

# Public Document Pack



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

Friday, 3 October 2025

## Notice of meeting

### Public Services Scrutiny Committee

**Monday, 13th October, 2025 at 10.00 am,  
The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

***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>Select Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance</b>  Our Select 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>  If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Select Committees, you can submit your representation <a href="#">via this form</a>  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)  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.  The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three	

	<p>clear working days in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Select Committee meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Select Committees, please do so by emailing <a href="mailto:Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk">Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a></p>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>VAWDASV Regional Strategy - To assess how the regional arrangements under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 support the Council in delivering the Act's objectives.</b>	<b>1 - 6</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>To confirm the following minutes:</b>	
<b>5.1.</b>	<b>Public Services Scrutiny Committee dated 7th July 2025.</b>	<b>7 - 16</b>
<b>5.2.</b>	<b>Special Joint Meeting with People Scrutiny Committee dated 28th July 2025.</b>	<b>17 - 22</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Public Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List.</b>	<b>23 - 30</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Council and Cabinet Work Planner.</b>	<b>31 - 38</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Next Meeting: Tuesday 28th October 2025 at 10.00am (Special Meeting).</b>	

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive**

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY**

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Armand Watts	Bulwark and Thornwell;	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.

## **Public Speaking**

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 [website](#)

If you would like to speak under the Public Open Forum at an upcoming meeting you will need to give three working days' notice in advance of the meeting 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.

Alternatively, if you would like to submit a written, audio or video representation, please contact the team via the same email address to arrange this. The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting. If combined representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.

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)

# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

## Our purpose

To become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

## **Objectives we are working towards**

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced.
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency.
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop.
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in.
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued.
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential.

## 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.

**Kindness:** We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

### Role of the Pre-meeting

1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)
  2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve?
  3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?
- Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead
  - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member

### Questions for the Meeting

#### Scrutinising Performance

1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?
2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?
3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?
4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?
5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?
6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?
7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?
8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?

#### Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
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?
3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?
4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?
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?
6. Does the policy relate to an area where there are known inequalities?
7. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan? Does it adhere to our Welsh Language Standards?

	<p>8. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications</p> <p>9. been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?</p> <p>10.</p> <p>11. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?</p> <p>12.</p> <p>13. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated</p>
--	---

## 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:

- Investigate the issue in more detail?
- 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...

This page is intentionally left blank



**SUBJECT: Gwent Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Regional Arrangements**

**MEETING: Public Services Scrutiny Committee**

**DATE: 13<sup>th</sup> October 20205**

**DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All**

## **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide committee members with a progress report on regional arrangements under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015, focusing on how these arrangements support Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) in delivering the Act's objectives as a Relevant Authority.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The committee scrutinises the regional arrangements to ensure they are working effectively for the citizens of Monmouthshire and provides any feedback on the oversight and delivery mechanisms in place.

## **3. KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 The Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 establishes a legislative framework designed to strengthen the prevention of, and protection from, gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence, whilst also enhancing the provision of support for those affected.
- 3.2 This Act imposes a statutory obligation upon Relevant Authorities to actively reduce risk factors and minimise the impact of such forms of violence. In addition, the Act mandates the formulation of joint local strategies between Local Authorities and Health Boards, ensuring a coordinated and collaborative approach to tackling these critical issues.
- 3.3 In 2016/17, the Monmouthshire Public Services Board (PSB), alongside the four other PSBs in Gwent, resolved to adopt regional arrangements for addressing Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV). At that time, this was a pioneering pathfinder initiative, with the objective of ensuring equitable support services across Gwent, irrespective of postcode. This ambition was to be realised through the establishment of a regional strategy underpinned by robust partnership working and solid collaboration.
- 3.4 Following the publication of the revised National Strategy for VAWDASV by Welsh Government in 2022, Gwent has now developed a new regional VAWDASV Strategy (2023–2026). This strategy sets out a clear framework for partnership working and governance arrangements, designed to ensure the effective delivery of the updated objectives set by the national strategy.
- 3.5 **Gwent Strategy 2023 -2026**

The strategy for Gwent, consists of the following objectives and fundamentals:

## **Objectives:**

- **Prevention**  
Improve arrangements for the prevention of gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.
- **Protection**  
Enhance arrangements for the protection of victims of gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.
- **Support**  
Strengthen support for people affected by gender-based violence, domestic abuse, and sexual violence.
- **Strategic Alignment**  
Align local delivery with regional and national VAWDASV objectives through robust governance and partnership working.
- **Collaboration**  
Foster partnership working and collaboration to improve services for victims and survivors, pooling resources and expertise regionally.
- **Data, Needs Assessment, and Monitoring**  
Use shared data analysis and needs assessments to identify service gaps and target interventions more effectively.
- **Workforce Development**  
Support the workforce through training, learning, and development opportunities to ensure staff have the skills and knowledge to serve residents affected by VAWDASV.
- **Accountability and Continuous Improvement**  
Hold all partners accountable for their contributions, using thematic reviews, audits, and consultations to inform direction and improve services.

## **Fundamentals:**

- **Survivor-focused Approach:**  
The strategy is designed to ensure a consistent, survivor-focused, and evidence-informed approach to tackling VAWDASV locally and regionally.
- **Inclusive and Intersectional Service Delivery:**  
Services are designed to be accessible for all communities, including older victims and those with no recourse to public funds.
- **Governance and Accountability:**  
The Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board provides strategic leadership, sets priorities, and ensures accountability for regional strategy implementation.

- **Integration with Other Priorities:**

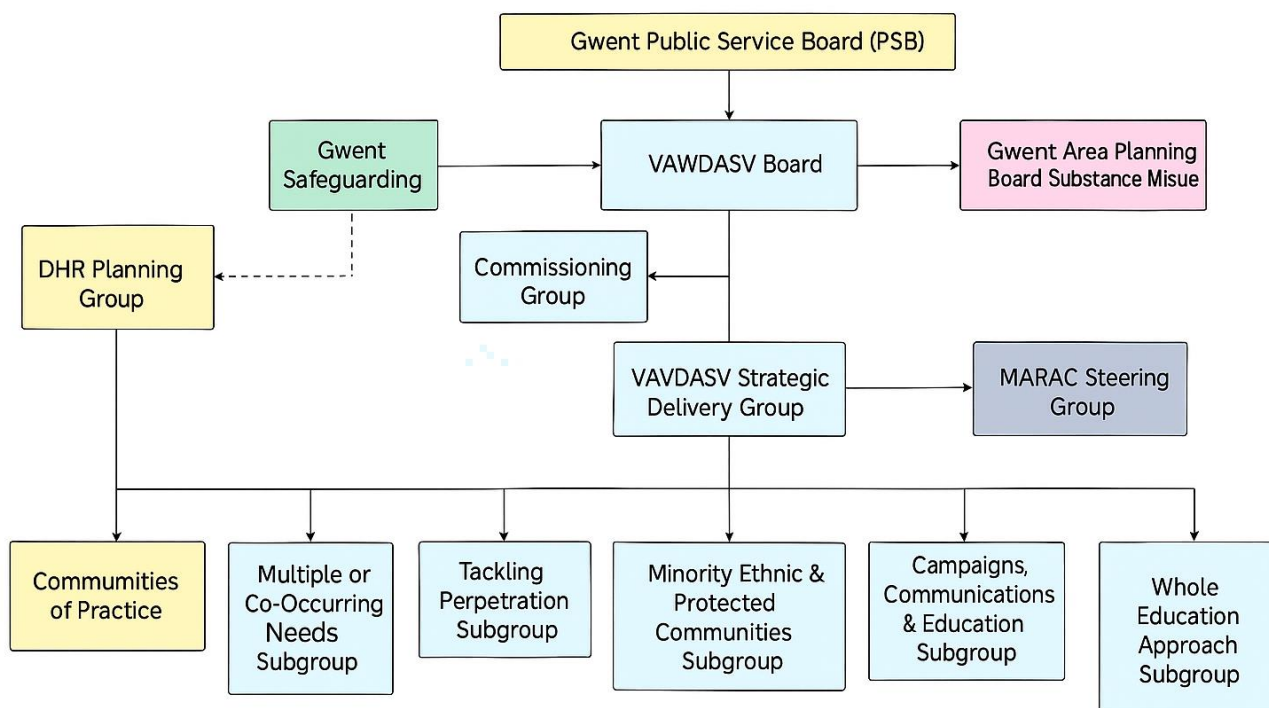
VAWDASV is embedded as ‘everybody’s business across public services, promoting integration with safeguarding, housing, and health.

3.6 The Gwent Strategic Delivery Group, reporting to the Gwent VAWDASV Board, coordinates the Strategy with members from Monmouthshire County Council, other Gwent local authorities, and partner organisations.

3.7 An extensive board and sub-group structure operates across Gwent to support the VAWDASV agenda, involving representatives from relevant authorities under the VAWDASV Wales Act as well as key partner organisations that contribute to addressing VAWDASV. Currently, there is no formalised mechanism for regional boards or sub-groups to share information or intelligence with the Monmouthshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP ~ Safer Monmouthshire Group); this situation is not unique to Monmouthshire. The existing process for information sharing relies on specific individuals, which limits resilience, concentrates responsibility, and poses risks to effective information dissemination. The VAWDASV Board has acknowledged this issue and is actively working to enhance information sharing processes with CSP’s collectively.

3.8 Gwent Board and subgroup structures:

#### Gwent Regional VAWDASV Governance and Reporting Structures



**NB:** There is also a regional subgroup for the National Training Framework for VAWDASV mandatory training, which has also not been included in the diagram above taken from the strategy.

## **4. Positive Achievements**

- 4.1 Monmouthshire County Council is an active member of the Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board, which aims to bring together a range of coordinated activities designed to align local service delivery with regional and national goals. Instead of a series of isolated efforts, the partnership is characterised by access to resources, funding from diverse streams, and the input of regional thematic subgroups. Such structures not only underpin sustainable models, like the regional Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service, but also provide local staff with opportunities for professional development.
- 4.2 Planning and action are shaped by a variety of needs assessments from across the region, which assist in highlighting service gaps and interventions, where they are needed most. The groundwork feeds directly into strategic plans, helping Monmouthshire fulfil its statutory responsibilities, under the Wales act, and set priorities that genuinely reflect the needs of local communities.
- 4.3 Education and prevention are key workstreams which are supported by the Welsh Government Spectrum programme, which brings lessons about healthy relationships and VAWDASV directly to children and young people in school settings. The regional approach ensures that these messages, and the services that support them, are inclusive and accessible to all.
- 4.4 Service provision is part of a broader, integrated system. The regional IDVA team, with a full-time adviser based in Monmouthshire and with the support of a larger network, has aided over 1,500 high-risk victims across Gwent in the past year, including many from Monmouthshire itself. Specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) services and practical support, like target hardening and transitional accommodation, further strengthen the safety net for those affected by domestic and sexual abuse.
- 4.5 Awareness-raising initiatives are ongoing and varied, ranging from the “Ask & Act” training delivered to authority and school staff, alongside tailored sessions for social care and housing professionals, and the in-school Spectrum programme, as well as supported campaigns such as White Ribbon Day. Webinars and community events also help to keep the conversations alive and responsive to emerging needs across the region.
- 4.6 The regional approach to VAWDASV is underpinned by a culture of collaboration. Multi-agency relationships, regular joint projects, and evidence-based pilots, such as the Older Persons Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment, demonstrate a shared commitment to innovation and learning. The Gwent VAWDASV Partnership Board guides this work, providing strategic leadership, monitoring progress, and ensuring that partnership working remains both robust and accountable.

## **5. Regional and Local Challenges**

- 5.1 Data collection and monitoring and measuring impact: The implementation of the Gwent VAWDASV Strategy 2023–2026 has encountered several notable challenges that impact the effectiveness and reach of services across the region. A primary challenge lies in data collection and performance monitoring. Significant difficulties persist in gathering comprehensive data and monitoring performance, which in turn makes it challenging to measure the overall impact of the strategy on a whole-system

basis. As a result, there is a continued reliance on thematic and agency-specific data sources, such as criminal justice dashboards and IDVA service reporting, rather than integrated, system-wide metrics.

- 5.2 Accessibility of services in rural areas also remains a concern. At a local level, the rural nature of Monmouthshire presents unique barriers to accessing public services, particularly for victims residing in remote locations. This geographic challenge can hinder timely and equitable support for those most in need.
- 5.3 Service gaps and specialist needs further complicate delivery, and there are ongoing issues in ensuring that services are provided equitably to all groups, including male victims, rural communities, and individuals with no recourse to public funds. Identifying and addressing gaps in provision for protected communities and those with specific needs remains an ongoing priority.
- 5.4 Sustaining effective collaboration and integration across multiple agencies and boards is another area of challenge. Continuous partnership working is essential to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that services are delivered efficiently and effectively, and there is more to be done in ensuring alignment across thematic boards, i.e. Boards that address crime & disorder, both locally and regionally, particularly where VAWDASV is a factor.
- 5.5 Resource allocation is also a persistent issue. Ensuring that sufficient resources and expertise are available at the local level is particularly challenging when regional resources are stretched, potentially impacting the quality and consistency of service delivery.
- 5.6 Communication and evidence sharing: Whilst the board plays a key role in facilitating needs assessments and intelligence gathering, there is a recognised need for more targeted communication and the sharing of evidence-based insights. Improved communication channels are necessary to ensure that local priorities are informed by the most current and relevant information available.

## 6. **Summary**

- 6.1 The Gwent VAWDASV Strategy and regional approach sets out a clear and ambitious framework for tackling violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence across the region. A key strength of the strategy lies in its robust multi-agency governance structure, which enables coordinated action through the VAWDASV Board, strategic delivery groups, and thematic subgroups. This inclusive approach ensures that diverse needs, such as those of children and young people, minority ethnic communities, and individuals with complex needs, are addressed. The strategy also prioritises prevention, early intervention, and citizen engagement, which are essential for long-term impact.
- 6.2 It should also be recognised that challenges persist in aligning regional priorities, addressing service gaps, and improving the use of data and commissioning intelligence. Limited officer capacity and the complexity of the partnership landscape does hinder consistent delivery. To fully realise the strategy's aims, continued focus on accountability, resource coordination, and community voice is paramount.

## RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no resource implications as part of this report. Resources exist regionally and are coordinated through the Gwent VAWDASV Board. Where resource implications become necessary for Monmouthshire County Council, as a Relevant Authority, costed and evidenced recommendations will be made to the appropriate decision maker.

## 8. EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Gwent VAWDASV Strategy has been developed in line equalities legislation and acknowledges the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

[Gwent Regional VAWDASV Strategy 2023-2026 - DRAFT for Consultation](#)

## 10. AUTHORS:

Sharran Lloyd  
Strategic Partnerships Manager  
E-mail: [Sharranlloyd@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sharranlloyd@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

Amy Thomas  
Regional Advisor for VAWDASV  
E-mail: [Amy.thomas3@newport.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.thomas3@newport.gov.uk)

## Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

**Meeting of Public Services Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA with remote attendance on Monday, 7th July, 2025 at 10.00 am**

### Councillors Present

County Councillor Armand Watts (Chair)  
  
County Councillors: Jill Bond, Steven Garratt, Meirion Howells, Tony Kear, Malcolm Lane, Dale Rooke, Frances Taylor, Maureen Powell, Emma Bryn, John Crook, Sue Riley, Simon Howarth and Jackie Strong

### Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager  
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer  
Deb Hill-Howells, Chief Officer Infrastructure

### Invitees:

Liz Andrew (Aneurin Bevan University Health Board), Louise Turner (ABUHB), Megan Escott (Mind Monmouthshire), Jaime Devine (Mind Monmouthshire), Dan Davies (ABUHB), Seran Davies (Newport Mind), Amanda Whent (ABUHB), Jennifer Winslade (ABUHB).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Penny Jones

#### 1. Election of Chair

Councillor Armand Watts was nominated as Chair by Councillor Dale Rooke, which was seconded by Councillor Jill Bond.

#### 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair

It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next ordinary meeting.

#### 3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Penny Jones, who was being substituted by Councillor Maureen Powell.

#### 4. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jill Bond declared a non-prejudicial interest relating to her position on Llais Cymru.

#### 5. Public Open Forum

None present.

## **6. Adult Mental Health Services with a specific focus on adult suicide - To scrutinise mental health services for adults, particularly for those at risk of suicide**

Liz Andrew (Consultant Clinical Psychologist, ABHB) and Louise Turner (Director of Mental Health, ABHB) introduced the report, delivered a presentation, and answered the members' questions.

### **Key questions from Members:**

- Is there any more up-to-date data available, and did the pandemic affect the data?

*More contemporary data will be available by the end of July. The pandemic initially appeared to be protective, with a significant dip in suicides during the first 12 months, but there has been a small peak since then.*

- What does the "unknown" category in the graph on page 10 represent, and what does "local" mean?

*The "unknown" category includes cases where the cause of death was known, but the reason was unclear, such as misadventure. "Local" refers to the Gwent area.*

- Is there enough provision for resilience and coping, and can more be done to support attachment and attunement in early years?

*There are significant efforts in place, such as the parent-infant mental health service and perinatal mental health teams. More can be done in schools to educate young people about emotional literacy and well-being.*

- Why do the figures on page 8 not match the 356 deaths mentioned earlier in the report?

*The 356 deaths refer to the Welsh Government's real-time surveillance survey data, while the figures on page 8 are from local health board data, which uses slightly different parameters.*

- Is there any data on the farming community and suicide rates?

*While specific data on farming communities is not available, rurality is a known factor. National data indicates that professions with access to means, such as farming, have higher suicide rates.*

- What are "safe wards"?

*Safe wards refer to environments designed to minimize risks, such as removing ligature points and isolated corners, and fostering a culture of proactive engagement and emotional literacy.*

- How effective are initiatives like Movember in raising awareness?



*Initiatives like Movember are effective in raising awareness and fostering community support, as seen in local projects like the Jolly Brew crew.*

- Do you have any data on the initial impact of COG in Newport? (Question from MIND)

*Yes, there is data available, showing positive evaluations in areas like A&E attendance, signposting, relapse, and reconviction rates. Further details can be provided by the psychologist leading the project and the local authority partner.*

- What are the plans to overcome Co-occurring needs such as neurodiversity and mental health or substance misuse and mental health across the county?

*The new mental health strategy delivery plan and suicide self-harm strategies aim to ensure seamless support for people with Co-occurring illnesses, working collectively as a region to address these issues.*

- As a priest, I deal with families after suicide and face questions about preventing suicide, recognizing signs, and addressing the impact on children and the community. There is a need for more support in rural communities. There are challenges faced by families and it is very important to provide empathy and support during such difficult times.

*Louise acknowledged the importance of faith and community support in helping families cope with suicide. She mentioned the "helpers at hand" resource developed by public health consultants to support those bereaved by suicide. Louise expressed gratitude for the Councillor's work and reiterated the importance of reaching out to support families, as it helps prevent future suicides.*

- Do you find more suicides around Christmas time due to people feeling lost and alone?

*Interestingly, the trend shows more suicides after the summer holidays rather than around Christmas. This may be due to the stress of modern life, such as managing childcare demands during the summer.*

- How do people cope with the aftermath of a loved one's suicide, especially when they are left with unresolved problems and grief?

*Louise acknowledged the complexity of grief following a suicide, including feelings of anger and resentment. She emphasised the importance of community support and mentioned resources like support groups for those bereaved by suicide.*

- What sort of publicity about where to go for help is currently being done?

Louise mentioned several resources, including the Melo website, crisis services (111 press 2), and local primary care services. She emphasised the strategic focus on delivering Open Access and the importance of right person first time approaches.

- What proactivity is happening in schools to address bullying, and what resources are being provided?

*Louise highlighted the importance of early intervention and mentioned that the national strategy for mental health emphasizes this. She also referred to research on effective anti-bullying initiatives, such as mixed year groups and multi-year group extracurricular activities.*

- Is there any education for elite sportspeople regarding mental health and suicide prevention?

*Louise mentioned that there are initiatives like assist training for elite sports teams, including work with the WRU. Community psychology services are also working with local sports clubs to integrate mental health support.*

- Is there any collaboration with the new Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the high percentage of suicides involving individuals with police involvement?

*Louise confirmed that strategic partnerships are in place to ensure seamless support for individuals with mental health difficulties, aligning with the agendas of regional and public service boards.*

- How does the strategic partnership with the police work in reality, especially considering the loss of police liaison officers and the reliance on schools, which may prioritize their reputation over addressing issues?

*Liz suggested that a whole system approach should be taken, where all partners co-own data and work through strategic partnerships to identify and achieve common community outcomes. She emphasised the importance of monitoring the impact of changes made by any partner agency.*

- *Liz acknowledged the complexity of the issue and reiterated the importance of a whole system approach and strategic partnerships to ensure that all agencies work together to address these challenges effectively.*
- How are first responders, such as police, ambulance drivers, and paramedics, supported after dealing with incidents of suicide?

*Liz explained that the health board has a trauma pathway lead funded by Welsh Government to improve the quality of interventions for people with post-traumatic stress disorder. This lead advises first responders on their employee assistance programmes and how to respond if they are affected by their work. The health board also has its own employee well-being programmes, and similar schemes are available through partner agencies.*

- Why is there a high percentage of recorded suicides with unknown ethnicity, and are there specific interventions for ethnic groups?

*Liz acknowledged the issue and explained that it might be due to discomfort in asking about ethnicity or system-based issues. She mentioned that the anti-racist Wales action plans and mandatory training are addressing this. Specific interventions include a psychological well-being practitioner who is multilingual and from a minoritised group, working in the community to increase access to well-being services.*

- Are there any specific interventions for ethnic groups?

*Liz highlighted the work of a psychological well-being practitioner who is multilingual and from a minoritised group, embedding themselves in the community and using different language to increase access to well-being services.*

- What is being done to address the dual diagnosis of mental health and substance addiction, and are there specific programmes in Monmouthshire similar to those in Newport?

*Liz and Louise explained that there are services available across the spectrum of addiction and mental health, but the challenge is catching individuals at the right time. Louise mentioned that the Area Planning Board governs and delivers work on substance misuse issues, ensuring seamless interfaces between services. Discussions are ongoing with local authorities to expand programmes like COG in Newport to other areas, including Monmouthshire.*

- If a city like Newport provides a service, do people from other areas gravitate towards it, and do they get turned away due to lack of connection?

*Liz acknowledged that people might gravitate towards areas with more services, like Newport. She explained that the health board would not turn people away and would try to connect them to the right area. The interfaces between different geographical areas are strong, ensuring people receive the help they need.*

- Regarding the 19% of people who are perpetrators of domestic violence, do they sometimes commit suicide to punish partners, or is it about their own mental health situation?

*Liz explained that both scenarios could be true. The data from the NHS executive group does not provide the nuance, but first-hand accounts suggest that some individuals might take their own lives due to guilt or to punish their partners. The distorted state of mind during such actions makes it complex.*

- A Member shared her personal experience with domestic violence and suicide, mentioning that her brother-in-law took his own life because he couldn't face up to what he had done. She also expressed interest in the statistics about older people and their connection to assisted suicide. She mentioned the lack of support for bereaved families 35 years ago and appreciated the current support available.

*Liz acknowledged the Members' lived experience and emphasised the complexity of domestic violence and suicide. She mentioned that domestic violence is a complex*

*issue and that early detection and addressing the needs of all parties involved are crucial. Liz also noted that suicide in older adults is often related to chronic pain, physical frailty, and a sense of loss. She highlighted the importance of community support and intergenerational initiatives.*

*Liz expressed sadness that help wasn't available in the past and noted that support is now available for bereaved families. She emphasised the importance of community and systemic support for those affected by suicide.*

- Jaime from MIND expressed concern about the barriers to accessing mental health services post-pandemic. Previously, Mind in Gwent could refer directly to the Community Mental Health Teams (CMHT), but now clients must go through multiple steps, including GP assessments and referrals, which create delays and barriers. Jaime asked if there are any plans to reconsider the referral pathways.

*Liz acknowledged the importance of the issue and mentioned that they are currently reviewing their models of care, including referral pathways. She assured Jaime that they would look into the highlighted concerns and work towards improving accessibility and reducing barriers.*

- Jaime from MIND explained that clients face issues when seeking help for both mental health and substance use. Mental health services often refuse support if the client is using substances, while substance use services may refuse help if the substance is keeping the client alive due to suicidal thoughts.

*Liz acknowledged the feedback and emphasised the importance of listening and learning from clients' experiences. She assured that they are working towards improving services and addressing these barriers.*

- Jaime explained that clients are sometimes placed in group therapy sessions (e.g., DBT or CBT) that may re-traumatize them, and they fear being shut off from services if they decline this treatment. Clients also may not want to take medication, but fear being excluded from services if they refuse medication. Also raised was the issue of long waiting times for trauma therapy, with some clients being told after two years that they are not eligible because they cannot cope with the emotions the therapy would bring up.

*Liz highlighted the need for better communication and appropriate treatment options. She said the intention was to improve the delivery of therapy and address waiting times. Liz acknowledged the concern around clients who may fear they will be excluded from services, emphasising the importance of communication and understanding clients' needs. She assured that they are working on improving service delivery. She recognised concern about the waiting times and the impact on clients. She assured that they are working on improving access to therapy and addressing these issues.*

- Why does Monmouthshire have the highest rate of suicide in Gwent for the period 2021-2023? Is it due to factors like rurality, post-pandemic behaviour, cost of living, or other unique factors?

*Liz explained that the high rate of suicide in Monmouthshire during that period could be multifactorial, including factors like rurality, pockets of deprivation, and possibly the impact of the pandemic. She noted that the trend was not replicated in 2024 and that the cases were diverse, including severe psychotic episodes and neurodiversity.*

- Is there any statistical evidence to suggest that issues related to family courts and the consequences of losing contact with children contribute to suicide rates?

*Liz mentioned that while there isn't enough local data to identify a clear trend, national data does indicate that domestic dysfunction, including family court issues, can be a factor in suicides. She suggested looking at broader data from sources like the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Safety in Mental Health (NCISH) for more insights.*

### **Chair's Summary:**

The Chair thanked Liz and Louise from the ABUHB for such a helpful discussion on a difficult subject of utmost importance to the Committee and commented that Members felt reassured by what he had heard during the meeting. The Committee agreed they would like to revisit the matter in 6 months' time to gauge progress. He thanked MIND for their constructive input and requested they return to the Committee when the topic returns **(Action: Scrutiny Manager to schedule)**.

### **7. Care for people in the community with dementia, including support available to families - To invite Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to outline how it delivers services in Monmouthshire**

Amanda Whent (Lead Dementia Nurse, ABHB) and Jennifer Winslade (Executive Director of Nursing, ABHB) introduced the report, delivered a presentation and answered the members' questions:

### **Key Questions from Members:**

- What are the contact details for dementia champions, and how sufficient is the funding?

*Amanda explained that there are 286 dementia champions across the region, and the information is held in a database. She acknowledged the need to provide specific details for Monmouthshire and offered to produce a paper outlining the specifics, including care homes and schools involved.*

- I would be interested in seeing the performance targets for 2025 and progress to date, including monitoring and performance standards.

*Amanda mentioned that they use key performance indicators (KPIs) and benchmarking against national models to measure progress. She offered to share the KPIs and performance data in a future presentation **(Action: Scrutiny Manager to take forward)**.*

- Are there mitigation strategies to reduce the speed of dementia onset, including advice on diet, exercise, and prevention?



*Amanda highlighted the importance of prevention and mentioned that they are working on various factors, including cholesterol management and trauma-based interventions. She noted that public health and primary care partnerships are crucial for addressing prevention and early intervention.*

- What are the results from Workstream 1 in Newport and how it will be rolled out in Monmouthshire, considering the differences between the two areas.

*Amanda explained that the principles of the citizens' engagement model initially piloted in Newport have been applied across Gwent. The approach involves going into various community settings to gather feedback and tailor services to local needs.*

- Please can you provide the details about the dementia connectors, including who they are and whether there are enough of them?

*Amanda acknowledged that there are not enough dementia connectors to meet the current needs. However, recent funding has been allocated to develop specific roles, and recruitment efforts are ongoing to increase the number of connectors.*

- Is hearing loss linked to an increased likelihood of developing dementia and if so, is it important to address hearing issues early?

Amanda confirmed that there is a high correlation between hearing loss and dementia. She explained that addressing hearing issues early can reduce the risk of dementia. The audiology team is involved in delivering a dementia experience programme to raise awareness and improve screening processes for those with cognitive decline.

- Is there collation and regular contact between local dementia-friendly groups and the health board.?

*Amanda explained that the dementia-friendly communities have a monthly meeting where information is shared. They use a padlet and the ABUHB internet pages to upload and share information about ongoing activities and opportunities for engagement. The dementia hubs are intended to be a central point for accessing information and services.*

- How accessible are the dementia hubs? Is there a need for better coordination and communication of available resources in local communities?

*Amanda explained that the dementia hubs are in their infancy, with plans to expand and improve communication. She acknowledged the challenge of raising awareness and the need for better coordination. Jennifer added that the hubs are important, but local facilities and community engagement are also crucial. They welcomed the feedback and said they are committed to exploring ways to improve local access to information and support.*

- The Chair expressed concern about the projected increase in the elderly population in Monmouthshire and the existing provision of care, emphasizing the need for more resources and support.

*Amanda acknowledged the growing need for dementia care and the importance of consistent and continuous support across Gwent. She mentioned the development of dementia hubs and the role of dementia connectors in providing ongoing support. Jennifer emphasised the need for a holistic approach to care, involving health, social care, voluntary sectors, and families. She highlighted the importance of community-based care and the need for political support to address the growing demand.*

- The Chair enquired about the possibility of financial incentives for families to care for their elderly relatives, similar to models in other countries.

*Jennifer mentioned that while direct payments are available in England, it is a broader political question for Wales. She emphasised the need for a community-based approach to care and the importance of working with local authorities and other partners to provide support. She also highlighted ongoing efforts to develop place-based care models and the importance of addressing the issue now rather than in the future.*

### **Chair's Summary:**

The Chair thanked Amanda and Jenifer for attending and presenting on a matter of significant priority to the Committee. He acknowledged the need for increased resources and support for dementia care in Monmouthshire and highlighted the importance of addressing these issues promptly. He paid recognition to the responses of ABUHB which highlighted ongoing efforts to develop community-based care models. He raised the need for political support to address the growing demand for services and advised the Committee would like to visit the staff to better appreciate how support is delivered (**Action: Scrutiny Manager to facilitate**).

### **8. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th May 2025**

The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

### **9. Public Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme and Action List**

The invitation to attend Place Scrutiny Committee on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to scrutinise the Local Flood Strategy was noted.

The Committee agreed that the Scrutiny Manager should organise a Special Public Services Scrutiny Committee Meeting to discuss the ABUHB Consultation on Nevill Hall Hospital.

The Committee agreed they would like to scrutinise the changes to the ambulance performance framework, which would be added to the forward work programme.

It was agreed that a Special Meeting of the Committee would be held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to invite the Police and Crime commissioner to discuss Community Safety and Police Resourcing in Monmouthshire.

Councillor Bond highlighted the need to consider the progress on delivering Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence services at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Taylor questioned whether it would be possible for the Committee to have oversight of the work of the Cardiff Capital Region. The Chair explained that the remit is vast and that there is an existing Joint Scrutiny Committee comprising 10 Councils in the Cardiff Capital Region and that its purpose is to hold the Corporate Joint Committee to account for delivery of programmes relating to the remit of the Cardiff Capital Region and that there may be duplication in the Committee being involved in scrutiny of this matter. It was agreed that guidance would be sought outside of the meeting to clarify whether the Committee had a legitimate role in scrutinising matters relating to the CCR **(Action: Scrutiny Manager)**.

**10. Council and Cabinet Work Planner**

Noted.

**11. Next Meeting**

Monday 13th October 2025 at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 1.31 pm.



## Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

**Meeting of Public Services Scrutiny Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Monday, 28th July, 2025 at 9.30 am**

### **Councillors Present**

County Councillor Armand Watts (Chair)

County Councillors: Jill Bond, Steven Garratt, Meirion Howells, Penny Jones, Tony Kear, Dale Rooke, Jan Butler, Christopher Edwards, Maureen Powell, Sue Riley, Louise Brown, Jackie Strong, Tudor Thomas, Su McConnel, Peter Strong, David Jones, Phil Murphy, Ann Webb, Ian Chandler, Angela Sandles, Sara Burch and Catrin Maby

### **Officers in Attendance**

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager  
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer  
Sharran Lloyd, Community and Partner Development Manager

### External Invitees:

Paul Mizen - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB), Hannah Evans (ABUHB), Dan Davies (ABUHB)

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Maria Stevens

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Maria Stevens who was being substituted by Councillor Peter Strong.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Penny Jones declared a non-prejudicial interest relating to her position as an independent member of ABUHB.

### **3. Public Open Forum**

None present.

### **4. Nevill Hall Hospital Proposals**

Hannah Evans (Executive Director of Strategy, Planning & Partnerships) delivered a presentation and answered the members' questions with Dr Paul Mizen (Clinical Lead for Service Transformation).

### **Key Points from Hannah Evans' Presentation**

- **Context and Purpose:** Hannah explained the focus on Nevill Hall Hospital due to the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC), which poses infrastructure risks and has made the site a priority for investment and redevelopment.

- **Strategic Importance:** Nevill Hall is positioned as a key site for both local and regional healthcare delivery, with recent investments such as a new radiotherapy unit and a regional cataract hub, serving not just Gwent but also neighbouring regions.
- **Service Developments:** There has been a 20% increase in day surgery at Nevill Hall, and the hospital is being developed as a surgical hub, with plans to expand day surgery, assessment facilities, and outpatient services.
- **RAAC Challenge:** The presence of RAAC affects significant parts of the estate, requiring mitigation measures like propping and scaffolding, but the long-term goal is to remove RAAC and use this as an opportunity to right-size and modernise the hospital.
- **Business Case Process:** The redevelopment is at the strategic outline case (SOC) stage, which involves early engagement, defining the case for change, and preparing for more detailed planning and consultation in later business case stages.
- **Emerging Service Model:** Plans include a day surgery centre of excellence, integrated front door/assessment facilities, maintaining the minor injuries unit, expanding cancer services (radiotherapy and chemotherapy), developing a women's health hub, and improving diagnostics and therapy services.
- **Engagement and Consultation:** The team is actively engaging with staff, stakeholders, and the public through surveys, meetings, and direct outreach, seeking feedback on the case for change and emerging principles, with a commitment to ongoing involvement throughout the redevelopment process.

### **Key Questions from Members**

#### **Councillor Edwards**

- Asked who instigated the Nevill Hall redevelopment – Health Board or Welsh Government, and why, seeking clarity on the process and investment case.

*Hannah confirmed the Health Board initiated the process, with Welsh Government support, due to the urgency created by RAAC. Nevill Hall was always on the estate strategy, but RAAC made it a top priority.*

- Expressed concern that the consultation might give the public unrealistic expectations, questioning what specialist inpatient services (e.g., respiratory, gastroenterology, cardiology, paediatrics) will realistically be available at Nevill Hall, given current service limitations.

*Hannah clarified that acute specialties (e.g., cardiology, gastroenterology, paediatrics) will not return to Nevill Hall, as centralisation at the Grange was necessary for sustainability and quality. Outpatient and some day-case services will be provided at Nevill Hall, but not acute inpatient specialties.*

- Queried the extent of cancer treatment at Nevill Hall, noting radiotherapy is available but chemotherapy and haematology are limited, and asked about reliance on community fundraising for these services.

*Hannah and Paul explained that radiotherapy is now available at Nevill Hall, with plans to expand chemotherapy and other cancer services in partnership with Velindre.*

- Sought advice on how to manage public expectations and ensure that residents' views will genuinely influence outcomes, especially with only two weeks left in the consultation.

*Hannah acknowledged the challenge of managing expectations, emphasising that the engagement is genuine but will not reverse previous centralisation of acute services. The process is designed with independent oversight (Fllice) to ensure transparency and accountability.*

- Asked if there are similar development plans or consultations for Chepstow Community Hospital and how it fits into the broader strategy.

*Hannah stated that Chepstow and Monnow Vale are not part of the current Nevill Hall project but are included in the wider estate strategy. Chepstow is seen as strategically important, and Monnow Vale will be developed further in partnership with local authorities.*

- Reported issues accessing the online survey and asked if the survey clearly outlines what is achievable to help manage expectations. Also asked if Chepstow and Monnow Vale hospitals are included in this programme or are separate.

*Hannah promised to investigate the reported survey access problems and reiterated the importance of clear communication to manage expectations.*

#### Councillor Powell

- Councillor Powell shared a personal experience about the difficulty of traveling for cancer treatment and asked about the impact of removing ceiling supports (installed due to RAAC) at Nevill Hall – specifically, whether affected areas would need to be closed during the work or if services could continue.

*Hannah welcomed the positive feedback on local radiotherapy, clarified that only certain cancer types are currently treated locally, and explained that while some interim changes (like moving services) may be needed, detailed logistics about closures or continued use are not yet finalised. The hospital is working closely with engineers to ensure safety and will adapt as needed.*

#### Councillor Butler

- Asked about the ongoing issue of only one working lift at Nevill Hall, the lack of a nearby staircase, and the resulting crowding – specifically, whether there are short-term mitigation plans for this unsatisfactory situation.

*Hannah confirmed that fixing the lifts is a current priority, with plans in place to address the issue, and that some services are being relocated to reduce lift usage.*

- Asked if the overnight closure of the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) at Nevill Hall has increased pressure on the Grange Hospital and whether there are concerns about staff being deskilled as a result.

*On the MIU, Hannah stated that data does not show a significant negative impact on the Grange from the overnight MIU closure, and that staff rotation and consultant oversight are maintained to prevent deskilling.*

#### Councillor Bond

- Councillor Bond explained that she is a member of Llais and asked when feedback from Llais would be reviewed and when a decision on the preferred option for Nevill Hall would be made.

*Hannah explained that there are regular reviews with Llais, with the current engagement scheduled to end in mid-August, followed by a report. The strategic outline case is planned to go to the health board in September, after which it will be submitted to Welsh Government. Actual construction or major changes are not expected to begin until 2027–2028 due to the lengthy business case process.*

#### Councillor Riley

- Asked about the availability of data on the number of secondary cancer sufferers in the Aneurin Bevan area, noting that Welsh Government lacks this data, and inquired whether advanced radiotherapy treatments like SABR would be available locally.

*Hannah said she did not have the specific numbers but would try to follow up. She explained that while there is a joint ambition with Velindre to repatriate as much care as possible, complex radiotherapy will remain at Velindre due to specialist expertise and equipment needs.*

- Asked what additional services for secondary cancer sufferers are planned, highlighting limited local options and sharing a personal experience with specialist radiotherapy.

*Hannah assured that staff will rotate between sites to maintain skills and that the standard of care at Nevill Hall will match Velindre's for eligible patients, with some support services like Maggie's outreach being expanded, though not all specialist services can be provided locally at this stage.*

- Commented that the sickest patients often have to travel furthest and noted that Maggie's support at Nevill Hall is limited and does not fully cater to secondary cancer sufferers.

*Hannah acknowledged the concern about travel for the sickest patients and the current limitations of local support, reiterating that further specialist repatriation is not currently planned but feedback is noted.*

Councillor Brown:

- Asked if solar panels would be included on the new Nevill Hall building and welcomed the focus on local priorities.

*Hannah stated that solar panels or other decarbonisation measures would be considered as part of the design, but nothing is decided yet.*

- Requested another seminar on rural Gwent and local hospitals, especially regarding localising services.

*Hannah confirmed willingness to return for a session on Royal Gwent, Chepstow, and local hospitals. **Action: Hazel Ilett***

- Highlighted the population size of Chepstow versus Abergavenny and advocated for a minor injuries unit (MIU) at Chepstow, expressing concerns about A&E at the Grange and public confusion over which MIU to use.

*Hannah clarified that Nevill Hall and St Woolos are current estate priorities, and there are no plans to reintroduce an MIU at Chepstow at this time, noting the broader catchment for Nevill Hall's MIU.*

Councillor Garratt

- Requested that the northeast area (Monmouth) not be forgotten, mentioning challenges with local access to services like vaccinations and expressing hope that Monnow Vale would become a higher priority with more services available.

*Hannah acknowledged the comment, expressed encouragement about Monnow Vale, and indicated that the feedback was noted.*

Councillor Chandler

- Thanked ABUHB staff for speaking to councillors and expressed that it was positive to hear about the long-term commitment to Nevill Hall as both a local community hospital and a regional centre.

*Hannah agreed to follow up with Ian Chandler offline about how Nevill Hall fits into the broader health and social care system.*

- Highlighted the importance of matching services to the population profile, especially for the elderly, and welcomed the focus on orthopaedics and ophthalmology.
- Appreciated early engagement with communities and stakeholders.
- Asked to see the proposals in the context of the broader health system, including public health, primary care, prevention, and social care, and suggested a follow-up conversation on this integration.

- Queried how reducing the number of beds would impact waiting lists for acute and elective surgeries.
- *Hannah clarified that the focus is on the type of beds and matching workforce to patient needs, not just the number of beds, and that the Chepstow model of care for the elderly is being considered for replication. She stated that numbers of beds may not change, but the nature and access to beds will be adjusted to better reflect needs.*
- Supported the focus on diagnostics and preventative work, echoing previous comments about local access to services like vaccinations.

*Paul Mizen emphasised that work is ongoing to provide as much care as possible close to home, alongside the developments at Nevill Hall. He noted that this broader system work will continue and is expected to bring significant benefits in the future, as more healthcare currently delivered in hospitals may shift to community settings.*

### **Chair's Summary**

The Chair thanked Hannah and Paul for their patience in answering member's questions and thanked Dan for facilitating the session. The Committee noted a request for a future Members Seminar on Royal Gwent, Chepstow, and local hospitals.

The meeting ended at 11.06 am.

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	VAWDASV Regional Strategy	To assess how the regional arrangements under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 support the Council in delivering the Act's objectives.	Regional VAWDASV Board Sharran Lloyd	External Scrutiny
Special Meeting ~ 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Invite the Police and Crime Commissioner	To gain an understanding from the Commissioner of the Community Safety Partnership's crime and community safety priorities plans for Monmouthshire and how the strategic assessment led to the development of them.  Following the publication of the Police, Crime and Justice Plan, the Commissioner's plans for police resourcing across Monmouthshire.	Police and Crime Commissioner	External Scrutiny
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	To be confirmed			
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	Youth Offending Service	To consider the latest progress report on the Youth Offending Service, particularly how partners contribute and what it delivers for Monmouthshire.	Chesney Chick	Performance Monitoring
15 <sup>th</sup> April 2026				
To be confirmed	Adult Suicide	Progres update after 6 months.	ABUHB Mind	External Scrutiny



## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<b>National Highways - M48 and Severn Bridge 7.5t weight Limit</b>	<i>To review progress in approximately 6 months.</i>		<i>External Scrutiny</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<b>Changes to Ambulance Performance Framework</b>	<i>Discussion on changes to the Ambulance Performance Framework which take effect on Tuesday 1 July 2025.</i>	<i>Ambulance Service</i>	<i>External Scrutiny</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<b>Drug Related Deaths in Monmouthshire</b>	<i>To discuss drug related deaths and the impact of synthetic drugs with the Heroin &amp; Crack Cocaine Action Area Co-ordinator for Gwent Police.</i>	<i>Gwent Police</i>	<i>External Scrutiny</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<b>Pre-decision Scrutiny of the Public Service Board Annual Report</b>	<i>To undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the report and to draw agree any items for future scrutiny.</i>		<i>Pre-decision Scrutiny/Performance Monitoring</i>
<i>To be confirmed</i>	<b>Integrated Services Partnership Board</b>	<i>To discuss the role and remit of the Integrated Services Partnership Board and how it delivers services in Monmouthshire.</i>		<i>Performance Review</i>
<b>Items to consider for Inclusion: (Arising from Corporate and Community Plan)</b>				



## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Progress the development of the new Magor and Undy Community Hub				
Invest in better bus infrastructure				
Work with the police, partners and communities to tackle anti-social behaviour				
To explore streams: Housing Social Grant, Substance Misuse Grants, to assess what they are				

## Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2025-26

Public Services Scrutiny Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
delivering for Monmouthshire				

- Violence and Women ~ Scrutinize the delivery of the Gwent perpetrator assessment and the impact of inappropriate sexual behaviour among 10-17 year-olds. Address the increase in misogyny in schools, including the influence of figures like Andrew Tate.
- Flood Risk Management ~ Jointly with Place Scrutiny Committee, inviting National Resources Wales
- Public Transport and Accessibility: Assess the impact of dental service relocations on public transport accessibility for residents.
- Update on the flying start ~ Update on the collaboration between health visitors and Sure Start, including changes in reporting structures and service provision.
- Request a comprehensive health update from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) (**in progress**), covering:
  - Holistic approach to supporting older people.
  - Primary and secondary care integration.
  - Resource, nurses, doctors, sustainability and retention.
  - Communication with the public on service provision.
  - Preventative services, colon tests, jabs.
  - Updates on specific projects like the Neville Hall Velindre satellite.
  - The uptake of preventative measures like vaccinations, especially among children.
  - Adult Mental Health Services ~ adult suicide
  - Care for people in the community with dementia, family support services.
- Community Policing ~ invite Police and Crime Commissioner ~ **in progress**
- Invite the Integrated Strategic Partnership Board to discuss dentistry and the flow of funds.

## Action List for Public Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	
Minute:	Action	Officer / Member
6	<p><b>Adult Suicide</b></p> <p>To review progress in approximately 6 months and invite ABUHB colleagues and MIND.</p>	Scrutiny Manager to arrange.
7	<p><b>Dementia Services</b></p> <p>ABUHB to share key performance indicators and comparative data in a future presentation.</p> <p>Committee to visit the ABUHB staff to better appreciate how support is delivered.</p> <p>ABUHB to provide contact for Dementia Hubs.</p>	<p>Scrutiny Manager to take forward.</p> <p>Scrutiny Manager to facilitate.</p> <p>ABUHB.</p>
8	<p><b>Committee Forward Work Programme</b></p> <p>Agreement to add the Ambulance Service Response Changes to the planner for the autumn.</p> <p>Agreement to schedule Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence services at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Agreement to call a Special Meeting before the summer break to discuss the Proposed Changes to Nevill Hall Hospital with ABUHB.</p> <p>Guidance to be sought on the extend of the Committee's remit to scrutinise matters relating to the Cardiff Capital Region.</p>	Scrutiny Manager to diarise.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Action List for Public Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	
Minute:	Action	Officer / Member
4	<p><b>Nevill Hall Hospital Proposals</b></p> <p>To forward the request for a future Members Seminar on Royal Gwent, Chepstow, and local hospitals to Democratic Services for liaising with Dan Davies on dates.</p>	Scrutiny Manager

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Report Title	Cabinet member	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner
Cabinet	Deferred	Pavement Café Policy	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy	To adopt the pavement café policy as the basis for making decisions on applications for licences	Carl Touhig	4-Oct-22
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	2025/26 Revenue & Capital Monitoring Update 3	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	11-Feb-26	2026/27 WCF/Mon Farm treasury strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	21-Jan-26	2026/27 Draft Revenue & Capital budget proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	21-Jan-26	Cultural Strategy	Sara Burch	To approve the Monmouthshire Cultural Strategy which lays out clear ambitions and actions to ensure that Monmouthshire is a desired cultural	Tracey Thomas	20-May-25
Cabinet	10-Dec-25	2025/26 Revenue & Capital Monitoring Update 2	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	19-Nov-25	Destination Management Plan	Sara Burch & Paul Griffiths		Collette Bosley	17-Apr-25
Council	23-Oct-25	Annual Safeguarding Report	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Diane Corrister	18-Jul-25
Council	23-Oct-25	Director's Annual Report	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rogers	18-Jul-25
Council	23-Oct-25	RLDP for Adoption	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Rachel Lewis	17-Apr-25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	2025/26 Revenue Monitoring Update 1	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12/76/25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	Panel Performance Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide an update on the proposed approach for the Council's Panel Performance Assessment which is a requirement under the Local	Matt Gatehouse	28-Aug-25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	Connect to Work and Future Focus programmes	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones / Rory Clifford	21-Jul-25
Cabinet	15-Oct-25	A strategy to take forward a whole authority approach to wellbeing and prevention	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Jane Rogers	19-Jun-25
ICMD	08-Oct-25	WELSH CHURCH FUND WORKING GROUP	Ben Callard - Resources	For the purpose of this report to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications for the Welsh Church Fund Working Group Meeting 2 held on Thursday 18th September 2025.	Dave Jarrett	
ICMD	24-Sep-25	Health & Safety Annual Report	ben Callard - Resources		Kate Thompson	5-Aug-25
Council	18-Sep-25	Self-assessment 2024/25		To seek Council approval of the self-assessment report 2024/25 in line with requirements outlined in the Local Government and Elections (Wales)	richard Jones	10-Jun-25

Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Proposed endorsement of the Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment	Welsh Government commissioned the production of Local Area Energy Plans for Local Authority areas which will be used to develop a regional and national Energy Plan. The Local Area Energy Plan for Monmouthshire provides data on the	Deb Hill Howells	28-Jul-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Real Living Wage Employer Accreditation	ben Callard - Resources	Further to Cabinet's decision on Wednesday 6th November 2024, and an evaluation of the authority's supply chain, to bring forward a further To approve a county of sanctuary strategy which establishes clear principles which will run through all council services and which promotes inclusion	Philippa Green	13-Jun-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	County of Sanctuary Strategy	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Sharran Lloyd and Jane Harvey	27-May-25
Cabinet	17-Sep-25	Review of Housing Support Grant Programme.	Sara Burch		Ian Bakewell	23-May-25
ICMD	20-Aug-25	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 17	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Gareth Freeman	4-Aug-25
ICMD	23-Jul-25	Lloyds tour of Britain Stage 5 Pontypool to Tumble	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Nick John	2-Jul-25
ICMD	23-Jul-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	2-Jul-25
Council	17-Jul-25	Chepstow Integrated Transport LUF project			Deb Hill Howells	24-Jun-25
Council	17-Jul-25	Strategic Director's Report, Children, Learning, Skills and the Economy'	Laura Wright - Education		Will Mclean	18-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	2024/25 Revenue & Capital monitoring Outturn (incl early update on 2025/26)	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	2026/27 Revenue & Capital MTFP update and process	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	12-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	<b>ADD AS FIRST ITEM</b> Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023: Monmouthshire County Council's Annual Report	Ben Callard - Resources	To seek approval of the Social Partnership Duty Report 2025, setting out how the Council will build on existing practice, and work collaboratively with trade unions, to ensure compliance with the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act	Philippa Green	6-Jun-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	Play Sufficiency Update	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Play sufficiency assessment update.	Nick John	28-Mar-25
Cabinet	16-Jul-25	Shire Hall Delivery Stage - Financial Approval	Ben Callard - Resources		Tracey Thomas	25-Mar-25



Council	26-Jun-25	Strategic OfficerLeadership and Organisation Structure changes	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Paul Matthews	5-Jun-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Separation of Licensing Functions	Angela Sandles - Engagement		Linda O Gorman	28-May-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Appointments to Outside Bodies	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	23-May-25
Council	26-Jun-25	Licensing Act Policy 2025	Angela Sandles - Engagement	Policy has to be approved by Full Council and it needs to be in place by 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Linda O Gorman	10-Jan-25
Cabinet	25-Jun-25	Strategic Risk Assessment	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	To provide Cabinet with an overview of the current strategic risks facing the authority.	richard Jones	10-Jun-25
Cabinet	25-Jun-25	Nature Recovery Action Plan & Green Infrastructure Strategy	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Collette Bosley	17-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Placemaking Grant 25/26 & 26/27	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Craig O Connor	29-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies / Cath Fallon	1-Apr-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Active Gwent Sports Partnership	Angela Sandles - Engagement	For Monmouthshire County Council to formally enter into the Active Gwent sport partnership.	Nick John	28-Mar-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Digital, Data and Technology Collaboration	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy	to develop proposals to build on existing collaborative arrangements in place for the provision of technology services through the Shared Resource Service. Expanding on these to include digital and data services will generate	Peter Davies & Matt Gatehouse & Sian Hayward	14-Mar-25
Cabinet	21-May-25	Y Prentis Update	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	26-Feb-25

Council	15-May-25	SAC Membership Report	Martyn Groucutt - Education	To inform Council of SAC recommendations to appoint members of SAC	Sharon Randall-Smith	16-Apr-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Constitution Review	Angela Sandles - Engagement		James Williams	25-Mar-25
Council	10-Apr-25	Senior Pay Review	Ben Callard - Resources		Julie Anthony	3-Mar-25
ICMD	09-Apr-25	PSPO Lane Closure to prevent fly tipping & off roading	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Mark Cleaver	13-Mar-25
ICMD	09-Apr-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 4	Ben Callard - Resources			
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Marches Forward Partnership	Mary Ann Brocklesby - Whole Authority Strategy		Peter Davies - Lead (Cath Fallon)	3-Mar-25
Cabinet	02-Apr-25	Reponse to Boundary Commission Electoral Review Consultation	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	12-Feb-25
ICMD	26-Mar-25	Proposal to increase the fee payments to Monmouthshire Foster Carers	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Charlotte Drury	4-Feb-25
ICMD	12-Mar-25	Highway Traffic Regulation Amendment Order No 16	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment			
Council	06-Mar-25	Appointment of Chief Officer - Head of Transport - Exempt info	Catrin Maby - Climate Change and Environment		Deb Hill Howells	21-Jan-25

Council	06-Mar-25	Publication of the Councils Pay Policy	Ben Callard - Resources	To approve the publication of Monmouthshire County Council's Pay Policy, in compliance with the Localism Act.	Matt Gatehouse / Pip Green	17-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	Contract Procedure Rules	Ben Callard - Resources		Scott James	9-Jan-25
Council	06-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Budget sign off including CT resolution	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Council	06-Mar-25	2025/26 Capital Strategy & Treasury Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	Approval of a Discretionary Policy for Council Tax Premiums	Ben Callard - Resources		Ruth Donovan	27-Jan-25
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
Cabinet	05-Mar-25	2025/26 WCF/Mon Farm Strategy	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
ICMD	26-Feb-25	County of Sanctuary: Homes for Ukraine	Angela Sandles - Engagement	To confirm future support arrangements for Ukrainian's living in Monmouthshire as part of the Homes for Ukraine Scheme following changes to the national arrangement for both funding & visas	Richard Drinkwater/Matt Gatehouse	7-Feb-25
ICMD	26-Feb-25	Housing Allocations Policy				
Cabinet	19-Feb-25	UK Shared Prosperity Fund post March 2025 – financial implications and impact	Paul Griffiths - Sustainable Economy		Hannah Jones	10-Jul-24
Cabinet	19-Feb-25	2024/25 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Month 9	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24

ICMD	29-Jan-25	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts final	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	17-Dec-24
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24
Council	23-Jan-25	Council Diary 2025/26	Angela Sandles - Engagement		John Pearson	
Council	23-Jan-25	GWENT REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD (RPB) AREA PLAN AND RPB ANNUAL REPORT 23/24	Ian Chandler - Social Care & Safeguarding		Natasha Harris (Torfaen)	
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Business case for the purchase of a property in Abergavenny to develop supported accommodation for care experienced young people	Ben Callard - Resources		Jane Rogers	7-Jan-25
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	Education Middle Tier	Martyn Groucutt - Education		Will McLean	20-Nov-24
Cabinet	22-Jan-25	2025/26 Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	4-Jun-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Decision to transfer Dixton Archive from Monmouth Museum to Herefordshire Record Office			Rachael Rogers	9-Dec-24
ICMD	15-Jan-25	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3	Ben Callard - Resources		Dave Jarrett	13-Jun-24
ICMD	18-Dec-24	2025/26 Community Council and Police Precepts draft	Ben Callard - Resources		Jon Davies	13-Jun-24

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

This page is intentionally left blank