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Neuadd y Sir
Y Rhadyr
Brynbuga
NP15 1GA

Dydd Mercher, 23 Chwefror 2022

Hysbysiad o gyfarfod

Pwyllgor Craffu Plant a Phobl Ifanc

Dydd Iau, 3ydd Mawrth, 2022 at 10.00 am
Neuadd y Sir – Cyfarfod o Bell

AGENDA

BYDD CYFARFOD CYN I AELODAU'R PWYLLGOR 30 COFNODION CYN I'R
CYCHWYN Y CYFARFOD

Eitem ddim	Eitem	Tudalennau
1.	Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb	
2.	Datganiadau o Fuddiant	
3.	Fforwm Agored i'r Cyhoedd. Canllawiau ~ Fforwm Agored Cyhoeddus y Pwyllgor Dethol Mae ein cyfarfodydd Pwyllgor Dethol yn cael eu ffrydio'n fyw a bydd dolen i'r ffrwd fyw ar gael ar dudalen gyfarfod gwefan Cyngor Sir Fynwy Os hoffech rannu eich barn ar unrhyw gynigion sy'n cael eu trafod gan Bwyllgorau Dethol, gallwch gyflwyno eich sylwadau drwy ddefnyddio'r ffurflen hon <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rhannwch eich barn drwy lanlwytho ffeil fideo neu sain (uchafswm o 4 munud); neu• Cyflwynwch sylwadau ysgrifenedig (drwy Microsoft Word, uchafswm o 500 gair) Bydd angen i chi gofrestru ar gyfer cyfrif Fy Sir Fynwy er mwyn cyflwyno'r ymateb neu ddefnyddio eich manylion mewngofnodi os	

ydych wedi cofrestru o'r blaen.

Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer cyflwyno sylwadau i'r Cyngor yw 5pm dri diwrnod gwaith clir cyn y cyfarfod. Os bydd y sylwadau a dderbynnir yn fwy na 30 munud, bydd detholiad o'r rhain, yn seiliedig ar thema, yn cael eu rhannu yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor Dethol. Bydd yr holl sylwadau a dderbynnir ar gael i gynghorwyr cyn y cyfarfod.

Os hoffech fynychu un o'n cyfarfodydd i siarad dan y Fforwm Agored i'r Cyhoedd, bydd angen i chi roi tri diwrnod o hysbysiad i ni drwy gysylltu â Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk. Y cadeirydd sy'n penderfynu faint o amser a roddir i bob aelod o'r cyhoedd i siarad, ond i'n galluogi i roi cyfle i nifer o siaradwyr, gofynnwn nad yw cyfraniadau yn hirach na 3 munud.

Os hoffech awgrymu pynciau i un o'n Pwyllgorau Dethol graffu arnynt yn y dyfodol, gwnewch hynny drwy e-bostio Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk

4.	Gwasanaethau Cymorth i Deuluoedd	1 - 32
	Darparu adroddiad ar nodau ac amcanion y gwasanaeth a thrafod y canlyniadau i blant a phobl ifanc ac effaith y gwasanaeth.	
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6.	Blaenraglen Waith y Pwyllgor Dethol Plant a Phobl Ifanc	77 - 78
7.	Cadarnhau cofnodion y cyfarfod blaenorol	79 - 86
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20^{fed} Ionawr 2022• 31^{ain} Ionawr 2022 (Arbennig)	
8.	Cadarnhau dyddiad ac amser y cyfarfod nesaf	

Paul Matthews

Prif Weithredwr

CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

MAE CYFANSODDIAD Y PWYLLGOR FEL SY'N DILYN:

Cynghorwyr Sir:

Louise Brown
Christopher Edwards
Martyn Groucutt
David Jones
Malcolm Lane
Maureen Powell
Tudor Thomas
J.Watkins

Gwybodaeth Gyhoeddus

Mynediad i gopiâu papur o agendâu ac adroddiadau

Gellir darparu copi o'r agenda hwn ac adroddiadau perthnasol i aelodau'r cyhoedd sy'n mynychu cyfarfod drwy ofyn am gopi gan Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ar 01633 644219. Dylid nodi fod yn rhaid i ni dderbyn 24 awr o hysbysiad cyn y cyfarfod er mwyn darparu copi caled o'r agenda hwn i chi.

Edrych ar y cyfarfod ar-lein

Gellir gweld y cyfarfod ar-lein yn fyw neu'n dilyn y cyfarfod drwy fynd i www.monmouthshire.gov.uk neu drwy ymweld â'n tudalen Youtube drwy chwilio am MonmouthshireCC. Drwy fynd i mewn i'r ystafell gyfarfod, fel aelod o'r cyhoedd neu i gymryd rhan yn y cyfarfod, rydych yn caniatáu i gael eich ffilmio ac i ddefnydd posibl y delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gan y Cyngor.

Y Gymraeg

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu cyfraniadau gan aelodau'r cyhoedd drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Gofynnwn gyda dyledus barch i chi roi 5 diwrnod o hysbysiad cyn y cyfarfod os dymunwch siarad yn Gymraeg fel y gallwn ddarparu ar gyfer eich anghenion.

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.
- **Caredigrwydd** – Byddwn yn dangos caredigrwydd i bawb yr ydym yn gweithio gyda nhw, gan roi pwysigrwydd perthnasoedd a'r cysylltiadau sydd gennym â'n gilydd wrth wraidd pob rhyngweithio.

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SUBJECT:	Delivering Excellence in Children's Services - Workforce
MEETING:	Scrutiny
DATE:	3 rd March 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

1. PURPOSE:

- To provide members of the Children's and Young People's Scrutiny Committee with an update on early help and family support services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are requested to scrutinise and consider the findings in this report as follows:

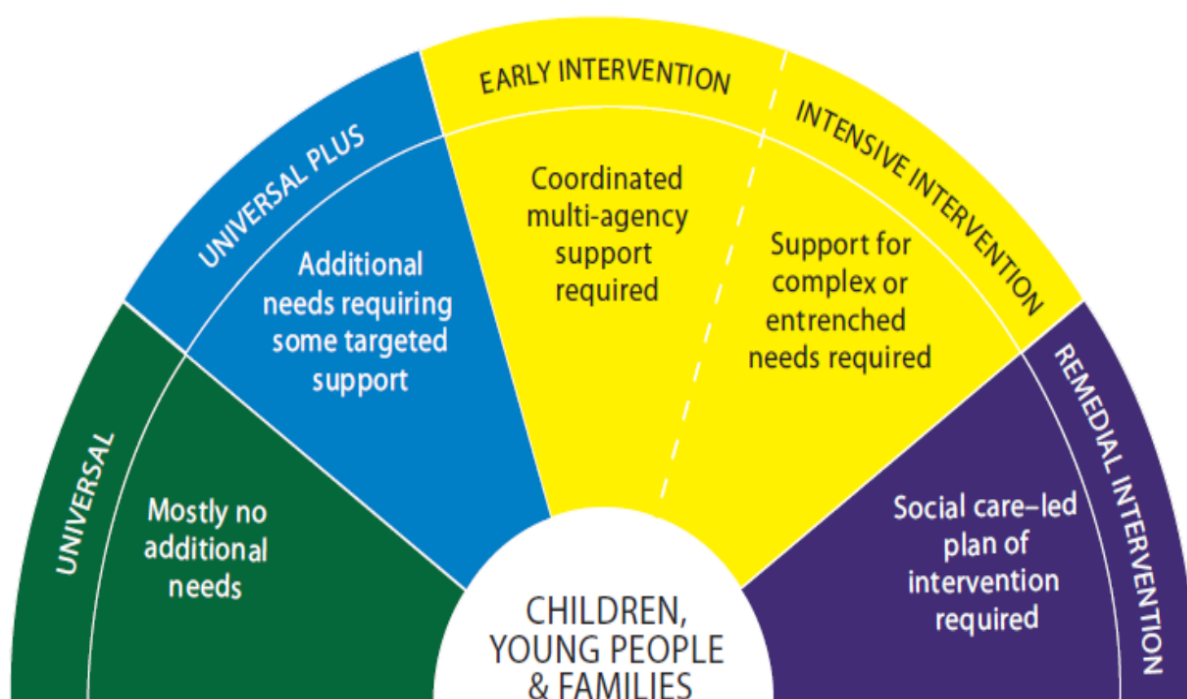
Early Help Panel
Advice Line
Building Strong Families Team
Face to Face Counselling
Creative Therapies
Achieving Change Together Team
Family Group Conferencing and Mediation Team

3. KEY ISSUES:

Background

- 3.1 In 2016 Children's Services underwent a service reconfiguration which included moving the Team Around the Family (TAF) team of three support workers and a co-ordinator from Partnerships and into Children's Services. This change was part of the overarching transformation programme 'Delivering Excellence in Children's Services' designed to deliver the cultural and practice changes necessary to address problems within the service and realise the benefits enshrined within the legislative framework of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act (2014).
- 3.2 Since this point MCC has invested significantly in reviewing and redesigning early intervention services and investing in additional services including work to co-ordinate multi-agency services to ensure that families get the right support at the right time. It has been a priority of Children's Services to develop an integrated strategy in order to establish and expand a range of preventive services at different points along the spectrum of need that works in partnership with families and wider partners.

3.3 As part of their on-going plan to improve their response to families in need of care and support and in line with their implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2016, Monmouthshire commissioned the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University (IPC) to review their current arrangements and assist in a plan for improvement. The framework below was used as the basis for their analysis. It recognises the importance of the whole network of services to supporting all families, and in particular identifies a differentiation between services and support for children and families needing early intervention and those needing intensive intervention. This is based in particular on the research evidence which is clear that these different forms of intervention require very different levels of support and skill on the part of those undertaking assessment, care and support:



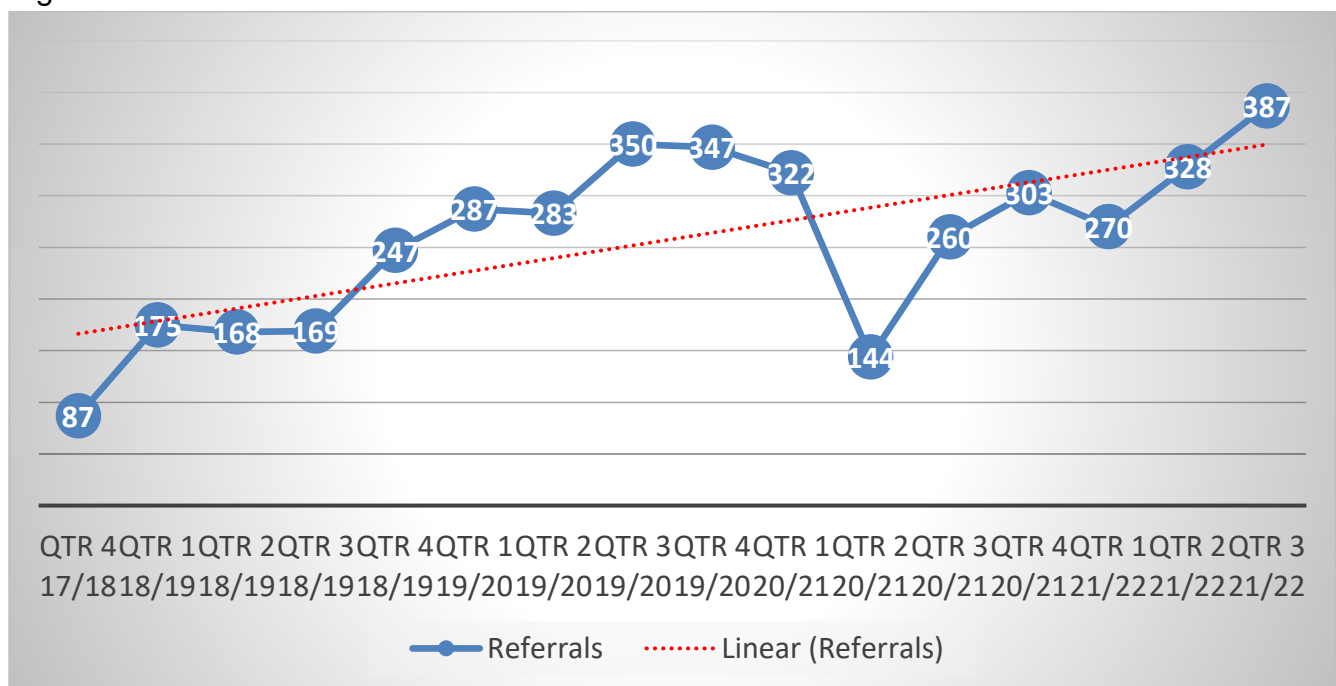
Early Help Panel

3.4 A key component in this approach is the Early Help Panel (EHP). Established in January 2017, this panel provides a single point of entry for emotional wellbeing and early intervention referrals, including from families, social services Early Help and Assessment Team, health and schools. This Panel was identified by ABUHB as a model of best practice and has been used as the blueprint for the rollout pan-Gwent of Single Point of Access for Emotional Well-being Panels, known as SPACE-Wellbeing Panels SPACE WB. As the EHP in Monmouthshire was already established and well known prior to the creation of SPACE WB EHP has retained its title rather than changing its name. The panel

is co-chaired by managers in Children’s Services and Education with the co-ordination function being funded by health through Transformation Grant funding.

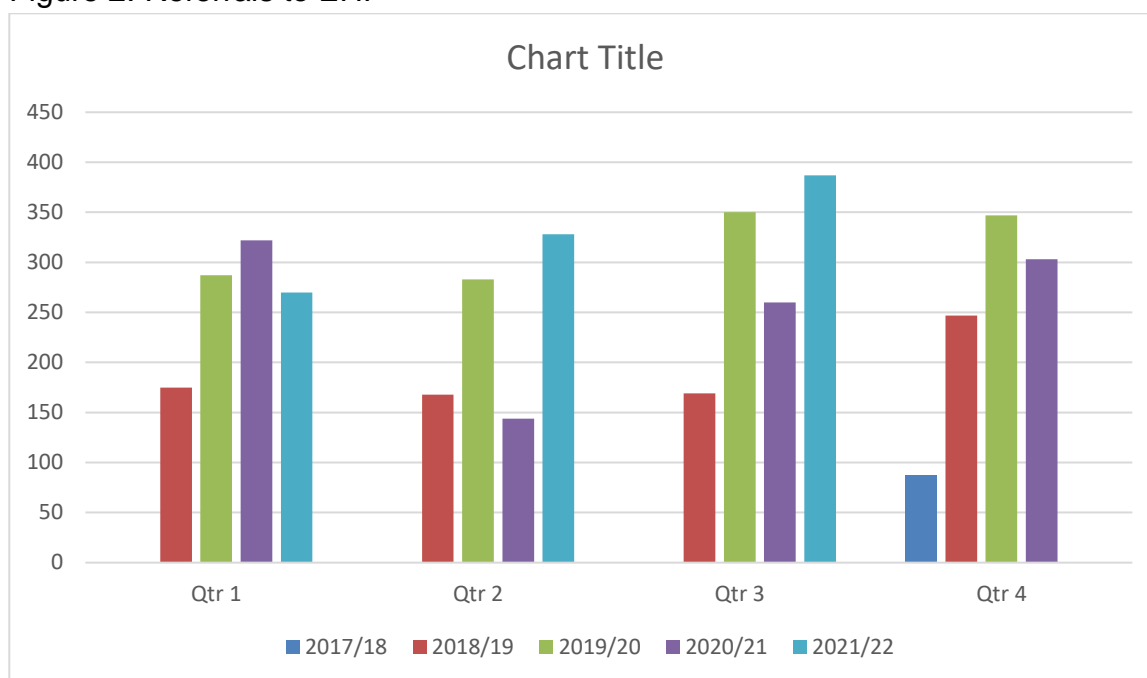
3.5 Benefits of the EHP are that it provides a single referral point for a wide range of services and supports and enables complexities of referrals to be considered so that families are less likely to be referred to the wrong service and experience multiple refer-ons. The EHP works to a ‘no-bounce’ principle with a commitment to trying to ensure that families get the right service first time and when a further referral is required families are moved between services in a contained way rather than being ‘bounced’ between services. The existence of the EHP has reduced the number of duplicate referrals, provided a vehicle for sharing scarce resources and promoting services that many families might otherwise not have been aware of. In a local authority like MCC which receives very little in the way of grant funding it is essential that we maximise the potential of what is available and the EHP enables the whole to be greater than the sum of the individual parts.

Figure 1 Referrals to EHP



3.6 Figures 1 above and 2 below show the steady increase in referrals to EHP since its inception in December 2017. As the graphs show, although there was a significant drop in referrals in Qtr 2 of 2020/21, caused by school closures due to Covid-19, there is an overall upward trend. Referrals have risen significantly in 2021/22 with Qtr 3 of 2021/22 having the highest number of referrals to date. The projected data for Qtr 4 indicates that referrals are likely to top 450 (257 referrals having been received to date).

Figure 2. Referrals to EHP



3.7 Data collected across Gwent suggests that all areas are seeing an increase both in the number and complexity of referrals to panels. The majority of referrals (44.6%) are from GPs with schools making 19.7% of referrals and 5.8% being self referrals. The remaining referrals are received from a wide range of sources including CAMHS, Children's Services, and other services.

3.8 The majority of referrals are received for children aged between 11-15 (53%), with children over 16 making up 14% of referrals, children 5-10 making up 24% of referrals and children under 5 making up 4% of referrals. In 2020/21 referrals were made into the EHP for 3.4% of the child population in MCC, the highest in Gwent.

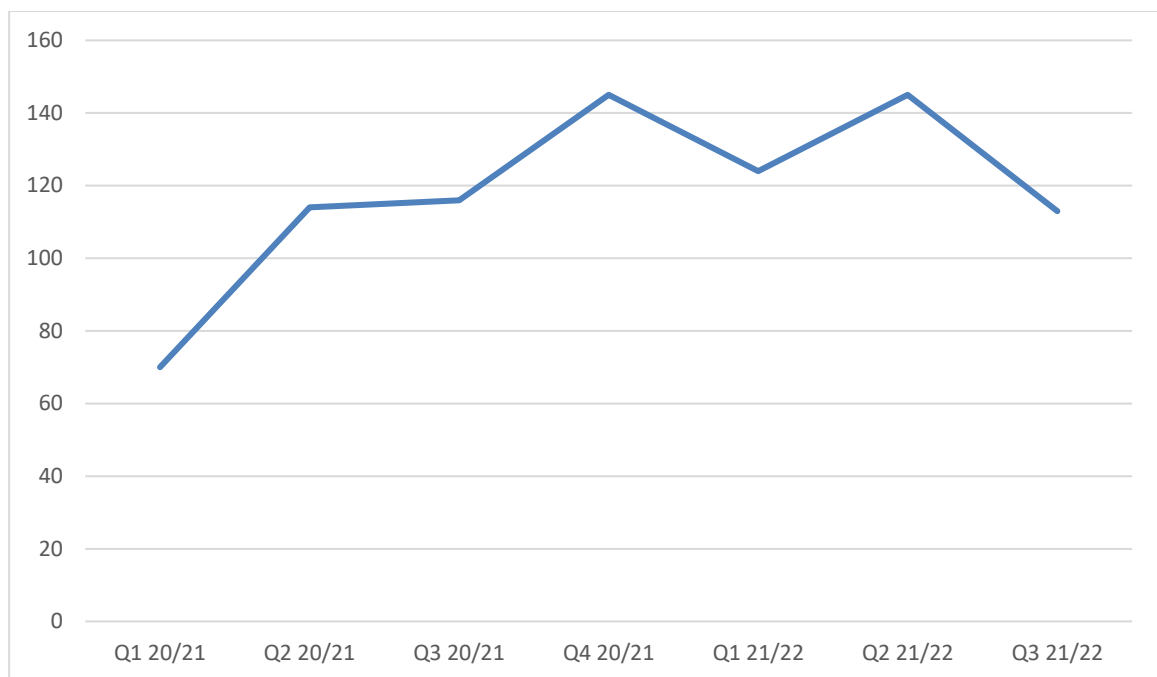
Advice Line

3.9 The Family Advice Line was set up as a response to an anticipated need for support for families when the first national lockdown was announced in March 2020 as a response to the covid-19 pandemic. The lockdown was announced on 23rd March 2020 and the advice line went live on the 25th March 2020.

3.10 The Advice Line provides a first point of contact for very early support often offering light-touch support and reassurance with the intention of meeting needs as early as possible in order to reduce the need for escalation at a later stage. The Advice Line worker liaises closely with the Social Work Assistants who staff the Early Help and Assessment Duty Line as part of the Safeguarding Hub, and are often able to provide them with information which can divert a family from needing statutory social work intervention. They can also provide

support for families needing access to foodbanks or other practical support. The Advice Line runs alongside the EHP and offers initial advice and support and a call-back service. The call-back service allows a caller to be contacted by a more specialist professional based on the needs identified in the initial call. Call-backs might be offered from family therapists, counsellors, therapists or experienced family support practitioners. The advice line worker is also trained to provide basic welfare benefits advice and signposting to more specialist services to promote income maximisation. Financial insecurity can often be a factor that tips families from managing and into debt, rent arrears and risk of homelessness and cause significant family stress that can be a contributory factor in domestic abuse, and drug and alcohol misuse. Research evidence tells us that children growing up in poverty are less likely to thrive and do well in school and so anything that can be done to support parental income maximisation will promote children's well-being.

Figure 3: Calls to the Family Advice



3.11 Analysis of the reasons calls are made to the EHP has identified the following themes:

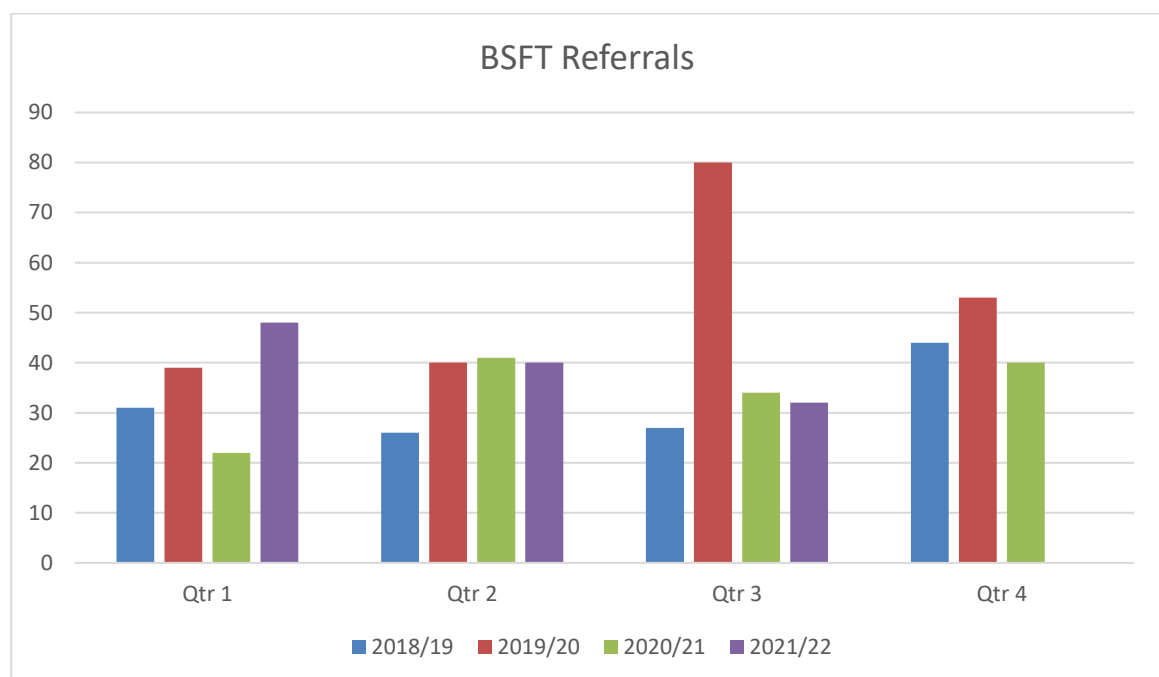
- Parents seeking advice regarding their child's anxiety
- Parents seeking advice regarding their child's behaviour especially dealing with anger and aggression
- Parents seeking advice regarding emotionally based school avoidance
- Advice regarding parental relationships and family conflict
- Referrals to panel – requests for support or enquiries about referrals

- Enquiries regarding referrals to CAMHS and Primary Mental Health, predominantly concerns about self harm

Building Strong Families Team

3.12 An IPC review that took place in 2017 identified that the Team Around the Family (TAF) service was not geared up to working with families with more complex needs, protocols for step-up and step-down were required and greater clarity was needed as to which families TAF should be working with. The TAF model was therefore redesigned with a clear criteria and robust step-up and step-down processes and the Building Strong Families Team (BSFT) was established.

Figure 3: Referrals to BSFT



3.13 This team is made up of family support workers and a team leader who work with families who want support but do not need a social worker. Workers are highly skilled and trained in a core suite of interventions, including Motivational Interviewing, OCR Level 3 working with complex families, Brief Solution Focussed Therapy, Non Violent Resistance and Circle of Security. Support is tailored to the needs of families and is time-limed (around 12 weeks). The team works alongside families to support them in making the changes that the families have identified themselves (what matters to them). Work often focusses on parenting and managing challenging behaviour, relationships and family well-being. Change is measured using the Distance Travelled Tool which is based on the Assessment

Framework Triangle and measures family resilience. Families can self-refer and referrals can also be made by professionals. Referral is through the EHP to identify what, if any, other services might be helpful.

- 3.14 In 2020/21 Children’s Services recognised the value that BSFT could add to statutory services by supporting families as they step down from statutory intervention or preventing issues escalating into needing a statutory response and invested in funding an additional worker, increasing the staff team from three to four. In addition Welsh Government Covid Recovery funding allowed the recruitment of two additional members of staff in November 2021. This has increased the number of families that can be worked with meaning that by the end of Qtr 3 the BSFT has engaged with as many families and individuals as it had worked with over the whole of 2020/21 (94).
- 3.15 Figure 3 above presents the referral data to the BSFT. Referrals in Qtr 3 and Qtr 4 in 2019/20 were significantly higher due to a short term grant from Welsh Government which allowed the employment of an additional two members of staff for approximately 5 months. Qtr 1 of 2020/21 was significantly impacted by the pandemic as the service was required to cease all face to face work, schools were closed and GPs were largely not doing face to face consultations and both are a major referrers.
- 3.16 In addition to the individual family work, the team has also been involved in the delivery of a number of groups including a parents group on Non-Violent Resistance for parents struggling to manage their children’s aggressive behaviour and a Worry Warriors Group for primary school aged children to help them manage their anxiety. An additional group planned for Qtr 3 was cancelled due to staff sickness.

Outcomes

- 3.17 Outcomes are measured in BSFT using a Distance Travelled Tool (DTT) based on the Assessment Framework Triangle and also measuring the number of families reporting achieving their personal outcomes at the end of intervention. The % of families reporting a positive outcome has increased year on year since the service redesign. So far this year (bearing in mind this is partial year data and based on families’ self reporting) almost every family completing programmes of intervention with BSFT report achieving positive outcomes. Data from the DTT will not be collated until the end of the year, however for 2020/21 it indicated an increase in family resilience of 31.25%.

% of families reporting a positive outcome

18/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/22 ¹
59.6%	75.53%	84%	92.3%

3.18 The issues that families present with have increased in complexity and this has been exacerbated by the pandemic which has made delivering direct work interventions much more difficult. In spite of this the number of families needing to be escalated to Children's Services so far this year has fallen from four last year to only one so far this year (2018/19 -16, 2019/20 - 22, 2020/21 – 4). This reflects the increased confidence and skill of the workers in working with difficult cases and managing risk.

% of families escalated to Children's Services

18/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/22 ¹
16 (12.5%)	22 (10.3%)	4 (4.49%)	3 (3.1%)

3.19 The number of families disengaging from the service before work is completed or failing to engage has remained stable over the past three years. Based on part year figures it currently stands at 8 (8.5%).

% of families disengaging from support

18/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/22 ²
4 (3%)	18 (8%)	7 (10.1%)	8 (8.5)

Staff Wellbeing

3.20 There has been significant sickness absence in the BSFT team this year in part due to higher stress levels caused by vicarious trauma as families' problems become more challenging as they have to wait longer for support. The impact of workers having worked through the pandemic and managing increasingly lengthy waiting lists should also not be underestimated. A number of measures have been introduced to promote staff wellbeing and reduce staff sickness. These include reducing caseloads from 12 to 10, bring the team together more regularly for reflective practice sessions to reduce feelings of isolation. The recruitment of additional staff through one-off funding from WG for 2022/23 will also help reduce waiting lists and pressures on the team.

'BSFT has really helped us to work together as mother & daughter over the last few months. Although we still have some way to go we have now built a good foundation & can build on this. Thank you'
Parent

'The worker so lovely, I haven't met her in person but it doesn't matter, I feel like I have & I felt so comfortable with her straight away. My confidence has gone up a lot & my

¹ Part year data covering Qtrs 1-3

² Part year data covering Qtrs 1-3

anxiety is a lot easier to manage & happens less often. I'm able to look on the bright side of things much more now & get rid of negative thoughts.'

Young person

'I hope you never lose your smile, enthusiasm & genuine care you show for the children' -

Child

'BSFT has assisted my son on the road to recovery in dealing with separation & anxiety' -

Parent

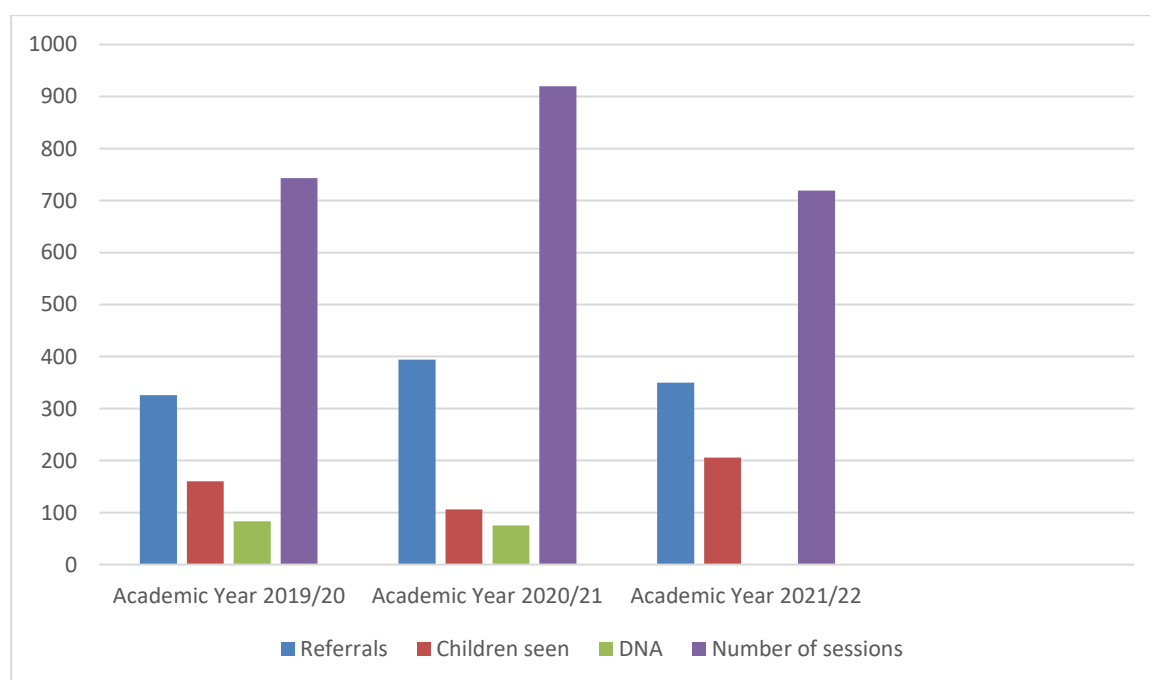
Face to Face School Based Counselling

- 3.20 Face to Face School Based Counselling is an independent counselling service for 11-18 year olds. It comprises one team leader and three 30 hour counsellors providing a face to face, as well as an on-line or phone offer to young people across the four state secondary schools in Monmouthshire as well as to children attending alternative provision and a community provision, north and south, for those not able or wanting to access the service through their school. The emotional health and well-being of children and young people is a key priority for the Welsh Government (WG), as evidenced in the *School and Community-based Counselling Operating Toolkit*, and the *Framework on Embedding a Whole-School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing*.
- 3.21 Evidence that children and young people's mental health and emotional well-being needs to be a priority can be found in recent studies which suggest that wellbeing concerns are an increasing problem for young people. Across the UK, it is estimated that one in four children will show some evidence of emotional ill health, and three children in an average-size classroom will have difficulties with their emotional health. Half of all emotional health problems begin by the age of 14, and three-quarters by an individual's mid-twenties. There is emerging evidence that the impact of the pandemic has had a especially detrimental impact on children and young people, and on their emotional and mental health in particular.
- 3.22 In Monmouthshire young people have voiced through the Young People's *Make Your Mark Consultation* that "support [for] our mental health" is of primary importance. It is a strength of the Face to Face counselling service that in recent years there has been an increase in the number of self-referrals (47% compared with a national figure of 35%). With the closure of schools, the pandemic had a significant impact on the delivery of the service, however within a month the service was able to move to a digital platform which allows it now to offer a blended approach to young people.

3.23 The main issues that children and young people seek support with through counselling are family relationships/conflict, and anxiety, which mirrors the national picture. Girls (including those identifying as female) outnumber boys (including those identifying as male) in accessing the service, and the transition years from key stage 3-4 is locally, as it is nationally, a key point is children seeking support.

3.24 Current capacity within the team stands at a maximum of 780 sessions available per year. Counselling episodes last between 6 to 20 sessions depending on need. An increasing demand for longer term work has meant that although more sessions were delivered in 2020/21, fewer young people were seen and more referrals and more young people carrying over from one school year to the next. Average wait times for counselling rose from 11 weeks in the academic year of 2019/20 to 13 weeks in 2020/21. The number of referrals shown in the graph below (figure 4) shows that the rate of referrals for the current academic year already stands at approximately 350 so is on track to exceed referrals for 2020/21. Data for 2021/22 is partial and DNA attend data is not yet available.

Figure 4: Referrals to School Based Counselling.



3.25 Outcomes

Young people’s wellbeing is measured using a standardised tool, the YP Core. This tool evidences an average reduction in low mood on a standardised scale. Results from 2019/20 show an improvement of 4.65, 2020/21 of 7.16 and so far this year of 7.16.

3.26 Challenges

As the data show, there has been an increase year on year, both in the number of referrals and in the level of complexity of issues that young people are bringing meaning that they require longer term support.

3.27 WG has, in the short term, increased funding to expand capacity for school based counselling, however it is often challenging to recruit to temporary posts and recruitment issues has meant that the team has been running with a vacancy for a period of time. This significant lack of capacity is being addressed by the team leader by working with colleagues to offer placements for students undertaking counselling qualifications. However the increasing level of demand is unsustainable without either significant additional funding, which is unrealistic, or a more blended approach working with community partners, working more 'upstream' to increase young people's resilience and reduce the need for counselling, as well as increased capacity. It is anticipated that additional WG funding is likely to be made available in the next financial year that will allow the creation of new Well-being Practitioners who can build links between school and community well-being resources. The team leader has made links with local colleges and there are currently seven placement students working/volunteering within the service. The offer is also being adapted to include group based interventions which can offer support for greater numbers of young people.

'Thank you so much for everything I can't tell you how much you have helped me! I am really going to miss having chats with you! When I first met you I was so lost and I didn't have any confidence. However thanks to you I now am found and I have a lot of confidence'
Young person

'You made me feel positive about being myself & that I matter.'
Young Person

Face to Face Creative Therapies

3.28 The Creative Therapies Team is a small team of a team leader (.8 WTE) two systemic therapists (.6 WTE) and three play therapists (1.5 WTE) funded through Families First and providing a therapeutic offer to children of primary school age and their families. Because all the play therapists are part time, Children's Services is able to spot purchase play therapy for children who they are working with who would otherwise not be eligible for the support through Families First. This is at a lower unit cost than would be the case if the work was externally commissioned. Play therapy sessions can vary between 6 and 25

sessions depending on need. Progress is reviewed every 6/8 weeks with the child, parents and school. Family therapy can vary between 4 and 8 sessions and are sometimes episodic, with families pausing and re-engaging.

- 3.29 22 children have completed individual play therapy so far in 2021/22, ten of these were referred through Children's Services. 16 families have received family therapy. Of these 36 interventions positive outcomes have been reported in 34 cases. Four groups have been run, three to help support children with transition and one for parents/caregivers on working with anxiety.

'There are no words to describe how much we appreciate the involvement your team had with us. ... We were at the edge of the cliff nearly to fall & they just pull us back. ... Without their help I don't know where could be as a family, they support us all the time & guide us.'
Parent

'Before we came to see you we were in a desperate situation & things had to change. We really wanted to change we just didn't know how to. ... We felt such relief when we came to see you. It finally felt like someone cared about us & wanted to support us. We felt like we weren't on our own & didn't have to fight for support'
Parent

'I really enjoyed all 18 sessions ... You are very kind, just a pity you can't play football, lol You made me feel very excited and a little special'
Child

Achieving Change Together

- 3.30 The Achieving Change Together Team (ACT) was established in October 2018 funded from monies released from the decommissioning of the IFST service and additional edge of care grant funding from ICF. In 2019 the service received additional funding allowing it to expand. The team comprises a Social Work Senior Practitioner, a Team Leader, 4.5 Family Support Workers, .1 Clinical Psychologist and .1 Systemic Family Therapist.
- 3.31 Workers carry small caseloads of six families and are trained in a variety of evidence based models of intervention. They work intensively with families (2 to 4 times per week) and have the flexibility to work outside normal working hours. Intervention is time limited to avoid dependency, however is long enough to enable change to be sustainable and embedded (up to 18 months). Practitioners are trained and supported to be able to manage risk confidently (in partnership with case holding social workers in the operational teams). There are regular reviews to avoid drift and monitor progress using the Distance Travelled Tool referred to above. Intervention is strengths-based, outcome-focussed,

psychologically and trauma informed and led by the family supported by an ACT worker and with input from the child's social worker. The work balances intensity with duration, with an emphasis on using a strengths-based and relational approach to promoting family relationships and resilience to create sustainable change. The criteria for working with the ACT Team includes families where children are in care but there is a realistic prospect that children can safely return home, or where concerns are such that it is judged to be highly likely that children will require alternative care if nothing changes. Families referred must recognise the need to change and be sufficiently motivated to engage.

3.32 A costing was undertaken last year when ACT had worked with 53 children. The weekly cost of accommodating these 53 children, assuming that they were placed, either with in-house foster carers, or with kinship carers, and not accounting for any additional skills payments, residential or agency fees for any children MCC was unable to place in-house would be a minimum of £9,829³. The cost were any of them to be placed with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) or in residential care as would be inevitable given MCCs low numbers of foster carers and heavy reliance on IFAs, would be significantly more.

	Placement fee	No of children	cost
0-4	216.00	10	2,160
5-10	174.00	21	3,645
11-15	174.00	18	3,132
16-17	223.00	4	892
			9,829

3.33 The total weekly cost of the ACT team is a total of £5,441 amounting to an annual cost of £282,932.

Cost of the ACT Team	
4.5 support workers Band E = 146308.5 / 52	£2,814
1 wte Team Leader Band H	£877
.2 Team manager	£229
.6 Senior Practitioner	£628
Clinical psychology, family therapy, expenses and misc costs etc	£400
	£4,948

3.34 The minimum weekly cost of accommodating these children is £9,829, amounting to an annual figure of £460,876. This represents a saving £177,944 per annum, although in reality it would be significantly more to accommodate even half of these children since the

³ Skills to Foster payments are between £53 and £80 per week depending on the level, residential placements can vary from £4,000 to £12,000 per week or more.

costs of the IFAs and residential placements that would be necessary would amount to tens of thousands per week.

- 3.35 To date the ACT Team has worked with a total of 36 families and 107 children. Of the 107 children supported by ACT 89 (83%) have remained living with their families.

Outcomes

- 3.36 23 families with 74 children have been closed to ACT since the service started. Of these 60 children (81%) remain at home or living with family members and 14 (19%) are living with foster carers.
- 3.37 All the 23 cases that have been supported by ACT have evidenced improved family resilience. A random sample identified that the average increase is 34.15 % increase in parental resilience. With approximately a third of the cases increasing their parental resilience by over 20% and another third by over 40 %. The highest figure is 51% increase in Parental resilience and the lowest recorded increase is 9% increase in parental resilience.
- 3.38 Overall, the distance travelled tool evidence's that even in cases where families are assessed not to be able to provide good enough parenting, they are still able to increase their parental resilience. This is positive and for families that may go onto have more children may reduce the risk of further children moving into the care system and is likely to support parents to have a positive relationship with children even if they are unable to live in their care.
- 3.39 Of the 107 children that Act have worked with 94 are school aged children. School attendance has improved for 86 of these children (91.5%). Three children who still open to ACT have not improved their attendance and another four who are still open to ACT are currently home educated but are not evidencing any improvement in their access to education.
- 3.40 Of the 23 families who are now closed to ACT eight (34.8%) are now closed to Children's Services and remain closed a year later. Given the level of complexity that these families were presenting with, this is a significant outcome, for example, one young couple, who had previously had children removed have have been able to care for a new baby, have positive relationships with their other children and remain closed to children's services a year after closing.

- 3.41 Where children have not been able to remain living with their parents in the majority of cases there has been evidence of improved family relationships and increased understanding by the parents of their children's needs, leading to improvements in family time, reduction in the likelihood of children being removed in future and increase in the possibility that children might return home in future.
- 3.42 Other outcomes include one parent starting a degree course and another gaining employment.

Thank you for being so nice, we will miss you.
Child

When act first became involved I myself was very unsure of how things were going to work out as we were basically given an ultimatum which was we either had you in or we would lose the children so it was a case of work with you and sort the house or face the consequences ... as far as I'm concerned you have helped me in more ways than bad and it's a sad day that I'm losing ACT as support as I've come in some respects to rely on ACT but I also know that I'm so much better than I was when ACT first started 18 months ago
Parent

Family Group Conferencing and Mediation

- 3.43 Family Group Conferences (FGCs) are voluntary decision-making meetings to help families find their own solutions to problems. These are sometimes referred to as family meetings. The FGC process empowers a family and their network to draw on their strengths and resources to make a safe plan for their children. FGCs ensure the entire family network has the opportunity to hear and discuss concerns, to be listened to including the child/young person and collectively create a strategy they can implement together to address the issue. An FGCs/mediation is routinely used to help the family resolve issues with family time (contact), identify substitute carers where children need this or resolve other family issues or disputes.
- 3.44 The FGC and mediation team is made up of 3 part time workers (2wte), one funded by MCC and the other funded by ICF. In addition there is a mediation worker who is funded through ICF, employed by Llamau and located within the FGC/Mediation teams.

Referrals to FGC

	2019/20	2020/21	2020/22 ⁴
Referrals	69	112	108
FGCs	52	42	18
Review FGCs	19	32	32
Family meetings	Not recorded	23	36
FGCs resulting in a positive family plan	58	78	48

3.45 The Mediation Service runs alongside FGC. The Mediation Service went live in July 2020 and is provided by one worker who is employed by Llamau and hosted by MCC. The service had a slow start however since it has been fully operational it has delivered excellent outcomes. It has taken 47 referrals with 26 cases having now concluded. Of these 100% have concluded with a positive outcome. Of these four cases were able to be closed to Children's Services, one young person was able to return home to parents avoiding care/homelessness, one young person engaged with mental health services and returned to college to complete A Levels and one young person was able to be de-registered from the Child Protection Register and was supported on a Care and Support Plan and is now closed to Children's Services.

'Only going well because of you'
Young Person

'Thanks for your help and support. I think it has really helped us. It has given me some fantastic guidance for supporting child's emotional needs and opened dad's eyes to how our behaviour impacts child so I'm very grateful'
Parent

'I felt supported. I felt safe to talk, to be 'real'. No condemnation, no judgement or feeling like there is something wrong with me.'
Parent

'I was feeling so anxious about the FGC but you were so easy to talk to and you seemed to be able to understand where I was coming from, even when I couldn't think of the right words'
Parent

'It's was beneficial for us to have someone who was willing to listen and help with such an awful situation for the children to be in.'
Parent

⁴ Part year data covering Qtrs 1-3

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 If Monmouthshire County Council is to safely reduce the numbers of children coming into the care of the local authority with the lifelong impact this has on the child, their family and community, as well as the financial impact on the authority then a strategy that meets the complexity of the situation is needed. This will require targeted, early intervention to reduce the numbers of families needing statutory support. Appropriate, bespoke and multi-faceted support for those families whose needs are such that they require additional support to reduce the risk of their children from being removed from their care.
- 4.2 The Early Help Panel has reduced referrals for S-CAMHS, reduced multiple referrals and improved access to a range of early help services. Early intervention services such as BSFT, Creative Therapies and School Based Counselling have a track record in improving family resilience and reducing the need for families to access higher levels of support. ACTT, with the support of services like FGC and Mediation, is working effectively to reduce risk, increase family resilience and create long-term sustainable change that it breaking generational cycles of risk and family dysfunction. However demand is increasing and as demand on statutory services continues to escalate then family support services need to ever more creative, flexible and reach further into community resources to maximise capacity and foster community resilience. This will be the priority in the coming months.

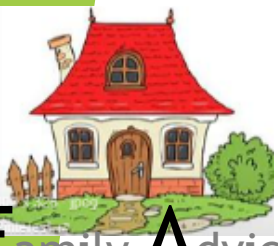
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Right support at the right time

Family **A**dvice **L**ine



Achieving **C**hange
Together **T**eam

**What's happened to you? Not
What's wrong with you?**

School **B**ased **C**ounselling
Team



Relationships are key

**Attachment &
trauma informed**

Early Help, Therapeutic & Well-being Services

Importance of context

Family **G**roup
Conferencing & **M**ediation



Creative **T**herapies
Team

It takes a village to raise a child



**Strengths-based &
resilience building**

**How we do things is as
important as what we do**



Building **S**trong **F**amilies **T**eam



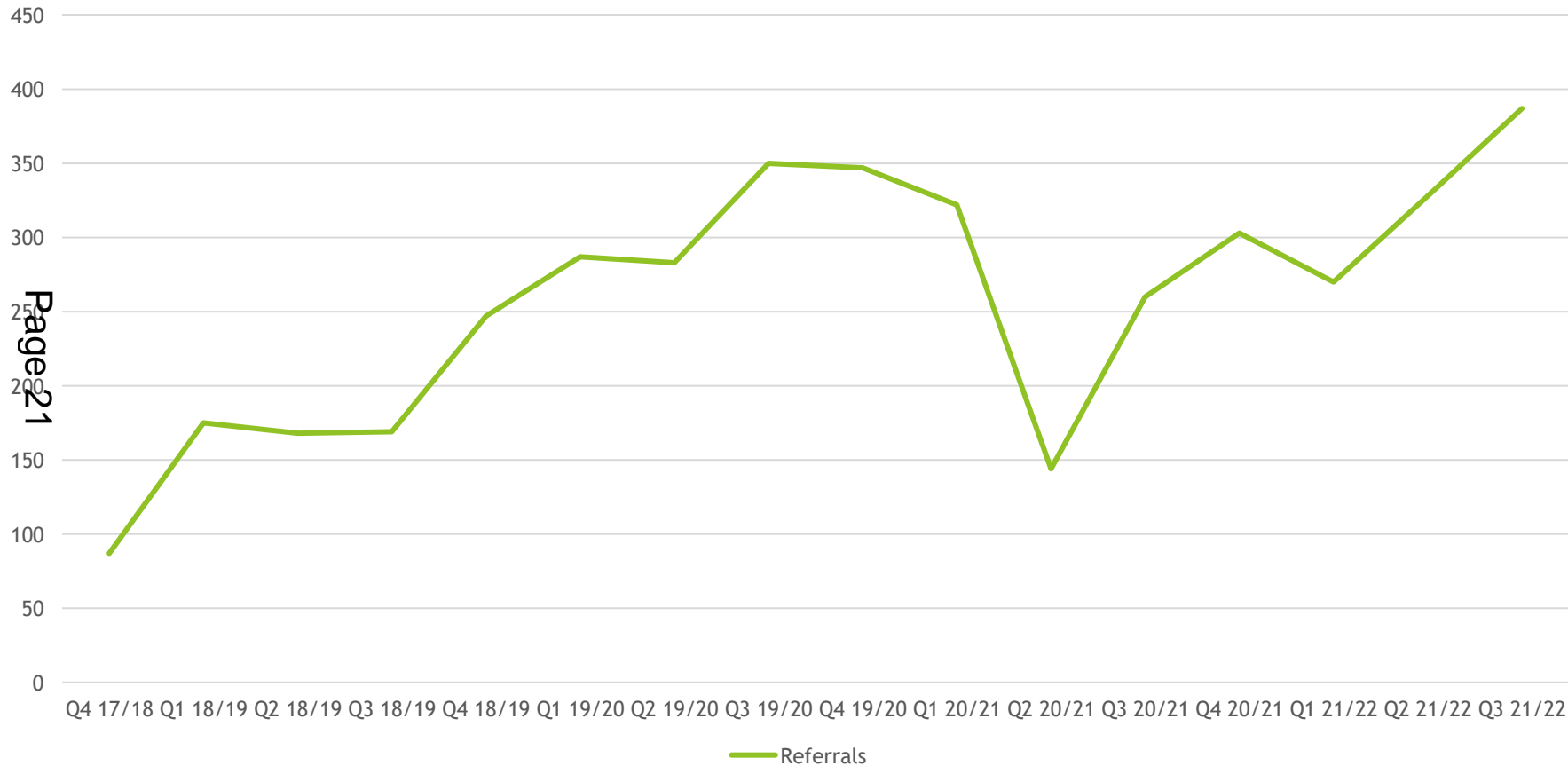
Young
Carers **T**eam

Early Help Panel

- ▶ Weekly, multi-agency panel, established January 2018 as a single point of entry for referrals for non emergency support
- ▶ Enables families to access a wide range of family support, preventive & early intervention support services including Primary Care Mental Health, non-urgent Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) & a wide range of other services so that families get the right support more quickly
- ▶ Works to a 'no bounce' principle, so referrals are not 'bounced' between services & reduces duplication & multiple referrals
- ▶ Since the Covid-19 crisis services the panel continues to operate virtually & has established a telephone advice line offering advice & appointments for a wide range of virtual services including family therapy, play therapy, counselling and family support



Referrals Early Help Panel

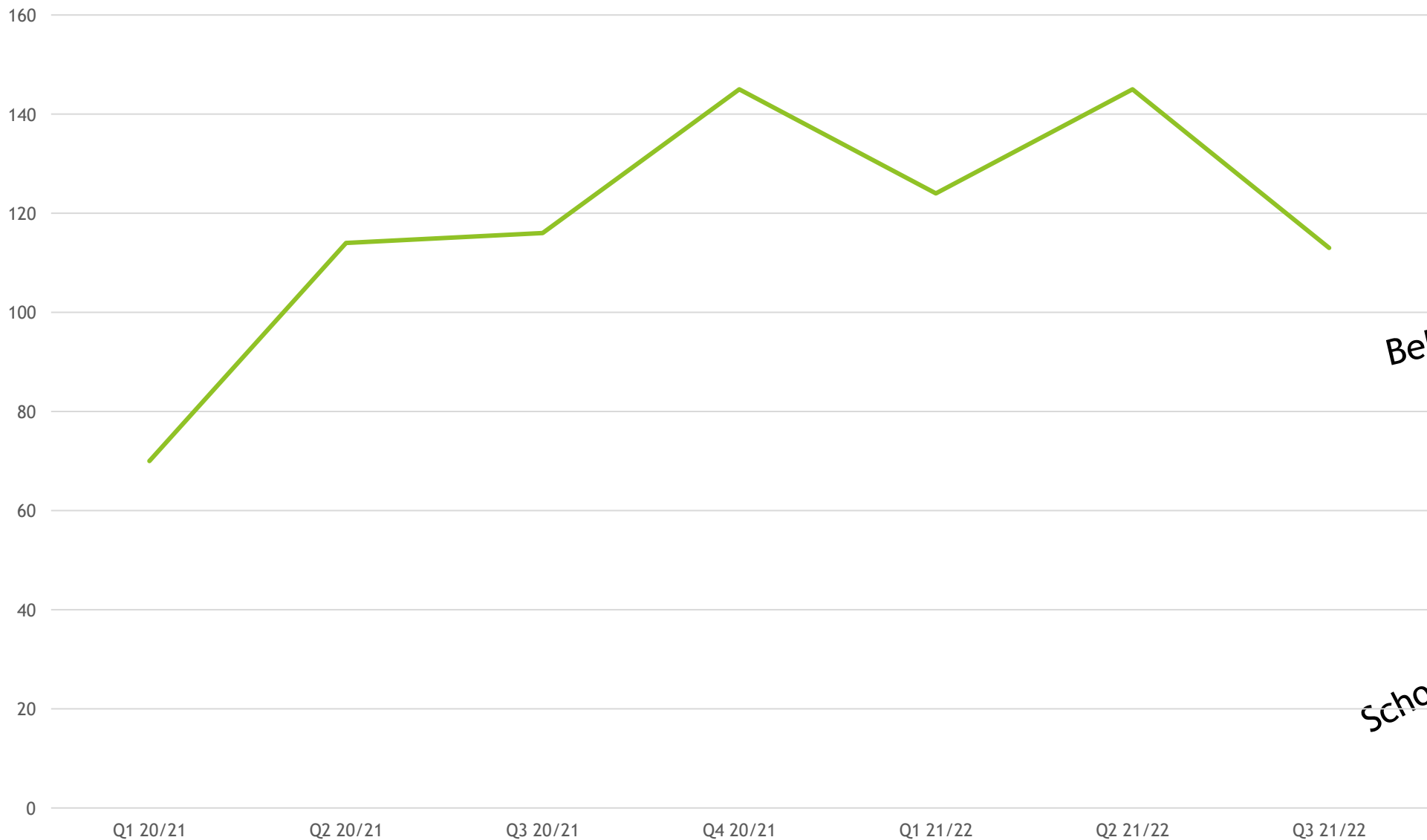


Average referrals per week		
Newport	46	30.6%
Caerphilly	37	24.6%
Monmouthshire	29	19.3%
Torfaen	20	13.3%
Blaenau Gwent	18	12%

0-4 year 4%
 5-10 years 24%
 11-15 years 52%
 16-17 years 14%

Referrals were made into the EHP for 3.4% of the child population in MCC - the highest in Gwent

Advice Line Calls



Family conflict



Behaviour issues



Anxiety



School refusal



Enquiries about CAMHS, ISCAN and PCMH

Enquiries about referrals to EHP

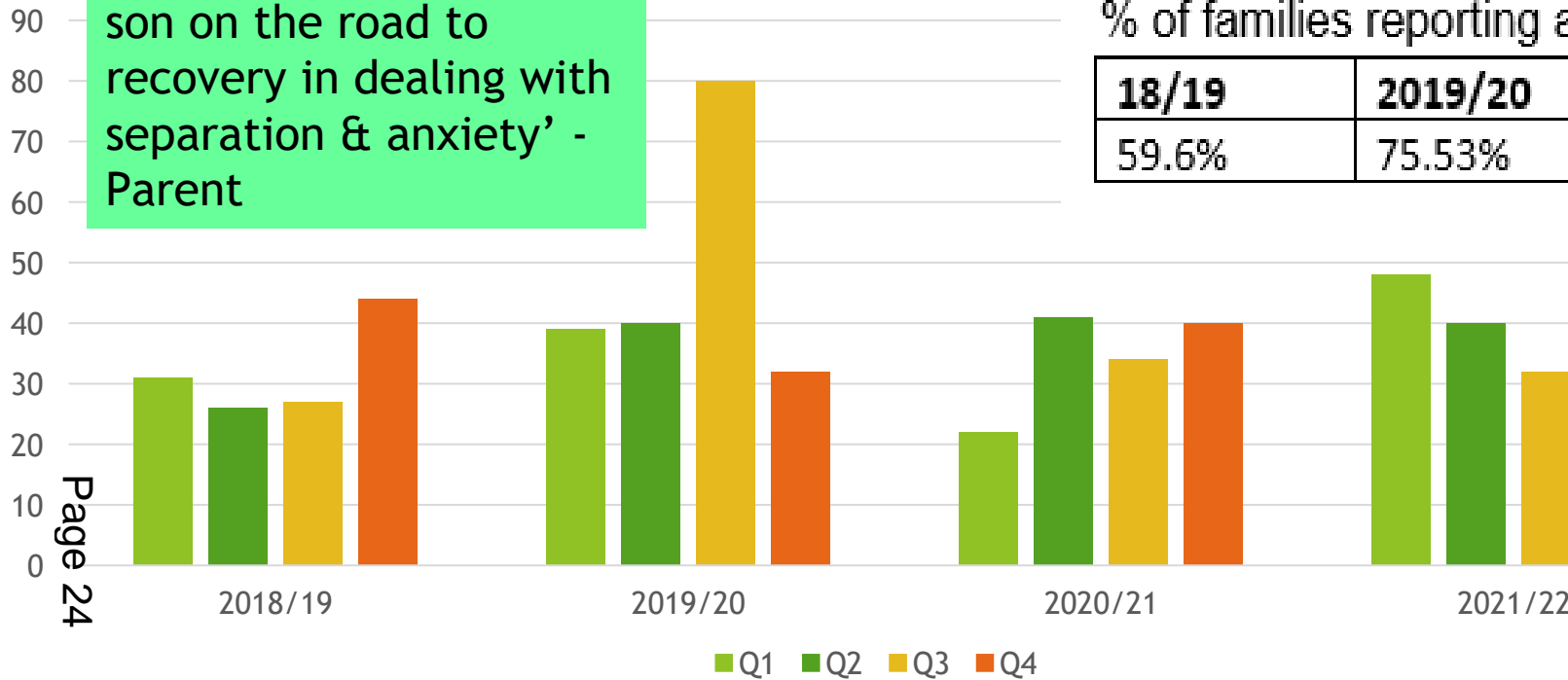
Building Strong Families Team (TAF)

- ▶ BSFT is a small team who work with families who want support but do not need a social worker, support is tailored to the needs of individual families & is time-limited (around 12 weeks)
- ▶ Parents usually ask for help with the most difficult job in the world, parenting. It may include help with routines & boundaries or work with children's challenging behaviour. The team is often asked to help children with their self confidence, self-esteem & resilience
- ▶ Referrals are increasing so there are long waiting lists in every area.

'I hope you never lose your smile, enthusiasm & genuine care you show for the children' - Child

'BSFT has assisted my son on the road to recovery in dealing with separation & anxiety' - Parent

Referrals to BSFT



% of families reporting a positive outcome

18/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/22 ¹
59.6%	75.53%	84%	92.3%

'BSFT has really helped us to work together as mother & daughter over the last few months. Although we still have some way to go we have now built a good foundation & can build on this. Thank you' - Parent

% of families escalated to Children's Services

18/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/22 ¹
16 (12.5%)	22 (10.3%)	4 (4.49%)	3 (3.1%)

% of families disengaging from support

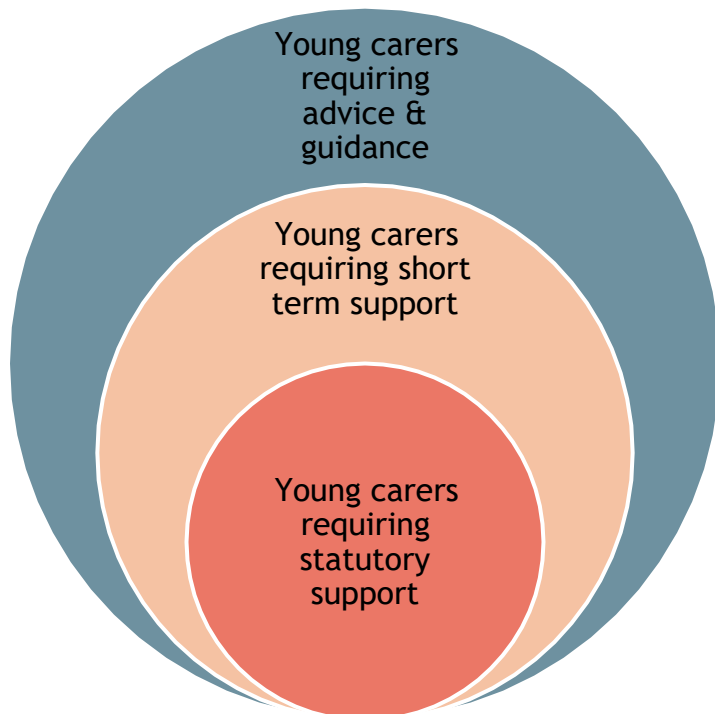
18/19	2019/20	2020/21	2020/22 ²
4 (3%)	18 (8%)	7 (10.1%)	8 (8.5)

'The worker so lovely, I haven't met her in person but it doesn't matter, I feel like I have & I felt so comfortable with her straight away. My confidence has gone up a lot & my anxiety is a lot easier to manage & happens less often. I'm able to look on the bright side of things much more now & get rid of negative thoughts.' Young person

Monmouthshire Young Carers

- ▶ Brought into MCC April 21. Small team of workers working alongside the Carers Team with young carers.

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Face to Face - Creative Therapies Team

- ▶ Small team of therapists
- ▶ 22 children have received play therapy & 16 families have received family therapy, positive outcomes have been reported in 34 cases
- ▶ Children's Services commissioned work with an additional 6 children
- ▶ 3 groups have been run on anxiety & transition & 1 group on working with anxiety

▶ Page 26

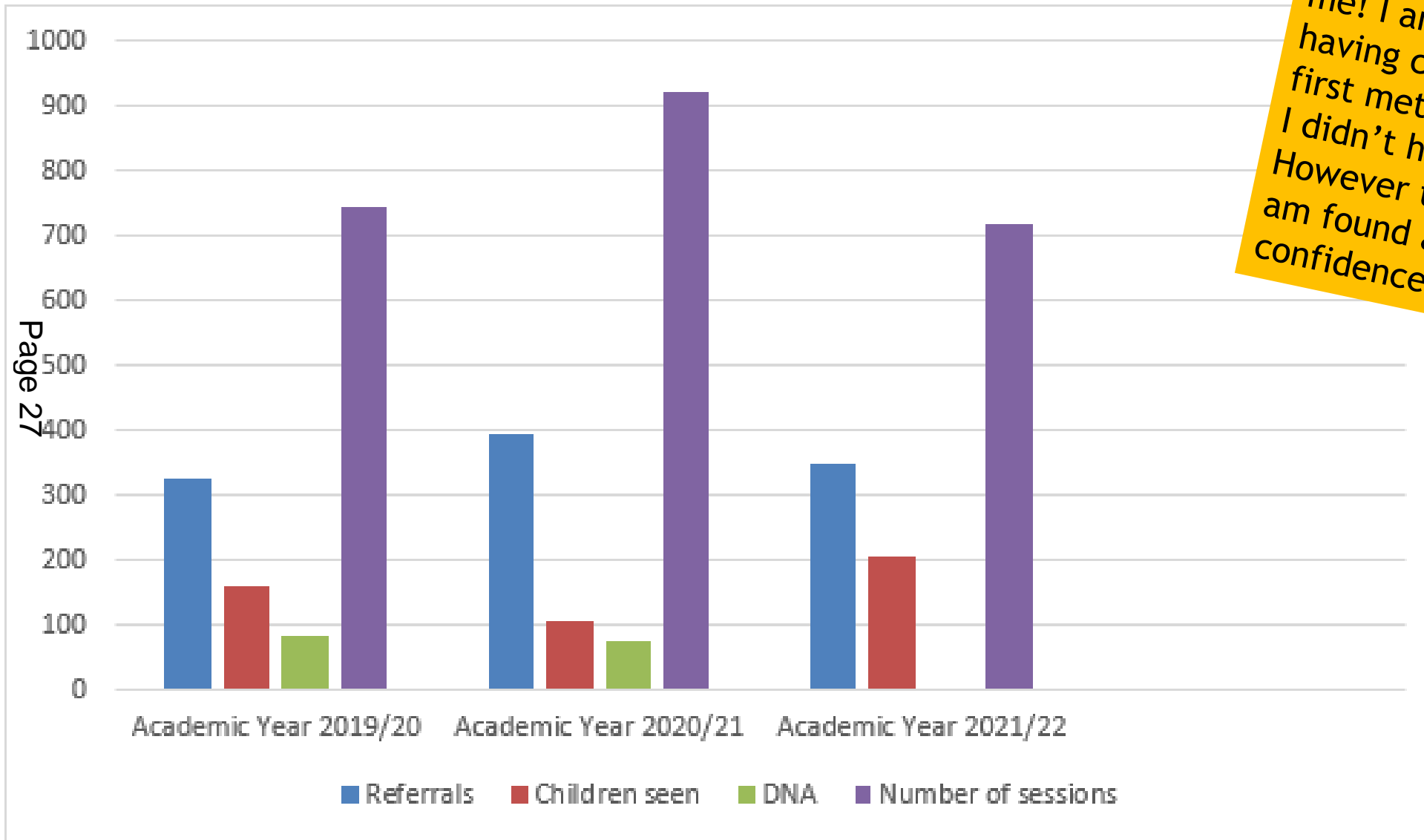
'I really enjoyed all 18 sessions ... You are very kind, just a pity you can't play football, lol You made me feel very excited and a little special' Child

'Before we came to see you we were in a desperate situation & things had to change. We really wanted to change we just didn't know how to. ... We felt such relief when we came to see you. It finally felt like someone cared about us & wanted to support us. We felt like we weren't on our own & didn't have to fight for support' - Parent

'There are no words to describe how much we appreciate the involvement your team had with us. ... We were at the edge of the cliff nearly to fall & they just pull us back. ... Without their help I don't know where we could be as a family, they support us all the time & guide us.' Parent

School Based Counselling

Figure 4: Referrals to School Based Counselling.



‘Thank you so much for everything I can’t tell you how much you have helped me! I am really going to miss having chats with you! When I first met you I was so lost and I didn’t have any confidence. However thanks to you I now am found and I have a lot of confidence’ Young person

‘You made me feel positive about being myself & that I matter.’

Achieving Change Together Team

- ▶ Psychologically & systemically informed team working intensively with families who have children on the edge of coming into care. Intensive intervention (up to 12-18 months) based on families setting their own goals, relationships, self-efficacy, trauma/attachment informed
- ▶ 23 families with 74 children have been closed to ACT
 - ▶ 81% remain at home
 - ▶ 91.5% have been supported to improve school attendance
 - ▶ Average increase in resilience of 34.15%
 - ▶ 22 children have come off the Child Protection Register
 - ▶ 8 families (34.8%) have been closed to Children's Services
- ▶ Approximate annual cost avoidance of £460,876

'felt trapped, I never thought I was able to turn my life around & with the support of ACT, I have. We are much happier now & I see a future for myself' - Parent

'I have overcome so much working with the ACT team' - Parent

'You don't know how much you have helped us, you really have' Parent

Family Group Conference & Mediation Service

Referrals to FGC

	2019/20	2020/21	2020/22 ⁴
Referrals	69	112	108
FGCs	52	42	18
Review FGCs	19	32	32
Family meetings	Not recorded	23	36
FGCs resulting in a positive family plan	58	78	48

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- ▶ 2020/21 the FGC service received 110 referrals & held 126 family group conferences, 23 family meetings and 32 review meetings (an increase of nearly 100% on 2019/20 (65), 95% result in a successful outcome
- ▶ Mediation has taken 47 referrals with 100% positive outcomes

'You've helped me and my family so much. Thank you' - Parent

'I felt supported. I felt safe to talk, to be 'real'. No condemnation, no judgement or feeling like there is something wrong with me.' - Parent

'I was feeling so anxious about the FGC but you were so easy to talk to and you seemed to be able to understand where I was coming from, even when I couldn't think of the right words' Parent

'It's was beneficial for us to have someone who was willing to listen and help with such an awful situation for the children to be in.' - Parent

Child's Journey Through Children's Services

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Child Protection Registration



Care Leavers

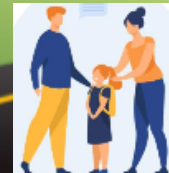
Adoption



Legal: PLO Issue to court



Children Looked After



Assessment or S.47



Network Meetings
Interface Meeting



NeuroDevelopmental Panel

Early Help Panel

Multi-Agency Meeting

Housing Intervention Panel



Challenges and Opportunities

- ▶ Covid - increased demand and complexity across all services - we need to build up capacity & resilience looking for opportunities to grow teams & reduce waiting times including working with volunteers & students
- ▶ Participation Action Plans & improving systems for collecting children's feedback, use data to refine & improve services
- ▶ Group work approaches for children & families
- ▶ Promote self-referral system in schools
- ▶ Work with schools to explore how young people might be better supported around particularly stressful times & work with partners to reduce the number of children whose school attendance is impacted by emotional based school avoidance (EBSA Project)
- ▶ Work with partners to develop integrated approaches to young people's wellbeing

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**SUBJECT: REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING 2021/22
FORECAST OUTTURN STATEMENT – MONTH 9**

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 2nd March 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide Members with an updated forecast of the revenue and capital outturn position for the current financial year.
- 1.2 This report will also be considered by Select Committees as part of their responsibility to,
 - assess whether effective budget monitoring is taking place,
 - monitor the extent to which budgets are spent in accordance with agreed budget and policy framework,
 - challenge the reasonableness of projected over or underspends, and
 - monitor the achievement of predicted efficiency gains or progress in relation to savings proposals.
- 1.3 To provide an update on the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet recognises a forecast surplus of £2.182m at year-end on the Council's core service delivery, a significant improvement in the forecast outturn position since month 6 of £4.122m.
- 2.2 That Cabinet note that the improvement in the forecast outturn has arisen both through continuing budget recovery action and more significantly through the notification of substantial further and late specific grant funding to be received from Welsh Government before the year-end.
- 2.3 That Cabinet recognises the importance of a positive outturn position being achieved for 2021/22, in that it safeguards and now forecasts to contribute to limited one-off reserve headroom retained to assist with meeting the unpredictable financial challenges over the medium term, and where uncertainty still remains to the extent of future pressures and the funding available to meet these challenges.
- 2.4 That Cabinet recognises that currently the overall net revenue forecast surplus at month 9 is £310k, as this takes account of a further forecast deficit of £1.872m that is directly associated with the extraordinary financial pressures attached to Covid-19. If, as expected the £1.872m is fully recovered from the WG Covid-19 hardship fund the overall surplus would be that on core service delivery of £2.182m.

- 2.5 That Cabinet can be reasonably assured based on commitments from Welsh Government, that all Covid-19 associated cost pressures and income losses that are eligible to be met by the Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship fund will be funded to the end of March 2022.
- 2.6 That Cabinet note that there remains significant Covid-19 related cost pressures and income losses forecast after the end of March 2022 and that these have been assessed and incorporated where required into the final budget proposals for 2022/23.
- 2.7 That Cabinet recognise that the current budget forecast allows for an estimated non-teaching pay award for 2021/22 of 1.75%. The outcome of pay negotiations is awaited and in the event that the agreed pay award is above this estimate, that this will present a further budgetary pressure. Welsh Government have been clear that no compensating funding is anticipated and given that the Minister confirmed via the final settlement that this already took into account any subsequent pay awards.
- 2.8 That Members note that the overall revenue outturn position continues to be subsidised by £2.2m of capital receipts which are being used to fund identified eligible expenditure under the flexible use of capital receipts directive.
- 2.9 That Members note the forecast 93% delivery of the budgeted mandated savings as detailed in **appendix 3** and as agreed by full Council previously and the implicit remedial action/savings included in the financial outturn to compensate for circa 7% savings (£309k) reported as delayed or unachievable by service managers.
- 2.10 Cabinet notes the extent of forecast improvements in school balances contained in **table 4** and **appendix 1** which is informed and driven by the extent to which significant and unprecedented late grant support provided by Welsh Government to schools at the end of 2020/21 exceeded the impact of school investment plans, and notably further receipt of unbudgeted grant support notified since month 6 totalling £2.06m.
- 2.11 Cabinet considers the forecast capital outturn spend of £31.5m as outlined in **appendix 1** that would result in forecast slippage of £54.3m, noting the continuing delays in progressing some of the key capital projects due to the ongoing challenging operating conditions and impact both internally and externally in relation to Covid-19.
- 2.12 That Cabinet approve the Capital budget revisions as listed in **appendix 4** to this report resulting from the notification of external capital grant awards to the value of £4.01m and draw on Section 106 balances of £971k.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Assessing the financial impact of the pandemic on the Council

- 3.2 The 2021/22 budget was set against the backdrop of an unprecedented period of uncertainty, both in Local Government and in the wider context. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a major impact on all local authorities and wider public services across

Wales. From a financial perspective, the response to the pandemic has required the Council to incur significant additional expenditure, for example, costs relating to infection control measures, safeguarding the public and employees and support for elderly and vulnerable residents. In addition, income losses have also been substantial, during the period where services either have been closed or have experienced significant reductions in demand or footfall due to restrictions in place.

3.3 The Council has been given clear commitments of the proposed Welsh Government support to meet the Covid-19 pressures and significantly the announcement of further funding for local authorities via the Local Government Covid-19 hardship fund to the end of March 2022. Cabinet can be reasonably assured that all such Covid-19 related pressures will be funded during this period.

3.4 **Table 1** below indicates a total forecast net under spend for the Council at year-end of £310k and how this variance is broken down into that relating to core service delivery and that relating directly to the response to the pandemic.

Table 1: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast as at Month 9

Directorate	Total forecast variance at Month 9	Of which due to core service delivery:	Of which due to Covid-19 Expenditure Increase:	Of which due to Covid-19 Income Loss:
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	28	28	0	0
Children & Young People	1,128	1,128	0	0
Enterprise	47	(911)	261	697
Monlife	430	(128)	0	558
Chief Executives Unit	(160)	(160)	0	0
People & Governance	(179)	(179)	0	0
Resources	39	(217)	48	208
Corporate Costs & Levies	(693)	(693)	0	0
Appropriations	(400)	(400)	0	0
Financing	(550)	(650)	100	0
Total forecast Month 9	(310)	(2,182)	409	1,463
Total forecast Month 6	5,911	1,940	1,734	2,237
Variance from Month 6	(6,221)	(4,122)	(1,325)	(774)

3.5 The overall forecast surplus of £310k comprises expected additional costs of £409k and income losses of £1.463m directly related to the impact of Covid-19 on the Council, alongside a forecast £2.182m surplus on core Council service delivery. If, as expected, the £1.872m is fully recovered from the WG Covid-19 hardship fund the overall surplus would be £2.182m.

- 3.6 It is important to note that the combined forecast overspend of £1.872m (£409k and £1,463k in the table above) relating specifically to the Covid-19 impact is presented on a prudent basis in so much that it displays a worst case scenario that does not take into account any of the further Welsh Government Hardship funding anticipated to meet the additional costs or reimbursement of income losses that have equally resulted.
- 3.7 The Council can be reasonably assured based on continued dialogue with Welsh Government and their current funding commitments, that all Covid-19 associated cost pressures and income losses eligible to be met by the Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship fund will be funded to the end of March 2022.
- 3.8 Whilst the Council is grateful for the funding commitments made to date by Welsh Government through the Covid-19 Hardship fund, it is imperative that the Council looks to continue to make strong representations for further clarity on funding arrangements for the ongoing Covid-19 pressures post March 2022. As Covid-19 restrictions continue to ease some of these pressures are expected to fall away quickly, others will take some time to unwind and stabilise, whilst others will be of a more permanent nature brought about by strategic policy change enacted by Welsh Government.
- 3.9 The Council prudently set aside reserve funding at the end of 2019/20 and 2020/21 totalling £2.6m for specific Covid-19 related pressures which were yet to materialise, and in the event that funding commitments from Welsh Government fall short of meeting the additional expenditure and income losses, and this reserve funding will be available to mitigate the impact. Given the Council's comparatively low level of reserve cover, and the financial challenges over the medium term and beyond, recourse to this funding should be seen as an absolute last resort after exhausting all other alternative options. Therefore, it remains of critical importance that services manage budgets and expenditure tightly and take all opportunities to maximise income generation and bear down on cost. It is vitally important that services do not become reliant upon WG support and develop strategies that allow them to emerge from the pandemic on a sustainable financial footing.
- 3.10 Just as importantly as managing the direct impacts of the pandemic on the Council, the wider and longer lasting indirect impact on Council services need to be considered, particularly in the areas of Homelessness, Children's services, Adult social care and Children's additional learning needs. There remains significant latent and complex demands in these areas as a result of the ongoing societal impacts of the Covid-19 response and restrictions, and some of these impacts will take a significant period of time to unwind and the Council needs to engage in careful discussions with Welsh Government around the management of this in the medium term. Alongside this Council services need to prepare to be adaptable and innovative in their response to these pressures materialising and not simply rely on traditional methods of mitigation or solely place reliance on further funding coming forward.
- 3.11 **Financial assessment of core service delivery**
- 3.12 As the Council continues to transition from the response phase of the pandemic it is important that Cabinet is kept informed as impacts are being assessed. The Council had already faced significant financial challenges in setting a balanced budget for 2021/22 and

the pandemic has only accentuated the challenge. The budget round saw £10.3m of budget pressures accommodated, notably:

- In full, all pay and pension-related spending pressures in our schooling system;
- The increasing demand placed on children’s social care services, adult social care and our children with additional learning needs budgets;
- Significant service pressures within the passenger transport unit and within recycling and waste and that look to ensure that the Council supports and sustains key service delivery;
- Investment that ensures that homeless people are provided adequate support, advice and accommodation in their time of need;
- An ongoing commitment to recognise and value the contribution made by the workforce and ensuring that local government staff are paid no less than the minimum wage set by the Living Wage Foundation. And that as a result of the Cabinet decision in January 2021 is also extended to apprenticeship roles within the Council.

3.13 Despite accommodating the above pressures into the 2021/22 budget, at month 9 there continues to be significant in year core service pressures forecast, with many of these pressures developing in the same key areas that have been provided additional support in the budget. Critically as we have moved through the financial year we have been notified of significant unbudgeted grant funding which has helped offset these pressures.

3.14 The principal pressures and savings are within the areas of:

Pressure/Saving	Month 9 £000's	Month 6 £000's	Description
Children’s services	394	695	Despite stabilisation in Children looked after numbers, new children have required high cost residential placements, as opposed to those leaving which have been more in the lower cost fostering/kinship/family placements. A recent legal case has also led to the need to pay kinship carers in line with foster carer rates, along with the increase in payment to foster carers due to increasing skills training. The pressure has been considerably offset since month 6 by £627k of unbudgeted WG winter pressure grant.
Adults Services	(253)	547	The pressure on this budget is largely as a result of additional carer recruitment to our in house care at home service, and increased care packages in the South of the County. This has been significantly offset since month 6 by £823k of unbudgeted grant in respect of winter pressures and the social care recovery fund.
Additional Learning Needs	1,065	982	Primarily due to a reduction in income from other LAs (£244k), additional support for pupils

			attending our own schools (£278k), and placement costs outside of our own schools (£460k).
Landlord services	181	401	Reduced income from recharges into capital schemes due to a lower level of activity in the capital programme, alongside an in-year adjustment to correct a control account in-balance due to the mis-posting of income in previous years.
Transport & Passenger Transport Unit (PTU)	241	236	The cost of maintaining the authority's fleet has exceeded available budget.
Non-teaching pay award	837	837	An allowance has been made within the forecast for the expected result of pay award negotiations over and above the 1% already budgeted for. The estimate is based on an expected award of 1.75% with negotiations continuing between local government employer's representatives and trade unions.
Holiday pay in relation to regularised overtime	493	0	A statutory change has meant that staff who work over their contracted hours as part of their normal working pattern, or casual staff who are given standard working hours, are entitled to accrued holidays. This pressure reflects the backdated pressure of bringing staff in line with the revised regulations for both 2020/21 and 2021/22.
Council tax	(650)	(750)	Out-performance of budgeted Council tax collection.
Borrowing costs	(571)	(230)	A reduction in net budgeted borrowing costs reflective of the continuing low interest rate environment and significant capital slippage.
Staff vacancies	(1,064)	(540)	Significant staff vacancies being carried in the establishment.
Waste contract & recyclates	(494)	(157)	The HWRC and transfer station contract savings have been realised since month 6 and a relatively buoyant recycling market in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 have reduced costs. Planned expenditure on new depot infrastructure in south of county has not materialised due to the lack of suitable site availability to house recycling and waste fleet.
Unbudgeted grant income	(3,469)		Additional £1.019m grant notified for reductions in Council tax income during the period, alongside £1m in further AEF distribution. A further £1.25m notified in relation to Social care winter pressures, with a further allocation of £200k from the social care recovery fund. *£1.45m of this amount is shown above as already netting off the above pressures in relation to Children's & Adults services.

- 3.15 Importantly the overall outturn position also continues to be supported by £2.2m of identified eligible expenditure to be funded from capital receipts under the flexible use of capital receipts directive. Reliance on these mitigations is a short term measure only and is clearly not sustainable over the medium term.
- 3.16 As the financial year progresses there will inevitably be further forecast budget pressures and savings identified and added to the budget forecast. **Appendix 2** provides an analysis of both the significant forecast pressures and savings already identified at month 9.
- 3.17 It is important to note that the majority of the savings identified during the year to assist the in-year budget recovery are one-off savings and will not bring any further benefit to future year's budgets. Conversely, the majority of those pressures highlighted above are recurrent pressures and were considered as part of the wider budget process for 2022/23 and beyond.
- 3.18 Following the further funding commitments received from WG for Covid-19 related pressures, as we look to the remainder of the financial year the key financial focus and uncertainty continues to be in achieving a positive outturn position in the core service delivery. To that end the ongoing budget recovery plan remains vital in ensuring that the Council ends the year in a robust financial position and without needing to deplete reserve balances which are at comparatively low levels despite the recent replenishment, and particularly in light of the challenging budgetary position leading into 2022/23.
- 3.19 **Progress against mandated savings**
- 3.20 The 2021/22 budget included mandated savings totalling £4.734m and the progress against these is summarised in **table 3** below and in more detail in **appendix 3**.

Table 3: Progress against mandated savings

Directorate	2021/22 Budgeted Savings £000	Saving achieved £000	Delayed Savings £000	Savings Unachievable £000	% Achieved
Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,275)	(235)	0	84%
Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	0	0	100%
Enterprise	(821)	(821)	0	0	100%
Monlife	(100)	(80)	0	(20)	80%
Resources	(165)	(123)	(42)	0	75%
Chief Executives Unit	(32)	(20)	(12)	0	63%
Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	100%
Appropriations	275	275	0	0	100%
Total	(4,734)	(4,426)	(289)	(20)	93%

3.21 It is pleasing to note the forecast 93% delivery of mandated savings, especially in light of the ongoing challenges faced by services in the current operating conditions. Finance officers will continue to work with services to ensure that these savings are fully delivered as the year progresses and to look at options for delivering on savings indicated as delayed.

3.22 School balances

3.23 From a financial perspective, 2020/21 was an unprecedented year for schools who received several significant Welsh Government grants to support them and their pupils during a period of significant disruption to learning, and alongside this sustained periods of enforced closure during the financial year resulted in spending on core budgets being significantly curtailed. This resulted in the majority of schools bringing forward significant surplus balances into the 2021/22 financial year.

3.24 The Authority required schools carrying significant surplus balances that were above levels guided by Welsh Government (£50k for a Primary, £100k for a Secondary) to provide investment plans setting out how they intended to spend the significant balances being held. These plans have subsequently been completed and assessed and has informed the budget monitoring process.

3.25 At month 9, the forecast is a contribution to reserves of £686,954, resulting in a forecast surplus balance of £4,105,074. The majority of the increase in reserve balances is due to further additional unbudgeted grants notified from Welsh Government during the year:

- £1,089,288 to cover revenue maintenance
- £117,306 Winter of Wellbeing
- £184,076 ALN new system funding
- £668,971 RRR's funding.

All schools are putting in place plans to ensure the most effective and beneficial use of these grants is made.

Table 4: Forecast movement school balances for 2021/22

Draft Council Fund Outturn 2021/22 – School Balances Summary outturn position at Month 9	(A) Opening Reserves (Surplus) / Deficit Position 2021/22	(B) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 2	(C) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 6	(D) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 9	(A+D) Forecast Reserve Balances at 2021/22 Outturn	Variance Draw on School Balances Month 6 to Month 9
	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cluster						
Abergavenny	(1,158)	309	426	(197)	(1,355)	(623)
Caldicot	(1,091)	539	372	(197)	(1,288)	(569)

Chepstow	(349)	516	417	42	(307)	(375)
Monmouth	(794)	457	354	(318)	(1,113)	(673)
Special	(26)	(39)	(11)	(16)	(42)	(5)
Total	(3,418)	1,782	1,558	(687)	(4,105)	(2,245)

- 3.26 Irrespective of the significant one-off funding given to schools at the end of 2020/21, and the further grants notified during 2021/22, it is clear that the inherent structural budget deficits that led to a significant number of schools being in deficit over the past few years remain and that these will require resolution regardless. It is expected that the additional funding made available to those schools will allow a period of transition and as to allow those underlying budgetary issues to be rectified without impacting on educational standards.
- 3.27 **Capital outturn forecast**
- 3.28 The capital expenditure forecast outturn detailed in **appendix 1** indicates no variance to budget at the present time. This is not uncommon on capital projects at this stage of the year where projects are in progress and final consolidation of costs will not be undertaken until later in the year.
- 3.29 The impact of Covid-19 on the programme has varied and is very much been dependent on the nature of the works being undertaken. Following initial delays on schemes during periods of operating restrictions, contractors are adapting to Covid-19 work restrictions, although cost inflation and supply chain issues continue to represent a challenge to project delivery. Some of the issues will be temporary, however it remains unclear whether increases in cost inflation will be sustained over the medium term.
- 3.30 There is therefore a significant level of slippage forecast at month 9 of £54.35m (63% of total budget) where some of the Councils major schemes have been impacted by delays:
- **Abergavenny 3-19 School (£26.399m)** where the original budget schedule for the project has changed considerably since the inception of the project due to external factors.
 - **Asset Investment Fund (£18.092m)** where further expenditure is dependent on appropriate schemes coming forward that meet the Authorities investment criteria.
 - **Crick Road Care Home (£5.964m)** where there have been delays in the building schedule.
 - **Other notable slippages:** £813k for a backlog in disabled facility grant implementations; £516k for modifications to County Hall 'J' block, delayed due to a 'SUDS' consent being required; £489k for Match Funded Capital schemes and £280k on the Re-Fit programme.
- 3.31 The forecast movement in capital receipts balances for the year is shown below. Whilst overall balances on the face of it are healthy, there remains the risk that forecast receipts receivable for 2022/23 onwards are at comparatively low levels, and combined with the

fact that receipts are continuing to be used to subsidise the revenue budget through capitalisation direction means that the scope for further capital investment funded via receipts will be limited.

Table 5: Forecast movement in capital receipt balances

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April	9,581	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714
Capital receipts used for financing	(3,582)	(2,311)	(1,294)	(1,194)	(1,094)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(2,208)	(2,650)	(507)	(507)	(507)
Capital receipts Received or Forecast	9,712	2,565	1,004	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714	7,217

4 OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 This report provides an update on the current financial situation and the challenges facing the Council now and over the medium term. It has been prepared at a time of great uncertainty as the Council still transitions from the emergency response phase of the Covid-19 pandemic towards a period of recovery.
- 4.1 The outturn forecast that has been prepared for consideration is predicated on assumptions that have been independently assessed by budget holders and subsequently reviewed as part of the budget monitoring process. These assumptions don't look to represent a policy position that Cabinet is looking to take on when services are re-opening, either fully or in a more limited capacity, or how services are looking to respond to the changing demands. Rather they represent a reasoned assessment of the impact on services in year based on known information, anticipated future changes and estimates.
- 4.2 By far the greatest uncertainty that exists is the continued level of Welsh Government funding to be received to offset additional costs incurred in responding to the Covid-19 emergency response and the significant income losses that have resulted where services have ceased as a result of the lockdown restrictions in place. Current funding commitments from Welsh Government are due end in March 2022 in their current form and the council will continue to make strong representations for further clarity on funding for the ongoing Covid-19 pressures faced.

5 EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 This forecast outturn report represents an assessment of the forecast for the 2021/22 financial year based on nine months of data. More so than ever the combination of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service operating conditions and the fact that it is only part way through the financial year, means that a level of risk uncertainty should be attributed to the forecast.

- 5.2 There is an increased level of comfort that Welsh Government funding will meet additional costs and income losses brought about by the response to and the impact of the pandemic to the end of the financial year. However, this continues to represent a risk that will only be mitigated by monthly and quarterly submissions to Welsh Government being agreed. And furthermore and beyond those impacts resulting from Covid-19 there exists a number of significant cost pressures that need to be managed regardless.
- 5.3 The Council has traditionally maintained formal reporting to Cabinet at month 2, month 5, month 9 and outturn, with more frequent budget monitoring information being undertaken at a departmental level and reported to management and the Strategic Leadership Team. More regular formal reporting to Cabinet is considered necessary only where circumstances necessitate it.
- 5.4 Given the further funding commitments made by Welsh Government through to the end of the year to cover Covid-19 pressures, it is considered appropriate to maintain the traditional reporting frequency for the remainder of this financial year, with further reporting to take place at outturn.
- 5.5 The update of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the development of the budget proposals for 2022/23 have been finalised. The Council has needed to consider the wider and longer lasting indirect Covid-19 impact on Council services, particularly in the areas of Homelessness, Children's services, Adult social care and Children's additional learning needs. There remains significant latent and complex demands in these areas as a result of the ongoing societal impacts of the Covid-19 response and restrictions, and some of these impacts will take a significant period of time to unwind and the Council will therefore continue to engage in careful discussions with Welsh Government around the management of this in the medium term.

6 REASONS:

- 6.1 To provide Members with an updated forecast of the revenue and capital outturn position for the current financial year.
- 6.2 To ensure that the gravity of the financial challenges facing the Council are understood and that reasonable actions are being taken to safeguard the ongoing financial sustainability of the Council.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The resource implications of the current in-year forecast outturn are contained in this report and the attached appendices. The forecast outturn exhibits an under spend of £310k. However further Welsh Government Covid-19 hardship funding is expected to be received through the end of year of £1.709m which is not included in the current forecast.
- 7.2 The financial challenges facing the Council and resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic are significant in the current year and will undoubtedly be a feature of the next 4 years of the MTFP. Not just for this Council but all councils across Wales and the UK. The Council is having to incur significant costs in its response effort and this will continue as it transitions towards recovery. Furthermore and resulting from the restrictions that UK Government and Welsh Government have had to put in place to contain the spread of the virus we are

suffering significant shortfalls in our income levels. Some of these will return more quickly than others as services are able to be safely turned back on.

7.3 In terms of how the Council will respond to the challenges faced in the current year and over the medium term this will very much depend on the level of compensating funding received from Welsh Government and the flexibilities afforded to Welsh local authorities to spread the impact over more than one financial year.

7.4 The more immediate focus has been in arresting the core service delivery deficit that was forecast earlier in the financial year. To that end the ongoing budget recovery plan has been vital in ensuring that the Council ends the year in a positive position and without needing to deplete reserve balances which are at comparatively low levels despite the recent replenishment, and particularly in light of the challenging budgetary position it has had to overcome leading into 2022/23.

8 EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

8.1 This report provides Members with information on the forecast revenue and capital outturn position of the Authority and carries no decisions. There are therefore no equality of future generations' implications directly arising from this report.

8.2 Any such impacts will be fully considered subsequently when Council receives details the budget recovery plan and revised budget proposals.

9 CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Detailed outturn statements and directorate commentaries

Appendix 2 – Service variance analysis

Appendix 3 – Progress against budgeted savings

Appendix 4 – Capital external financing budget revisions

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Social Care, Health & Safeguarding Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Adult Services	(4)	0		0	(4)
Children Services	396	0	0	0	396
Community Care	(67)	0	0	0	(67)
Commissioning	(155)	0	0	0	(155)
Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0
Public Protection	(115)	0	0	0	(115)
Resources & Performance	(27)	0	0	0	(27)
Total	28	0	0	0	28

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Social Care, Health & Safeguarding Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Adult Services					
Reduced capacity to offer services	(259)				(259)
Bad debt provision	99				99
Additional care packages & recruitment	156				156

Total Adult Services	(4)	0	0	0	(4)
Children Services					
High cost residential placements as a result of increased complexity	832				832
Legal case relating to rate historically paid to kinship carers	273				273
Legal costs	213				213
Agency staff requirement	75				75
Winter pressures grant unbudgeted	(627)				(627)
Net reduction in staffing requirement over the period	(104)				(104)
Transport/Other grant funding	(266)				(266)
Total Children's Services	396	0	0	0	396
Community Care					
A net underspend driven by lower referrals for drug & alcohol dependency and unbudgeted grant, offset by an increase in some car packages	(67)				(67)
Total Community Care	(67)	0	0	0	(67)
Commissioning					
Other	(22)				(22)
Staff vacancy	(99)				(99)
Termination of the Usk Services contract	(34)				(34)
Total Commissioning	(155)	0	0	0	(155)
Public Protection					
Other	(7)				(7)
Staff vacancies	(108)				(108)
Total Public Protection	(115)	0	0	0	(115)
Resources & Performance					
Other	13				13
Staff vacancy	(40)				(40)
Total Resources & Performance	(27)	0	0	0	(27)
Total	28	0	0	0	28

Children & Young People Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Individual Schools Budgets	(29)	0	0	0	(29)
Resources	8	0	0	0	8
Standards	1,149	0	0	0	1,149
Total	1,128	0	0	0	1,128

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Children & Young People Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Individual Schools Budgets					
Back pay due to school staff is less than anticipated	(29)				(29)
Total Individual Schools Budgets	(29)	0	0	0	(29)
Resources					
Additional support services staff	8				8
Total Resources	8	0	0	0	8
Standards					
Additional learning needs - placements, recoupment, support	1,065				1,065

Breakfast club income	62				62
Additional staffing	22				22
Total Standards	1,149	0	0	0	1,149
Total	1,128	0	0	0	1,128

Enterprise Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Enterprise & Community Animation	(197)	0	433	0	236
Facilities & Fleet	(28)	25	0	0	(3)
Neighbourhood Services	(604)	236	0	0	(368)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood	(82)	0	264	0	182
Total	(911)	261	697	0	47

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Enterprise Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Enterprise & Community Animation					
Communications - Increase in Software Costs offset by increased income	6				6
Community & Pships - savings on course fees and mileage - staff costs to capitalisation (£29k)	(33)				(33)
Enterprise Mgt - Staff vacancy savings	(12)				

Homelessness - Increase in B&B costs, security costs due to Covid	(79)		433		
Sewage Treatment Costs - Shirenewton waste removal to avoid leaks.	24				
Housing Grant - Staff costs no longer covered by grant T&Cs	63				
Shared Housing & Private Leasing - Improved rental figures	(102)				
Housing Associations - Mortgage costs	8				8
Careline - Reduction in equipment spend, improved income.	(22)				(22)
Strategic Services - Vacant post savings.	(17)				(17)
Procurement	(33)				(33)
Total Enterprise & Community Animation	(197)	0	433	0	(91)
Facilities & Fleet					
Building Cleaning - Essential equipment repair & replacement.	0	25			25
PTU Commissioning - Reduction in in contract costs, windfall in operator payments going monthly. £50k route optimisation software capitalised	(269)				
Transport - Green car scheme loss £26k, increased repair costs £238k for additional vehicles taken on for covid & increased operations. Staff Cost to capitalisation £28k	241				
Total Facilities & Fleet	(28)	25	0	0	25
Neighbourhood Services					
Highways & Streetlighting - Energy & maintenance savings	(110)				(110)
Waste/Grounds - Savings from recyclates and reduced waste mgt contract + Increased vehicles due to covid.	(494)	236			
Total Neighbourhood Services	(604)	236	0	0	(110)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood					
Planning - Lost Pre-app income	35				35
Building Control - Lost income			73		
Car Parking & CPE - Software, premises and transport overspend	49				
Car Parking & CPE Income down			191		
Highway Dev & Flooding - Staff uspend & improved income.	(166)				

Total Placemaking, Highways & Flood	(82)	0	264	0	35
Total	(911)	261	697	0	(141)

MonLife Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Countryside & Culture	14	0	78	0	92
Finance & Business Development	(145)	0	38	0	(107)
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	3	0	442	0	445
Total	(128)	0	558	0	430

Page 52	Monlife Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
		Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
	Countryside & Culture					
	Countryside & Culture - Income Loss, contribution to Living Levels	14		78		92
	Total Countryside & Culture	14	0	78	0	92
	Finance & Business Development					
	Finance & Business Development - Income Loss (£38k), Staff Vacancy savings (£145k)	(145)		38		(107)
	Total Finance & Business Development	(145)	0	38	0	(107)
	Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure					
	Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure - Loss of leisure centre & outdoor adventure income	3		442		445

Total Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	3	0	442	0	445
Total	(128)	0	558	0	430

Resources Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	181	48	157	0	386
Finance	(376)	0	51	0	(325)
Future Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Information Communication Technology	(22)	0	0	0	(22)
Total	(217)	48	208	0	39

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Resources Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services					
Estates - Income loss from vacant office space in magor and loss of service charge, offset by staff savings	(96)		37		(59)
Solar Farm - Improved ROC income	(40)				(40)
Commercial Investments - income shortfall NLP	(74)		66		(8)
Commercial Investments - Castlegate - Control account mis-post	250				250

County Farms - Increase in fees, and a reduction in tenant income.	21				21
Property Services - Reduction on project fee income	43				43
Central Accommodation - Pru borrowing hit for J block - increase in repair costs. Additional cleaning costs (£48k)	42	48			90
MCC Markets - Income Loss due to 50% charge due tot refurb, £78k due to covid rules. £35k over on Refuse.	35		54		89
Total Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	181	48	157	0	386
Finance					
Benefits - B&B HB claims increasing due to Covid, not all can be claimed against Housing benefit subsidy so pressure on budget.	42				42
Council Tax & NNDR - Shortfall in Summons income due to courts being closed and decision to halt recovery of Unpaid Council Tax & Business Rates. Salary overspend as budget moved as part of restructure that has not taken place yet.	57		51		108
Charity Relief - Business Grants admin grant payment	(132)				(132)
Debtors - Vacant post	(4)				(4)
Finance & Imp - Senior staff vacancy saving	(243)				(243)
Payroll - Staff vacancy savings	(60)				(60)
Innovation - Staff Costs					0
Audit - Staff Savings	(15)				(15)
Systems & Exchequer - Security carrier savings, system dev postponement savings.	(21)				(21)
Total Finance	(376)	0	51	0	(325)
ICT					
SRS - Contribution savings	(22)				(22)
Total ICT	(22)	0	0	0	(22)
Total	(217)	48	208	0	39

Chief Executive Summary		Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION		Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service		(160)	0	0	0	(160)
Total		(160)	0	0	0	(160)

Page 56	Chief Executive Detailed		Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
			Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service							
Community Hubs - Unachievable income budget.			29				29
Community Education - Grant Windfall from 20-21.			(159)				(159)
Contact Centre - Increased staff costs offset by savings due to delay in new telephony system.			(65)				(65)
Corporate CEO - Inability to meet vacancy factor and increase in licensing fees			9				9
Scrutiny - Unachievable Staff vacancy savings			1				1
Policy & Partnerships - Welsh Language Overspend due to covid, reduction in third party contributions.			25				25
Total Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service			(160)	0	0	0	(160)
Total			(160)	0	0	0	(160)

People & Governance Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
People & Governance	(179)	0	0	0	(179)
Total	(179)	0	0	0	(179)

People & Governance Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
Page 57	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
People & Governance					
Innovation - Staff re-grading, no budget	8				8
Members - IT Equipment saving and mileage/allowance due to less travel for meetings	(50)				(50)
Elections - Reduced canvassing costs offset by increased salary.	0				0
Committee Section - Increased staff hours	18				18
Legal - Staff savings through delay in employing lawyer.	(24)				(24)
Land Charges - Vacant Post & improved search income	(37)				(37)
People Services - Senior staff vacancy savings (£80K) and reduce demand in occ health. (£11k), Training Staff vacancy (£3k)	(94)				(94)
Total People & Governance	(179)	0	0	0	(179)
Total	(179)	0	0	0	(179)

Corporate Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Precepts & Levies	13	0	0	0	13
Corporate Management	(94)	0	0	0	(94)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	62	0	0	0	62
Strategic Initiatives	(677)	0	0	0	(677)
Insurance	3	0	0	0	3
Total	(693)	0	0	0	(693)

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Corporate Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Precepts & Levies					
National parks levy	13				13
Total Precepts & Levies	13	0	0	0	13
Corporate Management					
Bad debt provision reversal	(86)				(86)
Other	(8)				(8)

Total Corporate management	(94)	0	0	0	(94)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)					
Pension strain costs	62				62
Total Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	62	0	0	0	62
Strategic Initiatives					
Other	12				
Holiday pay in relation to regularised overtime	493				
Unbudgeted grant - Council tax losses	(1,019)				
Additional AEF notified	(1,000)				
Pay award pressure over and above 1% budgeted	837				837
Total Strategic Initiatives	(677)	0	0	0	837
Insurance					
Premium	(40)				(40)
Fees	(34)				(34)
Usk trust payment, offset by lower forecast Self insured costs	77				77
Total Insurance	3	0	0	0	3
Total	(693)	0	0	0	821

Appropriations Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	171	0	0	0	171
Interest & Investment Income	(72)	0	0	0	(72)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	(403)	0	0	0	(403)
Charges Required under Regulation	(11)	0	0	0	(11)
Borrowing cost recoupment	(85)	0	0	0	(85)
Total	(400)	0	0	0	(400)

Appropriations Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs					
Unbudgeted security costs	171				171
Total Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	171	0	0	0	171
Interest & Investment Income					
Returns higher than budgeted due to increase in rates and additional unbudgeted recoupment	(72)				(72)

Total Interest & Investment Income	(72)	0	0	0	(72)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges					
Temporary borrowing costs remaining very low	(403)				(403)
Total Interest Payable & Similar Charges	(403)	0	0	0	(403)
Charges Required under Regulation					
Due to capital slippage in 20/21	(11)				(11)
Total Charges Required under Regulation	(11)	0	0	0	(11)
Unbudgeted recoupment from service	(85)				(85)
Borrowing cost recoupment	(85)	0	0	0	(85)
Total	(400)	0	0	0	(400)



Financing Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Council Tax	(650)	0	0	0	(650)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0	100	0	0	100
Total	(650)	100	0	0	(550)




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Financing Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Council Tax					
Increase in base, reductions in exemptions, collection rate remaining healthy	(650)				(650)
Total Council Tax	(650)	0	0	0	(650)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme					
CTRS		100			100
Total Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0	100	0	0	100
Total	(650)	100	0	0	(550)

(SELECT)	REF.	Disinvestment 2021-22	2021/22 Budgeted Savings £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 2 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 6 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 9 £000	Value of Saving achieved at Outturn £000	Delayed Savings £000	Savings deemed Unachievable YTD £000	% Forecast M6
		Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0	83.9%
		Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Enterprise	(821)	(821)	(821)	(821)	0	0	0	99.9%
		MonLife	(100)	(80)	(80)	(80)	0	0	(20)	80.0%
		Resources	(165)	(165)	(117)	(123)	0	(42)	0	70.9%
		Chief Executives Units	(32)	(20)	(20)	(20)	0	(12)	0	62.5%
		Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Appropriations	275	275	275	275	0	0	0	100.0%
		Totals Disinvestments by Directorate	(4,734)	(4,506)	(4,411)	(4,426)	0	(289)	(20)	93.2%

		Children & Young People Select Committee	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0	83.9%
		Adult Select Committee	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Economic & Development Select Committee	(162)	(142)	(142)	(142)	0	0	(20)	87.5%
		Strong Communities Select Committee	(2,189)	(2,177)	(2,129)	(2,135)	0	(54)	0	97.3%
		Totals Disinvestments by Select	(4,734)	(4,506)	(4,411)	(4,426)	0	(289)	(20)	93.2%

Page 63	(SELECT)	REF.	Disinvestment 2021-22	2021/22 Budgeted Savings	Value of Saving forecast at Month 2	Value of Saving forecast at Month 6	Value of Saving forecast at Month 9	Value of Saving achieved at Outturn	Delayed Savings	Savings deemed Unachievable	Traffic Light based Risk Assessment	ASSESSMENT of Progress	Risk of current forecast saving NOT being achieved (High / Medium / Low)
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
	CYP	CYP 1	Mounton House closure impact on ISB	(1,258)	(1,258)	(1,258)	(1,258)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
	CYP	CYP 2	Additional recoupment income - mainstream	(252)	(55)	(8)	(17)	0	(235)	0		Unlikely to achieve saving, as several pupils have moved into Monmouthshire, meaning we can no longer recoup from other LA's	High
			Total Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0			

			Social Care & Health										
ADULT	SCH 1	Fees & Charges 2021/22	(79)	(79)	(79)	(79)	0	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
ADULT	SCH 2	Increase in Social Care Workforce Development (SCWD) grant	(247)	(247)	(247)	(247)	0	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
ADULT	SCH 3	Removal of TWUD base budget	(548)	(548)	(548)	(548)	0	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0	0			

			Enterprise										
E&D	ENT	PLANHOUS - Staff Saving - 20-21 Staff Restructure Savings (£11,950) + £50k LDP senior officer saving, frozen until 23/24.	(62)	(62)	(62)	(62)	0	0	0	0		Achieved	Low

SCOMM	ENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD - Waste - Service Savings	(685)	(685)	(685)	(685)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	ENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD - Grounds Maintenance - Remove Sweeper & Staff savings	(65)	(65)	(65)	(65)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	ENT	Increase in discretionary Fees & Charges	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Enterprise	(821)	(821)	(821)	(821)	0	0	0			
		MonLife										
E&D	MonLife	MONLIFE - Removal of Events Co-ordinator Post	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)	0	0	0		Achieved post has not been filled.	Low
E&D	MonLife	MONLIFE - Introduce Car Parking Charges at Caldicot Castle	(20)	0	0	0	0	0	(20)		Will not be achieved this financial year as charges are not being introduced.	High
E&D	MonLife	Increase in discretionary Fees & Charges	(55)	(55)	(55)	(55)	0	0	0		Increase has been implemented, any shortfall will be claimed from WG loss of income claims.	Low
		Total MonLife	(100)	(80)	(80)	(80)	0	0	(20)			
		Chief Executive's Unit										
SCOMM	CEO	GOVDEMSUP - Members Supplies & Services	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	CEO	GOVDEMSUP - Staff Vacancy Saving	(17)	(5)	(5)	(5)	0	(12)	0		Increased staff hours have partly offset saving	High
		Total Chief Executive's Unit	(32)	(20)	(20)	(20)	0	(12)	0			
		Resources										
SCOMM	RES	CORPLORD - Property Accommodation Savings.	(50)	(50)	(2)	(8)	0	(42)	0		Will not be achieved in full in 21-22, maintenance costs have increased across our office sites this year.	Low
SCOMM	RES	FUTUREMON - Mileage Savings	(71)	(71)	(71)	(71)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	RES	FUTUREMON - Staff Secondment Savings	(44)	(44)	(44)	(44)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Resources	(165)	(165)	(117)	(123)	0	(42)	0			
		Corporate Costs & Levies										
SCOMM	COL001	Capitalisation directive	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0		Likely to be taken in full	Low
		Total Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0			
		Appropriations										
SCOMM	APP001	Net Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) increase based on additional activity	275	275	275	275	0	0	0		Included in overall MRP charge for year	Low
		Total Appropriations	275	275	275	275	0	0	0			

Council Fund 2021/22 CYP Select Month 9 Detailed Statement

Overall Revenue Position

Table 1: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast Summary Statement at Month 9

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
<u>Social Care, Health & Safeguarding</u>	52,825	(182)	52,643	52,671	28	1,181	(1,153)
<u>Children & Young People</u>	56,527	48	56,575	57,703	1,128	1,262	(134)
<u>Enterprise</u>	21,884	(468)	21,416	21,463	47	913	(866)
<u>MonLife</u>	3,951	17	3,968	4,398	430	1,228	(798)
<u>Chief Executives Unit</u>	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
<u>People & Governance</u>	3,383	427	3,809	3,630	(179)	(184)	5
<u>Resources</u>	7,235	(849)	6,386	6,425	38	1,504	(1,466)
<u>Corporate Costs & Levies</u>	23,414	847	24,261	23,569	(693)	705	(1,398)
Net Cost of Services	172,130	(261)	171,870	172,510	640	6,568	(5,928)
<u>Appropriations</u>	5,836	261	6,097	5,697	(400)	(93)	(307)
Expenditure to be Financed	177,966	0	177,966	178,207	240	6,475	(6,235)
<u>Financing</u>	(177,966)	0	(177,966)	(178,517)	(550)	(564)	14
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(0)	0	0	(310)	(310)	5,911	(6,221)

Table 2: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast Detailed Statement at Month 9

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Adult Services	8,341	(81)	8,261	8,257	(4)	629	(633)
Children Services	16,147	(85)	16,061	16,458	397	695	(298)
Community Care	24,386	(43)	24,342	24,275	(67)	96	(163)
Commissioning	1,431	(37)	1,394	1,239	(155)	(162)	7
Partnerships	436	0	436	436	(0)	0	(0)
Public Protection	1,523	18	1,541	1,426	(115)	(60)	(55)
Resources & Performance	560	47	607	580	(27)	(17)	(10)
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	52,825	(182)	52,643	52,671	28	1,181	(1,153)
Individual Schools Budget	46,488	43	46,531	46,502	(29)	166	(195)
Resources	1,167	4	1,171	1,180	8	18	(10)
Standards	8,871	1	8,872	10,021	1,149	1,078	71
Children & Young People	56,527	48	56,575	57,703	1,128	1,262	(134)
Business Growth & Enterprise	3,024	10	3,034	3,270	236	534	(298)
Facilities & Fleet Management	5,487	(54)	5,433	5,429	(4)	437	(441)
Neighbourhood Services	11,233	(180)	11,053	10,685	(368)	(185)	(183)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood	2,140	(244)	1,896	2,079	183	127	56
Enterprise	21,884	(468)	21,416	21,463	47	913	(866)
Countryside & Culture	1,422	(0)	1,422	1,514	92	72	20
Finance & Business Development	1,735	23	1,758	1,651	(107)	8	(115)
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	794	(6)	787	1,233	446	1,148	(702)
MonLife	3,951	17	3,968	4,398	430	1,228	(798)
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
Chief Executives	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
Democratic Services	2,424	(82)	2,342	2,257	(85)	(114)	29
Emergency Planning	152	0	152	152	(0)	0	(0)
People	807	508	1,315	1,221	(94)	(62)	(32)

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
People & Governance	3,383	427	3,809	3,630	(179)	(176)	(3)
Finance	3,339	(475)	2,864	2,539	(325)	760	(1,085)
Information, Communication Technology	3,029	(367)	2,662	2,641	(21)	(17)	(3)
Commercial & Corporate Landlord	868	(7)	860	1,245	384	754	(370)
Resources	7,235	(849)	6,386	6,425	38	1,496	(1,458)
Precepts & Levies	21,362	0	21,362	21,375	13	13	(0)
Coroner's	147	0	147	147	(0)	0	(0)
Archives	182	0	182	182	(0)	0	(0)
Corporate Management	339	0	339	245	(94)	(68)	(26)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	643	0	643	705	62	62	0
Strategic Initiatives	(836)	823	(13)	(689)	(676)	837	(1,513)
Insurance	1,578	24	1,601	1,604	3	(140)	143
Corporate Costs & Levies	23,414	847	24,261	23,569	(693)	705	(1,398)
Net Cost of Services	172,130	(261)	171,870	172,510	640	6,568	(5,928)
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	30	0	30	201	171	136	35
Interest & Investment Income	(134)	0	(134)	(203)	(69)	11	(80)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	3,736	0	3,736	3,333	(403)	(230)	(173)
Charges Required under Regulation	6,404	0	6,404	6,393	(11)	(10)	(1)
Other Investment Income	0	0	0	(2)	(2)	0	(2)
Borrowing Cost Recoupment	(3,619)	0	(3,619)	(3,704)	(85)	0	(85)
Contributions to Reserves	195	0	195	195	(0)	0	(0)
Contributions from reserves	(777)	261	(516)	(516)	(0)	(0)	0
Appropriations	5,836	261	6,097	5,697	(400)	(93)	(307)
Expenditure to be Financed	177,966	0	177,966	178,207	240	6,475	(6,235)
General Government Grants	(69,465)	0	(69,465)	(69,465)	0	0	(0)

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
Non Domestic Rates	(32,018)	0	(32,018)	(32,018)	0	(0)	0
Council tax	(83,636)	0	(83,636)	(84,286)	(650)	(750)	100
Council Tax Benefit Support	7,152	0	7,152	7,253	100	186	(86)
Financing	(177,966)	0	(177,966)	(178,517)	(550)	(564)	14
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(0)	0	0	(310)	(310)	5,911	(6,221)

DIRECTORATE – DIVISION VARIANCE COMMENTS

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,665	1,181	28	0

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The month 9 directorate outturn for 2021/22 is a predicted overspend of £28,000. The overspend would be £3.25M higher if not assisted by the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Grant from Welsh Government of £1.242M, £500k of Intermediate Care Funding (ICF), Discharge to Reassess monies from Health, £540K from the Social Care Recovery and its Extension Fund, and the recently announced additional financial support package from Welsh Government to fund overspends within Social Care of £1.25M.

Children's Services has a forecast overspend of £396K, a decrease of £298K since month 6 due to increased costs connected with one high cost placement. At the end of 2019/20 CLA numbers stood at 213 but have fallen to 205 at the end of month 9, remaining unchanged since month 6. However, new children have required high cost residential placements, as opposed to those leaving which have been more in the lower cost fostering/kinship/family placements, accounting for £832K of the overspend. A recent legal case has led to the need for the directorate to pay kinship carers in line with foster carer rates, along with the increase in payment to foster carers due to increasing skills training, producing £273K of the overspend. Legal costs associated with court proceedings accounting for £213K of the overspend, with the continued use of agency staffing contributing £75K to the overspend. There are £104K of compensating savings mainly from the vacant Head of Service and reduced partner contributions. This element of the directorate has also benefitted from ICF funding of £300K, coupled with £240K from the Social Care Recovery and Extension Fund, and £627K as its share of the £1.25M additional support from Welsh Government has helped to lower the overspend.

CHILDREN SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,127	695	397	0

Even with stabilising CLA numbers, new children have required high cost residential placements as a result of increased complexity, as opposed to those leaving which have been more in the lower cost fostering/kinship/family placements, accounting for £832K of the overspend. A recent legal case has led to the need for the directorate to pay kinship carers in line with foster carer rates, along with the increase in payment to foster carers due to increasing skills training, producing £273K of the overspend. Legal costs associated with court proceedings accounting for £213K of the overspend, with the remaining £75K due to continued use of agency staffing. There is £104K of compensating savings through the current vacant Head of Children's Services post, reduced partner contribution into the Youth Offending Service and reduced contracted transport costs achieved due to the pandemic. This service area is benefitting from one off ICF funding totalling £300K, £240K from the Social Care Recovery and Extension Fund and £627K as its share of the £1.25M additional funding package from Welsh Government which has reduced the impact of the overspend.

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CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	832	1,262	1,128	0

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The Directorate's Month 6 position is an over spend of £1,128k, which is primarily due to additional ALN expenditure as outlined below.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS BUDGET

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	166	(29)	0

Back pay due to school staff is less than anticipated and there is an underspend on Covid-19 expenses from the 2020-21 grant.

RESOURCES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	3	18	8	0

The decrease in overspend is due to staff cost savings.

STANDARDS

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	829	1,078	1,149	0

- Recoupment decreased by (income received from other LA's) £235,000
- Independent placement costs overspent by £303,000
- Other LA placement costs overspent by £191,000
- Additional support for pupils attending our schools overspent by £336,000
- Breakfast Club reduction in income & increased costs £62,000
- Deri View SNRB/Virtual School Staff & Overmonnow SNRB £77,000

The above overspends have been partially offset by the following savings: -

- Staff cost savings in Psychology Service (£27,000)
- Recent Early Years grants released to cover staff costs (£20,000)

2. SCHOOLS

2.1. A Board of Governors who are responsible for managing the school's finances directly governs each of the Authority's Schools. However, the Authority also holds a key responsibility for monitoring the overall financial performance of schools. Below is a table showing the outturn forecast Schools' balances position based on month 9 projections for each Educational Cluster.

Draft Council Fund Outturn 2021/22 – School Balances Summary outturn position at Month 9	(A) Opening Reserves (Surplus) / Deficit Position 2021/22	(B) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 2	(C) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 6	(D) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 9	(A+D) Forecast Reserve Balances at 2021/22 Outturn	Variance Draw on School Balances Month 6 to Month 9
Cluster	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Abergavenny	(1,158)	309	426	(197)	(1,355)	(623)
Caldicot	(1,091)	539	372	(197)	(1,288)	(569)
Chepstow	(349)	516	417	42	(307)	(375)
Monmouth	(794)	457	354	(318)	(1,113)	(673)
Special	(26)	(39)	(11)	(16)	(42)	(5)
Total	(3,418)	1,782	1,558	(687)	(4,105)	(2,245)

2.2. Collective School Balances at the beginning of the financial year amounted to a £3,418,120 surplus. (The majority of the surplus balance brought forward is due to two grants being awarded to schools at the 2020/21 year-end; the Schools Revenue Maintenance Grant and Recruit, Recover and Raise Standards).

2.3. The Schools month 2 forecast anticipated draw on reserves was £1,781,648, which resulted in a forecast surplus balance of £1,636,472. At month 6, the forecast anticipated draw on reserves was reduced by £223,938, to a forecast surplus balance of £1,860,410. At month 9, the forecast is a contribution to reserves of £686,954, resulting in a forecast surplus balance of £4,105,074. The majority of the increase in reserve balances is due to additional grants from Welsh Government, the details are below:

- £1,089,288 to cover revenue maintenance
- £117,306 Winter of Wellbeing
- £184,076 ALN new system funding
- £668,971 RRR's funding.
- £2,059,641 Total

All schools are putting in place plans to ensure the most effective and beneficial use of these grants is made.

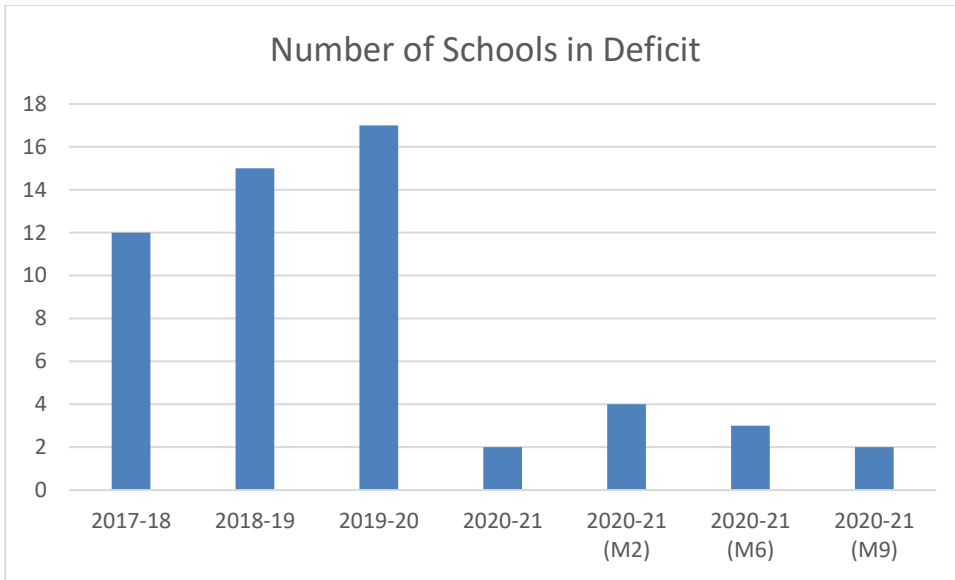
- 2.4. The movement of individual schools forecast to be in deficit since the start of the financial year is shown below:

Start of year	Month 2 (Forecast)	Month 6 (Forecast)	Month 9 (Forecast)
2	4	3	2
Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive	Chepstow Comprehensive
Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary	Llandogo Primary
	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni	
	Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin		

- 2.5. All Schools in a deficit budget have or are in the process of agreeing recovery plans. These recovery plans will be confirmed with both the Local Education Authority and each School's Governing Body. Once finalised the schools with significant deficits will be monitored by the Cabinet member for Children and Young People and Resources on a termly basis.
- 2.6. Total Schools balances have been exhibiting a fluctuating trend with some schools showing a continuing reduction in schools balances, which is of concern, and others a more balanced trend. However, as previously advised, grants awarded to schools at 2020/21 year-end has resulted in a large increase in overall school balances.

Financial Year-end	Net level of School Balances
2014-15	(1,140)
2015-16	(1,156)
2016-17	(269)
2017-18	(175)
2018-19	232
2019-20	435
2020-21	(3,418)
2021-22 (Forecast)	(4,105)

- 2.7. The increase in school balances has resulted in a reduction in the number of schools in deficit, as illustrated in the following table: -



3 CAPITAL OUTTURN

3.1 The summary forecast Capital position at Month 9 is as follows:

Forecast Capital Outturn Position 2021/22 at Month 9							
Select Portfolio	Slippage B/F	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Provisional Slippage	Revised Budget 2021/22	Forecast	Variance
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Expenditure							
Children & Young People	15,381	14,423	1,261	(27,478)	3,587	3,587	0
Economic & Development	19,244	546	606	(18,143)	2,253	2,253	0
Adult	5,964	0	0	(5,964)	0	0	0
Strong Communities	8,554	11,545	8,349	(2,768)	25,680	25,680	0
Total Expenditure	49,143	26,514	10,216	(54,353)	31,520	31,520	0
Financing							
Supported Borrowing	0	(2,431)	0	0	(2,431)	(2,431)	0
General Capital Grant	0	(2,438)	0	0	(2,438)	(2,438)	0
Grants and Contributions	(19,096)	(13,160)	(7,685)	29,132	(10,809)	(10,809)	0
S106 Contributions	(711)	0	(331)	170	(872)	(872)	0
Unsupported Borrowing	(27,031)	(4,094)	0	23,686	(7,439)	(7,439)	0
Earmarked Reserve & Revenue Funding	(241)	0	0	0	(241)	(241)	0
Capital Receipts	(2,064)	(2,891)	(2,200)	1,365	(5,790)	(5,790)	0
Leasing	0	(1,500)	0	0	(1,500)	(1,500)	0
Total Financing	(49,143)	(26,514)	(10,216)	54,353	(31,520)	(31,520)	0

3.2 The capital expenditure forecast outturn at month 9 shows a balanced outturn position as capital budget holders are forecasting a full spend on schemes that are not being slipped.

3.3 Forecast Capital Slippage at month 9 is £54.353m (£51.772m at Month 6) as major schemes are impacted by delays.

- Abergavenny King Henry VIII replacement (£26.399m), where the original budget schedule for the project has changed considerably since the inception of the project.
- Asset Investment Fund (£18.092m), on hold due to an asset investment priority review;
- Crick Road Care Home (£5.964m), delays in building schedule;
- £813k for a backlog in disabled facility grant implementations;
- £516k for modifications to County Hall 'J' block, delayed due to a 'SUDS' consent being required;
- £489k for Match Funded Capital schemes due to the dependency on external funding contributions;
- £280k on the Highways Re-Fit programme

3.4 Useable Capital Receipts Available

3.5 In the table below, the effect of the changes to the forecast capital receipts on the useable capital receipts balances available to meet future capital commitments are illustrated.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April	9,581	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714
Capital receipts used for financing	(3,582)	(2,311)	(1,294)	(1,194)	(1,094)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(2,208)	(2,650)	(507)	(507)	(507)
Capital receipts Received or Forecast	9,712	2,565	1,004	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714	7,217

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Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021-22

Children and Young People's Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
3 rd March 2022	Family Support Services	To provide a report on the aims and objectives of the service and to discuss the outcomes for children and young people and the impact of the service.	Charlotte Drury Jane Rodgers	Performance Monitoring
	Budget Monitoring	Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 9.	Jonathon Davies Nikki Wellington	Budget Monitoring
7 th April 2022	Additional Learning Needs	To scrutinise the policy direction for delivering additional learning needs support in schools.	Will Mclean Sharon Randall Smith	Policy Development
	Myst Project	To provide a report on the aims and objectives of the service and to discuss the outcomes for children and young people and the impact of the service.	Dianne Corrister Jane Rodgers	Performance Monitoring
June 2022	Free School Meal Strategy	To present the draft Free School Meals Strategy for pre-decision scrutiny following engagement in February.	EAS Will McLean Sharon Randall Smith	Policy Development
	Budget Monitoring	Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at outturn position.	Jonathon Davies Nikki Wellington	Budget Monitoring

Future Work Programme Items:

Schools items:

- Additional Learning Needs
- Inclusion updates – wellbeing/attitudes to learning/supporting the pupil voice
- Post 16 education provision/Apprenticeships/Engagement and progression and support for those Not in Education or Employment
- Home to School Transport

Non-education issues:

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2021-22

- **Domestic violence update** ~ impact on children in Monmouthshire
- **Support for Foster Carers** ~ Edge of Care Team and BASE. Bringing in Foster Carers
- **Young Carers**
- **Healthy Relationships** ~ working group to be established with Engage 2 Change
- **Childcare sufficiency** – annual update
- **Well-being reporting (obesity, eating disorders etc)**
- **Family Support Services ~ Young People's Mental Health Support in Schools:** Chair to liaise with Chief Officer
- **Play provision**

Suggestions from the Chief Officer:

- **ADL Transformation** ~ new legislation and practice early next year. Regional leads to provide and input. Readiness assessments
- **Inclusion in schools (primary and secondary), Behaviour policy.** CAMS support ~ early presentation.
- **Risk areas, financial position and budgetary pressures, Schools Finance Forum work**
- **2 years' delivery plan for Children's Services** ~ understanding good practice and the significant drivers on schools and social services
- **Chief Officer Annual Reports and Corporate Parenting**

Audit Wales National Reporting:

- **Curriculum Reform thematic review** ~ Regional consortia and local authority support for curriculum reform ~ anticipated publication February 2022

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Thursday, 20th January, 2022 at 10.00 am

Councillors in attendance

County Councillor T.Thomas (Chair)
County Councillor L. Brown (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: C.Edwards, M.Groucutt,
D. Jones, M.Lane, M. Powell and J.Watkins

Officers in attendance

Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nikki Wellington, Finance Manager
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Ed Pryce, Challenge Adviser, Interim Service Strategic and Policy Lead
Geraint Willington, Director, Resources, Business and Governance

Apologies: None

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public Open Forum.

No public submissions were received.

3. EAS Business Plan

Ed Pryce presented the report and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

In the Spring, the Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education are expected to agree syllabi to start in September 2022. Our SACRE meeting is scheduled for 9th March – do we need another meeting in February? What's happened with the publication of the guidance – this was expected in January?

We facilitate SACRE, on behalf of its members. I will pass on your concerns about the 9th March meeting to my colleague, James Kent, and ask him to respond to you and the other members directly.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you for this comprehensive report and presentation. It has been particularly helpful to hear about strategic plans and regional partnerships, and the more high-level discussion. It is good to hear that it is a self-improving system, and for there to be cross-fertilisation from other authorities. Schools will especially appreciate the support of a school improvement partner

following the very difficult circumstances wrought by the pandemic. 'Agile, timely and responsive' actions will help schools. The committee is happy with the report and EAS's plan.

4. Additional Learning Needs Funding Formula for schools

Nicola Wellington presented the report and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Could there be a further explanation of the difference between the two models? Which will be the better option?

The two models are very similar in what they propose. If we were to go for funding with a higher amount on pupil numbers, then schools with larger pupil numbers would gain more, whereas if we were to go for the 70% funding then they would have slightly less. The working group didn't have a preference with these models but felt that both should be put out for schools to consider, and are committed to the principles of pupil numbers and additional learning needs, rather than any other driver for the formula.

Anonymity in the table of responses is understandable, but can anything be drawn from looking at the responses from schools – is there a link to the size of the schools and their responses, or a delineation between secondary and primary school responses?

Looking at pupil numbers, some headteachers might be able to work out which school is theirs. Our comprehensive schools have larger pupil numbers so with these two models we will see that the secondary schools will gain funding, and smaller primary schools will lose funding. Where schools have high levels of statements, and school action plus statements in place, then moving away from higher funding for ALN and doing it on pupil numbers and additional learning needs, schools will lose. This is why they were very clear that they want that transitional funding in place, to allow schools to move from the old model to the new (this will be in place for up to 3 years), and to minimise the disruption in terms of funding, staffing and – most importantly – support for those pupils.

Is it still the case that if a school has more pupils in special needs than others then they will get more funding, and if a child moves schools the funding goes with them?

In terms of the new model, the proposal is that the funding will remain in place for the whole of the financial year, which will give the schools the flexibility to plan the funding and staffing for that financial year. If a pupil leaves, to go to another school, the funding will not move. Under the old system the funding would have moved, resulting in the member of staff supporting that child being made redundant, in most cases. However, if a family with a child with additional learning needs moves into the county, the council will be able to provide funding on a one-off basis, to provide support for the first financial year, but following that, the child would be on roll at the school properly and attract funding under this new system.

Has there been any feedback on a 75% and 25% funding split? What effect would that have?

This was discussed at the working group; they preferred the 70/30 or 80/20 versions, which is why we have gone out with those recommendations. In terms of feedback from schools, the consultation only went out on 10th January, so we have not yet had their responses.

In relation to those schools that might come under two headings i.e., large numbers of ALN and large pupil numbers, what about the 3-19 school in Abergavenny? Is there enough flexibility for when it comes online?

This was discussed in some detail in the working group. We are aware of the situation with the 3-19 school hopefully coming online in the near future. It is something that we would need to work through on the formula. With this formula, we were very keen to give flexibility to all schools: we know that for the first year, we need to consider all of these things as they come through and be open to all of the particulars. This is why we want a full review after 12 months, and goes back to the transition funding, which gives the stability for schools to continue as they are. As we move through, developing the formula, all of the formula will need to change for the new 3-19 school – it won't just be the additional learning aspect of it.

When will the final decision be made as to the 70 or 80%?

After the consultation closes on 11th February, the recommendations will go back to the school budget forum for consideration. A Cabinet report will be drafted, and a final decision made by them in their meeting on 2nd March. So, it is a quick turnaround once the consultation closes.

Chair's Summary:

The Committee commends the work that has been done. We are reassured by the transition funding system. We have clarified some of the numbers, particularly regarding school sizes and primary vs secondary, and are reassured that different permutations have been discussed and the scenario of the new 3-19 school has been considered. This will be a fairer system and allow schools to plan effectively. The committee is happy for the consultation to proceed and go to the Cabinet report.

5. Children and Young People Select Forward Work Programme

Note the 2pm start for the Special meeting on 31st January. The 3rd March date will remain in place.

6. Cabinet and Council Work Planner

7. To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record, moved by Councillor Groucott and seconded by Councillor Powell.

8. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

- Special Meeting – 31st January 2022 at 2.00pm
- Next Meeting – 3rd March 2022 at 10.00am

The meeting ended at **10.52 am**

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Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Children and Young People Select Committee held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Monday, 31st January, 2022 at 2.00 pm

Councillors in attendance

County Councillor T.Thomas (Chair)
County Councillor L. Brown (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: L.Brown, C.Edwards,
M. Powell, J.Watkins and P. Murphy
Also in attendance: County Councillor P. Murphy,
Cabinet Member for Resources

Officers in attendance

Will McLean, Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Jane Rodgers, Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Peter Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Nikki Wellington, Finance Manager
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Tyrone Stokes, Accountant
Jonathan Davies, Acting Assistant Head of Finance
Chesney Chick, Service Manager - Youth Offending Service

Apologies: County Councillors M.Groucutt, D. Jones and M.Lane

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Budget Scrutiny: Scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2022/23.

Cabinet Member Phil Murphy delivered the presentation with Nicola Wellington. Councillor Murphy, Will McLean, Tyrone Stokes and Jane Rodgers answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Schools continue to receive grant funding at year end – could this committee have a report of what schools have spent these funds on, and the effect of that expenditure?

There has been a considerable amount of grant funding to schools in recent years, and throughout the pandemic there have been significant funding streams such as the 'Recruit, Recover, Raise Standards' initiative. That is to support learners and help them to catch up and close the gap that potentially widened during the pandemic. We work closely with our colleagues in the Education Achievement Service to understand the impact of that expenditure – it would be a very good report to bring to this committee, yes.

With school balances higher than in previous years, how will MCC ensure there is an appropriate balance between schools and other local authority expenditure, going forward?

As we've gone through the year the authority has faced significant pressures in our ALN budget, which has been difficult for us to manage; in particular, the costs of children remaining in county. It's appropriate for us to work with the schools in a mature way to understand where the needs

are – a great example of us doing that is the work that Nicola Wellington's been leading on revising the delegation methodology for additional needs funding. We hope to see more work like this in the future. Schools will probably see an uplift again in balances at the end of this year, which is likely to be inflated by year-end grants. Some of those will have specific spending criteria (and will therefore figure in the report requested in the first question), while others will go directly to the bottom line.

It's imperative that we are very clear with the schools that when significant balances have accumulated, they have robust plans that represent effective spending on their schools. We are talking to the schools about how we can help them to do that, ensuring that they understand the full flexibility and potential of procurement, thinking about the circular economy, and if there's capital expenditure, that they do so in an informed way that meets obligations around planning, building control, etc. As we go forward, there will probably need to be a re-balancing of the money that schools hold themselves and the money that we are able to afford centrally to support them.

The budget mentions the 21st Century Schools programme in relation to Abergavenny and Chepstow. Could you comment on progress?

We are reaching a crucial time concerning the new school in Abergavenny, with submission of the full business case imminent, as well as the submission for planning. On 19th January it was agreed to take the final step in the consultation regarding the closure of the two schools and opening of a new school. The call-in period ended on Friday so that will be enacted on 1st September 2023. As plans for Abergavenny progress, we are very aware of the development that we want to take place in Chepstow. We recruited a new member to the team, Tim Bird, as Educational Advisor – he is working with Cath Saunders (21st Century Project Lead) on Chepstow, and the potential there.

Budgetary pressures are ongoing and increasing. Can we have reassurance that there will never be a scaling back in the preventative approach to children being taken into care?

With Children's Services, the pressure is to allow us to still practise in the same way. With the budget pressure we are looking to recognise the change in the needs of the children, and even though we have some reassurance that the children looked after numbers are levelling out, we are getting more high costs – more 1-to-1 bespoke placements required. The £1.3m pressures broaden into 4 phases: looking to address the budgetary pressure for those children requiring high-cost bespoke placements (these tend to be out of county), stabilise our workforce, recognise the pressures that the court exhibits on us, and rewarding the pay structure to our kinship carers following some legal cases in other local authorities. We can give assurance that we are not looking to change the way that we practise. Our mandate is still early help and prevention right across the system, and we recognise that that's the way for us to build long-term sustainable and resilient families.

Regarding the Welsh Government settlement, are we being singled out because we're Monmouthshire, or is there a specific set of criteria?

No, it isn't because we're Monmouthshire. There are 50+ criteria such as the mix of housing, the type of roads that we have, areas of deprivation, etc. These criteria shift all the time. This year, the balance shifted so that we were the best funded, rather than the worst, but there is no guarantee that that will happen again. So, the settlement is determined by the way that the formulas move.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you to the Cabinet Member and officers. Many areas have been clarified for the committee. We have been reassured about ensuring balance regarding schools, which have had increased budgets but during a period of enormous difficulties. It's important to remember that children who have particularly suffered during the pandemic are generally those from more deprived backgrounds. The ALN pressures in the county are quite large. The new ALN formula should make for better funding and organisation. Chepstow is a major concern, particularly for residents there. The LAC pressure is always an area of concern – that budget has to be protected and is more unpredictable than those in other areas of CYP. The officers' comments about this area are very reassuring. We are glad to hear that Monmouthshire is not being treated any differently than other authorities by Welsh Government, and it is good to see that pay will be dealt with centrally.

The committee is happy with the budget proposals brought before us today.

3. Youth Offending Service

Chesney Chick delivered the presentation and answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

How soon do you become aware of potential offenders?

We are a preventative service. There was a shift prior to my joining the team from dealing with people in custodial settings to dealing with people in the community, in a preventative way. We work very closely with our colleagues in children's services, education and other partner agencies to identify those who might have trigger points – whether they are ACEs or otherwise – that indicate that they might come to our attention. Then, we look at services in collaboration with partners such as the Youth Service, to develop resources within a particular area, if certain issues are starting to arise. If it's on an individual basis we would look at whether there is an in-house service which could meet that need.

As an example, during the lockdown an increase in domestic violence (child on primary carer) was identified. The information and data available from Monmouthshire and Torfaen children's services didn't indicate that that was a problem for us, but realised that they might not have been true figures, given that schools weren't in. We created 2 posts sitting within children's services that would help with the process, helping to identify potential cases and try to catch them preventatively.

While in lockdown, did online bullying and influencing rise, and were you able to do anything about it?

There was no data to suggest that there had been an increase but, anecdotally, some stories came through that there was potential for a rise. But nothing came directly to the attention of the Youth Offending Service. However, during the pandemic we used the digital platforms such as Teams to engage with the children that we are involved with, particularly during the summer: we gave them quizzes, for example, send them tasks in the post and then check back in with them to mark them, then give out prizes, etc. The idea was to keep them engaged. We were pleasantly surprised that there was a great uptake in those sessions – some found it easier to engage virtually than they would have done otherwise.

Being a joint service with Torfaen, is there a breakdown of the numbers for each local authority area? Have these changed over time?

Yes, there is a breakdown which we can present at a later date, if the committee wishes. There is a difference between the two areas that are longstanding and haven't changed throughout the pandemic. It is hard to give specific numbers at this time but typically, for example, if there are 10 from Torfaen the number from Monmouthshire would likely be 5-7. There is an indication that the gap is closing, however. The complexities of the cases remain the same, and the typical root problems remain consistent in the two areas.

Reports to Adults Select suggest that young people who need housing are presenting with more complex needs. They don't necessarily offend but is there any link between the YOS and housing, and what support is provided regarding complex needs?

Yes, it is well documented that children are coming through with more complex needs, For all cases with which the YOS is involved we have the Resettlement Panel, which looks specifically at our exit strategy, for example, in the case of a child who has been in custody and is returning to the community. Similarly, in a prevention case, for a child who had come to the end of their order the panel would discuss the case to ensure there is the right level of support as they exit our provision. Housing is on that panel, along with Careers Wales, Health, a drugs worker from Engage, and others, to ensure the ongoing package of support in the community is at the right level. We have good working relationships with Housing.

The local authority has a housing responsibility but not necessarily a security or health responsibility with regard to misuse of drugs and complex problems of this nature. They are finding problems in relation to the support available for those extra needs that Registered Social Landlords aren't able to provide?

Yes. From our perspective, it's vitally important that through the assessment process, we identify the child's core need – this can often be masked by other things. Historically, we might have worked on a drug problem that is really an emotional wellbeing/mental health issue. We try to ensure that this is addressed when the package of support is put together.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you for this report. The committee is clearer on how Covid has affected the service – it has been a difficult period for everyone, but particularly for some young people who are in difficult circumstances. It has been useful to hear about the support that families have had during the lockdown. We have discussed prevention, which is key, as we don't want children who come into the service's remit moving on to crime as teenagers and young adults. It is heartening to hear about the support that is given.

4. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting: 3rd March 2022 at 10.00am

The meeting ended at **3.30 pm**