



## 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, 23 January 2024

**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

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### Agenda

### Page No.

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|----------|--|----------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Apologies for Absence</b>   |                |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests</b><br><a href="http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests">www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests</a>  |                |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Prohibition of Whipped Votes and Declaration of Party Whips</b>   |                |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)</b><br>To receive the minutes of the previous meeting(s) and agree as an accurate record.  | <b>1 - 8</b>   |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Public Question Time</b><br>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.                   |                |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Presentation - Update on Progress with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)</b><br><i>Michelle Davies, Head of Strategic Planning, Swansea Bay University Health Board</i><br><i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> | <b>9 - 20</b>  |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Corporate Parenting Board Update</b><br><i>David Howes, Director of Social Services</i><br><i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i>   | <b>21 - 30</b> |
| <b>8</b> | <b>Work Plan 2023-24</b>   | <b>31 - 33</b> |

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 4.00 pm



**Huw Evans**  
**Head of Democratic Services**  
**Tuesday, 16 January 2024**  
**Contact: Liz Jordan 01792 637314**

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# 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, 5 December 2023 at 4.30 pm**

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

**Councillor(s)**

E T Kirchner  
S Joy

**Councillor(s)**

M S Tribe

**Councillor(s)**

V A Holland

**Other Attendees**

Louise Gibbard  
Hayley Gwilliam

Cabinet Member for Care Services  
Cabinet Member for Community

**Officer(s)**

Julie Davies  
Liz Jordan  
Linzi Margetson  
Kelli Richards  
Kathryn Sillman

Head of Child & Family Services  
Scrutiny Officer  
Principal Officer Safeguarding, Quality & Performance  
Principal Officer Early Help and Single Point of Contact  
Peripatetic Manager

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor(s): K M Griffiths, S M Jones and W G Lewis

Other Attendees: Cllr A Anthony

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**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 24 October 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting.

**4 Public Question Time**

No questions were received.

## **5 Performance Monitoring (including session on qualitative auditing)**

Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services gave an overview of performance for September 2023. Kathryn Sillman, Peripatetic Manager briefed the Panel on how qualitative auditing works and areas being focussed on currently within the Directorate.

### Discussion Points:

- Panel discussed how qualitative auditing is basically looking at the processes and techniques being used to make sure they are working in the best way possible. Informed the Directorate looks at work across the board and the Academy is part of this.
- Panel feels satisfied from the performance report that things looked reasonably settled.
- Panel aware Welsh Government is planning to move away from the current computer system.

### Actions:

- Panel to receive further information on new computer system.

## **6 Update on Child and Family Improvement Programme**

Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services and Linzi Margetson, Principal Officer Safeguarding, Quality and Performance attended for this item and answered the Panel's questions.

### Discussion Points:

- In relation to Residential Care, Panel believes the Service is still struggling to find appropriate properties to purchase and modify and queried current capacity and if the Council is still having to send children out of county to get appropriate accommodation. Informed the Service is seeing an increase in numbers of children in residential care, partly linked to insufficient foster care placements available. Currently have four in-house beds, looking to increase to 15 over next three years.
- Panel asked Cabinet Members / officers to take back to staff its thoughts and gratitude for the work they have done - very pleased with performance within the Department and look forward to it continuing for the next 12 months and thereafter.
- Panel requested an update on the current position with recruitment and agency staffing. Informed recruitment of social workers continues to be a challenge. The Service has continued to expand the alternatively qualified workforce. There are currently five agency social workers across the Service, which is low compared to other Local Authorities. Department successful recruiting into the Council's social work academy with 11 newly qualified social workers currently.

## **7 Update on 'Contextual Missing Exploited & Trafficked (CMET)'**

Kelli Richards, Principal Officer attended to brief the Panel including an overview of the CMET Team, a summary of recent developments and progress and examples of activity undertaken.

Discussion Points:

- Panel very impressed with the Team's commitment and hard work.
- Heard from Cabinet Members how proud they are that the Team was highly commended in Wales Safer Communities Awards 2023 for its progressive and innovative work.
- Panel queried how often the 'pop up' youth club in Mayhill is held and what happens the rest of the time. Heard Mayhill is held once a week but there are five Local Authority youth clubs altogether, all held on different nights in different areas. There are also a few independent youth clubs running in the area.

## **8 Work Plan 2023-24**

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

The meeting ended at 5.35 pm



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

**Councillor Hayley Gwilliam**  
**Cabinet Member for Community Support**

*Please ask for:* Scrutiny  
*Gofynnwch am:*

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*Line:*  
*Llinell*  
*Uniongyrchol:*

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*e-Bost:*

*Date* 21 December 2023  
*Dyddiad:*

**BY EMAIL**

**cc Cabinet Members**

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel to the relevant Cabinet Members following the meeting of the Panel on 5 December 2023. It covers Performance Monitoring, Improvement Programme and CMET. A formal written response is required.

Dear Cllr Gibbard and Cllr Gwilliam

The Panel met on 5 December 2023 to discuss the Performance Monitoring Report for September 2023 including a briefing on qualitative auditing, and to receive an update on the Child and Family Improvement Programme. The Panel was also briefed on 'Contextual Missing Exploited and Trafficked' (CMET).

We would like to thank you both, Julie Davies, Kathryn Sillman, Linzi Margetson and Kelli Richards 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.

### **Performance Monitoring**

We received an overview of performance for September 2023 and were briefed on how qualitative auditing works and the areas being focused on currently within the Directorate.

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY / TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**  
**SWANSEA COUNCIL / CYNGOR ABERTAWE**  
GUILDHALL, SWANSEA, SA1 4PE / NEUADD Y DDINAS, ABERTAWE, SA1 4PE  
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We discussed how qualitative auditing is looking at the processes and techniques being used to make sure they are working in the best way possible, and also the importance of training. We queried if the Academy is being brought into it and were informed the Directorate looks at work across the board and the Academy is part of this. We feel satisfied from the performance report that things looked reasonably settled.

We discussed how Welsh Government is planning to move away from the current computer system, Welsh Community Care Information System (WCCIS). Cllr Gibbard confirmed it is currently in the engagement phase and agreed to look into the benefits, timeline etc of the new system and report back to the Panel.

### **Child and Family Improvement Programme**

We received an update on the Improvement Programme from officers. In relation to Residential Care, we believe the Service is still struggling to find appropriate properties to purchase and modify. We queried the current capacity and if the Council is still having to send children out of county to get appropriate accommodation. We were informed the Service is seeing an increase in numbers of children in residential care, partly linked to insufficient foster care placements available, however, officers hope the position will improve over the next few months. We heard there are currently four in-house beds, and you are looking to increase this to 15 over the next three years, but this depends on identifying properties in the right place and right condition. We noted that alternative ways are being looked at to achieve this.

Regarding Section 4.2 Staff Reward and Recognition, we feel this is an important section of the report and it is an opportune time of year to ask Cabinet Members and officers to take back to staff the Panel's thoughts and gratitude for the work they have done. We are very pleased with the performance within the Department and look forward to it continuing for the next 12 months and thereafter.

Regarding Section 4.4 Recruitment and Agency Staffing, we requested an update on the current position. We were informed that recruitment of social workers continues to be a challenge. However, the Service has continued to expand the alternatively qualified workforce, which is good news in terms of people being on the pathway to become qualified social workers through that route. We noted there are currently five agency social workers across the Service, which is low compared to other Local Authorities. We were pleased to hear that an area where the Department has been successful is recruitment into the Council's social work Academy for newly qualified social workers, with 11 newly qualified social workers currently in the Academy. We are very impressed with the Academy set up.

### **Contextual Missing Exploited and Trafficked (CMET)**

We received a briefing from officers including an overview of the CMET Team, a summary of recent developments and progress and examples of activity undertaken.

We queried how often the 'pop up' youth club in Mayhill is held and what happens for the rest of the time. We heard the Team now has a blended approach. We also heard that Mayhill is held once a week but there are five Local Authority youth clubs

altogether, all held on different nights in different areas, and the hours staff work in them has increased. We noted that on the other nights, youth workers go out and about in the community to the places young people spend time and that not all young people want to go to a youth club. We were informed there are also a few independent youth clubs running in the area.

We are very impressed with the CMET Team's commitment and hard work.

We heard from Cabinet Members how proud they are that the Team was highly commended in Wales Safer Communities Awards 2023 for its progressive and innovative work. We agree this is a great achievement.

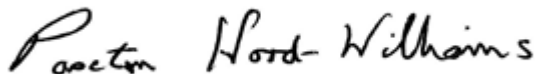
## **Your Response**

We hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and would welcome comments on any of the issues raised within. Specifically, we would appreciate information, as described in the letter, about:

- The new computer system proposed by Welsh Government.

Please provide your response to this, and any other comments about our letter by 18 January 2024. We will then publish both letters in the agenda of the next available Panel meeting.

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](mailto:cllr.louise.gibbard@swansea.gov.uk)

*Our Ref:* LG/WN

*Your Ref:*

*Date:* 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Cllr Paxton Hood-Williams

**RE: Child and Family Services Scrutiny.**

Thank you for your letter following the Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

The Panel's views, reflections and acknowledgements of the work Child and Family Services staff over the last year, as reflected in the performance monitoring report, are very much appreciated. We are equally pleased as the panel with the department's continued progress with recruiting and retaining qualified social workers along with expanding the workforce through alternatively qualified support staff.

The impact of the CMET team in keeping young people safe across Swansea, along with the blended approach to youth work now engaging more young people in positive activities, is something that we are particularly proud of. Swansea is being recognized across Wales and also the UK in its innovative and creative approaches to contextual safeguarding, with the recent award of grant from the Youth Endowment Fund testament to the strength of our approach.

With regard to the panel's request for information about the new computer system proposed by Welsh Government, officers have advised that once there is further clarity on the plan and next steps from Welsh Government, an update report will be brought to a future panel meeting.

We hope this response sufficiently answers the query raised by panel.

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

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Louise Gibbard  
**Cynghorydd / Councillor Louise  
Gibbard** Dyfnant a Chilâ  
Cyd-aelod y Cabinet dros Gwasanaethau  
Gofal  
Cabinet Member Care Services



**Y Cynghorydd Hayley Gwilliam /  
Councillor Hayley Gwilliam**  
Aelod Cabinet dros Cefnogaeth  
Gymunedol  
Cabinet Member for Community Support



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Bae Abertawe  
Swansea Bay University  
Health Board

# Plant a Phobl Ifanc - Iechyd Meddwl ac Emosiynol

# Children & Young People - Emotional & Mental Health

Michelle Davies, Head of Strategic Planning  
Pennaeth Cynllunio Strategol

## Bae Abertawe - Gwasanaeth Iechyd Meddwl Plant a Phobl Ifanc (CAMHS)

- ▶ Dychwelwyd i Fwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Bae Abertawe ym mis Ebrill 2023.
- ▶ Canolfan Reoli ar gyfer CAMHS Bae Abertawe - Safle Ysbyty Castell-nedd Port Talbot.
- ▶ Lleolwyd yn CNPT a Thŷ'r Meddwl, Ffordd y Brenin.
- ▶ Ymdrech benodol i weithio mwy yn y gymuned, gan gynnal asesiadau yn y cartref neu mewn lleoliad cymunedol lle nodwyd.

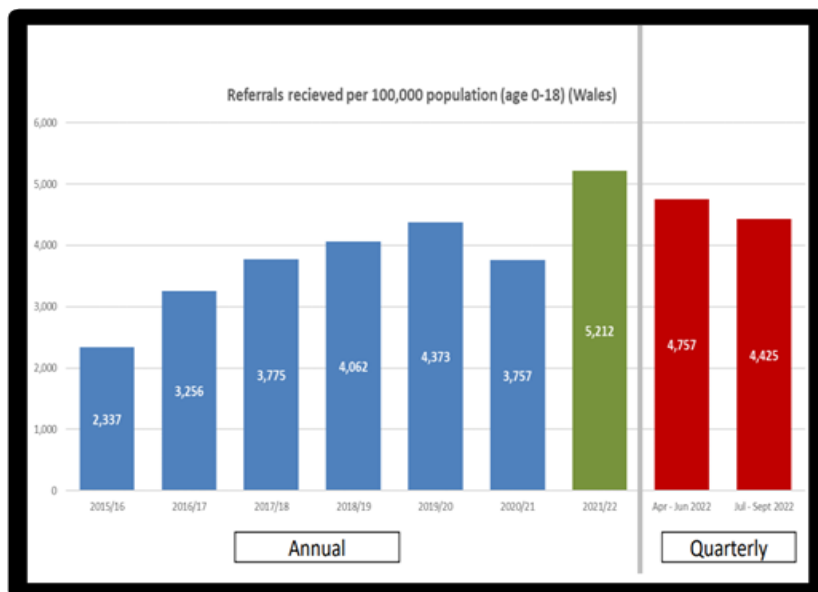
## Swansea Bay - Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

- ▶ Repatriated to Swansea Bay University Health Board April 2023.
- ▶ Management Centre for Swansea Bay CAMHS - Neath Port Talbot Hospital Site.
- ▶ Based out of NPT & Ty'r Meddwl, Kingsway.
- ▶ Focused attempt to work more within community- taking assessments to home or community base where indicated.

# Atgyfeiriadau CAMHS CAMHS Referrals

- Cynyddodd nifer yr atgyfeiriadau i Dimau Iechyd Meddwl Cymunedol Cymru 39% yn 2021/22\*
- Mae olrhenniwr chwarterol 2022/23 yn dangos bod lefel yr atgyfeiriadau wedi parhau'n uchel.
- Cynyddodd nifer yr atgyfeiriadau i CAMHS Bae Abertawe yn 2019-2022 23% i'r rheini rhwng 11 ac 18 oed. (Mae hyn yn is na'r cynnydd cymedr ar gyfer Cymru, ond nid yw'n cyfateb i duedd yng Nghymru a'r DU ar gyfer cynnydd yn nifer yr atgyfeiriadau)
- Roedd yr atgyfeiriadau o fewn Bae Abertawe ar gyfer plant 10 oed ac yn iau rhwng 2019-2022 wedi gostwng 17%

- Referrals to Wales CMHTs increased by 39% in 2021/22\*
- Quarterly tracker in 2022/23 shows the level of referrals have remained high.
- 2019-2022 Referrals to SB CAMHS increased by 23% for 11-18 year olds. (This is below the mean increase for Wales, but does match a trend within Wales and the UK for increased referrals)
- Referrals within SB for 10 and under between 2019-2022 reduced by 17%



## Bae Abertawe - Gwasanaeth Iechyd Meddwl Plant a Phobl Ifanc (CAMHS)

- ▶ Mae CAMHS Bae Abertawe'n darparu amrywiaeth o swyddogaethau a gwasanaethau sy'n cefnogi ac yn gweithio ochr yn ochr â gweithwyr proffesiynol nad ydynt yn weithwyr iechyd meddwl i ddiwallu anghenion pobl ifanc hyd at 18 oed sydd mewn perygl o ddatblygu neu brofi problemau iechyd meddwl ysgafn i gymedrol yn eu cymuned, ynghyd ag annormaleddau parhaus neu arwyddocaol o ran hwyliau neu bryder, seicosis posib ac anhwylderau bwyta.
- ▶ Mae aildrefnu'r gwasanaeth wedi nodi 1 llwybr ar gyfer ymyriadau Rhan 1 a Rhan 2. Mae hyn yn sicrhau:
  - Bod yr holl bobl ifanc yn derbyn yr un amserau aros, ni waeth beth yw eu côd post
  - Bod gan yr holl bobl ifanc fynediad at yr un dulliau triniaeth.

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## Swansea Bay - Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

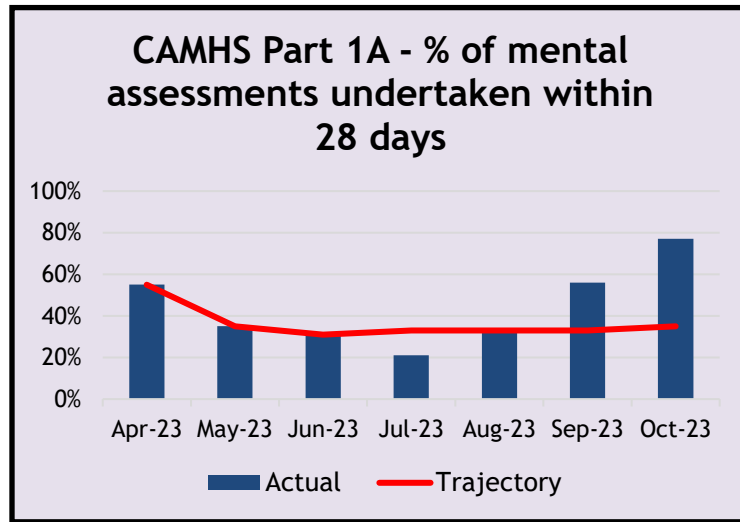
- ▶ Swansea Bay CAMHS provide a range of functions and services that support and work alongside non-mental health professionals to meet the needs of young people up to the age of 18 - at risk of developing, or experiencing, mild to moderate mental health problems in their community alongside persistent or significant abnormalities of mood or anxiety, possible psychosis and eating disorders.
- ▶ Reorganisation of service has identified 1 pathway route for both Part 1 & Part 2 interventions. This ensures:
  - All young people access the same waiting times irrespective of postcode
  - All young people have access to the same modality of treatments

# Targedau Llywodraeth Cymru - Rhan 1a

## Camau Gweithredu i Gyflawni Gwelliannau: Rhan 1a:

- Gor-recriwtio staff nyrsio asiantaeth i gynnal asesiadau - contractau wedi'u hestyn tan fis Mawrth '24.
- Proses recriwtio lwyddiannus er mwyn sefydlu swyddi parhaol 1.8 wte
- Adolygu cynlluniau ar gyfer swyddi nyrsio er mwyn cynyddu'r gallu i asesu.
- Tachwedd: 86% o gydymffurfedd.

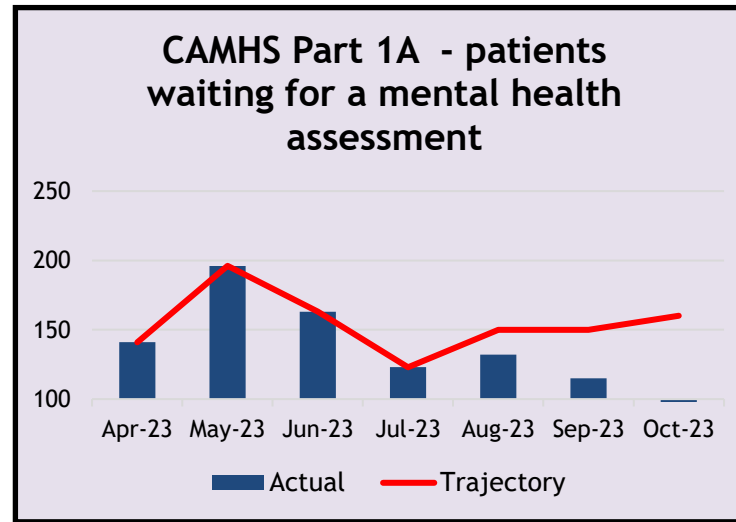
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# Welsh Government Targets - Part 1a

## Actions to deliver improvements: Part 1a:

- Over recruitment of agency nursing resource to undertake assessments - contracts extended until Mar 24.
- Successful recruitment in to established 1.8 wte substantive posts.
- Revision of nursing job plans to increase assessment capacity.
- Nov: 86% compliance.

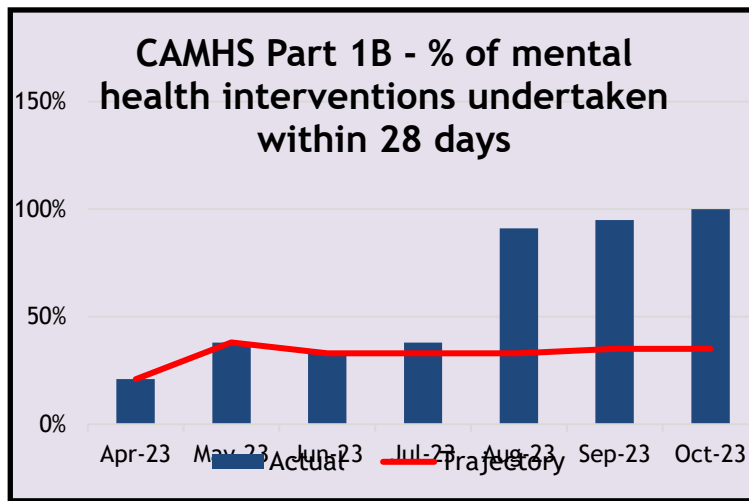


# Targedau Llywodraeth Cymru - Rhan 1b

## Camau Gweithredu i Gyflawni Gwelliannau: Rhan 1b:

- Cafwyd 100% o gydymffurfedd yn gysylltiedig â gor-creiwtio staff nyrsio asiantaeth.
- Dilysu'r sefyllfa o ran rhestrau aros a symud yr holl weithgarwch a rheolaeth o restrau aros i System Gweinyddu Cleifion Cymru (WPAS).
- Yn aros i aelod o staff newydd ddechrau yn y swydd Seicoleg 8B, a fydd yn cefnogi cyflwyno gwasanaethau ac ail-ddylunio'r gwasanaeth/gweithlu CAMHS.
- Gostyngiad posib mewn perfformiad ym mis Rhagfyr/Ionawr o ganlyniad i waith dilysu (tua 50 pwynt)

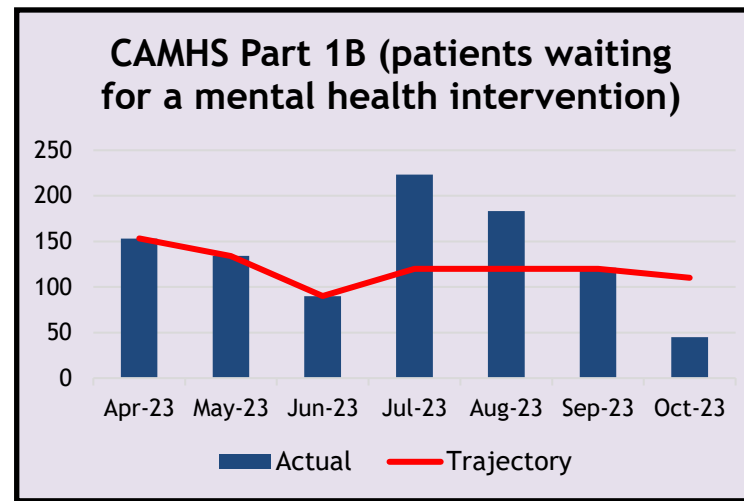
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# Welsh Government Targets - Part 1b

## Actions to deliver improvements: Part 1b:

- 100% compliance achieved linked to over recruitment in agency nursing.
- Validation of waiting list position and movement of all activity and WL management into WPAS.
- Pending new starter to psychology 8B post which will support service delivery and CAMHS service/workforce redesign.
- Potential dip in performance in Dec/Jan due to validation work ( approx. 50 pts).





# Targedau Llywodraeth Cymru - Rhan 2

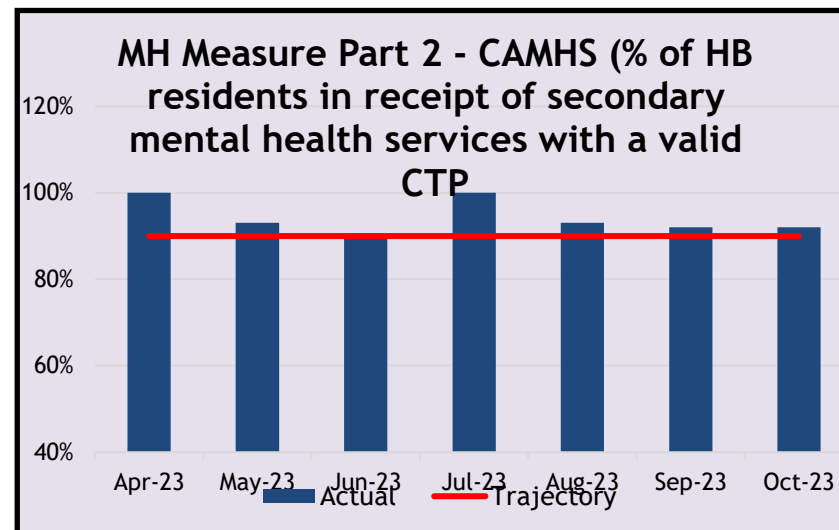
# Welsh Government Targets - Part 2

## Camau Gweithredu mewn perthynas â Chyflawni Rhan 2:

- Adolygiad clinigol wythnosol o PPI ar draws y llwybr Mesur Iechyd Meddwl drwy eithriad, gan gynnwys PPI sy'n gymwys ar gyfer Rhan 2.
- Adolygu'r holl PPI sy'n derbyn ymyriadau i asesu a ydynt yn gydgysylltiedig â gofal. Niferoedd yr adroddwyd amdanynt yn gyson â safle Cymru gyfan.
- 2 swydd nyrzio wte yn cael eu hysbysebu.

## Actions in relation to delivery of Part 2:

- Weekly clinical review of CYP across the MHM pathway by exception, including Part 2 eligible CYP's.
- Review of all CYP's receiving interventions to assess whether they are care co-ordinated.
- Reported numbers consistent with the all Wales position.
- 2 wte nursing vacancies out to advert.



# Cynllun Cyflawni Iechyd a Lles Emosiynol

- ▶ Datblygwyd Cynllun Cyflawni Iechyd a Lles Emosiynol yn unol â Chynllun Gweithredu Plant a Phobl Ifanc Gorllewin Morgannwg
- ▶ Cynllun amlasiantaeth sy'n hyrwyddo gweithio mewn partneriaeth i wella gweithio amlasiantaeth
- ▶ Dull o ddarparu sawl nod strategol gan gynnwys:
  1. gwella mynediad at gymorth a chefnogaeth iechyd a lles emosiynol
  2. datblygu amrywiaeth well o wasanaethau i bob plentyn ag anawsterau emosiynol.

# Emotional Health & Wellbeing Delivery Plan

- ▶ Emotional Health & Wellbeing Plan was developed in line with the West Glamorgan Children and Young People Programme Action Plan
- ▶ Multi-agency plan which promotes partnership working to improve multi-agency working
- ▶ A vehicle to deliver several strategic aims including:
  1. improving access to emotional health and wellbeing support and advice
  2. develop a better range of services for all children with emotional difficulties.

# Fframwaith NYTH

- ▶ Offeryn cynllunio sy'n ceisio sicrhau ymagwedd system gyfan at ddatblygu gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl, lles a chefnogaeth ar gyfer babanod, plant a phobl ifanc.
- ▶ Cynllun gweithredu amlasiantaeth wedi'i ddatblygu a'i arwain gan Fwrdd Partneriaeth Rhanbarthol Gorllewin Morgannwg
- ▶ Adolygiad Blynyddol wedi'i gyflwyno i Lywodraeth Cymru ym mis Hydref
- ▶ Digwyddiad Lansio Offeryn Gweithredu NYTH I'w gynnal ar 28 Chwefror yn ystod cyfarfod y Gymuned Ymarfer

# NEST Framework

- ▶ A planning tool which aims to ensure a whole system approach for developing mental health, wellbeing and support services for babies, children and young people
- ▶ Multi-agency Implementation plan developed and led by West Glamorgan Regional Partnership board
- ▶ Annual Review submitted to Welsh Government in October
- ▶ NEST Implementation Tool Launch Event to be held 28<sup>th</sup> February during the Community of Practice meeting

# tidyMinds

- ▶ Mae cynnwys y wefan tidyMinds bellach ar gael yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg.
- ▶ Mae cydlynnydd tidyMinds bellach yn y swydd
  - Datblygu'r brand tidyMinds
  - Hyrwyddo
  - Grwpiau Ffocws
  - Adolygiad Cynnwys
- ▶ Website content is now available through the medium of English and Welsh
- ▶ tidyMind co-ordinator is now in post
  - Developing tidyMinds brand
  - Promotion
  - Focus Groups
  - Content Review

**tidyMinds**

[www.tidyminds.org.uk](http://www.tidyminds.org.uk)

# Kooth

- ▶ Cymuned lles meddwl ar-lein am ddim i blant a phobl ifanc
- ▶ Fe'i hariannwyd i ddechrau gan CAMHS fel gwasanaeth ychwanegol ar gyfer Plant a Phobl Ifanc yn ystod y pandemig.
- ▶ Adolygiad amlasiantaeth i nodi pa adnodd tebyg sydd ar gael yn y rhanbarth. Os yw'r gwasanaeth am barhau yn 2024/25, mae angen dod o hyd i ffynhonnell ariannu amgen/a rennir
- ▶ Free online mental wellbeing community for Children & Young People
- ▶ Initially funded through CAMHS as an additional service for Children & Young People during the pandemic
- ▶ Multi-agency review identifying what similar resource is available in the Region. If Service is to continue in 2024/25 alternative/shared funding source needs to be identified

# Strategaeth Iechyd Meddwl ac Emosiynol

- ▶ Mae Strategaeth Iechyd Meddwl ac Emosiynol i bobl o bob oedran wedi cael ei datblygu
- ▶ Mae nifer o sesiynau cynnwys yn cael eu cynnal i hyrwyddo'r strategaeth
- ▶ Y Camau Nesaf: Datblygu cynllun gweithredu ar gyfer y strategaeth

# Emotional & Mental Health Strategy

- ▶ All age Emotional & Mental Health Strategy has been developed
- ▶ A number of engagement sessions are being held to promote the strategy
- ▶ Next Steps: Develop an implementation plan for the strategy

# Agenda Item 7



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Care Services

### Child and Family Services Scrutiny Performance Panel – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

#### Corporate Parenting Update

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide an update on the work of the Corporate Parenting Board
<b>Content</b>	This report includes a summary of the role of the Corporate Parenting Board and the Corporate Parenting Pledge
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give their views</li><li>• Endorse the Pledges in their work across the Council</li></ul>
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Cllr Louise Gibbard, Cabinet Member for Care Services and Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Dave Howes, Director of Social Services Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services
<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Josh Price and Louise Beckett</b> <a href="mailto:josh.price@swansea.gov.uk">josh.price@swansea.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:louise.beckett@swansea.gov.uk">louise.beckett@swansea.gov.uk</a>
<b>Legal Officer</b>	n/a
<b>Finance Officer</b>	n/a
<b>Access to Services Officer</b>	n/a

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 The role of the Corporate Parent for looked after children is arguably the most important role of a Council. All Local Authorities have a legal and moral duty to provide the level of support, care and protection any good parent would give to their children. This includes promoting their health, education, social and emotional needs. The term 'Corporate Parent' recognises that meeting the diverse needs of these young people requires co-operation between Council service areas and other organisations, such as health, education, the police, and partner agencies.

- 1.2 Corporate parenting responsibilities fall to everyone across the council not just the Corporate Parenting Board. To support a stronger approach to corporate parenting, Welsh Government have aspirations to expand this duty across the wider public sector. The Corporate Parenting Board take seriously the needs of those children and young people and the impact of any decisions that they (young people) and the council make. Councillors may have opportunities to do this through their Corporate Parenting Board or Cabinet roles, or as part of their Scrutiny responsibilities.
- 1.3 Welsh Government launched their Corporate Parenting Charter in September 2023. Welsh Ministers and Welsh Government signed up to the Charter, setting the precedent for all public bodies across Wales as well as private sector organisations. The Charter, sets out 11 principles on equality, eradicating stigma, working together, inclusive support, fulfilling ambitions, nurturing, good health, a stable home, education, thriving in the future, after care support. Swansea Council was one of the first authorities to sign up to the Charter, giving our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the rights and life chances of care-experienced children and young people in Swansea.
- 1.4 As of the end of November 2023, there were 479 looked after children, with 9 of these being unaccompanied asylum seeking children. 88% of these children were living with foster carer (156 in-house, and 69 with an Independent Fostering Agency) 160 with a kinship carer, 11 placed for adoption and 21 placed with their parent (where there is a plan for reunification). There were 487 care leavers (113 aged 15 – 18 years, and 374 aged 18 – 25 years). 21 of the care leavers were previously unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

## **2. Our Corporate Parenting Pledges**

- 2.1 In order to fulfil our Corporate Parenting responsibilities to care experienced children and young people, the Corporate Parenting Board requested that the Participation and Children's Rights Officer for Child and Family Services worked with them to engage young people to support a better understanding of the priorities that the Board needed to focus their workplan on.
- 2.2 As a Rights Respecting Council, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is embedded within our work. This sets out the rights all children aged 0-18 years have to make sure they are healthy, happy and safe. In developing our Corporate Parenting Pledge areas (Appendix 1), it was imperative that thought was given to how the decisions of the Board affect the rights of children in Swansea. Each pledge is aligned with specific Articles from the UNCRC (Appendix 2).



2.3 The Corporate Parenting Board worked with a group of young people to explore the area's most important to them and, linked with associated rights under the UNCRC, the board have been able to prioritise a number of key developmental areas to work on. These direct conversations with young people helped the Board shape the following pledge areas that the Corporate Parenting Board have now signed up to deliver:

- No Barriers to Opportunity
- Good Education / Good Job
- Healthy Relationships
- Safe Place to Live
- Mental health
- Love, Family and Friendship
- Happiness

2.4 In practice this means Swansea Council will work with children and young people to:

- Ensure they (young people) have equal access to opportunities.
- Provide all children and young people with access to a good education and job prospects.
- Model to young people what healthy relationships look like and help them achieve this in their own lives.
- Make sure all young people feel safe where they live; ensure mental health services are available to support young people as and when they need them.
- Promote family time and lifelong connected networks for children and young people; and focus on young people's happiness as well as their safety.

## 2.5 Youth Voice in Action Podcasts

2.5.1 The Participation and Children's Rights Officer worked alongside The Widening Access Officer from the University Wales Trinity St David and a group of 12 young people to develop the Youth Voice In Action podcasts. These podcasts explore the 7 key areas of a young person's journey and experiences of the care system in relation to the pledge areas. The podcasts recorded an unscripted 'what matters' conversation between young people on the pledge areas and has opened topics of conversation amongst care experienced children and young people on the services that affect their lives and ways in which they can have a positive or negative affect.

2.5.2 The podcasts are youth led inspiring, thought-provoking discussions. The talented young people involved have provided amazing insights in to their care experience as well as developing skills in creating podcasts and music production. The podcast series utilises a 'mixed media digital platform' which was identified by the young people as an area lacking in positive role models for them. In creating the podcasts,

the young people are actively championing their own causes and striving for positive change.

2.5.3 To continue the positive momentum behind this area of work there are plans to continually engage with our care experienced population to understand what matters to them and support the development work which arises from the Corporate Parenting Pledges. Young people have already identified that they would like to discuss looked after child (LAC) reviews, the role of a foster carer, and residential care provision.

## 2.6 Developing our Services in line with the Pledges

2.6.1 Care experienced children and young people in Swansea have told us that they want more opportunities to mix with other young people with similar experiences, community members and decision makers. The Corporate Parenting Challenge is an opportunity for young people and representatives of the Corporate Parenting Board to come together to share their views and ideas. These sessions have historically been very successful in informing the development of our services however they were put on hold during COVID. Under the Corporate Children's Rights Scheme, there are plans to bring back the "Big Conversation" initiative with children and young people across Swansea in school settings. However, many of our care experienced young people have expressed that they do not tell their peers in school that they are living with people other than their parents, due to the stigma that they feel is attached to being looked after. It is important to create a safe space where young people feel valued, respected, and supported, allowing them to thrive and reach their full potential. The corporate parenting challenge will provide an appropriate safe space for our care experienced population to share ways in which we can positively effect change in their lives and allows for the corporate parenting board to form their work plan with children and young people who are care experienced. The challenge will be run through workshops, games, conversations, interactive activities, and presentations in a young person friendly space. The outcome of the challenge event will both shape and feed into the work of the Corporate Parenting Board and also Swansea's Children's Rights Scheme. By involving care experienced young people in these activities, we can foster a sense of belonging, build trust, and develop stronger relationships with care experienced individuals.

2.6.2 Corporate Parenting Board receives developmental updates from a number of service areas which have allowed us to identify the following work which is assisting in developing our services in line with the pledges:

- Development of a Charter for Care Experienced Parents – the aim of this charter is to strengthen corporate parenting support for parents in and leaving care through a range of support that should be available to young people before and after they become parents.

- Foster Swansea Wales continues to develop the placement offer for children and young people, recognising the importance of maintaining connections and providing a loving and stable environment for children in care. The team works with not only approved Foster Carers, Kinship Foster carers but also Special Guardians – promoting legal permanence for children and support.
- The Service Quality Unit continues to focus on working towards the Corporate Parenting pledge “what a best life” looks like for our care experienced population and ensuring that young people have a voice in their care planning.
- Western Bay Adoption Services continue to grow and develop their offer for adoptive families. Priorities include increasing numbers of approved adopters, developing a respite offer for adoptive families; and reviewing ‘Letterbox’ communication for adopted children and their birth parents post 18.
- Social Services Training and Development Unit are working with partners from Gower College Swansea and the NEET (Not in Employment, Education and Training) Team to explore opportunities for the development of an apprenticeship schemes for care experienced young people.
- Our Transport Department are working with Child and Family Services to explore a pilot of a free bus pass scheme for care experienced young people in Swansea.
- Further commitment to developing our housing offer for young people leaving care.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 The Corporate Parenting Board has committed to the pledges that were co-produced with care experienced children and young people, and to continuing to develop our services to ensure that care experienced children and young people are able to access the right support from the right service, at the right time thus promoting their health, education, social and emotional needs.

### **4. Legal implications**

- 4.1 None

### **5. Finance Implications**

- 5.1 None

### **6. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 6.1 None

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Corporate Parenting Pledges

Appendix 2 – Pledge Areas and Associated Rights Infographic

Appendix 3 – Corporate Parenting Board workplan



## Corporate Parenting Pledges

The role of the Corporate Parent for Looked After Children is arguably the most important role of a Council. We have a legal and moral duty to provide the level of support, care and protection any good parent would give to their children. This includes promoting their health, education, social and emotional needs. The term 'Corporate Parent' recognises that meeting the diverse needs of these young people requires co-operation between Council service areas and other organisations, such as health, education, the police and partner agencies.

Corporate Parenting responsibilities fall to everyone across the council not just the Corporate Parenting Board. To support a stronger approach to corporate parenting, Welsh Government have aspirations to expand this duty across the wider public sector.

The Corporate Parenting Board take seriously the needs of those children and young people and the impact of any decisions that they (young people) and the council make. As Councillors we may have opportunities to do this through our Corporate Parenting Board or Cabinet roles, or as part of our Scrutiny responsibilities.

The Corporate Parenting Board worked with a group of young people to explore the area's most important to them, and to prioritise some actions to work on. It's the work that helped us shape the following pledge areas that the Corporate Parenting Board are signed up to deliver:

- No barriers to opportunity
- Good education/good job
- Healthy relationships
- Safe place to live
- Mental health
- Love, family, and friendship
- Happiness

Swansea  
Corporate Parenting Board

*'As corporate parents we have a collective responsibility to ensure that care experienced children, young people and care leavers can have the outcomes every good parent would want for their children.'*

**'WE PLEDGE TO...'**



Work with children young people to ensure that they have equal access to opportunities



Provide all children and young people with access to a good education and job prospects



Model to young people what healthy relationships look like and help them achieve this in their own lives



Make sure all young people feel safe where they live



Ensure mental health services are available to support young people as and when they need them



Promote family time and life-long connected networks for children and young people



Focus on young people's happiness as well as their safety

No Barriers to Opportunity

Good Education / Good Job

Healthy Relationships

Safe Place to Live

Mental Health

Love, Family and Friendship

Happiness

"I'm in care and I want to be able to do what a kid does out of the care system"

"Every child should be able to chase their dreams"

"How can I have a good relationship if I've never seen one"

"I just want to keep being safe"

"Check in with me to see I'm ok"

"If you have a loving family and good friendships you will never feel lonely and will always have lots of support"

"No-one can be truly happy and a productive member of society if they are at risk or living in poverty"

On July 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 the pledges were agreed and endorsed by the corporate parenting board as a commitment to the care experienced children and young people in Swansea.

The pledges will be circulated amongst key forums and partners will be encouraged to support the board and our young people in turning these pledges into achievable actions for delivery. Lead officer and members will be expected to report on progress against these to future Corporate Parenting Board meetings.

## **Happiness - Articles UNCRC**

Article 12 – You have the right to be listened to and taken seriously

Article 15 – You have the right to meet with friends and join groups

Article 6 – You have the right to grow up and reach your full potential

## **Good mental health - Articles of UNCRC**

Article 24 – You have the right to clean water, healthy food, a clean environment and good health care

Article 8 – You have the right to an identity

## **Love, family and friendship – Articles of UNCRC**

Article 15 - Article 15 – You have the right to meet with friends and join groups

Article 18 – You have the right to be brought up by both parents if possible

Article 20 – You have the right to be looked after properly if you can't live with your own family

Article 21 – If you can't live with your parents you have the right to live in the best place for you

## **A safe place to live – Articles of UNCRC**

Article 19 -You have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated

Article 21 – If you can't live with your parents you have the right to live in the best place for you

## **Good education/good job – Articles of UNCRC**

Article 28 – You have the right to an education

## **Having enough money and games and access to technology**

### **“no barriers to opportunity” – Articles UNCRC**

Article 6 – You have the right to grow up and reach your full potential

### Corporate Parenting Board - Work Plan 2023-2024

Meeting Date	Agenda Items
12 July 2023	Development of Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledges (Julie Davies & Gemma West) Progress on Implementation of the Parents Charter (Damian Rees) Development of Residential Services (Chris Griffiths) Work Plan Discussion
18 October 2023	Virtual School Update (Helen Howells) Views and Feedback from Care Experienced Children And Young People (Josh Price) IRO Annual Report (Alison Mathias) Independent Visitor Service (Alison Mathias)
10 January 2024	Overview of CAMHS Service (Michelle Davies) Views and Feedback from Care Experienced Children And Young People (Josh Price) Fostering Service Update (Claire Edwards) Update on Care Leaver Service (Helen Williams & Amy Barrett)
24 April 2024	Update on Basic Income Allowance for Care Leavers (Helen Williams) Educational Attainment and Progress of Care Experienced Children and Young People (Helen Howells) Adoption Service Update (Nichola Rogers) Views and Feedback from Care Experienced Children and Young People (Josh Price)

Note: Update on accommodation issues for young people to be added to workplan in 2024-25.



# Agenda Item 8

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

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

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

	<p><i>Services</i></p> <p>Adult Services Panel Members to be invited for this item</p>
<p><b>Meeting 9</b> <b>1 May 2024</b></p> <p>4pm</p>	<p><b>Delivery of Corporate Priorities / Policy Commitments in relation to Child and Family Services</b> <i>Louise Gibbard / David Howes / Julie Davies</i></p> <p><b>CIW Inspection Report on Ty Nant</b> <i>Julie Davies, Head of Child and Family Services</i> <i>Chris Griffiths, Principal Officer Residential Services</i></p> <p><b>Panel Review of the Year 2023/24</b></p>

**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))