

Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee

13 June 2024

Subject: Children and Families Services Transformation Programme Update 1

Purpose: Provide an update on the progress of the Children and Families Services Transformation Programme

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 prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Reason(s)

To formulate views for submission to the Cabinet / Council for consideration.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services – Cllr Jane Tremlett

Directorate: Education and Children's Services	Designations:	Tel Nos. E Mail Addresses:
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Report Author: Jan Coles	Head of Children and Families	JColes@cararthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Health and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
13 June 2024

Children and Families Services Transformation Programme Update 1



Investment

£7.5m

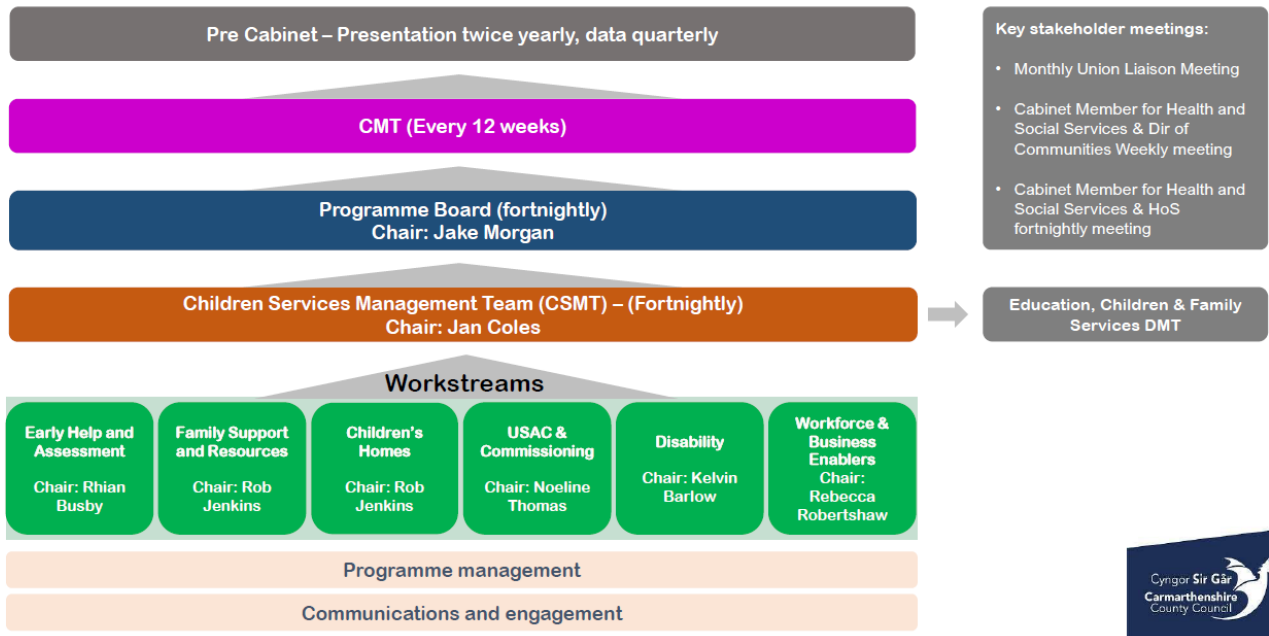
An additional £5.5m budget (growth) and £2m earmarked from reserves to support the recruitment of new posts and development of services

Transformation Programme

Establishment of a transformation programme. This will help to achieve the vision for Children and Families Services and provide support to ensure sustainable change moving forwards.

Capacity	Children's Homes	Fostering	Disabilities	Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC)	Retention	Traineeships
Additional social work, practitioner and reviewing officer capacity.	Development and investment in 3 new local authority run children's homes	Investment in fostering recruitment and the wider placement service.	Investment and development in our offer for our disabled children	Creation of a specialist team to better support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children	Full implementation of the Experienced Social Work Progression Framework to ensure for newly qualified and experienced social workers, we pay amongst the top 20% in Wales	The creation of 14 additional social work traineeships, providing crucial additional capacity and ensuring we stop using agency social workers by 2027.
GOALS						
Low re-referral rate to Children Services for Assessment for Care And Support	Eradicate use of 'for profit' placements by March 2026	Reduce the use of IFAs by March 2026	% of support packages / payments agreed made in line with approved disabilities policy framework from Jan 2025	Support UASC within Home Office resource	No agency workers by March 2027	

CS Transformation Governance



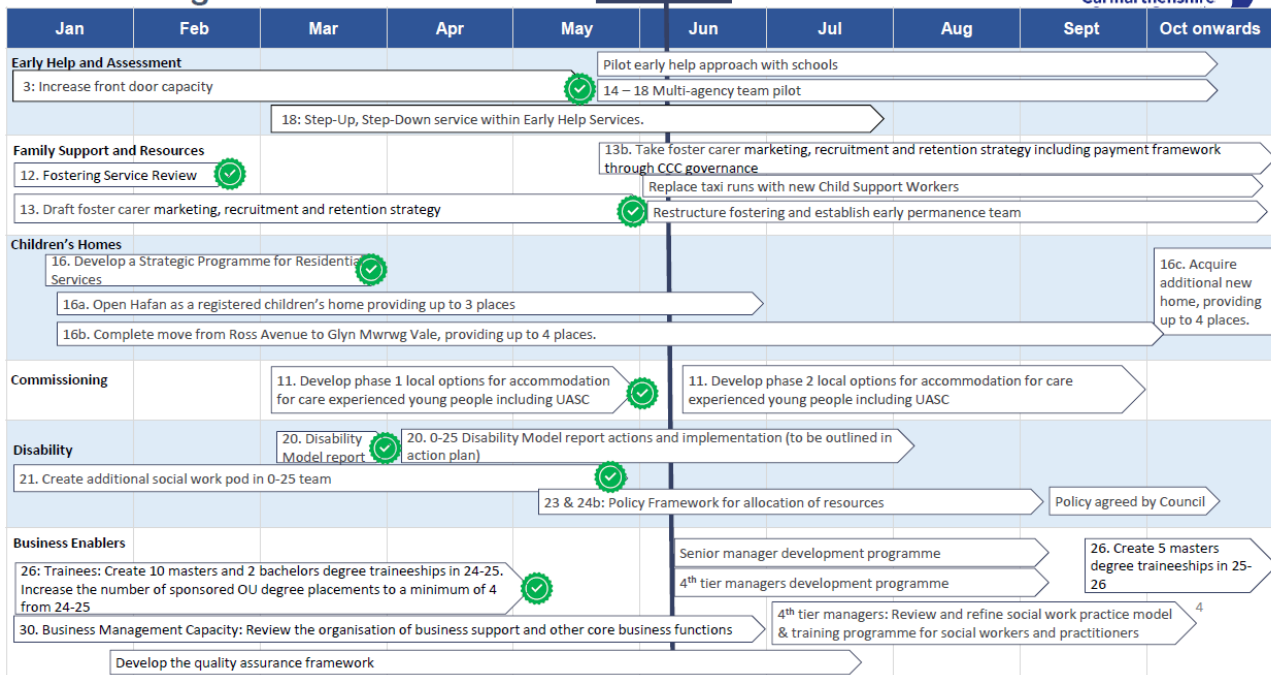
Workstreams – key deliverables to date

Early Help & Assessment	Family Support & Resources	Children's Homes	UASC	Disability	Business Enablers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Early Help Hub aimed to reach families at an earlier stage, offer robust support, no wrong door approach, preventing need for statutory intervention Appointed to new posts in Central Referral Team aimed to increase capacity at the front door. This will support the effective management of demand Bringing together TAF team into the Early Help Hub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the fostering service undertaken. Action plan developed for accepted findings. Fostering: Marketing, recruitment and retention strategy being developed in consultation with carers. Family support review supported by the Transformation team is underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hafan – building handover complete. CIW registration process underway. Completed purchase of Glyn Mwrwg and visit undertaken with design team. Detailed surveys are now being undertaken 1st phase of recruitment complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop held to map current process and new practice guidance developed UASC team appointed to. New homes identified and furnished. Some young people have now moved in. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Manager agrees all care packages to ensure consistency of allocation Paper developed around short breaks for disabled children and presented to Scrutiny Committee 21st March New Social Work pod appointed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainee Social Worker posts appointed to 2 additional solicitors employed by legal services and funded on permanent basis to avoid external commissioning. Developing options paper for performance, data and systems report Draft Quality Assurance Framework for the service
GOALS					
Low re-referral rate to Children and Families Services for assessment for care and support	Reduce the use of IFAs by March 2026	Eradicate use of 'for profit' placements by March 2026	Support UASC within Home Office resource	% of support packages / payments agreed made in line with approved disabilities policy framework from Jan 2025	No agency workers by March 2027

Overall Programme Plan

We're here

Complete Cyngor Sir Gâr Carmarthenshire



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:



Head of Children and Families

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

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

**Cllr. Tremlett is provided with regular updates on
implementation and opportunities to question and
challenge progress.**

**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