

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Joint Select Committee held
at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA on Tuesday, 20th
March, 2018 at 10.00 am**

PRESENT: County Councillor S. Howarth (Chair)
County Councillor M. Groucutt (Vice-Chair)

County Councillors: L. Brown, L. Dymock, R. Harris, L. Jones, P. Pavia, M. Powell, J. Pratt, T. Thomas, J. Watkins and S. Woodhouse

Mr. M Fowler (Parent Governor Representative)

County Councillors D. Blakebrough, A. Easson and V. Smith attended the meeting by invitation of the Chair.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Ian Bakewell	Housing & Regeneration Manager
Lindsay Stewart	Private Sector Housing Project Officer
Shelley Welton	Lead Commissioner Transformation
Teresa James	Autistic Spectrum Disorder Coordinator
Sue Hall	Early Years Manager
Paula Harris	Scrutiny Officer
Richard Williams	Democratic Services Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Power – Principal Challenge Adviser (Education Achievement Service)
James Kent – Interim Assistant Director (Education Achievement Service)

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors R. Edwards, D. Jones, M. Lane, P. Jones, A. Webb and J. Treharne

Dr. A. Daly (Church in Wales)

1. Appointment of Chair

We noted the appointment of County Councillor S. Howarth as Chair.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

We noted the appointment of County Councillor M. Groucutt as Vice-Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

County Councillor M. Powell declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 - Consultation on the draft

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Autism (Wales) Bill, as her grandson has learning difficulties and comes under the Autism umbrella.

County Councillor J. Watkins declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 - Consultation on the draft Autism (Wales) Bill, as her child is in the process of autism diagnosis.

Mr. M. Fowler declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of agenda item 8 - Consultation on the draft Autism (Wales) Bill, as his sons are diagnosed with autism so he has experience of the system.

4. Public Open Forum

There were no members of the public present wishing to address the Select Committee.

5. Confirmation of the following minutes:

5.1. Adults Select Committee - 10th January 2018

The minutes of the Adults Select Committee dated 10th January 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair, subject to County Councillor L. Brown being identified as the Vice Chair of the Committee.

5.2. Adults Select Committee - 23rd January 2018

The minutes of the Adults Select Committee dated 23rd January 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair, subject to County Councillor L. Brown being identified as the Vice Chair of the Committee.

5.3. Special Meeting - Adults Select Committee - 8th February 2018

The minutes of the special meeting of the Adults Select Committee dated 8th February 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair, subject to County Councillor L. Brown being identified as the Vice Chair of the Committee.

5.4. Special Meeting - Children and Young People Select Committee - 24th January 2018

The minutes of the special meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee dated 24th January 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

5.5. Children and Young People Select Committee - 1st February 2018

The minutes of Children and Young People Select Committee dated 1st February 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

5.6. Special Meeting - Children and Young People Select Committee - 13th February 2018

The minutes of the special meeting of the Children and Young People Select Committee dated 13th February 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

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6. Homelessness and Prevention - Bed and Breakfast Use

Context:

To receive an overview of the Council's use of Bed and Breakfast (B & B) accommodation in respect of the Council's delivery of its homeless service and to consider the option of leaving units of homeless accommodation vacant for emergencies, specifically for families with children or for 16 / 17 year olds.

Key Issues:

- Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, the Council has a duty to respond to homelessness. The focus of the Act is homeless prevention. However, where homelessness cannot be prevented the Council has other duties, including accommodation duties. In the event of homelessness, the Act requires the Council to:
 - provide interim accommodation for applicants in priority need (S.68). The definition of priority need includes families with children and 16/17 year olds.
 - help secure (this is not an absolute duty) accommodation and (S.73)
a duty to secure accommodation for applicants in priority need (S.75)
- The Council has a range of accommodation that is used to discharge these duties, together with the duty to prevent homelessness. Nevertheless, accessing an adequate supply of this accommodation is an on-going challenge for the Council. Not only is homeless accommodation itself in short supply, but it is a small part of the wider Monmouthshire housing market, which also has an under-supply of affordable accommodation. The rural nature of the County further compounds the situation.
- The challenge of providing homeless accommodation includes only having one family hostel (which is in Monmouth); the private leasing scheme has contracted over recent years; private sector accommodation is difficult to access (eg unaffordable or landlords will not accept homeless applicants); Monmouthshire County Council accommodation is typically at capacity and there is a need to have regard to the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Wales) Order 2015, safeguarding and community safety issues. Although the hostel operates as emergency family accommodation, no accommodation is kept vacant for contingency or emergency purposes due to the day to day demand.
- Should it not be possible to prevent homelessness and placements are necessary, every effort is made to place households in the most suitable type of accommodation and suitably located. The views and support of other professionals and agencies, such as public protection, social workers and health visitors will be considered to inform accommodation placements. On occasions the use of B & B accommodation is necessary. This, however, is an absolute last resort. B & B accommodation for any applicant is only used for an applicant

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if no other accommodation can be sourced or if the applicant is deemed to pose a risk to other households or applicants. The latter is not uncommonly identified through risk assessment procedures.

- As at the end of February 2018, 39 B & B placements had been necessary. This is an increase from 2016/17.
- It has been an on-going priority in respect of the Council's homeless service to continually seek to strengthen homeless prevention and to identify additional forms of accommodation. It is proposed that services continue to be reviewed on an on-going basis.
- To consider the option of keeping accommodation vacant for emergency purposes and with particular regard to families with children or young people 16 / 17.
- At present, the County Council does not have a policy that covers the use of B & B accommodation. It is considered that it is appropriate to establish a policy that creates a working framework that sets the expectations of the Council and a basis for monitoring against.

The following options are available:

- **Option 1** – Continue with the status quo and make no changes.
- **Option 2** – Leave a unit(s) of existing accommodation vacant (e.g. a room in the hostel, room in shared housing) as a contingency. This will have cost implications, mainly through loss of income. If this were to apply to accommodation managed by partners, the Council would have to cover the cost of any rental charges.
- **Option 3** - Seek to introduce further options that strengthens homeless prevention and introduce new accommodation options, particularly a supported lodgings scheme. Such schemes, however, will not provide provision for applicants assessed as unsuitable through risk assessment processes.

Member Scrutiny:

- It was acknowledged that B & B accommodation was not good enough as an option for accommodating homeless people, particularly families with school aged children, as this could disrupt the children's schooling.
- Support was expressed for option 3 in relation to a supported lodgings scheme. This system is working well in London.
- During the recent spell of cold weather, the Authority placed one homeless person into B & B accommodation. This option was offered to another homeless person but the offer was refused.

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- With regard to preventing homelessness, at the end of last year the Authority was just below the Welsh average. This year there has been an improvement around the prevention of homelessness that the Authority has been able to undertake.
- B & B expenditure is not particularly high. In month 11 £20,000 was spent. Housing benefit is clawed back on about two thirds of this sum.
- The Housing Department has a prevention pot within its budget whereby the Team has flexibility to use this sum of money creatively to prevent homelessness.
- An additional resource from Welsh Government has been used to appoint additional staffing in the form of a Young Persons Accommodation Officer.
- Out of hours emergency contact telephone numbers for homeless people requiring emergency accommodation needs to be made widely available across all agencies that might come into contact with these people.
- One of the recommendations of the report is that there is a policy for the use of B & B accommodation, which will include targets. A report will be presented to the appropriate Select Committee in the coming months.
- Most of the B & B accommodation is located in Newport and Abertillery. Efforts are made to ensure that children continue to receive their education in their school. However, transport is generally no longer provided due to budget pressures. There is a suitability criteria located within the legislation. Therefore, in making any placement this will ensure that any legal criteria is being met.
- It was considered that if a family is moved away from its home into temporary accommodation the children should be able to get to school safely in order to maintain some stability if their home life has been severely disrupted.
- 2014/15 experienced the lowest number of B & B placements. However, private leasing stock was significantly higher then.
- Private landlords in Monmouthshire have high expectations regarding the rent levels that they expect to achieve. The Housing Department is working with families that are receiving housing benefit and there is a set amount of how much these people can afford to pay in rent. Therefore, it is very difficult to place them in private accommodation. Welsh Government grants have helped in providing cash incentives to private landlords for them to provide accommodation to residents who might not necessarily be able to afford private rental accommodation, ordinarily.
- The lodgings scheme could be for a long or short term period and could support a reduction in loneliness and isolation. The Housing Department is open to exploring this option further.

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- Placements often occur on the same day. B & B accommodation is a safeguarding placement where vulnerable people can be accommodated.
- The Authority has a legal duty to prevent homelessness. Therefore, temporary accommodation is used. Some stays can be quite long. However, the shared housing scheme is an option being provided by the Authority, which is not widely available in Wales.
- The Authority works closely with housing associations which allows for direct placements to be made.
- The aim is to have a balanced register that is providing accommodation to all groups in as fair a way as possible.
- Before the Housing Department works with the private rental sector, the Team ensures that any work required is undertaken by the landlord beforehand. Environmental Health inspects all types of accommodation to ensure good standards are maintained. The requirement for Landlords to register with Rent Smart Wales has helped to maintain standards.
- In terms of developing any scheme, the Department works in partnership with various organisations.
- For the long term, more accommodation may be required.
- The Regional Strategy is evolving with an opportunity for regional initiatives to be undertaken.
- Night Stop is a model that can be considered. However, there are some issues surrounding the funding of a place, which needs to be addressed.
- Reference was made to the number of placements of people with mental health issues. The Housing Department would collate this information and email to the Select Committees.
- In response to a Select Committee Member's question regarding mental health specialists, it was noted that the Authority works closely with practitioners within Social Care. However, there is no specific resource within the Team.
- Monmouthshire County Council does look at other local authorities with regard to achieving best practise. The Authority is a member of the All Wales Homeless Network and the Team attends these meetings.

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Committee's Conclusion:

We resolved:

- (i) to note the circumstances in which the Council is needing to use B & B accommodation for homeless purposes and the standard of service that is being provided.
- (ii) to note the benefits and viability of keeping accommodation vacant for contingency and emergency purposes.
- (iii) to note the options for avoiding the use of B & B accommodation, in particular, option 3 - Seek to introduce further options that strengthens homeless prevention and introduce new accommodation options, particularly a supported lodgings scheme. Such schemes, however, will not provide provision for applicants assessed as unsuitable through risk assessment processes.
- (iv) to support the establishment of a B & B policy for future consideration by the Select Committees.
- (v) that the report includes:
 - reference to families that have been moved away from their home into temporary accommodation and that the children should be able to get to school safely in order to maintain some stability if their home life has been severely disrupted.
 - A specialist mental health officer should be working within the team.
 - A cost benefit analysis should be undertaken regarding whether it is cheaper to reserve places for a family and for single people balanced against the cost of emergency B & B accommodation.
 - Out of hours emergency contact telephone numbers for homeless people requiring emergency accommodation needs to be made widely available across all agencies.

7. Consultation on the draft Autism (Wales)

Context:

To scrutinise the proposals contained in the Draft Autism (Wales) Bill with a view to informing the Council's response.

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Key Issues:

In broad terms the Autism (Wales) Bill seeks to:

- Require the Welsh Government to publish a strategy for meeting the needs of children and adults in Wales.
- Require the Welsh Government to issue statutory guidance to underpin the strategy.
- Ensure a clear and consistent pathway to diagnosis of autism spectrum conditions in every local area across Wales.
- Ensure that local authorities and health boards understand and take necessary action so that children and adults with autism spectrum conditions get the timely support they need (this might include, for example, putting duties on local authorities and health boards about the organisation of support for people with autism and their families, in their local areas).
- Establish practices, including the possible creation of a register, to enable the collection of reliable and relevant data on the numbers and needs of children and adults with autism spectrum conditions so that responsible local bodies can plan accordingly.
- Ensure that local authorities and health boards publish information on the services they provide for people with autism spectrum conditions in their areas.
- Regularly review the strategy and statutory guidance to ensure progress.
- Raise public awareness and understanding of the needs of children and adults with autism.

Member Scrutiny:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) should appear in the draft Autism (Wales) Bill as it is a wide ranging medical condition.
- ASD should not refer to other neurological conditions as there is such a wide spectrum that needs to be defined as autistic spectrum.
- There are clear needs for all professional agencies to become involved. The Public Service Board will play a key role in developing joint agency working amongst key partners.
- It is important that parents receive a diagnosis as soon as possible and have the relevant support mechanisms established.
- Over time, inter agency collaboration should become normal practise.

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- The need to raise awareness of ASD is key. Continuous support should be provided for families, the community and for the professional support being provided.
- There is a need for common data in order to have a national common support system.
- It was noted that ASD is often accompanied by co-morbid conditions and therefore often has to allow for those disorders to also be addressed.
- Tourette's Syndrome should be included as it can sometimes be accompanied with ASD.
- Timescales for diagnosis in South East Wales have the ISCAN procedures which should be helping to improve timescales.
- This is a draft Bill for consultation. There will be a re-drafting of the Bill after the consultation period has ended taking on board comments received across Wales.
- ASD parent support groups exist but these need to receive proper support in order to help parents that have received an ASD diagnosis for their children.
- An ASD diagnosis might change as the child grows. This needs to be recognised with appropriate support being provided.
- Only two schools in Monmouthshire have completed an Autism Awareness training.
- A question was raised regarding whether resources will be made available to local authorities, in the form of a financial package, following implementation of the Bill.
- A Select Committee Member considered that there was no need for this legislation at this time because Welsh Government has made significant strides to strengthen public service provision for people with autism and their families and had developed an ASD strategic action plan in 2008. That has been reviewed and there is now the establishment of the All Age National Integrated Autism Service which has received increased investment in terms of national and local structures and in terms of raising awareness and the profile of the condition, as well as developing improved services.

Two significant pieces of legislation have been introduced in the last two years, namely, The Social Services and Well-being Act and The Well-being of future Generations Act.

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Welsh Government has already stated that it will produce statutory guidance regarding Autism under the Social Services and Well-being Act during this Welsh Assembly term.

Regional Partnership Boards have been established. Autism has been identified as one of the priority areas for integration and Boards will need to report annually on progress.

- There is a need to have access to Welsh language services.
- In response to a question raised regarding the facilities in Monmouthshire for severely autistic children, it was noted that officers would investigate this matter and inform the Select Committee via email.
- Appropriate support is required to help autistic people to live independently.
- The Bill has a short consultation period with responses being sought by 17th April 2018.

Committee's Conclusion:

- When a full response has been collated the final version will be sent to both Select Committees to view before it is presented to the Cabinet Member for Individual Cabinet Member Decision.

8. Presentation by the Education Achievement Service (EAS) regarding the New Curriculum for Wales

Context:

To scrutinise the new Curriculum for Wales.

Key Issues:

The Joint Select Committee received a presentation from the Interim Assistant Director of the Education Achievement Service (EAS) outlining a progress update in respect of the new Curriculum for Wales.

Member Scrutiny:

- There is now Religious Education (RE) expertise in the Humanities Area of the Learning Experience Group.
- There will be a phased introduction of the new Curriculum. Schools will need to adapt their curricula and try the new methodologies going forward. However, this

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will not have a detrimental effect on young people studying the existing GCSE qualifications.

- Qualifications Wales is a part of the development of the new Curriculum and will spend time between now and 2020 developing those new qualifications. There will be a route to specialism provide through the new Curriculum.
- The new Curriculum will see even more significant divergence with England which is moving further away from England's linear model.
- In response to concerns raised regarding the new Curriculum, it was noted that in terms of the Scottish Model it was not the design of the curriculum but the approach that was taken to preparing the workforce and professional learning that was undertaken which was insufficiently funded. This meant that practitioners were not prepared to change so the assessment system had not been changed. With regard to the knowledge and specialism, in an integrated system, this is more important. The value of cross curricular working deepens pupils understanding of a range of issues. With regard to the religious education perspective, one of the challenges that humanities groups are going to face is how they can look at the contribution of religious education to the broader Humanities but ensure that sufficient guidance is available to SACREs so that they devise their own syllabi within local authorities.
- A new career path for teachers will ensure that they are fit to deliver the education required via the new Curriculum.
- In response to a question raised regarding students taking GCSE examinations early, it was noted that the issue surrounding this matter is the perceived pressure and accountability. The current performance measures are that schools are looking to maximise performance of young people. Research indicates that if pupils stay the course for the two years of a GCSE, the outcomes are likely to be better at the end of this period. In terms of teachers meeting the skills requirements for teaching the new Curriculum, this will have to be a professional learning exercise. This can be supported regionally by the EAS.
- The two schools within Monmouthshire that are taking part in the Curriculum Pioneer Network are Shirenewton and Trellech Primary Schools. The new Curriculum aims to make the learning experience authentic and real for young people.
- The EAS will provide funding for all schools this year which comes with the condition of it being used to support the understanding of reform. By the time that the draft new Curriculum will be published in April 2019, all schools and practitioners have had the opportunity to see those documents and understand them within the context that they have been developed.
- The local Authority will work closely with the EAS to ensure that it is commissioning the right types of support for Monmouthshire's schools.

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- The position of not looking to English schools for examination comparisons is a risk as many of Monmouthshire's young people will choose to go to an English university.
- The legal requirements of SACREs need to be in line with the new Curriculum. WASACRE has provided the EAS with a paper outlining the non-negotiable issues regarding RE in the new Curriculum. This is now being used to populate the knowledge skills that young people should have. Those skills should be evident within the What Matters approach.
- It is a key aim of the Authority to keep more of our children educated within the County. Local communities need to be convinced that their local school is the right school for local children to be educated. A review of school catchments will be undertaken in due course to address current anomalies and to make it easier for local children to be educated within the County.

Committee's Conclusion:

- The Authority and the EAS will monitor progress of the two Monmouthshire schools currently taking part in the pilot, namely, Shirenewton and Trellech Primary Schools.
- There is a need to ensure that schools embrace the new Curriculum and are ready to deliver it to students.

9. National Report on School Categorisation 2017- 18

Context:

To scrutinise the new national school categorisation system and Monmouthshire school categorisations.

Key Issues:

The Minister for Education and Skills announced the introduction of the National School Categorisation System in September 2014. The system, which covers both primary schools and secondary schools, has evolved over subsequent years.

For 2017-2018, Welsh Government will remove the data-driven judgement that places schools into a standards group as part of Step 1. Discussion around the school's self-evaluation will be the central feature of the model going forward, with a school's data forming the starting point of discussions within the school, and with their Challenge Adviser, about their capacity to improve in relation to leadership, teaching and learning.

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Member Scrutiny:

- In response to a question raised regarding the disparity between steps 2 and 3 of our secondary schools and what the barriers are to Monmouthshire's two schools that are in the green category in step 2 to making it through to a full green category in step 3, it was noted that there are individual circumstances for those schools with regard to their current status. These schools are very close to becoming 'green' schools. Draft categorisation will be looked at this summer term and will be reviewed again.
- Reference was made to primary / infant / junior schools where 50% or more of pupils over the last three years are in receipt of free school meals. In doing so, a Member expressed concern that, in areas of Monmouthshire, there are pockets of deprivation in terms of free school meals (FSM) and that those pupils might not be receiving the support that they require. It was noted that with regard to these schools, the challenge adviser would be working closely with the head teacher and staff to identify what the pupils require, such as the types of intervention. When the challenge adviser decides what is required in terms of appropriate support, there will be a range of factors in addition to that being taken into account.

Committee's Conclusion:

We noted the report presented by the Principal Challenge Adviser for Monmouthshire regarding School Categorisation 2017/18.

10. Verbal update regarding School Placement / Capacity

We received a verbal update by the Chief Officer for Children and Young People regarding school placement capacity.

In doing so, the following information was provided:

- This exercise is undertaken annually.
- The number of children in Monmouthshire's schools on roll is looked at and that allows for projections to be made, going forward.
- Live birth data is also looked at. This information is provided by the NHS.
- Close working with early years' settings is undertaken to gain an understanding of the number of children in non-maintained settings.
- The Children and Young People Department works closely with the Planning Department. When the Local Development Plan (LDP) is agreed, an understanding is reached with regard to the number of houses that are likely to

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be built and using a formula, it is possible to calculate how many children are likely to be residing in those proposed dwellings.

- School capacity is worked out on the area to be taught in. Using a simple calculation this will determine whether there are shortfalls or surplus places in particular areas. Where there is a shortfall, developers are approached asking for contributions for Section 106 funding to increase the capacity of our schools in that area. If there is no shortfall, then developers have no need to provide the Section 106 contribution.
- In terms of secondary schools, the Authority looks over a five year average the number of children lost from a cohort and attending other schools. This allows the Authority to plan suitable sizes into the future.

Having received the verbal update, the following points were noted:

- There is an issue in the Abergavenny area surrounding Section 106 funding, in particular, the Gilwern and Llanfoist areas, whereby there remains significant surplus capacity in the Abergavenny area. This has been a long standing issue for the Authority. However, it is about the distribution of surplus places in the Abergavenny area that is the issue. Therefore, the challenge is when a developer comes into the area wanting to build dwellings, this provides a pressure on the capacity of the local schools. It is anticipated that it will take some time for these pressures to be addressed.
- Monmouthshire's School Admission Policy is based on the following criteria – medical needs, looked after children by the Authority, siblings, catchment area and then distance to school. Parents can appeal following set guidelines with a view to getting their child into a particular school.

Committee's Conclusion:

We noted the Chief Officer's verbal update.

11. Verbal update regarding Free School Meals availability

We received a verbal update by the Chief Officer for Children and Young People regarding free school meals (FSM) availability and how the Authority might increase the take up of FSM entitlement in Monmouthshire.

In doing so, the Select Committee was informed that the debate is around whether the Authority transfers the responsibility for FSM checking and entitlement to the Benefits Team. This matter is being investigated closely and there would be a cost implication in the region of £15,000. Value for money is key if this change is to be made.

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Committee's Conclusion:

The Chief Officer for Children and Young People provides the Select Committee with an update report regarding the development of the proposed transfer of responsibility for FSM checking and entitlement to the Benefits Team.

12. 30 Hour Free Childcare Offer

Context:

To scrutinise the 30 Hour Free Childcare Offer and the proposed timetable for implementation.

Key Issues:

- The Welsh Government has committed to full implementation of the Childcare Offer by September 2020.
- There are seven local authorities that have implemented the Childcare Offer in parts of their local authority from September 2017. These are Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent and Swansea local authorities. Rhondda Cynon-Taff, Flintshire and Anglesey local authorities working in partnership with Gwynedd.
- Budget permitting, the Welsh Government would like to see as many local authorities as possible joining the scheme over the next two years, prior to full implementation in September 2020.
- The bid that was submitted by Monmouthshire in January 2018 was to become an early implementer in September 2018 and to rollout the Childcare Offer in all areas of Monmouthshire simultaneously. However, implementation could be delayed to commence in January 2019. Confirmation is awaited regarding this matter. Initial discussions with Welsh Government were positive and they were of the same opinion to bring the whole authority on board at the same time, based on the relatively low number of three and four year old children in Monmouthshire.
- With regard to the delivery of finance for this scheme, Welsh Government has agreed that some authorities will be 'delivery authorities' and other authorities will be 'engagement authorities'. Monmouthshire County Council will be an engagement authority with Newport City Council being the delivery authority on Monmouthshire's behalf.
- The Childcare Offer is 30 hours a week of free early education and childcare for eligible working parents of three and four year old children, for up to 48 weeks of the year. The 30 hours will consist of a combination of the existing Foundation

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Phase Nursery (FPN) provision open to all three and four year old children and the additional funded childcare for eligible families.

- Parents will become eligible the term following their child's 3rd birthday until they commence full time education. In order to be eligible, both parents or the sole parent in a lone parent family, must earn at least equivalent to 16 hours a week at National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage, and no more than £100,000 per parent.
- The childcare can be accessed in any setting that is registered with the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW). During term time, 10 hours are allocated for early education and this must be taken up at either a local authority maintained nursery or an approved non-maintained provider of early education.
- There are currently 12 local authority maintained nurseries and 28 approved non-maintained providers of early education in Monmouthshire. Take up of places in the summer term is usually between 76% and 80% and there are currently surplus places in all areas of the county.
- The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment completed in March 2017 suggested that there are sufficient childcare places to meet the current demand and highlighted any gaps in provision. Out of School Childcare Grant funding has been allocated to address these issues and to develop additional childcare provision.

Member Scrutiny:

- The requirement to ensure there is sufficient child care provision will continue to sit with Monmouthshire County Council.
- The remit of a delivery / engagement authorities has yet to be finalised by Welsh Government.
- Concern was expressed regarding the small number of charity run nurseries and the additional burden that these nurseries are expected to take on. Also, this scheme will only apply to both parents working in excess of 16 hours per week. Concern was expressed that parents who do not meet the criteria will lose out. It was noted that officers are looking at the places wider than just the numbers of eligible parents.
- Currently, Monmouthshire has 12 local authority run nurseries and 28 non-maintained nurseries. The numbers of children accessing both provisions equates to a relatively even split between the two provisions with non-maintained settings receiving slightly more children overall.
- Over the previous two years, the numbers applying for local authority nursery provision has reduced as parents require more than the 2.5 hours provided. Many non-maintained nurseries provide more than the 2.5 hours. With regard to

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schools, they are not in a position to provide the childcare element because they are not registered childcare provisions.

- As well as the childcare offer, before and after school provision is provided for school age children. Most Monmouthshire schools provide before school provision and many schools provide after school provision. Nursery children can access these provisions.
- The English model differs to the Welsh model. The Welsh model is considered to be a better model. In England, funding goes to the local authorities and they decide how much funding to be allocated. On average, around £3.00 per hour is paid in England. In Wales, the funding is set at £4.50 per hour.

Committee's Conclusion:

We resolved that the Chief Officer for Children and Young People reports back to the Select Committee when further information regarding the remit of delivery / engagement authorities has been finalised by Welsh Government.

13. Work Programmes:

13.1. Adults Select Committee

We received the Select Committee's forward work plan.

In doing so, the Chair informed the Committee that clarity was required with regard to when the Crick Road Care Development - Final Business Case will be presented to Cabinet and whether a special meeting of the Select Committee might be required to scrutinise this issue before it is presented to Cabinet.

We noted the Adults Select Committee Work Plan.

13.2. Children and Young People Select Committee

We received the Select Committee's forward work plan.

13.3. Council and Cabinet Business Forward Work Programme

We received the Cabinet and Council Forward Planner.

In doing so, the Committee agreed that:

- (i) the Children and Young People Select Committee should continue to monitor progress of the Donaldson Report in relation to Pioneer schools.
- (ii) the Adults Select Committee, at its meeting on 22nd May 2018, would invite representatives of Aneurin Bevan Health Board to discuss Chepstow Dementia Ward and a review of general services at Chepstow Hospital.

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14. Next meetings

The Children and Young People Select Committee will meet on Thursday 17th May 2018 at 10.00am.

The Adults Select Committee will meet on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 2.12 pm.