



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, 5 December 2023

Time: 4.30 pm

Convenor: Councillor Paxton Hood-Williams

Membership:

Councillors: A M Day, K M Griffiths, V A Holland, Y V Jardine, S M Jones, S Joy, E T Kirchner, W G Lewis and M S Tribe

Agenda

Page No.

- | | | |
|----------|--|----------------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2 | Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests
www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests | |
| 3 | Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips | |
| 4 | Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and agree as an accurate record. | 1 - 11 |
| 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 | Performance Monitoring (including session on qualitative auditing)
<i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> | 12 - 52 |
| 7 | Update on Child and Family Improvement Programme
<i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i>
<i>Linzi Margetson, Principal Officer Safeguarding Quality and Performance</i> | 53 - 59 |
| 8 | Update on 'Contextual Missing Exploited & Trafficked (CMET)'
<i>Kelli Richards, Early Help and Single Point of Contact</i> | 60 - 77 |

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 23 January 2024 at 4.30 pm

Huw Evans

Huw Evans
Head of Democratic Services
Tuesday, 28 November 2023

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

Tuesday, 24 October 2023 at 4.00 pm

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

Councillor(s)

Y V Jardine
E T Kirchner

Councillor(s)

K M Griffiths
S M Jones
W G Lewis

Councillor(s)

V A Holland
S Joy
M S Tribe

Other Attendees

Louise Gibbard

Cabinet Member for Care Services

Officer(s)

Julie Davies
Claire Edwards
Mark Gosney
David Howes
Liz Jordan
Linzi Margetson
Alison Mathias
David Rossiter
Jane Whitmore

Head of Child & Family Services
Principal Officer - Commissioning and Care Services
Commissioning Team Leader
Director of Social Services
Scrutiny Officer
Principal Officer – Safeguarding and Performance
Team Manager, Service Quality Unit
Commissioning Team Leader
Strategic Lead Commissioner

Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): A M Day

1 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

No disclosures of interest were received.

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 13 September as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

5 Update from Regional Safeguarding Board

David Howes, Director of Social Services and Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services attended to brief the Panel on the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board's annual report 2022-23 and answer questions.

Discussion Points:

- The Board has four sub-groups. Director feels three out of four have good evidence of progress against objectives. The fourth is a work in progress as to how to bring together performance reporting across the partnership. Panel concerned that the Regional Board is not as effective as it should be. Director stated he is just flagging up an opportunity for improvement in one area.
- Objective going forward is to increase the contribution from children and families in the region and for them to drive the agenda around safeguarding. Starting to see some progress on this with some initiatives.
- Panel discussed article in the media about the increase in safeguarding issues coming through to councils and queried if there is a big problem with numbers of safeguarding issues in Swansea. Informed Child and Family Services are not seeing significant increase in referrals and contacts as quoted in the media as being seen in other areas.
- Panel feels there are areas in terms of safeguarding, particularly in terms of drugs, where the Safeguarding Board should be putting their efforts into ensuring coordination between agencies is working. Informed there are other boards closely involved in the actual work taking place, what the Safeguarding Board does is seek assurance that all of these arrangements are in place and over time making a difference in terms of safeguarding.

6 Service Quality Unit Annual Report

Alison Mathias, Team Manager Service Quality Unit highlighted the main points from the Annual Report 2022-23 and answered the Panel's questions.

Discussion Points:

- Panel stated how difficult it must be for children going into care for the first time and suggested that as well as writing letters, more is done orally with these children, such as a recording. Officers felt the suggestion was a very good one and will explore the option further.
- Panel queried why the rate of advocacy take up is so low. Informed there are lots of reasons. The Service is working with its commission provider NIAS to help understand how this can be communicated better to its looked after children.

7 Commissioning Reviews Progress Update

Jane Whitmore, Strategic Lead Commissioner and other relevant officers attended to brief the Panel, emphasizing that it is different to procurement, it is not just contract and grant management, it is about identifying the gaps and who is best to deliver the best outcomes for children and families across Swansea.

Discussion points:

- Panel asked how effective the Service is at keeping costs of services under control while making sure it is delivering the service people want. Heard there are some services that must be provided and the spend is out of the Authority's control. Where there is a choice in terms of getting best value, the teams work hard negotiating prices with suppliers/providers to make sure they get best value.
- In terms of providing services via commissioning, Panel queried if every opportunity is taken to talk to clients in terms of their requirements. Heard feedback is received from beneficiaries and they are involved as part of forward planning.
- Panel is aware the not-for-profit element is causing certain problems in the market and asked if there is any feedback on this from Welsh Government. Cabinet Member confirmed she attended a network meeting with the Minister and this issue was on the agenda. There is currently a working group looking at the definition of not-for-profit, hopefully will have more clarity soon.

8 Work Plan 2023-24

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

The meeting ended at 5.15 pm



To:
Councillor Louise Gibbard
Cabinet Member for Care Services

Please ask for: Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:
Scrutiny Office 01792 637314
Line:
Llinell
Uniongyrochol:
e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:
Date 14 November 2023
Dyddiad:

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 24 October 2023. It covers Regional Safeguarding Board, Service Quality Unit and Commissioning.

Dear Cllr Gibbard

The Panel met on 24 October 2023 to receive an update on the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board and discuss the Service Quality Unit Annual Report 2022-23. The Panel also received an update on Commissioning.

We would like to thank you, David Howes, Julie Davies, Jane Whitmore, Alison Mathias and other relevant officers 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.

Update from Regional Safeguarding Board

We heard from the Director of Social Services that West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board has four sub-groups and that three out of four have good evidence of progress against objectives, but the fourth is a work in progress as to how to bring together performance reporting across the partnership. We heard there is good reporting on Children's Services within the Local Authority, but amalgamating this with information

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

I dderbyn yr wybodaeth hon mewn fformat arall neu yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â'r person uchod
To receive this information in alternative format, or in Welsh please contact the above

available in other organisations and trying to make sense of what it says about the effectiveness of how the Safeguarding Board operates as a partnership is difficult. We noted there are some recommendations nationally for how to do this, but the Board is still struggling with it and moving forward the Director feel there needs to be some progress. We expressed concern that the Regional Board is not as effective as it should be and heard the Director was just raising an opportunity for improvement in the area, as it is difficult to translate performance of individual organisations and amalgamate into evidence of whether the Board is effective as a partnership. We heard that all safeguarding boards are struggling to evidence this, however, the Local Authority's oversight of its own safeguarding performance is much more robust than it was in the past.

We were informed that an objective going forward is to increase the contribution from children and families in the region and for them to drive the agenda around safeguarding. We were pleased to hear you are starting to see some progress on this with some initiatives, for example, a Junior Safeguarding Board has been established and the Parent Advisory Network.

We discussed an article in the media about the increase in safeguarding issues coming through to councils and queried if there is a big problem with numbers of safeguarding issues in Swansea. We were informed Child and Family Services are not seeing a significant increase in referrals and contacts as quoted in the media as being seen in other areas. We heard that Swansea is seeing an increase in the level and range of need which means there is more intense input required and the level of intervention may be higher. We also heard there are challenges recruiting qualified social workers, but the Service has plans in place to overcome that.

We feel there are areas in terms of safeguarding, particularly in terms of drugs, where the Safeguarding Board should be putting their efforts into ensuring coordination between agencies is working. We were informed the Safeguarding Board needs to have an interest in how the region is responding collectively towards challenges its population has but there are other boards more closely involved in the actual work taking place, and the Safeguarding Board seeks assurance that all these arrangements are in place and over time are making a difference in terms of safeguarding.

Service Quality Unit Annual Report

We discussed how difficult it must be for children going into care for the first time – surrounded by new people and a huge amount of paperwork and often having significant literacy issues. We suggested that as well as writing letters, or providing spider diagrams for younger children, more is done orally with these children, such as a recording, so they have a record of who is doing what and what was talked about, which they can go back to and hold the Service to account. Officers said they felt the suggestion was a very good one and will explore the option further.

We queried why the rate of advocacy take up is so low and heard there are lots of reasons. For child protection conferences, parent consent is needed to offer it to the child, or it has to go via the parents. For looked after children, sometimes it is about them understanding the benefits of advocacy and how it could help them. We were pleased to hear the Service is working with its commission provider NIAS to help

understand how this can be communicated better to looked after children and that you are also trying to be creative and listening to what children want.

Commissioning Progress Update

Officers emphasized that commissioning is different to procurement, it is not just contract and grant management, it is about identifying the gaps and who is best to deliver the best outcomes for children and families across Swansea. We asked how effective the Service is at keeping costs of services under control while making sure it is delivering the service people want. We heard there are some services that must be provided and the spend is out of the Authority's control, but where there is a choice in terms of getting best value, the teams work hard negotiating prices with suppliers/providers to make sure they get best value. We were informed that spend is monitored closely through Performance and Financial Monitoring in terms of grant spend and core spend, and that grant spend also has to be reported back to Welsh Government. We noted there are huge challenges for some of the grant budgets in terms of forecasting for future years.

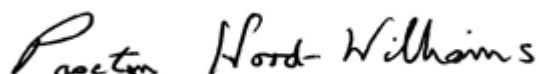
In terms of providing services via commissioning, we queried if every opportunity is taken to talk to clients in terms of their requirements and heard feedback is received from beneficiaries and they are involved as part of forward planning.

We are aware the not-for-profit element is causing certain problems in the market and asked if there was any feedback on this from Welsh Government since the previous meeting. You confirmed that you attended a Cabinet Member network meeting with the Minister, that this issue was on the agenda, and that you were informed there is currently a working group looking at the definition of not-for-profit so there has not been a lot of progress, but you hope to have more clarity soon. We heard the absence of this information is making some providers nervous in terms of staying in the market in Wales, which means the choice for children is more limited and makes it more challenging to always meet the range of needs of a child.

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



PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS
CONVENER, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
CLLR.PAXTON.HOOD-WILLIAMS@SWANSEA.GOV.UK

To:
Councillor Louise Gibbard
Cabinet Member for Care Services

Please ask for: Scrutiny
Gofynnwch am:
Scrutiny Office 01792 637314
Line:
Llinell
Uniongyrchol:
e-Mail scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
e-Bost:
Date 02 October 2023
Dyddiad:

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 13 September 2023. It covers Presentation by Young Carers and Adolescent Strategy.

Dear Cllr Gibbard

The Panel met on 13 September 2023 to receive a Video Presentation by Young Carers and to discuss the Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan.

We would like to thank you, Julie Davies, Gavin Evans, Helen Howells, Helen Williams and Egija Cinovska from the YMCA 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.

Presentation by Young Carers

We received a video presentation from young carers on the Young Carers Forum who have helped shape a Plan to support young carers.

We queried how the Service finds out how many young carers there are and what percentage are being reached. We heard PSE sessions have been held in schools and awareness raised through the 'Understanding Young Carers' professional training. We noted that Swansea's statistic matches the national statistic ie three young carers in every single classroom in the UK, so the number is huge. We were informed young

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU

SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE

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

www.swansea.gov.uk / www.abertawe.gov.uk

carers are identified through PSE sessions, they listen to the presentation, engage in activities, and complete a questionnaire stating if they would like to identify as a young carer. They can access support in school through lunchtime clubs or can access support within the YMCA. We heard more and more referrals are being received for young carers, who are offered different support from training to trips and activities. We also heard the Service is growing as it is receiving so many referrals, and from a Service point of view would benefit from more workers to ensure the support is there at the right time and the quality of service does not fall.

Officers confirmed that the YMCA supports any age, gender, person who needs support within our communities.

We queried who the presentation is going to be shared with and were informed the Plan has been to a number of strategic partnerships to seek agreement from strategic leads from all different sectors and has been positively met. We heard that from young carers feedback, one of the main things is to ensure all schools are on board and that there is a champion for every school. Officers confirmed teacher representatives sit on the Young Carers Forum, information has been sent out to all schools around young carer training and team managers in Education have been asked for young carer champion representatives.

We commented on the language used in the presentation and felt it was quite grown up. We feel if it is going to be used in schools with younger children it would be helpful to use simpler language and be a bit more 'fun'.

We queried how long the YMCA Young Carers has been set up and where they are in the journey and heard it was set up seven years ago. Officers commented that they feel it has been successful because young carers have shaped it and told the Service exactly what they need. We as a Panel feel really positive about where the Service is going with this and is grateful for all the work that has been done.

Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan

Officers attended to brief the Panel on this issue including actions and achievements to date and ambitions for the future.

We wondered why advocacy was not mentioned in the report as every looked after child has that offer. Officers provided reassurance that all children they deal with are given the offer and encouraged to take it up.

We queried if the position of Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) still falls within Social Services, (officers confirmed it does), and if the Service feels it has enough staff in those areas currently. We heard in Adolescent Services you are starting to see challenges recruiting social workers, however, alternatively qualified staff are being recruited to help with increased demand for support and staffing levels for IROs are quite healthy. We were informed the Service is currently struggling with lack of resource in terms of access to enough support around emotional health and wellbeing that should be coming from Health and also with access to accommodation. We noted

that Housing is currently reviewing its housing strategy and is aware there is insufficient capacity to meet demand.

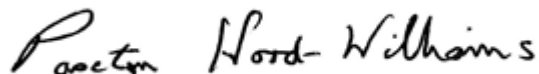
We felt that there is more talk about the Youth Justice System in the report and asked if this is an indication that more youngsters are beginning to present with problems. We heard that in terms of accommodation, more young people are presenting needing additional support and it is difficult to know the cause specifically. We were informed in terms of youth justice, you are not seeing significantly more numbers of young people coming through at the statutory end but are having different conversations in respect of exploitation, so the prevention offer within youth justice is growing significantly in terms of that.

We queried if the Service is satisfied with the way Barnardo's deliver on contracts and heard there are no issues with Barnardo's in terms of quality of provision. The Service has regular reviews with them, and you are being proactive about what may need to be modified because people's behaviours have changed significantly, believed to be in response to covid, and this has forced you to think about how you offer services and where you offer services from.

Your Response

We hope you find this letter useful and informative. We would welcome your comments on any of the issues raised.

Yours sincerely



PAXTON HOOD-WILLIAMS
CONVENER, CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
CLLR.PAXTON.HOOD-WILLIAMS@SWANSEA.GOV.UK

Cllr.Paxton Hood-Williams

By E-mail

Please ask for: Councillor Louise Gibbard

Direct Line: 01792 636141

E-Mail: cllr.louise.gibbard@swansea.gov.uk

Our Ref: LG/WN

Your Ref:

Date: 24th October 2023

Dear Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams

RE: Child and Family Services Scrutiny.

Thank you for your letter following the last Child and Family Services Scrutiny and Performance Panel (held on 13th September) inviting my comments on any of the issues raised.

With regard to the young carer's presentation, and the growing number of referrals received by the YMCA, I can confirm that providing the right support for young carers at the right time will remain a priority for Child and Family Services. This support can be provided from a range of different agencies, including the current commissioned service (via the YMCA), schools, and our early help hubs. We will continue to explore alternative sources support of based on the feedback from young carers.

We recognise the importance of language and this needing to reflect the age and understanding of the child and young person. The service will work with the YMCA and education to modify the materials used to ensure they are more child friendly.

I note the panel highlighted from their discussions about the adolescent strategy, the lack of resource to support young people around emotional health and wellbeing. I can confirm that the Youth Justice Service has recruited a CAMHS worker specifically to support young people with emotional wellbeing and mental health needs, and that the local emotional health and wellbeing group (which has representatives from the health board, child and family services, education and the third sector) is exploring what services are needed in Swansea in different settings to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of young people.

PAGE 2

I hope this response is helpful in providing additional information and context to the issues raised by Panel.

Yours faithfully,



Cllr Louise Gibbard

Cynghorydd / Councillor Louise Gibbard Dyfnant a Chilâ

Cyd-aelod y Cabinet dros Gwasanaethau Gofal

Cabinet Member Care Services

Agenda Item 6



Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 5th December 2023

WELLBEING REPORT

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To present the Child and Family Services monthly highlight performance report for September 2023.• To advise panel members on the approach taken on qualitative auditing and how the findings are used to improve practice across the service.
Content	This report includes highlights against Welsh Government, Care Inspectorate Wales and local indicators. The information covers an overview of child and family's contact from the front door (the Integrated Information, Advice and Assistance Service), the Supported Care Planning and Looked After Children's teams as well as Bays+, and the Youth Justice Service.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the report as part of their routine review of performance in Child and Family Services.
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services
Lead Officer(s)	David Howes, Director of Social Services Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services
Report Author	Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services 01792 633812 Julie.davies10@swansea.gov.uk
Legal Officer	N/A
Finance Officer	N/A
Access to Services Officer	N/A

1. Background

The report is the monthly Child & Family Services September 2023 Wellbeing Report. The purpose is to provide an overview of performance and wellbeing within Child & Family.

2. Briefing/Main Body of Report

2.1 Please refer to Appendix 1

3. Conclusions/Key Points Summary

3.1 Please refer to Appendix 1

4. Legal implications

4.1 None

5. Finance Implications

5.1 None

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

6.1 None

Glossary of terms: Please add glossary of terms if you are using acronyms

Background papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Child & Family Services Wellbeing Report, September 2023

Child & Family Services

Monthly Well-being Report

September 2023

Page 14



Contents

Single Point of Contact

Integrated Information, Advice & Assistance
Emergency Duty Team
Domestic Abuse Hub
Early Help Hubs
Family Wellbeing Team
Integrated Safeguarding Hub
CMET
Independent Carers Assessment Team

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Family & Friends
Foster Wales Swansea
Western Bay Adoption

Support Services

Family Support Service

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Head of Service Overview

Although the level of demand into the service hasn't changed significantly, the proportion remaining in the service and transferring into Supported Care Planning is higher. This is indicative of the complexity of need of the children, young people and their families. Examples are parents struggling with their child's behaviour, refusing to allow their child to continue living with them and the service needing to find creative solutions to engage with the parents and to also keep the child safe in alternative accommodation.

The service is also seeing parents where domestic abuse, mental health and drug use are influencing parental choices, with children suffering or at risk of suffering significant harm. Young children are being neglected (left alone, not fed/poor diet) or being exposed to unsafe adults. More cases are needing to come through from the Integrated Safeguarding Hub to the Supported Care Planning teams due to the intensity of the support required and the level of risk presented.

The Supported Care Planning teams remains in a precarious position in terms of staffing – leavers, sickness and no applicants for social worker posts. This means that the wider service will need to assist with case allocations so that statutory duties can be met and children are able to be kept safe.

Although the timeliness of single assessments (being completed with 42 days) has dipped, what we can see is that the average time to complete an assessment was 55 days. CDT pods 3 and the Academy DCT are taking the longest to complete their assessments (approximately 44 days passed the delaine) and although half of the assessments were out of timescale for Bays and Penderry, they were only 2-3 days over.

The number of children on the child protection register has dipped below 200 for the first time. Recording of statutory visits in a timely way on WCCIS remains an on-going challenge. We are exploring using the manual data from the team managers for the monthly report rather than the reports from WCCIS.

The service is very busy with unborns with a number of potential removals likely over the coming months. 18 babies will be registered when born; and a high number are in public law outline with decisions being made to issue care proceedings at the end of the assessment period.

To note: the capability charts have been removed and will be added back in to future reports once they have been updated following the renewal of licences.



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Single Point of Contact

Contacts	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of contacts received by Child & Family Services during the month:	1117	1058
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	728	617
The number of contacts closed with Advice or Assistance during the month:	104	100

Integrated Information, Advice & Assistance Hub

Page 11

Contacts & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The number of contacts received by the Integrated Information, Advice and Assistance Hub during the month:	732	670
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	506	415
The number of contacts closed with Advice or Assistance during the month:	67	68
The number of contacts closed with another reason during the month:	0	0
The number of contacts passed to preventative services during the month:	22	15
The number of contacts passed to Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) Team during the month: (includes individuals, contextual areas and peer groups)	3	11
The number of contacts passed to the Integrated Safeguarding Hub during the month:	42	59
The number of contacts passed to Supported Care Planning during the month: (includes the Academy)	32	42
The number of contacts passed to the Family & Friends Team:	0	0
The number of contacts passed to the Independent Carers Assessment Team:	0	0



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Contacts & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The number of contacts received during the month, which were being supported by the Integrated Information, Advice and Assistance Hub at the end of the month:	60	60

Emergency Duty Team

Contacts & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The number of contacts received by the Emergency Duty Team during the month:	42	37
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	13	16
The number of contacts closed Advice or Assistance during the month:	3	0
The number of contacts passed to preventative services during the month:	5	1
The number of contacts passed to the Integrated Information, Advice & Assistance Hub:	16	11
The number of contacts passed to Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) Team during the month: <small>(includes individuals, contextual areas and peer groups)</small>	1	0
The number of contacts passed to the Integrated Safeguarding Hub during the month:	1	6
The number of contacts passed to Supported Care Planning during the month: <small>(includes the Academy)</small>	2	2
The number of contacts received during the month, which were being supported by the Emergency Duty Team at the end of the month:	1	0

Child Protection Investigations	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:	3	1
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:	1	1
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings where no further CP action is required:	1	0



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Child Protection Investigations	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of Section 47 enquiries recorded during the month:	1	0
The number of Section 47 enquiries which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:	1	0
The number of Section 47 enquiries where there is no further CP action required:	0	0

Domestic Abuse Hub

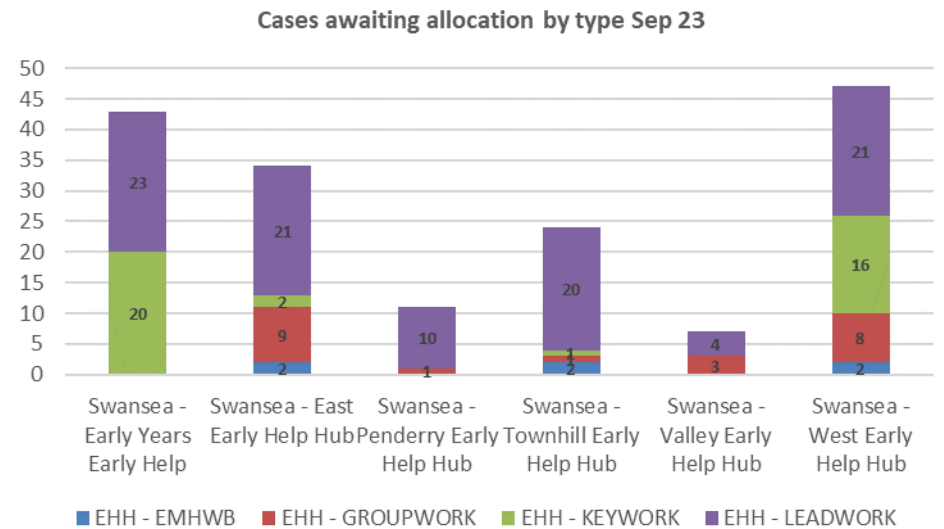
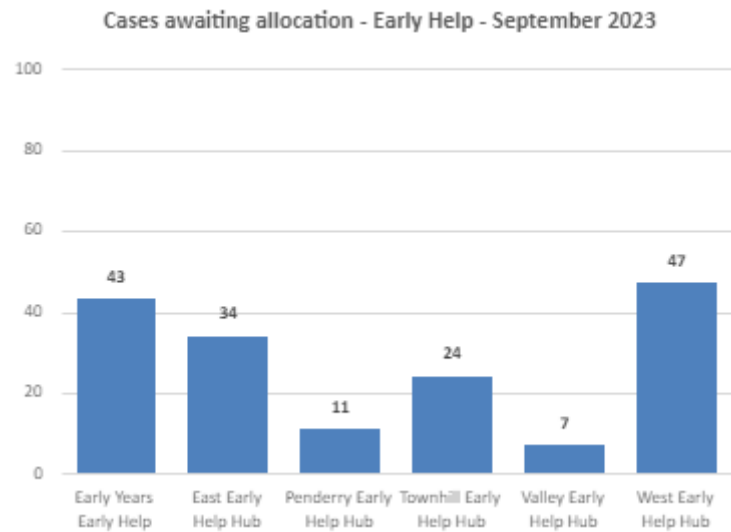
Contacts & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The number of contacts received by the Domestic Abuse Hub during the month:	249	210
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	195	168
The number of contacts closed Advice or Assistance during the month:	20	19
The number of contacts passed to preventative services during the month:	0	0
The number of contacts passed to the Integrated Information, Advice & Assistance Hub or the Integrated Safeguarding Hub during the month:	2	4
The number of contacts passed to Supported Care Planning during the month: (includes the Academy)	0	2
The number of contacts received during the month, which were being supported by the Domestic Abuse Hub at the end of the month:	32	17



Early Help Hubs

Contacts & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The number of contacts for the Early Help Hubs received during the month:	94	142
The number of contacts closed Information, Advice or Assistance during the month:	28	31
The number of contacts agreed for Early Helps Hubs support during the month:	63	81
The number of contacts awaiting allocation at the end of the month:	165	129
The number of referrals closed during the month:	127	144
The number of referrals closed with a positive outcome during the month:	59	98

Page 20





Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Caseload	August 2023	September 2023
The number of children and young people supported at the end of the month:	1053	1034

Wellbeing Assessments	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Wellbeing Assessments completed during the month:	30	38

Family Plans	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Family Plan / Review's completed during the month:	135	112

Integrated Safeguarding Hub

Page 21

Contacts & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The number of contacts that were passed to the Integrated Safeguarding Hub during the month:	43	68
The number of contacts closed Information only during the month:	0	0
The number of contacts closed Advice or Assistance during the month:	15	5
The number of contacts closed with another reason during the month:	0	2
The number of contacts passed to a preventative service during the month:	2	0
The number of contacts passed to Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) Team during the month: (includes individuals, contextual areas and peer groups)	0	0
The number of contacts passed to Supported Care Planning for a comprehensive assessment during the month: (includes the Academy)	10	2
The number of contacts received during the month, which were being supported by the Integrated Safeguarding Hub at the end of the month:	16	59



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Child Protection Investigations (ISH)	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:	62	47
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:	24	27
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings where no further CP action is required:	7	6
The total number of Section 47 enquiries recorded during the month:	24	25
The number of Section 47 enquiries which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:	2	15
The number of Section 47 enquiries where there is no further CP action required:	22	10



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Child Protection Investigations (ACADEMY – CINCS / CDT / CP)	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:		6
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:		6
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings where no further CP action is required:		0
The total number of Section 47 enquiries recorded during the month:		6
The number of Section 47 enquiries which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:		6
The number of Section 47 enquiries where there is no further CP action required:		0

Page 23
CMET

Contacts, Caseload & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The number of contacts relating to contextual areas and peer groups that were passed to CMET during the month:	1	6
The number of contacts relating to contextual areas and peer groups that were closed by CMET during the month:	1	5
The number of contacts relating to contextual areas and peer groups that were closed by CMET during the month with a positive outcome:	1	5
The number of contextual areas and peer groups supported by CMET at the end of the month:	23	23

Child Protection Investigations	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:		23
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:		0
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings where no further CP action is required:		7
The total number of Section 47 enquiries recorded during the month:		0



Child Protection Investigations	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Section 47 enquiries which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:		0
The number of Section 47 enquiries where there is no further CP action required:		0

Independent Carers Assessment Team

	August 2023	September 2023
The number of referrals received by the Independent Carers Assessment Team during the month:	3	0
The number of referrals for parent carers awaiting allocation at the end of the month:	2	2
The number of parent carers supported by the Independent Carers Assessment Team at the end of the month:	19	11
The number of Independent Carers Assessments completed during the month:	0	1
The number of referrals closed by the Independent Carers Assessment Team during the month:	5	8

Page 24

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Single Point of Contact saw a slight decrease this month but nothing of note. Similarly there has been a decreased trend in contacts received by IAA and being closed with information, and/or advice and assistance. The emergency duty team received a slight decline in Child and Family contacts this month. The number of strategy discussions undertaken out of hours however increased this month, each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September has also seen an increase in the number and percentage of cases passed to Integrated Safeguarding Hub, Supported Care Planning and CMET, compared to August with a decrease in those past to preventative services. Of those contacts into EDT, again more were passed onto the Integrated Safeguarding Hub and proportionately there has been an increase in the number passed to Supported Care Planning in relation to the number of contacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider the cases being passed to ISH, SCP and CMET if they have received preventative support in the past 6 months.



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Page 25

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>was closed with no further child protection action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The domestic abuse hub saw a reduction in contacts and a number being supported at end of the month • Early help hubs - increase in contacts alongside those agreed to support at the end of the month. The hubs also saw an increase in referrals closed end of the month and those with a positive outcome • Increase in contacts to the Integrated Safeguarding Hub - 2 passed on for comprehensive assessment to supported care planning. There has seen a significant increase in number of those open for support at the end of the month (59) – child protection investigations however reduced to comparable numbers to July (following an increase in August). • Within the September well-being report we have included additional child data to show the demand into CMET (this has also been included for the Academy and BAYS). 		



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

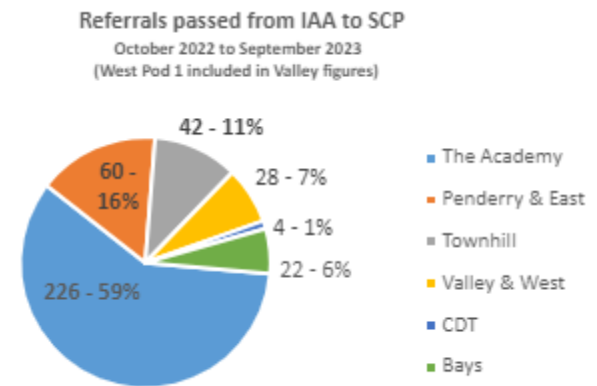
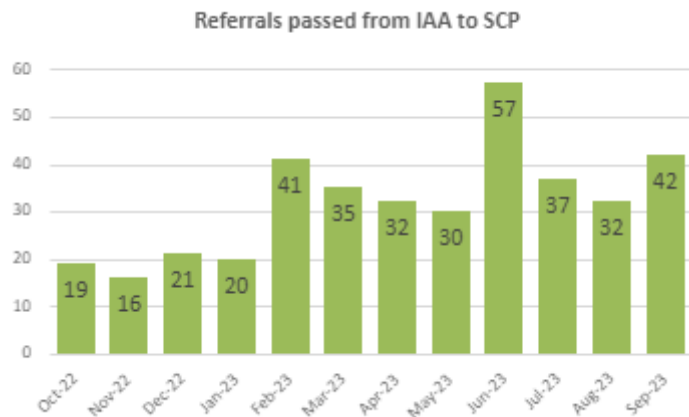
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Supported Care Planning

Contacts, Caseload & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The number of referrals received for a comprehensive assessment during the month: (referrals passed from the Integrated IAA Hub, and includes the Academy)	32	42
The number of referrals closed in Supported Care Planning during the month:	79	68
The number of children and young people supported by Supported Care Planning at the end of the month: (Includes the Academy)	1234	1214
Of these, the percentage that represent complex cases (CP & LAC):	52.59%	52.14%

Page 26



Case Supervision	August 2023	September 2023
The percentage of Case Supervision sessions which are on time or not overdue at the end of the month:	65.05%	60.10%

Care & Support Plans	August 2023	September 2023
The number of children and young people with a Care and Support Plan at the end of the month:	935	934



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

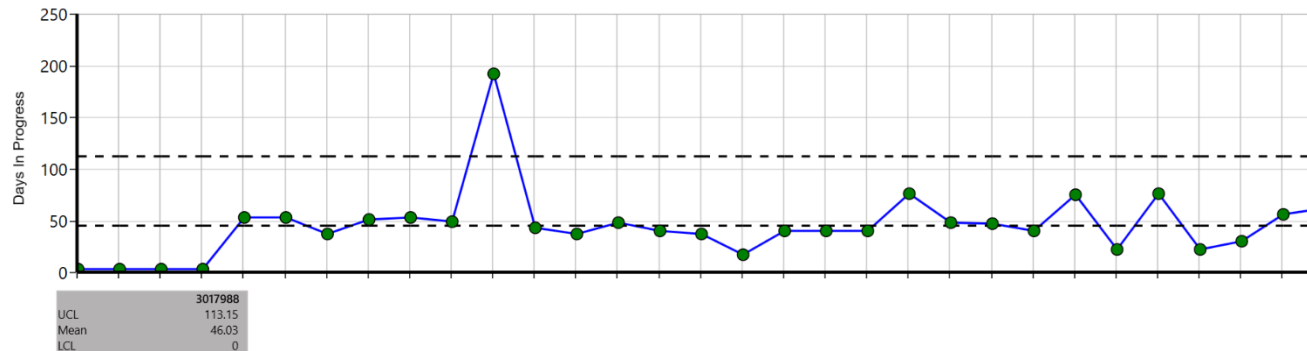
Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Single Assessments	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Single Assessments due at the end of the month: (*Figure includes the Academy hubs)	192	227
The number of Single Assessments that are overdue at the end of the month:	119	123
The number of Single Assessments completed during the month:	83	72
The number of Single Assessments carried out within timescales during the month:	48, 57.83%	26, 36.11%
The percentage of children seen during the period of assessment, who were born at the time the assessment concluded:	76.92%	76.19%
The average number of days to complete a Single Assessment during the month:	54 Days	55 Days

Days to Completion - Quarter 1





Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Child Protection Investigations	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:	22	21
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:	18	9
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings no further CP action is required:	2	0
The total number of Section 47's recorded during the month:	9	8
The number of Section 47 enquires which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:	6	6
The number of Section 47 enquires where no further CP action is required:	3	2



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Child Protection	August 2023	September 2023
The number of children on the Child Protection Register at the end of the month:	214	198
The number of unborns to be added to the Child Protection Register at birth at the end of the month:	18	18
The number of children on the Child Protection Register that have been registered previously:	70	63
The number of children added to the Child Protection Register during the month:	18	26
The number of children added to the Child Protection Register, within 12 months of de-registration:	2	1
The number of children removed from the Child Protection Register during the month:	4	42
The number of children removed from the Child Protection Register at their first review, who were not Looked After:	0	8



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Initial Core Groups	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Initial Core Groups due during the month:	57	15
The number of Initial Core Groups held within timescales:	35	14
Statutory Visits	August 2023	September 2023
The percentage of visits to children on the Child Protection Register that were on time or not over due at the end of the month:	90.95%	74%
Dual Status	August 2023	September 2023
The number of children who are on the Child Protection Register and are Looked After:	35	34
Legal Proceedings	August 2023	September 2023
The number of children in PLO at the end of the month:	75	63*
The number of children in Public Proceedings at the end of the month:	15	25
<i>*15 of the 63 are unborns. 6 LGMs made decision to issue care proceedings end of August; however cases were not issued at court until September</i>		
Looked After Children	August 2023	September 2023
The number of children who were Looked After at the end of the month:	470	474
The number of children placed in an unregulated placement at the end of the month:	1*	0
The number of children awaiting placement at the end of the month:	12	6
The number of children becoming Looked After during the month:	7	12
The number of Looked After children, with an unaccompanied asylum status supported at the end of the month:	6	9
The number of children ceasing to be Looked After during the month:	11	8



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

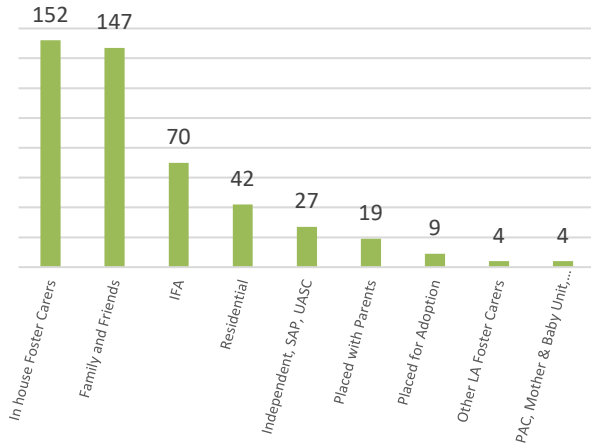
SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

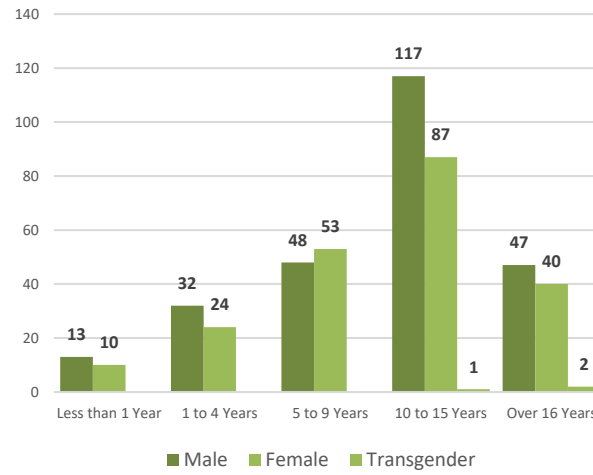
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

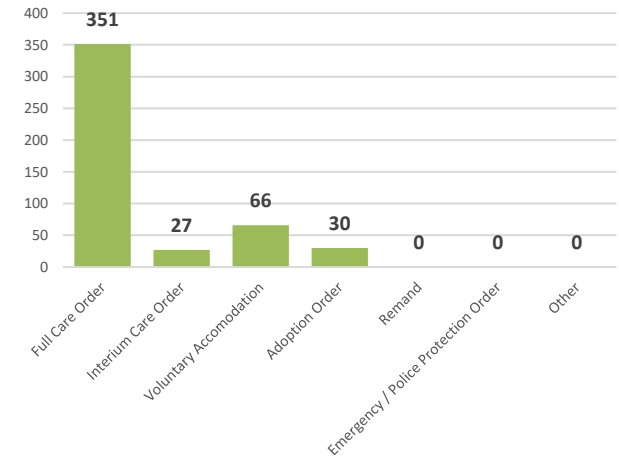
Looked After Children - Placement Type

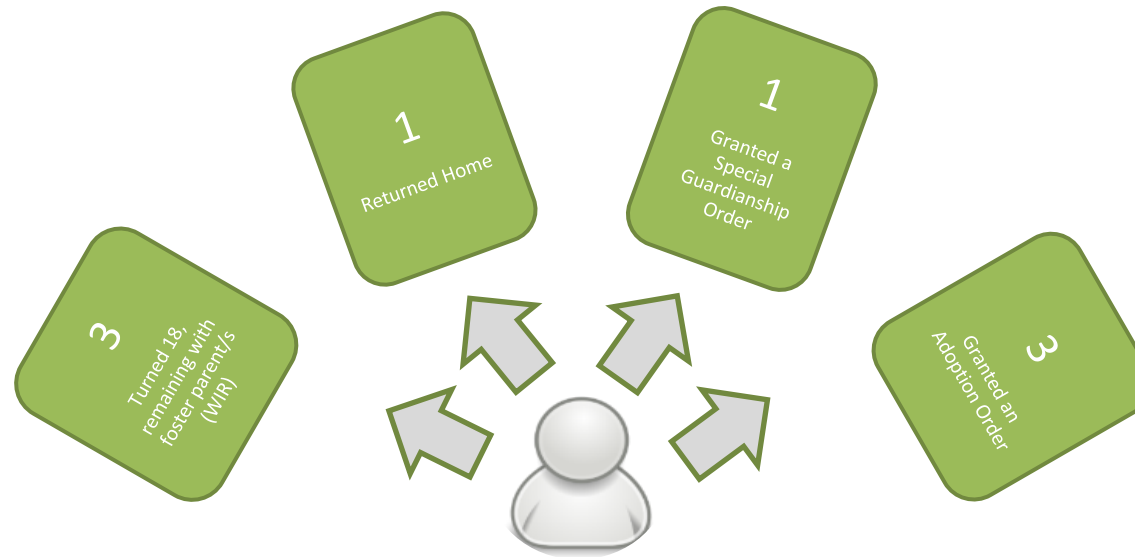


Looked After Children - Age and Gender



Looked After Children - Legal Status





Page 32

Initial Personal Education Plan	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Initial PEP's due within 20 school days of becoming Looked After during the month:	0	9
The number of Initial PEP's received within 20 school days of becoming Looked After:	0	7*

*2 ceased to be Looked After

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September saw a reduction in number of children open to the service The percentage of Single Assessments carried out within timescales significantly lowered this month to 36%. The reasons seen for this are due to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite a reduction in the number of children open to the service, this month saw an increase in referrals for assessments and a reduction in referrals closed which equals more demand in the service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single Assessment analysis has been shared with Principal Officers to help understand where the demand lies in this area and where the impact of timescales is seen the most.



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Page 33

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>majority of Single Assessments being completed within the Academy and CDT. Within the Academy we have had the next cohort of Newly Qualified Social Workers start in post. Due to their development, undertaking and completing assessments is taking longer than timescales. With development in their roles over time we are likely to see timescales improve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of those in CDT, due to delay in allocation because of capacity within the team the timescales for completing Single Assessments transferred over from other teams has seen an impact on the timescales of completion. • The percentage of children seen in September is comparable with last month. We can confirm that there is a tick box section on the on the SA outcome to show the child has been seen - reminders will be made during LIT monthly meetings for Team managers to prompt staff to ensure they are capturing this in their assessments accurately. Feedback from Team managers is that children are being seen during the assessment period but workers are not completing the forms correctly. • Child protection investigations in SCP are similar to previous month. There has been no further CP action recorded as outcome for those CP activity forms which are incomplete or completed without an outcome 		



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in CP register to 198 - reduction in children previously re- registered from 70 - 63 - (42 children's names were removed in Sept with 26 added) • Reduction in PLO numbers however there is an increase of those number in public proceedings • This month we have seen an increase in the LAC population from 470 to 474. According to the data, we have 0 children in unregulated placements at end of September. • September also saw a reduction in number of children awaiting placement end of the month 		



Bays Plus

	August 2023	September 2023
The number of young people presenting as homeless, placed in a bed & breakfast, during the month (under 18's only): (includes Air B&B and Hotels)	0	0
The total number of young people residing in a bed & breakfast at any time during the month (under 18's only):	1	0
The number of young people presenting as homeless, placed in emergency accommodation, during the month (under 18's only): (includes Jennings, Emergency SLS, SPOT Purchasing Provisions)	3	2
The total number of young people residing in emergency accommodation at any time during the month (under 18's only):	4	5

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
•	•	•

Page 35

Child Protection Investigations/Protocol Meetings	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings recorded during the month:		17
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings which require a Section 47 enquiry:		0
The number of Strategy Discussions / Meetings where no further CP action is required:		
The total number of Section 47 enquiries recorded during the month:		0
The number of Section 47 enquiries which require an Initial Child Protection Conference:		0
The number of Section 47 enquiries where there is no further CP action required:		0



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Fostering, Residential Care & Adoption

Family & Friends

Family & Friends Carers	August 2023	September 2023
The number of referrals/screening assessments commenced by FAFT during the month:	3	7
The number of IFFCA's ongoing as at the end of the month:	3	14
The number of Unified Assessments (UA's) ongoing as at the end of the month:	17	10
The number of Carers approved at panel during the month:	2	5
The number of approved carer status' terminated at panel during the month:	2	3
The number of approved carer households at the end of the month:	120	122
The number of Carer Reviews due during the month:	6	2
The number of Carer Reviews completed within timescales during the month:	3	1

Family & Friends Placements	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of children placed with a Family & Friends carer at the end of the month:	135	119
The number of children placed with unapproved Family & Friends carers at the end of the month:	10	22
The number of Placement Stability Meetings completed during the month:	2	0
The number of children who moved to a Family & Friends Carer during the month, due to placement breakdown:	0	0
The number of children who moved from a Family & Friends placement during the month, due to placement breakdown:	2	0



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

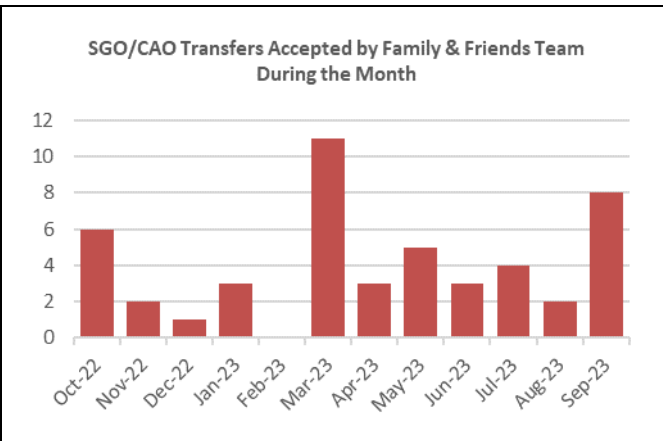
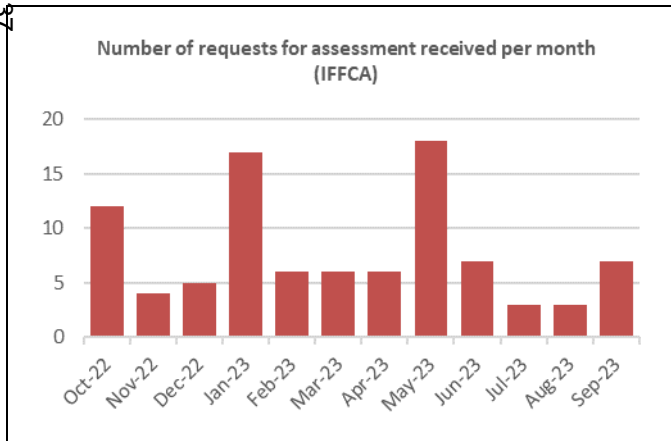
Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Children Subject to Special Guardianship & Child Arrangement Orders	August 2023	September 2023
The number of children, subject to a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order, accepted by Family & Friends during the month:	2	8
The number of children, subject to a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order, whose care circumstances changed during the month:	5	5
The number of children, subject to a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangement Order, supported by Family & Friends, at the end of the month:	338	324*
The number of SGO Reviews due during the month:	13	21
The number of SGO Reviews completed during the month:	22	34
The number of Family Stability Meetings held and Stability Plans produced during the month:	1	5

Page 37
*WCCIS Figure post data-cleans



SGO Ending Overview
5 children or young person's Special Guardianship Order ended in September 2023. 2 young persons had reached the age of 18. 2 children's living arrangements are being re-assessed after an unexpected death. 1 young person is now supported in a residential provision as part of a pathway plan.



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

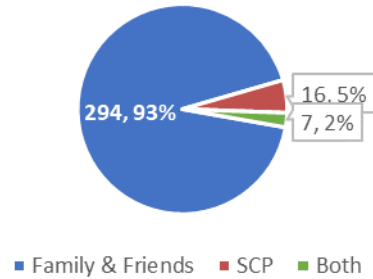
SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

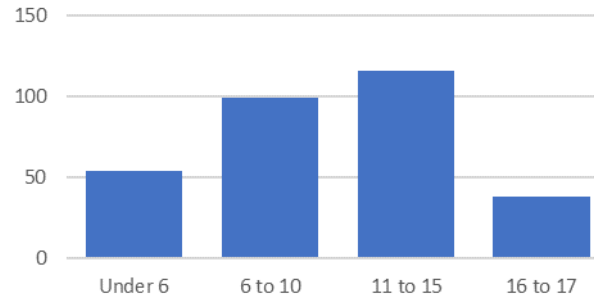
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

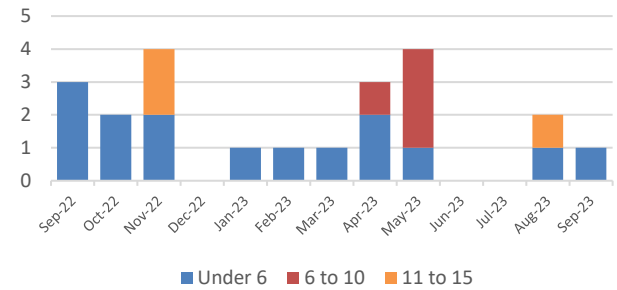
Children subject to SGO as at the end of the month with financial package



Children subject to SGO as at the end of the month with a financial package by age



Children made subject to SGO within last 12 months, by age group



What is working well?

What are we worried about?

What do we need to do?

•



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

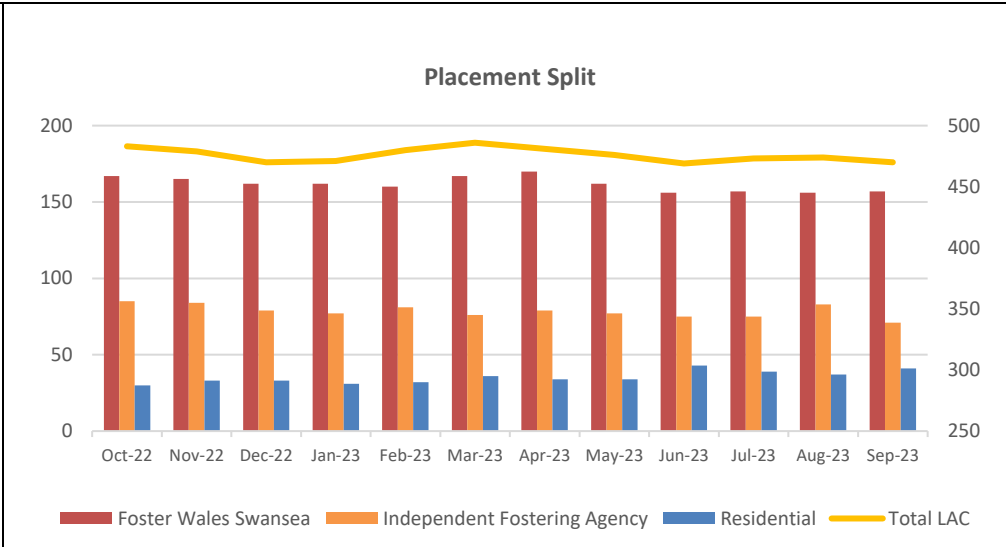
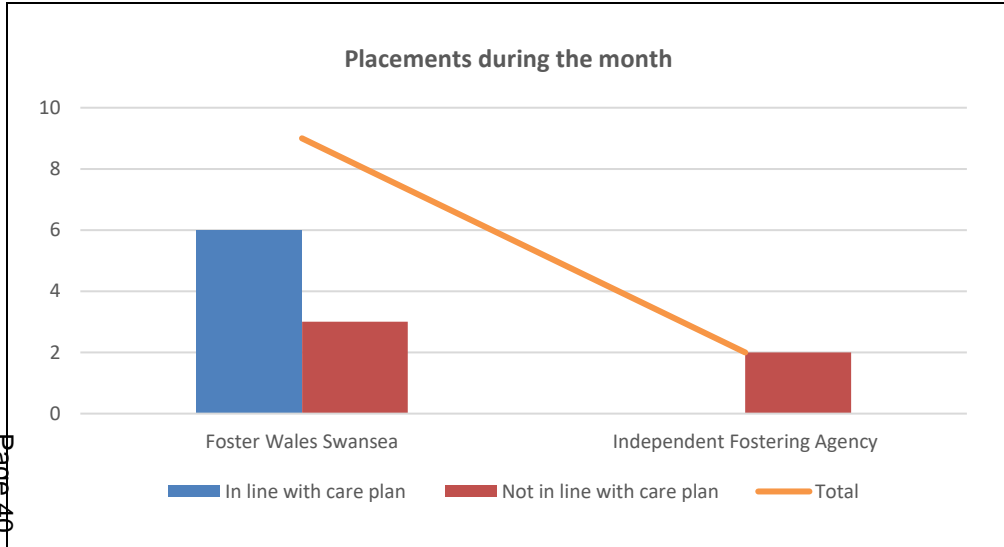
Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Foster Wales Swansea

Recruitment	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Registrations of Interest to foster received during the month:	12	16
The number of full assessments allocated during the month:	0	11
The number of carers approved at panel during the month:	0	1
The number of approved carer status' terminated at panel during the month:	1	2
Placements	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of children placed with a Foster Wales Swansea carer at the end of the month:	157	154
The number of Placement Stability Meetings completed during the month:	4	4
The number of children who changed placement during the month, due to placement breakdown:	4	0
The number of children moving from a Foster Wales Swansea carer to a Residential placement during the month:	1	0
The number of children moving from a Residential placement to a Foster Wales Swansea carer during the month:	0	0



Page 40

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Despite limited vacancies, 82% of fostering referrals were made in-house. Only two children were placed in an IFA (sibling group) In total, 11 Form F assessments were allocated in September. One is a local authority transfer, and two households are previous FWS carers. In September, a total of 9 home visits were completed, of which 8 were invited to October prep training. We have 6 new households who have confirmed their attendance at October training. There were no placement breakdowns in September. No unregulated placements were made, nor were any placements made in a residential provision. 80% of all placements made, were in line with their care plan. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The number of available in-house vacancies continues to be low in comparison to need, especially for sibling groups and older children. The number of available IFA fostering placements continues to be low too. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To continue monitoring and reviewing the unavailable vacancies. To continue to research and explore ideas to improve the 'package' for both new and existing carers. It needs to be more attractive to recruit and retain i.e. encourage local businesses to become fostering friendly To continue monitoring the recruitment process to ensure that applicants are moving through it in a timely manner and where relevant, IFA carers and previous FWS carers are fast tracked. Continue to promote the need for foster carers internally. To continue to promote fostering in line with the recruitment and retention strategy and working with



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>9. We recently held a foster carer consultation event. The feedback will help shape our retention plan going forward to improve the service for our foster carers.</p>		<p>Foster Wales nationally to recruit more foster carers and improve the 'offer'.</p> <p>6. To continue to improve the retention offer for existing foster carers in line with the recruitment and retention strategy and working with Foster Wales nationally to retain more foster carers and improve the 'offer' i.e. council tax, free car parking, wellbeing offer, expansion of support groups, foster carer charter, foster carer association etc.</p> <p>Create a retention plan which will incorporate the feedback received at the recent carer consultation event e.g. upskill staff, develop information booklets for foster carers on support and services available.</p>



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

In-House Residential

	August 2023	September 2023
The number of people receiving in-house residential support as at the end of the month:		3
The number of planned admissions during the month:		0
The number of emergency admissions during the month:		0
The number of children/young persons that have completed a personal plan during the month:		3
The average number of days children/young persons have spent residing in Ty Nant:		165
The average number of days children/young persons have spent residing in Heol Tir Du:		527
The number of children/young persons with a move on plan completed as at the end of the month:		0
The number of emergency strategy meetings held during the month:		2
The total number of available vacant beds as at the end of the month:		1
The number of requests/impact assessments completed for in-house residential support during the month:		2
The number of reportable ROIs during the month:		11

Page 42

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Western Bay Adoption Service

Recruitment	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Registrations of Interest to adopt received during the month:	0	2
The number of full assessments allocated during the month:	0	2
The number of adopters approved at panel during the month:	2	1
The number of approved adopters who have withdrawn from Western Bay Adoption Service during the month:	0	0
The number of adopter reviews due during the month:	0	0
The number of adopter reviews completed within timescales during the month:	0	0
Western Bay Adoption Placements	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Swansea children with a positive Should Be Placed outcome by the Agency Decision Maker during the month	0	1
The number of Swansea children made subject of a Placement Order during the month:	2	1
The number of Swansea Looked After Children placed with Western Bay Adopters during the month:	0	3
The total number of Swansea Looked After Children placed with Western Bay Adopters at the end of the month:	10	10
The total number of Swansea Looked After Children matched with adopters during the month:	3	2
The number of Swansea Looked After Children waiting to be matched with adopters:	18 (5 are booked into matching panel, 3 on hold pending assessment, 5 have a strong link and 6 have no link)	15 (6 are booked into matching panel, 1 is on hold, 3 have a strong link and 5 have no link)
The number of Swansea Looked After Children who have been matched with adopters but not yet placed for adoption:	2	1
The number of Swansea Looked After Children whose plan for adoption has changed:	0	0
The number of Swansea Looked After Children placed, whose placement was disrupted:	0	0



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

<p>Swansea LAC waiting to be matched with Adopters</p> <p> ■ Strong link identified ■ Booked into matching panel ● Waiting to be matched </p>	<p>Placement Orders Granted per Quarter 01/10/2021-30/09/2023</p> <p> — Region — Swansea </p>	<p>Swansea Children made subject to an Adoption Order vs. Special Guardianship Order, Residence Order or Child Arrangement Order</p> <p> — AOG — SGO/CAO/RO </p>
<p>What is working well?</p>	<p>What are we worried about?</p>	<p>What do we need to do?</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There has been an increase in adopter enquiries and adopters starting the assessment process. 2. Good BP support arrangements. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Some complex sibling groups remain in family finding. 2. Frequency of challenge by birth parents which builds in delay in the process of placement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue the focus on marketing and recruitment.



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

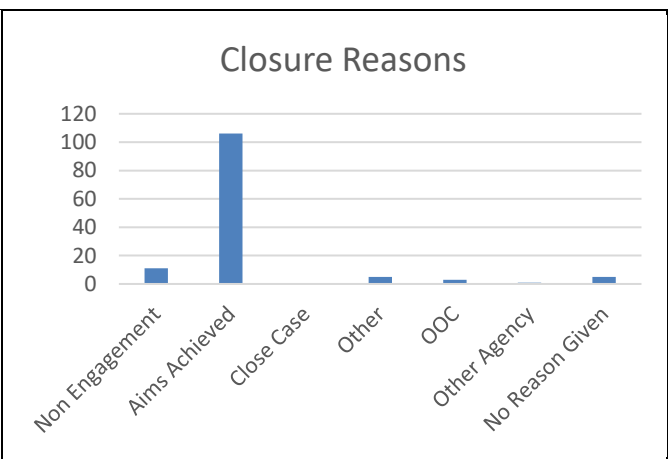
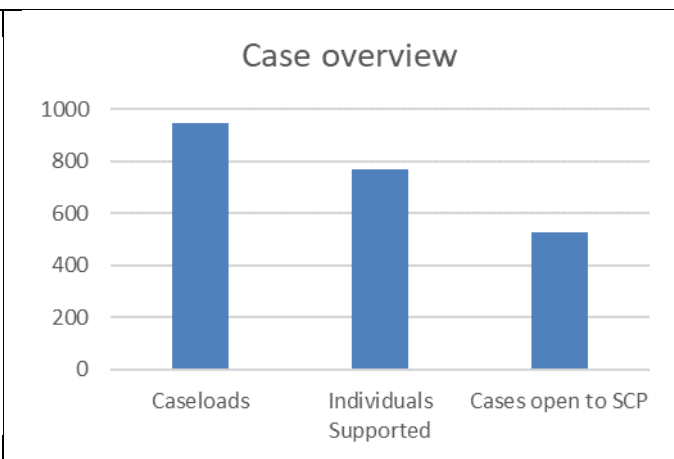
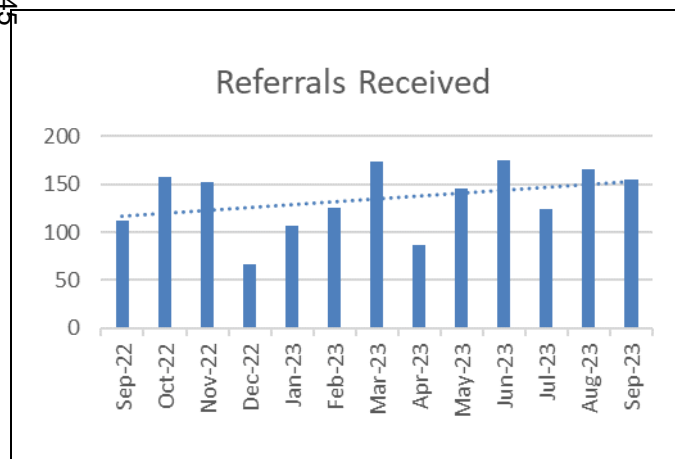
Support Services

Family Support Service

Referrals, Caseload & Closures	August 2023	September 2023
The total number of referrals received by Family Support Services during the month:	165	155
The total number of individuals supported by Family Support Services at the end of the month:	916	945
The total number of individuals closed by Family Supported Services during the month:	141	131
The number of individuals closed with an improved outcome during the month:	99	106*

*80.9% of closures were closed with a positive closure reason.

Page 45





Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Page 46

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<p>New connections/caseloads have increased overall for Family Support in September, with some teams recording over 100% increase (Hidden Harm) although this can be attributed to an increase in capacity (2 additional workers)</p> <p>However new connections to ITS show the most significant decrease.</p> <p>It is felt that the implementation of a trial system (introduced in early July 23) which sees all cases referred to these teams through the Single Point Of Entry (SPOE) reviewed at the weekly referral and allocation meeting and connections, agreed at this meeting.</p> <p>This results in the avoidance of incorrect connections to these teams and as a result the overall referral rate has slowed allowing these services, ITS in particular to begin to manage and positively impact on waiting times.</p> <p>Positive closures are recorded at 80.9%</p> <p>Ongoing individual service WCCIS dashboard builds are assisting managers to understand and manage demand. Work has begun on the development of WCCIS in relation to the PAC team and Home Support Team</p> <p>Some teams recording high number of closures which is contributing to overall positive management of demand</p>	<p>Reasons for closure available on WCCIS are not an accurate description of work completed. Disengagement is an example. Should a family disengage from a service towards the end of an intervention. 'Aim Achieved' and 'All work complete' do not fit with the circumstance. However, choosing disengagement as a closure reason does not capture the work that has been completed.</p> <p>We are still seeing examples of cases that are being closed by referring teams. This means that we are not capturing the correct closure reasons which ultimately effects our overall closure reporting</p> <p>Some teams recording low closure rates that needs to be explored further</p>	<p>On gong work to understand the demand through SPOE</p> <p>Further work with WCCIS build team to agree suitable closure reasons for FS cases</p> <p>Service need to drive the development of a distance travelled tool in order to better capture the impact of the work with children and families. This would negate the dependence on closure reasons at the end of an intervention and give a baseline and comparison no matter when and why the connection was closed</p> <p>Need to develop dashboards further across the team in order to easily identify the length of time cases are open for, which can trigger review and avoid drift</p>



Service Quality Unit & Child Protection Conference Unit

Child Protection Conferences	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Initial Conferences held during the month:	22	29
The number of Initial Conferences held within timescales during the month:	22	28
The number of Review Conferences held during the month:	24	89
The number of Review Conferences held within timescales during the month:	23	89
LAC & Pathway Plan Reviews	August 2023	September 2023
The number of LAC & Pathway Plan Reviews carried out during the month:	50	129
The number of LAC & Pathway Plan Reviews held within timescales during the month:	TBC	129
Adoption Reviews	August 2023	September 2023
The number of Adoption Reviews carried out during the month:	3	1
The number of Adoption Reviews held within timescales during the month:	TBC	1

*Figures reported by SQU and CPCU in the absence of a report from WCCIS

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Professional Abuse Enquiries

	August 2023	September 2023
The number of ongoing investigations at the end of the month:	14	14
The number of enquiries received during the month:	16	17
The number of enquiries re-directed to Adult Services:	2	2
The number of enquiries which met threshold for an investigation:	7	9
The number of enquiries closed with no further investigation:	7	4
The number of enquiries passed onto a different Local Authority:	0	2
The number of Professional Abuse Strategy meetings held during the month:	16	21
The number of Initial meetings held during the month:	9	14
The number of Review meetings held during the month:	7	7
The number of investigations which concluded during the month:	7	10
4 investigations concluded with Substantiated outcome, 1 Unsubstantiated and 4 Unfounded. 1 did not meet threshold.		

What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

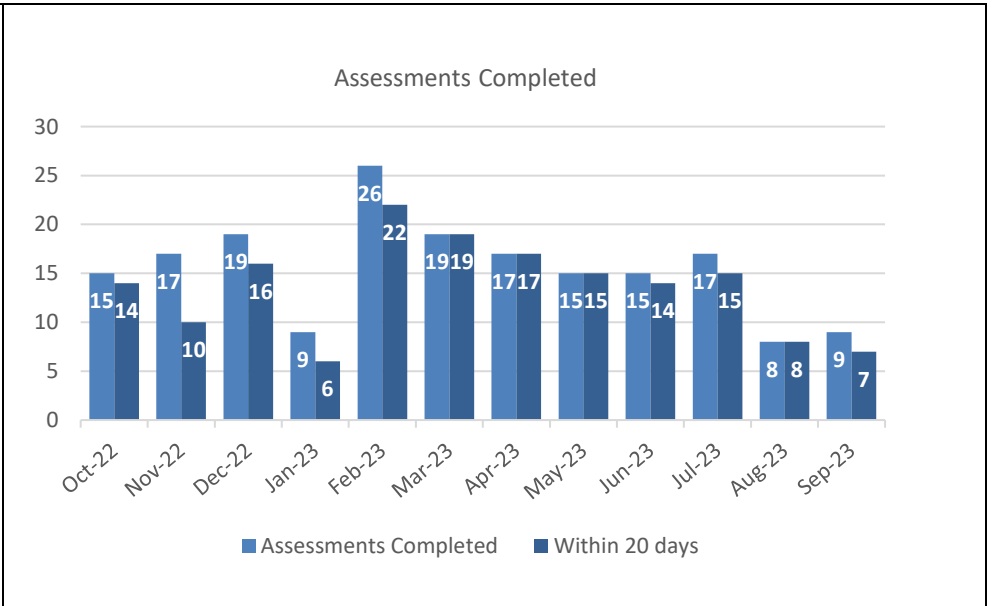
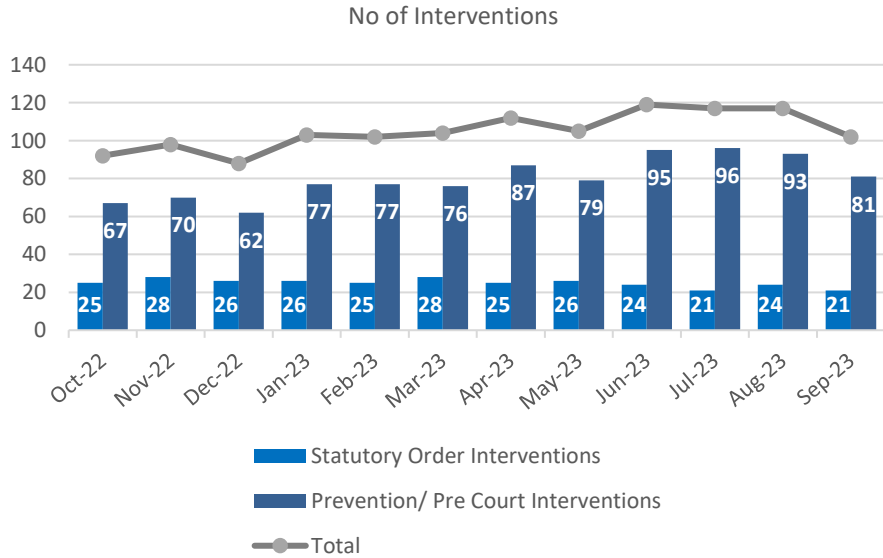
Youth Offending Service

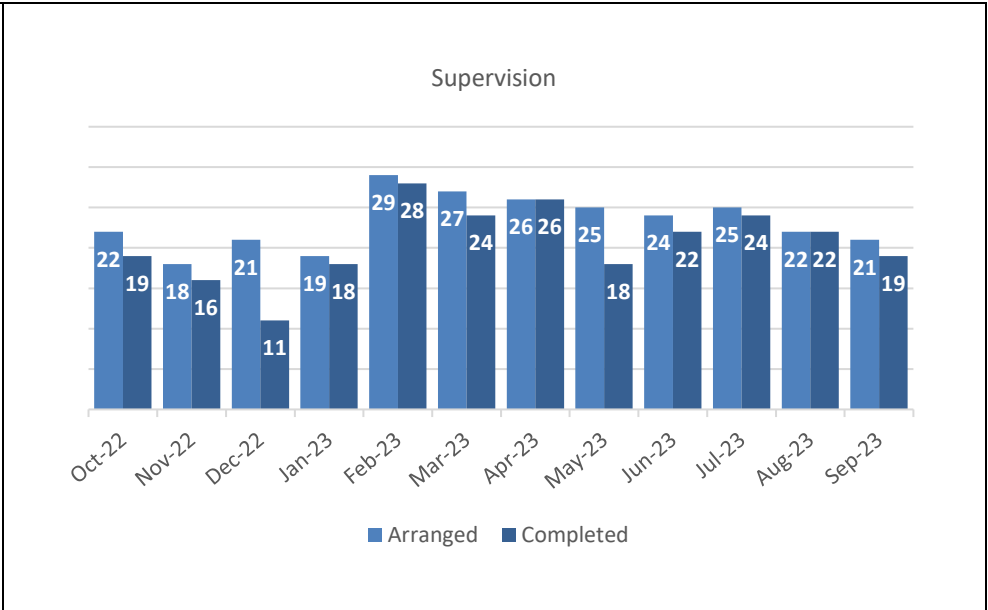
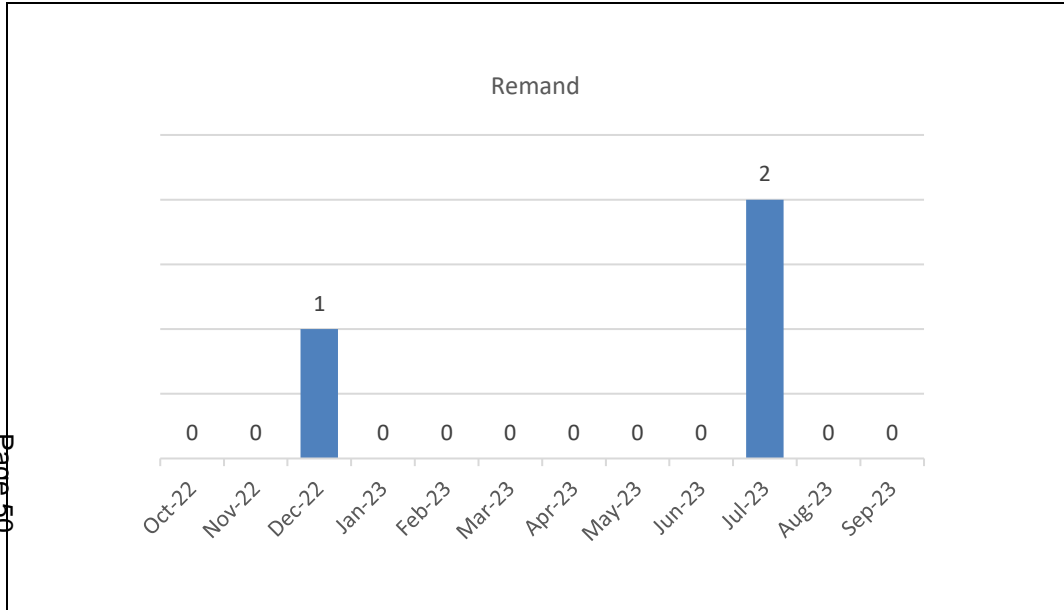
Staff Wellbeing

Youth Offending Service

	September 2023	August 2023
The total number of young people with an open intervention at the end of the month:	102	117
The number of young people remanded during the month:	0	0
The number of Asset Plus Assessments completed during the month:	9	8
The number of Asset Plus Assessments completed within 20 days:	7	8
The number of supervisions that took place during the month:	22	22

Page 49





What is working well?	What are we worried about?	What do we need to do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no new remands this month. Supervisions have remained consistent, and this is in light of some staff absences over the summer period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interventions numbers are down from August. This reflects case closures from the summer period and group work completed across this time. There is a slight dip in asset plus assessments being completed in line with national standards. However, this again reflects some staff/senior absences across the month of August 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to strive to increase supervision for all staff in the service. We will aim to increase the timescales in which we complete all asset plus assessments.



Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

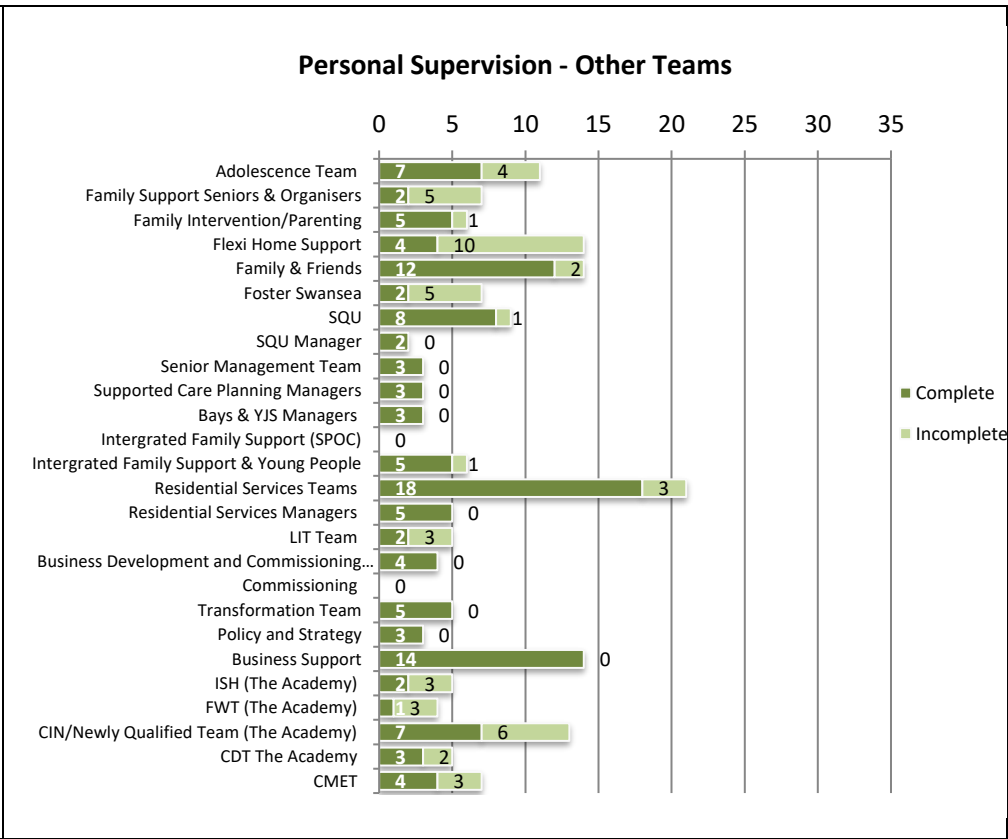
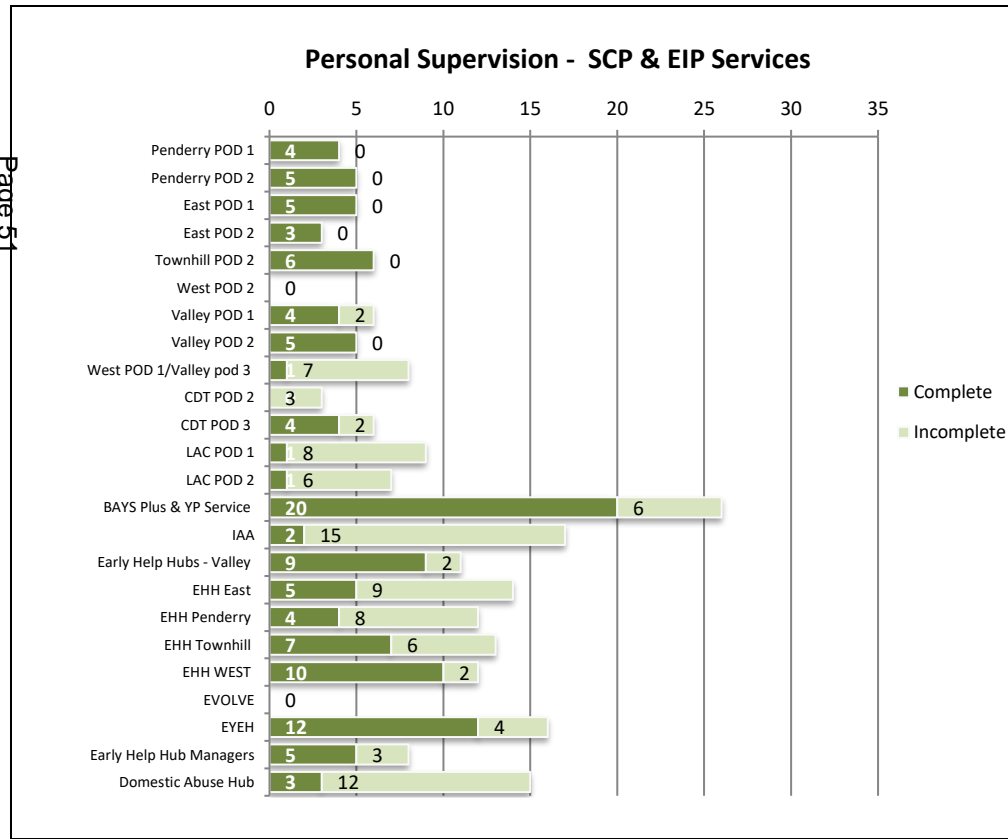
Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Staff Wellbeing

Supervision

Personal Supervision	August 2023	September 2023
The percentage of Personal Supervision sessions that took place within timescales:	70.16%	62.02%





Single Point of Contact

Supported Care Planning

Fostering & Adoption

Support Services

SQU & CPCU

Professional Abuse Enquires

Youth Offending Service

Staff Wellbeing

Agenda Item 7



Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 5th December 2023

Improvement Programme Update

Purpose	To update scrutiny panel on the improvement and intervention programme within Child and Family Services.
Content	This report provides an update against the priority improvement areas that are being taken forward by CFS during 2023/24, following the report presented previously to scrutiny panel.
Councillors are being asked to	Consider the report as part of their routine review of performance in Child and Family Services.
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services
Lead Officer(s)	David Howes, Director of Social Services Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services
Report Author	Linzi Margetson, Principal Office for Safeguarding, Quality & Performance
Legal Officer	N/A
Finance Officer	N/A
Access to Services Officer	N/A

1. Improvement Priorities for Child and Family Services

1.1. Swansea Child and Family Services continue to face a number of challenges and pressures on its road to recovery post-pandemic. These are not dissimilar to those faced in other Local Authorities – increase in and different types of demand and complexities; social work recruitment crisis; the expectations from Welsh Government as articulated in their programme for change, and more recently the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on our vulnerable children, young people and their families and carers.

The improvement priorities for the service are focused on three critical areas, with more detail provided below on key actions to deliver the necessary change:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Placement sufficiency
- Workforce

This report will provide updates on further progress made that is supporting the improvement of the service under these three themes.

2. Prevention and Early Intervention

2.1. FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES – SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY

The Pilot for the Single Point of Entry (SPOE) within Family Support Teams has been operational for over a year. Support services are able to slow thinking down and respond differently to what matters to children and their families at the right time. It means working with the social worker to respond more appropriately to what matters at an earlier stage so that the right people can be tasked with the right work and at a time where they feel is best for them to achieve better outcomes. Feedback suggests that this way of working is helping the service to tailor its support packages to meet what matters more holistically to the children and young people that need they help. Feedback from staff who are working in this new way has been positive with the majority reporting it has had a positive or extremely positive impact on their moral. Likewise, stakeholders that access this provision have suggested that it “Saves social workers 'hours of time ’”, that it is, “Much quicker and much easier to get support” and that the “Family get support quicker”.

2.2. THERAPY SERVICES

Our therapeutic service underwent a review in 2021 and have designed a new model as a result of their learning. This new model incorporates the therapeutic recovery model and supports staff in understanding basic emotional needs such as safety and relationships before progressing on to building emotional resilience and reflection. These basic skills are needed before a child, young person or family

can fully engage in group or one to one therapeutic intervention. The model aims to understand what matters from the perspective of the service user by identifying need early on and building more robust plans with the Social Worker to support the child or young person through the therapeutic model. It is hoped that this will enable us to provide more meaningful and longer lasting therapeutic interventions at an earlier stage of the care plan. The model is in its initial scoping stages and a test of this way of working is being set-up to measure success in this area.

The therapeutic work in Foster Wales is continuing to develop with the support of our internal therapy service. The intention is to provide wrap around support for the foster carers of each young person to help them understand the child's trauma nurture timeline. This fostering team is enhancing its wider development through the training and upskilling of foster carers as well as targeted recruitment and retention support.

2.3 CONTINUUM OF NEED

Our work at the early stages of the continuum of need is progressing and schools across Swansea now have Senior Lead Workers within their buildings. This means that workers from our Early Help Teams are more closely aligned to schools so that multi-agency discussions, which can also include the family, can happen more effectively during the referral process. The purpose of piloting this way of working was so that children, young people, their families and professionals are able to access the right information, advice and assistance at the earliest opportunity and not have to go through lots of different processes before they get the right help at the right time from the right people.

Support does not always have to be from services. It might be better from people around them like family or friends. They might need it to come from other organisations or charities. To support this, school-based professionals are also able to have conversations with our Senior Lead Workers without consent of the family. These conversations happen anonymously without the need to disclose identifying factors. This helps school professionals with their own reflective practice supporting them to exhaust their own support before the need for more professional support which is available after obtaining consent.

2.4 YOUTH WORK

Our Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (CMET) panel have been continuing to work with young people who are at risk of these exploitations. As of the 1st of January 2023, there were 22 young people subject to Protocol whom the Local Authority has responsibility for.

From January to September 2023, we placed another 29 young people on protocol, considered 25 young people and we removed from protocol 31 young people.

ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

2.5 NEURODIVERSITY LEAD WORK

Early Help has had a significant increase in the number of referrals received for families whereby Neuro Diversity is presenting as a significant issue for both children, young people and their parents to understand and manage. Quality assurance work undertaken with managers of the hubs has highlighted that a large number of the current workforce are not skilled or equipped to deal with issues around all aspects of Neuro Diversity.

A Lead Worker has since been appointed, the role is dedicated to the development and delivery of interventions for families, providing work force development opportunities and staff consultations will ensure we have robust offers in place whilst building on a whole service response to all aspects of Neuro Diversity. The lead worker has also completed training sessions with support services with Family Support to enable them to offer weekly parenting sessions on Neuro Diversity.

2.6 BORN INTO CARE

There has been an increase in staff within the JigSo Team that works with both Health and Child and Family utilising the updated Born into Care birth plan. The team have been able to support parents to share their decisions and best hopes. A Parent and Carer PAC team has also been created within JigSo to support parents at home with their newborns and create safety where there are worries.

This development work enables Health and Child and Family to work directly with families and support them to remain together once the baby is born.

The feedback obtained from service users who have accessed this support continues to be positive, with many families now successfully caring for their young children at home. This has had a direct impact on those families whose needs may have escalated into more intensive statutory support.

3. Placement Sufficiency

3.1 RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES AND EMERGENCY PLACEMENTS

We are continuing to recruit highly skilled and experienced staff, focusing on retention through developing their expertise and providing specific training and high levels of supervision, to ensure the workforce are supported, confident and the children and young people have the

quality of care they deserve. A New Assistant Manager has started (October) and is in their induction phase.

Advert for an additional eight residential childcare officers is currently out.

The embedding of PACE and trauma informed approaches is a current focus for all managers and will align to each home's Statement of Purpose. Working with designated therapists who provide advice, guidance and consultation sessions to teams across the service, including our Fostering service, will support assessment, admissions and the further development of policy and guidance to improve practice. Initial meetings with the therapist have taken place throughout October and November.

- Ty Nant – Plans for the development of move-on (post 16) accommodation bungalows on site are progressing.
- Heol Tir Du - After a prolonged period of building improvements, Heol Tir Du was CIW registered in Summer 2023.
- Hendy Cottages – after more in depth assessments, plans for the home were redeveloped and are with the surveying team. Work is planned to start early in the New Year.
- Ty Rhossili - Repurposing the existing space at Rhossili to incorporate 2 bedrooms for children and young people requiring short-term breaks has gone into the pre planning stage. Completion by the 31st of March 2024.

We are continuing to search for appropriate residential homes by utilising expertise in the Residential and Commissioning workforce and develop collaborative approaches with local providers so that we are able to offer creative solutions to growing local residential homes,

We have visited nine 4/5-bedroom properties since the last update; however, none have been suitable as additions to our portfolio and have not proceeded past our initial location and premises assessment tool.

We are working with Finance and Commissioning teams to maximise funding opportunities and scope out available finance options, with a view to having a multi-option model to provide flexibility and improve purchase/lease arrangements.

4. Workforce

- 4.1 We know that our staff are our greatest asset and that they want to be front and centre in the lives of the families they support to help them achieve what matters. Our staff love making a difference and when

they can achieve what matters to a family, they feel a huge sense of satisfaction and value.

To support with some of the immediate workforce issues, a number of pieces of work are ongoing.

4.2 STAFF REWARD AND RECOGNITION

The workforce programme continues to focus its efforts on the presenting capacity issues faced by our front-line services. The programme recently agreed to deliver a reward and recognition programme which would see staff rewarded with vouchers and additional praise from senior officers to recognise their efforts.

The service held three staff days in November. These were opportunities for the workforce to come together as a whole to celebrate the work to date and share learning and practice across the continuum of need. The days included thank you's to the workforce from the Head of Service and Directors as well as appreciative enquiry videos from a number of service areas. This gave the service a chance to reflect on the excellent work that continues to be done and the wonderful outcomes that are achieved as part of our daily work. It is hoped that this event, along with a reminder of some wellbeing tools, will help staff to feel valued, appreciated and maintain a healthy wellbeing throughout this winter period.

4.3 THE ACADEMY

Our Social Work Academy is now fully operational, and a number of recently qualified workers have been recruited to fill the vacant positions in those teams. The Academy is now able to take new Child in Need of Care and Support (CINCS) cases and work with these families intensively. This will support a decrease in work within our statutory teams allowing staff in those areas a more appropriate workload. The Academy will also give us the opportunity to work quickly with families to prevent them from needing more intensive support.

The staff within the Academy are made up of newly qualified workers who have often completed their placement with us. These Newly Qualified workers will start their Social Work career with us and be nurtured and developed within the Academy. Having the time and space to develop their practice with less complex cases will help them build their confidence and skills. They will then be able to transfer their skills across the service as they move into the more complicated world of Child Protection cases. This is the beginning of our career progression pathway that will see these members of staff move on to different areas of the service in future, thus growing our own future workforce that are aligned to the values and principles of us as a Local Authority. To support this work, we are committed as a service in supporting our own staff to become qualified workers and are

sponsoring a number of them to complete their qualifications through the Open University.

In addition to the above the Academy now has a development Pod where staff who require some additional support, for a variety of reasons, can temporarily move over to the Academy for a 6-month period (although, this can be extended dependant on the needs of the worker). During this time, they will have the opportunity to access the range of opportunities and support mechanisms that the Academy has to offer. This can include CINCS, CDT and ISH as well as working with Child Protection cases, should we be able to progress working with cases where there are higher levels of risk. The idea is that we can support them to further develop their skills set /confidence before they return to their original team. It is also about acknowledging that staff may become overwhelmed in their respective teams and become 'burnt out', so the team allows staff to revisit their passion for social work in a supportive environment and 'refresh'.

4.4 RECRUITMENT AND AGENCY STAFFING

The All-Wales approach to managing social worker recruitment agencies is ongoing and the Heads of Children's Services are working towards a set of principles that will guide this. Amongst those is the promise that local authorities will consider a collective response to the use of agency workers. Of course, this is the very beginning of this work and will require a cohesive response from across Wales to be successful. We are hopeful that this work will continue to support the ongoing pressures faced by our social care staff.

5. **Legal implications**

5.1 None

6. **Finance Implications**

6.1 None

7. **Integrated Assessment Implications**

7.1 None

Glossary of terms: None

Background papers: None

Appendices: None

Agenda Item 8



Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 5th December 2023

Update on the Contextual Missing Exploited and Trafficked Team (CMET)

Purpose	To provide an overview of the Contextual Missing Exploited and Trafficked Team (CMET)
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This report includes a summary of the recent developments and progress within the Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Team.• The report includes an overview of the activity of the CMET team and Operational Panel.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endorse the report and its conclusions
Lead Councillor(s)	Cllr Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services, Cllr Hayley Gwilliam, Community support and Cllr Alyson Anthony, Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Lead Officer(s)	David Howes, Director of Social Services Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services Jane Whitmore, Strategic Lead Commissioner Kelli Richards, Principal Officer
Report Author	Kelli Richards, Principal Officer for Early Help, Single Point of Contact, The Academy, CMET and Emergency Duty Team.
Legal Officer	Lucy Moore
Finance Officer	Chris Davies
Access to Services Officer	Rhian Millar

1. Background

- 1.1 Contextual safeguarding is an approach to understanding and responding to harm that adolescents face beyond their family homes, this type of harm is referred to as extra familial harm (EFH) and can include Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), Youth Violence and peer on peer abuse.
- 1.2 Since 2019 Swansea Children and Family Services have been working with Dr Carlene Firmin and her team at Bedfordshire University to evaluate the capability of our systems in responding to risks outside the family home in Swansea.

Initially one Practice Lead post was created which sat in the Service Quality Unit (SQU) and focussed on individual children and young people who had experienced extra familial harm, were considered to have met the threshold of significant harm and referred for a Child Protection Case Conference.

At this time the responsibility for assessing these individual cases remained with the Social Workers in the Supported Care Planning Team and the focus of the work of the Child Exploitation Practice Lead was to support the Social Workers and Conference Chairs in SQU with developing safety plans for adolescents.

As the contextual safeguarding pilot progressed one locality in Swansea was identified in which to embed a contextual approach to referral, assessment and intervention in relation to contexts and peer groups. In order to do this we moved the Practice Lead post from SQU which sits at level 4 of the Continuum of Need and into the Single Point of Contact where we have the ability to provide information, advice and assistance in respect of extra familial harm right across the Continuum from level 1 up to level 4.

In order to further develop the contextual safeguarding approach, in 2020 we undertook a systems thinking review to help us understand what matters to the children and young people who experience extra familial harm, their parents, carers and the professionals who support them. We also analysed the referrals received in Child and Family Services that related to extra familial harm and our current systems capability to respond.

This resulted in a change of focus for our pilot from applying a contextual safeguarding response in one area to the application of indicators in respect of extra familial harm across the continuum of need throughout Swansea. The development of the Contextual, Missing, Exploited and Trafficked Team, the CMET multi agency

operational panel and the CMET Youth Panel have enabled us to use this approach across Swansea utilising a needs-based approach.

2. Contextual Missing Exploited and Trafficked Team

- 2.1 The CMET team is grant funded through the Children and Communities Grant and the Violence Prevention Unit and is made up of Social Workers and Youth Workers who respond to all forms of extra familial harm using a tiered approach.

Tier 1 relates to how we respond to and increase safety for individual young people and requires practitioners to understand the young person's peer network, where they spend time and how this impacts on their safety. The Social Workers in the team oversee all the initial cases that are referred to Child and Family Services where there are elements of CSE, CCE, missing episodes or worries in relation to trafficking. This includes chairing strategy meetings, creating safety plans and making decisions on next steps for new and existing cases, including children who are looked after by other Local Authorities and placed in Swansea. The Social Workers chair protocol meetings in respect of exploitation and missing children and also support professionals across the continuum of need in understanding and responding to exploitation. This does not replace the safeguarding of individual young people, which remains the responsibility of the allocated social worker in the Supported Care Planning teams but provides an additional layer of safety and support.

Tier 2 relates to how we increase safety within contexts such as peer groups, schools, neighbourhoods or online. The Youth Workers in the team are responsible for undertaking assessments and developing plans for contexts in which young people spend their time and peer groups. The CMET team recognise the important role that communities and partner agencies have in creating safe places and spaces for the children and young people of Swansea to spend time by taking a contextual approach to safeguarding. We have developed partnerships with sectors and individuals who are responsible for the contexts in which extra familial harm occurs and who would not ordinarily be involved. For example, McDonald's staff, those who work in our night time economy and the general public. The CMET team seek to build guardianship in contexts and improve young peoples, experience within the context.

- 2.2 The CMET panel meets on a fortnightly basis and includes representation from Swansea Child and Family Services (including CMET, Evolve, Social Workers, Early help and Youth Justice Service), Education, Housing, South Wales Police, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Barod/Choices, Media Academy Cymru, YMCA and the Independent Child Trafficking Guardians. The panel takes a holistic approach to the prevention and protection of children and young

people who are risk of or have experienced extra familial harm. It uses a solution focussed and strengths-based approach to safeguarding children and young people outside of the family home by making the places and spaces they spend time safer and creating guardianship.

The CMET panel draws together existing standalone review structures such as missing, child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation, trafficking, radicalisation, peer abuse, serious youth violence and teenage relationship abuse. The panel focussed on the contexts around these concerns with the view of increasing safety within the places, spaces and peer networks in which this harm occurs.

The panel supports, develops and oversees interventions to address harm/risks outside of the family home to increase welfare and protection to children and young people and goes beyond just discussing concerns. Through the review process the panel identifies, monitors and challenges the effectiveness of activities undertaken with children and young people, who are subject to harm/risk outside the family home across the Local Authority area of Swansea. The panel collates themes and trends ensuring there is an effective multi-agency strategic and operational response to extra familial harm across Swansea.

Some of the contextual cases supported through the CMET panel process include assessments, plans and interventions in response to:

- An incident of serious youth violence at Swansea beachfront which was described in the media as a 'mass brawl' involving young people.
- The involvement of young people in the large scale disturbance in Mayhill, referred to as the 'Mayhill riot'.
- The serious knife wounding of a young person in Swansea involving groups of young people who had travelled across the city due to a dispute.
- The tragic drowning of a young person in open water at a place known to attract large numbers of young people in warm weather.
- A large scale disturbance at a local cemetery involving groups of people from across Wales which resulted in the serious injury of a young person.
- The disruption of exploitation at business premises including barber shops, Shisha bars and establishments selling vapes.
- The high rate of missing episodes reported for children and young people placed by other Local Authorities in independent care homes in Swansea.

2.3 The CMET Youth Panel is made up of Young People who have real life experience of extra familial harm in and around Swansea. They meet on a monthly basis and have been involved in a number of pieces of important work that raises awareness of extra familial harm and could

influence decisions made locally and nationally on matters that affect young people.

The work of the CMET Youth Panel includes

- The development of a language guide for professionals that they have presented to officers in Child and Family and Education, Local Councillors, Cabinet Members and the Childrens Commissioner for Wales.
- Co-production of two videos with the Children's Social Care Research and Development Centre (CASCADE) at Cardiff University in relation to indicators and the impact of criminal exploitation.
- Test purchasing of alcohol and vapes across Swansea with Trading Standards which has resulted in the seizure of thousands of illegal vapes.
- Representing the view of young people as part of the anti-social behaviour enquiry undertaken by Swansea Council.

2.4 This year Child and Family Services is one of only two Local Authorities in Wales to have been successful in an application to the Youth Endowment Fund for their Safer Homes project. Children and young people vulnerable to - or experiencing - harm outside the home often have complex needs that require support from different professional services, from mental health to youth justice services. Yet there is very little evidence on what an effective multi-agency approach looks like, or the services they should provide. Overlapping professionals often operate in a fragmented and difficult to navigate process of referrals and assessments, with barriers to service access and engagement for families. Children, young people, and their families often report that they don't feel listened to, and children and young people report feeling less safe in places with less adult supervision, including parks and on the streets. All too often, no-one has the full picture of the child's life, is trusted, or has the time or resources to do anything about it, meaning they and their family don't get the support they need when they need it. This can be exacerbated by children, young people and their families feeling stigmatised when involved in services.

The aim of the funding is to break down some of the structural barriers which prevent children, young people and their families from accessing timely, welcome support – including children in need of additional support and those on the edge of care. It will bring promising practice and guidance together with the principles and practice recommendations set out in the Independent Review of Children's Social Care for England. This round will complement the Department for Education's (DfE) plans to deliver and evaluate a pathfinder programme to support and prepare for implementation of the Review's recommendations.

Our pilot project will operate in two areas of Swansea which have been identified as those where we receive the highest rate of referrals in relation to extra familial harm using the CMET activity report. These areas are Penderry and East and the pilot teams, which our CMET Youth Panel have named CMET United, will be co-produced and delivered by Social Workers and Youth Workers in partnership with Education, Youth Justice Service, South Wales Police, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Substance Misuse Services and third partner agencies who specialise in addressing serious youth violence and barriers experienced by young people in our ethnic minority communities.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 Traditional child protection processes would have considered the impact of the major events highlighted on individual children and young people in isolation and would not have allowed us to consider the wider context and create safety in the spaces and places that children and young people spend time when outside of the family home.
- 3.2 By understanding what matters to children and young people and working with them in their peer groups, multi-agency professionals have been able to develop plans and interventions that consider the environment and guardianship in the spaces and places that children and young people spend time in order to make these safer and prevent recurrence of the harm that has been experienced.
- 3.3 Contextual responses include area safety plans, youth work intervention, physical environment changes such as lighting and educational work with young people in settings such as youth clubs and schools but also in the spaces and places that they spend time like parks, shopping centres and fast-food restaurants.
- 3.4 The CMET Youth Panel have ensured that the voices of children and young people have been heard in matters that relate, such as the recent enquiry into Anti-Social Behaviour in Swansea, and will be considered in planning for future service delivery and resources

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 None

5. Finance Implications

- 5.1 None

6. Integrated Assessment Implications

6.1 None

Glossary of terms:

CCE - Child Criminal Exploitation

CSE - Child Sexual Exploitation

CMET - Contextual Missing Exploited and Trafficked Team

EFH - Extra Familial Harm

SQU - Service Quality Unit

Background papers: *None*

Appendices: Appendix 1 – CMET Activity Report

CMET Contextual and Safeguarding Data - January to September 2023.

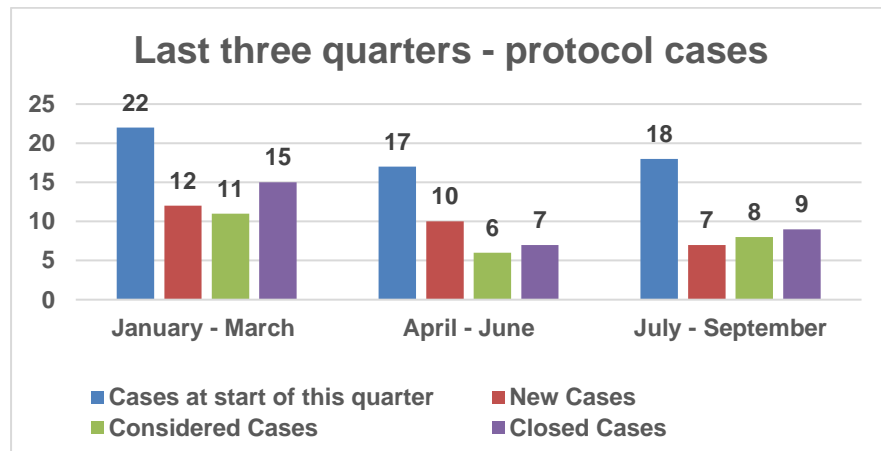
Individual Protocol Cases

As of the 1st January 2023, there were 22 young people subject to Protocol whom the Local Authority has responsibility for.

From January to September 2023, we placed another 29 young people on protocol, considered 25 young people and we removed from protocol 31 young people.

The table below shows a breakdown of these categories by the yearly quarter.

	New Cases	Considered Cases	Closed Cases
January to March 2023	12	11	15
April to June 2023	10	6	7
July to September 2023	7	8	9
Total	29	25	31



Type of Protocol Concern for new cases

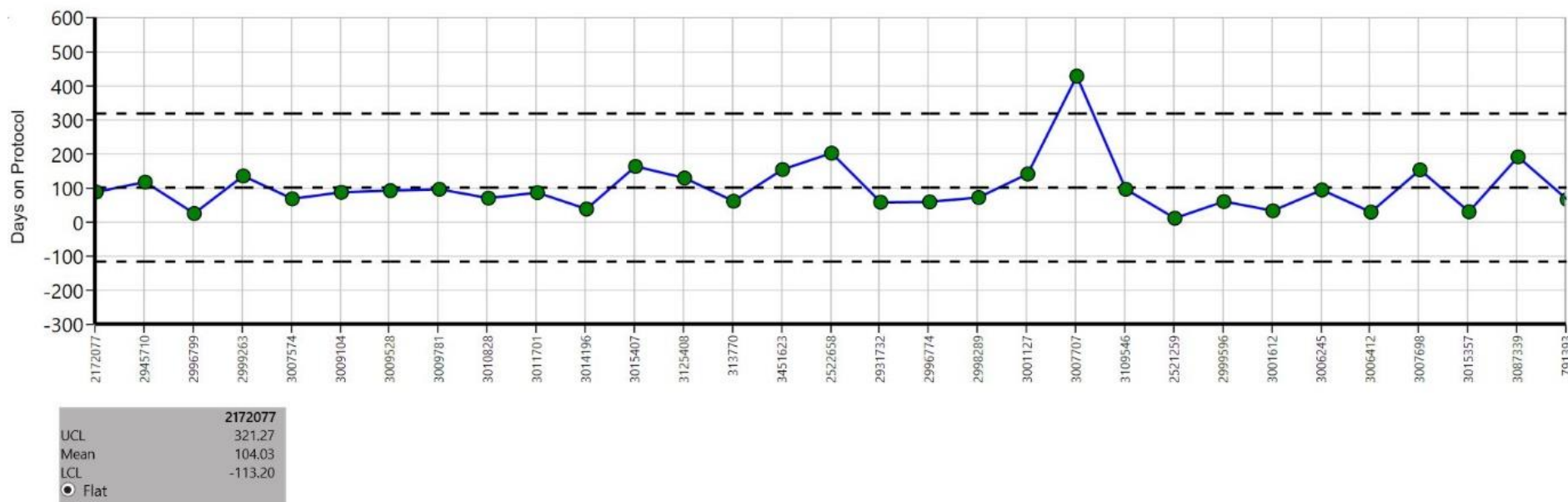
Type of Concern	No of Cases placed on Protocol
Child Criminal Exploitation	8
Child Sexual Exploitation	8
Missing	9
Child Criminal Exploitation/Child Sexual Exploitation/Other	1
Child Criminal Exploitation/Youth Violence	1
Other	2
Total	29

Type of Protocol Concern for considered cases

These are the cases we considered at strategy meetings due to concerns around exploitation, these risks were acknowledged and safety and support were put in place. This support was seen as appropriate and there was no need for further strategy meetings at the time.

Type of Concern	No of Cases Considered
Child Criminal Exploitation	5
Child Sexual Exploitation	5
Youth Violence	4
Sexual Harmful Behaviour	5
Radicalisation	1
Child Sexual Exploitation/Sexual Harmful Behaviour	2
Child Criminal Exploitation/Missing	1
Child Criminal Exp/Child Sexual Exp/Missing/Youth Violence	1
Other	1
Total	25

Period on Protocol (2023 Removed Cases)



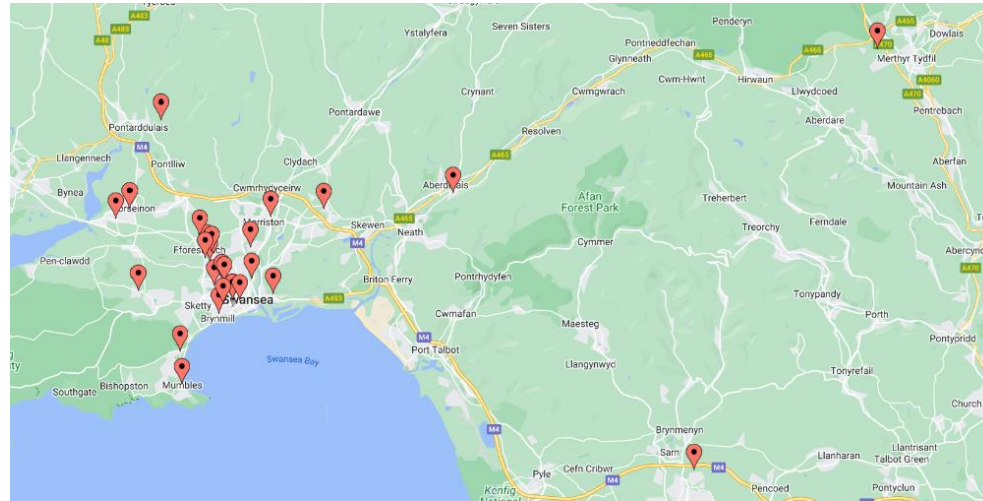
Between January and September 2023, 31 young people were removed from protocol. This does not necessarily mean their referral was closed down but that the risks have reduced to a point where we do not require a child protection response. The average number of days these young people have been subject to protocol is 104 days.

Young People on protocol by postcode, including out of county.

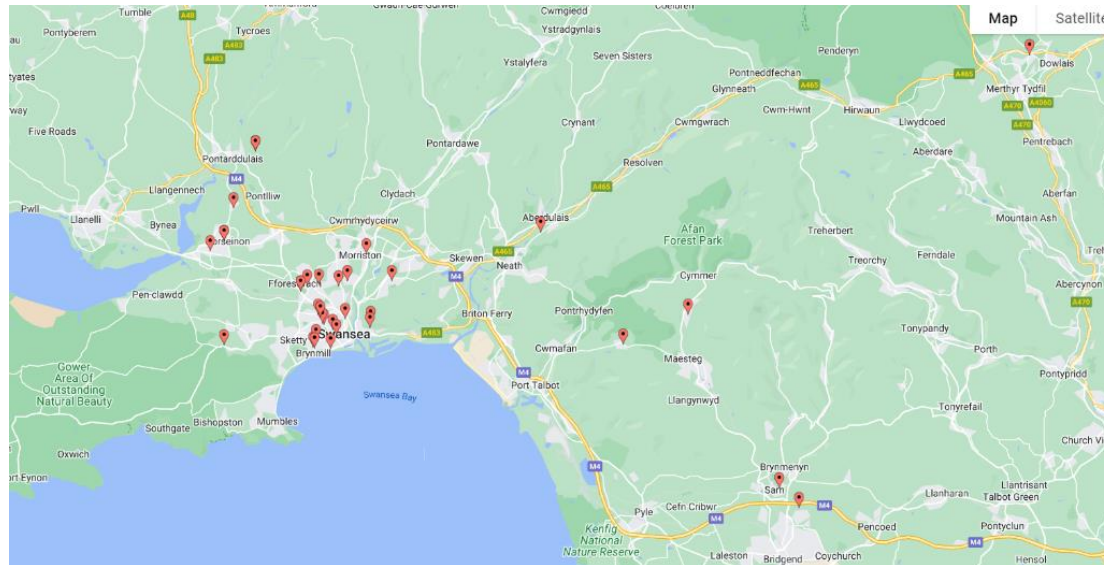
July to September 2023



April – June 2023

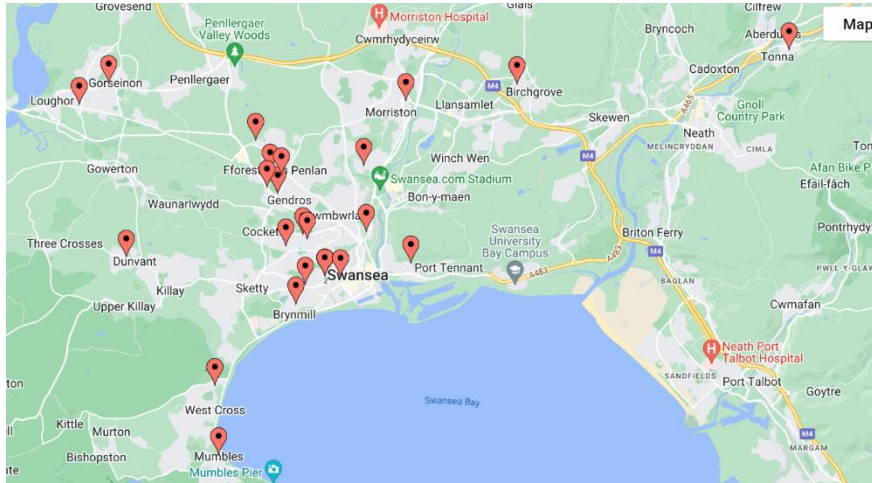


January – March 2023

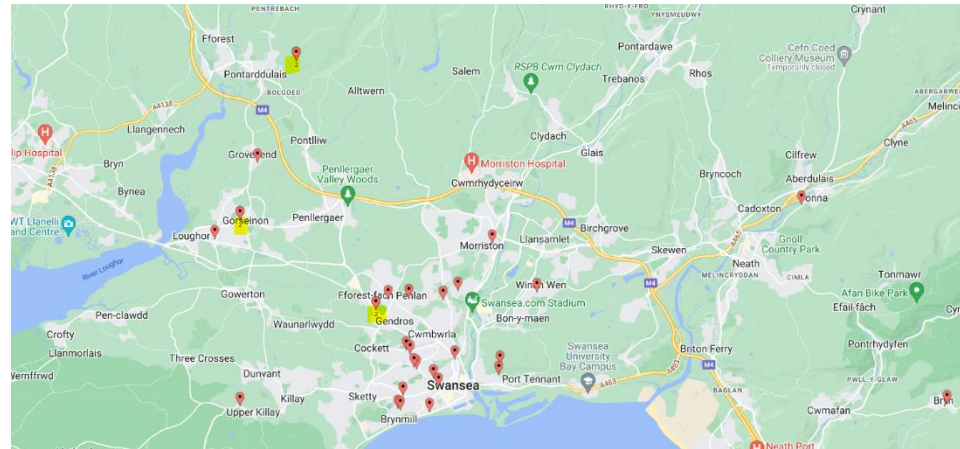
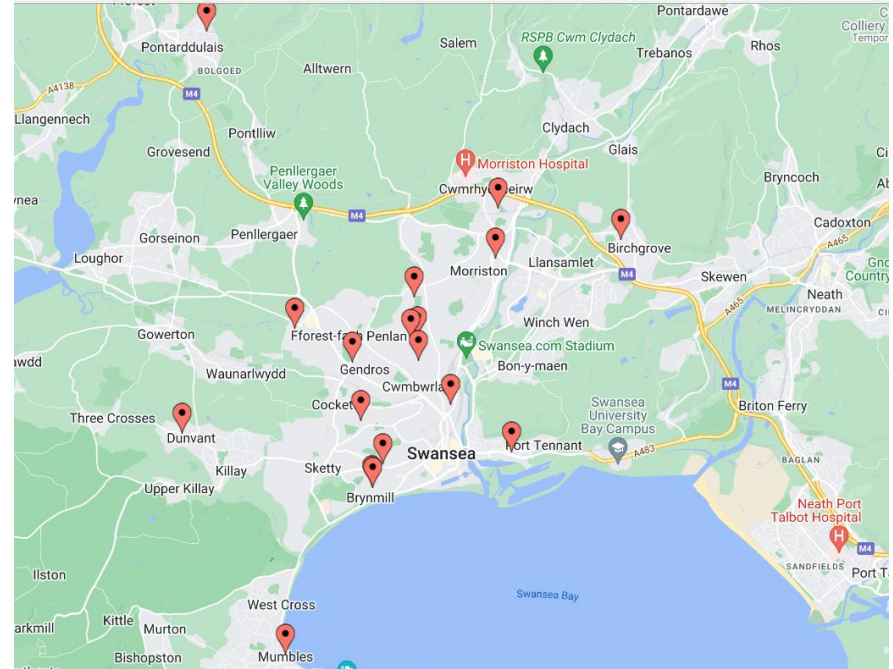


Young People on Protocol by Postcode – Swansea Area Focus

July to September 2023



April to June 2023



January to March 2023

Contextual Referrals from January to September 2023

On the 1st of January 2023 the CMET team was working on 22 contextual safeguarding referrals, 20 contextual places/areas and 2 peer groups. 79 young people were associated to these referrals.

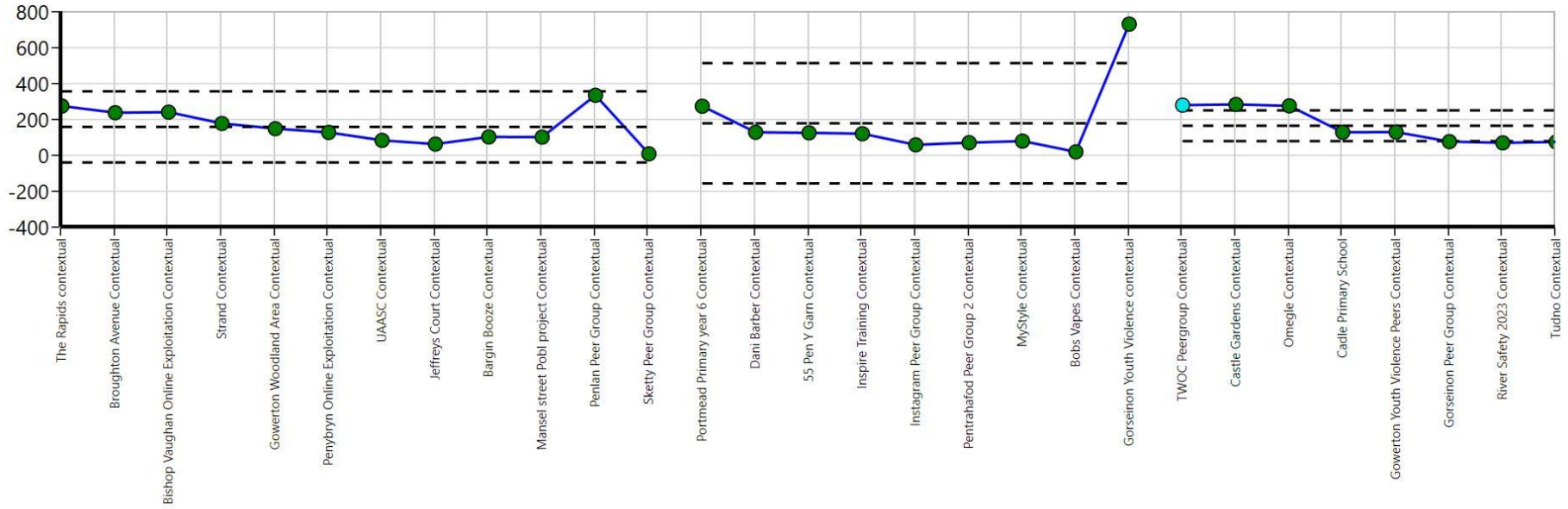
From January to September 34 new contextual referrals were allocated to the CMET team – 26 contextual places/areas and 8 peer groups referrals. 29 out of the 34 new cases were discussed during the CMET panel.

	January to March	April to June	July to September
Contextual Area/place	9	9	8
Peer Group	3	3	2
No. of new associates	56	48	42

27 Contextual referrals were closed during this period.

Chart below shows the number of days the referrals were opened for. Splits represent the three quarters.

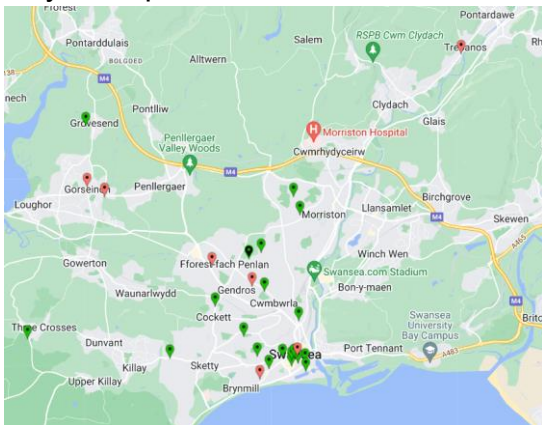
Number of Days referral was open



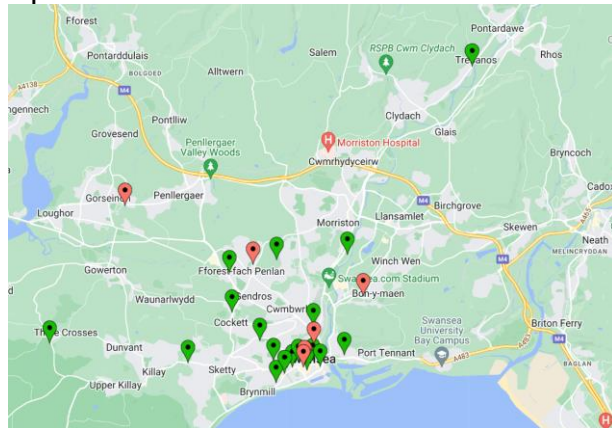
The Rapids contextual	Portmead Primary year 6 Contextu	TWOC Peergroup Contextual
UCL 360.56	UCL 517.83	UCL 254.63
Mean 162.75	Mean 183	Mean 169.13
LCL -35.06	LCL -151.83	LCL 83.63
● Flat	● Flat	● Flat

Maps for the last three quarters – Contextual Referrals Postcode

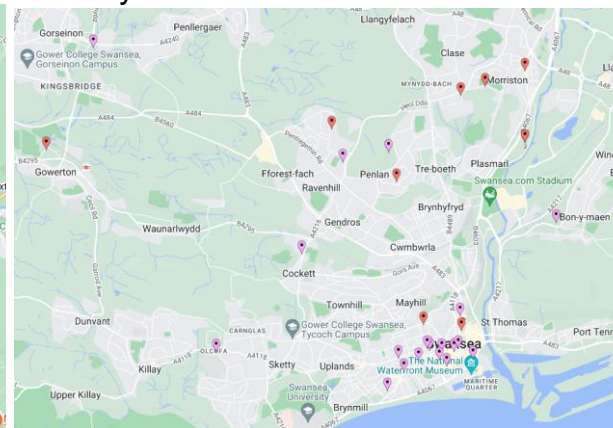
July to September



April to June



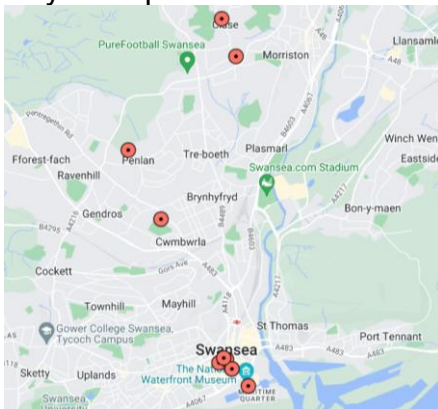
January to March



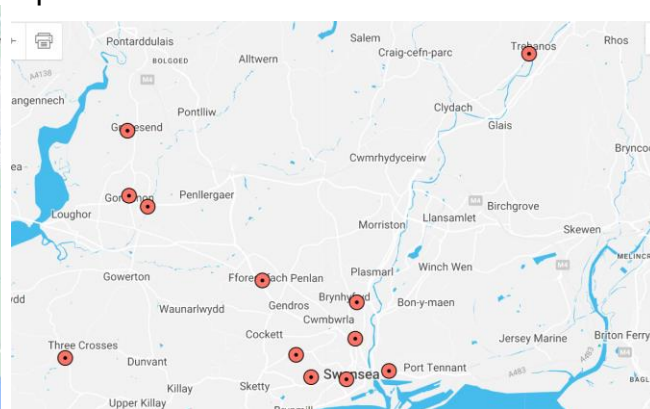
Red markers represent closed cases within quarter.
Black marker represent case open and close within quarter

New cases postcodes

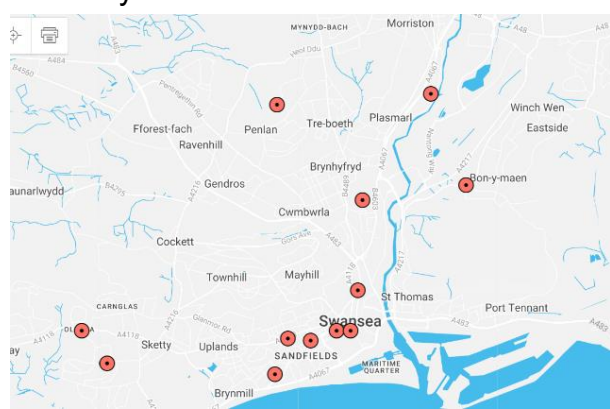
July to September



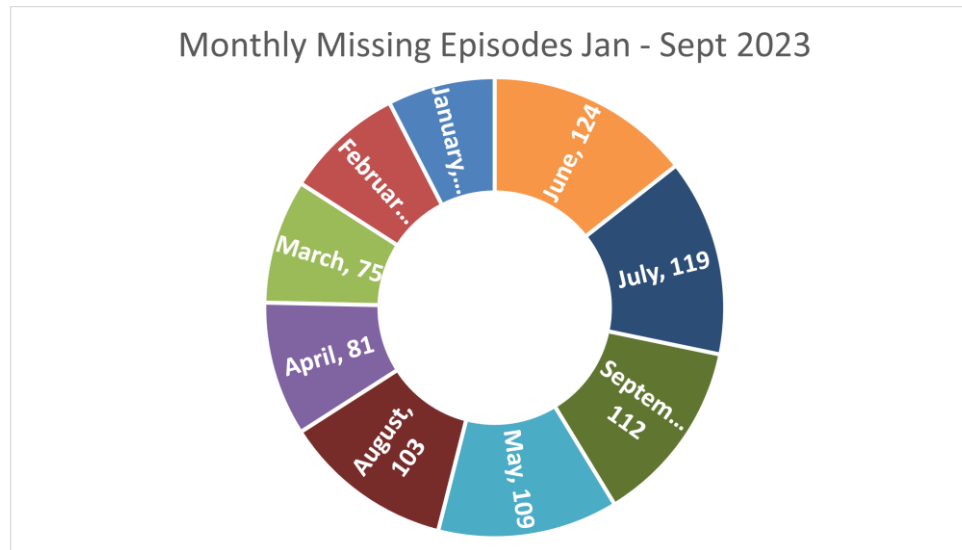
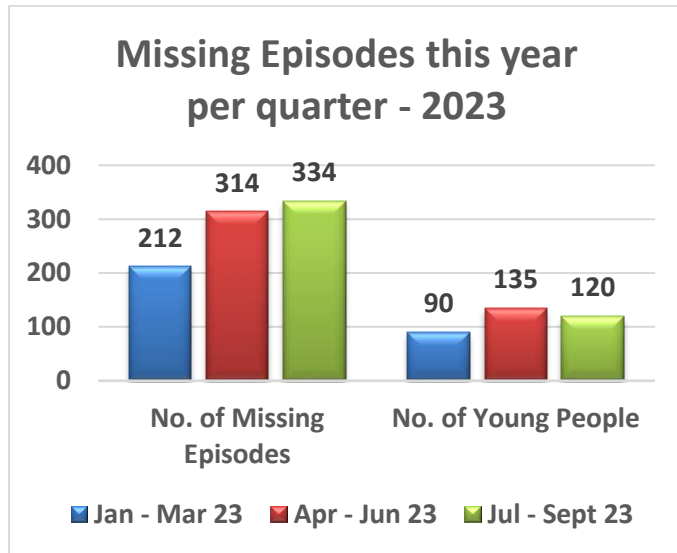
April to June



January to March



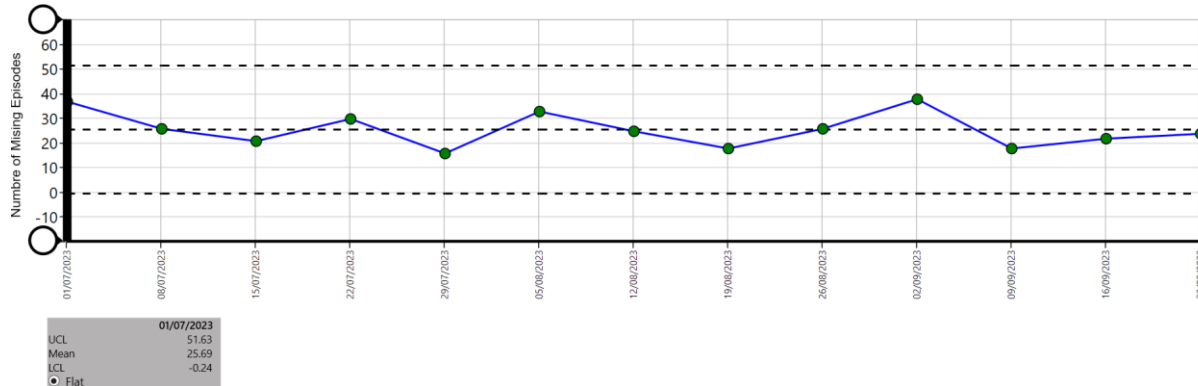
Missing Episodes



Cap charts below show weekly missing episodes numbers per quarter.

July to September 2023

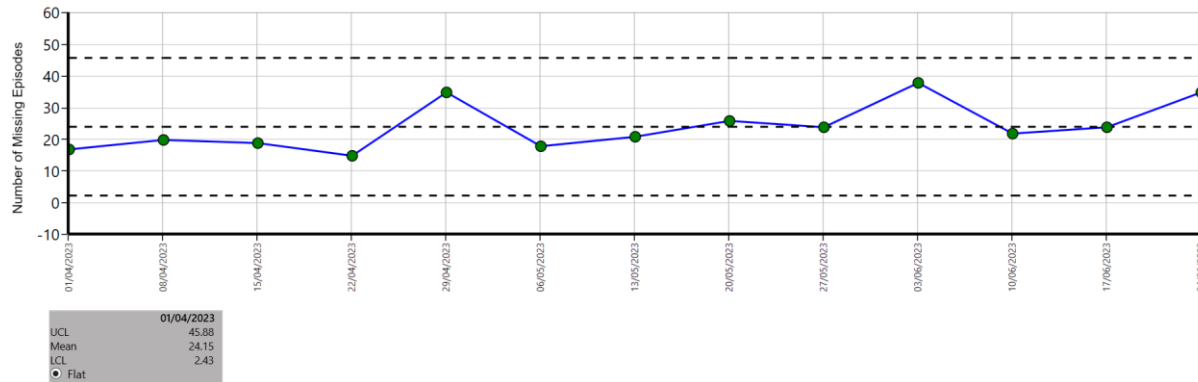
July to September 2023 - Weekly Missing Episodes



01/07	08/07	15/07	22/07	29/07	05/08	12/08	19/08	26/08	02/09	09/09	16/09	23/09
37	26	21	30	16	33	25	18	26	38	18	22	24

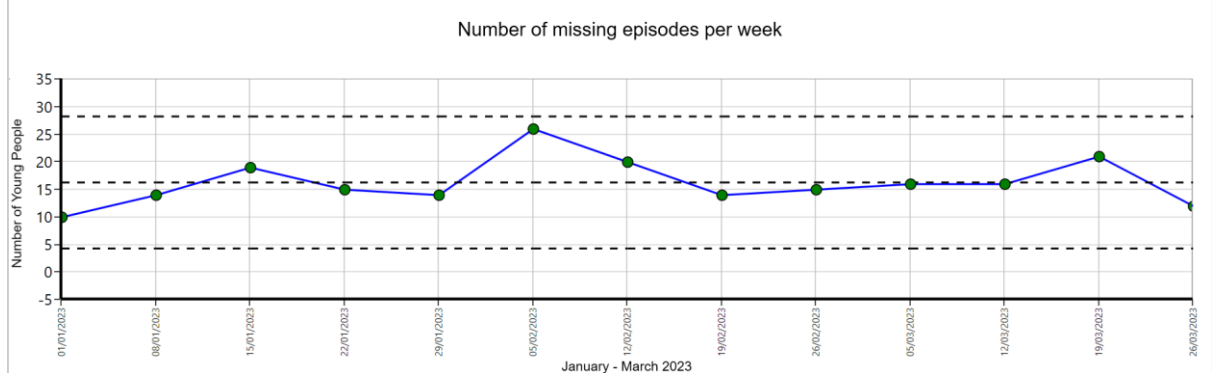
April to June 2023

Weekly breakdown - Number of Missing Episodes - April to June 2023



01/04	08/04	15/04	22/04	29/04	06/05	13/05	20/05	27/05	03/06	10/06	17/06	24/06
17	20	19	15	35	18	21	26	24	38	22	24	35

January to March 2023



01/01	08/01	15/01	22/01	29/01	05/02	12/02	19/02	26/02	05/03	12/03	19/03	26/03
10	14	19	15	14	26	20	14	15	16	16	21	12

Agenda Item 9

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE PANEL WORK PLAN 2023/24

<p>Meeting 1 22 May 2023</p> <p>3pm</p>	<p>Confirmation of Convener</p> <p>Child and Family Complaints Annual Report 2021/22 <i>Sarah Lackenby, Head of Digital and Customer Services</i></p> <p>Delivery of Corporate Priorities / Policy Commitments in relation to Child and Family Services <i>Louise Gibbard / David Howes / Julie Davies</i></p> <p>Panel Review of the Year 2022-23</p>
<p>Meeting 2 20 June 2023</p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Update on Regional Adoption Service <i>Nichola Rogers, Regional Adoption Manager, Western Bay Adoption Service</i></p> <p>Draft Work Plan 2023-24</p>
<p>Meeting 3 2 August 2023</p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p>Annual Wellbeing/Performance Report <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> <i>Damian Rees, Principal Officer Safeguarding and Performance</i></p> <p>Residential Care Services (including update on Ty Nant) <i>Chris Griffiths, Principal Officer Residential Services</i></p>
<p>Meeting 4 13 September 2023</p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p>Presentation by Young Carers <i>Gavin Evans, Principal Officer Family Support Services</i></p> <p>Adolescent Strategy and Action Plan <i>Helen Williams, Principal Officer Adolescent and Young People Services</i></p>
<p>Meeting 5 24 October 2023</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p>Update from Regional Safeguarding Board <i>David Howes, Director of Social Services</i> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Service Quality Unit Annual Report <i>Linzi Margetson, Principal Officer Safeguarding Quality and Performance</i> <i>Alison Mathias, Team Manager Service Quality Unit</i></p>

	<p>Commissioning Reviews Progress Update <i>Jane Whitmore, Strategic Lead Commissioner</i> <i>Claire Edwards, Principal Officer Commissioning and Care Services</i></p>
<p>Meeting 6 5 December 2023</p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring (including session on qualitative auditing) <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Update on Child and Family Improvement Programme <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> <i>Linzi Margetson, Principal Officer Safeguarding Quality and Performance</i></p> <p>Update on Contextual Missing Exploited & Trafficked (CMET) <i>Kelli Richards, Early Help & Single Point of Contact</i></p>
<p>Meeting 7 23 January 2024</p> <p>4.30pm</p>	<p>Update on Progress with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) <i>Michelle Davies, Head of Strategic Planning, Swansea Bay University Health Board</i> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Corporate Parenting Board Update <i>David Howes, Director of Social Services</i> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p>
<p>BUDGET MEETING 12 February 2024</p> <p>JOINT SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING</p> <p>2pm</p>	<p>Draft Budget Proposals for Child and Family Services / Adult Services <i>Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services</i> <i>David Howes, Director of Social Services</i></p>
<p>Meeting 8 12 March 2024</p> <p>4pm</p>	<p>Performance Monitoring <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i></p> <p>Briefing on Youth Offending Service <i>Helen Williams, Principal Officer Adolescent and Young People Services</i></p> <p>Child and Family Services / Adult Services Complaints Annual Report 2022-23 <i>Louise Gibbard</i> <i>Sarah Lackenby, Head of Digital and Customer</i></p>

	<i>Services</i> Adult Services Panel Members to be invited for this item
Meeting 9 1 May 2024 4pm	Delivery of Corporate Priorities / Policy Commitments in relation to Child and Family Services <i>Louise Gibbard / David Howes / Julie Davies</i> Panel Review of the Year 2023/24

Future work programme items:

- Wales Audit Office Reports (dates to be confirmed)
- Briefing on Supported Living for Young People TBC
- Holiday provision for disabled children in the Swansea area (short item for new municipal year (May/June 2024))