

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

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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
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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: **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