

**Minutes of the Meeting of OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE
held at the Hybrid - Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron / remotely via
video conference on Wednesday, 17 July 2024**

PRESENT; Councillor Wyn Evans (Chairman), Councillors Keith Evans, Marc Davies, Gwyn Wigley Evans, Chris James, Caryl Roberts, Elaine Evans, Rhodri Evans, Ceris Jones and Amanda Edwards.

Also in attendance: Councillor Alun Williams, (Cabinet Members).

Officers in attendance: Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer and Statutory Director for Social Services, Alun Williams, Corporate Lead Officer, Diana Davies, Corporate Manager, Elizabeth Upcott, Corporate Manager, Timothy Bray, Partnerships and Civil Contingencies Manager, Lisa Evans, Standards and Scrutiny Officer, Dwynwen Jones, Overview and Scrutiny Officer and Translators.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Gareth Lloyd.

(2.00 - 3.45 pm)

5 Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the previous Chair, Councillor Keith Evans for his work during the past two years and for his continued support and mentoring. Councillor Keith Evans thanked the Committee Members for their support and wished Councillor Wyn Evans well as the new Chair.

Hazel Lloyd-Lubran, Chief Executive of CAVO and Chair of the Public Services Board (OSB) apologised for being unable to attend the meeting.

**6 Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations)
Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011**

None.

7 To confirm minutes of the previous meeting and to consider any matters arising from those minutes

Following a request, agenda item 10 was considered as the first agenda item to accommodate Officers who would be late attending the meeting. All Committee Members agreed to this.

It was **AGREED** to confirm the minutes of the 21st of March 2024 Committee meeting as a true record. There were no matters arising from those minutes.

8 Ceredigion Public Services Board (PSB) meeting held on the 4th of March 2024

The Chair welcomed, Diana Davies and Timothy Bray, Officers, to the meeting to present the Minutes of the Public Services Board meeting.

Under Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Local Authorities are required to ensure their Overview and Scrutiny Committees have the power to scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Public Services Board for the Local Authority area in the exercise of its functions.

Main points arising from discussion as follows:

- Committee Members expressed disappointment in that they believe ARFOR is no longer accepting funding applications. It was agreed that Timothy Bray would raise this at the PSB meeting 18th of July 2024.

Following discussion, Committee Members were asked to consider the following recommendation:

Recommendation(s):

- i. To receive the draft minutes of the Ceredigion PSB meeting held on 4th of March 2024.

Reasons for decision:

For the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee to carry out their role of taking an overview of the overall effectiveness of the PSB.

Committee Members agreed to receive the draft minutes of the Ceredigion PSB meeting held on the 4th of March 2024.

The Chair thanked Officers for attending and presenting the information.

9 Community Safety Partnership: Ceredigion Community Safety Strategy 2024

Timothy Bray, Partnerships and Civil Contingencies Manager, was welcomed to the meeting to present the report. The current situation was explained by Mr Bray.

Main points arising from discussion as follows:

- Concerns were raised with the current discussions of prisoners being released early, this will no doubt affect the Probation Service, has this affected the CSP? In response, it was confirmed that it will affect the CSP but no discussions have been held to date as there hasn't been a meeting since the announcement was made.

- Referring to page 11 of the Community Safety Strategy, it is noted that 61% of respondents to the Well-being survey (that informed the Assessment of Local Well-being) identified feeling safe in their own home was what they valued most about their community. Concerns were raised as this could mean that 39% did not feel safe in their own home. It was confirmed that reassuring the public will be a crucial element of the CSP's work going forward.

Following discussion, Committee Members were asked to consider the following recommendation:

Recommendation/s:

To note the contents of the Ceredigion 2024 Community Safety Strategy and Plan on a Page.

Reason for Recommendation(s):

Committee Members agreed to note the contents of the Ceredigion 2024 Community Safety Strategy and Plan on a Page.

10 Serious Violence Duty: Dyfed Powys Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy

Members of the Coordinating Committee considered a report presented by Timothy Bray on Serious Violence Duty: Dyfed Powys Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment and Strategy as the designated Scrutiny Committee for taking an overview of the overall effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

The Serious Violence Duty commenced in January 2023 and an introductory paper was presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 22nd May 2023 and then presented to Cabinet on 6th June 2023, to highlight the implications of the duty for the Council, and to formalise responsibility for the work and partnership arrangements. The partnership structure used in Dyfed Powys to undertake the governance requirements of the Serious Violence Duty is the 'Strategic Serious Violence & Organised Crime (SVOC) Board, attended by officers from the Council.

Main matters arising from discussion as follows:

- Concern was raised regarding funding and the areas within the County that will benefit priority focusing. It was suggested and agreed that once plans are in place, officers would return with information on which areas will be focussed on.

Following discussion, Committee Members considered the following recommendation:

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee

- i. To note the findings of the Dyfed Powys Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment.
- ii. To note the Dyfed Powys Serious Violence Strategy.

Reason for Recommendation(s):

For the Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Committee to carry out their role of taking an overview of the overall effectiveness of the CSP.

Committee Members agreed to note the content of the report and the Chair thanked Timothy Bray for attending and presenting the reports.

11 CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report Qtr 3 2023/24

Councillor Alun Williams, Cabinet Member and Elizabeth Upcott, Corporate Manager, were welcomed to the meeting to present the CYSUR/CWMPAS quarter 3 report.

Summary of key points were as follows:

- In Quarter 3, there was a very slight decrease in the number of contacts/reports received regarding children/young people compared to Quarter 2-with there being 926 contacts/reports received in Q3 compared to 928 contacts/reports received in Q2.
- However, although there was a decrease in the number of contacts/reports received in Quarter 3, there was a large increase in the overall number of contacts/reports which proceeded to actions needing to be taken under Child Protection Procedures, from 132 in Q2 to 179 in Quarter 3. 2
- Of the reports received, the percentage of referrals that proceeded to a Strategy Discussion was 19.3% in this quarter, compared to 14.2% in Quarter 2 and compared to 19.4% in Q1.
- In Q3, 9.6% proceeded to a Section 47 enquiry compared to 5.9% in Quarter 2 and this compares to 8.8% in Q1.
- In relation to those that proceeded to an Initial Child Protection Conference, there were 1.3% that proceeded to an ICPC in Q 3 compared to 0.9% in Q2, and 0.7% in Q1.
- Therefore, unfortunately, the number of cases that have had to proceed to action being undertaken under Child Protection Procedures is back to the same level that existed in Quarter 1.
- The total number of children subject to an Initial Child Protection Conference has increased to 17 in this quarter compared to 16 in Quarter 2 and 10 in Q1.
- The total number of children placed on the Child Protection Register in this quarter following the Initial Child Protection Conference is 16 compared to 10 in Quarter 2.
- The total number of children removed after Review Child Protection Conferences were 21 in this quarter compared to 22 in the last quarter.
- At the end of this quarter, there were 33 children/young people registered on the Child Protection Register compared to 40 at the end of Quarter 2 and 52 as at the end of Quarter 1. Therefore, there is a steady decrease in the number of children who are on the register.

- There was a considerable increase in the number of reports that have been received from both the Police and internal Social Services staff. However, the largest source of referrals during the quarter were received from schools who also recorded a significant increase in safeguarding concerns.
- The total number of Section 47 enquiries undertaken has increased in this quarter also, with 89 being undertaken in Quarter 3 compared with 55 undertaken in Quarter 2. 74 were undertaken jointly with Police in this quarter and 15 were undertaken as a Social Services Single Agency.
- The main categories of abuse which led to a Section 47 enquiries being undertaken in quarter 3 were allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse/exploitation as was the case in both Quarters 1 and 2.
- The area that remains an issue of concern in this quarter was the fact that we were still not able to meet our statutory timescales of holding an initial child protection conference within the 15 days of the Section 47 outcome being made that a conference was needed as the child remained at risk. Although there had been an improvement from Quarter 2 where only 43.7% were in timescale, with Quarter 3 being 58.8%, staffing issues and availability of professionals from other agencies, still affected the compliance with statutory timescales although this is improving. However, 93.8% of core groups were held within timescale.
- In terms of Adult Safeguarding, there has been a slight decrease in the number of adults suspected of being at risk of abuse and/or neglect reported in this quarter (180) compared to Quarter 2 (181).
- The total number of reports received was 226 in this quarter compared to 228 in Quarter 2.
- Staff in the Local Authority were the main source of the referrals in this quarter as was the case in the previous quarter with Provider agencies being the second main source of reporting. 3
- The most reported category of abuse this quarter was emotional/psychological abuse (111), neglect (90) reports of adults at risk where this was the main category of abuse; 66 related to physical abuse, 36 was in relation to financial abuse and 7 relating to sexual abuse. Emotional/psychological abuse and neglect were the highest categories of abuse reported in the previous quarter also, but neglect was more prevalent in that quarter.
- From the reports received, in relation to all categories of abuse, women were reported to be the highest victims than men except for financial abuse where there were equal number of reports for men and women in relation to this.
- In Quarter 3, as was the case in Quarter 2, most of the abuse/neglect was reported to have happened in people's own homes, with a relative/friend being the person most responsible for the reported abuse/neglect. The second highest was with in a care home setting, with a paid employee being responsible for the alleged abuse/neglect.

Main points arising from discussions were:

- In response to a question regarding Contacts and Referrals, it was confirmed that all Contacts and Referrals are triaged in the first instance,
- In response to a question, it was confirmed with Children Contacts and Referrals, that physical and sexual are the main categories of abuse recorded. With Adults, Emotional, Psychological, Domestic Abuse are the main categories of abuse recorded.
- It was confirmed that there is a School Safeguarding Officer in post.

Following discussion, Committee Members were asked to consider the following recommendation:

Recommendation(s): To note the contents of the report and the levels of activity within the Local Authority

Reasons for decision: So that governance of the Local Authority activity and its partner agencies are monitored.

Committee Members agreed to note the contents of the report and the level of activity within the Local Authority.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and Officer for presenting the information.

- 12 To receive a update from the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to consider the draft Forward Work Programmes**
Each Chair in turn gave an update on their respective Committee's Forward Work Plans. During discussion, it was agreed to add the following to the Work Plans:

Corporate Resources: Update on the sale of Bodlondeb.
Update on the Financial situation will be considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the Autumn.

Alun Williams, Corporate Lead Officer, attended the meeting to refer 4 items from the Corporate Risk Register discussed at a Governance and Audit Committee meeting held 16th of July 2024. Items recorded on the risk register as follows:

1. R025: (new risk added 16.7.24) Fire Safety & Protection Measures in Council Properties, was identified for potential escalation to the Corporate Risk Register. It concerns the issue of volume and cost of works needed in Council owned buildings to comply with the latest fire regulations and more robust approach from the Fire and Rescue Authority,
2. R009: Information Management – Security,

3. R023: System End of Life,
4. R024: Cyber Resilience.

These would come under the Corporate Resources Committee remit and Dwynwen Jones, Overview and Scrutiny Officer, advised the Committee that R023 has been placed on the Committee's Forward Work Plan to be considered on the 8th of October 2024. The others she will discuss with the Chair and the relevant Officers.

12 Any other matter which the Chairman decided is for urgent attention of the Committee

None

**Confirmed at the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating
Committee held on 12 September 2024**

Chairman: _____

Date: _____