

Progress Report – Current Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

1. Inquiry Panels:

a) Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

Key Question: How is the Council working with health and other partners to reduce demand for specialist child & adolescent mental health services?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The panel is drafting its final report

Projected End Date: August 2016

b) Building Sustainable Communities (convenor: Cllr Terry Hennegan)

Key Question: How can the council best support residents to run services in their own communities?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The Panel will meet on the 30 June to discuss their findings and to begin to conclude the inquiry.

Projected End Date: August 2016

c) Tackling Poverty (convener: Sybil Crouch)

Key Question: How can the Council’s Tackling Poverty Strategy be improved?

Progress Bar:

Planning	Evidence Gathering	Draft Final Report

The Panel held its planning meeting on 8 June and agreed the evidence to be gathered. The inquiry is expected to get fully underway at the beginning of September.

Projected End Date: December 2016

2. Pre-Inquiry Working Groups

a) Partnerships & Collaboration (membership / convener: tbc)

Preparations for this potential inquiry will begin shortly.

Key concerns:

- how are we currently working with others?
- how effective is it?
- how could the Council's collaboration with other authorities/ partners be further developed & improved?
- are we learning from examples elsewhere?

b) Preparedness for School (membership / convener: tbc)

Preparations for this potential inquiry will begin shortly.

Key concerns:

- how can support for 0-3 year olds be improved so that they arrive at school ready to learn?
- are we getting this right e.g. effectiveness of Flying Start

NB - Expressions of interest from non-executive members in leading / participation in these potential inquiries will be reported to the committee for agreement in due course.

3. Follow Up on Completed Inquiries:

Follow-ups of inquiries will consider both the implementation of scrutiny recommendations and wider impact / difference made. Inquiry Panels are reconvened between 6-12 months after cabinet decision on Inquiry reports.

Inquiry	Cabinet Decision	Recommendations			Follow Up Panel Meeting
		Agreed	Partly	Rejected	
Social Care at Home	20 Aug 2015	16	5	1	Jul 2016
Corporate Culture	15 Oct 2015	19	0	0	6 Jul 2016
Education Inclusion	21 Jan 2016	19	0	1	Oct 2016
School Governance	16 Jun 2016	10	2	4	tba

4. Performance Panels:

a) Service Improvement & Finance (convener: Cllr Chris Holley)

See separate report – agenda item 9.

b) **Schools Performance** (convener: Cllr Fiona Gordon)

The Panel in June met with a school that has been assessed by Estyn as sector leading Cefn Hengoed Secondary School and were very impressed with the progress at and leadership at the school. In July members will meet with the Chief Executive of ERW and the Hub Head of School Improvement Service to discuss the ERW Business Plan and progress being made locally.

c) **Public Services Board** (convener: Cllr Mary Jones)

Due to delays in recruiting external members for the panel the meeting scheduled for June was postponed and the Panel will now meet in September. An induction session will be provided to ensure that the new members are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities. The Panel also intends to invite a representative from the Future Generations Commissioner's Office to provide an overview of the requirements on the Public Services Board and the powers and responsibilities of the scrutiny role. Following this the next step will be to agree its work plan.

d) **Child & Family Services** (convener: Paxton Hood-Williams)

The panel met on 27 June to agree its work plan. The panel examined the end of year performance report and the monthly service performance monitoring report.

The panel was broadly pleased with performance and welcomed the new format for the monthly performance report. The new format reflects the requirements of the Social Services and Well Being Act.

The panel agreed to add a piece of work on NEETS and care leavers to its work plan as this is an area of concern for the panel and department. The panel also agreed to add an additional meeting to its work plan in September to carry out pre-decision on the Family Support Commissioning Review.

e) **Adult Social Services** (convener: Uta Clay)

The panel met on June 21 and appointed Uta Clay as Convener. The panel has agreed to meet again on 5 July to discuss and agree its work plan. The Head of Adult Services will attend this meeting and the Cabinet Member has been invited.

5. Other Panels / Working Groups:

A number of topics have been identified which will be dealt with through one-off Panels / Working Groups.

a) **Education Through Regional Working** (regional scrutiny group)

A meeting for scrutiny councillors and officers from the six councils participating in ERW was hosted by Swansea on 11 March. Swansea was represented by Cllr Fiona Gordon. It was agreed that a scrutiny councillors group will be set up in order to coordinate scrutiny work and ensure a consistent approach. The group agreed its terms of reference, discussed individual Councils scrutiny education work programmes, looked at the ERW Business Plan for 2016-19, shared good practice in relation to individual schools scrutiny and looked at the data for school standards and categorisation. The next meeting will be hosted by Pembrokeshire Council and is being arranged for 27 September 2016. Swansea Scrutiny Team will provide the support for this group as the Council's contribution to ERW.

b) **Local Flood Risk Management** (convener: Cllr Susan Jones)

The Committee previously agreed that the Local Flood Risk Management Working Group can continue to meet on an annual basis in order to provide an on-going scrutiny involvement in the annual review of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan. The Head of Highways and Transportation has been contacted and asked to provide a timescale for future scrutiny involvement.

c) **Civic Events** (convener: Cllr Anthony Colburn)

The Convener of the Civic Events Working Group requested a follow-up meeting to address a number of issues that the Working Group felt needed further consideration. This is being arranged.

d) **Tethered Horses** (convener: Cllr Jeff Jones)

The Working Group has concluded its work and written to the relevant Cabinet Members with their findings and recommendations. A response was received from the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Healthy City and was discussed by the working group. A further letter to the Cabinet Member was sent. Correspondence attached within the agenda (Scrutiny Letters)

Further Working Groups to be convened, in the order of priority shown (membership / conveners to be appointed in due course):

1. **Planning & Section 106 agreements**

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering this aspect of the planning service e.g. objectives, procedures, effective use / achievements, challenges, for questions and discussion.

2. Roads / Highway Maintenance

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report covering service practices and procedures (e.g. dealing with pot holes), use of resources / impact of budget cuts, prospects for improvement. This will enable questions about the quality and effectiveness of highway maintenance and repair, and also issues relating to the relationship with utilities and strategic planning / co-ordination of works to minimise disruption to major access roads.

3. Corporate Building Services

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report to provide a briefing about Corporate Building Services to enable questions and discussion e.g. about value for money provide, costs / competitiveness for works including councillor ward requests.

4. Digital Inclusion

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report on digital inclusion for discussion and questions e.g. many council services will be digital in future but is the quality of services being preserved? how can we ensure that people are not being excluded from services once they become digital? what is the Council's strategy to ensure that all can access and are not excluded from services?

5. Dog Fouling

the relevant cabinet member / officer will be requested to provide a report on dealing with dog fouling, e.g. community initiatives, support for dog owners, deterrents, dealing with complaints, enforcement, resources, achievements etc.