

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Monday, 10 April 2023

## Notice of meeting :

### People Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 18th April, 2023 at 10.00 am,  
County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance

*Please note that a pre meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting for members of the committee.*

## AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Public Open Forum	
	<b>Scrutiny Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance</b>	
	<p>Our Scrutiny Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council <a href="#">website</a></p> <p>If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Scrutiny Committees, you can submit your representation in advance <a href="#">via this form</a></p> <p>Please share your views by uploading a video or audio file (maximum of 4 minutes) or; Please submit a written representation (via Microsoft Word, maximum of 500 words)</p> <p>You will need to register for a <a href="#">My Monmouthshire account</a> in order to submit the representation or use your log in, if you have registered previously.</p>	

The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting.

If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Scrutiny Committee meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.

If you would like to attend one of our meetings to speak under the Public Open Forum at the meeting, you will need to give three working days' notice by contacting [Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk).

The amount of time afforded to each member of the public to speak is at the chair's discretion, but to enable us to accommodate multiple speakers, we ask that contributions be no longer than 3 minutes.

If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Scrutiny Committees, please do so by emailing [Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

<b>4.</b>	<b>Corporate Parenting Strategy</b>	1 - 40
<b>5.</b>	<b>People Scrutiny Forward Work Programme and Action List</b>	41 - 44
<b>6.</b>	<b>Council and Cabinet Work Programme</b>	45 - 54
<b>7.</b>	<b>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2023</b>	55 - 62
<b>8.</b>	<b>To confirm the date of the next meeting as 6th June 2023</b>	

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Rachel Buckler, Devauden;, Welsh Conservative Party  
County Councillor John Crook, Magor East with Undy;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru  
County Councillor Christopher Edwards, St. Kingsmark;, Welsh Conservative Party  
County Councillor David Jones, Crucorney;, Independent Group  
County Councillor Jayne McKenna, Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;, Welsh Conservative Party  
County Councillor Maureen Powell, Pen Y Fal;, Welsh Conservative Party  
County Councillor Sue Riley, Bulwark and Thornwell;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru  
County Councillor Maria Stevens, Severn;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru  
County Councillor Jackie Strong, Caldicot Cross;, Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

## Public Information

### Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

### Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

## **Our purpose**

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

## **Objectives we are working towards**

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

## **Our Values**

**Openness.** We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

**Fairness.** We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

**Flexibility.** We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

**Teamwork.** We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

## Monmouthshire Scrutiny Question Guide

<b>Role of the Pre-meeting</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)</li> <li>2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve?</li> <li>3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?</li> </ol> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">- Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member</p>	
<b>Questions for the Meeting</b>	
<p><u>Scrutinising Performance</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?</li> <li>2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?</li> <li>3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?</li> <li>4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?</li> <li>5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?</li> <li>6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?</li> <li>7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?</li> <li>8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?</li> </ol>	<p><u>Scrutinising Policy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?</li> <li>2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? What consultation has been undertaken? Did the consultation process comply with the Gunning Principles? Do stakeholders believe it will achieve the desired outcome?</li> <li>3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?</li> <li>4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?</li> <li>5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works? Does the policy relate to an area where there is a lack of published research or other evidence?</li> <li>6. Does the policy relate to an area where there are known inequalities?</li> <li>7. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards?</li> <li>8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications</li> </ol>

9. been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?
- 10.
11. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
- 12.
13. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated

## General Questions:

### Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?
- Is the service working with citizens to explain the role of different partners in delivering the service, and managing expectations?
- Is there a framework and proportionate process in place for collective performance assessment, including from a citizen's perspective, and do you have accountability arrangements to support this?
- Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out? If so, can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers provide members with copies and a detailed explanation of the EQIA conducted in respect of these proposals?
- Can the Leader and Cabinet/Senior Officers assure members that these proposals comply with Equality and Human Rights legislation? Do the proposals comply with the Local Authority's Strategic Equality Plan?

### Service Demands

- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?
- Have you identified and considered the long-term trends that might affect your service area, what impact these trends could have on your service/your service could have on these trends, and what is being done in response?

### Financial Planning

- Do we have robust medium and long-term financial plans in place?
- Are we linking budgets to plans and outcomes and reporting effectively on these?

### Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?
- How are we maximising income?
- Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the

actual versus desired workforce?

Questions to ask within a year of the decision:

- Were the intended outcomes of the proposal achieved or were there other results?
- Were the impacts confined to the group you initially thought would be affected i.e. older people, or were others affected e.g. people with disabilities, parents with young children?
- Is the decision still the right decision or do adjustments need to be made?

**Questions for the Committee to conclude...**

Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...

Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...









**SUBJECT: Corporate Parenting Strategy 2022-25**

**MEETING: People Scrutiny Committee**

**DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

## **1. PURPOSE:**

1.1 To present the committee the Corporate Parenting Strategy for scrutiny in relation to responsibilities of the council, performance against the previous Corporate Parenting strategy 2017-2022 and the Action Plan which will address the needs of Children Looked After and Care Experienced young people

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

2.1 That members scrutinise the Review, Performance and Action Plan in the Corporate Parenting strategy 2022-2025 and provide feedback, as appropriate, prior to presentation at full Council for endorsement.

## **3. KEY ISSUES:**

**3.1** The law and guidance about Children Looked After is substantial and complex relating to children and young people whose best interests cannot be met by their family for whom the Council becomes responsible. Part 6 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act (2014) is the core legislation, with S78 stating the duty of the Council to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child it looks after, and care leaver. In terms of welfare, it encompasses the Act's universal wellbeing outcomes.

**3.2** The format of the report follows the template presented 2015-2018, and 2018-2025 which supports a compare and contrast model. It seeks to articulate the vision of the Council in relation to Children Looked After and clarifies the responsibilities of the Council and Councillors when considering the entitlements of Children Looked After and Care Experienced young people.

**3.3** The report sets out the local picture in relation to the trends and changes of Monmouthshire's Children Looked After population, offering a national context in order to support the Review of Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-2023. The Key Achievements and Barriers to ongoing change are the basis for the Action Plan which is and will drive change and improvement in the period 2022-25.

**3.4** It is acknowledged this is a formal format and is not inclusive in style for many of the young people and carers that it impacts the most, therefore when concluded in Council their will also be a more accessible format to ensure our communities, young people and carers are informed

#### **4. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)**

4.1 The report provides an appraisal of performance and identifies future priorities. The report identifies the contribution of social services in Monmouthshire to the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.

4.2 The report provides analysis of performance and priorities related to the Children Looked After in Monmouthshire, our Care Experienced young people and the role of corporate parenting.

#### **5. EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

6.1 The report provides an analysis of the performance of Social Care & Health Services and Corporate Parents in 2018-2022. This has used a range of evidence, including the performance indicators from the measurement framework as part of the Social Services and Well-being Act, National and Local data. It has also been reviewed and contributed to by Carer's, Care Experience Young People and Children Looked After

#### **6. REASONS:**

7.1 To ensure that council has a clear understanding of its roles and responsibilities to the children in Monmouthshire's care and those who leave our care system. It offers and evaluation of the performance and impact of national and local contexts in reviewing the Corporate Parenting Strategy 2018-22 and details the Action Plan and future priorities to deliver a positive and sustainable future for Children Looked After, Foster Carers, and Care Experienced young people in Monmouthshire.

#### **7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

8.1 The period of time this strategy covers is one of financial constraints as well as national instability in relation to the removal of private care providers for children looked after by 2026. This strategy sets out the direction of travel within this uncertain period, we will continue to maximise our resources, and will remain focused on our priorities. The resource implications for this period remain undefined however the priority for our young people in Monmouthshire is to ensure this strategy is delivered without compromise.

#### **8. CONSULTEES:**

- Care Experienced Young People.

- Children Looked After.
- Foster Carer's
- Social Workers/Support Workers Long Term Support Team Children Services
- Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**10. AUTHOR:**

**Diane Corrister**

Head of Children Services Monmouthshire

E-mail: [dianecorrister@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:dianecorrister@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

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# fostering in monmouthshire

working together to build better  
futures for local children



## Corporate Parenting Strategy

2022 - 2025



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# Foreword

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The Monmouthshire County Council Corporate Parenting Strategy is our collective commitment to safeguard and promote the life chances and deliver the best possible outcomes for children and young people who are looked after by Monmouthshire County Council. It sets out the high standards we aim to achieve as Corporate Parents along with our key partners and the actions we will take to do this.

As elected members and officers we have a special responsibility as Corporate Parents to ensure that all our children and young people who are looked after and care experienced<sup>1</sup> within our County have the opportunity to live a safe, happy, healthy and fulfilling life. A good education and opportunities for social development are paramount for all children and young people and in this respect children who are looked after are absolutely no different and must be afforded the same choices.

The Strategy sets out clearly a reference guide for Corporate Parents to follow and emphasises the key aspects of the role which include how to listen, learn and question, and act as advocates on behalf of this special group.

This is the Council's third Corporate Parenting Strategy.

County Councillor Tudor Thomas

Cabinet Member and Chair of Corporate Parenting Panel

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<sup>1</sup> The terms 'children and young people who are looked after' and 'young people who are care experienced' are used throughout this document. Children and young people who have grown up in care have told us that these terms better reflect their experiences and identities and are their preferred terminology. These replace the terms Looked After Child (LAC) and Care Leaver.

# Corporate Parenting Priorities

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**Priority 1:** All elected members and officers understand and act on their responsibilities as corporate parents

**Priority 2:** All children and young people who are looked after have a safe and stable home where they feel safe, valued and cared for by excellent foster carers

**Priority 3:** Children and young people who are looked after enjoy a range of educational and learning opportunities and are supported to achieve the best possible educational outcomes

**Priority 4:** Children and young people who are looked after enjoy the best possible health and have appropriate information, health care and advice to thrive

**Priority 5:** Children and young people who are looked after enjoy a range of play, sport, leisure and cultural opportunities to enable them to fulfil their potential

**Priority 6:** Children and young people who are looked after are treated as valued members of the community, whose voices are heard, respected and taken into account in all decisions that are taken

**Priority 7:** As they grow older, care experienced young people are given timely, good quality support to prepare them for the future and into independence and enable them to make positive choices for independent living to become successful, fulfilled members of society

**Priority 8:** Children who are looked by Monmouthshire County Council are cared for by Monmouthshire carers and remain close to their homes and communities

**Priority 9:** All care experienced young people are supported in education, training and employment



## Our Vision

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Within Monmouthshire our first pledge to children and young people is that whenever possible we will support them to remain within their families. We recognise that this is the best environment for the majority of children and young people to develop and achieve their outcomes.

There are however a small group of children and young people who will need to be looked after by the local authority. In some cases this will be because of the death of a parent but primarily will be as a result of parents being unable to provide a safe environment in which they can thrive. For some children they will have experienced significant abuse or neglect at home. We will strive to ensure that children and young people who are unable to live safely within their own families are looked after and provided with the best possible care and support, educational provision and health care in placements that meet all their needs.

Children who are looked after by the local authority will already have been placed at a disadvantage when they come into care. Monmouthshire County Council wants to ensure that the experience of children and young people does not add to this disadvantage but provides them with the stability and security they need to flourish. Children and young people will be healthy and happy and feel valued and loved. Children and young people will enjoy learning and grow into successful adults who can have positive relationships, positive futures, become responsible citizens and achieve their goals and ambitions. "Our aspirations for the children and young people that we look after are the same as any good parent would want for their children. Where they need it children and young people will receive the very best possible standards of care and support" (Where I am Safe Strategy 2016).

## Entitlements of Children and Young People who are Looked After and Care Experienced

Children who are looked after have the same entitlements as all children and young people. Under the Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 this is articulated through the concept of well-being. For children and young people this incorporates:

- Feeling good about your life, being safe and having somewhere suitable to live
- Being well looked after and able to grow up happily and successfully
- Being involved in decisions that impact your life



- Having friends and being part of good, strong communities
- Having every chance to do well in education, training, work-based learning and employment
- Have access to appropriate health care.

## Roles and Responsibilities of Corporate Parents

All members of the Monmouthshire County Council have a shared responsibility for Corporate Parenting but some individuals have particular responsibilities.

Corporate parenting is the responsibility held by Elected Members and officers to be loving, caring and aspirational for all children in our care or who have recently left our care as adults. Councillors and Officers, as Corporate Parents, have an important role to play in ensuring that every child in their Council's care receives the best care possible. They should be striving to provide the level of care they would be happy for their own children to receive.

Welsh Government defined the concept of corporate parenting as: "The collective responsibility across services and across local authorities, to safeguard and promote the life chances of looked after children"

## Councillors as Corporate Parents

Elected Members have a 'special responsibility'.

*"When you became an elected member you took on one of your most important roles, as corporate parent to children your local authority looks after. The importance of your corporate parenting responsibilities cannot be overemphasised. Elected Members have a responsibility to ensure that children looked after by the Council are able to thrive, that they are nurtured, supported, educated, listened to and prepared for adult life in the way any good parent would want for their own children. These children will often have faced significant challenges and will need the help of adults who hold powerful and influential positions."* Gwenda Thomas AM, Deputy Minister for Social Services

Key aspects of the role of a Corporate Parent include:



- To know what the key issues and concerns are of our children and young people who are looked after and to ensure that the Council is responding to these.
- Ensuring that parental responsibilities for children and young people who are looked after are being fulfilled;
- To identify where things need to improve and to make a difference for good
- To consider and question the impact of Council decisions on children and young people who are looked after care experienced young people.

## Officers of the Council

Corporate parenting responsibilities are not confined to elected members. All officers share the responsibility to promote the needs of children and young people who are looked after and care experienced.

Key responsibilities of all Officers are:

- To promote the life chances of children and young people who are looked after and care experienced in their area of responsibility
- To consider the impact of decision making on children and young people who are looked after and care experienced.

## Care Experienced Young People

The Corporate Parenting Strategy applies equally to care experienced young people leaving care as it does to children and young people who are looked after.

A Care Experienced Young Person (Care Leaver) is defined as a child who was previously a child who was Looked After Child and was in Care on their 16th birthday. Our duties to young people who are care experienced remain until they are 21 or 25. A young person can withdraw and re-connect to care and support at any time during this period.

The Local Authority as a 'good corporate parent' will assist the young person with financial support to achieve economic well-being and make a positive and successful transition to adulthood.

The Children's Commissioner's report 'Hidden Ambitions' published in 2017 emphasises that Care Leavers still face many barriers, and that more needs to be done to ensure that care



leavers have the support and resources they need to make successful transitions into adult life. The Annual Report 2021/22 advocates for all care experienced young people to have an allocated Personal Advisor (PA) to support them up to the age of 25. This call was accompanied by other calls to improve access to financial support for care experienced young people, ensure young people leaving residential care can access equivalent support to the 'When I'm Ready' scheme and to improve accommodation options for care experienced young people. All of these have been accepted by Welsh Government

At a regional level, the Institute of Public Care (IPC) undertook a review into the needs of care experienced young people with complex needs to explore how support and accommodation services for this group of young people could be improved and developed. The most recent Children's Commissioner's Annual Report 2021/22 notes that there is not sufficient provision for children with complex needs which by nature also has the potential to negatively impact the young people leaving the care system.

## Foster Wales, Foster Monmouthshire

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The challenge to recruit sufficient local authority foster carers to meet demand is one faced across the UK. The Welsh Government has a stated objective to eliminate profit from the care of children who are looked after within this Senedd term. Welsh Government has invested in a co-ordinated, pan-Wales branding exercise to create the Foster Wales brand. It was hoped that by creating a Wales-wide brand that looked highly professional and provided common information on all local authority fostering services, it could match the private providers and attract more potential carers to foster for their local authorities.

## The National Picture

There are over 80,000 children currently being looked after by Local Authorities in England and over 7000 by Local Authorities in Wales, the majority of whom live in foster placements. Since 2003 there has been an 80% increase in the numbers of children looked after in Wales. Children who become Looked After are likely to have experienced trauma and exposure to multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Children who become Looked After who are disabled and / or come from ethnic minority backgrounds can experience further disadvantage.

The outcomes for care experienced children and young people in care can be poor, with research indicating that this group are less likely to achieve good educational outcomes,

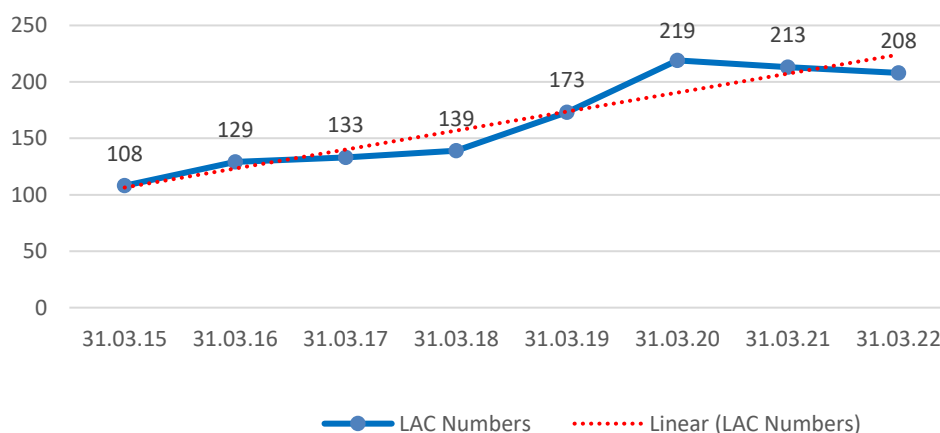


more likely to be involved in offending, be over represented amongst the homeless and prison populations more likely to experience drug and alcohol misuse, and to have poor mental health. However, despite the challenges many of these children and young people have faced and their resulting complex needs many make a great success of their lives, with the right support and care. For example, in Monmouthshire, of our current cohort of care leavers six are in university, ten are in full time education, 22 are in employment and 4 are in apprenticeships.

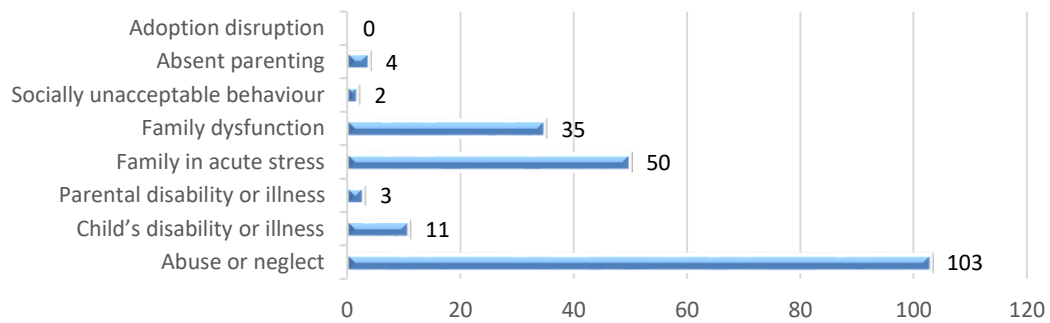
## The Local Picture

### 1. The Number of Looked After Children by the Council

The number of CLA in Monmouthshire currently has fallen from a high point of 226 in September 2020 and currently stands at 207 (March 2023) which is slightly above the national average. The trajectory of increases year on year seen between 2018-2020 has stabilised and the trend remains downwards. The number of children who need to be Looked After remains a fluctuating number dependant on issues of size of families, and the number of cases referred into Children Services at any period of time. The figures also reflect the growing number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) who are mandatorily placed via the Home Office National Transfer Scheme.



## 2. Why Children became Looked After 21-22



• **Source: Monmouthshire data**

The majority of children and young people are being looked after because they have experienced abuse or neglect or where families are in such acute stress or are unable to function sufficiently to provide safe, stable or sufficient care for their children

## 3. Status of Looked After Children as at 31/3/22

Legal Status	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Interim Care Order	14	30	40	22	21
Full Care Order	110	130	165	163	159
Placement Order Granted	4	3	6	19	12
Section 76	9	9	7	9	16
Wardship	2	1	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>208</b>

**Source: Monmouthshire data**

Most children who are looked after are subject to Care Orders made by the courts under the Children Act 1989. These orders confer Parental Responsibility on the council (shared with their parents).





#### 4. Looked After Children by Placement Type as at 31/03/22

Placement Types	31.3.18	31.3.19	31.3.20	31.3.21	31.3.22
MCC Fostering	25	29	40	40	46
MCC Kinship Carers	30	36	41	48	38
Independent Fostering	44	49	59	52	55
Independent Living	1	0	0	0	0
Pre-adoption	1	2	1	5	7
Placed with Parent	24	40	55	49	40
Residential Educational	7	9	18	14	15
Parent and Child	1	3	0	1	1
Secure Unit	1	0	0	0	0
Child in Hospital	0	1	1	0	0
Supported Lodgings	5	4	4	4	4
Other Placement	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>208</b>

A priority for the last Corporate Parenting Strategy was to address the previous decline in MCC Carers with a robust strategy for the recruitment and retention of quality foster carers. Alongside this was increasing support to kinship carers to empower them to become Special Guardians of the children in their care and enable these children to grow up within their own family network and without the restrictions imposed on the household from being a fostering household. The impacts of the pandemic and changes to the profile of Local Authority fostering slowed this progress. Enabling children to be looked after by Monmouthshire carers and, whenever possible, to remain within the geographical boundaries of Monmouthshire, closer to their home and communities remains at the heart of this Corporate Parenting Strategy.



## 5. Breakdown by age and gender

Total					Total
Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 15 years	16 to 17 years	Total
8	30	56	87	27	208

The gender breakdown of our children who are looked after population is broadly evenly split between girls (50.5%) and boys (48.5%), 2 (1%) identify as transgender.

## 6. Length of time children remain looked after 2018 to 2022

Length of Time	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Under 6 months	13	37	44	19	25
6 to 12 Months	19	14	24	13	16
1 to 2 years	52	51	68	98	72
3 to 4 years	24	30	40	32	40
5 years +	31	41	43	51	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>208</b>

Most children who were looked after by Monmouthshire County Council on the 31.03.2022 had been looked after for 1 to 2 years (72, 35%). The number of children remaining in care less than 6 months has fallen from a high of 44 children and young people in 2019/20 to 25 children and young people looked after during 2021/22. The majority of children are aged between 10 and 17 (54%) with 76.3% of that group being aged between 10 and 15. This indicates there is likely to be an increase in care experienced young people leaving care over the next two to five years that will need planned for. Just over a quarter (26.9%) of children are aged 5 to 9 and 18.2% are aged under 5



## Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

Monmouthshire has a history of supporting young people who spontaneously arrive (S/A) fleeing oppression, exploitation, or war due to our border placement on the M4. During 2022 the Home Office have placed a requirement of all Local Authorities to accommodate and offer care and support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and Young People who are allocated to each authority via the National Transfer Scheme. Between Feb 21 and March 22:

- 10 Unaccompanied Young People seeking Asylum became Looked After in Monmouthshire;
- 7 of these young people were referred by the Home Office National Transfer Scheme;
- 3 young people “Spontaneously Arrived”
- All are currently aged between 16 -17 yrs and 9 are male;
- Only 3 young people reside in Monmouthshire the others are in out of county placements;

Monmouthshire does not have enough Supported Living arrangements nor culturally suitable accommodation to home all of the UASC and young people. Children Services are working closely with the Gwent based Strategic Groups, and Regional Leads to develop a Gwent response to need, as well as appointing a designated worker within the Long Term Support team to support access to appropriate services, and advocacy as needed.

## Review of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan 2018 – 2021

The current strategy and action plan is built on a review and appraisal of the previous 3 years and will be revised following consultation with key stakeholders including Corporate Parenting Panel Members, children who are looked after and care experienced young people, foster carers, social workers and the Senior Leadership Team. The review recognises that whilst there has been continued progress, there have been significant challenges over the past four years, not least the impact of the pandemic making some progress harder to implement or sustain. The context remains dynamic both in terms of the legislative framework and also the operational services that are tasked with delivering against many of the identified objectives.



## Key Achievements:

- Members 'Introduction to Corporate Parents' has been updated and is being carried out as part of the induction programme for the new administration;
- Consideration of Corporate Parenting responsibilities is now required in all reports for Cabinet or Full Council;
- There is a good understanding and awareness of Corporate Parenting through SLT and across the Local Authority directorates;
- The Council has evaluated initial apprenticeship programmes and has strengthened the operational leadership of this. There is a post created in Enterprise to support 16 – 18 year old care leavers with education, training and employment;
- We have a team of dedicated and committed foster carers in Monmouthshire, who have a good network of support both through foster carer support groups set up and supported by the Placement and Support Team and through FC4FC (a foster carer led group of foster carers that Monmouthshire County Council provides some funding for);
- There has been an increase in Foster Carers converting to “When I am Ready Carers” which mean they are supporting their Looked After young person post 18 to support transition into adulthood (from 2-9 carers converting);
- The Learning and Development Framework for foster carers has been fully implemented, there is a training programme in place for foster carers and all potential foster carers, including connected person’s carers access the Skills to Foster training as part of the assessment process. Training has been made accessible on-line which has enabled foster carers to access this in the evenings without needing childcare, this has significantly increased uptake;
- All members of the Placement and Support team receive regular and updated training in attachment based practice, including having received DDP level 1 training to help them better support foster carers;
- There is support in place for generic and kinship carers through the BASE psychology service which is well established and helps ensure that the emotional and psychological needs of children and young people who are looked after and care experienced young people are understood and met;
- The MyST (My Support Team) Services has been established in Monmouthshire and provides 24hr 7 day a week support to those caring for some of the children who are



looked after who have the highest level of need. This has enabled children to return/remain with family and/or foster placements from residential placements within Monmouthshire;

- The educational outcomes and achievements of children who are Looked After are reported on a cohort basis e.g. mainstream, Additional Learning Needs etc. The recently appointed Vulnerable Learners Lead Officer in Education will support this;
- The Families Together Team, in partnership with Barnardo's, has been established and is fully embedded, working with kinship carers to assess and support families to gain Special Guardianship Order's and promote their skills and confidence to reduce or eliminate the need for the local authority to share Parental Responsibility;
- Youth and Leisure services continue to provide extra curriculum activities to our Looked After Children and young people;
- Foster Wales Foster Monmouthshire has been launched as a Wales-wide and local brand, a Fostering Recruitment Officer has been employed and Fostering Recruitment and Retention task group is in place to support the recruitment and retention of Monmouthshire foster carers. The task group has been focussed on hyper-local campaigning which have so far increased initial expressions of interest with 6 moving to assessment;
- Regular consultation events are now being held to canvas the views of foster carers and respond to their ideas for how support and service delivery can be improved;
- Children Service Teams have developed Participation Action Plans for the involvement of children who are looked after and care experienced young people in decisions that affect them and in service delivery and improvement;
- A Placement Pressures group has been established, chaired by Children Service Senior Management, to review the support required for children who are at high risk of family or placement breakdown, avoid drift, ensure appropriate and robust care planning and promote placement stability;
- Investment in Life Journey Work means that children who are looked after and children who are being placed for adoption have access to high quality life journey work;
- Significant progress has been made in the provision and promotion of advocacy. Work has been done to ensure that the referral processes and pathways offer eligible children and young people easy access to this service and this has led to a significant increase in children and young people making use of advocacy service;
- UASC and young people have a dedicated support worker to assist in linking them into regional culturally appropriate services.



## Barriers and Challenges:

- The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has created numerous challenges for children and young people both in terms of their emotional wellbeing and their ability to access education;
- Recruitment and retention of social workers remains challenging and a high turnover of staff in the Long Term Support Teams means that some children have been without a dedicated social worker or have experienced multiple changes in social worker which makes it difficult for children to build trusting relationships;
- Communication between children's social workers and foster carers continues to require development and support. This has been amplified by the recruitment and retention issues which result in changes of social worker;
- The cost of living crisis is putting increased pressures on fostering families and their support networks;
- Whilst Foster Wales represents the Wales-wide brand for all Welsh local authority fostering teams, currently this brand is not well understood locally as being Monmouthshire CBC. In addition, since the last Corporate Parenting Strategy, the Placement And Support Team and Communications Team have worked closely together to run a series of successful hyper-local campaigns. With the introduction of Foster Wales Foster Monmouthshire all local authorities were encouraged to promote the Wales-wide brand to get this established. This has not been a successful strategy for Monmouthshire and together with other challenges, such as the pandemic, meant that 2020 – 2021 saw almost no recruitment of new in-house foster carers;
- We do not have sufficient Monmouthshire carers and remain overly reliant on independent foster agencies;
- Whilst there has been an increase in the number of care experienced young people remaining with their foster carers in 'When I'm Ready' placements, there is still a shortage of positive support and accommodation choices for care experienced young people;
- The Families Together Team (partnership with Barnardo's) continue to support Kinship Carers to achieve Special Guardianship Orders where appropriate, and assess families post statutory involvement for revocation of care order resulting in reduction of Children Looked After residing on a Placement with Parents order;
- Achievements of our Looked After children, young people and care leavers are not as well recognised or celebrated at a corporate level as we would want.



- The young people's participation group is not as well-developed as we would wish at this point. There is a desire to increase the support of and the link between Corporate Panel Members and members of the participation group.
- There is still work to do to ensure that all members understand their roles as Corporate Parents.

## The Changing Context

- The Welsh Government has a stated commitment to eliminate profit from the care of looked after children in the term of the Senydd (2027). This is aimed at the removal of all private foster and residential care from Wales – all Welsh Local Authorities are working within a destabilised market, with no certainty of what the final position will be;
- Although the numbers of Looked After Children has stabilised over the last 24 months, the number of children who are looked after remains above the Welsh average;
- Although the number of children subject to Placement with Parent orders are reducing, the numbers of Independent Fostering placements has increased slightly from 2021 to 2022. IFA'S currently are recruiting aggressively in Wales despite WAG Eliminate agenda. The financial discrepancy between IFA payments and Local Authority payments are a factor particularly in relation to cost of living crisis. Monmouthshire will need to develop the packages of support available to Foster Carers beyond payments alone in order to be effective in the recruitment market;
- There remains a strong drive at national level to increase the regional alignment of fostering services through the National Fostering Framework;
- The launch of Foster Wales has created a national fostering brand for all local authorities;
- The Welsh Government has launched the 2 year Basic Income Pilot (BIP) scheme for care experienced young people. From 1 July 2022 young people leaving care in Wales will be offered £1,600 each month (before tax) for 12 month to support them as they make the transition to adult life. Monmouthshire currently have 12 young people eligible for BIP and are actively feeding back to WAG

Terms of Reference and Membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel is below.




 Corporate  
Parenting Panel - Te

## How the strategy will be delivered, monitored and evaluated

The Corporate Parenting Strategy includes an action plan to support implementation of its aims and objectives. Where actions have been brought forward or amended from the previous action plan this is indicated. Measures have been put in place where possible, so that Corporate Panel members have an evidence base through which progress can be monitored. Implementation will be monitored and evaluated by the Corporate Parenting Panel on a 6-monthly basis. The Corporate Parenting Panel will present an annual report to Full Council on progress.

### Action Plan

No.	What will we do?	How will we do it?	Who is responsible	How will we measure progress?	Progress at review
1. Standing Action	Increase elected members understanding of their responsibilities as Corporate Parents	Induct all elected members Hold annual corporate parenting members' seminar Present annual report on Corporate Parenting to Full Council.	Lead Member for Children and Young People HoS	Elected members inducted Elected members attending corporate parenting seminar Dates of annual reports to council	This is a rolling action as newly elected members require induction. A new induction programme is required and annual corporate parenting seminar needs to be held.
2. Standing Action	Ensure that consideration of Corporate Parenting responsibilities remains high profile within the Council's Senior Leadership Team	Represent the rights of CLA and CEYP at SLT Annual reports	Chief Officer SCH	Dates of annual reports	Corporate Parenting responsibilities remain high priority within the Council's Senior Leadership Team
3. Standing Action	Celebrate the achievements of looked after children, care leavers and	Introduce programme of individual achievement awards Host an achievement event	Youth / Enterprise leads together with	Awards made Date of event	Progress to hold recognition events for CEYP, CLA and Foster Carers have been hampered by the Covid





	our foster carers.		Children's Services with the support of Corporate Parenting Panel and Foster Carer reps		pandemic. This action needs to be reviewed, revisited and an action plan created to take it forward. The importance of acknowledging the achievements of foster carers is recognised and will form part of the Fostering Strategy.
4. Standing Action	Ensure that children and young people in care and care leavers have a voice, are heard and can influence service development	Support the development of young people's participation group Implement CLA survey and respond to outcomes	Youth lead working with Team Manager, Long-Term Support	LTST Participation Action Plan.	Children Service Operational teams have developed Participation Action Plans. The Participation Group that was set up needs to be refreshed and relaunched following covid. This will form part of the LTST Participation Action Plan.
5. New Action	Ensure that children and young people are provided with information about their placement as part of placement moves	Create physical and digital booklets about our foster carers that can be shared with children prior to placement	Team Manager – PAST working with Team Manager LTST	Monitoring frequency	
6. Standing Action	Ensure that all Looked After Children and young people are offered advocacy through an 'active offer'	Promote the 'active offer' within social work teams and foster carers	HoS NYAS	# active offers # LAC / Care leavers involved in advocacy	This action is fully implemented
7. Standing Action	Make every effort to avoid unnecessary changes of placement.	Training, supervision and support for foster carers both 'practical' and 'psychological'. Ensure all foster carers are aware of the support available through BASE and MyST. Ensure good practice around matching processes. Ensure referrals to PAST are accurate including completing 'All About Me' Ensure 'Stable Lives, Brighter Futures' arrangements are fully complied with	Service Manager, Managed Care Service Manager Wellbeing and Family Support	# of unplanned placement moves / placement breakdowns	The Placement Pressures Group enables oversight of all vulnerable placements in order to promote children's wellbeing and placement stability. There has been a review of the Complex Care Panel which is being relaunched to ensure appropriate support is provided for children with complex needs.



8. New Action	Implement the Foster Carer's Charter	The Foster Carer's Charter represents a commitment on behalf of MCC	Service Manager Wellbeing and Family Support	Implementation plan in place Audit and monitoring of implementation Feedback from foster carers	
9. Standing Action (Amended)	Ensure appropriate support available to Special Guardians	Review of SGO policy and practice and implement new arrangements	Service Manager, Managed Care	# SGO support plans # SGO breakdowns and reasons	SGO policy and practice has been reviewed. The Families Together Team has been implemented which provides training, support, consultation and direct work with SGO families.
10. Standing Action	Ensure that adoption processes and adoption support is in place and working well	Ensure that operational link with SEWAS is working well	Service Manager, Managed Care working with SEWAS	SEWAS annual report including # of POs made and # of adoptions achieved	Increased numbers of Social Workers are trained in adoption and sitting on adoption panel. Children's Services Head of Services sits on the SEWAS management board. Increased numbers of children appropriately placed for adoption over the past 2 years as a result of a more robust process being in place and a clearer understanding of this.
11. Standing Action	Increase the number of CLA placements with Monmouthshire Foster Carers	Implement the objectives of the fostering project Development of the Fostering Strategy	Service Manager, Managed Care working with the fostering project board	# increase in placements with Monmouthshire carers Reduction in dependence on IFA carers	The number of Foster Carers has been steadily increasing since 2018. A Task Group focussed on hyper local campaigning has led to a recent increase in enquires which is translating through to applications and assessments.
12. Standing Action	Increase the options for support and accommodation for care leavers including 'When I am Ready' placements	Implementation of the CLA / commissioning strategy Where I am Safe Implement outcomes from the IPC review Complete Placement Commissioning Strategy for Monmouthshire Support CEYP as the Basic Income Pilot is rolled out.	Service Manager, Managed Care working with Lead Commissioner for CS	# Care Leavers experiencing period of homelessness or living in unsuitable accommodation	IPC review outcomes have been implemented. A joint housing scheme with Pobl Housing Association was opened in April 2022 to provide supported accommodation for care experienced young people. WIR placements are being provided for more young people and foster carers are routinely asked about providing WIR placements. MCC has a Placement Commissioning Strategy that is reviewed annually.

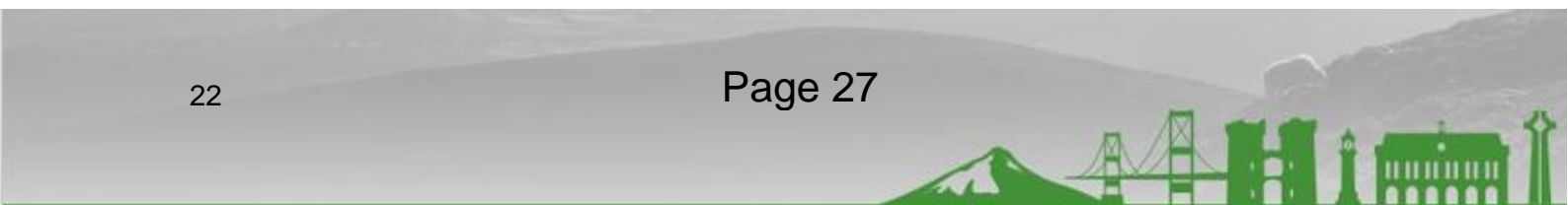


13. Standing Action	Ensure that all children who are looked after have a good understanding of their own "life-story" – why they live where they do and what the plans for their future are.	Ensure Support Workers, Social Workers and Foster Carers have skills and confidence in completing life-story work.	Service Manager, Managed Care	Via the SEWAS management Board data	Investment in workers and training in life journey work means that children have a better understanding of their own life-journey.
14. Standing Action	Narrow the gap of educational achievement between children who are looked after and their peers	Ensure that cluster bids are strategic and are focussed upon improving outcomes for CLA pupils. Report CLA outcomes on a cohort basis (e.g. mainstream, ALN, Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers and CLA in PRU) Ensure PEPs are completed within timescales; are of high quality and based on a multi-disciplinary approach	Inclusion Manager CYP  Social Services Service Manager	# (%) children reaching expected levels at key-stage Closing the gap between universal outcomes and CLA pupils at each key stage	There is currently a piece of work being completed by the Management Team within the LTST to quality assure the PEP's and ensure they are being completed yearly or if there has been a significant change.
15. Standing Action	Ensure that all CLA and CEYP are fully supported to engage in education, training or employment post-16	Ensure that Pathway Plans are implemented through a partnership approach	Enterprise Leads together with Team Manager Long-Term Support	# (%) of care leavers who are in education, training or employment	Pathway planning processes are being reviewed, however will remain committed to ensuring a collaborate and partnership approach.
16. Standing Action	Ensure the health needs of CLA and CEYP people are met	Undertake CLA health assessments Ensure that Health records and information travels with children moving placements or entering care	Lead Nurse for CLA ABUHB	81% (163) CLA health assessments were completed on time. Annual report	The health of children who are looked after is monitored through CLA reviews. Lack of NHS dentists has meant that CLA have not always had swift access to treatment and private dental care has, at times, been required.
17. Standing Action	Promote good emotional health and safe behaviours amongst all our CLA.	Support carers in meeting the emotional needs of CLA and young people Ensure CLA and young people have access to psychological and therapeutic support	Service Manager wellbeing and Family Support, Service Manager for Managed Care working with Family Support		The Risk Taking Young People's Protocol has been undated and implemented to provide a multi-agency approach when working with vulnerable young people. BASE provides psychological and therapeutic support to foster carers, CLA and CEYP



			services, BASE and MyST		The MyST service was opened in May 2019 and the provides support to children with significant mental and emotional health needs who engage in challenging, risk-taking behaviours and who are at risk of being placed in out-of-area residential care because of this
18. Standing Action	Ensure that all CLA and CEYP have access to a full range of 'extra-curricula' activities	Support carers and young people to access activities and events as identified based on understanding of children / young people's interests and potential	Service Manager, Managed Care working with youth, enterprise and leisure leads and schools	# CLA / CEYP participating in clubs and events	Regular event days for children who are looked after are set up in conjunction with Monlife to enable children and young people to meet up and spend the day together engaging in indoor and outdoor activities.
19. New Action	Ensure that foster carers receive the support and recognition they need to provide stable, secure and high quality placements to children who are looked after.	<p>Fostering Strategy</p> <p>Implement the proposed out of hours support line for foster carers.</p> <p>Review the core offer to foster carers to ensure it matches other fostering teams across Gwent.</p> <p>Actively seek additional benefits for foster carers including the Blue Light Card, free or discounted leisure passes, discounting council tax.</p> <p>Utilise the strengths in the social capital of Monmouthshire by actively seeking community support for foster carers.</p> <p>Run regular consultation events with foster carers to enable them to have their voices heard with regard to their support and training needs, service delivery and improvement.</p> <p>Promote attendance at support groups and ensure BASE, MyST and other relevant individuals attend on a regular basis.</p>	Service Manager, Wellbeing and family support	<p>Implementation of support line</p> <p># calls</p> <p>Review of regional core offer to identify opportunities to develop local offer.</p> <p>Council to consider opportunities to develop and improve the local offer.</p> <p>Work with Comms team to maximise opportunities to leverage social capital for the benefit of foster carers.</p> <p># of consultation events</p> <p>Action taken as a result of feedback.</p> <p>Improvement in feedback</p> <p>Monitor attendance.</p>	





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# Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

<p><b>Name of the Officer</b> completing the evaluation Diane Corrister</p> <p><b>Phone no:</b> 07970108675 <b>E-mail:</b> dianecorrister@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</b></p> <p>Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out responsibility of the council against the entitlement children and young people Looked After or Care Experienced. It measures the progress against the CP Strategy 2018-22 and sets out the agenda for the period 22-25</p>
<p><b>Name of Service area</b></p> <p>Health and Social Care - Children's Services</p>	<p><b>Date</b> 5/4/23</p>

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**Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics	None	n/a

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Disability	This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics	None	n/a
Gender reassignment	<i>.Consider the provision of inclusive services for Transgender people and groups. Also consider what issues there are for employment and training</i> This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics	None	n/a
Marriage or civil partnership	N/A		
Pregnancy or maternity	=This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics		



Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Race	This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics	None	N/A
Religion or Belief	This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics	None	N/a
Sex	This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics	None	n/a
Sexual Orientation	This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics	None	n/a

## 2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<b>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</b>	This strategy covers and includes children from birth to age 25 who are Looked After and or Care Experienced within the values of the Council and within the spirit of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2025 which includes any other form of protected charecteristics	<i>None</i>	n/a

### 3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
<b>Policy Making</b>  Effects on the use of the Welsh language,  Promoting Welsh language  Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	More than Words strategy delivers our responsibility for the Welsh Language		n/a
<b>Operational</b>  Recruitment & Training of workforce	All posts generated would be advertised in Welsh.		This strategy will be supported by an active management plan and HR and Communications support will be requested
<b>Service delivery</b>  Use of Welsh language in service delivery  Promoting use of the language	Choice and Use of first language is facilitated and offered as part of all child and carer intervention		Accredited Interpretation services are available



**4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!




Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	This strategy aims to support care experienced young people to access appropriate care, support, education, training and opportunities in order to positively contribute to their communities and to the prosperity of Wales	n/a
<b>A resilient Wales</b> Maintain and enhance biodiversity and land, river and coastal ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	n/a	
<b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	This strategy supports the development of appropriate care and therapeutic support to enhance care experienced young people's physical and mental wellbeing	BASE Therapeutic Services assist in the support of children Looked After
<b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	This strategy supports the development and integration of children looked after into their communities	
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	n/a	
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	All young people Looked After in Monmouthshire are supported in their heritage, culture and language as in the principles of the Social Service and Wellbeing Act	

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Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	A more equal Wales is at the heart of this strategy	

**5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?**

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	This strategy demonstrates the ongoing journey undertaken to meet the corporate responsibility as well as meet the developing needs of Children Looked after and Care Experienced young people. It sets the goals for the next 3 years and is a stepping stone within a long term journey in the development of services	n/a
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014, which came into force on the 6 <sup>th</sup> of April 2016, is the legislative underpinning for changes in the way that local authorities and their partners work with individual families. The structure aims to support effective partnership working within and outside the council so we are well positioned to play a leading role in regional collaborations. We will continue to develop working arrangements with partners to ensure that we are achieving the best outcomes for children and families within Monmouthshire.	n/

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p data-bbox="141 480 297 507"><b>Involvement</b></p> <p data-bbox="349 256 517 440">Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p data-bbox="544 256 1328 355">All stakeholders involved have been part of a wider consultations and this will be ongoing consultation to shape the development of the action plan and understand the journey so far</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 256 1395 284">n/a</p>
 <p data-bbox="141 759 297 786"><b>Prevention</b></p> <p data-bbox="349 520 517 818">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="544 520 1328 643">The strategy is at the heart of meeting need, developing services in to mitigate risk and strengthen services to build a stepping stone approach to ensure good foundations to build on</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 520 2089 643">Finalising of Foster Recruitment Strategy due Jan 2023. Consideration of Council regarding the Local Authority offer to Foster Carers to include non direct financial benefits i.e. leisure passes, council tax rebate</p>
 <p data-bbox="141 1098 297 1125"><b>Integration</b></p> <p data-bbox="349 858 517 1121">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="544 858 1328 1058">This will support the ways we work with young people and carers to help them revisit their Children's changing and developing needs, risks, and to meet their children's needs for sustainable and lifetime support. It will help young people to develop their friendships, learning, and community activities locally, all of which promote cohesive communities.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 858 1395 885">n/a</p>

**6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?**

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Safeguarding	All children are viewed through the lens of both corporate and child protection safeguarding responsibilities and legislation -this strategy has safeguarding of children at it's heart	.	Independent advocacy services as well as an Independent Reviewing Officers are key to ensuring that children have the opportunity to have their voice heard
Corporate Parenting	This is a Corporate Parenting Strategy which details the responsibility of the council- and councillors in meeting their Corporate parent responsibility	n/a	n/a

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**7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

This will include your baseline position, measures and studies that have informed your thinking and the recommendation you are making. It should allow you to identify whether any changes resulting from the implementation of the recommendation have had a positive or negative effect. Data sources include for example:

- Quantitative data - data that provides numerical information, e.g. population figures, number of users/non-users
- Qualitative data – data that furnishes evidence of people’s perception/views of the service/policy, e.g. analysis of complaints, outcomes of focus groups, surveys
- Local population data including the census figures
- Household survey data
- Service User Data e.g. from My Monmouthshire, FLO, PLANT, Mayrise, ONE etc
- Evidence and data from Monmouthshire’s Well-being Assessment
- Recommendations from Scrutiny or following consultation
- Comparisons with similar policies in other authorities
- Academic publications, research reports, consultants’ reports, and reports on any consultation with e.g. trade unions or the voluntary and community sectors

Equalities dashboard link. [Equality data dashboard for EQIA's 2020.xlsx](#) The evidence and data that has informed this report is:

- 1.The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

2. Welsh Government Eliminate Agenda
3. Protection of Employment Policy
4. Financial data – Agresso
5. Service data – PLANT
6. Detailed employee consultation within both Children’s services, Corporate Parenting Panel, Foster Carers , Children Looked After and Care Experienced young people

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**SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?**

*This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template*

**9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.**

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Continue to review and evaluate the progress via reviews of the Fostering strategy Action Plane, placement budget, outcomes for young people and development of inhouse provision of placements	quarterly	Diane Corrister




**10. VERSION CONTROL:** The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Decision making stage</b>	<b>Date considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following consideration</b>
	<i>e.g. budget mandate, DMT, SLT, Scrutiny, Cabinetetc</i>		

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## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

People Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
18 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	<b>Corporate Parenting Strategy</b>	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the Corporate Parenting Strategy.	Jane Rodgers	Pre-decision Scrutiny
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	<b>Scrutiny of the Outcome of the Review into My Day My Life</b>	To scrutinise the findings of the review and the feedback from the consultation process in making recommendations to the Cabinet.	Councillor Tudor Thomas Jane Rodgers	Policy Development
18 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	<b>Respite Provision for adults with learning disabilities</b>	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on proposals relating to Respite Provision.	Jane Rodgers	Pre-decision Scrutiny
	<b>Planning and Provision of School Places</b>	To scrutinise data and projections for pupil places and the impact of future housing development.	Will Mclean	Policy Development
<b>To be Confirmed</b>	<b>Gypsy and Travellers Needs Assessment</b>	To be Confirmed	Ian Bakewell Stephen Griffiths	Scrutiny Workshop
5 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	<b>Rapid Housing Transition Plan Delivery</b>	To scrutinise the implementation of the plan, the role of partners, other Council and Registered Social Landlords.	Ian Bakewell Rebecca Cresswell	Policy Delivery
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	<b>Safeguarding Performance Report</b>	To scrutinise the performance of the service area.	Jane Rodgers	Performance Monitoring

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022-23

People Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
<b>Joint Scrutiny with Performance and Overview</b>	<b>Chief Officer for Social Care and Health: Annual Report</b>	To conduct pre-decision scrutiny on the report and scrutinise the performance of the service area.	Jane Rodgers	Pre-decision Scrutiny/Performance Monitoring
<b>19<sup>th</sup> December 2023</b>				
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024</b>	<b>Scrutiny of the Budget Proposals</b>	Scrutiny of the budget mandates relating to the committee's remit.	Peter Davies Jonathon Davies Councillor Garrick	Budget Scrutiny
<b>5<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>				
<b>16<sup>th</sup> April 2024</b>				

## People Scrutiny Committee

### Action List

28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

<b>Minute Item:</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Officer / Member</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
7	Circulate a staff structure highlighting the new posts following the meeting together with what is funded directly and also via Welsh Government	Ian Bakewell	
7	Confirm that the number of empty houses in Monmouthshire is 400	Ian Bakewell	There are approximately 400 empty second homes in Monmouthshire.
7	Alter the housing stock data on p19 to show Caldicot	Ian Bakewell	

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Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	Responsible Cabinet Member	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner
Council	01-Jul-25	RLDP for Adoption	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the RLDP following receipt of the Inspector's report, making it the County's Development Plan as defined by S38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22
Council	01-Sep-24	RLDP submission for examination	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the submission of the Deposit RLDP to the Welsh Government for examination by an independent Inspector. By agreeing, Council will be saying it wants this document to be the adopted RLDP for Monmouthshire.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	23-Aug-22
Council	18-Apr-24	RLDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the Deposit RLDP for public consultation and engagement.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	5-Jan-23
ICMD	17-Apr-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4 held on 7th March 2024	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
Cabinet	10-Apr-24	Adoption of Abergavenny Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Abergavenny Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Abergavenny Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-24	Adoption of Magor Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Magor with Undy Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Magor with Undy Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-24	Adoption of Monmouth Placemaking Plan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Monmouth Placemaking Plan, co-produced with Monmouth Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-24	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 9			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	10-Jan-24	Monmouthshire Destination Management Plan			Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22
ICMD	03-Jan-24	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3 held on 7th December 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23

Cabinet	13-Dec-23	Local Flood Strategy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Flood Strategy Plan	Mark Hand / Ross Price	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	08-Nov-23	Pavement Café Policy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the pavement café policy as the basis for making decisions on applications for licences	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	08-Nov-23	Road Safety Strategy	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Road Safety Strategy	Mark Hand / Paul Keeble	4-Oct-22
Council	26-Oct-23	Appointment of Monmouthshire Local Access Forum		To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for its next 3 year period.	Matthew Lewis	18-Jan-23
ICMD	25-Oct-23	LDP Annual Monitoring Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the LDP Annual Monitoring Report for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	16-Jan-23
ICMD	25-Oct-23	Planning Annual Performance Report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the Planning Department Annual Performance Report for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	16-Jan-23
Council	23-Oct-23	Appointment of Monmouthshire Local Access Forum		To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum for its next 3 year period.	Matthew Lewis	18-Jan-23
ICMD	11-Oct-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2 held on 14th September 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	30-Mar-23
Cabinet	06-Sep-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling school in Monmouth		Cabinet to consider objection report and make final determination on how to proceed.	Debbie Graves	27-Mar-23
ICMD	02-Aug-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 22nd June 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	27-Jul-23	Adoption of Transforming Chepstow Masterplan	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the Transforming Chepstow Masterplan, co-produced with Chepstow Town Council, to inform future regeneration priorities and grant bids	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22



Cabinet	27-Jul-23	The Review of Respite Services For People With Learning Disabilities			Ceri York	14-Mar-23
Council	20-Jul-23	Economic Development Strategy		REFRESHING THE MONMOUTHSHIRE BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTERPRISE STRATEGY and action plan in setting the economic ambition for the county and providing a strategic framework that guides future economic	Hannah Jones	9-Jan-23
Council	20-Jul-23	RLDP Preferred Strategy consultation report	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To endorse the RLDP Preferred Strategy including any proposed changes arising from the public consultation.	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	3-Oct-22
ICMD	12-Jul-23	transfer the school balances for both Deri View and King Henry VIII School to the new King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School.	Rachel Garrick - Resources	Both King Henry VIII School and Deri View Primary school are closing on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 and the new King Henry VIII 3 – 19 School will open on 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2023, under a statutory closure of schools the financial balances transfer to the Local Authority,	Nikki Wellington	4-Apr-23
ICMD	12-Jul-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 11	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - parking/waiting restrictions at Justins Hill and Wyesham Avenue, Wyesham; Main Road and Castle Way, Portskewett; Loading Restriction, DYLS	Mark Hand	28-Mar-23
Cabinet	05-Jul-23	The Review of My Day My Life			Ceri York	14-Mar-23
ICMD	28-Jun-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 10	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - Exception Orders to identify those restricted roads that will remain 30mph in September 2023 instead of defaulting to 20mph	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
Council	22-Jun-23	Standards Committee Annual Report		This report is the first annual report from the Standards Committee to Council as required by the change in law set out in the Local Government and Elections Act 2021. It has to report on the discharge of the Committee's	Matt Phillips	10-Oct-22
Council	22-Jun-23	Gwent Public Services Board Well-being plan		To approve the Public Services Board's Well-being Plan that sets out the steps being taken collaboratively by public services to improve wellbeing in Gwent ahead of approval by the Gwent Public Services Board.	Richard Jones	20-Jan-23
Council	22-Jun-23	Chief Officer Children and Young People's Report 2023			Will McLean	14-Feb-23
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring - Month 12			Jon Davies	

Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Local Transport Plan	Catrin Maby	To adopt the Local Transport Plan	Debra Hill-Howells / Christian Schmidt	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Transforming Towns Strategic Grant regeneration priorities and LUF3 bid	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree the priority projects for bids for WG Strategic grant funding to 24/25 and the submission for round 3 of Levelling Up Funding	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	3-Oct-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	RESERVATION OF GRAVE PLOTS IN LLANFOIST CEMETERY		To seek cabinet approval to cease the provision of reserving grave spaces (not incl cremated remains plots) in Llanfoist Cemetery	Rhian Jackson	7-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Respite Opportunities for People with Learning Disabilities	Tudor Thomas - Social Care & Safeguarding	To provide an overview of the Review of Respite Services for people with learning disabilities and seek approval for implementation of the report's recommendations	Ceri York	9-Dec-22
Cabinet	07-Jun-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh medium seedling school in Monmouth		Cabinet to consider the results of the consultation, recommendations and decide whether to publish statutory notices.	Debbie Graves	27-Mar-23
Council	18-May-23	Political Balance Report		The Council is required to review at, or as soon as practicable after, the Council's annual meeting, the representation of different political groups on the bodies to which the Council makes appointments.	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Outside Bodies Report		To appoint representatives to serve on outside	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Appointments to Committees		To appoint committees together with their membership and terms of reference in accordance with the Council's Constitution.	Nicola Perry	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Constitution update		For the Monitoring Officer to bring proposed amendments and highlight changes made over the previous 12 months	Matt Phillips	2-Feb-23
Council	18-May-23	Corporate Parenting Strategy			Diane Corrister	24-Aug-22
ICMD	10-May-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 9	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Llantrisant 20mph village lane, 40mph through road, possibly Llantrisant (Usk to Wentwood) 50mph; 20mph Gilwern and surrounding villages	Mark Hand	3-Oct-22

Cabinet	03-May-23	Monnow Street public realm improvements	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To agree how we proceed with proposals for Monnow Street public realm following consultation	Mark Hand / Dan Fordham	6-Mar-23
Cabinet	03-May-23	Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	Rachel Garrick - Resources	To endorse the Socially Responsible Procurement Strategy	Scott James	22-Aug-22
Council	20-Apr-23	Motion for the Rivers and Oceans update		Deferred - new date to be advised	Hazel Clatworthy	10-Jan-23
Council	20-Apr-23	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek approval of a new Community and Corporate Plan that sets the direction for the council and county of Monmouthshire, articulating the authority's purpose and priorities alongside the steps we will take to deliver these, the	Matt Gatehouse	6-Feb-23
ICMD	12-Apr-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4 held on 9th March 2023	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	05-Apr-23	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To agree a plan to transition the delivery of homelessness that minimises the use of and the time homeless applicants spend in temporary accommodation	Rebecca Cresswell / Ian Bakewell	24-Jan-23
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Non Domestic Rates application for Hardship Relief - RESTRICTED	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Ruth Donovan	
ICMD	22-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Monmouth Road, Raglan no right turn onto A40; resi permit parking at Exmouth Place, Chepstow and Ross Road, Abergavenny; 3T weight restriction on Old Wye Bridge Chepstow; waiting	Mark Hand	
Council	09-Mar-23	Pay Policy		To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act."	Sally Thomas	1-Feb-23
Council	09-Mar-23	Council Tax Premiums			Peter Davies	18-Jan-23
Council	09-Mar-23	Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy			Jon Davies	17-May-22

Council	09-Mar-23	Youth Council			Jade Atkins	7-Dec-22
ICMD	08-Mar-23	Proposed amendment to primary school catchment area – Llandenny Village	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Debbie Graves	10-Jan-23
ICMD	08-Mar-23	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 8 DEFERRED TO 22 MARCH	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order - including Monmouth Road, Raglan no right turn onto A40; resi permit parking at Exmouth Place, Chepstow and Ross Road, Abergavenny; 3T weight restriction on Old Wye Bridge Chepstow; waiting	Mark Hand	
Council	02-Mar-23	Final Budget Sign Off including Council Tax Resolution			Jon Davies	
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	2023/4 WCF/Trust Treasury Fund Investments			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Month 9 budget monitoring report			Jon Davies	6-Feb-23
Cabinet	01-Mar-23	Monmouthshire ECO Flex 'Joint Statement of Intent' and Memorandum of Understanding"			Steve Griffiths	16-Nov-22
Cabinet	01-Feb-23	Tudor Street				9-Jan-23
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 7	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	15-Dec-22
ICMD	25-Jan-23	Community Council and Police Precepts - final	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Jon Davies	17-May-22

Council	19-Jan-23	To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny		To determine the name for the new 3-19 School in Abergavenny	Cath Saunders	28-Nov-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Diary		To confirm the Council Diary 23/24	John Pearson	14-Dec-22
Council	19-Jan-23	Appointments		A report for Council to appoint or ratify a number of appointments to bodies and positions	Matt Phillips	
Council	19-Jan-23	Community and Corporate Plan				
Council	19-Jan-23	Tudor Road Call-In			Nicola Perry	3-Jan-23
Council	19-Jan-23	Council Tax Reduction Scheme			Ruth Donovan	31-May-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Garden Waste			Carl Touhig	21-Dec-22
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Draft Revenue & Capital Proposals			Jon Davies	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Council Tax Premiums Consultation - Long Term Empty Properties and Second Homes			Ruth Donovan	
Cabinet	18-Jan-23	Proposal to establish a Welsh Medium Seedling school in Monmouth		To seek cabinet approval to commence statutory consultation processes to establish a Welsh Medium seedling provision in Monmouth.	Debbie Graves	23-Sep-22
ICMD	11-Jan-23	Clydach Ironworks Enhancement	Sara Burch - Inclusive and Active Communities	To seek approval for the transfer of land associated with the Clydach Ironworks Enhancement Scheme	Matthew Lewis	8-Dec-23

ICMD	11-Jan-23	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
ICMD	14-Dec-22	Council Tax Base report			Ruth Donovan	31-May-22
ICMD	14-Dec-22	2023/4 Community Council & Police Precepts - draft			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	Regional Integration Fund		To consider the financial liabilities and implications of the Regional Integration Fund and	Jane Rodgers	21-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	National Adoption Services and Foster Wales Joint Committee			Jane Rodgers	9-Nov-22
Cabinet	07-Dec-22	2022/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 6			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Council	01-Dec-22	Corporate Safeguarding Policy.		For Council to endorse the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy.	Jane Rodgers	10-Nov-22
Council	01-Dec-22	Governance & Audit Committee Annual Report 2021/22			Andrew Wathan	18-Oct-22
Council	01-Dec-22	RLDP Preferred Strategy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To seek Council endorsement of the new Preferred Strategy for eight week consultation	Mark Hand / Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	<b>TUDOR STREET</b>		To seek a decision regarding the Council's forward use of the property located in Tudor Street ahead of the outcome of the consultation of Mr. Dan M. Life	Jane Rodgers	14-Nov-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Govilon Section 106 Funding for Recreation & Play	Rachel Garrick - Resources		Mike Moran	8-Nov-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 5	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Hand	3-Oct-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Planning Annual Performance Report (APR) Deferred to 30-Nov-22	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Mark Hand Phil Thomas	3-Oct-22
ICMD	30-Nov-22	Highways Traffic Regulation Amendment Order 6	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Agreement to make the traffic order	Mark Hand	23-Aug-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Implementing Sharepoint online		To secure funding to implement the project	Sian Hayward	13-Oct-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	A County of Sanctuary		To set out the reasons why an earlier decision is required due to time restrictions associated with TAN 15.	Matt Gatehouse	20-Sep-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	SPF Update Report			Hannah Jones	12-Sep-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	09-Nov-22	MonLife Heritage Strategy (or ICMD)		DEFERRED	Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22

Council	27-Oct-22	RESPONSE TO URGENT NEED FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION		To present a proposal to enable Council to respond flexibly and promptly to the urgent need for housing accommodation to address the	Cath Fallon	10-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek endorsement of the new Community and Corporate Plan setting out the purpose, values	Matt Gatehouse / Paul Matthews	3-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Outside Bodies Appointment			John Pearson	3-Oct-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Annual Safeguarding Report			Kelly Turner	24-Aug-22
Council	27-Oct-22	Social Care & Health: Directors Report 2021/22			Jane Rodgers	6-Jul-22
ICMD	26-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group			Dave Jarrett	14/7/22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	PSOW annual letter		Present the Public Services Ombudsman For Wales' annual report as required by the letter	Matt Phillips	28-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Regional Partnership Board - Gwent Market Position Statement		To provide a Market Stability Report produced by the Regional Partnership Board setting out a high	Phil Diamond Head of Regional Partnership Team	22-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Community and Corporate Plan		To seek endorsement of the new Community and Corporate Plan setting out the purpose, values	Gatehouse / Paul Matt	20-Sep-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	22/23 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - Month 4			Jon Davies	17-May-22
Cabinet	19-Oct-22	Land adjacent to Caldicot Comprehensive School - Housing Development Opportunity		To seek approval of the disposal of land at Caldicot Comprehensive School for the	Nick Keyse	
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Local Development Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)		<b>DEFERRED TO 26 OCT</b>	Rachel Lewis/Cllr Paul Griffiths	23/08/22
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group		<b>DEFERRED TO 26 OCT</b>	Dave Jarrett	14/07/22
ICMD	12-Oct-22	Ending Library Fines		enabling more people to enjoy reading without the worry of incurring a fine if they are unable to return	Cheryl Haskell/Fookes?	20-Sep-22
ICMD	28-Sep-22	Transport Policy			Deb Hill Howells - MG	22-Aug-22
ICMD	28-Sep-22	B4245 speed limit		DEFERRED TO 26 OCT	Mark Hand	18-Jul-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Tackling poverty and inequalities			Nick John	24-Aug-22
Council	27-Sep-22	RLDP Options Report			Rachel Lewis	25-Jul-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Rivers and Ocean			Hazel Clatworthy	9-Jun-22
Council	27-Sep-22	Monmouthshire County Council self - assessment report 2021/2			Richard Jones	23-May-22
ICMD	14-Sep-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 2 held on 21st July 2022 (no meeting/no report -			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	07-Sep-22	Transport Policy Consultation Update.			Deb Hill Howells	22-Aug-22
Cabinet	07-Sep-22	Cost Of Living			Matt Phillips	25-Jul-22
ICMD	31-Aug-22	MY DAY, MY LIFE SERVICE EVALUTATION			Ceri York	15-Aug-22
ICMD	31-Aug-22	Homeseach Policy & Procedure - Amendments & Welsh Translation Requirement			Ian Bakewell	
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Additional Resources in Educations Strategy		Resources required to develop and maintain schools education systems and the implementatin	Sian Hayward	14-Jun-22

ICMD	03-Aug-22	Designation of Secondary Catchment Areas			Matthew Jones	6-Jun-22
ICMD	03-Aug-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 23rd June 2022 - <b>Moved to ICMD 3rd Aug 2022</b>			Dave Jarrett	
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Wye Valley Villages Future Improvement Plan			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Regen Three Year Programme			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Review of Chepstow High Street closure			Mark Hand	1-Jul-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Home to School Transport Policy 2023-24.			Deb Hill Howells	27-Jun-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	MUCH (Magor & Undy Community Hall) report			Nick Keys	9-Jun-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Shared Prosperity Fund Local Investment Plan and Regional Lead Authority Arrangements			Hannah Jones	23-May-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 23rd June 2022 - <b>Moved to ICMD 3rd Aug 2022</b>			Dave Jarrett	17-May-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring outturn			Peter Davies/Jon Davies	17-Feb-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 22/23			Matthew Lewis	10-Feb-22
Cabinet	27-Jul-22	Housing Support Programme Strategy (Homeless Strategy)			Ian Bakewell	



## Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Tuesday, 28th February, 2023 at 10.00 am

### Councillors Present

County Councillor Sue Riley (Chairman)  
County Councillor John Crook, (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: Rachel Buckler,  
Christopher Edwards, Jayne McKenna,  
Maureen Powell, Maria Stevens and  
Jackie Strong

### Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager  
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer  
Ian Bakewell, Housing & Regeneration Manager  
Rebecca Creswell, Homeless Project Officer

**APOLOGIES:** County Councillor David Jones

### 5. Declarations of Interest

None.

### 6. Public Open Forum

No submissions were received.

### 7. Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan

The Housing Team presented their 5-year plan to prevent homelessness, increase accommodation and provide focussed support to people. Officers gave a presentation which provided detailed explanation of how the team plan to deliver the plan.

#### **Challenge:**

*In your presentation, there seemed to be reference to an increase in the number of homeless males. Is this trend related to a particular age group?*

Housing Team: We are seeing generally younger single men who aren't necessarily working, but there are mixed reasons why people enter the system. The legalisation changed during pandemic requiring us to house everybody, so this is the reason for the increase in single males now being accommodated, alongside everyone else under public health responsibilities.

*I notice that you referred to a client centred approach, but I can't see any consultation having taken place with service users, which should be the central part of any plan. Please*

*can you explain how we anticipate service users' views will influence the plan and whether any of this data will be included prior to Cabinet adopting the plan?*

Housing Team: The reason client views weren't part of the drafting was due to some staff sickness. We have done previous client surveys on the application process and accommodation needs, so we did have some views to base the plan on. We may not have enough to factor in ahead of Cabinet but it's very much a live document. We are currently undertaking a review of service users, so we will be using that information and we actually have found benefits of doing it this way as we are asking better questions of service users and therefore the input they will have will be more useful going forward.

*I didn't see a great emphasis on empty homes in the report. I take on board that solving homelessness is a bigger issue than simply housing stock, but what are we doing to encourage bringing empty homes back into housing stock? Are there grants to encourage them, given that the average house price is £352k in Monmouthshire?*

Housing Team: This is a point well made. There is empty homes activity undertaken bi-annually where we contact owners of empty properties, but we are also as part of our staffing restructure moving empty homes into the Monmouthshire Lettings Team and we are looking to bring in another Senior Accommodation Officer which will give it additional resource. We have loans that people can apply for up to £25k if they sign up to a long lease and there is a new recently established national empty homes scheme administered by Rhondda Cynon Taff Council on behalf of Welsh Government, with a £25k grant available. Recently established and we have received 2 applications already. You may also be aware that the Council is considering the empty homes tax premium. There are a lot of empty properties, but the vast majority are in good condition and are not a problem in the community and are delayed due to probate and other legitimate reasons.

Cabinet Member for Housing: The administration is putting in more resource and attention to empty homes through the proposed increased council tax on second homes, using the powers that the Council has to compulsory purchase properties if all else fails.

*Have the figures changed significantly since the report was drafted and are trends changing? Just in the last few months, we have seen such a changing dynamic with increased energy prices, the cost of living and food prices due to global events, so have these figures been stress-tested and do they take into account changing trends over the last 12 months?*

There are some unknowns with the current position over the longer term. The number of people coming through our door hasn't significantly changed since before the pandemic, but the main change is the number of people who are needing accommodation, so we are bracing ourselves for the impact of the cost of living, such as rent arrears, mortgage areas due to increased inflation. That said, we are better resourced as a team than previously and will have a First Contact Officer who will receive applications coming through, freeing up the Housing Options Officers to do the higher value prevention work and also we have a Homelessness Prevention Officers whose role it is to get out and about and help people look for accommodation, so we are as well-placed as we could be. The figures for the first months of 2023 to today are 154 presentations, with 141 presenting in the same period in 2022 and 148 pre-covid during the same timeframe, so there is a slight increase, but it is fairly stable. It's more that the demographic of the people coming through and the urgency of the homelessness need that has changed, with more families presenting due to landlords selling up and moving back into their properties and larger families coming through the system with 5 or 6 children, which a newer dynamic, and also single males. In terms of whether we have stress tested the figures, we have a Welsh Government tool that enables us to enter our demand, the resources we have available and this helps us anticipate projections and this helps us plan more effectively.

*There are naturally cost implications to the council as part of the Council's new responsibilities around preventing homelessness and you have touched on recently recruited staff. Please can you expand on that, so residents understand the implications for Council tax. In addition, as the figures provided in the plan are retrospective, it would be helpful to understand the current position.*

I can circulate a staff structure highlighting the new posts following the meeting together with what is funded directly and also via Welsh Government. **(Action: Ian Bakewell).**

*Are caravans considered housing stock and are subject to Council tax?*

We are not allowed to use caravans for housing homeless people as the area size isn't considered big enough by Welsh Government. Shared accommodation such as night shelters is also not permissible.

*How many empty houses are there in Monmouthshire, given that not all of these will be available for housing people, as homes may be empty for various reasons.*

I believe the figure is around 400 but I can confirm this following the meeting (**Action: Ian Bakewell**). Whether it makes a difference bringing empty properties back into use for housing homeless people is interesting because in the case of most empty properties, the owners move back in, so the impact is probably limited.

*To enable private housing to be brought back into use to meet the letting requirements of Welsh Government, there may be enormous cost involved for older housing stock. What help is available for improving houses to meet the necessary requirements?*

We have packages now to help people if there are instances of disrepair in properties, but our Monmouthshire Lettings Service is the key support for landlords and we offer a range of support to both prospective tenants and landlords under this service and are always keen to seek more private landlords to join the service with dedicated staff.

*Have there been negative attitudes from the public to homeless people being housed, given the high numbers of people waiting on the housing list for social housing?*

This is highly relevant, as social housing needs are high, with several thousands of people on the waiting list for social housing, so it is difficult. We are very mindful that our own housing stock doesn't impact on the community so we are very careful about how we place people and how we manage any situations that may occur and we do sometimes have these problems. The housing of single males is not a case of prioritising single males over other groups of people, but prior to the pandemic, they weren't included in the duty to house, so that's the key change. Negativity from the public tends to occur with the use of direct lets, where an empty property has not been listed on the Homesearch, so we have included a section on the website to explain the use of direct lets.

*How does prevention work? How do you approach the underlying reasons why people become homeless?*

We have a Housing Support Service that works with people who are struggling within their tenancies, whether they are in rent arrears, are in private rented housing or are in mortgage arrears. We also commission third sector organisations to work with people, such as POBL, MIND, LLMAE, to try to prevent people becoming homeless. As a Council, we have a statutory duty to prevent homelessness within 56 days, but we work with people who are several months in advance of them anticipating becoming homeless. We can assist in various ways through numerous packages, such as maybe negotiating rent changes with landlords, financial packages for people who may be able to move into the private rented sector by providing a rent guarantee, assisting via bonds, or

providing extended rent in advance. For younger people, if the best option is for the young person to remain at home, we provide a family mediation service and ongoing support. So we have quite a proactive and innovative prevention team with excellent negotiation skills which helps negotiate with landlords to help people remain in a property until they can access social housing and Welsh Government help has assisted us greatly in doing that.

*I notice there's no Caldicot housing stock on page 19 in the report, but they may have been covered as Severnside? I'd like to know a bit more about Housing of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) in Caldicot and Monmouthshire as a whole.*

There is stock in Caldicot but it must be covered under Severnside, so we'll alter that.

**(Action: Ian Bakewell).** HMO's are an important part of our provision with approximately 90 units, so if we didn't have those, it would be a major loss of provision, but we accept there are more management challenges with HMO's, but we have had HMO's for about 7 years and are fairly experienced at managing them. We buy into Welsh Government's ideal portfolio of self-contained accommodation, rather than HMO's, but in the short to medium term, we need to continue with them. Some of the HMO'S we took on in the early days we would like to change/improve and do things differently but at the moment, the reliance on B&B means we are not able to do this.

Cabinet Member for Housing: We need to be mindful of national government welfare benefits via the Department for Work and Pensions, because these have not increased in line with the housing market, so even for the most modest house, the amount that can be claimed from the Department for Work and Pensions is much lower than is required for Welsh Government's ideal housing option.

I have several points to mention as opposed to questions, but in the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA), one of the cohorts mentioned in the report are ex-armed forces, so please can that be included in the IIA **(Action: Ian Bakewell)**. The Monmouthshire Lettings Service needs to be visible, but please can this be done in a sensitive way to avoid any stigmatisation.

*I welcome the expansion of your team. Are they patch based or across Monmouthshire?*

It's a bit of a mixture, the majority being in the accommodation sector, so some staff spend time in the B&B's where we didn't have a presence previously. As we have people coming through on a daily basis, we have two members of staff who provide an accommodation duty role, an increase from one, because it's a very difficult and intense role. The Housing Options Officer Team previously had around 30 cases each but now

have around 150 following the new duty and cases are quite time consuming as people are not moving on from the temporary accommodation, so we are bringing in a Senior Options Officer to support them.

*Have you had feedback from the people who have moved on?*

We do hold some events and we'd like to do more of this if we have the time as it's something we did before the pandemic when we had lower numbers. But when new staff are in place, it will be part of everyone's role.

*Are the hubs instrumental in picking up homelessness from a preventative point of view and do you work closely with them?*

We remodelled the team's delivery a few years prior to the pandemic, so contact for homelessness has become largely over the phone, but they are assisted in the hubs too and passed on to the Housing Team. So it can act as a point of contact, but the First Contact Officer role should free up the Housing Options Officers to go out and about more and meet people face to face, not just by the telephone.

*We seem to be providing high quality properties, but could we progress quicker with maybe a lower standard that still meets requirements?*

What we need to do is agree a standard of homelessness accommodation and it's something we haven't been able to do as yet, but it is important we agree an appropriate standard for Monmouthshire for consistency. We need to think about mobility standards, durability but also something someone can class as a home.

*Given the demography of the people presenting, what are the implications for Monmouthshire residents of not supporting people?*

Well you would be setting people up to fail and we wouldn't be meeting our responsibilities and the expectations of Welsh Government. The legislation underpins what we need to do and the older legislative requirements led us to question decisions around the service we were providing, so it has come on leaps and bounds since the pandemic. We previously met our duty but we didn't offer people second, third and fourth chances and it is completely different and we feel is a much more enhanced service to avoid rough sleeping and evictions.

*Is 'intentionally homeless' still a consideration?*

We do have people in accommodation who would be still classed as being intentionally homeless and that may affect their banding or position within Homesearch, but we still have to view them as a priority, recognising their needs are complex.

*Are there any local authorities who are considered as best practice?*

Scotland was referred to in the report as Welsh Government applied the Scottish approach to rapid rehousing. Whilst rapid rehousing came in first in Scotland, with some of our practices that have been in place over recent years, I feel they lag a little behind. We have similar staffing structures and officers liaise with each other regularly.

*How do we compare with other Gwent Councils in terms of key indicators?*

We have a lot of similarities with the issues others are facing. Others are struggling with the use of B&B accommodation, also, phosphate issues are a common. I feel we are more disadvantaged when it comes to the private rented sector, as rents in the county are very high. It's very difficult to make provision we provide subtle with our communities and towns being so small.

*Are Ukrainians included within the figures?*

Ukrainians can present as homeless and are included in the figures and we currently have 11 households presenting as homeless.

*Are there any plans to establish hostels, or plans to use empty pubs, halls etc?*

There are no plans to create any hostels. The focus is on supported housing schemes and we do see HMO's as being part of the landscape, but we don't class them as hostels and we try to acquire smaller ones. If there are buildings out there that can be repurposed, nothing is off the table in terms of repurposing them and we have regular discussions with the estates team.

### **Chairs Summary:**

We've undertaken thorough scrutiny today and there's clearly support from the Committee for the scheme. We would like to request you return in 9 months' time, and perhaps you may be able to discuss the homeless accommodation standards with us at that time.

## **8. People Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List**

The work programme and amendments were noted.

## **9. Cabinet and Council Work Planner**

The planner was noted.

## **10. To confirm the minutes of the following meetings:**

The minutes of the meetings held on the following dates were approved as an accurate record:

- 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 – Special Meeting

- 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Special Meeting

**11. Next Meeting: 18th April 2023**

The date and time of the next meeting was noted.

The meeting ended at **12.01 pm**