



**NEWPORT**  
CITY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR DINAS  
**CASNEWYDD**

# MID-YEAR REVIEW

CHILDREN SERVICES

2024-25



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## Strategic Leads

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Cabinet Member for Social Services | Cllr Laura Lacey |
| Director of Social Services        | Tanya Evans      |
| Head of Children Services          | Natalie Poyner   |

# Introduction

Newport City Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 has four Well-being Objectives to support its mission to deliver an Ambitious, Fairer and Greener Newport for everyone and contribute towards Wales' Well-being Goals set in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. To support the delivery of these objectives, strategic priorities, and deliver continuous improvement each service area has developed their service plan. This report provides the mid-year progress against the Children Services Service Plan 2024-25.

Children Services is part of the Council's Social Services Directorate and is responsible for delivering a range of services to families and children in need including specialist provision for those most vulnerable and at risk of social exclusion, such as those at risk of significant harm, disabled children, children looked after and unaccompanied (separated) children and young people.

Children & Family Services has responsibility for providing services under the Social Services and Wellbeing Act and Adoption Act 2002 which extends the range of services and support to those involved in the adoption process; responsibility for providing fostering service under the fostering regulations and Residential care under the RISCA Act. Youth Justice Services are provided by the multi-agency Youth Justice service established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Our statement of purpose: 'To promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people in need within their families, and where this is not possible, to provide good quality alternative care'.

## Children Services Vision and Objectives

### Our Vision

We envision a city where every child and young person is safe, healthy, happy, and able to reach their full potential. We want Newport to be a place where children and families are valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.

### Our Mission

We are committed to providing high-quality, accessible, and inclusive services that meet the diverse needs of children, young people, and their families in Newport. We work in partnership with other agencies, organisations, and communities to ensure that children and young people have the best possible outcomes and opportunities in life.

### Our Values

- We put children and young people at the centre of everything we do.
- We respect and celebrate the diversity of children and families in Newport.
- We promote the rights and participation of children and young people in decision-making.
- We foster a culture of learning, innovation, and continuous improvement.
- We act with integrity, honesty, and accountability.

To support the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the Children Services vision the following objectives have been set.

**Objective 1** - Deliver effective services to support children to safely remain with their families.

**Objective 2** - Improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers including a focus on safe reunification.

**Objective 3** - Ensure a range of placements are available for children looked after.

**Objective 4** - Prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people.

# Head of Service Executive Summary

There have been several successes in Children Services in the last 6 month period. The Service area have been successful in registering an additional three bedded residential provision for our young people and are in the process of registering two further settings, including a six bedded home for children with disabilities and a six bedded home for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking children. There were delays in the care leaver provision due to delays within planning and the revised timeline means opening will be in early 2025, this provision will increase the offer to the care leavers of Newport.

The fostering service have recruited to Newport's first dedicated parent and child foster carer role which enables us to support families caring for their babies within their local community. Our use of external foster provision continues to reduce with 85.8 % of our children who live in fostering households being cared for by our own, in house foster carers. The Exploitation/ Edge of Care Team is fully embedded and working with our most vulnerable young people aged ten plus. This team is steadily and safely increasing the number of young people returning home to family.

Our Children Looked After numbers continue to reduce and are currently at their lowest. We have launched a new co-produced corporate parenting strategy and have provided a number of apprenticeships for our care experienced young people. The Immigration Team is fully established and dedicated to supporting and working with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. There are stronger working partnerships with immigration services including the Migration Team, Asylum Justice and third sector partners such as the GAP.

The radical reform funding has continued to support the positive transformation of the Cwtch Centre, to ensure family time is more 'family focussed and realistic'. The centre is being renovated into a bright and welcoming environment for children and families. The funding continues to be utilised by the Disabled Childrens Team to develop the independent living skills of young people with a disability, via independent living skills groups and topic-based sessions suggested by young people and their families facilitated in collaboration with other agencies e.g. Health, Sexual Health input. Work experience opportunities have also been sourced and delivered for example at a local farm, animal care, to increase disabled young people's real-life opportunities and contribution to society. These opportunities have also led to increased resilience for parents, carers and families supporting a reduction in family breakdown.

The Youth Justice service has continued to successfully deliver the Turnaround offer from the Ministry of Justice and is delivering an early help, assessment and intervention offer for young people and families. Furthermore, achieving a 'Good' rating from HMIP in March 2024 of this year. The contextual safeguarding offer continues to be embedded and now sits under the governance structure of Safer Newport within the 'Safer Places' subgroup. This work focuses on place-based risk within Newport, considering place-based risks and extra familial harm and continues to involve working closely with partner agencies and key stakeholders.

The review and remodel of the Business Support Team has now been completed and the new Team Manager for the Adult and Childrens Services has been appointed. This will align services across the Social Services directorate and create greater efficiency.

Despite a number of achievements there continues to be a number of challenges these include staffing vacancies, increase in demand on services and complexity need of those who are presenting to statutory services. As a service we are more reliant on grant funding which poses its own risks due to the funding being time limited. Grant funding has supported us to innovate but there remains a risk that this is short term funding and not sustainable in the longer term.

The implementation of the elimination of profit policy change is placing increased financial pressure on the service area as private providers are exiting the market and those that remain are increasing costs of packages of care. There requires significant financial investment in respect of capital and revenue from Welsh Government if we are to achieve this policy change by 2027. Social Services client database will need to be replaced by 2026 which requires investment from the Council and yet there is no indication from Welsh Government regarding their financial contribution to the delivery of this new system. Despite the challenges the wellbeing of staff remains a priority and staff continue to strive to deliver quality services to our most vulnerable children and families within the city.

# Service Area 2024/25 Dashboard Overview

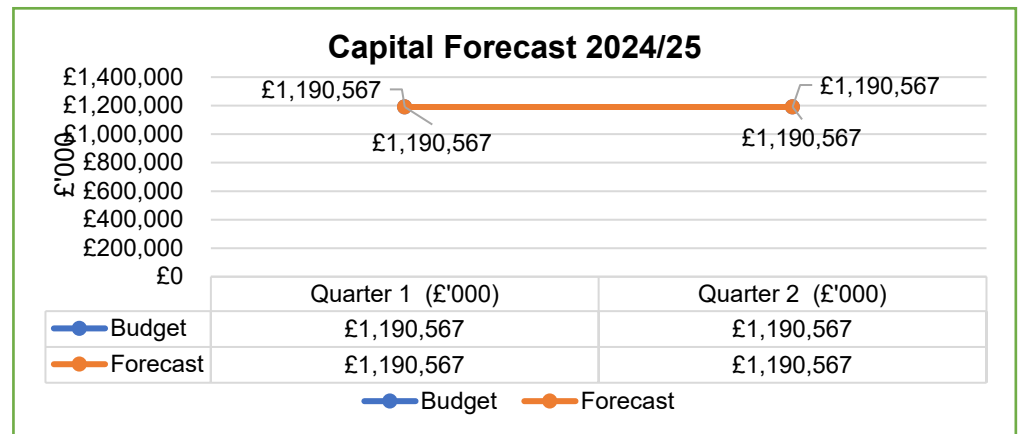
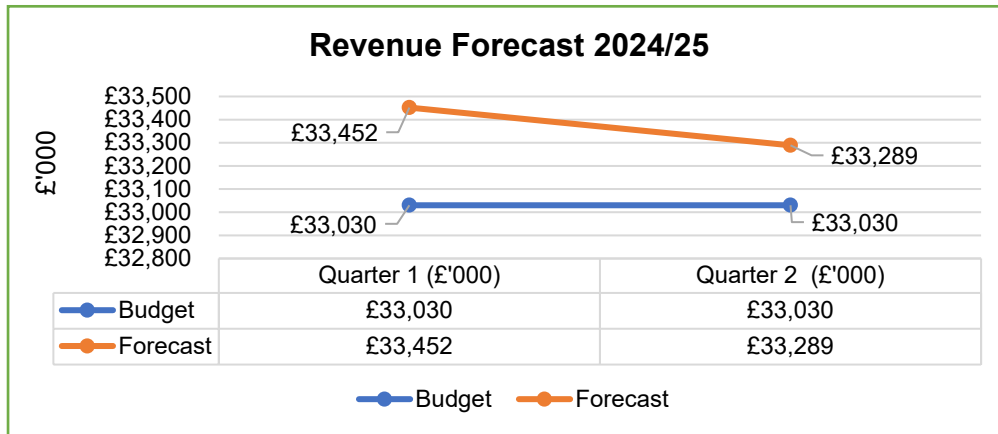
## Service Plan Objectives

| Objective  | End of Year Status<br>23/24<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue) | Mid-Year Status<br>24/25<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue) |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Objective 1</b> – Deliver effective services to support children to safely remain with their families.            |   |  |
| <b>Objective 2</b> – Improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers including a focus on safe reunification. |   |  |
| <b>Objective 3</b> – Ensure a range of placements are available for children looked after.                           |   |  |
| <b>Objective 4</b> – Prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people.                                |   |  |

## Service Area Risks

| Risk  | Corporate / Service Risk | Inherent Risk Score | Target Risk Score | Quarterly Risk Scores (Q3 2023/24 to Q2 24/25) |                    |                    |                    |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|   |                          |                     |                   | Quarter 3<br>23/24                             | Quarter 4<br>23/24 | Quarter 1<br>23/24 | Quarter 2<br>23/24 |
| Pressure on the Delivery of Children Services | Corporate Risk           | 20                  | 12                | 25   | 25                 | 25                 | 25                 |
| Eliminate Profit from Social Care             | Corporate Risk           | 20                  | 9                 | 15   | 15                 | 15                 | 15                 |
| WCCIS Replacement                             | Corporate Risk           | 20                  | 6                 | Not Applicable                                 | 20                 | 20                 | 20                 |
| Safeguarding Risk                             | Service Risk             | 20                  | 4                 | 4  | 4                  | 4                  | 6                  |

## Service Area Finance Forecast 2024/25



## Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) Savings 2024/25

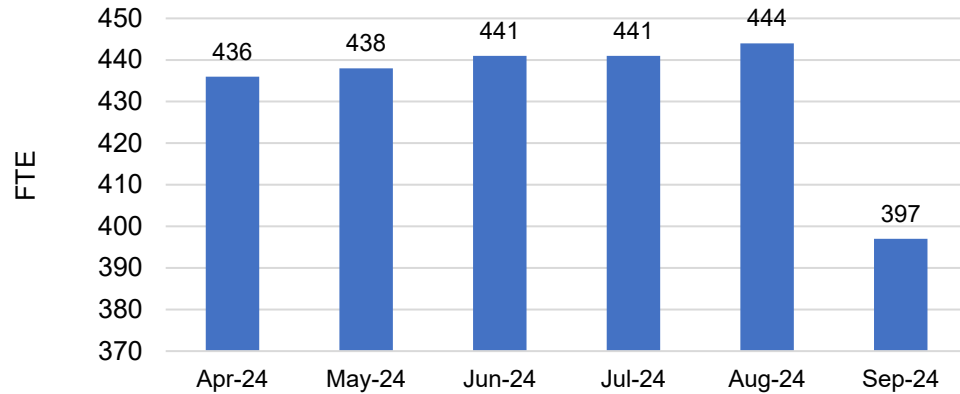
| MTFP Proposal  | Savings Target (£) | Savings Forecasted (£) | Forecast Variation (£) | % Variation |
|--|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Delete vacant Social Worker post                             | £60,000            | £60,000                | £0                     | 0%          |
| Independent Foster Agency savings                            | £338,000           | £338,000               | £0                     | 0%          |
| Deletion of 1 post in the Youth Justice team                 | £43,000            | £43,000                | £0                     | 0%          |
| Savings across multiple budgets that have no committed spend | £35,000            | £35,000                | £0                     | 0%          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>£476,000</b>    | <b>£476,000</b>        | <b>£0</b>              | <b>0%</b>   |

## Service Area Workforce Demographics, Sickness, and Check Ins

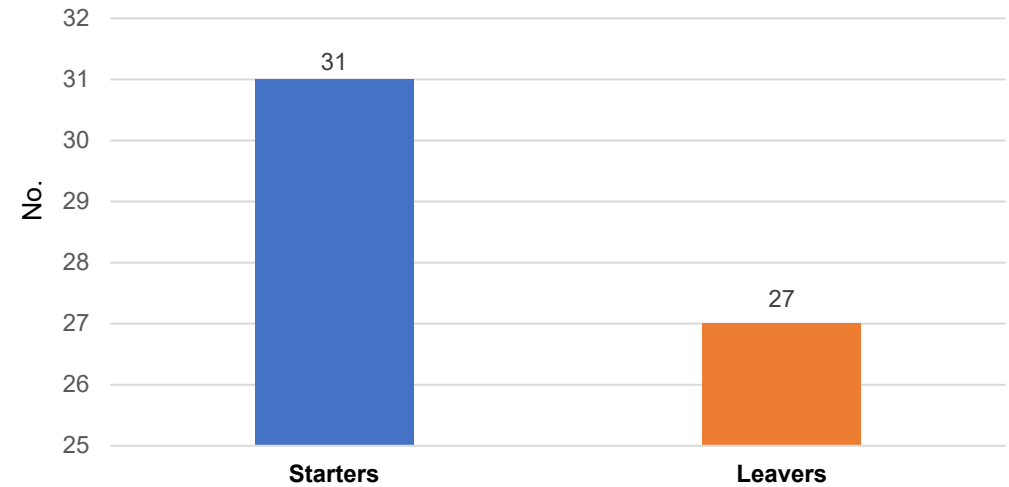
HeadCount – This does not include Agency staff.

Starters and Leavers- The figures provided show new organisational starters, and officers that have left the organisation. This does not include officers which have transferred between service areas.

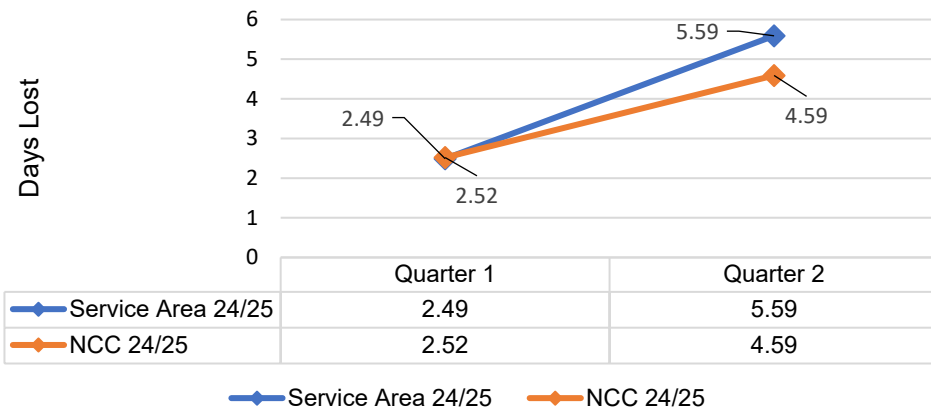
### Children Services Head Count 2024/25



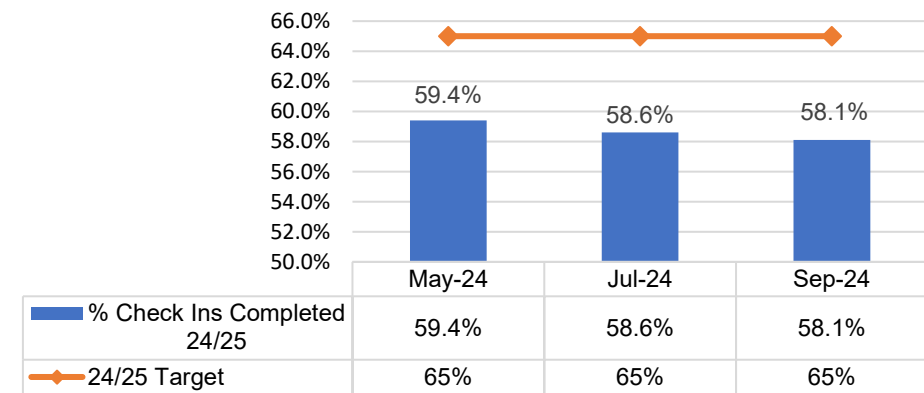
### Organisational Starters and Leavers 2024/25



### Sickness Days Lost



### Bi Monthly Check Ins Completed (%)





# Programmes and Projects

See Glossary for Red / Amber / Green / Blue assessment and Expected Completion date definitions.

| Programme / Project Title                     | Project Overview  | Well-being Objective(s) supported | Expected Completion Date<br>(Quarter / Year) | End of Year 23/24<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue)<br>% Completion | Mid-Year 24/25<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue)<br>% Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress<br>(Completed projects – Summary of project outcomes)                   |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Residential Children's Homes Programme</b> | <p>Increase the number of placements for children available in residential care in Newport by developing LA provision.</p> <p>In doing so children can be cared for locally and are more able to develop resilience and sustain their local connections. Ensuring we are aspirational in the care of our children is part of this ambition as well as promoting the best use of our resources.</p> <p>This links with the WG eliminate profit agenda, regional developments and assists in providing support for children with the highest levels of vulnerability. The planned developments, include a further 6 homes before the end of 2028.</p> | <p>Well-being Objective 3</p>     | <p>Quarter 4 2027/28</p>                     | <p>75%</p>  | <p>20%</p>   | <p>We have one home opening shortly and are searching for appropriate properties for the others.</p> |

| Programme / Project Title             | Project Overview  | Well-being Objective(s) supported                           | Expected Completion Date<br>(Quarter / Year) | End of Year 23/24<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue)<br>% Completion | Mid-Year 24/25<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue)<br>% Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress<br>(Completed projects – Summary of project outcomes)   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Redesign of safeguarding teams</b> | <p>To assess and develop a single Safeguarding team across the Council to improve the management of safeguarding cases, provide long term sustainability and ensure safeguarding good practice is maintained across all council services.</p> <p>Outcome to improve caseload management through effective use of resources.</p> | <p>Well-being Objective 3</p> <p>Well-being Objective 4</p> | <p>Quarter 4<br/>2025/26</p>                 | <p>Not Applicable</p>   | <p><b>5%</b></p>   | <p>Fortnightly meetings are taking place to scope the realignment of safeguarding. There have been three meetings so far. The fortnightly meetings have looked at the list of statutory safeguarding functions across social care and broken these into areas: Front door function; Section V; Professional Concerns; MAPPA; MARAC cover. This will form an options appraisal which will be shared before 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</p> |

# Workforce Development

To support workforce development across the service area the following actions were identified as priority in 2024-25.

| Action   | Outcome(s) of Action Delivery                                     | Action Start Date          | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue)<br>% Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue)<br>% Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress<br>(Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)  |
|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Increased offer of support to Newly Qualified Social Workers | Develop a network or academy to Newly Qualified Social Workers    | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | Not Applicable   | 0%  | The Social Work teams are undertaking systems reviews to determine how technology can assist in streamlining processes.  |
| Increase the use of technology                               | Invest in Artificial Intelligence such as Co-pilot.               | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | Not Applicable   | 0%  | The workforce development team is working with Service managers to develop new ways of supporting newly qualified social workers through academy and mentoring.  |
| Succession planning for staff in key roles.                  | Build talent by developing a programme of opportunities for staff | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | Not Applicable   | 0%  | The teams have been working with HR to understand the workforce and are taking every opportunity to provide opportunities for progression of staff through training, mentoring and leading on areas of transformation. |

# Objectives and Action Plan Update

See Glossary for Red / Amber / Green and Expected completion date assessment definitions.

| Objective 1 - Deliver effective services to support children to safely remain with their families.<br>Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives Supported – Well-being Objective 3 |  |  |                              |                             |  |   | Overall RAG Assessment   |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Ref   | Action   | Action Outcome(s)  | Start Date                   | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)   |
| 1   | Completion and implementation of Welsh Government action plan to work towards reducing the numbers of children who are looked after (CLA). | The delivery of all the actions in this section will support Children Services objective to reduce the number of children who are looked after and enable effective early intervention and prevention.   | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | 80%  | 85%   | Work continues with success. In 2022, figures of CLA were up to 388. In 2024, the current figures are 346. Operational panel continues to be in place which focuses on all children looked after who are appropriate to be rehabilitated home or with friends and family. RAG rating remains in place with all cases to identify which cases which are most likely to be effectively supported by the SAFE CLA work. |
| 2   | Continue to increase the support provided to Special Guardianship Order (SGO) carers within Newport.                                       | Develop in house SGO support services. Explore kinship foster carers converting to SGO's   | 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | 80%  | 80%   | The family and friends team continue to deliver well established SGO plans and with the intense support from MyST who are supporting carers in managing the challenges of caring for children who have experienced trauma.   |
| 3   | Continue to utilise MyST within all our teams for reunification, step down from residential and stabilisation                              | Number of children supported by MyST to return home or to foster care from residential care. Stabilisation of SGO and Kinship care placements. Continue to work with MyST and the expansion of the team. | 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | Not Applicable   | 90%   | The MyST team are working to full capacity and referrals continue to be made, care consultations, specific work and full interventions being delivered.  |

| Ref | Action  | Action Outcome(s)   | Start Date                   | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)   |
|-----|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 4   | Work with partner agencies on a shared understanding and approach to Contextual Safeguarding.   | Reduction in number of older children being escalated for “secure” care.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 80%  | 80%   | Recent changes to move contextual safeguarding to sit under SAFER PLACES work within the revised governance structure of SAFER NEWPORT.<br>Contextual safeguarding operational meetings have had a refresh under the new proposed governance. Place based risk and extra familial harm is now being managed under this process.<br>Next steps - No change in the work to take place.<br>Training program needs to be developed to help inform and raise awareness of this approach.<br>Quarterly reporting is now being taken to Safer Newport to report back any themes and trends. |
| 5   | Develop our independent living skills offer for children with disabilities through peer-to-peer activities, training, volunteering, and work experience. Alongside increasing opportunities for disabled children and their families to share quality time together, to build relationships and prevent family breakdown. | Work in partnership with parents, young people and partner agencies to develop collaborative opportunities for disabled children and their families, promoting independence whilst also building family resilience. | 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | Not Applicable   | 80%   | The Safe Places scheme was launched by the Disabled Childrens team in August. A scheme where those people who feel vulnerable in the town centre, after independently travelling in, can go to safe places (Businesses and council buildings that have signed up) to feel safe and supported. This has been launched in conjunction with the police and local businesses. Plans are also underway in conjunction with Maes Ebbw school to offer work experience for young people to sell drinks and snacks from a trolley in the civic centre for a couple of hours twice a week.    |

| Ref | Action   | Action Outcome(s)   | Start Date                   | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)   |
|-----|--|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 6   | Develop increased opportunities for parents to have their voice heard and support each other, via the creation of a Parenting Support Network. | To work in partnership with parents to develop a parenting network facilitated by the local authority but run by parents.   | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | Not Applicable   | Not Applicable  | Action commences in quarter 3 of 2024/25.  |
| 7   | Extend the offer of the Safeguarding hub in order to meet continued demand.  | Strengthen multi agency working and offering families assessments at the right time, avoiding delay and escalation of risk. | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | Not Applicable   | 90%   | We continue to develop the front door services in order to meet demand and offer effective service delivery. We still have some vacancies and have a live advert out to cover these. |

**Objective 2 - Improve outcomes for children in care and care leavers including a focus on safe reunification.  
Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives Supported – Well-being Objective 3**

**Overall RAG Assessment**

| Ref | Action  | Action Outcome(s)   | Start Date                 | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)  |
|-----|---|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1   | Increased housing options for care leavers. Currently Newport has a limited range of choices for housing for care leavers especially with a range of suitable support. This action will seek to address this gap. Work has already commenced and will continue. | All actions in this section will contribute to improving outcomes for children in care and care leavers.                        | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | 40%  | 45%   | Care Leaver provision: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delay in Stanley Road coming online - date was moved to the new year on the basis that planning have queried the planning application due to parking space.</li> <li>• 2 x Alliance properties have been purchased and the next steps are to look at planning, re-development and refurbishment. This is likely to take up to 2 years to finalise.</li> <li>• D2 agreement is now in place and joint work with housing has enabled a fairer, united and more transparent approach to working with this private provider.</li> </ul> |
| 2   | Continue to develop a range of options for CLA to engage in work experience and have the offer of a mentor.   | To improve opportunities of successful employment. To explore traineeships and apprenticeship offer within the local authority. | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 70%  | 80%   | New private providers have now been linked in with including Porsche and Welsh Water - early conversations have taken place. Meeting with Welsh Water in November to discuss placement opportunities. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor Traineeship pilot.</li> <li>• Continue with developing new contacts and exploring opportunities with private organisations/businesses.</li> </ul>  |

| Ref | Action   | Action Outcome(s)  | Start Date                   | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)   |
|-----|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 3   | Develop Young Persons Accommodation Pathway in conjunction with housing and Housing Support Grant (HSG). | To create an effective accommodation pathway which provides a range of accommodation options and a robust mechanism to identify the right provision - Task and Finish group to be set up to help facilitate this work.<br>To create a framework for commissioning the appropriate accommodating for our CLA, 16+ and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children (UASC).<br>Development of the transition training flat service. Development of the Joint housing strategy. | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 35%  | 40%   | All CYP Accommodation work now sits underneath the Housing Transformation board. any work being achieved will add to and form part of the overarching strategy that's being developed.<br>Next steps<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of accommodation - development of framework is due to begin in January 2025 - this was delayed due to officer availability.</li> <li>• Review and development of homelessness protocol for 16-17 year old is under way - to be completed end of October 2024.</li> </ul> |



| Ref | Action  | Action Outcome(s)  | Start Date                   | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)   |
|-----|---|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 4   | Develop our participation and co-production offer for CLA and Care Leavers.   | To ensure that CLA and Care Leavers have an active voice in shaping, designing and commissioning their services.<br>To promote the development of a Children Young People (CYP) forum for CLA, Care Leavers, UASC and those CYP known to the Youth Justice Service.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 40%  | 50%   | No change, continue with the development of the Children's services strategy based on the one that Prevention & Inclusion have developed.  |
| 5   | To support the Council's Human Resources team to ensure Mandatory Safeguarding training is delivered for all new and existing staff in the Council. | Collaborative working with Human Resources team to ensure new and existing staff have completed their training. Develop a tiered safeguarding training framework for all roles in Newport so that officers are clear on what level of Safeguarding training they need to undertake. Also to undertake regular monitoring and reporting across service areas. Managers to provided regular reports on who has / has not completed their training. | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 30%  | 60%   | Ongoing work with HR. They are aware of the issues with the compliance recording and are carrying out some due diligence checks as well as looking at a better longer term solution. |

| Ref | Action  | Action Outcome(s)   | Start Date                   | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)  |
|-----|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| 6   | Improve the external communication of safeguarding information to ensure they know who and how they can access the information, advice and/or assistance they need. | Collaborate with the Council's Communication team to ensure the Council's website and other communication methods such as social media. Newport matters etc has all of the necessary safeguarding information required. Also ensure regular communications are released during the year to continue the messaging. Communication is available in Welsh, English and other languages used by individuals in Newport. | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 75%  | 85%   | Policy documents are now on the (old) website and will be migrating to the new website in the new year. There is join up and connectedness in the documents and there will be further work on Safeguarding information on the new site. |
| 7   | Develop processes to improve how professionals can report and escalate adult safeguarding concerns.   | This will support improving how social care staff and other professional officers can report and escalate safeguarding concerns. This will improve the Council's compliance to relevant safeguarding legislation.   | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 85%  | 85%   | Section 5 guidance is soon to be out for consultation. We have recently attended a workshop on this and are looking at embedding the guidance.  |

**Objective 3 - Ensure a range of placements are available for children looked after.**  
**Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives Supported – Well-being Objective 3**

**Overall RAG Assessment**

| Ref | Action  | Action Outcome(s)   | Start Date                   | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)   |
|-----|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1   | Increase the proportion of foster care provision within Newport.                | Number of foster carers residing within the Local Authority area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of CLA in foster placements within the Local Authority.</li> <li>• Target reduction in the number of foster placements provided out of area.</li> <li>• Review and improve foster care recruitment strategy.</li> </ul> Explore opportunities for regional commissioning for specialist area | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 70%  | 70%   | <p>We are doing well at recruiting carers however, last year, we did not realise the benefits due to having a number of carers retiring.</p> <p>The capacity within the foster care service has however increased, due to amended terms of approval for a number of current carers. This has increased our placement capacity by two places overall.</p> |
| 2   | Focus on developing specialist fostering placements with psychological support. | Increase in availability of placements for older children.<br>Campaign work with Foster Wales and Regional Development Manager.   | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 60%  | 60%   | <p>We have developed psychological support for foster carers via our partnerships with Barnado's and Myst therapeutic support teams. This was highlighted as a positive development in our recent CIW inspection</p>   |
| 3   | Develop specialist therapeutic foster care, supported by the Myst service.      | Delivery of intensive intervention to Children / Young People with mental health needs with therapeutic foster carers.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024   | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | Not Applicable   | 60%   | <p>We have Myst support in place for foster carers, but we are yet to recruit specific Myst carers.</p>  |

| Ref | Action  | Action Outcome(s)  | Start Date                 | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)           |
|-----|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| 4   | Develop a parent and child fostering service.   | Supporting parents and their child within a fostering setting. Support in the development of essential parenting skills can enable better outcomes for parent and child. | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | Not Applicable   | 80%   | Our first dedicated parent and child foster carers will attend panel in November 2025. |
| 5   | Develop 6 additional children's homes, in line with the Residential strategic plan. 2 x 2 bed homes, 2 x 4 bed homes and 2 x 5 bed homes for disabled children. | Increase in capacity will support positive matching and enable Newport children to be supported within their home City.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | Not Applicable   | 20%   | Bridge View will be the first of these and it is hoped that it will open early 2025.   |

**Objective 4 - Prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people.  
Corporate Plan Well-being Objectives Supported – Well-being Objective 3**

**Overall RAG Assessment**

| Ref | Action   | Action Outcome(s)  | Start Date                   | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24  | Mid-Year 24/25   | Mid-Year Summary of Progress<br>(Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)   |
|-----|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
|     |  |  |                              |                             | Assessment<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue)<br>% Completion | Assessment<br>(Red / Amber / Green / Blue)<br>% Completion |   |
| 1   | Acquisition of new YJS intervention hub – to promote multiagency working through early prevention and intervention work. | To facilitate and provide CYP open to the YJS receive quality preventions and interventions from a range of different areas including alternative education and accredit qualifications and life skills.       | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 20%  | 20%  | Currently going through asset board and Strategic Asset Management Group (SAMG) process. Draft report is being checked by finance and awaiting comments. Building will soon be transferring to the YJS once the conditions survey and viability have been undertaken by Norse. Application made via Health & Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund (IRCF) to pay for a new conditions survey and viability study. Currently awaiting the outcome of this application. Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conditions survey and viability study to be undertaken if funding is approved from IRCF.</li> <li>• Explore alternative finding sources if application isn't approved.</li> <li>• Take asset report to SAMG once finance comments have been provided</li> </ul> |
| 2   | Develop our participation and co-production offer for all CYP known to the YJS.  | Development of volunteers – to include service users. Develop Participation and engagement with services. Ethnically diverse groups. Enable and facilitate service development through co-production with CYP. | 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2022 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | 40%  | 50%  | More recently - Prevention and Inclusion have led on and completed a participation and co-production strategy and it was agreed that the YJS service would adopt this piece of work given that excellent work undertaken by P&I to achieve this.  |

| Ref | Action   | Action Outcome(s)  | Start Date                 | Expected Completion Date    | End of Year 23/24 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year 24/25 Assessment (Red / Amber / Green / Blue) % Completion | Mid-Year Summary of Progress (Completed Actions– Summary of action outcomes)  |
|-----|--|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| 3   | Implement the recommendations and actions from His Majesty's Inspectorate for Probation (HMIP) report. | To implement the recommendations and actions raised in the HMIP inspection of Youth Justice Service. | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024 | 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025 | Not Applicable   | 30%   | No change since the previous update. Action and Improvement Plan is being followed and is monitored and reviewed regularly both at a strategic and operational level. |

# Performance Measures

Annual measures will be reported in the service area's End of Year Review.

| Performance Measure / Description   | End of Year Performance<br>(2020/21 to 22/23) |                   |                   | Mid-Year Performance 24/25 |                          |
|---|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | Actual<br>2021/22                             | Actual<br>2022/23 | Actual<br>2023/24 | Mid-Year<br>Actual 23/24   | Mid-Year<br>Actual 24/25 |
| <b>National CH001-</b> The number of contacts for children received by statutory Social Services during the year.   | 11,311  | 11,024            | 12,405            | 6,095                      | <b>6,189</b>             |
| <b>National CH/005b-</b> The number where physical punishment by a parent or carer was the only factor  | 85  | 119               | 83                | 48                         | <b>44</b>                |
| <b>National CH/015-</b> The total number of children with a care and support plan on 31 <sup>st</sup> March   | 945   | 978               | 851               | 888                        | <b>882</b>               |
| <b>National CH/026-</b> The total number of children on the child protection register at 31 <sup>st</sup> March.  | 127   | 135               | 118               | 141                        | <b>149</b>               |
| <b>National CH/033-</b> The total number of reports of child exploitation received during the year  | 122   | 141               | 129               | 30                         | <b>77</b>                |
| <b>National CH/036-</b> The total number of children removed (de-registered) from the child protection register in the last 12 months   | 207   | 201               | 159               | 73                         | <b>80</b>                |
| <b>National CH/037-</b> The number of children becoming looked after during the year.   | 166   | 122               | 109               | 57                         | <b>56</b>                |
| <b>National CH/039 -</b> The number of children looked after at 31 <sup>st</sup> March.   | 372   | 376               | 350               | 368                        | <b>346</b>               |
| <b>Local CH/L002-</b> The number of children who ceased being looked after during the year.   | 120   | 113               | 138               | 69                         | <b>60</b>                |
| <b>National CH/043-</b> The total number of children looked after at 31 <sup>st</sup> March who have experienced three or more placements during the year.  | 50  | 34                | 35                | 35                         | <b>34</b>                |
| <b>National CH/045 -</b> The total number of children who returned home during the year   | 33  | 49                | 60                | 27                         | <b>20</b>                |
| <b>National CA/011 -</b> The total number of contacts to statutory social services by young carers or professionals contacting the service on their behalf received during the year.<br>Provided by Barnardos | 127   | 111               | 104               | 65                         | <b>46</b>                |
| <b>National CH/L004 –</b> Number of Childrens Residential Fostering Beds  | 22  | 24                | 26                | 28                         | <b>29</b>                |
| <b>National CH/L005 –</b> Number of Children in care proceedings during the year  | 56  | 73                | 71                | 44                         | <b>36</b>                |
| Number of children / young people currently in need of a placement where there is no placements secured   | Not available                                 | Not Available     | 10                | 14                         | <b>12</b>                |
| Number of children / young people looked after had an unplanned / emergency move of placement.  | Not available                                 | Not Available     | 45                | 28                         | <b>11</b>                |
| Number of support needs assessments (new, repeat and re-assessments) completed last month.  | Not available                                 | Not Available     | 5,168             | 2,481                      | <b>3,151</b>             |

| Youth Justice Service Measures  |  |                |                |                            |                       |                                  |  |
|---|--|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Performance Measure / Description   | End of Year Performance (2020/21 to 22/23) |                |                | Mid-Year Performance 24/25 |                       |                                  |  |
|   | Actual 2021/22                             | Actual 2022/23 | Actual 2023/24 | Mid-Year Actual 23/24      | Mid-Year Actual 24/25 | Target 2024/25 (Mid-Year Target) | Mid-Year Assessment of Performance   |
| Total Number of first Time Entrants (Less is better)                      | 13   | 23             | 20             | 4                          | 11                    | 25 (12)                          | A First Time Entrant (FTE) is a Young Person working with Newport YJS who has received a Youth Caution or higher in Q1/Q2 2024. If a Young Person has previously received a Youth Caution or Higher prior to the Q1/Q2 they will not be included as a First Time Entrance. Depending on the crime a Young Person could receive a Youth Caution or higher straight away without previously working with Newport YJS. For quarter 1 & 2, the number of First Time Entrance (FTE) has increase to 11 due to the offences being committed but still within the RAG scoring target of 12.                       |
| % of cases open to the YJS on a prevention basis. (More is better)        | 66.4%                                      | 67.2%          | 62.1%          | 54.07% (73 / 135)          | 34.3% (48 / 140)      | 60%                              | Prevention Cases are Newport YJS low level orders. They consist of "Prevention Programme, Diversion Programme, Voluntary Support Programme, Informal Diversion, Turnaround and RACLA (Restorative Approach to Children Looked After) Newport YJS has seen a decrease in the % Prevention workload quarter on quarter and are now working with less Young People on Preventative Interventions and working with more Young People on Out of Court Disposals and Statutory orders then previously.   |
| % of cases open to the YJS on an out of court disposals. (Less is better) | 24.1%                                      | 23.3%          | 28.5%          | 32.59% (44 / 135)          | 38.6% (54 / 140)      | 29%                              | Out of Court Disposals are the following Intervention types, Community Resolution, Assess Assessment, Youth Caution, Youth Caution + Conditions, Youth Conditional Caution and Outcome 22. Newport YJS Out of Court Disposals has increased quarter on quarter, following the pattern that less Young People are working with YJS on a Prevention Intervention. Out of Court Disposals include a range of options but our DOP Panel (Diversion Outcome Panel) is a multi-agency panel that would decide on an out of court disposal in many cases such as such as Youth cautions and our prevention offer. |



| Youth Justice Service Measures   |  |                |                |                            |                       |                                  |  |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Performance Measure / Description  | End of Year Performance (2020/21 to 22/23) |                |                | Mid-Year Performance 24/25 |                       |                                  |  |
|  | Actual 2021/22                             | Actual 2022/23 | Actual 2023/24 | Mid-Year Actual 23/24      | Mid-Year Actual 24/25 | Target 2024/25 (Mid-Year Target) | Mid-Year Assessment of Performance   |
| % of cases open to the YJS on a statutory order. (Less is better)  | 8.8%                                       | 8.7%           | 9.5%           | 11.11% (15 / 135)          | 27.14% (38 / 140)     | 11%                              | Statutory Cases are Young People who have offended or committed an offence that is more severe than a Prevention or Out of Court Disposal. A Statutory Intervention can be, Bail Support Programme, ISSP Bail Programme, Remand in Custody (YOI), (SCH), (STC), Referral Order, Youth Rehabilitation Order, Youth Rehabilitation Order with ISS requirement, DTO Custody Programme or DTO Custody / Licence Programme. Newport YJS Statutory Orders has increase and now equates for 27% of the workload. Again, this follows the same trend as Out of Court Disposal as YJS are working with less Preventative Interventions. |
| % of cases on remand. (Less is better)   | 0.7%                                       | 0.9%           | 1.72%          | 2.96% (4 / 135)            | 2.14% (3 / 140)       | 1%                               | Remand, this is when a Young Person has been remanded and has been or waiting a custodial sentence. Remand has increase for this quarter, in total Newport YJS had three occasions of Remand out of 140 Young Children, this is 2.14% but the RAG target is 1%.  |
| % of cases re-offending (re-offending rates). (Less is better)   | 8.9%%                                      | 3.6%           | 0.8%           | 2.96% (4 / 135)            | 5.7% (8 / 140)        | 11%                              | Re-Offending Cases is when a Young Person has been working with Newport YJS and they have committed a further offence of Youth Caution and above. Newport YJS Re-offending cases has increased to 5.7% but still below the RAG scoring of 11%  |
| % of cases open to the service with Criminal Exploitation (CE) /Criminal Sexual Exploitation (CSE). (Less is better) | 29.5%                                      | 14.6%          | 16%            | 14.07% (19 / 135)          | 27.9% (39 / 140)      | 24%                              | Criminal Exploitation & Criminal Sexual Exploitation has increased, this could relate to the Young People we are working with but also due to how the data is captured, going forward the data will be captured the same way it was for this period of time to keep consistency going forward.   |

## Compliments, Comments and Complaints

| Compliments / Comments         | Quarter 1 | Quarter 2 | Total Number |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| Number of Compliments received | 1         | 2         | 3            |
| Number of Comments received    | 3         | 5         | 8            |

| Complaints                                     | Quarter 1 |         | Quarter 2 |         | Total 2024/25 |         |
|--|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
|  | Stage 1   | Stage 2 | Stage 1   | Stage 2 | Stage 1       | Stage 2 |
| Number of Complaints received                  | 1         | 0       | 0         | 0       | 1             | 0       |
| Number of Complaints refused after assessment* | 4         |         | 4         |         | 8             |         |

\*Refusals include – Out of timescale (over 6 months); dealt under separate process e.g. HR, Disciplinary, compensation; Attention of another agency e.g. Newport City Homes, Police, Health etc.

# Glossary

## Service Area Project / Action Assessment

| RAG Status | Description   |
|------------|---|
| X%         | Objective / Project / Action is not on track to deliver by the expected completion date with major risks and/or issues preventing its achievement. Immediate management interventions is required to improve performance and escalation to Directorate Management Team and/or relevant Board.                                   |
| X%         | Objective / Project / Action is at risk of not delivering by the expected completion date with potential risks / issues which could prevent the Objective / Project / Action being completed. Management intervention(s) required to improve performance and close monitoring by the Head of Service / Service Management Team. |
| X%         | Objective / Project / Action is on track to be completed with no risks or issues.   |
| Complete   | Objective / Project / Action has been successfully delivered and achieved its outcomes.   |

## Performance Measure Monitoring / Tolerance Assessment

*Newport City Council has agreed a 15% tolerance against targets set in service plans.*

| RAG Status | Description   |
|------------|---|
| =>15%      | Performance is under achieving against Target or previous year's performance. Immediate management intervention and escalation to Directorate Management Board is required.                       |
| <15%       | Performance is off target or Previous Year's Performance but within a variance of 15%. Management intervention and close monitoring by the Head of Service / Service Management Team is required. |
|            | Performance is achieving / succeeding against its agreed Target or Previous Year's Performance.   |

## Risk Assessment Matrix

|             |   |              |              |              |              |              |
|-------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Probability | 5 | 5 - Moderate | 10 - Major   | 15 - Severe  | 20 - Severe  | 25 - Severe  |
|             | 4 | 4 - Moderate | 8 - Moderate | 12 - Major   | 16 - Severe  | 20 - Severe  |
|             | 3 | 3 - Low      | 6 - Moderate | 9 - Major    | 12 - Major   | 15 - Severe  |
|             | 2 | 2 - Low      | 4 - Moderate | 6 - Moderate | 8 - Moderate | 10 - Major   |
|             | 1 | 1 - Very Low | 2 - Low      | 3 - Low      | 4 - Moderate | 5 - Moderate |
|             |   | 1            | 2            | 3            | 4            | 5            |
|             |   | Impact       |              |              |              |              |

## Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Description   |
|--------------|---|
| IRCF         | Health & Social Care Integration and Rebalancing Capital Fund |