

Agenda



Performance Scrutiny Committee - People

Date: Tuesday, 14 March 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Hybrid Meeting / Committee Room 1

To: Councillors W Routley (Chair), J Cleverly, C Townsend, T Watkins, P Bright, B Davies, P Drewett, D Jenkins, M Pimm, A Screen and M Al-Nuaimi

Item	Wards Affected
1	<u>Apologies</u>
2	<u>Declarations of Interest</u>
3	<u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u> (Pages 3 - 8)
4	<u>Eliminate Update</u> (Pages 9 - 16) This item also covers the Unregistered Children's Placements update.
5	<u>Registered Social Landlords Update</u> (Pages 17 - 20)
6	<u>Conclusions of Committee Reports</u> Following the completion of the Committee reports, the Committee will be asked to formalise its conclusions, recommendations and comments on previous items for actioning.
7	<u>Scrutiny Adviser Reports</u> (Pages 21 - 30) <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Actions Arising (Appendix 1)b) Forward Work Programme Update (Appendix 2)

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Date of Issue: Tuesday, 7 March 2023

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Draft Minutes

Performance Scrutiny Committee - People

Date: 28th February 2023

Time: 10am

Venue: Hybrid Meeting

Present: Councillors W Routley (Chair), J Cleverly, T Watkins, B Davies, P Drewett, D Jenkins, M Pimm, A Screen, M Al-Nuaimi.

Sally Anne Jenkins (Strategic Director for Social Services), Caroline Ryan-Philipps (Head of Prevention and Inclusion)

Samantha Schanzer (Scrutiny Advisor), Taylor Strange (Governance Support Officer), Pamela Tasker (Governance Support Officer)

1. Apologies.

Councillors P Bright and C Townsend.

2. Declarations of Interest.

None.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on the 24th January 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held 24th January 2023 were **accepted as a true and accurate record.**

4. Prevention and Inclusion Update.

The report was presented by the Strategic Director for Social Services and the Head of Prevention and Inclusion.

Questions:

The Committee thanked the Officers for their hard work. The committee asked what facilities would be needed over the coming years to help aid programmes and staffing.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion noted that the Service Plan covers the immediate short-term areas of focus. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion noted that there was a key focus on the quality of interventions provided as well as the quality of the workforce. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion informed committee that most of the work carried out takes place in service users' homes and noted that

they had key working relationships with schools. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion noted the only building provision they need currently is for Flying Start. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion highlighted the importance of using the spaces they already have available.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion informed committee that the focus in the next five years would be on growing core services and partnerships but that they were working with Housing and Communities to identify and make use of community facilities where necessary.
- The Strategic Director noted the focus on working in partnership was to ensure that all services provided to people work effectively. The Strategic Director noted that the council doesn't provide every service to a person.

The Committee asked whether they had an idea of what spaces would be beneficial to the service in the future, such as soft play areas and green spaces etc to work with service users.

- The Strategic Director noted that the place that used held less importance than the quality of the staff and therefore the focus should reflect that.

The Committee asked whether the Governance Board included representation from Trade Unions and how much input the Trade Unions have had on the recommissioning programme.

- The Strategic Director informed committee that they established an internal for Newport Board which works with various representatives to have oversight of the budget, services, and the recommissioning of the Families First service. The Strategic Director noted that due to its nature, it is an internal Officer's Board and therefore Trade Unions aren't represented on it.
- The Strategic Director noted that the recommissioning of the Families First service had been completed. The Strategic Director clarified that the impact on staffing was not an internal issue but instead an issue around commissioned services and Union representation would've been with their own organisations and Unions linked to them.

The Committee asked how the service had been affected with difficulties recruiting qualified staff.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion noted that recruitment was an issue impacting all services and that a key focus was on providing training and development from within. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion noted that there was working being undertaken to upskill current staff and expand their breadth of knowledge.

The Committee welcomed the work that the team and detailed the positive impact that Youth Service had on the community. The Committee noted that they felt there wasn't a lot of youth leadership or youth clubs. The Committee asked what form youth work will take.

- The Strategic Director noted that work is ongoing to grow the Youth Service across the city out of the resources we have. The Strategic Director highlighted the importance of providing services to meet the needs of different areas and communities. The Strategic Director acknowledged staffing issues but felt that a focused approach and working with partners is effective in addressing these issues.

The Committee felt that the visibility of youth workers is important within the community, as they can act as role models.

- The Strategic Director understood the importance of these role models within the community and appreciated the feedback.

The Committee asked how many youth clubs had been reinstated?

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion informed committee that youth club provision within the city is still a work in progress but there were 9 currently. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion noted that the number of clubs was not the only goal but also the frequency of their operation. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion also noted that there is currently limited staff and resources although the service is pleased with what has been achieved so far.

The Committee asked were there plans for outreach teams to undertake targeted work on a street level.

- The Strategic Director highlighted that once staff had completed other work then outreach work would be able to commence. The Strategic Director emphasised the importance of understanding why Anti-Social Behaviour takes place, and then working with the range of partners to tackle this such as those in Youth Justice.

The Committee asked whether the service worked with schools in order to help deal with issues.

- The Strategic Director detailed to the committee that schools and education are worked with on issues, however there is a place for wider discussion to take place with education.

The Committee noted that the Youth and Community course taught in Newport struggled with staffing to run the qualifications.

- The Strategic Director informed committee that they do have qualified staff and asked if cases where this is an issue can be forwarded to them so that it can be dealt with by their team.

The Committee raised that certain wards lacked parks and sporting facilities and asked whether there were plans to build facilities and whether they were working with partners to rectify this.

- The Strategic Director noted that the wider provisions of sport and leisure isn't specifically within their remit, although when it does fall within the areas control, they do work with their partners. The Strategic Director reiterated the importance of the quality of staff versus the place where meetings take place.
- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion reinforced the importance of partnership working. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion confirmed that discussions took place.

The Committee queried why Duffryn hadn't been included in the list of new and planned provision for Flying Start.

- The Strategic Director noted that there were already established Flying Start provisions in place within Duffryn and the key focus has been on improving provision for the the whole of Newport which meant that focus was on areas that lack

provisions. The Strategic Director noted that further details could be given more directly outside of this committee.

The Chair reminded committee that their role was to assess the impact for the whole of the city, not specific wards or areas.

The Committee questioned whether the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) backlog caused by the pandemic had been cleared and whether the DFG would be expanded.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion raised that the revenue funding had increased in the current year and explained that although the work in clearing the backlog had been slower than preferred, they were confident that the backlog should be cleared by the end of the next financial year. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion then explained that once the backlog had been cleared the team will then be able to look further ahead.

The Committee asked whether housing associations work with the Council on anti-social behaviour prevention.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion detailed that the team does have links with social and private landlords, although it's not their strongest area but this is something that can be investigated. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion explained that they have a focus on building links and clearing their backlog with the desire to encourage a wider breadth of referrals once they can. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion wanted to highlight a key focus being on early prevention within the referrals.

The Committee asked whether they were looking to expand by bringing in more organisations under their control.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion informed committee that the current focus was working with the teams and services they had currently. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion noted the focus on creating working partnerships rather than having everything done in house.

The Committee wanted to thank the Officers again for their work and highlighted the importance of areas having good role models.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion emphasised the importance of positive influences in people's lives such as those in youth clubs and schools etc. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion noted that they make sure all members in the social services create positive links within the community without creating dependency.

The Committee agreed with this and asked why age 25 is the cut off point for youth work.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion stated that traditionally youth work covered ages 0-25 years old; work done after this point was covered by Adult Services.

The Committee asked for more information on the work done by the substance Misuse Team.

- The Head of Prevention and Inclusion highlighted that all areas of work are important and noted that substance misuse issues are acted upon in a regional team. The Head of Prevention and Inclusion detailed that there is a range of services within an integrated pathway, with emphasis on tackling substance misuse in all stages of its development.

- The Strategic Director highlighted that peer mentorship has helped many people dealing with substance misuse.

The Chair wanted to thank the committee for the questions raised during the meeting and thanked the Officers for presenting the report and for the answers provided.

After the meeting, the committee noted that the numbers for Welsh language provision in 2022/23 were low and needed to be improved significantly for the coming year. The committee asked whether the Officers agreed and if so what steps were they proposing to take to fulfil that key priority area.

- The committee were informed that:
- There is agreement with the statement made and there is commitment within Prevention & Inclusion to improve the Welsh language provision of Flying Start.
- The 2022/23 target for Welsh Language take-up reflects the current offer available in Newport through Flying Start.
- 2023/24 plans include an increase in Flying Start Welsh Medium providers in the form of private Cylch Meithrin who have been successful via a procurement process to increase the available Welsh Medium places from 1 setting to 4.
- There is also a commitment and significant work/support being undertaken with existing English medium settings to increase Welsh language skills amongst practitioners and increase the Welsh language offer across the board.
- Work is ongoing with the Welsh Education Forum (WEF) to encourage take-up, promote the benefits of bilingualism and promote preschool childcare places and Ti a Fi (baby and toddler) groups across the city by working with Mudiad Meithrin, Welsh Schools and their pupils and LA Education department.
- Capital Projects proposed for the city through Flying Start expansion has a focus on the development of Welsh medium childcare, and plans are awaiting initial sign off by WG and will then be presented once approval has been given.
- Parental choice is always a factor that we must be mindful of, however working with partners including Health, Education (WEF) and Third Sector organisations is vital to increase the uptake of Welsh medium provision. This work takes place via marketing, information sharing, upskilling the workforce in terms of their own Welsh language skills and targeted procurement of Welsh medium childcare or capital development.

5. Conclusion of Committee Reports.

There were no comments or recommendations due to the session being information only.

6. Scrutiny Advisor Reports.

The Scrutiny Advisor informed committee that there had been a request to alter the work programme, whereby a report would go the meeting scheduled for the 28th March 2023 instead of the 14th March 2023.

This was agreed by the Committee.

The date of the next meeting would be the 14th March 2023 at 10am.

7. Live Event

The recording of the meeting can be watch here.

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Information Report



Scrutiny

Date: 14th March 2023

Subject **Eliminating private profit from Children's Social Care**

Purpose To ensure Cabinet Members are briefed on the implementation of the Welsh Government agenda to eliminate profit from Children's Social Care.

Author Natalie Poyner

Ward City wide

Summary This report explores the Welsh Government commitment to '*eliminate private profit from the care of looked after children during the next Senedd term*' and the regional and local strategy to remove profit from work with children in care.

Proposal To ensure Members are fully appraised on the role that Newport City Council has in meeting the requirements to eliminate profit from children in care.

Action by Natalie Poyner

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Welsh Government Officials
- All Wales Heads of Children Services
- Regional Partnership Board
- Children and Families Partnership Board
- Children's Commissioning Consortium Cymru (4Cs)
- In House Residential Managers

1. Introduction

The Welsh Government's Programme for Government contains a number of key commitments relating to a new vision for Children's Social Care. At its heart, the Welsh Government wants to see fewer children and young people entering care. For those children in care, we want them to remain close to home so they can continue to be part of their community and for their stay in care to be as short as possible, consistent with meeting the needs of the young person. We are committed to keeping families together.

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to '*eliminate private profit from the care of looked after children during the next Senedd term.*' This commitment is also one of the 46 policy areas highlighted within the recent Co-Operation Agreement between Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru.

Welsh Government is of the view that it is not right that some private companies who run accommodation, care and support services for looked after children can make significant profits from the children they care for. Eliminating profit from care is about transitioning to a not-for-profit model of care in Wales, focussing on values and not finances. It is about fundamentally changing how we care for children and their families as part of a network of local, community based services that have the welfare of the young person as the absolute priority. Our aim is to ensure that public money invested in accommodation for care experienced children is not extracted as profit, but instead is reinvested back into the system to support better outcomes, services and professional development.

2. Policy Objectives

- Deliver the Programme for Government commitment to remove private profit from the care of looked after children during this Senedd term
- Removing profit from care is one of 8 Programme for Government commitments aimed at seeing fewer children and young people entering care and in care and keeping families together.
- Create local authority and not for profit placement sufficiency and support increased use of kinship care and special guardianship arrangements.
- Support the transition to a not-for-profit model of care for children looked after in Wales, with the initial focus being on children in residential care and foster care. Further work will be undertaken on the implications for home care for

children with complex needs and supported accommodation provision. Policy and legislative work will be structured in such a way however, as to cover all elements.

3. Key Messages

- This Programme for Government commitment is one of a number of commitments designed to deliver a new vision for Children's Social Care, focussed on values and not finances. It is about fundamentally changing how we provide services to children and their families as part of a network of local, community based services that has the welfare of the young person as their absolute priority.
- Eliminating profit from care is about transitioning to a not-for-profit model of care in Wales. The aim is to ensure that public money invested in accommodation for care experienced children is not extracted out as profit, but instead surpluses are reinvested back into the system to support better outcomes, services and professional development.
- There is a drive to see fewer children and young people entering care. For those children who do need care, there is a desire for them to remain close to home so they can continue to be part of their community.
- The proposals are that Welsh Government will pass legislation within this term. In order for children's homes and fostering agencies to operate legally in Wales they have to be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales. No new for profit provider would be able to register with Care Inspectorate Wales after April 2026. All current providers would have to move to a not for profit position by April 2027. In addition it is proposed that local authorities would not be able to access for profit provision outside of Wales. Hence all children who are looked after in Wales will be with not for profit providers.

4. Issues and Risks

If the programme of work and engagement with the sector is not managed appropriately and effectively, the following risks may emerge

- Uncertainty in the market leading to providers either exiting the market or providing provision for cross border placements only. This has the potential to destabilise placements for children currently in care, and may lead to specific consequences for specialist placements, as Welsh local authorities mostly rely on this provision for children with the most complex needs.

- A heightened risk of legal challenge, negative publicity or incorrect messages circulating within sectors. There may be objections to the plans to deliver this commitment causing adverse publicity.
- The workforce could experience anxiety about the changes which could result in staff/carers leaving the sector. This may also cause resistance from staff to move across into the public / not for profit sector and affect staffing provisions in care homes and foster carers. TUPE issues need to be clearly communicated to alleviate the impact on future not-for-profit staffing capacity.
- Lack of interest from private organisations moving over to a not for profit model of care or lack of interest from new providers entering the market. This will impact the market sufficiency if the supply of local authority and not for profit provision is insufficient, as the demand for placements may outstrip the supply.
- Loss of investment into the sector as independent and not for profit providers may delay plans to invest in new innovative facilities, technology, training and specialist provision which may cause a stagnant market. This could also result in a potential reduction/freeze on investment to current infrastructure which will impact current quality for children.
- Lack of clear information may lead to providers feeling that there is no incentive to remain on an All Wales Framework which offers protection via standardised contracts/T&Cs/evidence of social value

5. National Strategic Plan

A national Eliminate board has been established and has agreed a set of principles to underpin the programme work. There have been workshops held with providers to explore and refine not for profit business models and discuss issues and concerns. Potential models have been discussed with Ministers and definitions of *Not for Profit* and *Profit* have been drafted and are being checked by the WG legal team. A Communication Plan was issued in June 2022 and three work streams were developed in the Autumn. Each work stream has a work plan and a range of action groups leading on different areas of the work. The concept of a national cooperative across local authorities has been discussed and is likely to be further progressed within the Eliminate work streams.

A consultation across all sectors and interested parties ran until November the 7th 2022. The responses to the consultation are due to be published in March 2023. Officers from Newport contributed to the consultation through the Regional Partnership Board response and the submission from the All Wales Heads of Children's Services.

6. Regional Strategic Plan

A regional response has been sent to Welsh Government highlighting the challenges faced by local authorities. An agreement has been made to work together in partnership regionally to understand and manage risk and work to build solutions. A revenue funding bid to Welsh Government has been successful which enables the region to develop a team to lead on eliminate and enhance placement sufficiency. Newport has agreed to host the team. Staff are currently being recruited and once in place will work with the five local authorities to drive increasing local capacity in both residential and foster care.

7. Regional Data

	Children in private residential care	Children with Independent Fostering Agencies
Blaenau Gwent	12	19
Caerphilly	33	67
Monmouthshire	17	49
Newport	21	57
Torfaen	13	19

	Residential spend	IFA spend
Blaenau Gwent	£2,161,130	£1,778,210
Caerphilly	£6,022,683	£2,535,802
Monmouthshire	£2,920,386	£2,668,961

Newport	£4,170,985	£2,545,219
Torfaen	£3,506,047	£1,307,214
TOTAL	£18,781,231	£8,290,187

8. Operating without Registration (OWR)

As we rebalance residential and fostering provision to new / expanded local authority/ regional and not for profit provision it is critical that the market transition ensures placement sufficiency across the spectrum of children's placement requirements.

This programme of change takes place within the context of existing placement and system pressures, providers now withdrawing from the market or entering arrangements with English local authorities, and with an evolving learning and practice where OWR (operating without registration) which is a criminal offence under 2016 Act or CFM registration are necessary.

Our aspiration is to ensure placement stability in registered provisions that meet the needs, and secure positive outcomes, for our children and young people. However, the pathways leading to OWR arrangements are multi layered and often unavoidable. Common factors include:

- No provision being offered by Providers despite extensive national placement searches – both 'on' and 'off' the 4 C Framework
- Children awaiting secure provision
- Immediate notice being issued by Providers increasingly due to dysregulated behaviour and offences against staff
- Children being discharge following inappropriate presentation to hospital and or the use of s136
- Court expectations/ direction leading to bespoke placements
- The wishes and feeling of young people who may no longer wish to remain in the placement

All Wales Heads of Children Services are working with Care Inspectorate Wales in order to explore immediate and more long-term approaches to support OWR. A task and finish group has been set up and is led by Flintshire Head of Children Services, this group has identified three themes.

Theme 1: Promoting placement stability and reducing the need for OWR arrangements

Theme 2: The management of placements and risks where OWR placements are necessary and unavoidable

Theme 3: Proportionate and effective oversight of placements with a focus on securing positive outcomes

9. Local Strategic plan/next steps

Newport Children's Services has been awarded significant grant money to enhance existing provision under the terms and conditions of eliminate and radical reform. This will enable us to develop further residential provision, invest in the recruitment of foster carers and ensure our family intervention services are robust enough to ensure families can remain together and children do not come into the care system.

In Newport the Council already has a strong history of developing positive residential care and working to proactively recruit and support foster carers. However, there is still at present a need to use external residential and fostering care through for profit agencies. Moving to a full not for profit system of care is a significant challenge. While the numbers of children who are looked after in Newport as been stable over the past 7 years the level of need and complexity has increased. The pressures on Children's Services in terms of both demand and risk management are substantial.

Officers are now working on a programme of how we move from our current position to the required 2026/7 position. The regional team will be part of this drive but a local shift will also be required. Officers from the Resource Team have projects in motion which include

- a) Renovation of Forest Lodge and Brynglas Bungalow
- b) Development of Cambridge House into a residential home for unaccompanied asylum seeking children
- c) Proposals to develop a local residential provision for children with disabilities
- d) Links with both regional/national Foster Wales to develop a framework of support to recruit and retain foster carers.
- e) Focus on local recruitment plan using innovative methods of recruitment such as adverts on roundabouts, flyers, and local campaigns.
- f) Focus on wellbeing and support to retain carers and prevent placement breakdown.

In addition Officers will shortly begin work on looking at individualised plans for all children currently in for profit placements with strategies to work towards not for profit placements within the required timescales.

Natalie Poyner
28.02.2023

Information Report

Scrutiny



Part 1

Date: 14th March 2023

Subject Registered Social Landlords

Purpose To provide a briefing to Scrutiny Committee (People) on the role of Registered Social Landlords (RSL) in providing accommodation.

Author David Walton, Head of Housing and Communities.

Ward City wide

Summary RSLs work with the council to provide affordable and specialist accommodation in the city. This paper summaries their role, funding regime allocations policy and provides a case study demonstrating how the council works with RSLs to develop housing for people with learning disabilities.

Proposal This paper is provided as information only

This report was prepared after consultation with:

David Walton, Head of Housing and Communities.
Katherine Howells, Housing Service Manager
Sally Ann Jenkins, Strategic Director Social Services

Background:

Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) provide a range of housing across the city including social housing, accommodation for older people, low-cost home ownership and supported housing. Some RSLs also provide floating support to people who require housing related support to sustain their tenancies or to prevent homelessness.

As Newport does not own its housing stock, we work in partnership with RSLs to develop and deliver social housing as well as a range of other services in the city. Linc Cymru, Melin, Newport City Homes and Pobl actively develop new accommodation in the city as well as owning and managing their own stock. Aelwyd Housing Association, Elim Housing Association, Hafod Housing Association and United Welsh Housing Association also own and manage social housing in Newport.

Funding for RSLs:

Newport City Council's Housing Strategy Team commissions new social housing through our Welsh Government funded Social Housing Grant. The level of Social Housing Grant has increased in recent years and Newport has been successful in using slippage where other local authority areas have been unable to utilise their grant. In 2023-24 our total allocation will be c.£18 million. We also work with RSLs to utilise other capital funds to develop specialist accommodation including move-on housing and supported housing.

The following table provides a breakdown of Social Housing Grant spend

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 (Indicative)
Total SHG	£8, 844,070	£7,225,751	£12,497,052
Schemes supported	13	12	17
No. of units delivered	318	305	368

The council undertakes a Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) every 5 years. This is a detailed analysis of the local housing market and housing demand. Based upon the LHMA, an annual Prospectus is developed and shared with RSLs. This sets the high-level delivery priorities in the city by ward, applications for Social Housing Grant are assessed against these priorities alongside a range of criteria. Newport currently has 696 homes in the SHG Planned Development Program (1519 in broader pipeline). This is a mixture of social housing, homes for older people, adapted housing and shared ownership.

Allocations:

Most allocations to RSL properties are made through Newport Home Options. All applications are assessed by the Housing Advice team in line with legislation and the Newport Housing Options policy. Once assessed applications are awarded points and placed into priority bands. Applicants can then express an interest in available properties which are advertised on a weekly basis. Demand for social housing is currently at unprecedented levels and outstrips supply. There are currently over 9000 people registered on the Common Housing Register.

Social Hos Lettings in 21-22		
Band A	140	20.62%
Band B	206	30.34%
Band C	252	37.11%
Band D	81	11.93%
Total	679	

Allocations for supported accommodation managed by RSLs are made via the Housing Support Gateway. Applications for the Housing Support Gateway are thoroughly assessed by the council's Housing Support team and people are allocated to services which will support them with their assessed needs.

Case study:

Bank House is a redevelopment by the Pobl Group of a disused brownfield site, alongside the River Usk. When complete, the site will provide over 200 homes that are a mix of sizes and tenures. The development includes a tree-lined river walk that connects to a nearby park and is well connected to local amenities. Through the joint working arrangements established by the Independent Living Strategy, officers from the Strategic Housing and Social Services Commissioning teams identified this as a site where accommodation for adults with a learning disability would be appropriate, particularly as there was a pressing need to find alternative accommodation for one specific individual.

This person was living alone in a property that was larger than they needed with 24-hour support. They displayed challenging behaviours and were unwilling to share staff or live with others, resulting in a high-cost care package. Pobl's Care and Support Team, along with the individual's social worker worked in partnership to prepare them for a move to Bank House where they would be living in their own flat, alongside other adults with a learning disability. The preparatory work took into account the specific needs of the individual and the challenges that a move would present to them.

The individual requiring more suitable accommodation is now settled in their new home. They had previously been living quite an isolated life but in their new home they are interacting socially with other residents and the local community. They are noticeably happier, are allowing staff into their flat and are joining in group activities with staff and other residents, which includes eating meals together. People who have known this individual for a long time have commented on how positive the move has been for them. They are no longer displaying challenging behaviours. This has reduced the cost of their care package and it is anticipated that this will continue to reduce as they continue to settle even more into their new home.



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Scrutiny Report

Performance Scrutiny Committee – People

Part 1

Date: March 2023

Subject Scrutiny Adviser Report

Author Scrutiny Adviser

The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Role
Samantha Schanzer (Scrutiny Adviser)	Present the Committee with the Scrutiny Adviser Report for discussion and update the Committee on any changes.

Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

Recommendations to the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

1. Action Plan

Consider the Actions from previous meetings (**Appendix 1**):

- *Note the responses for the actions;*
- *Determine if any further information / action is required;*
- *Agree to receive an update on outstanding issues at the next meeting.*

2. Committee’s Work Programme:

Consider the Committee’s Forward Work Programme Update (**Appendix 2**):

- *Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?*
- *Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?*
- *Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?*

2 Context

Background

2.1 Attached at **Appendix 1** is the Action Sheet from the Committee meetings. The updated completed actions are included in the table.

- 2.2 Any actions that do not have a response will be included on the Action Sheet at the next meeting to ensure that the Committee can keep track of outstanding actions.
- 2.3 Attached at Appendix 2 is the Forward Work Programme. The purpose of a forward work programme is to help ensure Councillors achieve organisation and focus in the undertaking of enquiries through the Overview and Scrutiny function. Effective work programming is essential to ensure that the work of Overview and Scrutiny makes a positive impact upon the Council's delivery of services.
- 2.4 Further information about the work programming process, including the procedures for referring new business to the programme, can be found in our Scrutiny Handbook on the Council's Scrutiny webpages (www.newport.gov.uk/scrutiny).
- 2.5 The Centre for Public Scrutiny's Good Scrutiny Guide recognises the importance of the forward work programme. In order to 'lead and own the process', it states that Councillors should have ownership of their Committee's work programme, and be involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating it. The Good Scrutiny Guide also states that, in order to make an impact, the scrutiny workload should be co-ordinated and integrated into corporate processes, to ensure that it contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.
- 2.6 The Forward Work Programme was set in August 2022 and is then managed and implemented by the designated Scrutiny Adviser for this Committee under the direction of the Committee Chairperson.
- 2.7 The Committee agreed to keep a degree of flexibility within its work programme to enable the Committee to respond to urgent / emerging issues. This item is an opportunity for the Committee members to raise any suggested amendments to the Work Programme.

3 Information Submitted to the Committee

- 3.1 The following information is attached:

Appendix 1: Action Sheet from Previous Meetings;
Appendix 2: Forward Work Programme

4. Suggested Areas of Focus

Role of the Committee

The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:

- **Action Sheet from Previous Meetings - Appendix 1**
 - Consider the responses to the actions from the meeting;
 - Are you satisfied that you have received the necessary information?
 - Are there any further issues arising from the responses that you would like to raise?
 - For the actions that do not have responses – these actions will be rolled over to the next meeting and reported back to the Committee.
- **Forward Work Programme Update - Appendix 2**
Consider:
 - Are there any amendments to the topics scheduled to be considered at the next Committee meeting?
 - Are there any additional invitees that the Committee requires to fully consider the topics?
 - Is there any additional information that the Committee would like to request?

Section B – Supporting Information

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Corporate Assessment, and the subsequent [follow up assessment](#) provide background information on the importance of good work programming. Specific reference is made to the need to align the Cabinet and Scrutiny work programmes to ensure the value of the Scrutiny Function is maximised.
- 5.2 The latest Cabinet work programme was approved by the Cabinet on a monthly basis for the next 12 months and includes the list of reports scheduled for consideration. Effective forward planning by both Cabinet and Scrutiny needs to be coordinated and integrated in relation to certain reports to ensure proper consultation takes place before a decision is taken. A link to the Cabinet work programme is provided [here](#) to the Committee as part of this report, to enable the Committee to ensure that the work programmes continue to reflect key decisions being made by the Cabinet.

6. Links to Council Policies and Priorities

- 6.1 Having proper work programming procedures in place ensures that the work of the Performance Scrutiny Committee – People makes a positive impact upon the Council’s delivery of services, contributes to the delivery of corporate objectives, and ensures that work can be undertaken in a timely and well-planned manner.

6.2

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport’s Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
Aims:	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social

	aspires to provide opportunities for all.	our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	heart of what we do.	value, fairness and sustainability at its core.
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7 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

7.1 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 which came into force in April 2016 sets the context for the move towards long term planning of services.

7.2 General questions

- How is this area / policy affected by the new legislation?
- How will this decision / policy / proposal impact upon future generations? What is the long term impact?
- What evidence is provided to demonstrate WFGA has been / is being considered?
- Evidence from Community Profiles / other data?
- Evidence of links to Wellbeing Assessment / Objectives / Plan?

7.3 Wellbeing Goals

- How are the Wellbeing goals reflected in the policy / proposal / action?
 - *A prosperous Wales*
 - *A resilient Wales*
 - *A healthier Wales*
 - *A more equal Wales*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities*
 - *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language*
 - *A globally responsible Wales*

7.4 Sustainable Development Principles

- Does the report / proposal demonstrate how as an authority we are working in accordance with the sustainable development principles from the act when planning services?
 - **Long Term**
The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs
 - **Prevention**
How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives
 - **Integration**
Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies
 - **Collaboration**
Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives
 - **Involvement**
The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

8 Background Papers

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-2027](#)
- The Corporate Assessment and [follow up assessment](#)

Report Completed: March 2023

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**PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - PEOPLE
ACTION SHEET**

	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
1	Children and Young People's End of Year Report	Letter from Care Inspectorate Wales regarding findings be distributed to committee	Director of Social Services/Scrutiny Advisor	ESCALATED
2	Children and Young People's End of Year Report / Adult Services End of Year Report	Breakdown of underspend reallocation be distributed to committee	Director of Social Services/Heads of Service (Social Services)/Scrutiny Advisor	ESCALATED
3	Adult Services End of Year Report	Provide information to committee regarding Newport specific Home First data	Head of Adult Services/Scrutiny Advisor	ESCALATED
4	Children and Young People's End of Year Report / Adult Services End of Year Report	Schedule information sessions for committee regarding the change from DOLS to LPS and the national performance measure data	Director of Social Services/Heads of Service (Social Services)/Scrutiny Advisor	ESCALATED
5	Service Area Plans	Provide an update on Youth Academy	Head of Regeneration/Scrutiny Advisor	CHASED

Scrutiny

Performance Scrutiny Committee – People

Draft Work Programme: June 2022 to May 2023

Meeting	Agenda Items
12/07/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End of Year Performance Reviews - Education
26/07/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End of Year Performance Reviews – Social Services
13/09/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Cancelled</i>
11/10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Cancelled</i>
15/11/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Cancelled</i>
29/11/2022	<p>New Service Plans – Aims, Objectives and Measures: Part 1 – Education and Prevention and Inclusion</p> <p>Performance Monitoring - holding the executive to account for the Council's performance, focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessing the extent to which performance objectives are contributing to the overall objectives and priorities of the Council including an update upon Corporate Objectives, Actions and Performance Measures.

06/12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Service Plans – Aims, Objectives and Measures: Part 2 – Children’s and Adult Services <p>Performance Monitoring - holding the executive to account for the Council’s performance, focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessing the extent to which performance objectives are contributing to the overall objectives and priorities of the Council including an update upon Corporate Objectives, Actions and Performance Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021-22
24/01/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft Budget Proposals 2023-24 and Mid Term Financial Projections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre decision – to receive and comment on the Cabinet draft proposals as part of the Budget Consultation Process, prior to a final decision being taken by the Cabinet ○ Scrutinising of Service Area specific proposals within Committee’s remit as part of the budget consultation process ▪ Assessing the anticipated impact of the budget proposals.
28/02/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevention and Inclusion (Information Only)
14/03/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Session for Committee on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eliminate ○ Work being done with registered social landlords and ○ Unregistered children’s placements.
28/03/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Parking Bays Report • Step Up Step Down (Information Only)