



## City and County of Swansea

### Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

## Scrutiny Performance Panel – Child & Family Services

**At:** Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS Teams

**On:** Tuesday, 24 January 2023

**Time:** 4.00 pm

**Convenor:** Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams

#### Membership:

Councillors: A M Day, K M Griffiths, Y V Jardine, S M Jones, E T Kirchner, W G Lewis, H M Morris and C L Philpott

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### Agenda

### Page No.

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**  
[www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests)
- 3 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**
- 4 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)** **1 - 12**  
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and agree as an accurate record.
- 5 Public Question Time**  
Questions must be submitted in writing, no later than noon on the working day prior to the meeting. Questions must relate to items on the agenda. Questions will be dealt with in a 10-minute period.
- 6 Presentation - Update on progress with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**  
*Michelle Davies, Head of Strategic Planning, Swansea Bay University Health Board*  
*Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services*
- 7 Update on Child Disability Services** **13 - 18**  
*Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services*  
*Helen Williams, Principal Officer, Adolescent and Young People Services*

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 7 March 2023 at 4.30 pm



**Huw Evans**  
**Head of Democratic Services**  
**Tuesday, 17 January 2023**

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**Contact: Liz Jordan 01792 637314**

# Agenda Item 4



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the **Scrutiny Performance Panel – Child & Family Services**

**Multi-Location Meeting - Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS**

**Teams**

**Monday, 5 December 2022 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:** Councillor P R Hood-Williams (Chair) Presided

**Councillor(s)**

A M Day  
W G Lewis

**Councillor(s)**

C L Philpott  
H M Morris

**Councillor(s)**

K M Griffiths

**Other Attendees**

Louise Gibbard

Cabinet Member – Care Services

**Officer(s)**

Julie Davies  
David Howes  
Liz Jordan  
Damian Rees  
Gemma Whyley

Head of Child & Family Services  
Director of Social Services  
Scrutiny Officer  
Principal Officer Safeguarding & Performance  
Principal Officer Transformation

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): S M Jones and E T Kirchner

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**1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Cheryl Philpott declared a personal interest.

**2 Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips**

No declarations were made.

**3 Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

Panel agreed the minutes of the meeting on 1 November 2022 as an accurate record of the meeting.

**4 Public Question Time**

No questions were received.

## **5 Update on Child and Family Improvement Programme and Performance Monitoring**

Gemma Whyley, Principal Officer for Transformation updated the Panel on the Improvement Programme and Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services updated the Panel on the Performance Monitoring Report for October 2022.

### Discussion Points:

- Panel pleased to hear about Social Work Academy and feels it is very innovative.
- Panel asked about neuro diversity and what effect the backlog in diagnosis is having. Heard across Wales there are waiting lists for diagnostic assessments. Welsh Government has agreed additional funding for regional partnerships, but it is unlikely to have much effect on waiting times.
- There is still an acute shortage of social workers and no sign this is coming to an end.
- At previous meeting Panel requested figures for number of looked after children not looked after in Wales. Officers confirmed that of 479 looked after children, 112 are living in neighbouring authorities, 52 are living in other authorities in Wales, 20 living in England and 1 in Scotland with family members.
- Numbers of looked after children living outside Wales is rising. One of the reasons is lack of suitable placements in Wales, partly due to Welsh Government's 'Eliminate' Programme, making some providers nervous about their future in Wales.
- Panel noted quite a number of items in Performance Report where it says 'report to be developed'. Informed some of it is because of changeover to WCCIS, had to develop systems and focus has been on core data and information and the gaps are mainly new asks. One of the biggest challenges is validating the data and this takes time.
- Panel queried what a Section 47 inquiry is and heard it is the investigation part. It sets out the framework for what all agencies need to look at.
- Panel noted that the Number of Cases Awaiting Allocation seems to be rising. Officers confirmed there are more cases coming in and they are waiting for more staff to come into post in Early Help to allocate them to.
- In Performance Report it says, 'HR processes continue to create a block to filling posts quickly to prevent waiting lists occurring'. Heard Department is in discussion with Corporate HR and combination of churn of number of posts within the Authority and capacity issues linked to Oracle Fusion led to a backlog in the service centre. Subsequently Department has had assurance all the backlog has been caught up and resource to prioritise some of the most urgent posts, including CFS posts will be prioritised.
- Department has approximately 159 vacancies currently and 12 agency staff. Panel concerned with the number of vacancies across the Service, about coming back to the situation it had in the past with staff shortages and agency staff who do not fully understand situations. Panel felt that with the Academy being set up, the Department is making a big effort in respect of this issue.

## **6 Update from Regional Safeguarding Board**

David Howes, Director of Social Services attended to brief the Panel on this item and answer questions.

Discussion Points:

- Panel heard about the opportunities of the Parent Advocacy Network (PAN) and felt that the Service being informed by people who have used that particular Service was very advantageous.
- Panel queried if the Department was happy the Regional Safeguarding Board is working as well as it should. Heard there are additional challenges and complexities working on a regional basis rather than having a local board, but it also provides greater opportunities. Panel also heard there is a good level of reassurance overall from having our own corporate safeguarding board; having good feedback from WAO about the arrangements; having our own Audit Committee taking an interest; having a positive Estyn inspection which reflected well on this and having good feedback on CIW reports on safeguarding.

## **7 Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report**

Damian Rees, Principal Officer Safeguarding and Performance attended to brief the Panel on this Unit's Annual Report for 2021-22 and answer the Panel's questions.

Discussion Points:

- Panel pleased to see a reduction in the number of re-registrations in 12 months on the child protection register and a reduction in the number of children coming off on first review. This is positive.
- Panel queried if personal education plans are also looked at when they look at personal plan reviews. Informed personal educational plans would be looked at in all the looked after reviews if the child was still in education.
- Panel felt the discussion on Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) was very useful and will look at it again in a year's time.

## **8 Work Programme Timetable 2022-23**

Panel considered the work programme and noted the items for the next meeting.

Actions:

- Cllr Mary Jones to be invited for the item on CAMHS as the chair of the previous scrutiny inquiry.

The meeting ended at 5.30 pm



**To:**  
**Councillor Louise Gibbard**  
**Cabinet Member for Care Services**

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**BY EMAIL**

**cc Cabinet Members**

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Care Services following the meeting of the Panel on 5 December 2022. It covers the Improvement Programme, Performance Monitoring, Regional Safeguarding Board and Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report.

Dear Cllr Gibbard

The Panel met on 5 December 2022 to discuss the Child and Family Services Improvement Programme and Performance Monitoring Report for October 2022 and to receive an update on the Regional Safeguarding Board and the Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report.

We would like to thank you, Dave Howes, Julie Davies, Gemma Whyley and Damian Rees for attending to present the items and answer the Panel's questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learned from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response.

### **Child and Family Services Improvement Programme and Performance Monitoring**

We were pleased to hear about the Social Work Academy and feel it is very innovative.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**

**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE**

**GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE**

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We asked about neuro diversity and what effect the backlog in diagnosis is having. We heard that across Wales there are waiting lists for diagnostic assessments and that the Welsh Government has agreed additional funding for regional partnerships, but it is unlikely to have much effect on waiting times. We also heard that the Service hopes further funding will look across the continuum of need so the Authority can think about how it might work in education, Child and Family Services and Adult Services so there is a range of support and services available.

We noted that there is still an acute shortage of social workers and no sign this is coming to an end.

At the previous meeting we requested figures for the number of looked after children not looked after in Wales. Officers confirmed that of 479 looked after children, 112 are living in neighbouring authorities, 52 are living in other authorities in Wales, 20 living in England and 1 in Scotland with extended family members. We noted that the number of looked after children living outside Wales is rising and that one of the reasons is lack of suitable placements in Wales, partly due to Welsh Government's 'Eliminate' Programme, making some providers nervous about their future in Wales.

We noted there were quite a number of items in the Performance Report where it says 'report to be developed'. We queried if this was significant and if we should be flagging it up. We were informed that some of it is because of the changeover to WCCIS, that you had to develop new systems and you have focussed on the core data and information, and the gaps are mainly new asks. We heard one of the biggest challenges is validating the data and this takes time and there have also been challenges with how you get data out of the system. We said that we fully understand the issue, as it is vitally important you get the data right as decisions are being made based on that data.

We requested that where this month and last month data is shown in the report if it can be shown the other way around.

We queried what a Section 47 inquiry is and heard it is the investigation part and sets out the framework for what all agencies need to look at.

We noticed that the Number of Cases Awaiting Allocation seems to be rising. Officers confirmed there are more cases coming in and they are waiting for more staff to come into post in Early Help to allocate them to.

In the Performance Report it says, 'HR processes continue to create a block to filling posts quickly to prevent waiting lists occurring'. We asked if there is anything we can do to help in terms of, for example writing letters, to let us know. We heard the Department is in discussion with Corporate HR and that a combination of churn of number of posts within the Authority and capacity issues linked to Oracle Fusion led to a backlog in the service centre. The Department anticipated this might be a problem and established an additional resource to support the corporate centre to concentrate on social services posts, but this didn't work as well as hoped. We heard that subsequently the Authority has established a vacancy freeze so work in the service centre has decreased and the Department has had assurance this week that all the backlog has been caught up, and that resource to prioritise some of the most urgent

posts, including CFS posts will be prioritised. We noted the Department hopes to see improvement in the next few weeks and will be monitoring closely.

We noted the Department has approximately 159 vacancies at this time and 12 agency staff. We mentioned that a concern for us when the Authority was coming out of special measures in the past was that the number of agency staff needed to decrease. We are concerned with the number of vacancies across the Service, about coming back to the situation we had in the past with staff shortages and agency staff who do not fully understand situations. You commented that it is important to see the vacancy part of the report against the previous report on the Improvement Programme in terms of strategies that are being taken, for example the Academy, to try and help with the vacancies. We agree that it is not a quick fix but will hopefully create the home-grown workforce and longevity needed so the Department won't need to have agency backup. We feel that with the Academy being set up, the Department is making a big effort in respect of this issue.

### **Regional Safeguarding Board**

We heard about the opportunities from the Parent Advocacy Network (PAN) and felt that the Service being informed by people who have used that particular Service was very advantageous.

We queried if the Department was happy the Regional Safeguarding Board is working as well as it should. We heard there are additional challenges and complexities working on a regional basis rather than having a local board, but it also provides greater opportunities. We also heard there is a good level of reassurance overall from having our own corporate safeguarding board; having good feedback from WAO about the arrangements; having our own Audit Committee taking an interest; having a positive Estyn inspection which reflected well on these arrangements and having good feedback on CIW reports on safeguarding. We noted however that this scrutiny board it right to focus on issues such as impacts around shortage of social workers and increased reliance on agency staff because if these are not turned around it could cause problems.

### **Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report**

We were pleased to see a reduction in the number of re-registrations in 12 months on the child protection register and a reduction in the number of children coming off on first review. This is positive.

In response to our query we were informed that personal educational plans would be looked at in all the looked after reviews if the child was still in education.

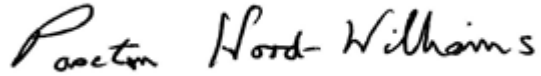
We felt the discussion on Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) was very useful and will look at it again in a year's time.

### **Your Response**



We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised, however in this instance, a formal written response is not required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paxton Hood-Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

**PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS**  
**CONVENER, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**[CLLR.PAXTON.HOOD-WILLIAMS@SWANSEA.GOV.UK](mailto:CLLR.PAXTON.HOOD-WILLIAMS@SWANSEA.GOV.UK)**



**To:**  
**Councillor Louise Gibbard**  
**Cabinet Member for Care Services**

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**BY EMAIL**

**cc Cabinet Members**

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the Cabinet Member for Care Services following the meeting of the Panel on 11 October 2022. It covers Overview of Child and Family Services in Swansea and draft Work Programme.

Dear Cllr Gibbard

The Panel met on 11 October 2022 to discuss the Role of the Child and Family Services Panel, receive an Overview of Child and Family Services in Swansea and agree the draft Work Programme 2022-23.

We would like to thank you, Dave Howes and Julie Davies for attending to present the Overview and answer the Panel's questions. We appreciate your engagement and input.

We are writing to you to reflect on what we learned from the discussion, share the views of the Panel, and, where necessary, raise any issues or recommendations for your consideration and response.

### **Overview of Child and Family Services in Swansea**

We were informed that there are lots of pressures on the Service particularly recruitment of social workers and placements. However key statutory requirements are all being carried out and there are some positives in the August performance report. Key priorities continue to be around prevention and early intervention.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**

**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE**

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We were very pleased to hear that at the six-monthly catch up with the local lead inspector two weeks prior to the Panel meeting, he was very pleased with the progress of the performance report and pleased to see the Department had taken on board findings from the last inspection a couple of years ago.

We heard that the performance report continues to evolve and I stated I was pleased with this report, and thought it is a big improvement. The Director agreed.

We queried if the additional detail provided any further guidance for the Department in terms of planning for the future and allocation of resources and were informed that data is used to inform and influence how the Department targets resources. For example, Early Help where they identified a high number of referrals coming in around points of conflict and parents contacting the Council looking for support around neuro diversity. The Department was able to put in a bid for grant funding to get some additional posts in that Service.

We asked about Alternatively Qualified Staff – how they are likely to be recruited; appropriate salary levels; how much flexibility the Council has in the package offered to make it attractive. We heard that the Council is a living wage employer and that a real strength in Swansea is it offers a chance for career progression. We were informed the Workforce Development Lead for Social Services is helping to develop a progression pathway for all parts of the Service, and that the Council is a fantastic employer to work for and offers flexible and agile working conditions and supports wellbeing very positively. We also heard that of the small number of agency staff the Department has, over half want to work for Swansea, and this is very positive.

We mentioned referrals and that we would expect the Health Service and Police to be fully aware of what needs to happen if they come across any cases of concern. We queried if there was any scope for doing something with foodbank volunteers, many of whom do not have a background in health or social care and would appreciate guidance in terms of what to do if they come across a family where they have concern. You stated that SCVS offer safeguarding training to volunteers and that there may be value in enhancing this offer through SCVS by offering a conversation to help them understand the Service's continuum of need, which may help them to understand what to refer into Social Services. Officers offered to take this away and have a follow up with SCVS colleagues. We added that whilst volunteers may be aware of training on safeguarding, what do they do if they have a question or concern or may be fearful of raising something which turns out to be nothing, it's giving them the assurance that it's more important to raise the issue. We heard the Service can also connect them to its Early Help Hubs and that it has Early Help Hub locality meetings, which would be a good place to have this sort of conversation, not about individual families but helping with understanding and assurance.

We stated we were not sure about WCCIS system initially but are now seeing the results coming out of it and are glad it happened. We stated that we were pleased that the WCCIS system is continuing to develop, and that the new performance data presented was quite impressive at this stage. We added that we were looking forward to the continued development of the system.

We queried if 'Foster Care with Family Contact' extended to grandparents or just immediate family and were informed it can but depends on the individual circumstances of the child concerned.

We asked how many children's homes the Authority is running in addition to Ty Nant and were informed the Council could potentially have four children's homes across Swansea in the next 12 months.

We queried if privately run homes in Swansea are causing any concern and heard it does create a level of demand within the Service and with Police and Health. We also heard the Service in Swansea would not choose to place some of its children in these homes for various reasons.

### **Draft Work Programme 2022-23**

We agreed the work programme for 2022-23 and confirmed the following:

The Child Disability item at January's meeting will encompass the whole range of children with disabilities.

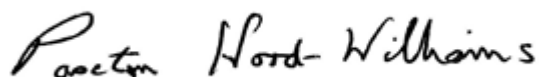
The Performance Monitoring Report is to include the key data from a more detailed workforce report. We are particularly interested in supervision, percentage of agency staff, sickness levels and wellbeing of staff.

### **Your Response**

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised, but on this occasion please provide a formal written response by 29 November 2022 to the following:

- Officers to follow up with SCVS regarding helping to enhance safeguarding training for volunteers, and report back to the Panel.
- Officers to arrange for volunteers to be connected to Early Help Hubs.

Yours sincerely



**PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS**  
**CONVENER, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
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Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams  
Convener of Child and Family Services  
Scrutiny Performance Panel

***Sent by email***

*Please ask for:* Councillor Louise Gibbard  
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*E-Mail:* [ollr.louise.gibbard@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:ollr.louise.gibbard@swansea.gov.uk)  
*Our Ref:* LG/WN  
*Your Ref:*  
*Date:* 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Dear Councilor Hood-Williams

Thank you for the letter from the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

It was positive to read your acknowledgements of the progress made with the development of the Child and Family Services monthly performance report, and how this is highlighting compliance with key statutory areas along with the challenges faced by the service.

Your suggestions and requests for additional information to be added will further enhance the continued evolution of the monthly report and its analysis of the effectiveness of Child and Family Services.

With regard to the queries raised at the Panel meeting, I can confirm that Teresa Mylan-Rees, the department's lead for development and practice, will connect with Danielle Lock, the training and safeguarding lead in SCVS, for more detail of what the need and enhancement would be. Currently SVCS is given access to all of our eLearning which includes safeguarding, and we continue to purchase additional licenses for this purpose. We are aware that Danielle at SVCS also delivers face to face training where e-learning is not appropriate.

The Early Help Hub Manager in Child and Family Services has confirmed the team is considering how to connect volunteers to the Early Help Hubs. Prior to lockdown, the Hubs did host volunteers and student placements, and also took volunteers from other agencies via a matrix arrangement.

The service is exploring how these arrangements can be re-established. The Early Help Hub Manager is part of a group that is developing the strategy for volunteers in the council. It is hoped that when this is completed, the hosting of volunteers will re-start. The service is keen to support volunteers and feel they will be able to offer a really exciting and diverse variety of opportunities.

I hope this provides sufficient information for the queries raised by Panel. If further detail is needed, I would be very happy to provide the Panel with updates at future meetings.

Yours sincerely



**Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Louise Gibbard**

Aelod y Cabinet dros y Gwasanaethau Gofal

Cabinet Member for Care Services

Aelod y Cyngor sy'n Hyrwyddo Menywod, Hawliau Dynol a Diogelu

Council Member Champion for Women, Human Rights and Safeguarding

# Agenda Item 7



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

### Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023

#### Child Disability Team

<b>Purpose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To provide an overview of the Child Disability Team</li></ul>
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This report includes a summary of the recent changes and developments of the Child Disability Team</li><li>• The report concludes that there have been some positive developments which have enhanced knowledge and understanding of working with children/young people with disabilities and their parents/carers</li></ul>
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Endorse the report and its conclusions</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Cllr Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	David Howes, Director of Social Services Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services
<b>Report Author</b>	Helen Williams, Principal Officer for Adolescent and Young People Services  Helen.williams3@swansea.gov.uk
<b>Legal Officer</b>	N/A
<b>Finance Officer</b>	N/A
<b>Access to Services Officer</b>	N/A

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The Child Disability team (CDT) works directly with children/young people who have diagnosed disabilities and their parents/carers. In Swansea Child and Family Services, we have adopted the social model of disability to understand the challenges that children and families

face. This means that we aim to understand the barriers in society which may make it harder for children and young people to reach their full potential.

- 1.2 The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 places an emphasis on the child or young person's strengths and capabilities (what can I do/how can I get help), to support children and young people to overcome any barriers they may be facing. These could include issues within their families or barriers that society places on them in their everyday life. The aim is to enable them to work towards/achieve their personal outcomes and goals.
- 1.3 The Child Disability Team offers an assessment of any child/young person where it appears that the child/young person may have needs for care and support as described in the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014.
- 1.4 For the purpose of assessing the needs of a child/young person, Section 21(7) of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 says, a disabled child/young person is presumed to 'need care and support in addition to, or instead of, the care and support provided by the child/young person's family'.
- 1.5 The following report will outline the recent changes to the Child Disability Team in Swansea and the key areas of practice and development which will enable the team and wider service to effectively meet the needs of children, young people and families accessing the service.

## **2. Briefing/Main Body of Report**

- 2.1 There has recently been a re-structuring of the Child Disability Team with a number of staff members from the team, moving into the newly established Academy. The Academy is responsible for assessing cases where there are child protection or safeguarding worries about a child or young person or where there are identified eligible care and support needs. The Child Disability Team pod within the Academy is responsible for case managing all existing Child in Need of Care and Support (CINCS) cases and undertaking single assessments for all new referrals for children with disabilities and their parents and carers. In addition, these staff members will be using the knowledge and expertise they have gained from working with children/young people with disabilities to upskill and support newly qualified staff entering the service.
- 2.2 In addition to the placement of Child Disability Team staff within the Academy, a Senior Social Worker with experience of working with children/young people with disabilities is also based within our front door service. This staff member is leading the work for Child and



Family Services in respect of carer assessments. There is a duty imposed on the local authority within the Social Services and Wellbeing Act to assess any carer where it appears that they may have needs for support in their own right. There is a right to request an assessment for both the child/young person and the carer(s) (jointly or separately) depending on individual choice. Carers can be parents, siblings, grandparents, or any person unpaid who provides care to a child/young person.

- 2.3 Having a dedicated staff member leading on this piece of work within our front door service means that carers requesting assessments are able to access this at the first point of contact and any ongoing support can be identified at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.4 The Child Disability Team also provide a consultation and advice service, in relation to the wide spectrum of disability issues, to all teams across Child and Family Services. The knowledge and experience of the team is recognised as an invaluable resource across the wider service area.
- 2.5 The Child Disability Team have recently worked in partnership with our Parent/Carer Forum to review the eligibility criteria for the service. This has been created in line with the continuum of need from universal services (tiers 1 and 2) through to statutory services (tiers 3 and 4). The Child Disability Team are now offering specialist support across all areas of Child and Family Services and with the presence of these staff within the Academy it is envisaged that children and young people with a disability will be effectively supported at the appropriate tier.
- 2.6 The Child Disability Team itself, is a dedicated social care service for children/young people with disabilities and their families at Tier 4 of the continuum of need, and they can work with children from birth until 18 years of age, and their families/carers.
- 2.7 The Child Disability Team will work with any child/young person and their parents/carers if transitional planning for adult services is required or if they are receiving a statutory response from Social Services, for example if their name is included within the child protection register or they are a looked-after child. There is a positive working relationship with Adult Services in relation to transition and this is an area of work that is continually developing to ensure transitions and ongoing support continue to meet the needs and identified outcomes for young people approaching adulthood.
- 2.8 The Swansea Parent/Carer Forum provides invaluable scrutiny for the service and support in terms of how the service develops. In order to reflect the importance of this partnership the Head of Child and Family Services and Education colleagues have been attending coffee mornings with members of the forum to enhance and continually develop our working relationship.

- 2.9 The Child Disability Team works closely with specialist partner agencies/charities to provide the support required by children/young people and their families. These provisions are identified and commissioned to form part of care and support plans following assessment. Some examples of the support that can be accessed are briefly outlined below:
- 2.10 Through Action for Children we commission Ty Laura a residential short breaks provision in Newton. Ty Laura is commissioned to offer overnight respite in addition to daytime respite which can be invaluable support for families.
- 2.11 Through Action for Children there is also the offer of Family Link which provides short breaks with panel approved Foster Carers and more recently there is the opportunity for families to use accessible caravans at Llanrhidian Holiday Park.
- 2.12 Action for Children and Local Aid (another local charity) also offer weekly groups which can be accessed through the Child Disability Team, and also outside of the service should families require the support. One of the groups Local Aid run is a weekly group offered to teenagers called "Buddies".
- 2.13 Interplay provide some groups but also integrated play schemes during school holidays.
- 2.14 Facing The Challenge provide parent/carer group work and intensive support to produce positive behavioural management plans for children and young people with diagnosed learning disabilities who display challenging behaviour.
- 2.15 Flexi home support (a team in Child and Family Services) also provide short term support for families working with the Child Disability Team.
- 2.16 Direct payments are a key service utilised by many families as it provides the family with the flexibility to identify their own staff and also for the support to take place at a time that suits them as opposed to according to service availability.
- 2.17 All the care packages are reviewed in six-monthly child in need of care and support (CINCS) reviews and also through the child and family resource panel which is attended by those that provide these services. The panel considers the needs of the child/young person based on assessment and services identify where support can be offered.
- 2.18 It is recognised that the Child Disability Team has recently gone through significant changes since the Academy was established. It has been agreed that the service would benefit from re-assessing the

purpose and value work that it contributes to the children, young people and families/carers that it works with.

- 2.19 As a result, a systems review will be considered to enable the service to think holistically about the sort of support it can offer for the children, young people and families/carers that need its help. This review will give the leadership and the staff an opportunity to review themselves against what matters to their service users, with a view to understand the systemic and cultural things getting in the way of achieving this. A potential redesign will follow this review exercise where developments are identified as being needed to achieve what matters to the children, young people and families that it serves
- 2.20 Children/young people and their parents/carers will be central to this review. The review will also consider the views of partner agencies to identify where improvements can be made in how agencies work together to assist children/young people to achieve their outcomes.

### **3. Conclusions/Key Points Summary**

- 3.1 There have been recent positive developments across Child and Family Services to ensure that children/young people with disabilities and their parent/carers receive the appropriate support at the right level.
- 3.2 The expertise of the staff within the Child Disability Team is being effectively utilised across Child and Family Services to upskill and share knowledge.
- 3.3 The upcoming system review will provide a key opportunity for evaluation of the Child Disability Team and will assist us to understand the service from the perspective of the children/young people and parent/carers who access the service. Through this greater understanding we will be able to consider key areas of development for the service and ensure that the work undertaken continues to focus on what matters.
- 3.4 Following the system review we would like to bring an update report to Scrutiny to share the outcome and learning and any developments that will be taking place.

### **4. Legal implications**

- 4.1 None

### **5. Finance Implications**

5.1 None

**6. Integrated Assessment Implications**

6.1 None

***Glossary of terms: None***

**Background papers: None**

**Appendices: None**

# Agenda Item 8

## CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

Meeting 20 September 2022	<b>CANCELLED</b>
Meeting 1 11 October 2022  4pm	<b>Role of the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel</b>  <b>Overview of Child and Family Services in Swansea</b> (including key priorities and challenges and performance monitoring report) <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i>  <b>Draft Work Programme 2022-23</b>
Meeting 2 1 November 2022  4.30pm	<b>Residential Care Services (including Ty Nant)</b> <i>Chris Griffiths, Principal Officer, Residential Services</i>  <b>Corporate Parenting Board Update</b> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i>
Meeting 3 5 December 2022  4pm	<b>Update on Child and Family Improvement Programme and Performance Monitoring</b> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> <i>Gemma Whyley, Principal Officer, Transformation</i>  <b>Update from Regional Safeguarding Board</b> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> <i>Damian Rees, Principal Officer, Safeguarding and Performance</i>  <b>Safeguarding Quality Unit Annual Report</b> <i>Damian Rees, Principal Officer, Safeguarding and Performance</i>
Meeting 4 24 January 2023  4pm	<b>Update on progress with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)</b> <i>Michelle Davies, Head of Strategic Planning, Swansea Bay University Health Board</i> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i>  <b>Update on Child Disability Services</b> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> <i>Helen Williams, Principal Officer, Adolescent and Young People Services</i>
<b>BUDGET MEETING</b>	<b>Draft Budget Proposals for Child and Family Services / Adult Services</b>

<p><b>13 February 2023</b></p> <p>9.30am</p> <p><b>JOINT SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING</b></p>	<p><i>Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services</i> <i>David Howes, Director of Social Services</i></p>
<p><b>Meeting 5</b> <b>7 March 2023</b></p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p><b>Update on Support for Carers</b> (including assessments) <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services / Amy Hawkins, Head of Adult Services and Tackling Poverty</i></p> <p><b>AS Panel Members to be invited for this item</b></p> <p><b>Performance Monitoring</b> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p><b>Briefing on Youth Offending Service</b> <i>Helen Williams, Principal Officer, Adolescent and Young People Services</i></p> <p><b>Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan</b> <i>Helen Williams, Principal Officer, Adolescent and Young People Services</i></p>
<p><b>Meeting 6</b> <b>25 April 2023</b></p> <p>4pm</p>	<p><b>Delivery of Corporate Priorities in relation to Child and Family Services</b> <i>Louise Gibbard / David Howes</i></p> <p><b>Update on Regional Adoption Service</b> <i>Nichola Rogers, Regional Adoption Manager, Western Bay Adoption Service</i></p> <p><b>Child and Family Complaints Annual Report 2021/22</b> <i>Sarah Lackenby, Head of Digital and Customer Services</i></p> <p><b>End of Year Review</b></p>

**Future work programme items:**

- Supported Living for Young People (from Work Planning Conference) TBC
- Wales Audit Office Reports (dates to be confirmed)
- Case Studies on Edge of Care (date TBC)