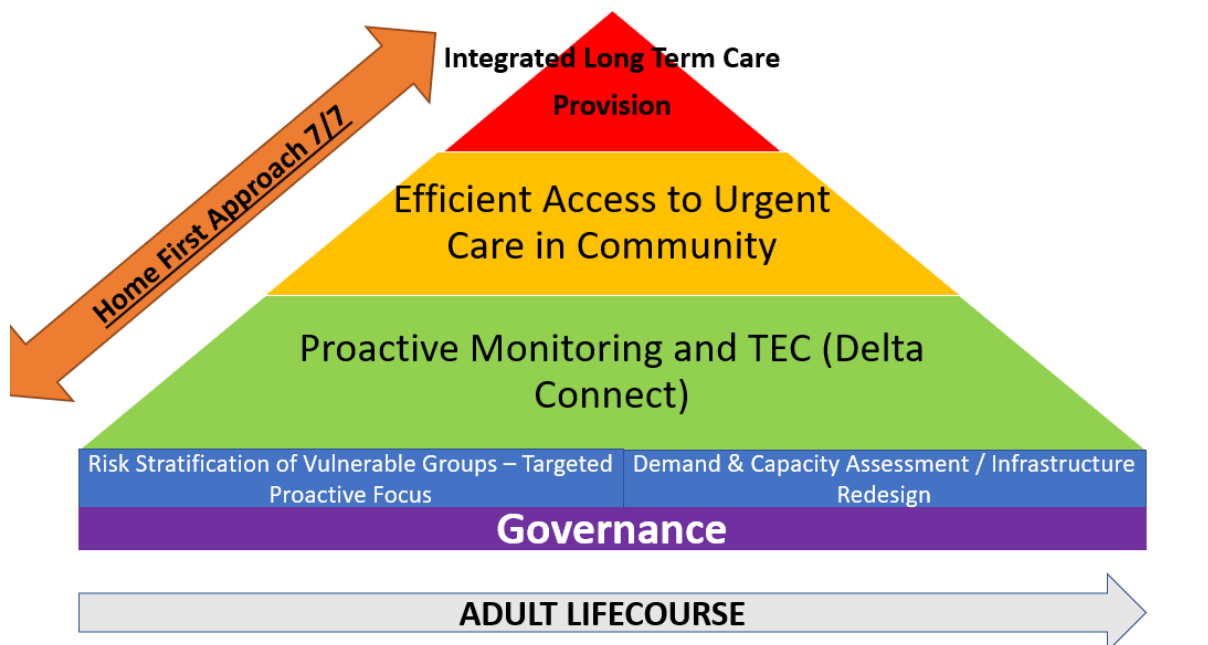
Following presentations of the plan to further Integration and develop a Community Care Integrated System for Carmarthenshire, the following priorities were endorsed by scrutiny committee, full council & both CEO's of Carmarthenshire County Council & Hywel Dda UHB:

1. Development of a single point of access for Home First for all people & 24/7
2. Integration of Home First with GP out of hours/ Primary Care
3. Expansion of Integrated Reablement
4. Expansion of Delta Response to support GP Out of Hours & WAST
5. Repurpose Community Hospitals to support Home First (TPP model)
6. Re-design of an LA Care Home for short term use
7. Future state long term complex 24/7 options appraisal & implementation of the complex care model
8. Pooled Funds options appraisal / governance arrangements/ implementation

This paper will focus on progress against the above priorities and cover some of the performance metrics that we are monitoring in order to know whether the initiatives we have been implementing is making a difference to people and also to both the Health Board and Local Authority.

Figure 1 below illustrates how the Home First approach in Carmarthenshire cuts across all pathways of care, with the objective being to manage the majority of our population in the Proactive space, with efficient access to urgent care as required. Our aim is to ensure that Long term care is only prescribed following opportunities to access preventative services to reinstate previous independence and to ensure any commissioned care is right sized and proportionate to assessed care and support needs.

Building Blocks for Health & Care System for Older People in Carmarthenshire



2. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS MADE

2.1 Development of a single point of access for Home First for all people & 24/7

A Home First approach across all service pathways has been developed over the course of the last 2 and a half years, however, some fundamental transformation has been progressed at the front door of community services and with broader integration across our Urgent & Intermediate Care pathway. This encompasses our Social Workers, GP's, Nurses, Community Allied Health Professionals (AHP's), Delta Connect, WAST, Third Sector Services, Reablement & Domiciliary Care Services

All working together, prioritising proactive and preventative approaches through to crisis response approaches to optimise healthier days at home for the population, avoid unnecessary hospital admissions and facilitate their discharges home from hospital as soon as possible.

Home First Services are streamlined through a single point of access that provides access to all crisis and short term urgent/ intermediate care in the County which aims to achieve three main outcomes for the population:

- Prevent admission to hospital: People who are medically suitable for treatment in the community are supported in their own home by the multidisciplinary response;
- Facilitate discharge from hospital: People are discharged from hospital as soon as clinically optimised for a period of assessment and rehab at home, or in one of our bed-based facilities;
- Triage out of statutory services and to consider a strengths based approach looking at the individuals assets and those of family & friends as a starting point rather than going directly to commissioned care as a solution.

Social Care sits at the heart of the single point of access with a strong social work focus on driving a preventative focus for people who are triaged, together with Reablement and Delta Wellbeing. An Intake & Assessment model for social work was introduced on the 6th November which builds upon a pilot that ran from March 2023 to October 23. This pilot demonstrated a 50% reduction in the number of assessments that were passed onto long term social work teams following assessment at the front door. Furthermore, the waiting list for IAA has reduced by 25% since this introduction of this way of working.

This is significant and allows our staffing resources to be cohorted so that people who require urgent assessment get a timely response and people who are in receipt of long term care get the focus they require. It also allows staff to better manage their caseloads with the unprecedented demand.

Since October, a proportionate assessment to support hospital discharge has been rolled out which introduces a trusted assessor approach into Carmarthenshire. The Community Gateway process has allowed Therapists, Nurses and Delta ward based officers to proportionately assess for preventative services to support discharge. Early indications from data being tracked demonstrate a positive picture in terms of this approach increasing the number of individuals discharged for assessment at home and a reduction in those who receive a social work assessment for long term care in a hospital setting.

2.2 Integration of GP Out of Hours with Home First & Primary Care

Following a trial in November of Home First Advanced Nurse Practitioners working alongside GP Out of Hours, this practice is going to be rolled out on a regular basis from January 2024 with ANP's working weekend shifts on a rota to support GP out of hours. It is anticipated that this will present many opportunities to offer alternative pathways to people, other than hospital. ANP's will have the full knowledge of community services, together with the support of the broader urgent care pathway in order to think creatively about safe clinical alternatives to keep people safe in their own homes.

The GP lead for Urgent & Intermediate Care, Dr Sioned Richards is in the process of engaging with each individual GP practice in the County around opportunities to access the Home First offer and specifically, urgent and intermediate care services when people go to them in crisis. It is well known that GP's will often direct people to the Emergency Department when they are unable to manage them on their own. Engagement with GP's has highlighted that often this is due to the fact that people will not present with a medical problem in isolation of a social or functional one. The benefits of Primary Care GP's having access to the Home First MDT is that medical, social and functional issues can all be dealt with by one team.

Early indications are positive, with GP's benefiting from access to this multi professional single point of access and hugely beneficial for the person needing services as they are provided with an alternative to hospital. We are tracking the outcomes on this specific element of the pathway and once there is more data, this will be reported on a regular basis.

With access to a community based multi-disciplinary team to support in a crisis/urgent situation, this should reduce the number of people directed to an emergency department. For our older, frail population, this could mean the difference between an admission to hospital and staying at home. As members will be aware, if a frail, older person is admitted to hospital, they are likely to have a long length of stay with associated deconditioning and result in the requirement either for a social care package for discharge or an enhanced level of care to what was previously in place.

2.3 Expansion of Integrated Reablement Support Workers

During the latter end of 2022, a WG programme driving building community capacity afforded Carmarthenshire the opportunity to work with Hywel Dda UHB and trial a new support worker role within the Health & Care Sector. With investment from both CCC and Hywel Dda, a project team was established and worked on a job description for a support worker who could be employed by either Health or Social Care, was able to carry out personal care but had a rehabilitation and reablement focus.

The benefit of embedding this role within the Home First pathway enabled the roles to be created on a Home Carer JD but could support delegated tasks from Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists as well as the Registered Manager for Reablement.

There are currently 13 individuals in post (equating to 18 WTE) who are in joint posts and contracted with either the LA or the Health Board. All staff are required to be registered with Social Care Wales and this is a mandatory requirement of their employment.

The team currently deliver between 100 – 120 hours of direct care per week and hold a caseload of 12 to 15 people per week (140-200 visits per week).

In terms of outcomes, since January 2023, 91 people supported (2,549 visits/ 1502 hours of care delivered). The team predominantly support individuals from hospital to home, but increasingly are supporting admission avoidance in the community.

2.4 Expansion of Delta response to support GP out of hours & WAST

Whilst the plans to support GP out of hours have not come to fruition as at the time of writing this update, there are significant opportunities for Delta to support GP out of hours that can be developed. This area of work being progressed is dependent on continuation funding being agreed by the Health Board that is currently at risk post March 24. This funding currently pays for 6 full time Delta Response Officers, without which, working within GP out of hours will not be possible with staffing capacity.

GP out of hours within the Hywel Dda region as a whole is very fragile with there being regular uncovered shifts. Carmarthenshire are working closely with the GP Lead and Service Delivery Manager for out of hours to test new and innovative ways of supporting the service to ensure the Carmarthenshire population have access to this service.

2.5 Re-purpose Community Hospitals to support Home First (Ty Pili Pala Model)

Carmarthenshire has two Community Hospitals in County, Amman Valley Hospital which has a total of 28 beds and Llandovery Cottage Hospital which has a total of 15 beds. Both hospitals predominantly support people to 'step

down' from an acute hospital bed where they require further rehabilitation or assessment that requires support with overnight needs. These are nurse led facilities and require medical acceptance pre-transfer either from a Consultant in Acute or a GP (commissioned via an SLA/ Intermediate Care). Length of stay on average at both sites has been in the high 80's (80 days) and the biggest issue in terms of delays in discharge are due to people waiting for packages of care through social care.

Ty Pili Pala is a 14 bedded Intermediate Care unit based at Llys y Bryn Care Home in Llanelli. The unit is run by Carmarthenshire County Council and staffed with care staff. Medical, Therapy & Social input into the unit is provided by the Home First pathway and they determine who is eligible to be admitted (with a final confirmation required by the RI/Senior Carer for the Unit). The unit is reablement led with all staff having received the same reablement training, the focus is on regaining independence and function. Length of stay on average is 30 days. 87% of people who are supported via TPP leave with no ongoing support.

Hywel Dda Health Board has embarked on a regional review of all its bed based care with a vision to develop alternative care models that are fit for purpose and focus on outcomes for individuals. The Head of Integrated Services, together with Senior therapy and Nursing staff, is in the process of reviewing the models of care provided at Llandovery and Amman Valley. Proposals will consider the benefits of having more step up opportunities to manage our frail elderly population who present at the 'front door' of our hospitals who may require a period of assessment that does not have to happen in the acute sites.

2.6 Re-design of a care home for short term use

This work has not yet been commenced. Initial discussions with the RI for LA Care Homes has resulted in some options being discussed for developing another bed based intermediate care facility in the County. Geographical locations available will make it difficult to develop with no further revenue investment to ensure the Home First resource is available to make it a success.

2.7 Future state of long term complex 24/7 options appraisal & implementation of the complex care model

The West Wales region is currently exploring the feasibility of the public sector running a nursing home. Initial legal advice has indicated that there is no legal barrier to doing this, and we are currently scoping what the delivery options might be. From a Carmarthenshire perspective, there is scope to explore options around the former Plas Y Bryn Care Home in Cwmgwilli which the Local Authority has recently purchased as well as Zone 2 of the Pentre Awel development.

Critically, what is needed is a facility that can meet the fluctuating care and support needs of an individual, between residential and nursing, without requiring them to move from their home. A 'home for life' model.

Delivering a public sector nursing home would support the objective of delivering a home for life for residents.

2.8 Pooled Funds options appraisal / governance arrangements/ implementation

There is an overarching s.33 agreement in place between the Health Board and the Local Authority which is the governance around the Integrated Management structure. This agreement has been in place since 2009 and is extant.

The Head of Integrated Services is currently reviewing the agreement and this will include the development of detailed service level schedules that will sit beneath the legal agreement to provide a level of detail on the services being delivered operationally. This will include service priorities, workforce and financial detail.

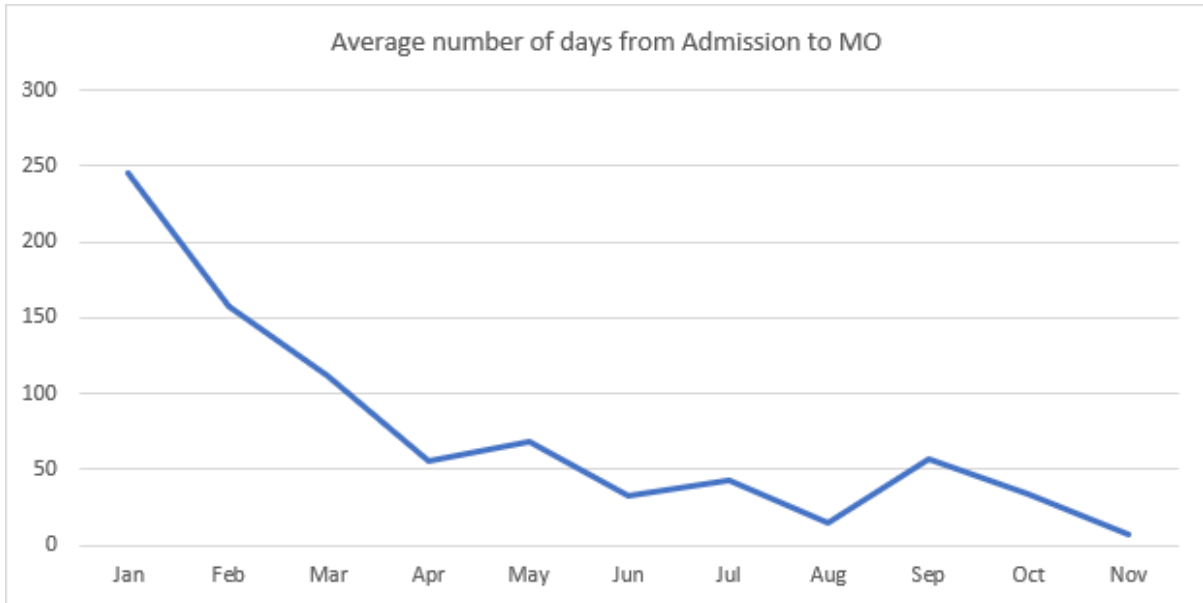
3. WHAT IS THE DATA TELLING US – IMPACT OF HOME FIRST ON THE WIDER HEALTH & CARE SYSTEM IN CARMARTHENSHIRE

There are a number of metrics tracked that are demonstrating that our Home First approach is having a positive impact both in terms of people receiving services and on organisations themselves.

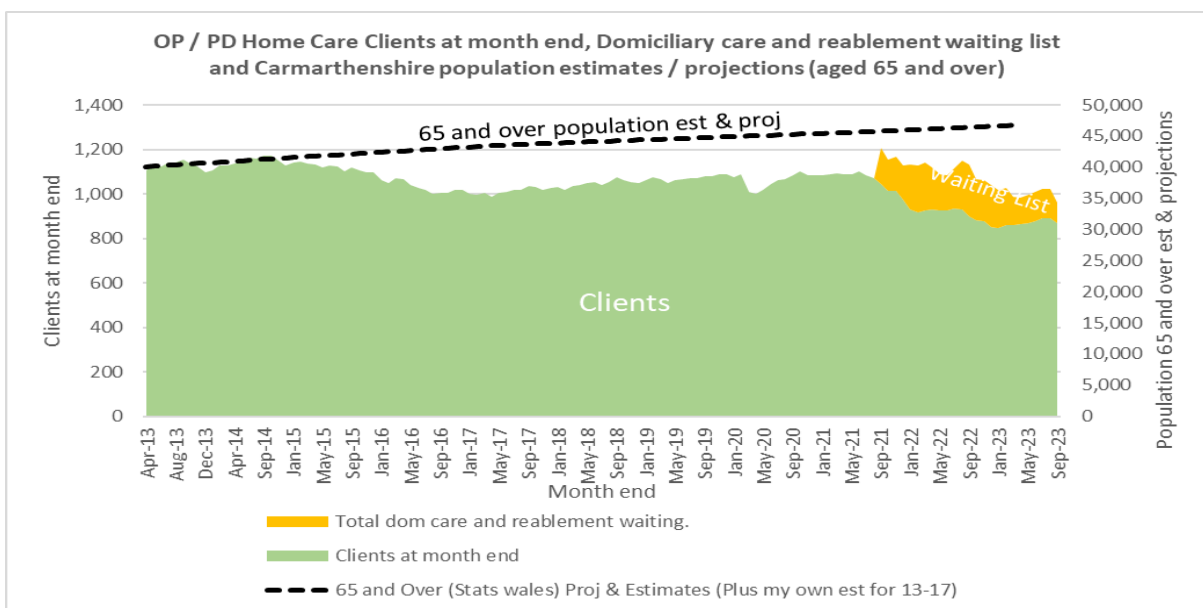
In terms of Hospital services, we know that over 78% of our acute hospital bed base is taken up by frail older adults over the age of 75. Once admitted, a frail older adult faces a length of stay of an average of 21 days and over that time, significant deterioration and de-conditioning occurs, meaning it is very challenging to get a person back to their previous baseline. Furthermore, we know our greatest opportunity to avoid admission and subsequent long lengths of stay and the associated de-conditioning, is to prevent admission in the first place.

Population level indicators being tracked include emergency admission rates, ambulance attends, occupied beds and turnaround in 72 hours (the golden timeline to avoid admission for the frail older adult). December 23 data demonstrates a significant increase in the number of emergency admissions at both Glangwili and Prince Philip sites, with a corresponding reduction in occupied beds per 10k of the population. Length of stay over 21 days is also reducing, demonstrating that the home first focus is having a positive impact in terms of reducing long lengths of stay & discharging people within 72 hours of presentation at an emergency dept.

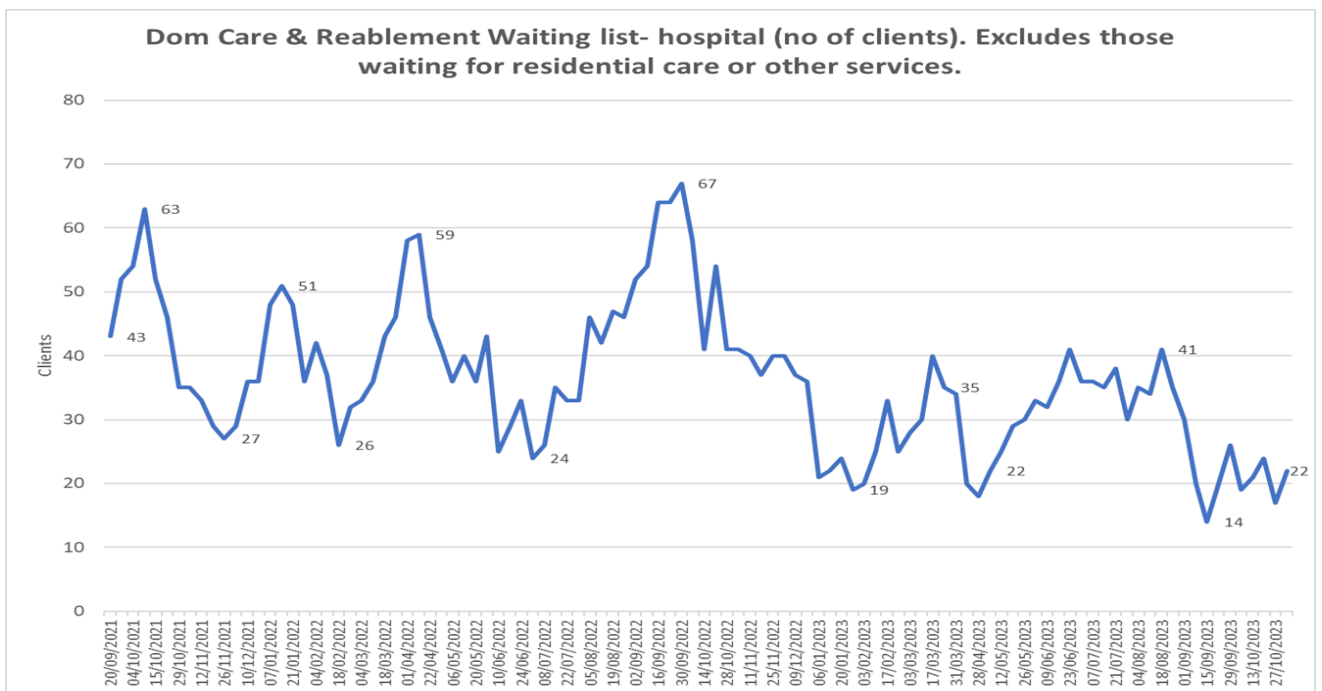
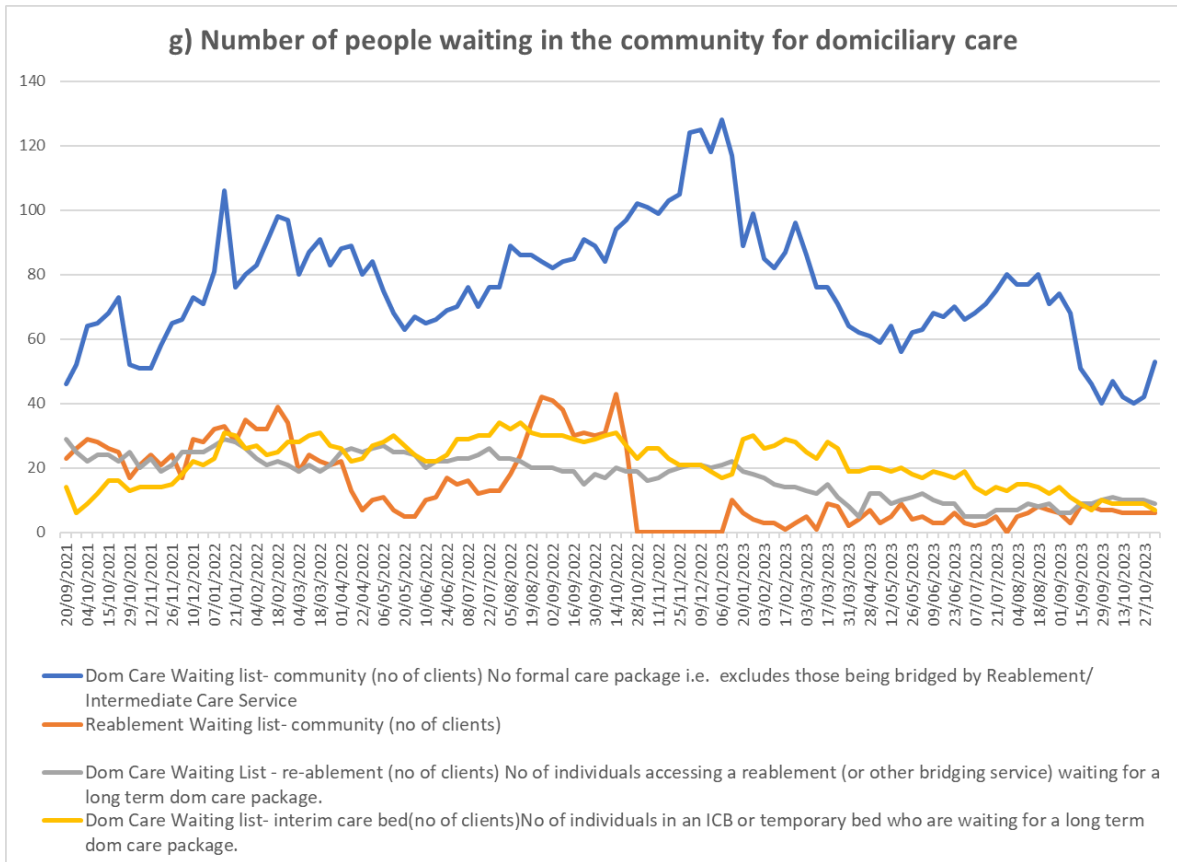
Furthermore, we are seeing a continuous improvement in the reduction in the number of days between a person being admitted into hospital to them being deemed clinically optimised, this is when their acute episode of care is complete and they are ready to move to the next stage of their care & support journey.



In terms of Social Care data, the below graph is a really clear illustration of our continued population growth in those over 65, 3% year on year average growth. Despite this, we are continuing to manage the demand in terms of domiciliary care and reablement and even beginning to see a reducing trend in terms of the waiting list. Another very positive indication that our overall home first approach is having a positive impact.



This is further affirmed in the below two graphs which are waits in terms of domiciliary care from both hospital and the community:



The trend mirrors the issues that have been seen with availability of domiciliary care capacity, and the downward trend of those waiting since September 2022 mirrors the overall reduction of those waiting for domiciliary care. Post August 2023, the overall number waiting in hospital significantly reduced as more care hours became available across the sector and the numbers waiting from that point onwards overall reduced.

Numbers waiting for domiciliary care in hospital between Q1 23/24 (April – June) and Q2 (July – September) have halved which provides further evidence that the Home First approach is having the positive impact in that more people are being discharged for assessment via preventative Intermediate Care services rather than waiting for assessment & commissioning of long term care in hospital.

4. CHALLENGES IN DELIVERING HOME FIRST

4.1 Financial Challenges

Both the Health Board and Local Authority are under significant pressures with regards to core budget. This position is set to worsen over the next two years. Furthermore, grant funding which is all temporary, funds a significant amount of front line services, particularly Home First, which is a significant risk as the majority of this is core service. For example, Carmarthenshire attracts £3.5 million of RIF funding into Home First services.

All grants have been frozen, so in real terms, this presents a reduction in funding year on year when you account for inflation and pay awards for staff. All the while, our demographics are increasing and we have more complex older adults to manage in the Community and in Hospital.

4.2 Workforce

Whilst recruitment hasn't posed an issue within Home First, recent recruitment of Therapists proved successful and Delta Wellbeing never have an issue in recruiting. The challenge lies in the number of temporary posts that are within this structure that are grant funded that poses the problem.

In terms of Social Work, there are only 4 vacancies in Older Adults as a whole, which is the lowest vacancy factor there has been in a long time.

Retention of staff isn't an issue within Home First, however, development of new roles and career progression opportunities such as 'grow your own' operate within Social work, Therapy & Nursing prove successful in retaining staff in the Carmarthenshire system.

4.3 Complexity & Demand

As members will be aware, Carmarthenshire has an ageing population, with 3% year on year growth in our over 65 years population. Combined with the post pandemic hangover, the impact of people not accessing services during the pandemic, delays in terms of accessing planned operations such as knee replacements/hip replacements and lack of access to GP's all contributes to increasing complexity and demand on urgent care & crisis response services in both the community and the hospital.

Whilst the Home First model is making a significant impact in terms of managing demand in the Carmarthenshire system, there is a large amount of unmet need in terms of capacity in preventative services to manage everything. With the future financial challenges ahead, it is unlikely that there will be growth in the workforce, so the message is very much to do more with less. This will result at some point in reduced service delivery or further delays for services as our workforce continues to manage with unprecedented challenges.

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25TH JANUARY, 2024

SUBJECT:

PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE

Purpose:

The committee has requested an update report on the development of a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the update report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice.

Reason(s)

To seek assurance that the development of a prevention strategy is under way.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

Directorate

Communities

Name of Head of Service:

Chris Harrison

Report Author:

Kelly White

Designations:

**Head of Strategic Joint
Commissioning**

**Service Delivery Manager for
Prevention and Wellbeing, Hywel
Dda Health Board**

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kelly.white@wales.nhs.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PREVENTION STRATEGY FOR CARMARTHENSHIRE

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

Prevention Strategy Update

Introduction:

The committee has requested an update on the current position of the development of the Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire.

Background:

There is currently no prevention strategy in place for Carmarthenshire or for the Hywel Dda Region and the closest report of a similar nature was the 'Prevention, Early Intervention, Promoting Independent Living Carmarthenshire: A Resilient Community' developed in 2016 therefore it is now timely to review and update our position and develop an updated prevention strategy which takes account of our current position and sets out our prevention vision for the future.

Since the development of the above strategy there has been a significant number of changes which include but is not limited to:

- The impact of Covid on services and on the citizens of Carmarthenshire
- The refreshed Population Needs Assessment and Market Stability report for West Wales
- The Wellbeing Assessment
- Welsh Governments Rebalancing Care and Support White paper
- Strategy development including unpaid carers, dementia

Therefore, it would seem appropriate to take the opportunity to take stock and develop a new strategy.

Current Position

Regional & local governance arrangements have matured with the development of a Regional Preventions Board - a subgroup of the West Wales Regional Partnership Board. The Board spans the governance arrangements of the RPB and the respective PSBs in the region. This reflects shared legislative responsibilities relating to promoting prevention and wellbeing. Our Local Preventative Board feeds into this governance structure.

There is a strong work programme progressing the development of preventative/community-based initiatives working with third sector organisations and CAVS, this also includes the development of social and micro enterprises.

We have implemented a new Community Preventative Services model - Carmarthenshire's Third Sector Preventative Services, which is part of a wider community model of care and

support, providing the structure and central pathways to support. The model is designed to build seamless links between services that help people of all ages stay independent within their communities for as long as they are able or wish and if needed to access more formal care and support when the time comes. The recent development and recommissioning of our third sector preventative services into five locality areas has enabled support providers to work in partnership together and with local communities to provide holistic, innovative, and flexible support to improve and maintain people's health, well-being, and independence, through social integration and the strengthening of community relationships. Each locality area has a lead third sector provider, who together with other third sector partners is responsible for developing initiatives & responding to community needs. The Connect2Carmarthenshire platform captures all the activity and offers.

We have launched our micro enterprise and social enterprise development which aims to diversify the market and provide a wider range of opportunities for personalised care & support.

Enhanced through additional Grant Funding, including Shared Prosperity Fund the preventative services model has been enhanced further and enables preventative services to further develop the model by increasing knowledge and skills on how to connect with 'harder to reach groups' including people who live in rural areas, males, the farming community and people of other languages.

The Regional Carers Strategy has been refreshed reflecting what is important to unpaid carers. The strategy highlighted four key priority areas for carers and is available on the West Wales RPB web site - ([Carers Strategy – West Wales Regional Partnership Board](https://www.rpb.org.uk) (www.rpb.org.uk))

Within the Adult Social Care division, the prevention agenda is one we need to progress at pace during 2024. There are examples of innovative practice in day services where community and leisure facilities have been utilized to prevent people needing to attend a building-based service. There are examples of creative intervention by the community teams such as wellbeing pathways in the Community Mental Health teams to provide information and support at an earlier point to prevent the need for statutory intervention. Additional capacity has been created within the substance misuse team focusing on prevention and harm reduction. A collaborative approach is being developed and progressed with regard to suicide prevention.

Recognising the importance of the preventative agenda, the newly appointed Service Delivery Manager for Prevention and Wellbeing who came into post on the 20th of September and will be leading on the development of the Preventative agenda, including the strategy. The initial phase of this development has been meeting with key stakeholders and understanding the Carmarthenshire landscape with regards to prevention.

The Carmarthenshire Prevention Group is meeting on the 11th of January where a key agenda item will be to define the scope and remit of the strategy as well as the intended audience. Members of this prevention group will be asked to be part of the Prevention Strategy Development task and finish group. This will ensure that the strategy includes views and information from across Health and Local Authority teams and that it meets the expectations of all key stakeholders.

Next Steps

Timeline for Development:

Dates	Tasks
Oct-Dec 23	Identify Key Stakeholders Make connections with relevant partners Understand the current prevention provision Review other key policy documents which have an impact Review other prevention strategies from across other sectors/areas
Jan 24	Define the scope and remit of strategy Understand the audience (public/staff/services) Set up Prevention Strategy Delivery Group
Jan 24 – Jun 24	Monthly Delivery Group Meetings – to review progress and provide input and feedback.
July 2024	Initial Draft of the Prevention Strategy prepared for review at the Carmarthenshire Prevention Group. Amendments made following feedback. Equality impact Assessment Completed Depending on Audience – Comms plan devised including consultation where needed.
Aug 2024	Launch Carmarthenshire's Prevention Strategy

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?

NO

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: Chris Harrison

Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The prevention strategy will make reference to all relevant council and health strategies which are linked, this will include the Council's Corporate Strategy 2022-27, the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan 2023-28 and 'A Healthier Mid and West Wales' and will ensure that it aligns with the strategic direction of the council and the health board.

Once the strategy has been developed consideration will be given to statutory requirements in relation to the Welsh Language and Equalities including the completion of an equalities impact assessment where appropriate.

2 Legal

Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

- ▶ Fundamental principles - Voice & Control; Prevention and early intervention; Well-being; and Co-production
- ▶ Part 2 of the Act details the requirement to promote social enterprises, co-operatives, user-led services and the third sector

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – Resilient Wales; A Healthier Wales; More equal Wales; Cohesive Communities. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places further emphasis on planning for the future, joint working across public service organisations, and working better and more closely with people and communities.

- ▶ Framework for community resourcefulness (Social Care Wales); social prescribing framework (Welsh Government); community movement (Coalfields Regeneration); community ownership (Building Communities Trust/Cwmpas)

3. Finance

It is acknowledged that budgetary pressures will be a key challenge, however in addition to existing budgets, resources such as the Regional Integration Fund (RIF), the Shared Prosperity Fund and Carmarthenshire Cluster Funds are supporting the delivery of preventative services. By working with third sector organisations, we will also be able to capitalise on other funding opportunities which the statutory sectors are unable to access.

CABINET MEMBER 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
PEIPIL Action Framework	1	Available on request
Prevention, Early Intervention, Promoting Independent Living Carmarthenshire: A Resilient Community	2	Report.pdf (gov.wales)

Agenda Item 8

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25TH JANUARY 2024

SUBJECT:
**COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR
 DISABLED CHILDREN**

Purpose:

To describe our current arrangements for supporting disabled children and their families. The report will set out the current service model, demand for services and how resources are allocated.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:-

Review and assess the information contained in Report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director.

Reason(s)

There has been a significant increase in demand for assessment and support from families with disabled children since the COVID19 pandemic. This has resulted in long waiting lists for our residential short breaks provision at Llys Caradog and Blaenau and a sharp increase in expenditure on direct payments and community support.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Jan Coles

Report Author:

Kelvin Barlow

Designations:

Head of Children and Families

Senior Manager

E Mail Addresses:

jcoles@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

kelvinbarlow@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

The report will provide an overview of our services for disabled children and their families. This will summarise our duties as children's services, our current team structure and illustrate the challenges we face of meeting an increasing demand for services.

Whereas services are allocated following a statutory assessment, the council do not have a policy to guide the allocation of the available resources to ensure:

- This is done in a fair and transparent way,
- This provides good outcomes for disabled children and their families
- Our services provide good value

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: Jan Coles Head of Children & Families

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio- diversity & Climate Change
NONE	YES	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

Children with disabilities and their carers who need care and support must be assessed under Part 3 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.

There is also a need to consider the duties that apply to disabled children in respect of the Equalities Act (2020) and the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALN Act)

3. Finance

The current short breaks budget is forecasting a significant overspend close to £1.03 million.

CABINET MEMBER 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:**

THERE ARE NONE

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25TH JANUARY, 2024

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SHORT BREAKS FOR
DISABLED CHILDREN**

Purpose of the Report

The report will provide an overview of our services for disabled children and their families. This will summarise our duties as children's services, our current team structure and illustrate the challenges we face of meeting an increasing demand for services.

Duties

The duties upon Children's Services in respect of disabled children and their families are complex.

- Children with disabilities were classified as ['children in need'](#) under the Children Act 1989. They were therefore entitled to services under the 1989 Act, but also to extra services because of disability, under [schedule 2 part 1 paragraph 6](#) of the Act. Provision of section 17 services was discretionary. This has changed under the **Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014**.
- **Children with disabilities and their carers** who need care and support will be assessed under Part 3 of the Act.
- The **definition of 'disabled'** is taken from the Equality Act 2010: having a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term negative effect on a person's ability to do normal daily activities
- If you are a **'disabled child'** the Local Authority has to assume that you need care and support, and should make sure you have a 'needs assessment' to work out what your needs are.
- Local councils should provide parents of disabled children with a short breaks services statement informing them what kind of short breaks are available, e.g. home sitting, respite by foster carers, etc.

Service Configuration

0-25 Disability Team

A review of our Disability Services undertaken by IPC in 2016 highlighted the need to remodel our service to improve outcomes for disabled children and their families. Following an extensive period of development and consultation a 0-25 model was implemented in 2020.

The model built upon our existing strengths by:

1. Bringing together the Children's Disability Team and Transition Team into one **0-25 team**.
2. Creating an Early Intervention and Prevention Team, working from 0-25.
3. Bringing residential services for disabled children together into one service.
4. Implementing systemic practice and a multi-disciplinary approach across the service.
5. Increasing the role of specialist health staff to work with children up to the age of 18.
6. Bringing Educational Psychology into the supervision and case management of all disabled children and young people.

The aim was to enable us to deliver:

1. A single point of contact for referrals from 0-25
2. A consistent care pathway for through service from 0-25
3. We develop residential services that are fit for purpose and meet the future demand
4. We ensure that young people can continue their education in Carmarthenshire when they leave school
5. Services for children and young people are based on need not on age
6. The development of a clear local offer

This joint model was agreed by Education and Children's Services and Communities and subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between Directors.

We operate a single point of contact for all referrals for children within Carmarthenshire through our Central Referral Team. This includes services for disabled (including ASD) children aged 0-25.

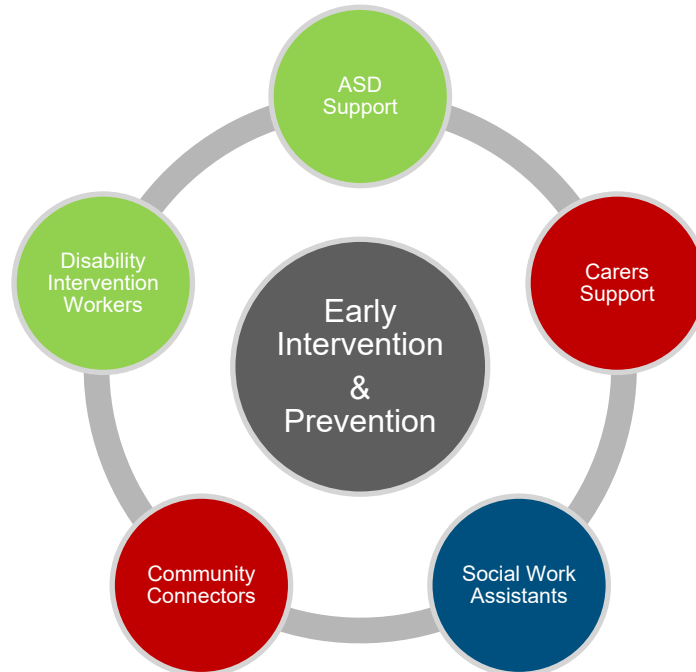
This created 3 separate 'PODs' working with children and young people aged 0-25. A POD is the model developed in Children's Services where smaller teams of workers sharing responsibility for case management.



Cases are reviewed on a cycle within each POD with input from all members. CIW recognised in their Assurance Check visit in February 2021 which had a focus on Disabled Children of the positive outcomes this model was achieving.

Early Help Team

Our Preventative services are overseen by the same manager and have brought together services from Communities and Children's Services to create an Early Help Team.



This brought together staff with different skills and experiences into one team. The ASD support and Carers Support ended due to funding, however Community Connectors transferred from adult social care and a Social Work Assistant had been working in the team on a temporary basis.

Work has been led through the early help team with our parents group to develop our 'local offer' which sets out the services and support available to families in Carmarthenshire. This is now published on our corporate website:

[Local Offer \(gov.wales\)](http://gov.wales)

Residential Services

In Carmarthenshire we provide overnight short breaks for children at our residential children's homes at Llys Caradog and Blaenau. We also have a long term residential home for children and young people with autism, learning disability and complex needs: Garreglwyd.

These are all accessed following assessment by our 0-25 team.

In 2018 these services became registered under the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA). This has increased the role of the 'Responsible Individual' to ensure there are robust and consistent quality assurance arrangements in place across our services.

We appointed a Residential Services Manager in January 2021. They became the responsible Individual for our 3 existing Residential Children's Homes. This has started a service wide approach to ensure there is consistency of delivery across settings.

Services

In Carmarthenshire, we meet the needs of disabled children and their families through a range of **short break services**. These services are allocated following an assessment of need and can include:

- Overnight Short breaks at our respite centres Llys Caradog and Blaenau
- We also commission organisations to provide support to access community activities or provide domiciliary care
- Specialist Weekend and Holiday Clubs and Activities

Direct payments

We also offer 'Direct Payments.' These are a way for local authorities to help meet individual's eligible need for care and support or a carer's need for support. Direct payments are not a form of income but are paid specifically to buy services, as an alternative to those provided directly or commissioned by the council.

Payments can be made to a person with parental responsibility for a child who has needs for care and support, or to the child who has needs for care and support.

The person to whom the payments are to be made must consent to the making of the payments. Where the direct payments are being made to an adult or a child aged 16 or 17, the local authority must believe the person who is to receive the payments has the capacity to consent to the making of the payments.

In all cases the local authority must be satisfied that making the payments is an appropriate way of meeting the child's needs, that the well-being of the child will be safeguarded and promoted by the making of the payments and that the person who is to receive the payments is capable of managing them by him or herself or with support.

Direct payments to meet a carer's needs

Direct payments can be made to meet the support needs of a carer. The direct payments must be made to the carer himself or herself, who must consent to the making of the payments.

In all cases the local authority must be satisfied that making the payments is an appropriate way of meeting the carer's needs and that the carer is capable of managing the payments, whether by him or herself, or with support.

Preventative Services

Under the Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act we provide a range of services which do not require an assessment. These can be considered discretionary and are preventative. This includes:

- Holiday and After School Clubs
- Specialist Advice, Support and Information (via Early Help Team/Tim Camau Bach

Where are we now?

Initially there were positive outcomes of the new model:

1. Transition Social Workers becoming involved in earlier planning for children.
2. Educational Psychology and health workers informing care and support planning based on the knowledge of children statements/IDPs.
3. Social Work assistants providing practical help and support to cases when required.
4. Children's Social Workers continuing to work with children beyond their 18th birthday where that is the right thing to do.

However, the service has reported significant challenges. Specifically:

1. A surge in demand for assessment following COVID
2. An increase in demand and impact on the team of complex family cases where there are child protection concerns including care proceedings
3. Social Work Assistants carrying high caseloads and undertaking assessments
4. An increasing number of social work vacancies and reliance on agency staff
5. Senior workers and managers having to hold caseloads
6. Limited availability of services for community support and short breaks.
7. Preventative services being oversubscribed

The residential services have faced similar challenges, specifically:

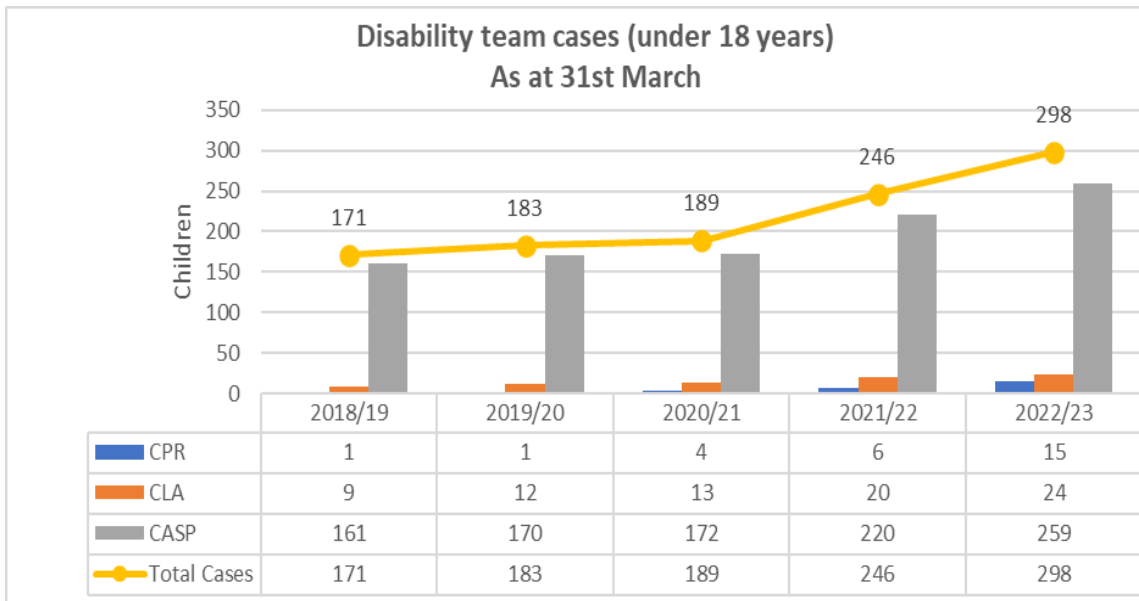
1. A reliance on agency staff and overtime (identified by CIW)
2. Managing emergency placements, rather than planned care
3. Long waiting lists for children requiring short breaks
4. Limited move on from residential services into adult services

The impact of these challenges has meant limited capacity for management oversight, planning and commissioning and a focus on managing operational risk. The current short breaks budget is forecasting an overspend close to £1.03 million.

There have also been changes to management portfolios with an Interim Service Manager overseeing adult Learning Disability services and the Residential Service Manager overseeing a range of new children's home developments and unregistered placements.

It is therefore prudent to review the current service model to evaluate whether it remains 'fit for purpose' and what actions can be taken to address the immediate and medium-term challenges for the service. This is already underway and a series of focus groups have taken place with staff and parents, with further sessions planned for the new year.

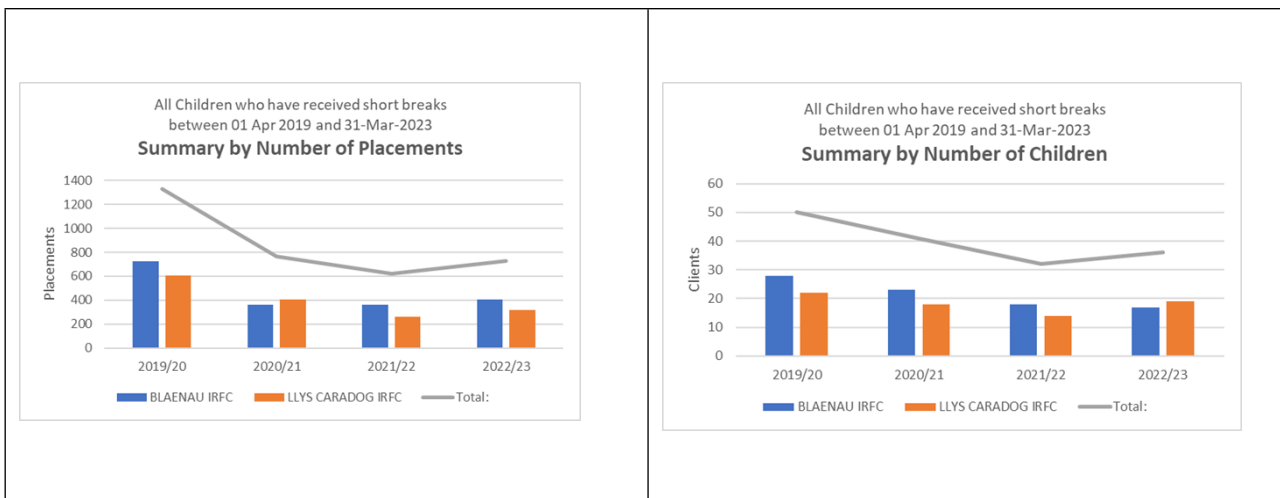
Demand and Expenditure



There has been an increase in demand for assessment for support from the disability team since 2020. This requires further analysis however initial evidence suggests that an increase in awareness in relation to autism and neurodiversity may result in more families approaching the department for support. It is also the case that the COVID 19 pandemic and lockdowns had a disproportionate impact on families with disabled children who have sought support while other services, including schools have not been available.

Residential Short breaks

Our residential short breaks homes at Llys Caradog in Llanelli and Blaenau are registered as children’s homes with CIW. They have seen a declining number of nights provided and the overall number of children accessing the service in recent years.



The declining number of nights provided reflects the impact on capacity as a result of restrictions during COVID 19 pandemic. There is also an increasing trend of children

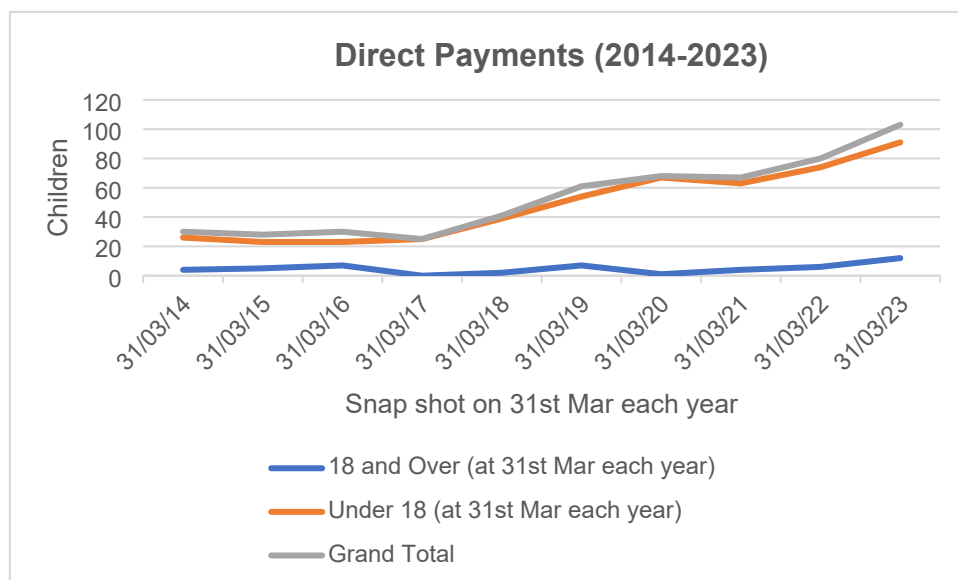
with more complex and challenging behaviours who cannot be safely matched with other children in that environment.

Also, the services have been required to manage increasing numbers of emergency placements in recent years which are outside of the Statement of Purpose.

There are significant numbers of children on the waiting list for Llys Caradog or Blaenau which reflects the limitations of the current model to meet the increased demand for support. The decrease in availability also helps to explain the shift towards greater use of community services for disabled children.

Direct Payments and Community Support

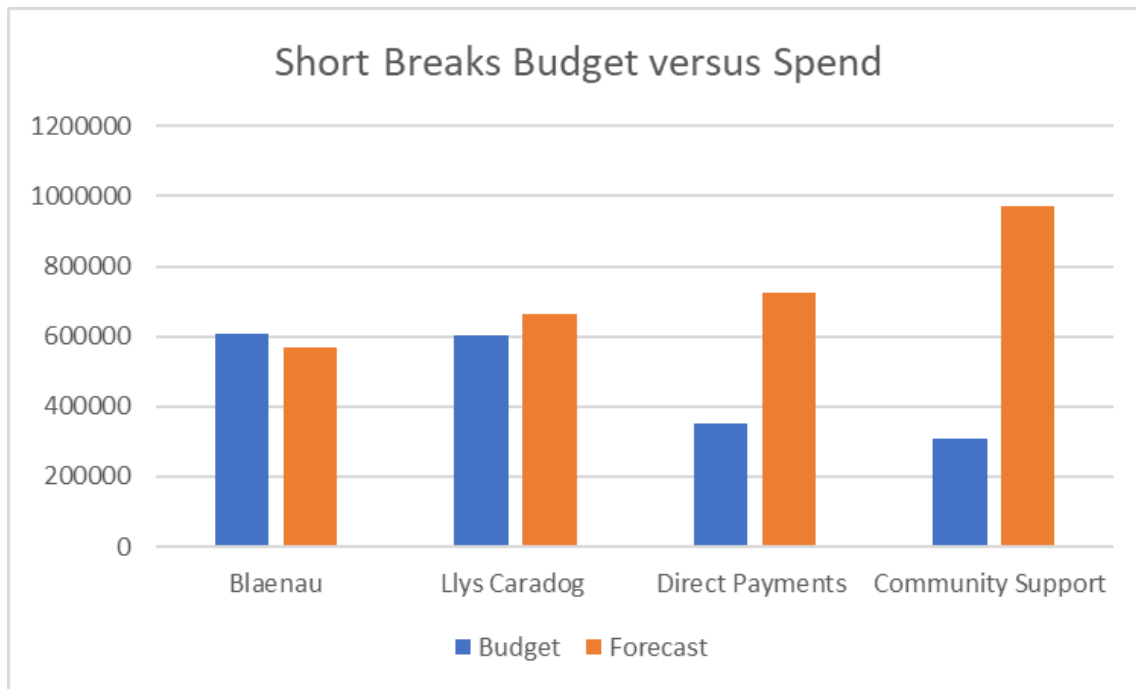
There has been a significant increase in the use of Direct Payments and Community Support for Disabled Children in recent years.



There has been a general increase in use of Direct Payments since 2017. This growth follows the changes since the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act came into force on 6 April 2016. The act requires local authorities to consider direct payments as an integral part of meeting people’s needs through care and support planning.

Since 2021 there has been a 50% increase in demand for direct payments. The impact of COVID19 is one factor, whereby Direct Payments provided an option for 1-2-1 as opposed to group support for children which was considered safer.

There has been a similar increase in expenditure in community short breaks. This comprises of support commissioned from 3rd sector/private care providers locally. This is largely undertaken on a ‘spot purchase’ basis and to provide a short break to the family usually by supporting a child to undertake an activity in the community.



The overall level of expenditure significantly exceeds the available budget. This has been a pattern for a number of years, with insufficient budget to keep pace with the growing demand. We have seen a sharper increase in demand since COVID.

There is a lack of policy or guidance to support the allocation of resources for disabled children. This results in workers and managers making decisions on a case by case basis and trying to ensure consistency. A review of services for disabled children in Carmarthenshire undertaken by IPC in 2016 found that there was:

- A mismatch in allocation of resources relative to need
- A mismatch between demand and supply &
- an under use of direct payments in the service.

Following the review, efforts were made to address the systemic issues that contributed to these factors. This included the development of a RAS (Resource Allocation System.) Plans were developed to pilot the system in 2020, shortly before the COVID19 Pandemic which was not able to be implemented.

Next Steps

As part of the review of the service model we will consider with families and other stakeholders the options for modernising the way we allocate resources as a service. This will include consideration of a RAS as well as the development of a short breaks policy.

**HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25TH JANUARY 2024**

NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

To consider and comment on the following:

Explanation provided for the non-submission of a scrutiny report.

Reason:

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to develop and publish and keep under review an annual Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year. If a report is not presented as scheduled, officers are expected to prepare a non-submission report explaining the reason(s) why.

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health & Social Services)

Report Author:
Emma Bryer

Designation:
Democratic
Services Officer

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01267 224029
ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
25th January 2024

NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees to develop, keep under review and publish an annual Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

If a report is not presented as scheduled in the Forward Work Plan, the responsible officer(s) are expected to prepare a non-submission report explaining the reason(s) why

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE / CONSULTED	YES
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

There are none.

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
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EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORTS

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: Health & Social Services

DATE OF MEETING: 25th January, 2024

ITEM	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	EXPLANATION	REVISED SUBMISSION DATE
10 Year Social Services Strategy	Jake Morgan / Silvana Sauro	The report is still being developed and due to staffing commitments, the meeting with officers will not take place until January.	21 st March, 2024
Children's Services Budget Group Report	Jan Coles, Head of Children & Family Services	The report is still in development as scope was extended following corporate discussions. Confident that it will be ready to present to the March Scrutiny Committee meeting.	21 st March, 2024

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25th January 2024

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

To consider and comment on the following:

- To note the forthcoming items to be considered at the next meeting of the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee to be held on the 21st March, 2024.

Reason:

- The Council’s Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports which will be considered at meetings during the course of the year.

To be referred to the Cabinet for decision: NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Jane Tremlett (Health & Social Services)

<p>Report Author: Emma Bryer</p>	<p>Designation: Democratic Services Officer</p>	<p>Tel No. / E-Mail Address: 01267 224029 ebryer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</p>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORTHCOMING ITEMS

The Council's Constitution requires Scrutiny Committees, at the commencement of each municipal year, to develop and publish a Forward Work Plan which identifies the issues and reports to be considered at meetings during the course of the year. When formulating the Forward Work Plan the Scrutiny Committee will take into consideration those items included on the Cabinet's Forward Work Plan.

The list of forthcoming items attached includes those items which are scheduled in the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered at the next meeting, to be held on 21st March, 2024.

Also attached for information are the 2023/24 Forward Work Plan in respect of the Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet (link - [Forward plan - Cabinet / Council Forward Plan \(gov.wales\)](#)).

DETAILED REPORT
ATTACHED?

YES:

- (1) List of Forthcoming Items
- (2) Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan
- (3) Cabinet Forward Work Plan ([Forward plan - Cabinet / Council Forward Plan \(gov.wales\)](#))

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

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE / CONSULTED	YES
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

There are none.

Title of Document	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Cabinet Forward Plan	Forward plan - Cabinet / Council Forward Plan (gov.wales)

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th January 2024

FORTHCOMING ITEMS TO BE HELD ON 21st March 2024 [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 2023/24	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.
Q3 Performance Management Report for the Council 2023/24 Well Being Objectives linked to this Scrutiny	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.
Annual Report On Adult Safeguarding And Deprivation Of Liberty Safeguards (Dols)	This report relates to last financial year and summarises the national policy context of adult safeguarding at that time including the implications of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014.	To inform the Committee on progress being made and provides the Committee with the opportunity to consider and comment on the report. .
Progress update against the Cabinet Visions and Actions	This report shows progress of deliverables for the Cabinet Vision.	To allow the Committee to review and assess the progress of deliverables.

Items circulated to the Committee under separate cover since the last meeting

No items have been circulated to members of the Committee for information since the last meeting.

The following document(s) attached for information

1. The latest version of the Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee's Forward Work Plan 2023/24
2. The latest version of the Cabinet Forward Work Plan 2023/24 – [Forward plan - Cabinet / Council Forward Plan \(gov.wales\)](#)

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Plan 2023/24

7 th June 2023	5 th July 2023	4 th October 2023	28 th November 2023	18 th December 2023	25 th January 2024 (moved from 08/02/24)	21 st March 2024	2 nd May 2024
10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved to October	H&SS Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23	Draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 22/23	Budget Monitoring	10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved from June & October	Budget Monitoring	Budget Monitoring	Budget Monitoring
DOMICILIARY CARE UPDATE	Task & Finish Group Draft Planning & Scoping Document	Budget Monitoring	Capital Programme 2022/23 Update	Annual Safeguarding Report	Revenue Budget Consultation SHOR	Performance Management Report Qtr 3	Domiciliary Care Update
Health & Care System for West Wales: How Far, How Fast?		Revenue Budget Outturn Report 2022/23	Youth Justice Plan (moved to 18/12/24)	Progress update against the Cabinet Visions and Actions	Update report on the prevention strategy	Progress update against the Cabinet Visions and Actions	Task & Finish Report – An Active & Healthy Start
H&SS Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan 2023/24		10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved from June / moved to November.	Domiciliary Care Update	Performance Management Report Qtr 2	Integration Update	Annual Safeguarding Report (moved from December)	
		Progress update against the Cabinet Visions and Actions (email)	Short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families (moved to December)	Youth Justice Plan (moved from Nov)	10 Year Social Services Strategy (Post Consultation) Moved from June, October & December)		
Page 111				Children Services – Action Plan (moved to January)	Children Services – Action Plan (moved from December)		

Health & Social Services Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Plan 2023/24

7 th June 2023	5 th July 2023	4 th October 2023	28 th November 2023	18 th December 2023	25 th January 2024 (moved from 08/02/24)	21 st March 2024	2 nd May 2024
				Short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families (moved from November)-(moved to January)	Short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families (moved from November & December)		

ITEMS CARRIED OVER FROM PREVIOUS WORK PLAN:

- 10 Year Social Services Strategy – ~~7th June 2023~~–October 2023

DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS:

7th June 2023

- Autism Update – Amy Hughes / Corinne

4th October 2023

- Children's Services Overview

28th November 2023

- Chair – Future development of scrutiny and the FWP

8th Feb 2024 (provisional – **waiting for confirmation from Jan Coles**)

- Mental Health (including suicide and self harm)

21st March 2024

Task and Finish Group – An Active & Healthy Start

- 5th May (10am) - scoping
- 18th May (2pm) - scoping
- 19th June (2pm) – scoping
- 10th July (10am)
- 19th 26th September (2pm)
- 20th October (10am)
- 14th November (10am)
- 13th December (10am)
- 23rd January 2024 (10am)
- **Provisionally booked 20/02 19/03**

ITEMS TO BE CARRIED FORWARD TO 2024-25

-

Possible T&F for 2024-25

- Children's Services

Development Session

- Mental Health (including suicide and self harm) – 13th June
(waiting for confirmation from Jan Coles)

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2023

PRESENT: Councillor G.H. John (Chair) (In Person)

Councillors (In Person):

A. Evans H. Jones

Councillors (Virtually):

K. Davies M. Donoghue W.T. Evans (in place of B. Davies) M. James
D. Owen P.T. Warlow J. Williams

Also in attendance:

Councillor J. Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Services

Also Present (In Person):

J. Morgan, Director of Community Services
A. Bracey, Head of Adult Social Care
G. Morgans, Director of Education & Children's Services
J. Coles, Head of Children and Families
A. Rees, Head of Strategy and Learner Support
G. Adams, Principal Manager - Youth Support Service
A. Jenkins, Social Worker Team Manager
R. Page, Senior Business Support Manager
R. Morris, Members Support Officer

Also Present (Virtually):

M. Evans Thomas, Principal Democratic Services Officer
D. Hall-Jones, Member Support Officer
E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

[**Note:** The Chair advised the Committee that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2(3) he was going to vary the order of business on the agenda to enable Agenda Item 7 – Explanation for the Non-Submission of Scrutiny Report to be considered earlier in the meeting.]

Chamber - County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP and remotely - 2.00 - 3.30 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B. Davies, B.A.L. Roberts and F. Walters.

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

There were no declarations of personal interest or of any prohibited party whips.

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (NONE RECEIVED)

The Chair advised that no public questions had been received.

4. ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023/24

The Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24 was presented to the Committee.

The Youth Justice Plan outlined the provision of the Youth Support Service and the Youth Justice Team under a single management structure which provided a holistic approach to the delivery of youth support services across Carmarthenshire. The Youth Justice Plan also detailed the performance of the partnership during 2023/24 and also set out the priorities and improvement planning objectives for the forthcoming year in accordance with the overarching 'child first' principles and an ethos of continuous improvement.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services reminded the Committee that there was an overlap in the portfolios and that it was only the Youth Justice Statutory element of the report that was under the remit of this Committee.

An explanation was provided as to how the Youth Justice Team was funded and that the budget showed an increase of 20% for 2023/24. However, it was noted that funding for the Youth Justice and Prevention work was short term and required careful planning and monitoring against the various grant sources.

A number of questions were raised to which officers responded. The main matters were as follows:

- In response to observations regarding the progress status on elements of the self-assessment action plan 2022/24 and if the target dates were realistic, officers advised that the plan was dynamic and geared towards reporting on the Youth Justice response to the HMIP inspection framework and guidance. It was stated that self-assessment remained important as it would drive the business forward. It was noted that the plan was an evolving working document and would be updated with items removed or added to reflect the needs of the service and changes to policy and statutory requirements. Officers informed the Committee that the outcome of the November HMIP inspection was very positive.
- In response to concerns raised regarding a child who was unwilling to be referred to CAMHS, reassurance was provided that other services could be accessed including the Youth Health Team and well trained practitioners. It was also stated that while a child could not be forced to accept medical interventions there were other mechanisms that were available to protect the child such as the Mental Health Act and the police powers of protection.
- In response to a query regarding the Bureau, the Committee were advised that it was a mechanism within the Dyfed Powys Police force

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

designed to address offending in a child centred way. The system provided the child with opportunities for diversion from the justice system as out-of-court disposals are used where the police were of the view that a child could be dealt with and diverted away from the court system. The Bureau allows both the children and the victims to have their voices heard.

- Regarding the recruitment of staff the Committee was advised that since the report had been produced additional staff had been recruited but that sustainability needed to be considered when planning due to the current reliance on grant funding such as the Shared Prosperity Fund which would cease at the end of March 2025. The Committee was advised that almost 70% of the service was grant funded but that the team were proactively seeking alternative sources of funding.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Carmarthenshire Youth Justice Plan for 2023/24 be received.

5. 2023/24 QUARTER 2 - PERFORMANCE REPORT RELEVANT TO THIS SCRUTINY CABINET VISION ACTION AND MEASURES

The Committee considered the 2023/24 Quarter 2 - Performance Report Relevant to this Scrutiny's Cabinet Vision Action and Measures. The report showed the progress as at the end of Quarter 2 – 2023/24 of the deliverables for the Cabinet Vision.

A number of questions were raised to which officers responded. The main matters were as follows:

- It was asked what were the issues that resulted in the adaptations backlog and what steps were being taken to alleviate the problems. Officers advised that two main causes of the backlog were the pandemic during which time work stopped followed by the chronic shrinkage of contractor availability. Assurance was provided that the number of outstanding smaller adaptations were being reduced quickly and that a new small works framework was being implemented which would allow the authority to work directly with smaller contractors and reduce the dependency on the larger contractors.
- In response to a query regarding access to Mental Health support, officers advised that they were looking at ways of working across adults and children services as it was acknowledged that if mental health issues were addressed early, it could prevent a lifetime of problems. Statistically, approximately 60% of adults diagnosed with mental health issues started before the age of 14 so it was a priority to ensure that people had access to the appropriate service at the right time. The service could be provided by third sector organisation, micro enterprise, the authority's well-being pathway or a child practitioner going in to assist families. It was stated that collaboration with the Health Board had improved along with the establishment of the 111 option 2 number to speak to a dedicated mental health practitioner. It was advised that the only solution was a collaborative working approach and that assisting people with low level anxiety or depression was important to prevent them from suffering with lifelong mental health issues.

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that report be received.

**6. 2023/24 QUARTER 2 - PERFORMANCE REPORT (01/04/23-30/09/23)
RELEVANT TO THIS SCRUTINY**

The Committee considered the Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 2, which set out the progress against actions and measures linked to the Corporate Strategy and the Well-being objectives relevant to the Committee's remit.

A number of questions were raised to which officers responded. The main matters were as follows:

- In response to a query regarding the off target flying start objective and the engagement with families, officers advised that there was good engagement however there was an expansion underway and that some areas posed a challenge.
- In response to a challenge regarding some of the targets and the monitoring of these target's officers advised that the report was merely a dashboard that provided the opportunity for members to ask questions but acknowledged that more evaluative comments would be appropriate and useful for the Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

7. EXPLANATION FOR NON-SUBMISSION OF SCRUTINY REPORT

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

- 10 Year Social Services Strategy
- Annual Safeguarding Report
- Short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families
- Children Services – Action Plan

The Committee raised concerns regarding the number of late reports and the lack of reason for non-submission. Officers responded by confirming that the short breaks/community services for disabled children and their families report was not received due to an administrative oversight.

The Committee was advised that the Children Services Action Plan was being progressed in three phases and once fully completed would be submitted for scrutiny. The Committee advised officers that this was an area of concern that required monitoring and scrutiny and that a report would be required for the next meeting in January 2024 (Budget Consultation).

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

8. FORTHCOMING ITEMS

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the list of forthcoming items to be considered at the next scheduled meeting on the 25th January, 2024 be noted.

9. **TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

UNANAMOUSLY RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on the 28th November, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

CHAIR

DATE

Note: These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting.

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