

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 18TH DECEMBER 2023

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

Purpose:

To examine the report for monitoring purpose of the Cabinet members portfolio.

THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

Review and assess the information contained in the report and provide any recommendations, comments, or advice.

Reasons:

- Authorities are under a general duty to make arrangements to monitor performance
- We need to demonstrate to citizens, members and regulators how performance is managed, and appropriate interventions implemented.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr Jane Tremlett, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Services

Directorates:	Designations:	Tel Nos./ E-Mail Addresses:
Names of Heads of Service:		
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report shows progress as at the end of Quarter 2 – 2023/24 of our deliverables for the Cabinet Vision.

- 1. We will develop a formal agreement between the Local Authority and Health Board, outlining collective responsibilities whilst agreeing a new staffing structure in Integrated Services to support our approach to develop strong communities, help people help themselves and provide support when is needed. (CV12)**

Work is progressing in relation to finalisation of the Section 33 agreement between the Health Board and the Council, but there is further work needed which will include development of service schedules that will underpin the overarching agreement. It is anticipated that there will be a final draft in place by the end of this calendar year.

- 2. In line with the Cabinet Vision and our Home First approach we will increase the level of supported accommodation to specifically facilitate safe discharge from hospital. (CV14)**

In order to facilitate safe discharge from hospital as well as prevent admission to hospital, the Local Authority is working in partnership with the Health Board to develop step up/step down bedded provision. Excellent outcomes continue to be seen from TPP discharges (87% not requiring ongoing long term care at point of discharge) and continued work is underway to improve the offer at the Community Hospital sites and to develop more of a rehabilitation model than a medical model. There is also a Strategy in place for younger adults to actively develop supported accommodation with a view to reducing the need for high cost residential placements.

- 3. We will develop and implement a Prevention Strategy for Carmarthenshire which will include implementation of the Cabinet Vision to further expand the Delta Connect service to provide proactive technology enabled care to vulnerable people within their own homes together with a package of emergency support, monitoring, and wellbeing calls. (CV15)**

The Senior Delivery Manager for Prevention has been appointed and has begun to scope our priorities in relation to prevention. Delta Connect continues to develop and is actively promoted to residents in Carmarthenshire and across the region.

4. We will work with the Health Board to provide readily accessible and appropriate levels of support to all with Mental Health issues with an expansion of access and support to Children and Vulnerable Adults. (CV16)

A Single Point of Access was launched by HDUHB in 2022 as part of the 111 service. The LA and Third sector are collaborating with the HB to extend access to wider services as part of this arrangement in 2023. Providing early support to children and young people with emotional and mental health issues is also a priority for the Children and Young Person's partnership which is part of the Regional Partnership Board arrangements.

We have established a wellbeing pathway in the mental health teams with a dedicated resource focussing on early intervention and prevention. This project is currently being evaluated, however it is already producing positive outcomes for individuals, and improving access to services.

We are collaborating with colleagues in the Health Board and third sector to develop access and support pathways for individuals with Alcohol Related Brain damage and individuals who have mental health and substance misuse issues.

Suicide and Self harm prevention is now a priority for the Safeguarding Board and Carmarthenshire Safeguarding Operational Group as we have seen incidents of suicide rise across the region. A regional group chaired by the Head of Adult Social Care continues to pilot an immediate multi agency response to suicide, this is being progressed on a local authority footprint to ensure we do all we can to respond to those in crisis. Developing a prevention strategy for the prevention of suicide and self-harm, raising awareness and staff training are priorities for the coming year.

5. We will further support a Care Academy giving a career pathway for care work, including professional development and training for young people leaving school. Work to double the number of staff supported to gain a Social Work degree. (CV17)

We currently have 12 individuals who are undertaking the Care Academy programme. We have recently recruited to a third cohort and have targeted schools and post 16 for this intake. We are supporting approximately 30 staff to undertake Social Work training as part of our "growing our own" strategy. We are offering secondments, traineeships and supporting four individuals to access the full time Masters route (three from the Adult Social Care division).

6. Ensure we have a stable workforce within Children's Services who are qualified, equipped and supported to undertake their role. (CV17)

The Social Work Experienced Practitioner Progression Framework has been implemented and the first panel convened. There are no vacancies at Team Manager level. Work is taking place to understand the pressures in the services and ensure resources can be directed so that caseloads are manageable. A realignment of the Children and Families Services Management Team has been completed to ensure the Division is able to meet current challenges.

7. Develop a sufficient supply of in-house residential placements to support the ambition to rebalance the market and take profit out of children's care (CV18)

An offer has been accepted on one property; this is awaiting business sign off by directors. The service has acquired a three bedroom council property and an application has been submitted for registration.

8. We will work with Welsh Government to create and define a National Care Service that delivers national standards of care with local delivery of services to meet our community's needs. (CV19)

Regional and local feedback to the consultation has been submitted. Welsh Government are currently considering all of the responses to the consultation and we anticipate feedback in November.

9. Deliver a range of high-quality intervention services so that children, young people and their families have access to support at the right time, keeping families together where it is safe to do so, and prevent the need to become looked after. (CV21)

The number of children being looked after has continued to rise since April. Currently there are 227 children looked after (on 30/9/23). There has been an increase in the number of unaccompanied asylum seekers and young people with more complex needs and challenging behaviour requiring specialist placements as well as sibling groups. Families are unable to manage some of these young people at home safely despite intervention from our specialist teams. There is a continuing need to work collaboratively with health, CAMHS and police on strategic planning to manage the increasing demands on our resources.

Preventative work is being undertaken to ensure children can remain at home safely within their families wherever possible. We continue to monitor requests for placements through our accommodation panel and are in the process of reviewing this and how best we can manage and organise our support and preventative teams to deliver services to families and children to sustain children at home.

6 young people this quarter require more specialist and therapeutic intervention and small homes to meet their individual needs outside the family and foster care. Therefore, there is a higher increase in the number of unregulated placements.

As an authority we continue to remain one of the lowest children looked after population in Wales and will endeavour to work across teams to maintain children at home as safely as possible. There are currently 147 children on the child protection register where numbers also continue to rise and under careful planning, we will monitor these children closely to safeguard their interests and support families intensively within their home.

10. Develop the Mid and West Wales (MWW) Regional Adoption Service in line with national, regional, and local priorities including the 'good practice' guides. (CV22)

The Mid and West Wales (MWW) Regional Adoption Service continues to develop to ensure it achieves the best outcomes for children placed for adoption whilst also ensuring adopters receive the right support when in need. MWW has worked in partnership with the National Adoption Central Team to develop National Adoption Policies to ensure there is a consistently high quality adoption service provided throughout Wales. The MWW service provides trauma/nurture timelines and understanding the child days for all children that are placed for adoption. MWW is also offering training to the four local authorities to ensure childcare social workers embed the good practice guides into their practice to ensure children who are going to be placed for adoption are comprehensively prepared. The MWW regional adoption service is currently supporting each Local Authority in the region to enhance their support to birth parents and to ensure direct contact is considered for all children with their birth family when placed for adoption. In addition, that birth siblings and parents are provided quality contact when children are adopted.

11. Recruit adopters to meet the needs of children with complex needs and sibling groups so that children who need adoptive placements do not have to wait (CV22)

The Mid and West (MWW) Regional Adoption Service continues to find many adoptive placements within the region for children from the region. There is a general decline in enquiries in Wales from people who would like to adopt, however, MWW uses social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and its own webpage to recruit adopters from the region. The Service has targeted its marketing towards potential adopters who would be interested in adopting sibling groups and children with complex needs. The MWW service has also prepared stalls at several events such as the National Eisteddfod to reach out to provide information to adults in the region who may want to consider adoption. MWW is also working close with the National Adoption Marketing Team to ensure any marketing is underpinned by the needs of the Mid and West Region.

12. Work collaboratively across the region and with Foster Wales to increase and improve our recruitment and retention of foster carers and increase the sufficiency and range of in-house foster care. (CV22)

We continue to work with Foster Wales and have been successful in attaining funding to support recruitment of foster carers. In addition, they have provided funding for a retention and fostering support officer. We anticipate that the new recruitment officer will be in post by November 2023. We are reviewing our policies and procedures from good practice guide and research into the quality and stability of care necessary to prevent family breakdown within this economic climate. We have continued to see a rise in the need and challenges to support carers more financially where the cost of living has impacted on families' care.

In terms of the fostering support worker for special guardianship orders (SGO's) a temporary post has recently gone out to advert. This is an increasing workload and undertaking annual reviews within statutory requirements. We continue to support and review around 130 special guardians and a working group has been set up to consider improving our consistency and delivery of services to these families.

13. We will continue to improve the support available to carers across the county. (CV22)

Implementation of new Carers Services i.e. Information, advice and assistance is now included within the Community Preventative Services model. The model also includes a bespoke carers service, in recognition to the specialism required to provide carer specific information, opportunities and support to carers. The development of carers breaks project is underway funded by Regional Integrated Fund (RIF) and Welsh Government Amser Funding. These projects have sought to enhance the health and wellbeing of carers, providing a chance to try new activities, make new connections or reconnect to connections lost, or to learn new skills whilst having a break from the caring role. We have also commenced the commissioning review of replacement care.

14. We will invest in local efficient council run services to rebalance the market across all elements of adult and children social care (CV13)

The Market Stability Report has been published and is available on the West Wales Regional Partnership Board web site. Four key priorities have been agreed and are being taken forward across the region:

A1: Undertake options appraisal to assess and make recommendations on creating and enhancing regional strategic commissioning capacity

A2: Establish a regional specialist children's commissioning programme to meeting health and care needs of children and young people

A4: Pilot MyST fostering model (multi-agency community support team for children looked after with health needs).

A5: Undertake a feasibility study for the delivery of public sector nursing care homes provision in the region.

Measures:

- 1. CH/024 Of those children placed on the Child Protection Register during the year, the number of children that were previously on the register in the last 12 months (CV21)**

Result: 5.4

Comment: A good result this quarter and within the target of 7.2%

De-registrations and registrations are subject to multi-disciplinary case conferences. Children are subject to child protection planning and cases are closely monitored particularly where child protection concerns remain high. Numbers in the cohort are very small which can impact on the end result. Sibling registrations can also influence findings which has been the case in Q2.

Reasons for re-registrations:-

Family 1 x4 - parental alcohol consumption/aggressive behaviour

Family 2 x1 - parental complex mental health/alcohol consumption

2. CH/035/036 The total number of days on the Child Protection Register for children who were removed from the register during the year (CV21)

Result: 239.5

Comment: A good result this quarter and well within the target of 250.7 days. Also, an improvement in performance compared to the same time last year (300.3 days).

De-registrations and registrations are subject to multi-disciplinary case conferences. The aim of the department is to utilise preventative services to reduce the number of children being subject to child protection plans. Prevention is key to practice. The childcare teams are supported in this work by the Family Intervention Service, Integrated Family Support and Edge of Care Teams.

Figures are closely monitored at the Audit and Evaluation Group.

3. 3.4.2.6 The percentage of people referred to the National Exercise Referral scheme that attend the initial consultation of the programme (CV23)

Result: 37.6

Comment: Progress being made against targets and aiming to bring back on target by year end with additional staffing resource coming back on-line.

4. PAM/015 The average number of calendar days taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant (CV23)

Result: 289

Comment: Demand for adaptations is high, we currently have a backlog of enquiries which is having an adverse effect on the average days to complete adaptations.

5. ASC-001 Number of people waiting in hospital for domiciliary care (CV14)

Result: 14

Comment: There has been a substantial decrease in the numbers waiting Dom Care in hospital comparing to Q1 23//24. This is due to increased capacity in Dom Care, particularly in the Llanelli are of the County and overall, improved flow through community pathways.

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:

Jan Coles Head of Children and Family Services
 Joanna Jones Head of Integrated Services (joint appointment with Hywel Dda Health Board)
 Avril Bracey Head of Adult Social Care
 Chris Harrison Head of Strategic Joint Commissioning (Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire)

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

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Cabinet Visions will be monitored Quarterly throughout the year. All Actions will be put into our Performance and Improvement Monitoring System (PIMS). This means that all information can be analysed and sorted as required.

2. Legal

The **Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015)** requires that functions of the council should maximise their contributions to the Well-being Objectives set by the Council.

The **Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021** focuses on the extent to which we are meeting our '*performance requirements*'. That is:

1. exercising our functions effectively.
2. using our resources economically, efficiently and effectively.
3. governance is effective for securing the above.

As noted in the Act:

Scrutiny committees are a key part of offering constructive challenge to how a council is performing and how it organises itself in the delivery of sustainable services.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED

YES

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

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

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Cabinet Vision Statement		Cabinet Vision Statement 2022 - 2027 (July 2022) (gov.wales)
Corporate Strategy 2022/27		https://democracy.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/documents/s69968/Report.pdf