

## **City and County of Swansea**

## **Notice of Meeting**

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

# Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee

- At: Multi-Location Meeting Gloucester Room, Guildhall / MS Teams
- On: Monday, 26 February 2024

Time: 4.00 pm

Chair: Councillor Ceri Evans

#### Membership:

Councillors: M Baker, Y V Jardine, A J Jeffery, H Lawson, A J O'Connor, J E Pritchard and L V Walton

Watch Online: http://tiny.cc/SCTP26f

#### Agenda Page No. 1 Apologies for Absence. 2 **Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests.** www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests 3 Minutes: 1 - 3 To approve & sign the Minutes of the previous meeting(s) as a correct record. 4 Short Breaks. 4 - 14 5 **Tackling Poverty Strategy.** (Presentation) 6 Work Plan 2023-2024. 15 Next Meeting: Monday, 8 April 2024 at 4.00 pm uns Ems

# Agenda Item 3



#### **City and County of Swansea**

#### Minutes of the Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee

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

#### Monday, 4 December 2023 at 4.00 pm

#### Present: Councillor L V Walton (Vice Chair) Presided

Councillor(s) M Baker A J O'Connor Councillor(s) A J Jeffery

Team Leader

Officer Lawyer

Child and Family

Councillor(s) H Lawson

Principal Officer - Commissioning and Care Services,

Social Services Strategy and Performance Improvement

Principal Officer, Adolescent & Young People Services

#### Officer(s)

Amy Barrett
Julie Davies
Claire Edwards

#### Simon Jones

Matthew Joyce-Brown	
Allison Lowe	
Donna Lukes	
Helen Williams	

#### Also present

Cllr Louise Gibbard

Cabinet Member for Care Services

Head of Child & Family Services

Democratic Services Officer Team Leader, Child & Family

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): C R Evans

#### 24 Disclosures of Personal & Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City & County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

#### 25 Minutes.

**Resolved** that the Minutes of the Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee held on 23 October 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 26 When I'm Ready.

Helen Williams, Principal Officer, Adolescent & Young People Services, accompanied by Amy Barrett, Team Leader provided a report which presented the development of services in relation to young people living in 'When I'm Ready' arrangements.

The report outlined the commitment, vision, and ambitions for support services for children, young people and families in 'When I'm Ready' arrangements. It also outlined how we intend to ensure that the needs of service users inform our practice, and how we develop and adapt the service if or when these needs change.

'When I'm Ready' is a scheme developed by Welsh Government, in partnership with local government and key third-party sector partners to enable care leavers to continue to live with their former foster carers after the age of eighteen. A 'When I'm Ready' arrangement can continue until the young person reaches their twenty-first birthday or completes their agreed programme of education or training after their twenty-first birthday, if they had been continuously living in the arrangement since their eighteenth birthday.

The Committee asked various questions, which the officers answered appropriately.

In respect of the 'When I'm Ready' Policy (Appendix A), the Committee suggested that the penultimate paragraph in Section 4 be expanded on to give examples of the types of skills development that a young person could be committed to undertake.

#### Resolved that:

1) The Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee note the 'When I'm Ready' Policy.

#### 27 Special Guardianship Orders. (For information)

Claire Edwards-Matthews, Principal Officer, Commissioning & Care Services, supported by Donna Lukes, Team Manager presented a "For Information" report which presented the development of services in relation to children and young people living in Special Guardianship Order arrangements.

They explained that a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) provided an alternative legal status for children and families, offering greater security than long-term fostering placements but without the legal severance from the birth family that stemmed from an Adoption Order. Most importantly it ensured that children were offered the opportunity to grow up and be cared for within their family network and the Special Guardian would have parental responsibility for the child.

Information on relevant legislation and practice guidance for Special Guardianships Order was outlined in the Special Guardianship Order Policy at Appendix A.

The Committee asked various questions, which the officers answered appropriately.

The Chair requested that the Special Guardianship Order (SGO) Service Development Review at Appendix B be emailed to all Councillors so they were aware of the clear identified priority areas of development to achieve the vision for children, young people and their family networks.

#### 28 Work Plan 2023-2024.

The Chair presented the Work Plan for 2023-2024.

It was noted that there was currently no item scheduled for the next meeting on 15 January 2024, Discussions were ongoing, and the Committee would be updated in due course as to whether the meeting would proceed.

**Resolved** that the Work plan be noted.

The meeting ended at 4.37 pm

Chair

# Agenda Item 4



#### Report of the Head of Child and Family Services

# Social Care and Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee – 26 February 2024

# Short Breaks

Purpos	e:	This report presents the development of our services in relation to short breaks provisions for children and families.
Policy I	Framework:	Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act
Consul	tation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Service
Recom	mendation:	It is recommended that:
to	o consider the re	and Tackling Poverty Services Transformation is invited eport and the review process currently being undertaken r views on the work undertaken to date.
Report	Author:	Helen Williams
Finance	e Officer:	Chris Davies
Legal C	Officer:	Lucy Moore
Access Officer:	to Services	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 This report outlines the commitment, vision, and ambitions we have for our support services for children, young people, and families in respect of short break arrangements for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs and their parents/carers. It also outlines how we intend to ensure that the needs of our service users inform our practice, and how we will develop and adapt our service if or when these needs change.

- 1.2 The Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014 places a focus on the use of preventative services to support children with disabilities and their families and for local authorities to consider this support in relation to their assessment of needs. The offer of short breaks, where required, is considered as part of care and support planning. The focus on preventative services requires identification of support at the earliest opportunity and this report will therefore consider early intervention short break offers, in addition to services accessed through our Child Disability Team.
- 1.3 Short Breaks can come in a variety of different forms, described in the main body of this report, and accessing these in a timely way for all families can present challenges due to the level of demand for relatively limited resources. We are committed to understanding these challenges and the impact of this on the children, young people and families we support and as a result we are currently in the process of reviewing and working with children, young people and their families to enhance our understanding of what works and what is needed to ensure access to a short break provision that meets the need.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Child Disability Team 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.
- 2.2 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 short breaks support the Child Disability Team access are briefly outlined below:
  - Through Action for Children the local authority commissions Ty Laura, a residential short breaks provision in Newton. Ty Laura supports children and young people with complex health and additional needs and is commissioned to offer overnight respite in addition to daytime respite which can be invaluable support for families. Ty Laura supports children and young people aged between four years up to their 18th birthday.
  - Also, through Action for Children, there is the offer of Family Link which provides short breaks with panel approved Foster Carers. Family Link provides overnight placements for children with disabilities from birth to 18 years old. The service is for children and young people with learning disabilities who may also have physical

or sensory difficulties. There is also the opportunity for families to use accessible Caravans at Llanrhidian Holiday Park.

- Action for Children and Local Aid (another local charity) also offer weekly groups which can be accessed through the Child Disability Team as well as outside of the service should families require the support:
  - Buddies provides one to one support for young people with severe learning difficulties and challenging behaviour to enable them to develop social skills. Support is also available to the siblings, parents and carers of the young people accessing Buddies.
  - POPS (Positive Outcome Play Service) offer support to children and young people with disabilities from birth to 18years-old. This can be in the form of groups or one to one sessions, held after school or on weekends.
- 2.3 Interplay provide some groups sessions and also integrated play schemes during school holidays which children and young people are encouraged to access.
- 2.4 Child and Family Services also offers support to children, young people and their families through the flexi home support service who provide short term support for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs and their families.
- 2.5 Direct payments are a key service utilised by many families as it provides flexibility to identify their own staff (Personal Assistants) and also for the support to take place at a time that suits them. Currently there are 138 active direct payments in place for families open to Child and Family Services.
- 2.6 Child and Family Services have recently developed a new home support service to provide additional support to families who may not be eligible to access direct payments or are in the process of waiting for their direct payment application to be processed. This team will offer one to one or group sessions to provide opportunities for children and young people as part of a short break offer whilst also providing a break for the parents/carers.
- 2.7 Young people can access the above services as part of their assessed care and support needs and those who are eligible will have a yearly allocation of overnight stays at Ty Laura. Allocations take into account the family's needs and wishes, availability within the provision and the appropriate mix of children and young people to ensure that the experience is enjoyable for all.

2.8 All the care packages are reviewed within six monthly child in need of care and support (CINCS) reviews and also through the child and family resource panel which is attended by all services. The panel considers the needs of the child/young person based on assessment and services identify where support can be offered.

#### 3. Our Short Breaks Ambition

- 3.1 We believe that every child and young person has the right to a stable, loving family to care for them and to promote and support their physical, intellectual, and emotional development so that they can achieve their full potential. This ethos informs all our work within Child and Family Services and we recognise the importance of short breaks in supporting families to be able to remain together and as a means of children and young people with disabilities and additional needs, to have valued time away from their families and opportunities to socialise and participate in activities.
- 3.2 We are committed to providing high quality support for each child and their family, considering a wide range of options to reach positive outcomes for them. In respect of short breaks, this means that we seek to fully understand the needs of the child or young person and seek to commission the most appropriate short break services to assist in meeting that need. We also seek to continually develop our own services and ensure we have a good understanding of accessible community-based services that families can access independently.
- 3.3 Our focus is to support children, young people and their parents and carers to access the relevant services at the earliest opportunity to prevent an escalation of need to more intensive service provision, including statutory interventions.

#### 4. Developing our Short Breaks Offer

4.1 Child and Family Services are currently carrying out a review of additional learning needs (ALN) provisions, including short breaks. The review was instigated based on the increased demand for preventative support and the limited resources, resulting in waiting lists. Below is a breakdown of data over the past 12 months relating to the numbers of individuals supported by our commissioned short breaks providers, the numbers of referrals made and accepted and the waiting lists.

Individuals supported		202	2-23		2023-24			TOTAL		
Individuals supported	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Action for Children - POPS	23	23	23	21	90	23	21	24		68
Individuals - minus duplicates	23	0	0	0	23	23	0	3		26
Action for Children - Ty Laura			35		35	34				34
Individuals - minus duplicates		33	2		35	34				34
Action for Children - Family Link	19	17	17	17	70	15	15	14		44
Individuals - minus duplicates	19	0	0	0	19	15	0	0		15
Local Aid	175	176	168	175	694	123	134	143		400
Individuals - minus duplicates	175	16	20	21	232	123	11	24		158
TOTAL - All organisations	217	216	243	213	889	195	170	181	0	546
TOTAL - Minus duplicates	217	49	22	21	309	195	11	27	0	233

Referrals received		202	2-23		TOTAL 2023-24		3-24		TOTAL	
Releffals received	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Action for Children - POPS	2	6	2	4	14	1	2	4		7
Action for Children - Ty Laura					0					0
Action for Children - Family Link	2	1	0	1	4	0	0	0		0
Local Aid	7	4	6	9	26	8	4	24		36
TOTAL - All organisations	11	11	8	14	44	9	6	28	0	43

Peterrale accented	2022-23			TOTAL 2023-24			TOTAL			
Referrals accepted	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Action for Children - POPS	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	3		7
Action for Children - Ty Laura					0					0
Action for Children - Family Link	2	1	0	1	4	0	0	0		0
Local Aid	7	4	6	8	25	6	4	12		22
TOTAL - All organisations	9	5	6	10	30	10	4	15	0	29

Waiting List		202	2-23		TOTAL	2023-24				TOTAL
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	TOTAL
Action for Children - POPS	16	23	24	27	90	21	23	21		65
Action for Children - Ty Laura					0			8		8
Action for Children - Family Link	11	7	7	2		0	0	0		0
Local Aid	14	14	16	15	59	15	10	19		44
TOTAL - All organisations	41	44	47	44	149	36	33	48	0	117

- 4.2 It is important to acknowledge that the increase in demand, resulting in waiting lists, is a reflection of the growing understanding of additional learning needs and disability and evidences increased awareness in respect of the importance of short break offers to enable families to remain together.
- 4.3 In addition, we are at a natural review point in relation to commissioned services and therefore recognise the opportunity to understand better what is working well and whether there are any improvements we could make for our families.
- 4.4 To date, the review has involved two stakeholder events where providers, representative groups and parents/carers were brought together, along with staff from Child and Family Services, to consider how needs could best be met moving forward. The sessions were developed in partnership between Swansea Council and Swansea Parent Carer Forum.
- 4.5 In addition to the stakeholder events, a consultation session has also been held with the parents and carers of children and young people known to the Child Disability Team. This has supported us to have a

clearer understanding about what matters to them and what they consider is important to their children when requiring the option of short breaks.

- 4.6 In respect of next steps in the review process the focus will be on the following:
  - Further work to understand what matters to children and young people accessing short breaks.
  - Produce a clear and agreed vision statement.
  - Develop a clear understanding on how existing provision is meeting needs and where there may be any gaps.
  - Communication Ensure that all families have clarity on what options are available to them in respect of short breaks at every age and stage of development.
  - Innovation Joining up of funding/services to strengthen the offer for families. Including exploration of utilising direct payments more creatively.
  - Develop a network between providers to increase partnership and collaborative working.

#### 5. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 5.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socioeconomic disadvantage.
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 5.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 5.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 5.4 An IIA Screening Form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full IIA report was not required. The IIA screening process outlined there is no reputational risk to the council or any negative impact on any protected characteristics. The impacts are positive. (Appendix B Integrated Impact Assessment Screening).

#### 6. Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications other than those mentioned in the body of the report.

#### 7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications in considering this report at this time. The issues within the report may result in future decisions being taken that do result in additional costs for the Council. Any such decisions will need to have due regard to the Directorate's financial position at that time and the Council's medium term financial plan.

#### Background papers: None.

#### Appendices:

Appendix A – IIA Screening Form.

#### Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

Which service area and directorate are you from? Service Area: Child and Family Services Directorate: Social Services Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

<b>~</b> · · (	
$\square$	New and revised policies, practices or procedures
$\boxtimes$	Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service
	users and/or staff
	Efficiency or saving proposals
	Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
	New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new
	construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
	Large Scale Public Events
	Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
	Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services
	Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
	Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and
	improvement plans)
	Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
	Major procurement and commissioning decisions
	Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and
-	services
$\square$	Other

#### (b) Please name and fully <u>describe</u> initiative here:

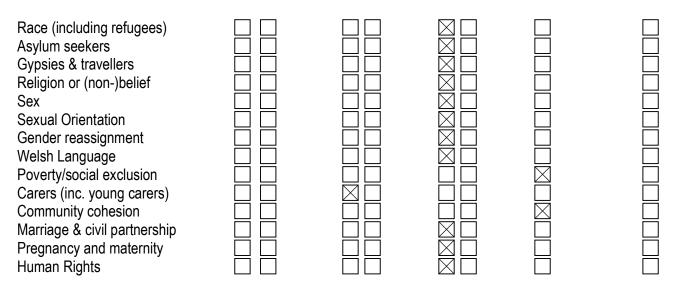
We are committed to the ongoing service analysis and development of the short breaks offer. We will continue to work with, listen and respond to the views and feedback of children, young people, and families to ensure that we are meeting their needs. We will continue to work in partnership with short break providers to ensure the right support is available at the right time for children, young people and their families. As part of this commitment, in order to set and manage the expectations of those seeking to access short breaks provisions, we will seek to provide clarity on what support is available and how these provisions can be accessed.

The outlining of clear engagement pathways to ensure that children, young people and parents/carers are given voice, and that all stakeholders will feel assured that their views and feedback will be appreciated and responded to in an understanding, empathetic manner.

As well as addressing these points, we will also need to monitor and maintain a good method of data recording around short breaks to ensure that we understand how well our current processes and measures are working, and where they can be improved, and to help us to establish new measures as we look to continually improve our service.

# Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact	Medium Impact	Low Impact	Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+ -	+ -	+ -		
Children/young people (0-18) Older people (50+)					
Any other age group					
Future Generations (yet to be b Disability	orn) 📋 🛄	Page 1			



#### Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below - either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

Consultation has taken place with parents and carers of children and young people open to the Child Disability team in relation to their experiences and best hopes for short breaks provisions. Additionally, two stakeholder consultation sessions have taken place to gather views on our collective vision for short breaks and how the needs of children, young people and families could best be met. Work to continually understand what matters to children, young people and parents/carers will continue throughout the review process.

- Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:
  - a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?

Yes 🖂	No
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- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals? Yes 🖂 No
- c) Does the initiative apply to each of the five ways of working? Yes 🖂 No 🗌
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs? Y

es	$\bowtie$	N	lo 🔄

Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)

High risk Medium risk Low risk
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Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes No If yes, please provide details below

Commissioning Services, Social Care Income and Finance Team.

Q7	Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website		
	🖂 Yes	🗌 No	If yes, please provide details below

The short breaks provisions would need to be accessible on both our external and internal website.

Q8 Does the initiative involve changes to the way you process the personal data of Council staff or service users, for example the purchase of new customer management software?

Yes	$\square$	No
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If your answer is yes, you should also screen the initiative for any implications regarding privacy and other GDPR rights and consider whether you need to amend your entry in the Council's Information Asset Register. Please use the following link to the online screening form for a Data Protection Impact Assessment <u>https://staffnet.swansea.gov.uk/dpiascreening</u> For more about the Information Asset Register, please see <u>https://staffnet.swansea.gov.uk/informationassetregister</u>

# Q9 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)

This is a positive development for the children, young people, parents and carers who are supported by Child and Family Services. There is no significant change to current service provision which is underpinned by statutory duties but instead reclarifies our commitment, our duties and how we will fulfil them.

## **Outcome of Screening**

#### **Q9** Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:

- Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)
- Summary of involvement (Q3)
- WFG considerations (Q4)
- Any risks identified (Q5)
- Cumulative impact (Q9

#### Summary of Impacts

The summary of impact identifies that there is limited impact arising from this development and where the is an impact, it is a positive development for the children, young people, parents and carers who are supported by Child and Family Services. There is no significant change to the current service provision, as this is underpinned by statutory duties. This development reclarifies our commitment, our duties and how we what the service of the service current service and how we what the service current se

#### Summary of Involvement

We will continue to inform and monitor our service development through engagement with children, young people, parents and carers to ensure that there is no unintended impact resulting from this development.

#### WFG Considerations

The Wellbeing Future Generations Act has been considered in relation to this development.

#### Risks

No risks have been identified.

#### **Cumulative Impact**

No negative cumulative impact has been identified.

As such, a full screening is not considered necessary at this time.

- (NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the 'Integrated Assessment Implications' section of corporate report)
- Full IIA to be completed
- Do not complete IIA please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

 Screening completed by:

 Name: Helen Williams

 Job title: Principal Officer, Adolescent and Young People Services

 Date: 09.02.24

 Approval by Head of Service:

 Name: Julie Davies

 Position: Head of Child & Family Services

 Date: 12.02.24

Please return the completed form to <u>accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk</u>

# Agenda Item 6



#### **Report of the Chair**

# Social Care & Tackling Poverty Service Transformation Committee - 26 February 2024

# Work Plan 2023-2024

Date of meeting	Agenda items and Format	Lead Officer(s)
12 June 2023	Work Plan Discussion	
24 July 2023	Levelling Up Grant     Process and Criteria	Jane Whitmore / Mark Gosney / Amy Hawkins
	Tackling Poverty     Strategy	Lee Cambule / Anthony Richards / Amy Hawkins
11 September 2023	Volunteering Strategy	Lee Cambule / Anthony Richards / Amy Hawkins
23 October 2023	Internal Residential Care     Provision Model of     Delivery	Cathy Murray / Alison Bromfield / Amy Hawkins
	Enabling Communities     Grant	Mark Gosney / Anthony Richards
4 December 2023	<ul> <li>When I'm Ready</li> <li>Special Guardianship Orders</li> </ul>	Julie Davies / Helen Williams Julie Davies / Claire Edwards-Matthews
15 January 2024	Cancelled	
26 February 2024	<ul> <li>Short Breaks</li> <li>Tackling Poverty Strategy</li> </ul>	Julie Davies / Helen Williams Amy Hawkins / Lee Cambule / Anthony Richards
8 April 2024	Overview of Enabling     Communities Grant	Jane Whitmore / Mark Gosney

Item(s) to be timetabled:

• Enabling and promoting independence: Assistive Technology strategy implementation and growth of telecare / telehealth options.