

Public Document Pack



Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa,
Aberaeron, Ceredigion SA46 0PA
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18 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to inform you that a Meeting of Cabinet will be held at the Council Chamber, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron and remotely via video conference on Tuesday, 24 January 2023 at 10.00am for the transaction of the following business:

1. **Apologies**
2. **Personal matters**
3. **Disclosure of Personal/ Prejudicial Interests**
4. **To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Cabinet and any matters arising from those Minutes
FOR DECISION (Pages 3 - 6)**
5. **Any petitions received**
6. **Reports of any decisions (if any) having been called in from Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
7. **Any feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee not otherwise on the agenda**
8. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Finance and Procurement upon the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and the Multi-year Capital programme
FOR DECISION (Pages 7 - 48)**

9. **To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Schools and Culture upon the LA Representative on Governing Bodies
FOR DECISION (Pages 49 - 50)**
10. **To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cynnal upon the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report Qtr 2 2022-23
FOR INFORMATION (Pages 51 - 100)**
11. **Any other matter the Chairman decides is for the urgent attention of the Cabinet**

Members are reminded to sign the Attendance Register.

A Translation Service will be provided at this meeting and those present are welcome to speak in Welsh or English at the meeting.

Yours faithfully



Miss Lowri Edwards
Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services

To: The Leader of the Council and Members of the Cabinet
The remaining Members of the Council for information

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

Notice of the Decisions of the **Meeting of the CABINET** held at the Council Chamber, Penmorfa, Aberaeron and remotely on **Tuesday, 10 January 2023**

This Notice is published at 5.00pm on Thursday, 12 January 2023. Requests to call-in any decision to be delivered to the Head of Democratic Services by 5.00pm on Thursday, 19 January 2023. The decisions will come into force (if no valid call-in application is received) on Friday, 20 January 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor Bryan Davies (Chair), Councillors Catrin M S. Davies, Clive Davies, Gareth Davies, Keith Henson, Wyn Thomas, Matthew Vaux and Alun Williams.

Also in attendance: Councillors Rhodri Evans, Gareth Lloyd and Gwyn Wigley Evans.

(10.00am-11.06am)

118 Apologies

James Starbuck, Corporate Director apologised for his inability to attend the meeting.

119 Personal matters

- i. Staff, members and volunteers were thanked for their efforts in helping families who were unfortunately affected by a disruption to water supplies following severe weather in December. Tŷ Nant were thanked for their significant contribution in supplying bottled water to families.
- ii. Congratulations were extended to Councillor Keith Henson on recently becoming a grandfather.
- iii. Congratulations were extended to Reverend Euryl Howells, Senior Chaplain for Hywel Dda University Health Board who has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to the Chaplaincy in NHS Wales.

120 Disclosure of Personal/ Prejudicial Interests

There were no disclosures of personal/ prejudicial interests.

121 To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Cabinet and any matters arising from those Minutes

To confirm as a true record the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 December 2022.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

122 Any petitions received

None.

123 Reports of any decisions (if any) having been called in from Overview and Scrutiny Committee

None.

124 Any feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committee not otherwise on the agenda
None.

125 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Economy and Regeneration upon the Development Group & Supporting Groups with feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DECISION:

1. To agree membership of the Development Group.
2. To agree the proposed Terms of Reference for the Development Group, Capital Monitoring Group, Asset Management Group and Corporate Project Management Group.
3. To note the feedback from the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for the decision:

1. To provide better strategic oversight and management of the Council's Development Programme.
2. To improve arrangements for delivering the Council's Corporate Strategy.
3. To make efficient and effective use of time and resources.

126 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Economy and Regeneration upon the Net-Zero Action Plan - Progress Update with feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DECISION:

- i) To note the progress in relation to actions set out within the Net-Zero Action Plan.
- ii) To note the feedback from the Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for the decision:

Periodic progress updates are an integral part of monitoring our Net-Zero journey and it was noted within the Plan that we would report back to Scrutiny and Cabinet on a regular basis.

127 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Customer Contact upon the Customer Charter with feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DECISION:

- i) To approve the Customer Charter.
- ii) To note the feedback from the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for the decision:

To approve the revised Customer Charter that provides customers guidance of how to contact the Authority and when to receive a response.

- 128 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Democratic Services upon the Welsh Language Policy for Awarding Grants in accordance with Standard 94**

DECISION:

To approve the Welsh Language Policy for Awarding Grants.

Reason for the decision:

To meet the requirement of Standard 94: Welsh Language Standards Statutory Framework.

- 129 To consider the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon the Sport Wales Capital Grant Award for Cardigan Memorial Swimming Pool and Hall Trust**

DECISION:

1. To note the overall Sport Wales grant funding approval of £470,261, which comes with a match funding requirement from the Council of £220k.
2. To agree that the Council acts in an intermediary role as banker for the Sport Wales Grant of £207,262 in relation to Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall.
3. To agree that the Schemes are included in the Capital Programme.

Reason for the decision:

To enable £207,262 of capital investment to be made into Cardigan Memorial Pool and Hall.

- 130 To note the report of the Corporate Lead Officer for Porth Cymorth Cynnar upon the Ceredigion Youth Council Meeting Minutes (21.10.22)**

Cabinet noted the report.

- 131 Any other matter the Chairman decides is for the urgent attention of the Cabinet**

None.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Cabinet held on 24 January 2023

Chairman:_____

Date:_____

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CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	24/01/23
Title:	Report of the CLO – Finance and Procurement upon the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and the Multi-year Capital programme.
Purpose of the report:	To consider the draft Revenue Budget Requirement for 2023/24, an updated Multi-year Capital programme and to make a draft recommendation on the proposed level of Council Tax for 2023/24.
For:	Decision
Cabinet Portfolio:	Cllr Bryan Davies - Leader of the Council Cllr Gareth Davies - Cabinet Member: Finance & Procurement Services All Cabinet Members

1. Executive Summary

The higher than expected Provisional settlement increase from WG for 23/24 of 8.1% (on a cash basis) is welcomed. This should ensure that for the 23/24 financial year, services to residents in Ceredigion can be protected as much as possible, whilst acknowledging this is still an extremely challenging Budget. Key points from this report are:

- The Cost pressures being faced by the Council total an unprecedented £22m, equivalent to a Ceredigion specific inflation factor of over 13%. This compares with general inflation running at 10.5% (December 2022 CPI figure). A budget shortfall of £12m therefore needs to be found from a combination of Budget Savings and Council Tax increase considerations.
- The areas where Cost pressures are being seen are generally not unique to Ceredigion. There are recurring themes similar to those referenced in the national press, which are affecting a range of public and private sector organisations, as well as individual household finances. They range from Energy to Fuel to higher than normal Staff Payawards to Contracts with inflation linked clauses. There is also a proposed increase from the Mid & West Wales Fire Authority on their levy, which is at a level not seen before. A 13% proposed increase in their Budget is leading in turn to a significant cost pressure, in relative terms, on the Council's own budget.

- Demands on Social Care related budgets continue to increase, plus there is over £1.7m of funding within the Provisional Settlement (1.5% of the 8.1% increase) that needs to be passported to Externally Commissioned services in Ceredigion to ensure registered Social Care workers continue to be paid at least the Real Living Wage (which has risen from £9.90 to £10.90 per hour – a 10.1% increase).
- Despite operational challenges at times in some Services, Ceredigion County Council continues to deliver high quality services that meet external regulator satisfaction. The Council is assessed by Audit Wales as remaining financially stable, albeit recognising that financial challenges do lie ahead creating ongoing financial risks.
- The current 22/23 Band D Council Tax level in Ceredigion (for all components) is £1,777.27 which is in line with on the average Band D Council Tax in Wales at £1,777.18. Average Council Tax levels in Wales are also considerably lower than the equivalent average for English Unitary Authorities of £2,034 for 22/23. The County Council element of the current 22/23 Band D Council Tax is currently £1,447.90.
- The Leader and the Cabinet are, as all Councillors are, acutely aware of the impact that the Cost of Living is having on household personal finances. It is proposed that Council Tax increases for 23/24 are kept below the current rate of inflation and limited to no more than an additional £10.02 per month for the County Council element.
- The Leader and the Cabinet are therefore recommending that a draft proposed Council Tax increase in the range of 6.3% to 8.3% is put forward for further scrutiny (alongside all other aspects of this report) by the Budget Overview & Scrutiny Committees in early February. This range includes a 1.3% element in relation to the proposed Fire Authority levy increase.
- The Leader and the Cabinet's preferred option in this range is a 7.3% proposed Council Tax increase, which includes a 1.3% element in relation to the proposed Fire Authority levy increase and which equates to an additional £8.81 per month for the County Council element.
- Challenging and difficult times continue to lie ahead - with an indicative WG Settlement average increase for 24/25 of only +3.1%. The extent of the challenge will be focussed on as part of presenting an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy in due course.

2. Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement

The 23/24 Provisional Local Government Finance settlement was published by WG on 14/12/22. Appendix 1 contains the Minister's covering letter to the Settlement. Full details of the Settlement can be found at:

[Local government revenue and capital settlement: provisional 2023 to 2024 | GOV.WALES](#)

[Setliad refeniw a chyfalaf llywodraeth leol: dros dro 2023 i 2024 | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

The following section outlines the key outcomes for Ceredigion from the 23/24 Provisional Settlement:

a) Revenue Funding

The Aggregate External Finance (AEF) allocated to Ceredigion is £129.050m for 2023/24 compared with £119.419m for 2022/23. **This is a cash increase of £9.6m (8.1%) with Ceredigion ranked 9th.** Appendix 2 shows the like for like increases for all Welsh authorities which range from 6.5% (Blaenau Gwent) to 9.3% (Monmouthshire) with an average increase of 7.9%.

There are no grant / funding transfers into the 23/24 Provisional Settlement, however the Ministers covering letter references the following transfer proposed for the 23/24 Final Settlement:

'.....the intention to transfer funding for the increased employer costs related to Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) pensions from a grant to the FRAs into the final local government settlement'.

Following dialogue with Mid & West Wales Fire Authority, the relevant sum for Ceredigion would be £143k and it equates to a 3.4% increase on the Fire levy. This sum is therefore built into the Budget workings and will need to be passported through to the Fire Levy budget heading to ensure this element remains cost neutral. It is disappointing that this change is being done late in the Budget process with no prior consultation.

Ceredigion's Settlement outcome reflects a range of factors, but the main driver is the overall level of additional funding that WG have put into the Settlement. Other pertinent factors to note relate to Population data changes which account for a £54k increase and Pupil Numbers data changes which account for a £70k decrease.

- The gain on Population could have been higher (c£350k) as the 2021 Census recorded the Ceredigion population as 71,468, whereas the population dataset used for the 23/24 Settlement was a combined average of the 2021 Census population data and the 2018 based population projections for 2023 which is 71,188. In addition at least the previous 2 Settlements (21/22 & 22/23) have used understated population data.

- On Pupil numbers, Nursery & Primary numbers have declined by 2.7% to 4,951, whereas Secondary numbers (Yrs 7-11) have increased by 2.5% to 3,599. This reflects a national trend of increasing Secondary pupil numbers and decreasing Nursery & Primary pupil numbers, when comparing data used for 22/23 and 23/24 Settlements.

£70m across Wales was included in the Settlement for the continuation of WG's commitment to ensure registered Social Care Workers in Wales are paid at least the level of the Real Living Wage which is now rising to £10.90 per hour.

b) Capital Funding

General Capital funding has increased significantly across Wales from £150m to £180m. However, this increase was announced 12 months ago, so is already broadly reflected in the Council's existing Multi-Year Capital Programme.

The 23/24 General Capital allocation for Ceredigion is £5.860m (22/23 was £4.891m), split into Supported Borrowing of £2.891m and General Capital Grant of £2.969m. Capital funding levels have still though never returned to the pre-austerity heights of £7m in 2008/09.

On top of this there is going to be an additional £20m of funding available across Wales for 23/24 and 24/25 for Decarbonisation, as part of the net zero 2030 target. Further details of how to bid and access this fund are still awaited.

On top of the core unhypothecated Revenue and Capital WG Settlement funding, there will be specific WG grants that get announced at different points in time and each will come with their own individual grant offer with specific terms and conditions. There is now a WG consultation period of 7 weeks following the Provisional Settlement announcement which closes on 02/02/23. A formal response has been prepared on behalf of the Leader and Cabinet and this will be shared with all Members in due course.

3. Budget Considerations

The Budget model is predicated on the level of available external funding, the level of Cost pressures that Services are facing, with the resulting shortfall needing to be met by a combination of Budget Savings and Council Tax increase considerations.

a) Funding Available

The WG Settlement cash increase of £9.6m forms the largest component.

It is also important to note that in setting the 22/23 Budget, the originally proposed Council Tax increase of around 5% was reduced to 2.5%, following an extremely late announcement of one-off funding from WG. Whilst that approach was appropriate at the time, the funding was only one-off and not recurring, so this element needed to be replaced on an ongoing base budget basis.

The Q1 Financial monitoring report to Cabinet on 06/09/22 tackled this and approved that the original use of £1m WG one-off funding be replaced with a £700k improved Council Tax collection rate assumption, combined with an £300k increase in the Treasury Management Investment Income target. For 23/24, the £700k Council Tax collection rate element now forms part of the Council Tax Base calculation. In overall net terms for 23/24 there is also a £300k gain from the Tax base calculation after allowing for the £700k movement.

b) Cost Pressures

Detailed iterative work has been carried out to identify and assess the unavoidable cost pressures faced by all Services, plus the aspects considered as Corporate items. This work has identified c£22m of Cost pressures, which equates to 13.4% of the 22/23 Budget. This level of Cost Pressure is extraordinary and exceeds the £13m seen in the 22/23 budget. Prior to COVID and the current high levels of inflation in the UK economy, cost pressures were typically around £8m and c.6% of net budget.

Cost pressures being faced can be summarised as follows, with further supporting detail shown in Appendix 3:

	<u>£'000</u>	
<u>Employee Costs related</u>		
22/23 Payawards Shortfall v Base Budget Provision	3,058	
23/24 Assumed Payaward Costs	6,249	
Less 1.25% Employers National Increase reversal	(718)	
Other Employee Costs	46	
	<u>8,635</u>	39%
<u>Premises & Transport Costs related</u>		
Energy Inflation	1,442	
Transport Related Inflation	1,266	
Less NNDR April 2023 Revaluations impact	(43)	
	<u>2,665</u>	12%
<u>Other Social Care related</u>		
Provision for Externally Commissioned Services uplifts (including Real Living Wage increase)	2,542	
Year 2 Pump Priming Investment in TAW model	224	
Increased Service demands	3,039	
Out of County Placements / In county Provision	2,183	
	<u>7,988</u>	36%
<u>Other Items</u>		
Other Contract related inflation	717	3%
Loss of Income and/or Grant Funding	551	2%
Corporate Items	1,721	8%
Total Cost Pressures	<u>22,277</u>	

The table together with the detail shown Appendix 3 shows:

- Employee related costs are a considerable factor at just under 40% of the total Cost pressures.

This is in part due to the national Payawards agreed for 22/23 which significantly exceeded Base Budget provision (Awards were 5% for Teachers and a decreasing sliding scale for general Council staff, ranging between 10.5% for the lowest earners to 1.45% at the highest end (with an average impact of c7.5%) and in part due to provision being made for estimated national Payawards for 23/24 (which are as yet not determined).

The Council does not set Employee Payawards, nor does it take part in Payaward negotiations, this is done by Welsh Government for Teachers Pay and by the UK Local Government Employers body for general Council staff.

- Social Care cost pressures remain considerable at 36% of total Cost Pressures. However £2.5m of this relates to funding for commissioned services, with a large element (£1.7m) covering the WG commitment for Registered Social Care workers to be paid the Real Living Wage which has risen from £9.90 to £10.90 per hour (10.1% increase). This needs to be passported to private sector providers in Ceredigion and is resulting in provisional inflation uplifts of 8.16% for Domiciliary Care & Supported Living, 8.37% for Residential Care and 9.08% for Direct Payments.

Cost pressures are also being seen on Independent Fostering Agency costs and Placements costs within the areas of Learning Disabilities, Older Persons and Mental Health. Whilst there has also been a considerable increase in Out of County Child placement costs (low number but high individual cost), the new strategy of creating in county provision will produce savings but this will come to fruition over the medium term.

- Premises and Transport inflation accounts for 12% of total Cost Pressures and this contains items that are affected in a similar way to the effects being seen on individual household finances – namely Fuel and Energy. These are key cost elements for essential statutory services such as Waste Collection, Home to School transport, Schools and Care Homes.
- Across all the headings - Delegated Schools Budget related cost pressures total £4.8m (equating to c10.8% of the £44.7m Delegated Schools budget). This mainly consists of Teacher Payawards, Energy Costs and general staff Payawards.

- Within the Corporate Items, the main components are Capital Programme Financing costs for the WG Supported Borrowing (£200k), the cost of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (£460k), a central provision for Energy & Pay award inflation type risks (£400k) and a proposed increase in the Fire levy (£519k).

The Fire levy is still subject to formal confirmation following the Fire Authority meeting on 06/02/23, but a 13% Fire Authority Budget increase is being proposed and has been supported as the preferred budget option. The resulting £519k financial impact on the Council equates to a 1.3% Band D Council Tax increase. Apart from the fact that Ceredigion has 2 Councillors nominated on the Fire Authority, there is very little the Council can do about this cost pressure because the Fire Authority are a levying body not a precepting body unlike the Police Authority.

It would not be right to force Council services to make savings to offset the magnitude of this proposed increase. It is therefore proposed that Members consider treating this cost pressure as a stand-alone item as part of the Budget and Council Tax deliberations.

The Cost Pressures are also summarised by type and by CLO in Appendix 4.

c) **Budget Shortfall**

The resulting shortfall between Funding Available and Cost Pressures is therefore just over £12m:

	<u>£'000</u>
<u>Cost Pressures</u>	
Service Cost Pressures	20,556
Corporate Cost Pressures	1,721
	22,277
<u>Less Funding Available</u>	
Increased Funding from WG AEF	9,629
Net Increase resulting from Tax base calculation	300
	9,929
Initial Budget Shortfall	12,348

d) **Budget Savings**

One of the initial guiding principles from the new political administration was (as far as possible) to avoid cuts in Service provision, to minimise Redundancies and to not go down a salami slicing savings route and to continue to take a corporate and transformational approach to medium term savings.

Given the scale of the financial challenge there is a limit to how far all aspects of this approach can be achieved in full and on Delegated School Budgets proactive decisions will be needed by individual Schools as their level of School Balances and available grant funding declines.

Leadership Group have therefore challenged and refreshed a draft Medium Term Financial Savings plan, with the aim of achieving up to £10m of savings for 23/24 and putting plans in place for programmes that extend into future years as well. Approaches taken include an initial set of workstreams under the banner of 'Doing things Differently: A Corporate approach', as well as a review of certain Corporate budget headings and the outcome of the latest Dyfed Pension Fund Triennial results.

Given that these items in the main aren't focussed on individual Delegated Schools Budgets, the final component of the proposed Savings is to ask Schools to find an element of the overall level of Savings required. This is partly a reflection of the current elevated level of School Balances at £8.3m (although these are projected to potentially fall by just over 50% by 31/03/23) and is partly a picture generally being seen nationally as the level of WG funding received is not sufficient. It is therefore not possible to fully fund all £4.8m of the Schools Cost pressures without an increase in Council Tax of c12% or further savings of c£2.1m being found from other Services. Prior to the WG Provisional settlement, Schools were given financial scenarios of either flat budgets or a 3% funding increase.

Limiting the increase to Delegated Schools Budgets to 5.8% would still mean that Teachers Payawards for 22/23 (known) and 23/24 (estimated) and Energy cost pressures are funded in full, together with a further contribution towards other cost pressures (which mainly stem from other Staff Payawards).

As a result, the following estimated Budget savings are being proposed:

	<u>£'000</u>
<u>Doing things Differently: A Corporate approach</u>	
Treasury Management Investment Income	1,000
Corporate Assets review - Usage, Income generation	250
Energy Schemes Investment	125
New Approach to Fostering opportunities	50
Learner Transport review	400
Strategic Review of Primary Schools	100
Car Parking Income	400
General Fees & Charges Income	250
Review use of Capital Programme funding	500
	3,075
<u>Review of Corporate Budget Headings</u>	
Delete Contribution to Boosting the Economy Reserve	2,440
Delete Corporate COVID budget	500
	2,940
Reduction in Dyfed Pension Fund Employers Contribution rate	782
Limit the increase in Delegated Schools budgets to 5.8%	2,065
Total Budget Savings proposed	8,862

Workstreams will naturally proceed at different speeds of delivery. Should some areas overachieve then those savings will be fully banked, which would then either provide an in-year buffer should any areas underachieve or in a best-case scenario provide savings in advance of need for 2024/25.

e) **Council Tax Increase Considerations**

The position resulting from paragraphs a) to d) above can be summarised as follows:

	<u>£'000</u>
Total Cost Pressures	22,277
Less Funding Available	-9,929
Initial Budget shortfall	12,348
Less Budget Savings proposed	-8,862
Shortfall prior to Council Tax considerations	3,486

A c£3.5m shortfall would equate to a Band D Council Tax increase of 7.3%, noting that the proposed 13% Fire Authority Budget increase would equate to 1.3% of this. At this level, the balance of funding split between WG and Ceredigion Taxpayers would be 72% versus 28%, which remains substantially below the 80:20 split seen over a decade ago.

The costs of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and the Council Tax 2nd Homes premium are variable factors which change relative to different levels of Council Tax increase. Therefore, if other scenarios different to 7.3% are considered, these Cost pressure items are also subject to change. In broad terms each 0.25% change in Council Tax equates to a net benefit of c.£100k. I.e. a 1% Council Tax change generates c.£400k, after those variable considerations and adds a monthly cost of £1.21 to the Band D Council Tax level.

If Members were minded to provide a different level of funding with regards to Delegated Schools budgets (noting that the Schools estimated Cost pressures are in the order of 10.8%), the following scenarios could be considered:

<u>Level of Council Tax Increase</u>	<u>Approx. Delegated Schools Budget Increase *</u>	<u>Resulting Band D Council Tax (Ceredigion only element)</u>	<u>Annual Increase compared to 2022/23</u>	<u>Equivalent Monthly Increase</u>	<u>Equivalent Weekly Increase</u>
2022/23		£1,447.90			
+6.3%	4.9%	£1,539.12	£91.22	£7.60	£1.75
+7.3%	5.8%	£1,553.60	£105.70	£8.81	£2.03
+8.3%	6.7%	£1,568.08	£120.18	£10.02	£2.31

- * *Note that the Delegated Schools Budget increases shown are the approximate average increase in the overall Delegated Schools Budget total and that at an individual school level the respective increases will be driven by for example PLASC pupil numbers etc, so each individual school's position will be unique to them.*

The Band D Council tax set for the Ceredigion element of the Council tax in 2022/23 was £1,447.90, rising to £1,777.27 once the Police and average Town & Community Council precept elements are included. The average Welsh Band D Council Tax bill for 22/23 was £1,777.18 and the average Band D Council Tax level for an English Unitary Authority was £2,034 for 22/23.

4. **Budget Requirement**

As a result of the detailed draft Budget considerations, the current 22/23 Budget Requirement of £165.843m would increase under the different scenarios as follows:

<u>Level of Council Tax Increase</u>	<u>Budget Requirement £'000</u>	<u>Resulting Band D Council Tax (Ceredigion element)</u>
+6.3%	179,627	£1,539.12
+7.3%	180,101	£1,553.60
+8.3%	180,576	£1,568.08

The detailed Budget requirement calculation for the 7.3% scenario is shown in Appendix 5. As this Budget proposal is based on the 23/24 Provisional settlement, it is to subject to any adjustments that may need to be included once the WG Final Settlement is issued. Therefore, any necessary adjustments would need to be made in accordance with the following:

- the value of any specific grants transferred into RSG will be passported through to the relevant Service's budget (e.g. £143k Fire Authority related Pension grant to the Fire levy budget)
- any other specific changes to be directly targeted to the affected Service(s), if appropriate
- any other change to the AEF will be dealt with by an adjustment to the Leadership Group budget.

The overall Budget considerations would translate into draft proposed allocations to Services as summarised below (subject to the final Full Council decisions on the Budget and Council Tax levels on 02/03/23). A further analysis of the changes from 2022/23 to draft 2023/24 Controllable Budget totals is shown in Appendix 6.

Budget Totals Movements by Service (based on 7.3% Council Tax scenario)

	2022/23 Latest Controllable Budget Totals £'000	2023/24 Draft Controllable Budget Totals £'000	<i>Change compared to 2022/23 Latest Budget %</i>
Customer Contact	6,150	6,431	4.6%
Democratic Services	4,628	4,977	7.5%
Economy & Regeneration	3,637	3,984	9.5%
Finance & Procurement	18,800	18,900	0.5%
Highways & Environmental Services	18,078	19,431	7.5%
Legal & Governance	1,566	1,649	5.3%
People & Organisation	2,161	2,321	7.4%
Policy, Performance & Public Protection	2,340	2,468	5.5%
Porth Cymorth Cynnar	4,355	5,160	18.5%
Porth Cynnal	28,602	33,870	18.4%
Porth Gofal	13,603	16,256	19.5%
Schools & Culture	50,887	54,576	7.2%
Leadership Group	6,981	4,596	-34.2%
Levies, C/Tax Premium & Reserves	4,055	5,482	35.2%
TOTAL	165,843	180,101	8.6%

5. Budget Risks

A Budget Risks paper, updated for relevant changes, is attached at Appendix 7. It identifies the main risks for the Budget together with appropriate comments and controls applied to minimise each risk.

6. Multi-Year Capital Programme

An updated Multi-year Capital programme is attached (Appendix 8) together with the Capital Strategy (Appendix 9).

The updated Capital Programme proposed for 2022/23 is £35.2m and for 2023/24 is £60.1m. The proposed Capital programme totals £129.8m over the period 2022/23 to 2025/26. At this stage prior to the start of the new financial year, many specific grants are yet to be announced. These will therefore be added to the Capital programme as and when grant offer letters are received and accepted. In some cases this may also require an element of match funding, for which some provision is already made in the Programme.

As Members will be aware there has been a review of the reporting arrangements and structure of the Development Group, which is the strategic forum to consider and focus on future long-term investment to deliver and underpin the delivery of the Council's 2022-2027 Corporate Strategy and associated Corporate Priorities.

A re-invigorated approach will provide a more strategic long-term vision and plan for the Council's assets. This will include moving to a more thematic programme orientated approach to Asset Management Planning, and less of a project by project approach, as well as a much longer term planning horizon.

With the new arrangements only just starting to come into being, the latest iteration of the multi-year Capital Programme has by default an element of a holding position to it. Moving forwards, it's anticipated there will be far more demand and prioritisation needed to deliver the 2022-2027 Corporate Strategy. For example there are competing demands stemming from Building Condition Surveys, Fleet Replacement requirements, Highways Asset Management Plans, Economic investment, Carbon Net Zero investment and Schemes that will deliver Revenue Budget savings e.g. Energy Efficiency. These are just some examples, there will be other areas.

The Capital Programme is likely to evolve quite substantially in time, which will include essential deliberations around Asset rationalisation. The following therefore reflects the key changes in this latest proposed iteration of the Capital Programme:

- There are minimal changes to the latest 2022/23 Capital Programme, compared with the recent in year report to Cabinet alongside the Q2 Financial monitoring report.
- The 2023/24 Council funded elements of the programme are in the main generally recurring schemes, with the main additions being provision for investment in schemes to reduce Energy costs and a higher Fleet Replacement budget. The significant grant funded schemes are the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme and the Coastal Defence Schemes funded by WG.
- Preparatory works regarding the Coastal Defence Schemes at Aberaeron and Aberystwyth are progressing. The associated cost estimates in the Capital Programme are still provisional, with funding approvals still awaited from WG and final tender prices still to be determined. There is therefore a risk that final estimates could well increase further. The funding from the Council (no more than 15% of scheme costs) will come from the Promoting Environmental & Community Resilience Reserve. Provisional Expenditures estimates has been profiled over the following financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- The Growing Mid Wales programme will have specific schemes to add into the Capital programme once they are at Full Business Case approval stage and the agreed Growing Mid Wales growth deal funding has been formalised into grant offer letters.

- A short review has been undertaken to maximise the appropriate use of the Capital Programme. The proposed outcome is that all ICT equipment will now be capitalised and that there will be a renewed focus on Highways Improvements where expenditure will significantly enhance the life and value of Highways related assets. Therefore, there are proposed increased capital allocations in these areas, part funded by a revenue contribution.
- The Council has been successful in receiving Levelling Up grant approval for £10.8m from the UK Government that involves the delivery of schemes across 2021/22 through to 2024/25. In addition, in December 2022 the Council been awarded Shared Prosperity Funding which includes a regional capital component of £7.2m over the period 2022/23 to 2024/25. Of this £2.5m relates to Ceredigion and £4.7m to Powys. The Council is the lead accountable body for this funding, so will receive all the funding but then make grant funding payments to Powys County Council for their aspects, with the arrangements being underpinned by legal agreement.

The Multi-year Capital Programme and Capital Strategy is therefore now presented for approval and recommendation to Full Council, as part of the Budget process.

7. Financial Resilience

The Council's financial resilience and sustainability is robust, supported by a balance sheet which remains strong. The Council's approach and track record is underpinned by a consistently sound approach to financial management, supported by an experienced professional Finance team.

The Leadership Group, led by the Chief Executive, operate in a corporate strategic manner and have collectively worked hard, together with the Leader and Cabinet Members, to face the financial challenges head on and to produce these draft Budget proposals. As the Q1 and Q2 Financial Monitoring reports to Cabinet this year have shown, financial management in the current climate is very challenging.

Audit Wales review and challenge the Council's financial position on a regular basis. Their latest assessment published in December 2022 concluded that:

'The Council is financially stable, helped recently by additional Welsh Government funding. However, delivering sustainable planned future savings in an increasingly challenging financial climate is an ongoing significant financial risk'.

It is recognised that the level of cash backed balances on the balance sheet has reached its peak and will start declining as a planned use of certain reserves occurs (e.g. Use of the Cost & Inflationary Pressures reserve, School use of their Delegated School Balances, Use of Social Care Placements Equalisation reserve). This is and will continue to be done in a managed and controlled manner. This is extremely important, not only for financial stability, but also due to the £1.0m assumed Budget Savings relating to Treasury Management.

If significant use of reserves was employed as a Budget strategy this would jeopardise the achievement of this item and would run contrary to previous Audit Wales views on this issue. In addition, the Council has maintained an 'internal' level of borrowing, whereby external borrowing has been minimised and if this were to be unwound then there would be a considerable cost implication to this.

The Budget has always been set so that no base budget demand is made from General Balances, other than for funding highly exceptional one-off items should the need arise. The Council's approved target is for General Balances to be maintained at between 3% and 5% of net expenditure.

The following table shows the current and forecasted position, with the reason for the declining percentage being driven by the higher than average proposed increase in the Council's Budget Requirement:

	31/03/22 Actual	31/03/23 Planned	31/03/24 Planned
General Balances - Amount	£6.7m	£6.7m	£6.7m
General Balances - Percentage	4.1%	3.7%	3.7%

8. Medium Term Financial Strategy

Managing the in year 22/23 financial position, as well as the 23/24 Budget process, has been challenging due to the current financial climate and the ever-changing economic landscape. This includes the impact of significant levels of inflation being seen in multiple areas and Services that are facing operational challenges due to post COVID impacts and some recruitment & retention issues. Medium Term financial challenges are further exacerbated when indicative future levels of funding don't bear much resemblance to the subsequent outcomes that materialise.

Nevertheless the 'Doing things Differently: A Corporate Approach' work the Leadership Group is progressing on various workstreams (which have multi-year dimensions to them in most cases) currently provides early indications of potential savings of at least £2.1m for 24/25 and £1.9m for 25/26.

The Minister's Witten Statement accompanying the 23/24 Provisional Settlement states that:

'The indicative Wales-level core revenue funding allocation for 2024-25 is £5.69bn – equating to an uplift of £169m (3.1%). This figure is indicative and dependent on both our current estimates of NDR income and any 2024-25 UK budgets.'

The Medium Term Financial Strategy is therefore in the process of being updated to reflect and provide further details on the workstreams, plus allowing more time to digest 2021 Census datasets, as well as using no higher than the 3.1% indicative level of WG Settlement funding for 24/25 as a funding proxy and considerations to be made around future Payaward estimates (which remain difficult to estimate).

It is therefore intended to table the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy as a separate report in due course, to allow a more considered and focussed approach, given that further difficult decisions will lie ahead beyond 23/24. It is likely that work on the 24/25 Budget will also need to start much sooner than normal.

9. Conclusions and Opinion of the Section 151 Officer

The WG Final settlement is expected to be published on 28/02/23, the same day as the WG Final Budget. This hardly allows any time before the Full Council meeting on 02/03/23 where all Members will meet to consider and make final decisions on the Net Budget and the level of Council Tax. The proposed transfer into the Final Settlement of the Fire Pensions grant is therefore being included in the draft Budget Requirement figures being presented at this stage.

After considering all aspects, a balanced budget can be achieved within the tolerances of the scenarios contained within the report and taking account of the overall level of Funding available and the Budget savings proposed. I would like to thank all members of the Leadership Group, their managers and staff for the work that's been done on the budget up to this point, as well as the Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance & Procurement and all Cabinet Members for their constructive direction, input and contributions. There remains a lot of work still to do and the delivery of the Budget Savings will in many cases be ongoing workstreams.

Even though the 23/24 Budget process is challenging enough in itself, the outlook for the future remains bleak and therefore a refocussed Medium Term Financial Strategy will be essential to continue the Council's track record of sound financial management, continuous improvement and achieving balanced budgets. This will require further Budget savings and efficiencies to continue to be progressed and delivered.

Taking all the matters contained in this report into account, as Section 151 officer, I am therefore able to confirm that the proposed budget has been prepared in a robust manner. It is subject to the delivery of Budget Savings and these will be actively monitored during the course of the year through the usual financial management arrangements. This includes Latest in year Budgets being updated on a regular basis, regular Financial Monitoring reports to Cabinet, exception reporting as required and Budget-Holders taking corrective action at an early enough stage in the year if unforeseen issues do arise. I am also able to confirm that the current Capital plans and Capital Strategy are prudent and affordable and that the overall risk on these aspects is considered low.

A final proposed Budget Requirement and Council Tax recommendation to Full Council will be made following the Budget Scrutiny process and at the Cabinet meeting to be held on the 14/02/23.

Wellbeing of Future Generations: Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees will consider the Long term, Integration, Involvement and Prevention issues arising from the detailed budget proposals.

Recommendations:

1. To note that the proposed increase in the Mid & West Wales Fire Authority levy (their 13% Budget option) means a £519k cost pressure on the Council's 23/24 Budget, which is the equivalent of a 1.3% Band D Council Tax increase for Ceredigion residents.
2. To approve a preferred option for the draft 23/24 Budget Requirement of £180.101m, which would represent a proposed Band D Council Tax increase for County Council purposes of 7.3% (including 1.3% in relation to the proposed Fire Authority Levy increase).
3. To recommend that the Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committees consider the following options for the 23/24 Budget Requirement and resulting Council Tax increase for County Council purposes of:
 - a) A 6.3% Council Tax increase (including 1.3% in relation to the proposed Fire Authority Levy increase) and a 23/24 Budget requirement of £179.627m, which would provide a lower contribution towards Delegated Schools Budget Cost Pressures.
 - b) A 7.3% Council Tax increase (including 1.3% in relation to the proposed Fire Authority Levy increase) and a 23/24 Budget requirement of £180.101m.
 - c) A 8.3% Council Tax increase (including 1.3% in relation to the proposed Fire Authority Levy increase) and a 23/24 Budget requirement of £180.576m, to provide a higher contribution towards Delegated Schools Budget Cost Pressures.
 - d) An alternative option over and above Recommendations 3a) to 3c) to provide a specific increase for a specific purpose, provided that any option is considered during the Budget Scrutiny meetings and that the Section 151 officer is given sufficient time in advance to fully model the impact and to provide an opinion on its robustness.

4. When the 23/24 Final settlement is issued that:
 - a) The value of any further specific grants transferred into RSG will be passported through to the relevant Service's budget, including the £143k Fire Authority Pensions Grant to the Fire Levy budget.
 - b) Any other specific changes should be directly targeted to the affected Service(s), as and where appropriate.
 - c) Any other change to the AEF will be dealt with by an adjustment to the Leadership Group budget.
5. To note that a report on the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy will be considered as a separate future item and that it will reflect an indicative 24/25 Settlement increase of no more than 3.1%.
6. To approve the Multi-Year Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 8 and recommend this to Full Council for approval.
7. To approve the Capital Strategy as set out in Appendix 9 and recommend this to Full Council for approval.
8. To refer this Cabinet report for the views of the Budget Overview and Scrutiny Committees who are due to meet on 02/02/23, 09/02/23 and 10/02/23. These committees will also receive information on Fees & Charges proposals.
9. To note that the final decisions on the 23/24 Budget Requirement and the level of Council Tax increase for 23/24 will be made by Full Council on 02/03/23.

Reasons for decision:

To enable the 2023/24 Budget preparation.

Overview and Scrutiny:

The Budget Proposals will be considered by the Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 02/02/23 and by the individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 09/02/23 and 10/02/23.

Corporate Priorities:

The Budget supports all aspects of the 2022-2027 Corporate Strategy.

Financial implications:	Part of the budget setting process.
Statutory Powers:	Local Government Finance Act 1972.
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government revenue and capital settlement: provisional 2023 to 2024 GOV.WALES / Setliad refeniw a chyfalaf llywodraeth leol: dros dro 2023 i 2024 LLYW.CYMRU • Council Tax base setting report to Cabinet – 06/12/22
Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Minister's Provisional Settlement Letter Appendix 2 - Settlement info for all Councils Appendix 3 - Budget Cost Pressures Detail Appendix 4 - Budget Cost Pressures by CLO Appendix 5 - Budget Requirement Summary Appendix 6 - Budget Movements 22/23 to 23/24 Appendix 7 - Budget Risks Appendix 8 - Multi-Year Capital Programme Appendix 9 - Capital Strategy
Corporate Lead Officer	Duncan Hall Corporate Lead Officer – Finance & Procurement
Reporting Officers:	Duncan Hall and Justin Davies
Date:	13/01/23

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/RE/3705/22

To:
 Leaders of County and County Borough Councils in Wales

Copied to:
 Chief Executives and Directors of Finance, County and County Borough Councils in Wales
 Chief Executive and Director of Finance, Welsh Local Government Association

14 December 2022

Dear Colleagues

Today I am announcing details of the Provisional Local Government Revenue and Capital Settlements for 2023-24 (the Settlement) for county and county borough councils (authorities) in Wales through a Cabinet Written Statement. This is attached for your information.

As you know the funding announced in the Chancellor's autumn statement was not sufficient to protect public service budgets against the immense challenges caused by record inflation. While there was some additional funding for Wales in the Autumn Statement – £1.2bn over two years – almost half of this came from decisions made about non-domestic rates policy in England. This will not fill the big gaps in Wales' settlement over the three-year spending review period (2022-23 to 2024-25).

As in recent years, this Government's priorities continue to be health and local government services. My announcement outlines my intention to set local government core revenue funding for 2023-24 at £5.5 billion. This means, after adjusting for transfers, overall core funding for local government in 2023-24 will increase by 7.9% on a like-for-like basis compared to the current year. No authority will receive less than a 6.5% increase.

The indicative Wales-level core revenue funding allocation for 2024-25 has also increased as the additional funding for the revenue support grant in 2023-24 is baselined, the impact of the multiplier freeze continues for the second year as does the transitional rates relief (although this is at a reduced rate in 2024-25). The AEF for 2024-25 is £5.69 billion equating to an uplift of £169 million. This figure is indicative and dependent on our current estimate of NDR income.

In making decisions about the level of funding for local government I have responded to the need to support key front-line services. In particular I have included funding to enable authorities to continue to meet the additional costs of introducing the Real Living Wage for care workers.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

As a result of spending decisions made in relation to education in England, Wales received a consequential of £117m a year in the Autumn Statement. This is being provided in full to local government through a combination of the Settlement and the Education MEG. The funding provided through this Settlement will therefore need to cover the costs arising from the 2023/24 pay deal which fall within the 2023-24 Settlement year. I have again taken the decision to provide all the available funding up front and not hold back funding for in-year recognition of the 2023/24 teachers' pay deal. Authorities' budget planning must therefore accommodate these costs.

I know local government has been facing significant pressures and has sought to recognise the impact of inflation on the living standards of those who work in local government as well as the broader community. I hope that this increased Settlement enables you to continue to deliver the services your communities need as well as supporting national and local ambitions for the future.

Alongside the Settlement we are continuing to provide funding to support local government to waive fees for child burials. This shared commitment ensures a fair and consistent approach across Wales.

In line with our focus on countering the effects of poverty, we remain committed to protecting vulnerable and low-income households from any reduction in support under the Council Tax Reduction Schemes, despite the shortfall in the funding transferred by the UK Government following its abolition of Council Tax Benefit. We will continue to maintain full entitlements under our Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) for 2023-24 and are again providing £244 million for CTRS in the Settlement in recognition of this.

The current economic context, including high inflation, is placing significant pressure on businesses and other ratepayers in Wales. Those pressures are also being felt by the public services we all rely on, and which are themselves reliant on the revenue raised through local taxes. To support all ratepayers during this period I am providing a package of non-domestic rates support worth more than £460m over the next two financial years. I am maintaining the approach taken in previous years and freezing the non-domestic rates multiplier for 2023-24. This ensures there will again be no inflationary increase in the amount of rates businesses and other ratepayers are paying.

I am also introducing a £113m, fully funded, transitional relief for all ratepayers whose bills increase by more than £300 following the UK-wide revaluation exercise, which takes effect on 1 April 2023.

Finally, the NDR support package also provides over £140m of non-domestic rates relief for retail, leisure, and hospitality businesses in Wales. Eligible ratepayers will receive 75% non-domestic rates relief for the duration of 2023-24, capped at £110,000 per business across Wales. Our approach means that businesses in Wales will receive comparable support to that provided in other parts of the UK.

Given the increase in this Settlement, I am not proposing to include a floor this year and have allocated all the available funding in this Settlement.

I set out the position on capital funding for the Welsh Government as part of my budget statement on Tuesday. The settlement we received from the UK Government was disappointing and is not sufficient to meet our ambitions to invest in Wales' future, with our overall capital budget 8.1% lower in real terms than the current year.

Following the review of our capital budgets, general capital funding for local government for 2023-24 will remain as indicated in the final 2022-23 budget at £180 million, an increase of £30m over the current year. This will continue for 2024-25.

Even as we meet the challenges posed by inflation, and respond to humanitarian needs arising from conflict, we must not lose sight of the need to maintain our focus on responding to the climate and nature emergency and contributing to the Net Zero Wales plan we have developed together. Separately I am providing £20 million capital in each year to enable authorities to respond to our joint priority of decarbonisation. I have not considered hypothecating revenue funding to support authorities' response to climate change recognising that all our decisions must consider how to reduce our ongoing emissions and to allow authorities maximum flexibility to do so and to manage their budgets.

The draft *Local Government Finance Report* and additional tables containing details of the Settlement by individual authority are also being published on the Welsh Government website. These tables include the individual authority allocations of Aggregate External Finance (AEF), comprising RSG and redistributed NDR. We are also providing information on revenue and capital grants which are planned for 2023-24 and 2024-25. This information will be further updated for the final settlement.

The publication of the Settlement in mid-December has enabled us to draw on the latest tax-base figures for 2023-24, meaning that there should be no change between provisional and final settlements as a result of updates to the tax base. While I cannot guarantee that there will be no other changes between the provisional and final settlements, due to the financial uncertainty that we currently face, I do not intend making any significant changes to the methodology or the data underpinning the distribution of this Settlement. There is one change planned for final budget which I should draw to your attention and that is the intention to transfer funding for the increased employer costs related to Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) pensions from a grant to the FRAs into the final local government settlement. Your officers will wish to ensure that they consider this with each appropriate FRA during the usual discussions on funding.

This Settlement provides you with a stable platform for planning your budgets for the forthcoming financial year and beyond.

I and my colleagues have engaged closely with local government in the lead up to this Settlement. While this is a relatively good Settlement, building on improved allocations in recent years, I recognise that the rates of inflation we have experienced over the last few months and the forecasts from the OBR of continuing significant levels of inflation means that you will still need to make difficult decisions in setting your budgets and it is important you engage meaningfully with your local communities as you consider your priorities for the forthcoming year.

The setting of budgets, and in turn council tax, is of course the responsibility of each authority. You will need to take account of the full range of funding sources available to you, as well as the pressures you face, in setting your budgets for the coming year.

I will continue to engage closely with local government through the WLGA.

My announcement today launches a 7-week period of formal consultation on the Settlement for 2023-24. I would be grateful if you could ensure your response arrives no later than **Thursday, 2 February 2023**. All responses to this consultation should be sent to:

Tim Evans: LGFPSettlement@gov.wales

Comments are invited about the effects (whether positive or adverse) the proposed Settlement would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language. In addition, we invite comments on whether the proposed Settlement could be formulated or revised to have positive effects, or decrease adverse effects, on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of each respondent are published along with the response. If you do not wish to be identified as the author of your response, please ensure you state this explicitly in your response.

Copies of responses may be placed in the Welsh Government's library. If you wish your comments to remain confidential, please make this clear in your reply. This will be considered in light of our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. The Welsh Government will consider all responses received by the due date before the final determination is made and published.

Authorities are reminded of the requirement to comply with the general equality duties set out in the Equality Act 2010, and also the specific equality duties where applicable. The equality impacts of budgetary options should be assessed and inform any final decisions.

Authorities also need to take account of their duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh language standards in preparing plans for 2022-23.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government

All Wales Provisional Settlement information

Unitary Authority	2023-24 Provisional Aggregate External Finance £'000	Change from 2022/23 (On a like for like basis)	Rank
Monmouthshire	122,490	9.3%	1
Cardiff	592,891	9.0%	2
The Vale of Glamorgan	202,535	8.9%	3
Newport	289,211	8.9%	4
Powys	228,388	8.7%	5
Carmarthenshire	338,017	8.5%	6
Wrexham	224,621	8.4%	7
Flintshire	251,747	8.4%	8
Ceredigion	129,050	8.2%	9
Denbighshire	187,871	8.2%	10
Pembrokeshire	212,415	7.9%	11
Isle of Anglesey	123,555	7.9%	12
Bridgend	249,895	7.7%	13
Swansea	417,775	7.6%	14
Torfaen	172,223	7.5%	15
Conwy	198,413	7.3%	16
Neath Port Talbot	276,397	7.1%	17
Merthyr Tydfil	118,497	7.0%	18
Gwynedd	227,843	7.0%	19
Caerphilly	339,610	6.9%	20
Rhondda Cynon Taf	470,847	6.6%	21
Blaenau Gwent	139,597	6.5%	22
Total unitary authorities	5,513,888	7.9%	
Min		6.5%	
Max		9.3%	
Median		7.9%	
Average		7.9%	

2023/24 Budget: Cost Pressures

Cost Pressure Details	Service	TOTAL £'000	Additional comments
1. Cost Pressures common to All / Most Services			
22/23 Pay Awards versus 22/23 Budget Provision - Base realignment		3,058	To ensure the base budget has full provision for the approved 22/23 Payawards
APT&C Estimated 23/24 Pay Award Provision		4,470	Latest working assumption is a flat payaward at £1,600 per SCP to ensure the lowest SCP is £1 higher than the expected National Minimum Wage of £10.42. This equates to an average impact of 6.3%, but this would vary for each SCP from 7.9% to 1.5%.
Teachers Pay Award (inc Soulbury) - Sept 22 (Full year effect)		445	Full year effect of Sept 2022 5% Payaward (i.e. remaining 5/12s)
Teachers Pay Award (inc Soulbury) - Sept 23 (Part year effect)		1,334	Sept 2023 Teachers Payaward assumed at 3.5% as per Pay Review Body report
Reversal of 1.25% Employers National Insurance increase		(718)	UK Government Policy reversal
Energy Inflation		1,442	Full year impact of 01/10/22 to 30/09/23 Energy contract prices at current consumption levels. On Electricity - increases per kwh / standing charges equate to an average of c77%. On Gas - increases per kwh / standing charges equate to an average of c195%. With all energy aspects combined the total increase is c£1.4m, taking the Energy bill from c£2.4m to c£3.9m – an overall increase of c60%.
NNDR April 2023 Revaluation		(43)	Net impact of new 2023 Valuation listing after allowing for WG Transitional Relief
SUBTOTAL		9,988	
2. Corporate Items			
M&WWFA Fire Authority Levy		519	Proposed Fire levy increase based on M&WWFA 13% Option. Once apportioned to Constituent LAs on population this works out at 12.4% for Ceredigion. This is subject to final decision on 06/02/23, but in principal this has been accepted by Fire Authority Members. This equates to 1.3% in pure Council Tax increase terms
Members Allowances		47	IRP proposed increase 4.76%, subject to outcome of consultation
External Audit Fees		30	Proposed increase of c14% on a large part of the external audit fee costs linked to a combination of cost of living and revised auditing standards requiring more qualified staff
Council Tax 2nd Homes Premium		65	This is based on a Council Tax increase of 7.3% (Amount is variable for different Council Tax levels)
Provision for Energy & Pay Inflation Risks		400	
Capital Programme Financing for WG Supported Borrowing		200	
Council Tax Reduction Scheme		460	This is based on a Council Tax increase of 7.3% (Amount is variable for different Council Tax levels)
SUBTOTAL		1,721	

2023/24 Budget: Cost Pressures

Cost Pressure Details	Service	TOTAL £'000	Additional comments
3. Cost Pressures relating to all Pwrth Through Age Services			
Year 2 Pump Priming Investment of new TAW Staffing model	All Pwrths	224	Figure as per TAW Structure costings. Net investment of £1.1m across the 3 Pwrths split over 2 years (£857k funded in 22/23+ £224k now in 23/24). Although the structure is not yet fully populated due to recruitment challenges, a combination of continued use of agency staff and/or eventual successful permanent staff recruitment will mean the Year 2 budget will be required.
Provision for cost inflation for Externally Commissioned Services covering £9.90 to £10.90 Real Living Wage increase and non Staffing General inflation	Porth Gofal / Porth Cynnal	2,542	Inflation factors proposed of 8.16% Dom Care/Supported Living, 8.37% for Residential Care and 9.08% for Direct Payments.
PRU Transport Inflation	Porth Cymorth Cynnar	61	Reflects the impact of actual latest contract renewal pricing
Tender for new Domiciliary Care contract and proposal for an increase in standard hourly rates to align closer to the UKHCA Rate	Porth Gofal	302	There is an underspend against the Dom Care budget in 22/23, therefore should the new contract proceed using estimated UKHCA rates as the key baseline, then £302k is the estimated net financial impact. This is after taking account of the existing underspend and the level of packages currently being serviced by the in-house Enablement team.
Impact of core new Contract cost for Domiciliary Care Provision at Maes y Mor, Aberystwyth	Porth Gofal	132	Impact of new core contract pricing for assessed care hours following the serving of notice by the previous contract holder. There is a further upside risk relating to 24/7 cover which will need to be the subject of a review.
Looked After Children - Independent Fostering Agency costs	Porth Cynnal	352	The existing trend within LAC is a steady increase and post Q2 there has been an additional 5 IFA Placements that have come through (£200k). The increased costs represents the current in year pressure identified at Q2 together with the now known increase in the number of IFAS's and an allowance for contract inflation uplifts.
Looked After Children - Uplift on WG Allowances	Porth Cynnal	59	Estimated increase of 4% in WG set allowances. There are currently various allowances payable in relation to 138 children including Kinship (37), Special Guardianship (32), Adoption (16) to Boarding Allowances (51). The total spend in this area is c£1.5m pa
Learning Disabilities - Independent Sector Placements	Porth Cynnal	962	There has needed to be an uplift to very historic levels of fees in order to retain the in county provision at Plas Gwyn (c£238k) and in addition there has been 6 new placements at a gross cost of £724k (average placement cost £120k). The overall total gross budget is £6.7m with c62 placements at an average placement cost of £108k (highest placement cost of £212k).
Learning Disabilities - Supported Living Settings	Porth Cynnal	558	This reflects the total full year cost based on current numbers (and their associated support hours) in Supported Living settings. There has also been a loss of funding from Housing Support Grant of £214k. The Total Gross Budget required is £3.6m, with the largest elements being £3.1m supporting 45 Service Users in county across 18 properties at an average cost of £69kpa per Service User and 4 Service Users in Other Independent settings (average cost £83kpa per person). A new Dynamic Purchasing System approach is part way through implementation and whilst this may bring efficiency opportunities it also carries an upside financial risk.

2023/24 Budget: Cost Pressures

Cost Pressure Details	Service	TOTAL £'000	Additional comments
Older Persons - Independent Sector Placements	Porth Cynnal	595	This reflects the total full year cost based on the current level of placements. The Total required Gross Budget is £12.15m reflecting c288 placements, with an average placement cost of £42kpa
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children	Porth Cynnal	92	This reflects the cost of x7 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Children currently with the Council under the National Transfer Service. This is the shortfall when comparing the Home Office grant of £143 per night (Looked After Children) and £270 per week (Leaving Care) to actual current placement costs. Lobbying is being done through the WLGA as this is an issue affecting most LAs.
Mental Health - Out of County Supported Housing and Independent Sector Placements	Porth Cynnal	260	Budget required is based on current known and in-progress placements. The Total Gross Budget required is £4m reflecting c 55 placements with an average placement cost of £73kpa
Out of County Placements	Leadership Group / Porth Gofal	2,183	There are currently 13 out of county Child placements - 2 of which are long term, up to 5 may be suitable for in county provision and 6 either should or within a reasonable timescale become suitable for alternative arrangements (e.g. Fostering, Supported Living, Supported Lodgings). The average current cost for a child placement is £296k. There are also 13 out of county college placements at an average cost of £102k. Total out of county child and college placement costs are projected to be £5.286m if there is no change in approach. After factoring in known & projected changes in approach, including the part year operating costs of 3 new in county faculties, this cost reduces to a cost of £4.875m for 23/24. This is made up of projected placement costs of £4.25m and part year in county running costs of £625k. The full year effect for 24/25 should reduce placement costs further, partially offset by the full year effect of in county facilities running costs, but overall a net reduction is forecast once the inhouse facilities are fully operational. This reduction is reflection in the future years savings plans
SUBTOTAL		8,322	

2023/24 Budget: Cost Pressures

Cost Pressure Details	Service	TOTAL £'000	Additional comments
4. Cost Pressures Applicable to Other Services			
Software Contracts - Annual Support & Maintenance / Licences	Customer Contact	80	Increase in Software Licence cost due to contractual inflation provisions - generally RPI or CPI linked, with the total software budget being c£800k (Largest single component being Microsoft Office 365 which is index linked and is £60k of the increase).
Penweddig PFI Contract Inflation	Finance & Procurement	152	The Penweddig PFI Contract which runs until December 2030 has an RPIX inflation provision built into it. Recent Inflation factors have been: 21/22 +1.67%, 22/23 +9.09%, 23/24 assumed at +10% on the £1.5m Unitary Charge. Whilst there is a considerable cost to this, it is contractual and the PFI operator will in practice be facing significant inflation on materials, supplies and wages.
Home to School Transport	Highways & Environmental	561	Impact of full year effect of known route tender prices already agreed. Further risk as other routes come up for renewal.
Public Bus Transport routes	Highways & Environmental	215	Relates mainly to impact of full year effect of known route tender prices already agreed. Certain routes only extended on a 6 month + 6 month basis. Of the routes only 1 (the 526 at £104k for 12 months) has no statutory learner aspect to it.
Waste Disposal Contracts	Highways & Environmental	155	The projected increase only relates to inflationary provisions within Household Waste Sites contracts, which are linked to RPIX. Elsewhere contractual increases for other Waste contracts are being offset by a positive outcome from the new Recycling Disposal contract which should be income generating.
Transport Maintenance Unit	Highways & Environmental	168	Elevated prices / inflation being seen in relation to Fleet Fuel (£126k with 10% reduction in fuel prices assumed on c600,000 litres) plus Supplier inflation being seen on key Materials (Tyres and Spares etc - £42k)
Teachers Legacy Premature Retirement Costs - Inflation impact	People & Organisation	46	8.7% inflation effect from April 2023
Continuation of Civil Contingencies / Post Brexit resource	Policy, Performance & Public Protection	24	Previously grant funded - reflects 6 month impact (Previously 1st 50% funded in 22/23 budget setting process)
Free School Meals (Secondary) - Increased volumes	Delegated Schools Budget	138	Increase of 84 (793-709) @ £1,644 = £138k
School SLA Charges - inflation	Delegated Schools Budget	144	Charges from Internal Services will increase to reflect Pay / Other inflation
Catering - Food Costs inflation in Secondary / All through Schools	Delegated Schools Budget	62	Based on food inflation rate of 12.4%
ALN Transport Contracts Inflation	Schools & Culture	241	Reflects the impact of actual latest contract renewal pricing
Language Unit Transport Inflation	Schools & Culture	20	Reflects the impact of actual latest contract renewal pricing
Inter Authority Recoupment for SEN provision	Schools & Culture	175	Full year effect of 7.8 TA's finished Aug 22 (including 2 in units) - £120k + 9.7 TA's finishing Aug 23 (pupils in Yr 11/Yr13) - £105k Less spend of £50k. Inter Authority recoupment charges are made up of Unit costs, charges to 31/08 and 5% management fee.
Catering - Food Costs inflation in Primary Schools & Care Homes	Schools & Culture	65	Based on food inflation rate of 12.4%
SUBTOTAL		2,246	

2023/24 Budget: Cost Pressures

Cost Pressure Details	Service	TOTAL £'000	Additional comments
TOTAL COST PRESSURES		22,277	

2023/24 Budget: Estimated Cost Pressures by Service

	2022/23 Employee Payawards versus 22/23 Budget Provision - Base Budget realignment £'000	2023/24 Employee Payawards Provision £'000	1.25% Employers National Insurance Reversal £'000	Employee Costs (Other) £'000	Energy Inflation £'000	Transport Related Inflation £'000	NNDR April 2023 Revaluation £'000	Provision for Externally Commission- ed Services Inflation (including Real Living Wage & Empers NI) £'000	Pump Priming Through Age & Wellbeing new Operating Model Structure (Yr 2 of 2) £'000	Other (Social Care related) £'000	Other Contracts related Inflation £'000	Loss of Income/ Grant funding £'000	Corporate Items £'000	TOTAL £'000
Customer Contact	206	214	(30)								80			470
Democratic Services	143	224	(27)										47	387
Economy & Regeneration	159	284	(36)		274		(27)							654
Finance & Procurement	159	193	(25)								152		660	1,139
Highways & Environmental Services	425	561	(51)		154	944	16				155			2,204
Legal & Governance Services	29	41	(7)										30	93
People & Organisation	64	86	(15)	46										181
Policy, Performance & Public Protection	30	134	(30)									24		158
Porth Cymorth Cynnar	272	419	(37)		99	61	5		59					878
Porth Cynnal	157	253	(36)					2,106	9	2,605	59	214		5,367
Porth Gofal	496	804	(60)		186		1	436	156	434				2,453
Schools & Culture	1,752	3,022	(361)		729	261	(38)				271	313		5,949
Leadership Group	(834)	14	(3)							2,183			400	1,760
Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves													584	584
TOTAL	3,058	6,249	(718)	46	1,442	1,266	(43)	2,542	224	5,222	717	551	1,721	22,277

<u>Budget Requirement Summary</u>			<u>7.3% C/Tax Scenario £'000</u>
Based on a 7.3% Council Tax Increase			
<u>2023/24 Available Resources</u>			
Aggregate External Finance (RSG + NNDR)	2021/22: £119,421		129,050
<u>Council Tax Income</u>			
Council Tax Base (as per 07/12/21 Cabinet report)		32,346.55	
Council Tax 2021/22		£1,447.90	
Council Tax 2022/23 increasing by	7.30%	£1,553.60	50,253
Council Tax 2nd Homes Premium Base (as per 06/12/22 Cabinet report)		421.44	
Council Tax 2021/22		£1,447.90	
Council Tax 2022/23 increasing by	7.30%	£1,553.60	655
Total Available Resources for Budget Requirement (at Provisional Settlement)			179,958
Add WG proposal to transfer Fire Authority Pensions Grant into Final Settlement			143
Total Available Resources for Budget Requirement (expected at Final Settlement)			180,101
Adjusted Base Budget b/f from previous year			165,843
<u>Corporate Adjustments and New Responsibilities:</u>			
<u>Specific Allocations</u>			
- M&WWFA Fire Authority Levy			519
- Council Tax 2nd Homes Premium			65
- Capital Programme Financing			200
- Council Tax Reduction Support Scheme			460
- Members Allowances			47
- External Audit Fees			30
- Provision for Pay and Energy Inflation risks			400
- Reversal of Q1 Council Tax Surplus Assumptions now factored into Taxbase			700
			2,421
<u>Transfers in (Proposed for Final Settlement):</u>			
- Fire Authority Pensions Grant to Fire Levy Budget			143
			143
Subtotal			2,564
<u>Increased Cost pressures on Services</u>			
- 2022/23 Payawards Shortfall versus current Base Budget Provision			3,058
- 2023/24 Assumed Payawards Cost			6,249
- Other Employee Costs			270
- 1.25% Employers National Insurance reversal			(718)
- Energy Inflation related			1,442
- Transport Related Inflation related			1,266
- NNDR April 2023 Revaluation impact			(43)
- Other Contracts related Inflation			3,107
- Tfer / 3rd Party Payments / Other Supplies & Services			5,374
- Loss of income / Grant funding			551
			20,556
<u>Cost Reductions / Saving Proposals</u>			
- Doing things Differently: A Corporate Approach			(3,075)
- Limit the increase to be applied to Delegated Schools to 5.8%			(2,065)
- Delete Contribution to Boosting the Economy reserve			(2,440)
- Delete Corporate COVID base budget			(500)
- Reduction in Dyfed Pension Fund Employers Contribution rate (from 15.8% to 14.6%)			(782)
			(8,862)
Controllable and Net Budget Requirement			180,101

Budget Movements - 2022/23 Budget to Draft 2023/24 Budget

	2022/23 Approved Original Controllable Budget £'000	In-Year Budget Transfers / Movements / Virements to date £'000	Restating WG £1.0m Monies used to lower 22/23 C/Tax to 2.5% (Q1) £'000	2022/23 Updated Controllable Budget (as at Q3) £'000	Restating WG £1.0m Monies used to lower 22/23 C/Tax to 2.5% (Taxbase) £'000	2022/23 Updated Base Budget Requirement for 2023/24 £'000	Add Grant to be Transferred into Final Settlement to be passported £'000	Add Cost Pressures £'000	Doing things Differently: A Corporate Approach £'000	Reduction in Dyfed Pension Fund Employers Rate £'000	Limit the increase in Delegated Schools budgets to c5.8% £'000	Corporate Budget Reductions: Boosting the Economy Reserve / Corporate COVID £'000	2023/24 Draft Controllable Budget Totals £'000	Change compared to 2022/23 Latest Budget %
Customer Contact	6,155	(5)		6,150		6,150		470	(140)	(49)			6,431	4.6%
Democratic Services	4,391	237		4,628		4,628		387		(38)			4,977	7.5%
Economy & Regeneration	3,688	(51)		3,637		3,637		654	(250)	(57)			3,984	9.5%
Finance & Procurement	19,062	38	(300)	18,800		18,800		1,139	(1,000)	(39)			18,900	0.5%
Highways & Environmental Services	18,241	(163)		18,078		18,078		2,204	(760)	(91)			19,431	7.5%
Legal & Governance	1,569	(3)		1,566		1,566		93		(10)			1,649	5.3%
People & Organisation	2,165	(4)		2,161		2,161		181		(21)			2,321	7.4%
Policy, Performance & Public Protection	2,355	(15)		2,340		2,340		158		(30)			2,468	5.5%
Porth Cymorth Cynnar	4,401	(46)		4,355		4,355		878		(73)			5,160	18.5%
Porth Cynnal	28,648	(46)		28,602		28,602		5,367	(50)	(49)			33,870	18.4%
Porth Gofal	13,617	(14)		13,603		13,603		2,778		(125)			16,256	19.5%
Schools & Culture	50,965	(78)		50,887		50,887		5,949	-	(195)	(2,065)		54,576	7.2%
Leadership Group	6,831	150		6,981		6,981		1,435	(875)	(5)		(2,940)	4,596	-34.2%
Levies, Council Tax Premium & Reserves	3,755	-	300	4,055	700	4,755	143	584					5,482	35.2%
Total Controllable Budget	165,843	-	-	165,843	700	166,543	143	22,277	(3,075)	(782)	(2,065)	(2,940)	180,101	8.6%

Budget Risks

The following are the identified main risks for the budget together with the appropriate comments, and controls applied to minimise the risk:

1. Changes to the level of Aggregate External Finance (AEF)

The sum of the Revenue Support Grant and redistributed Non-Domestic Rates now provides about 72% of the funding for the General Fund's net revenue expenditure. Changes to the grant distribution can have a major impact on the Council's finances. The Council can make representations to Welsh Government both directly and through the Welsh Local Government Association to attempt to influence the changes which are made.

With current economic outlook and indicative All Wales level allocations for the following year 2024/25 of 3.1%, there is a significant risk that this will be a real terms cut. The Council needs to bear this in mind when considering its spending priorities, with a view to needing to mitigate the future budgetary impact through the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In addition there is always an element of financial risk around the delivery of savings plans that will be regularly monitored. The higher the level of Savings targets, the higher the risk apart from where they have been achieved in advance.

2. General Unforeseen changes in expenditure and/or income in the year

One reason that the Council maintains reserves is to give some protection against unforeseen changes. A regular monthly system of budget monitoring is operated with formal quarterly reports to Members together with exception reporting between those periods. Maintaining a small Corporate Contingency also assists with a certain level of in year risk mitigation, particular with General staff Payawards being difficult to forecast and inflation levels still being elevated.

The Council insures against known major risks such as fire damage, employers and public liability.

3. Changes in specific grant income

The Council receives large sums each year in specific grants. There is a potential risk if changes in Government rules, or an inadvertent failure to comply with grant conditions, might result in a significant loss of grant income. The Council's external auditors regularly review the way the Council administers grants, and procedural improvements are put in place where necessary to ensure that there is no loss of grant income.

There is also a potential risk if specific WG revenue grants cease, but there's often an expectation that the services funded via such grants need to be maintained at the same level. Wherever possible, exit strategies should be in place to deal with the consequences when grant funding comes to an end.

4. Fraud (including Cyber Security)

Major fraud might cause significant financial loss to the Council as well as weakening public confidence. The Council maintains a system of financial regulations and standing orders to control this risk alongside business continuity and civil contingency planning arrangements. There is an active Officer Working Group focussed on Cyber Security related matters and associated business resilience. The Council's Internal Audit section, as part of its remit, will investigate potential Fraud risks, advise on best practice, and ensure that adequate internal control systems are in place and that they are being adhered to.

5. Insolvency of Counterparties

The Council might suffer losses in the event of the insolvency of major partners or commercial suppliers. This is a particular risk in relation to investment transactions. The Council has adopted Treasury Management policies to spread and minimize risks in this area. Commercial partners and contractors working for the Council are subject to financial and other assessments, and the size of contracts awarded may be limited after taking into account the outcome of the assessments.

6. Pension Fund

The Council contributes to the Dyfed Local Government Pension Fund. The fund is administered by Carmarthenshire County Council. The pension scheme for employees, including Council Members, (but excluding teachers) is a defined benefit scheme which means the risk in relation to investment returns and demographic changes falls entirely on the employer. At present, based on the March 2022 Triennial valuation, the Dyfed Pension Fund is in an overall Surplus position (i.e. current and future liabilities have been actuarially assessed as being over funded by more than 100%). The Council is able to plan for Surplus or Deficit scenarios to be spread over a period of several years to minimise any immediate budgetary impact.

7. Interest Rates

The Council has significant long term borrowing alongside investments. Changes in interest rates can have a significant effect on interest income, and on the cost of new loans required to support new capital expenditure.

The Council monitors interest rates and their effect as part of the budget monitoring process. In the current economic climate with rising interest rates from the previous historic lows, there are greater opportunities for higher levels of investment income, but conversely borrowing costs are also higher. An internal narrowing strategy has been employed for many years by keeping external borrowing down by utilising cash held on account (which in effect represents the cash backed items on the balance sheet such as earmarked reserves).

8. Inflation**a) Pay**

Employee costs are the largest element of the budget. A large increase in pay rates will adversely affect the Council's budget. For the majority of staff pay is negotiated nationally either at a UK level (APT&C) or at WG level (Teachers) and the Council has no control or direct part in the negotiations that take place. With inflation remaining elevated, the 22/23 Payaward for general Council staff was a significant cost item and a risk persists that elevated Payawards will also be seen in 23/24 before inflation and the Cost of Living crisis starts to eventually reduce. Through the implementation of the single status agreement and the operation of a systematic evaluation of grading the Council aims to maintain a fair but affordable pay structure.

b) Non Pay

We are now entering an era of higher than average inflation and levels not seen since before 2008. The Bank of England has a remit to keep inflation on track at c2%, however CPI inflation has risen to over 11% before starting to fall back very slowly. This is due in part to existing contracts with Suppliers that contain inflation linked provisions and also the pricing of new contracts (both revenue and capital). This is therefore a Budget risk that is now already being seen in practical terms and which hasn't been seen to the same extent for several decades.

10. Post COVID19 impacts

The last 2 year have been unprecedented for the Council both financially and operationally due to the COVID19 pandemic. Whilst the large scale risk that existed has largely dissipated, post COVID impacts are still being seen in several places. This is ranging from Recruitment and Retention challenges in several services to operational practicalities where, for example, COVID outbreaks are still being seen in Care Homes, higher than normal levels of Supply Cover is required in Schools and Usage of Leisure Centres is yet to return to pre COVID levels.

11. Phosphates

Following Natural Resource Wales publishing evidence of phosphate levels for the River Teifi riverine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the issuance of interim Planning position statement / guidance in May 2021. The effect of this covers 45% of land in Ceredigion and this is going to create significant issues in bringing forward Developments in the areas affected until the matter is resolved. In narrow terms this has the potential to affect areas such as Planning Fee and Building Control Income, but in a wider sense has the potential for far reaching Housing and Economic development implications.

Proposed Multi-Year Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2025/26

	2022/23 Updated TOTAL £'000	2023/24 Proposed TOTAL £'000	2024/25 Indicative TOTAL £'000	2025/26 Indicative TOTAL £'000	Funding Source
<u>Schools & Culture</u>					
21st Century Schools programme (Band B)	5,322	11,218	-	-	CCC/Grant
Additional Schools kitchen equipment (Free school meals)	1,368	-	-	-	Grant
Welsh Medium Immersion Centre and New classroom block	30	3,920	1,425	199	Grant
Community Focus Schools	456			-	Grant
Support for Learners with Additional Learning needs	456				Grant
Reducing Infant Class Sizes	909	-	-	-	Grant
Childcare Provision	365	788	-	-	Grant
Schools - Additional Capital works	2,102	-	-	-	Grant
Schools - Underfloor Heating Systems	196	445	150	-	CCC
Schools - Urgent Works	150	150	150	150	CCC
Total - Schools & Culture	11,354	16,521	1,725	349	
<u>Porth Cymorth Cynnar</u>					
Community Wellbeing Hub - Lampeter	1,440	-	-	-	CCC/Grant
Artificial Sports Pitches	533	282	-	-	CCC/Grant
Grants to Aberaeron and Calon Tysul Swimming Pools	280	-	-	-	Grant
Sports Wales Wellbeing Centres Facilities upgrades	134	556			CCC/Grant
Wellbeing Centres - Urgent Works	105	300	-	-	CCC
Total - Porth Cymorth Cynnar	2,492	1,138	-	-	
<u>Economy and Regeneration</u>					
Sewage Treatment Works	100	625	-	-	CCC
Urgent Works - Other	100	100	100	100	CCC
Buildings - Invest to Save	175	175	175	175	CCC
Energy Scheme Investments	-	750	250	-	CCC
Public Conveniences - Charging Mechanisms	50	-	-	-	CCC
Asset Development Programme	183	-	-	-	Grant
Market Hall Cardigan	380	-	-	-	CCC
Footbridge Replacement Programme	50	50	50	50	CCC
Lampeter Town Centre Green infrastructure Enhancements	82	-	-	-	Grant
Access Improvement Grant	79	103	103	-	Grant
Green Recovery Grant	20	15	-	-	Grant
NNF Afon Teifi SAC Catchment	150	300	-	-	Grant
Local Places for Nature	267	-	-	-	Grant
Levelling Up Projects	1,905	5,564	3,382	-	Grant
Transforming Towns Cardigan MASH Project	540			-	Grant
Hafan y Waun Housing Development	-	500	500	-	CCC
Total - Economy and Regeneration	4,081	8,182	4,560	325	
<u>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</u>					
Uk Shared Prosperity Fund (Powys and Ceredigion)	556	1,749	4,910	-	Grant
Total - UK Shared Prosperity Fund	556	1,749	4,910	-	
<u>Customer Contact</u>					
ICT Kit and Infrastructure investment	327	390	240	240	CCC
Total - Customer Contact	327	390	240	240	
<u>Finance & Procurement</u>					
Community Grant Scheme	200	200	200	200	CCC
Total - Finance & Procurement	200	200	200	200	
<u>Democratic Services</u>					
Council Chamber Equipment Upgrade Phase 2	32	-	-	-	CCC/Grant
Total - Democratic Services	32	-	-	-	

	2022/23 Updated TOTAL £'000	2023/24 Proposed TOTAL £'000	2024/25 Indicative TOTAL £'000	2025/26 Indicative TOTAL £'000	Funding Source
Highways and Environmental Services					
Highways Infrastructure Renewal / Improvements	2,281	2,200	2,200	2,200	CCC
Public Highways Refurbishment	165	-	-	-	Grant
Environmental Services	90	60	60	60	CCC
Street Lighting Programme	57	-	-	-	CCC
Ultra Low emissions Vehicle Transformation	364	-	-	-	Grant
EV Charging Infrastructure	300	-	-	-	Grant
On Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme	273	-	-	-	Grant
LTF Bus Corridor Core Funding	250	-	-	-	Grant
ATF Core Funding	510	-	-	-	Grant
20 mph Core Allocation	391	-	-	-	Grant
SRIC Llanrhystud	40	-	-	-	Grant
Ceredigion Bus infrastructure	1,952	-	-	-	Grant
Flood Alleviation Schemes Llandre/Borth Leat	69	-	-	-	Grant
FCERM Capel Bangor & Talybont	151	-	-	-	Grant
Aberaeron Coastal Protection Detail Design	139	-	-	-	Grant
Aberystwyth Coastal Protection	275	-	-	-	Grant
Borth & Ynyslas Coastal Protection	23	-	-	-	Grant
Coastal Protection Schemes - Aberaeron and Aberystwyth	2,000	18,000	3,000	-	CCC/Grant
Absorbent Hygiene Product (AHP) Waste	24	-	-	-	Grant
Fleet Replacement	845	750	238	350	CCC
Waste Transfer Station	-	1,025	-	-	CCC
Total - Highways and Environmental Services	10,199	22,035	5,498	2,610	
Porth Gofal					
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	CCC
Promote Independence of people in their own homes Grants	229	-	-	-	Grant
Home Improvement & Houses into Homes Loan Schemes	100	-	-	-	Grant/Loan
Cylch Caron	-	252	-	-	CCC/Grant
Enable Independent Living Grants	146	146	-	-	Grant
Warm Homes Energy Measures Grants	486	-	-	-	Grant
Camu Mlaen - Canolfan Stefan	78	-	-	-	CCC
Urgent Works - Residential Homes	223	100	100	100	CCC
Day Centres - Public Protection and Environmental Works	224	-	-	-	CCC
In County Safe Accommodation for Children	300	200	-	-	CCC/Grant
Residential Homes Improvements and Upgrades	499	900	-	-	CCC
Land and Buildings Development Fund	400	1,600	-	-	Grant
Hafan Deg Dementia Project	370	-	-	-	CCC/Grant
Property Purchases & Renovations	129	161	-	-	Grant
Housing with Care Fund	161	-	-	-	Grant
Total - Porth Gofal	4,745	4,759	1,500	1,500	
Funding to be allocated	-	556	525	925	CCC
TOTAL WORKING PROGRAMME	33,986	55,530	19,158	6,149	
Contingencies	276	350	350	350	CCC
New Approved Grants / Match funding for Grant schemes	1,016	4,200	4,200	4,200	£200k CCC/Grant
TOTAL OVERALL PROGRAMME	35,278	60,080	23,708	10,699	

CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL**CAPITAL STRATEGY**

1. The Council will formulate a multi-year Capital Programme with the aim of working towards a long-term Capital financial planning horizon.
2. All planned Capital expenditure, Capital bids and proposed Capital investment in new or existing assets, whether through grant funding or otherwise, must support the Council's 2022-2027 Corporate Strategy and underlying Corporate Priorities and associated Service objectives. Asset Management Planning should help inform the setting of the Capital Programme and essential expenditure on existing Council assets.
3. The Council currently operates a Corporate Project Management Group (which provides projects with appropriate support, advice and direction), a Capital Monitoring Group (which provides the operational management of the in-year Capital expenditure and funding position) and a Development Group (which provides a wider strategic input on Capital development proposals and opportunities). All 3 groups have key roles to play but with each one having their own specific Terms of reference.
4. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy will set out the approach to Treasury related activities for Investments and Borrowing and will take account of and be fully aligned with the Capital Programme proposals and will factor in proposed borrowing levels (both external and internal) consistent with these plans and a prudent approach. The Treasury Management Strategy will also include the Council's Minimum Revenue Policy for the provision for repayment of debt over its life.
5. The Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy are managed by officers who are professionally qualified accountants who are required to undertake Compulsory Professional Development (CPD).
6. The guiding principles for the Council's current and future Capital planning will include:
 - Pursuing efficiency to make the best use of existing assets which includes land & buildings and information technology. E.g. Rationalisation of redundant and/or under-utilised buildings should reduce revenue costs and also generate potential capital receipts.
 - All major capital projects (grant funded or otherwise) require a funding strategy as part of the business case being developed.
 - The Capital Programme will normally be set so that no Prudential Borrowing is undertaken to fund the core Capital Programme except where funding specific Capital projects. There will need to be a business case to support the use of Prudential Borrowing e.g. Consideration would be given to use Prudential borrowing when revenue savings can be identified which would be used to fund the capital financing costs of the initial capital investment.

- Invest to save schemes that produce revenue savings following an initial capital investment will continue to be regarded as high priority as they can provide a positive contribution to the medium term revenue budget position (e.g. Energy efficiency measures). This could also include schemes that are a capital investment to avoid future cost increases.
- Identify, lever in and maximise external grant funding opportunities where possible, although in isolation this may not always be the overriding driver to undertake a capital project.
- Exit strategies should be considered as part of any grant funding bids and successful grant awards.
- Corporate Capital earmarked reserves will be maintained to provide one-off funding to support the Capital Programme. Where revenue savings can be achieved in advance of the annual budget requirement, these may usefully be applied to earmarked reserves to support future Capital priorities. In particular the Council's matched funding contribution for the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme will be mainly supported through funding set aside in the Investing in People's future earmarked reserve.
- Capital receipts are regarded as a positive contribution to the overall Capital Programme and will be allocated in accordance with the balance available at the start of the year. A list of proposed Asset disposals will be maintained and regularly monitored. Appropriate consideration of major disposals will take place as and when they arise.
- If a Capitalisation Direction is made available by WG it will be considered and utilised as, when and if this is deemed appropriate by the Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement as Section 151 officer.
- The Council will continue to hold Investment Properties as part of its Corporate Estate. This is a form of commercial activity as the Council aims to lease these properties out at market rates and therefore make a commercial return. At present the Council's commercial activity represents a low risk as it is not significant relative to the context of the Council's overall budget and financial position. Should any new opportunities become available, then a business case would need to be produced which should include financial and legal due diligence, including ensuring compliance with the revised Prudential Code (December 2021) requirements which prohibit borrowing where obtaining financial returns is the primary aim, and the use of specialist internal/external advice where appropriate, together with the following appropriate governance arrangements.
- Appropriate due diligence relative to the nature, scale and area of activity will be undertaken when considering Capital grants to 3rd parties within the Capital Programme.

7. The key priority areas that the Council will focus on in its forthcoming Capital Programme include:

- Working with the private and public sector across the region, through the Growing Mid Wales Partnership, the Growing Mid Wales Growth Deal, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Funding to boost the local and regional economy.
 - Implement Ceredigion Economic Strategy
- a) Creating caring and healthy communities including
- Providing funding for mandatory and discretionary Disabled Facilities grants.
 - Review and develop specialist residential accommodation schemes either by the Council or in conjunction with RSL and other partners.
 - Cylch Caron – the Ceredigion Local Service Board project for the delivering of health and social care in the Tregaron area
 - Establishing wellbeing centres
- b) Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages including
- Continuing to modernise Schools through the 21st Century Schools programme and other funding routes.
- c) Creating sustainable, green and well-connected communities including
- Developing Coast Protection schemes
 - Carbon Management – Seek to further reduce carbon emissions and to reduce energy costs / mitigate as far as possible future increases, by enabling energy efficiency measures in both Council assets and also the private and RSL Housing stock.
 - Vehicle Replacement –to review the wider vehicle fleet across all services and transition towards an Ultra Low Emission Vehicle fleet.
 - Essential improvements to Buildings, Bridges and Roads.

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CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 24 January 2023

Title: LA Representative on Governing Bodies

Purpose of the report: To confirm the nomination of LA Representative on Governing Bodies

For: Decision

Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member: Cllr Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning & Skills

Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig: Nominate Arwel Jones as LA Governor at the request of the Governing Body of Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig.

Ceredigion PRU (Pupil Referral Unit): Re-nominate Catrin Petcher as LA Representative on the Management Board.

	Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?	No – report does not refer to a Policy or Service change.
Wellbeing of Future Generations:	Summary: Long term: Collaboration: Involvement: Prevention: Integration:	

Recommendation(s): Members are requested to confirm the nomination of the above named as LA representatives on the Governing Bodies of the relevant School.

Reasons for decision: To nominate representatives of the LA on Governing Bodies.

Overview and Scrutiny: N/A

Policy Framework:

Corporate Well-being Objectives: N/A

Finance and Procurement implications: None

Legal Implications:**Staffing implications:** None**Property / asset implications:** None**Risk(s):** N/A**Statutory Powers:** N/A**Background Papers:** N/A**Appendices:** N/A**Corporate Lead Officer:** Meinir Ebbsworth – Corporate Lead Officer, Schools Service**Reporting Officer:** Nia James – Corporate Manager, Learning Resources, Schools Service**Date:** 09 January 2023

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 24 January 2023

Title: CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group
Safeguarding Report Qtr 2 2022-23

Purpose of the report: To monitor activity on a multi-agency basis of the actions taken to safeguard children and adults within Ceredigion

For: Information

**Cabinet Portfolio and
Cabinet Member:** Councillor Alun Williams, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing

BACKGROUND:

Please see attached CYSUR-CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report for Qtr 2, 2022-23.

These are multi-agency management reports in relation to safeguarding children and adults in Ceredigion during the period 1st July to 30th September 2022. They provide management information on action taken under the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

The Reports include information provided by other agencies in relation to safeguarding the welfare of children and adults in Ceredigion.

The management information is discussed by members of the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined (Ceredigion) Local Operations Group in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the safeguarding children and adults arrangements in Ceredigion and the outcomes achieved

These multi agency meetings provide an opportunity to identify and act upon any performance and other issues within this area of work.

Performance information is also provided to the Mid and West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board which is also an opportunity to analyse performance, trends and issues across the Region.

Summary of Key points:

- In Quarter 2, there was an increase in the overall number of contacts/reports received regarding children/young people compared to Quarter 1-with there being 1030 contacts/reports received in Q2 compared to 943 contacts/reports received in Q1.
- However, there was a decrease in the overall number of contacts/reports which proceeded to actions needing to be taken under Child Protection Procedures, 182 in Q2 compared with 221 in Q1
- The percentage of reports that proceeded to a Strategy Discussion in this quarter was 16.7% compared to 23.4% in Q1. 8.3% of reports proceeded to a Section 47 Enquiry in Q2 compared to 11.5% in Quarter 1. 0.97% of reports received needed to proceed to an Initial Child Protection Conference in this quarter compared to 1.4% of reports in Quarter 1. So although there was an increase in the number of contacts/reports received in Q2, there was decrease in the number of reports that needed action under Child Protection Procedures which meant that the majority of the reports received were either signposted for Early Intervention/Prevention support or care and assessment support or the reports were closed with no further action required.
- The total number of children placed on the Child Protection Register in this quarter following the Initial Child Protection Conference was 16 compared to 12 in Q1.
- The total number of children removed from the register was 13 compared to 14 in Q1
- The total number of Section 47 enquiries undertaken in this quarter were 86, 69 were undertaken jointly with the Police and 17 were undertaken as a Social Services Single Agency. In Q1 the number of Section 47 enquiries undertaken were 109, 92 were undertaken with the Police.
- The main category of abuse that led to a Section 47 enquiry in quarter 2 was Physical Abuse (35) and then sexual exploitation abuse/exploitation (18), this is in line with Q1 where physical abuse (22) was also the primary main category of abuse and sexual abuse/exploitation was the second main category of abuse.
- There were 46 children on the Child Protection Register as of the end of this quarter. 23 children were registered under the category of neglect, 17 under the category of emotional/psychological abuse and 6 under neglect and physical abuse.
- The main Risk Factors for the 46 children who were on the Children Protection Register as of the 30/09/2022, were Domestic Abuse (42), Parental Mental Health (34), Parental Substance Misuse/Alcohol Misuse (34), Parental Separation (34) and Adult Offences of Violence (30).
- In terms of Adult Safeguarding, there has been a further decrease in the number of adults suspected of being at risk of abuse and/or neglect with there being 104 reported in this quarter compared to 115 in Q1 and 126 in Q4 of last year so there has been a steady decrease in the number of reports received.
- The most reported category of abuse this quarter again was emotional/psychological abuse, with 54 reports stating that this was the main

category of abuse. Neglect was the second main category of reported abuse (37), then financial abuse (29) and physical abuse (26) and sexual abuse (12).

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why

Summary: This report is provided on an ongoing basis and demonstrates the continuing work that is undertaken in relation to safeguarding children and adults in Ceredigion

Wellbeing of Future Generations:	Long term:	Balancing short term need with long term planning for the future
	Collaboration:	Working together with other partners to delivery
	Involvement:	Involving those with an interest and seeking their views, stakeholder engagement and consultation
	Prevention:	Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse
	Integration:	Positively impacting on people, economy, environment and culture and trying to benefit all three
Recommendation(s):	To note the contents of the report and the levels of activity with the Local Authority	
Reasons for decision:	So that governance of the Local Authority activity and its partner agencies are monitored	
Overview and Scrutiny:	Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee 18.01.23	
Policy Framework:		
Corporate Well-being Objectives:		
Finance and Procurement implications:	None	
Legal Implications:	To ensure compliance with our statutory duties under the Children Act 1989 and the Social Services and Well Being Act 2014; Part 7	
Staffing implications:	None	

Property / asset implications:	None
Risk(s):	Managing the safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk
Statutory Powers:	The Children's Act 1989 and the Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014
Background Papers:	None
Appendices:	Appendix 1- CYSUR CWMPS LOCAL OPERATIONAL GROUP Performance Management Report Quarter 2
Corporate Lead Officer:	Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal
Reporting Officer:	Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal
Date:	22 December 2022
Acronyms:	CP – Child Protection CPR – Child Protection Register Part 5 – Allegations against a member of staff or those working with children, e.g. - foster carers, volunteers, playgroups, etc. CPCC – Child Protection Case Conference ICPC – Initial Child Protection Conference



CEREDIGION

CYSUR LOCAL OPERATIONAL GROUP

Performance Management Report

Quarter: 2

1.7.22 – 30.9.22

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION:

This is the multi-agency management report in relation to safeguarding children in Ceredigion during the period 1st July to 30th September 2022. It provides performance management information on action taken to safeguard children.

It includes reports from partner agencies relating to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children in Ceredigion.

The indicators and measures used are defined and reported on locally, regionally and nationally.

This management information is regularly discussed by members of the CYSUR Ceredigion Local Operations Group in order to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding children arrangements in Ceredigion and the outcomes achieved.

Any comments or queries regarding the report should be addressed to:

Elizabeth Upcott
Rheolwr Corfforaethol Diogelu
Safeguarding Corporate Manager,
Elizabeth.Upcott@ceredigion.gov.uk
01545 574212

SECTION 2: Headline and Comparative Data

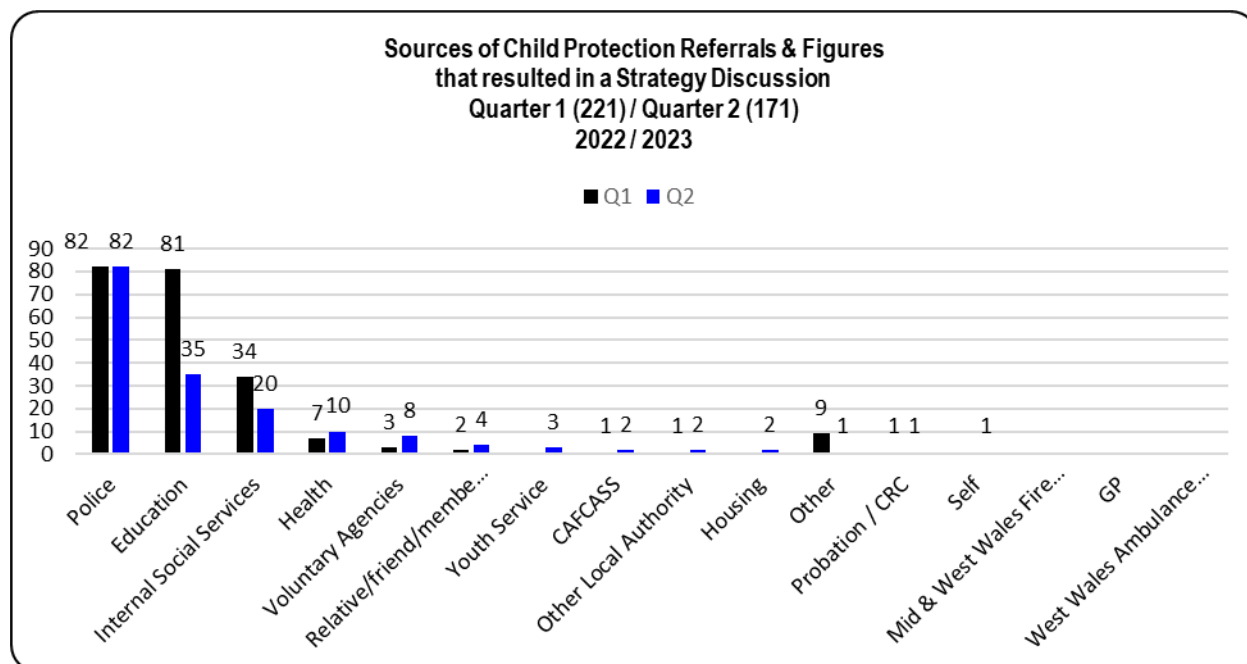
Referral Outcomes	July-Sept 2022	April-June 2022	Jan-Mar 2022	Oct-Dec 2021	July-Sept 2021
Reports/Referrals leading to Child Protection Strategy Discussions / Meetings	182	221	154	122	106
Number of Initial CP Conferences (excluding transfer and pre-birth conferences)	7	5	8	4	9
Number of Initial Pre-Birth CP Conferences	2	4	2	-	-
Number of Transfer CP Conferences	1	-	-	-	1
Pre-Birth Transfer CP Conference	-	-	-	-	1
Total number of Initial CP Conferences (including transfer and pre-birth Conferences)	10	9	10	4	11
Total number of children subject to Initial/Pre-birth/Transfer Conferences	21	13	21	8	33
Number of children's names placed on the CP Register (excluding pre-birth and transfer conferences)	14	8	19	6	26
Number of children's names to be placed on the CP Register at birth	2	4	2	-	-
Number of children's names placed on the CP Register after transfer from other Local Authorities	-	-	-	-	-
No. of children's names to be placed on the CP Register at birth after transfer from other Local Authorities	-	-	-	-	1
Total number of children's names placed on the CP Register following Initial Conferences	16	12	21	6	27
Total number of children's names not placed on the CP Register	5	1	-	2	6
Number of Review CP Conferences	16	19	13	13	13
Number of Review Pre-Birth CP Conferences	-	-	-	-	1
Total Number of Review CP Conferences (inc Pre-Birth)	16	19	13	13	14
Number of children subject to Review CP Conferences	26	43	23	34	23
Number of children's names to be placed on the CP Register at birth	-	-	-	-	1
Total number of children subject to Review/Pre-birth Conferences	26	43	23	34	24
Total number of children remaining on CP Register	13	29	11	19	13
Total number of children removed from the CP Register	13	14	12	15	11

Analysis:

There was a significant decrease in the number of referrals that lead to action taken under Wales Safeguarding Procedures during this quarter.

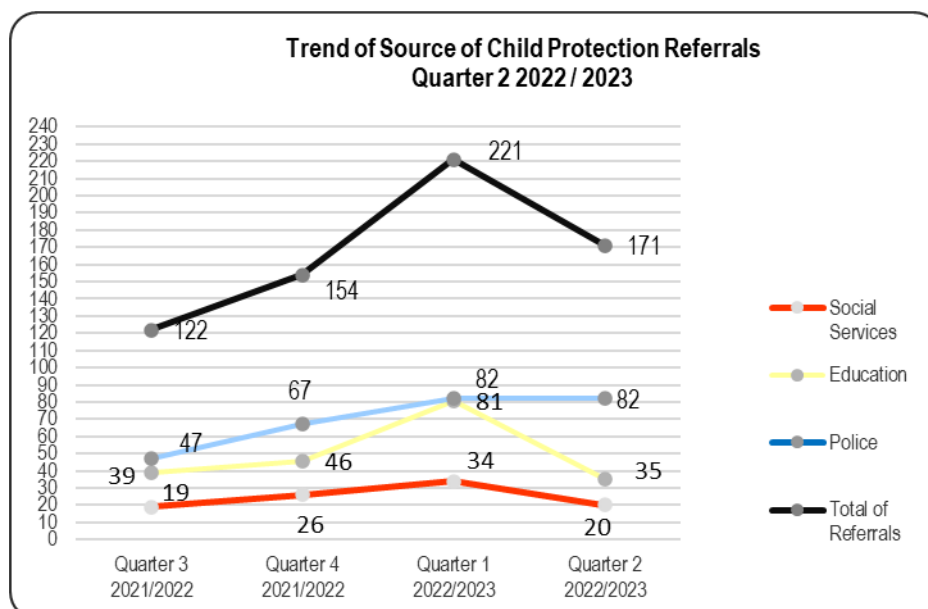
The percentage of children discussed at review conferences and who were deregistered was 50%.

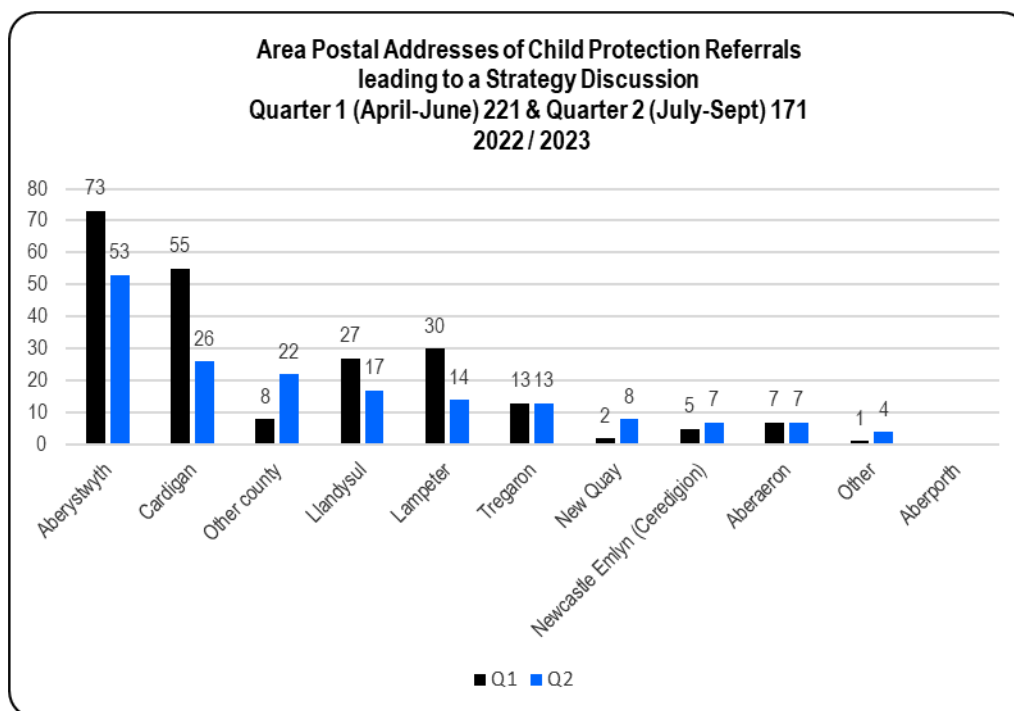
SECTION 3: Child Protection Reports and Referrals:



Analysis:

The Police remained as the largest source of referrals during the quarter; the schools' rate has continued to increase.





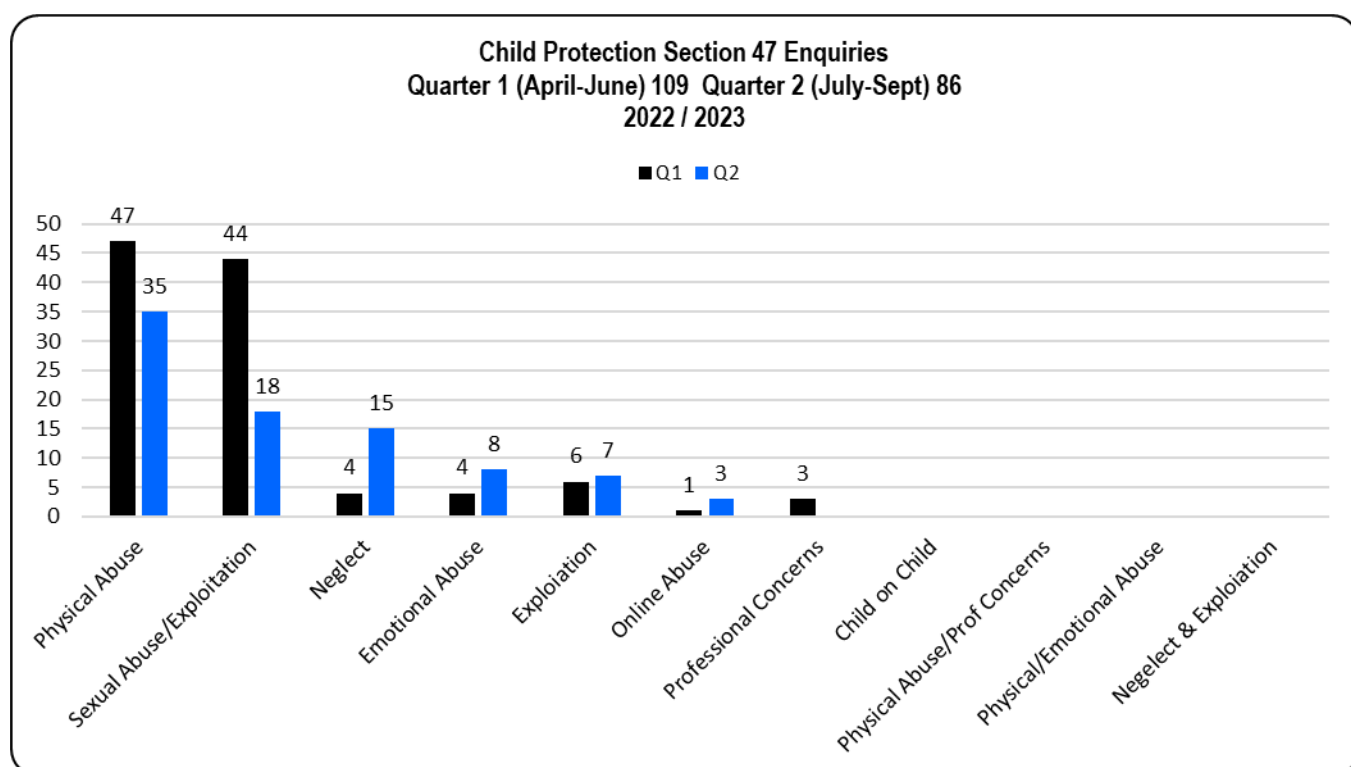
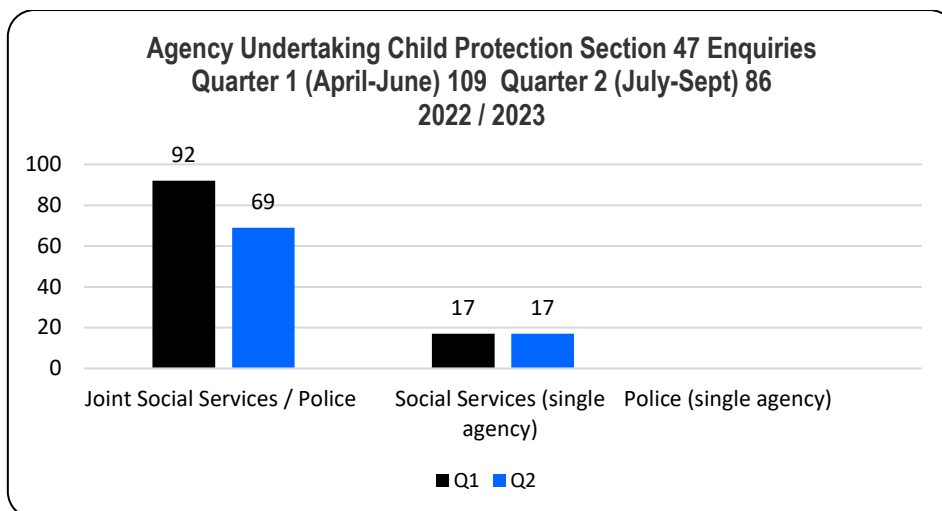
Analysis:

Aberystwyth is consistently the area of the greatest number of referrals

% Breakdown of Safeguarding Activity Quarter 2 2022 / 2023 (1 July – 30 September)			
Number of all Initial Contacts re Children information.			
Contact/Referrals 1030	Strategy Discussions 16.7%	Section 47 Enquiries 8.3%	Initial Child Protection Conferences 0.97%

In Quarter 1, there were 943 contacts/referrals, of those, 23.4% went to a Strategy Discussion, 11.5% went to a Section 47 Enquiry, and 1.4% went on to an Initial Child Protection Conference.

SECTION 4: Child Protection Section 47 Enquiries



Analysis:

The main concerns that led to completing child protection enquiries in quarter 2 were allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse/exploitation.

The majority of enquiries were carried out jointly by Police and Children Services.

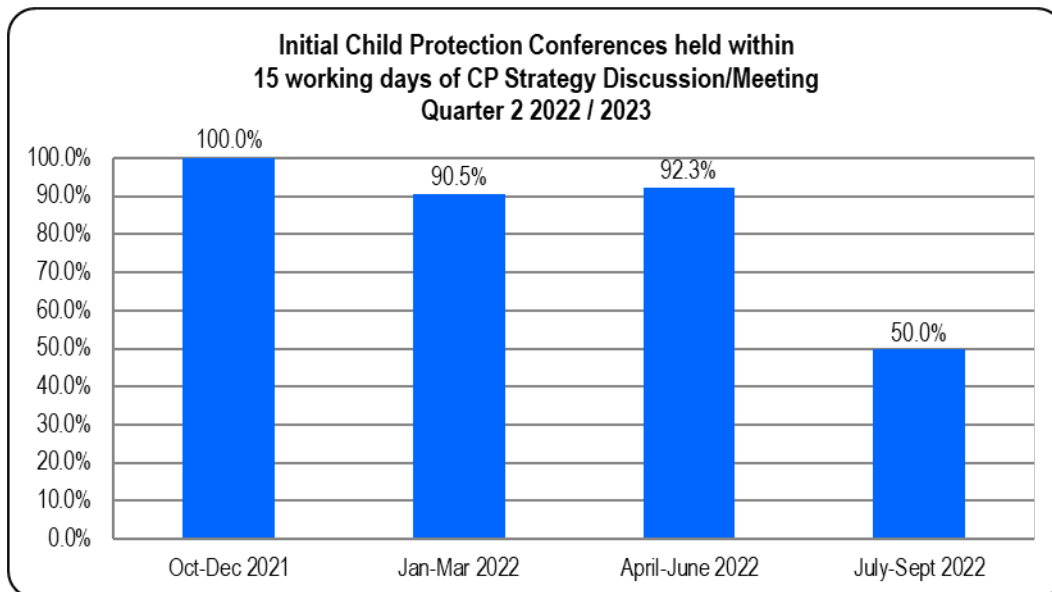
SECTION 5: Child Protection Conferences

This table contains breakdown figures in relation to Outcomes of Initial Child Protection Conferences					
Total Number of Initial CPCs	No. of children	No. of unborn	No. of families	Number of children placed on CPR incl. unborn and transferred	No. of children with Child in Need of Care and Support Plan if not registered
10	19	2	10	16	5

Initial Child Protection Conferences in timescale

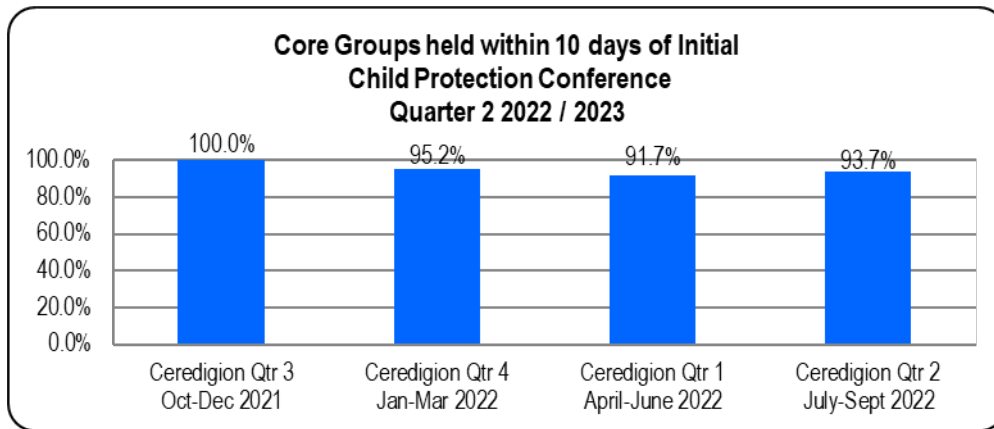
50.0% of Initial Child Protection Conferences were recorded to have taken place within 15 working days of the Strategy Discussion/Meeting. The low percentage completed in time were due to the fact that for a family of 3 siblings, the delay was the lateness of receiving conference reports, for 2 families (a family of 3 children and a family of 2 children) there was a delay in arranging the conferences as the families had asked for face to face meetings and there were issues in identifying a suitable venue. Another conference for another child was delayed due to staffing issues.

It is important to note that in most cases, initial and Review Case Conferences are being held virtually via Microsoft Teams. Both parents and children have been able to participate in the meetings. However, in this quarter, 2 families requested face to face meetings due to their particular circumstances.



Child Protection Core Group Meetings in timescale:

93.7% of Child Protection Core Group Meetings were recorded to have taken place within 10 working days of the Initial CP Conference.



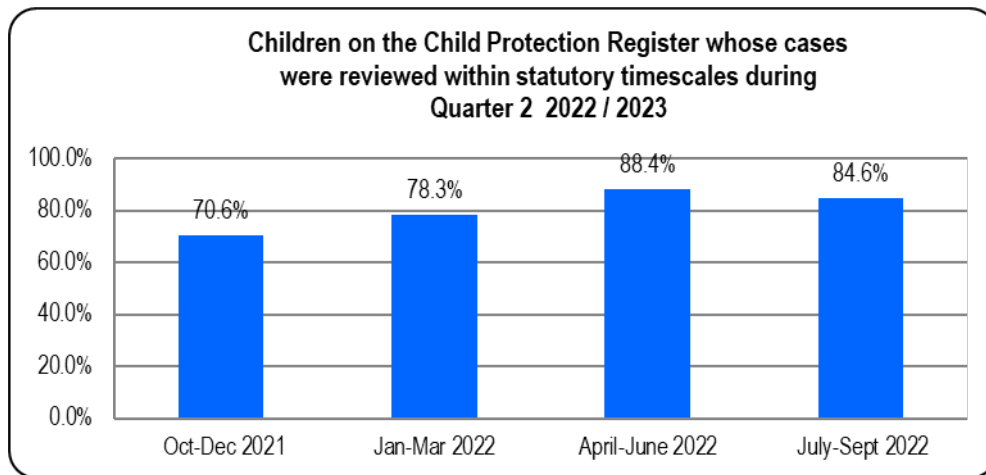
This table contains breakdown figures in relation to the outcomes of Review Child Protection Conferences:						
Total No. of Review CPCs	No. of children	No. of Unborn	No. of families	No. of names of children remaining on CP Register	No. of names of children removed from CP Register	No. of children with Child in Need of Care and Support Plan following de- registration
16	26	-	16	13	13	7

Outcomes of Reviews:

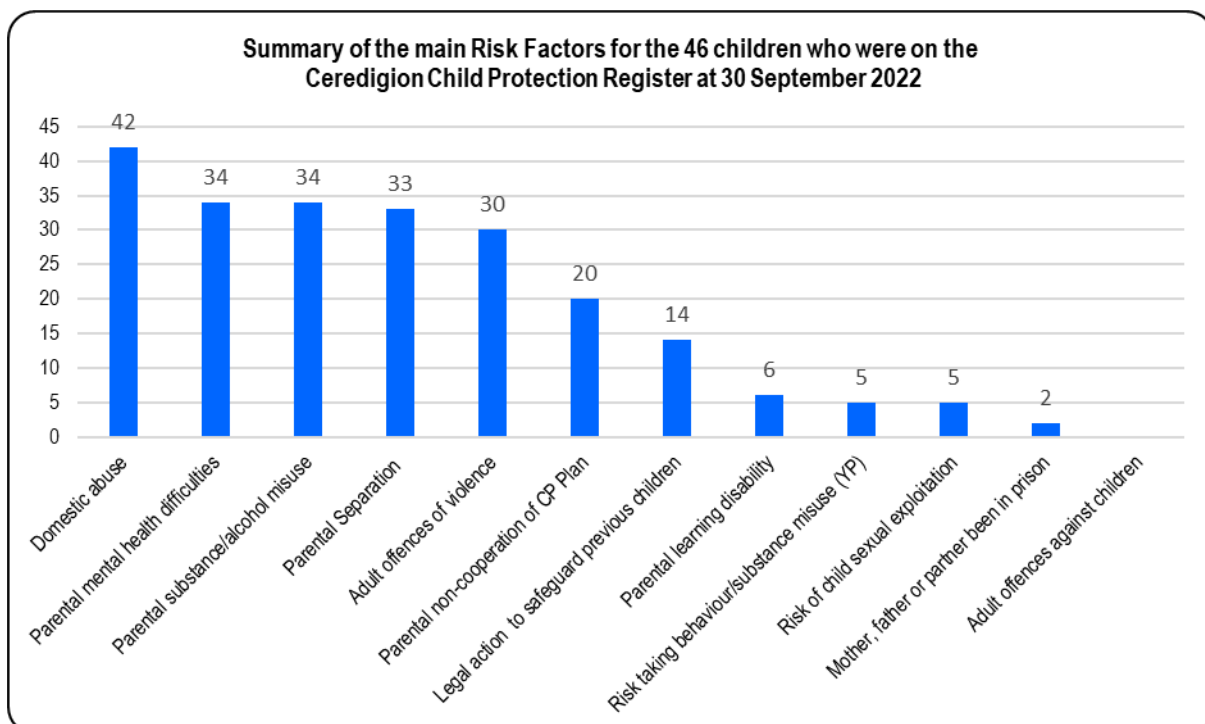
Of the 13 children who were de-registered, 7 were in receipt of further intervention on a Child in Need of Care and Support Plan; 1 was a Looked After Child with 5 further young persons not in need of any services.

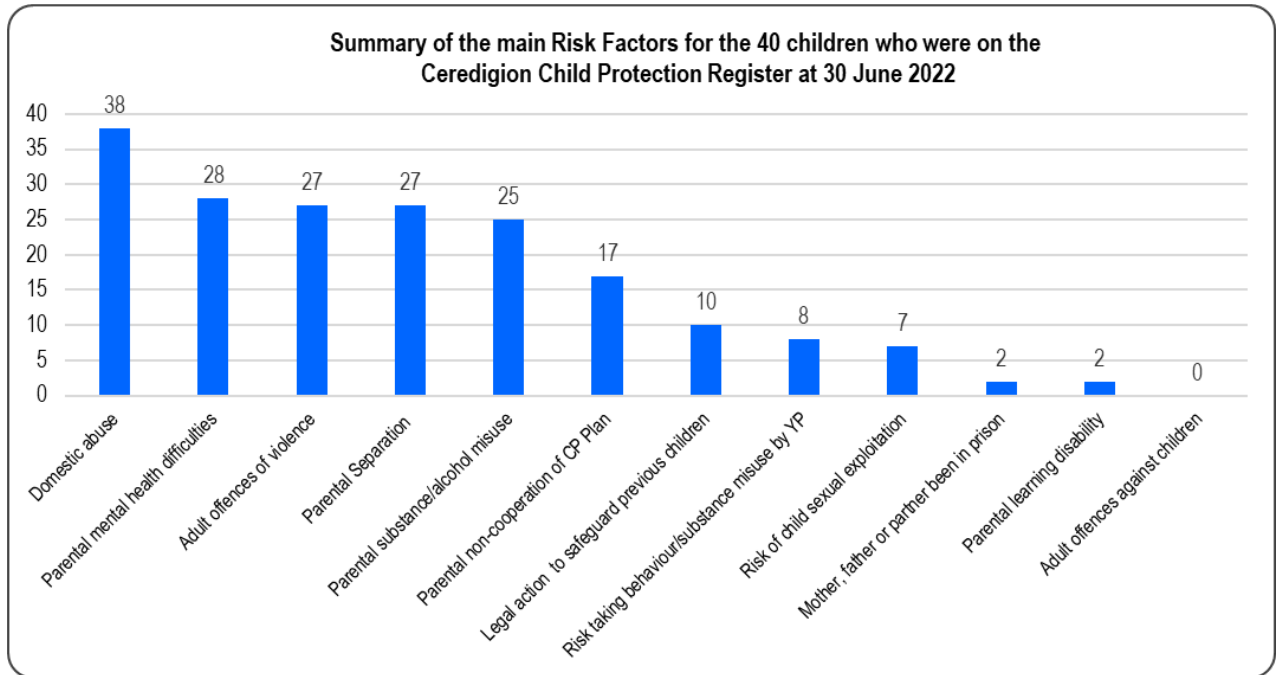
Review Child Protection Conferences in Timescales:

84.6% of Review Child Protection Conferences were recorded to have taken place within timescales. The reason for the delays in holding conferences in time for the remainder of the cases were, staffing availability and also one conference was delayed due to the availability of the parent.



Participation of parents and children in Child Protection Conferences						
*Comparative data for Quarter 1 in brackets						
*Social Worker report to parents 24 hours before CPC	*CP Chair met with family before CPC	*CP Chair met with child before CPC	*Family member present at CPC	*Children's views represented at CPC who did not attend (5 -18 yrs.)	*Children attendance at CPC (Over 11 yrs.)	*Children Who have allocated Advocate / Tros Gynnal.
100% (98%)	79% (93%)	100%(N/a%)	91% (93%)	93% (94%)	14% (0%)	33% (29%)

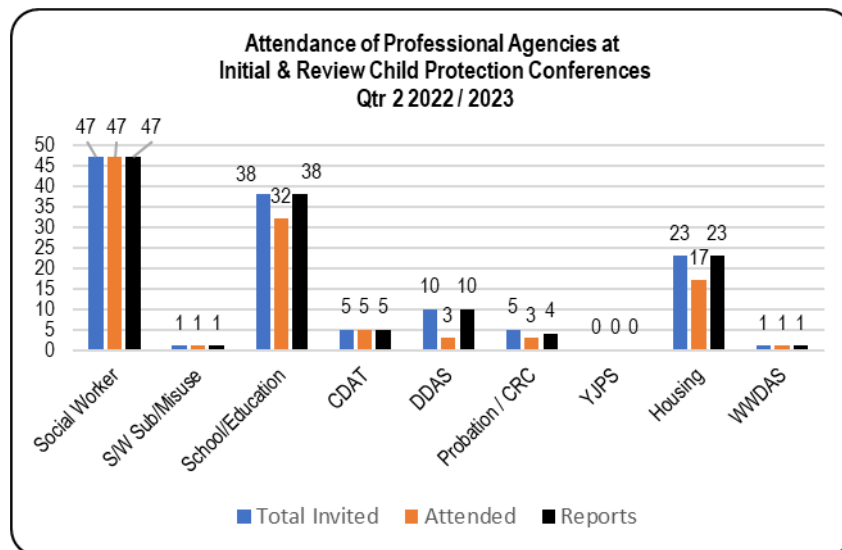


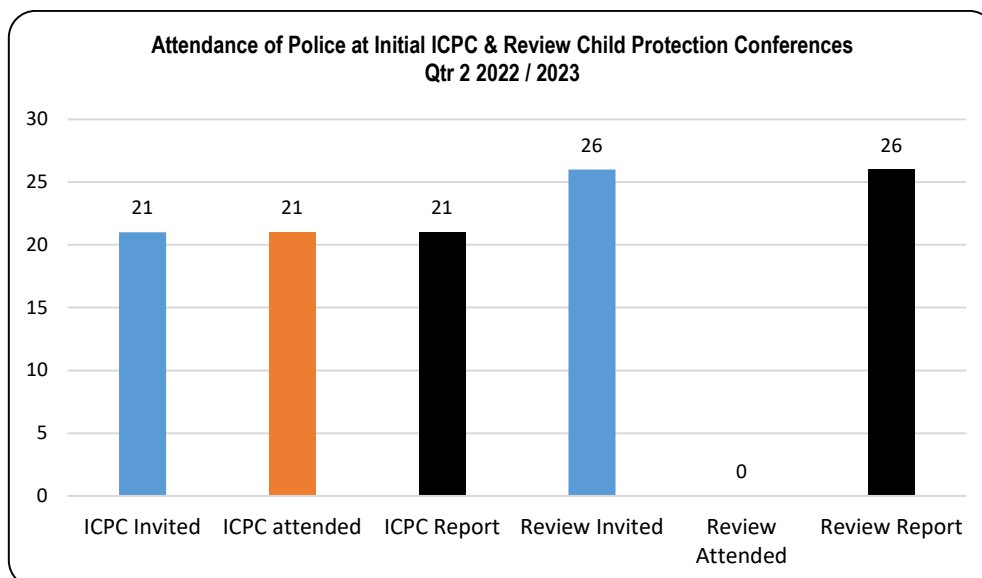
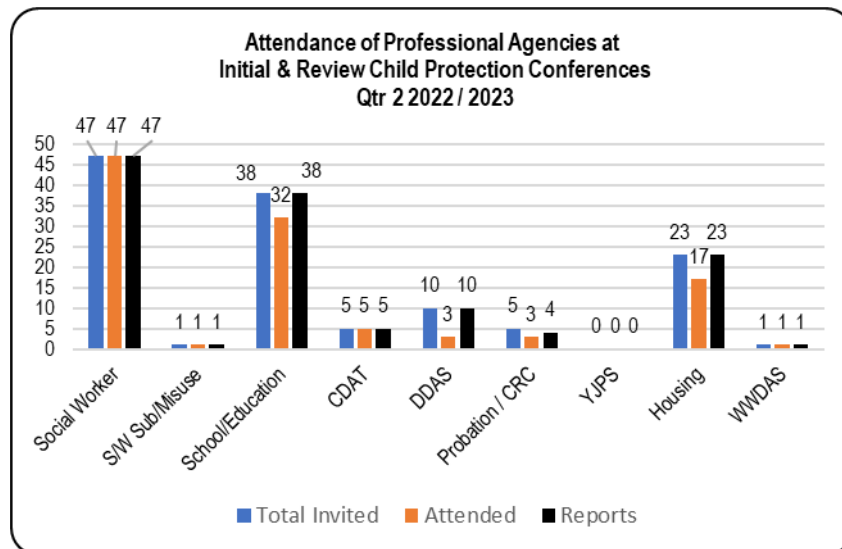


The Toxic Three Risk Factors for the 46 children who were on the Ceredigion Child Protection Register at 30 September 2022		
Number of children subject to a Care and Support Protection Plan where all of the Three Toxic Risk Factors feature (Domestic Abuse, Parental Substance Misuse and Parental Mental Health)	25	54.3%
Number of children subject to a Care and Support Protection Plan where Parental Separation <i>or / and</i> Incarceration feature (ACE)	33	71.7%
Number of children subject to a Care and Support Protection Plan where all five ACE (Domestic Abuse, Parental Substance Misuse, Parental Mental Health, Parental Separation and Incarceration)	2	4.3%

Analysis:

The main risk factors recorded were domestic abuse, parental mental health difficulties, parental substance/alcohol misuse and parental separation.

Agency Attendance at Conferences:



The attendance of agencies at CPCs is illustrated in the charts above. An average of 6 agencies' staff members were invited to each CPC and an average of 4 attended. There was an average of 5 written reports available at each CPC.

1 (2%) Child's CPC recommended that a Family Group meeting be convened.
 43 (91%) Children's registration decisions were unanimous; with 4 (9%) children's registration a majority decision.
 0 (0%) Children's CPCs reported that there was dissent regarding the safety of the CP Plan for safeguarding the welfare of a child on the CP Register.
 3 (6%) Children were identified as a young carer.
 It was identified for 9 (24%) Children that there was a shortfall in information regarding the mother's partner.
 A moderate/severe learning disability was identified for 9 (19%) young persons; with 7 (22%) young persons reported as having an Individual Development Plan.

Performance Management Report 1/7/22 - 30/9/22

2 (4%) Children were reported to have a physical/sensory disability, with behaviour problems identified for 4 (9%) young persons.

3 (7%) Children were recognised as having speech/language difficulties; with 1 (3%) Young person reported to have been excluded from school.

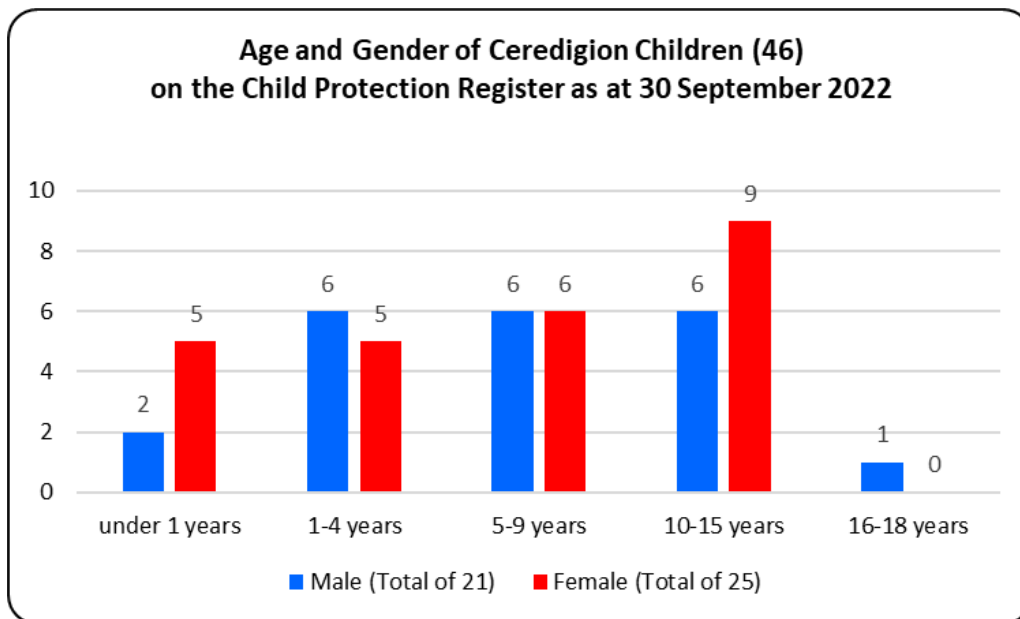
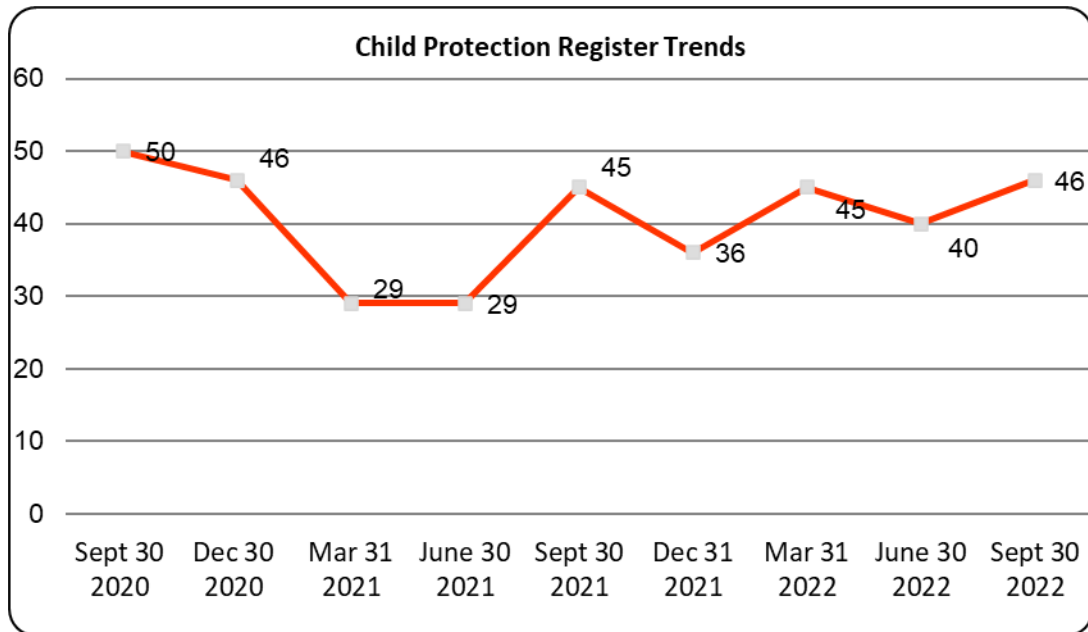
CHILD AND FAMILY FEEDBACK

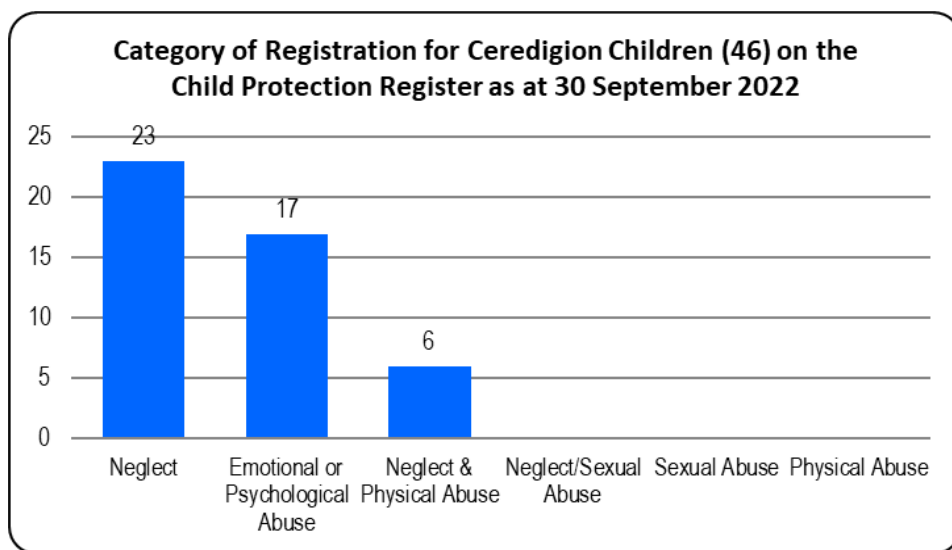
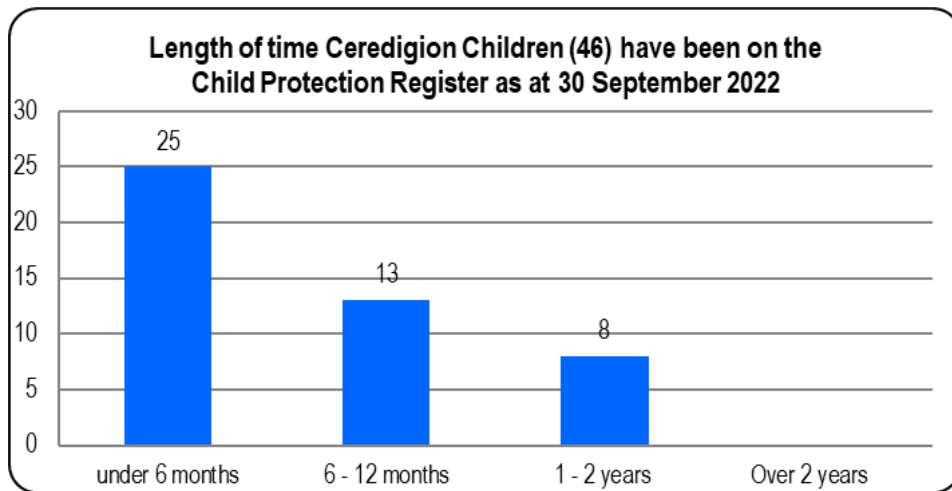
The previous system for attaining Child and Family feedback following their attendance at a Child Protection Conference has not been possible since the start of the Pandemic in March 2020 due to the fact that most Conferences are held virtually.

However, since the beginning of April 2021, Evaluation Questionnaires have been sent to families following their attendance at a Child Protection Conference to gain their views and feedback. For the period 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022, Evaluation Questionnaires were circulated for 19 of the Conferences held, none have been returned.

This process will continue until such time that Child Protection Conferences take place on a face-to-face basis.

SECTION 6: Child Protection Register





WG Measure 28 - The average length of time for all children who were on the Child Protection Register:

This Measure asks for the average length of time in calendar days on the register for all children who were de-registered during the quarter	July-Sept	234
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WG Measure 27 – The number of re-registrations of children on Local Authority Child Protection Registers within the year

Initial Conferences	July-Sept 2022	April-June 2022	Jan-Mar 2022	Oct-Dec 2021	July-Sept 2021	April-June 2021	Jan-Mar 2021	Oct-Dec 2020
Number of Children previously on the register and deregistered within last 12 months	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0

**ADRAN SECTION 7: Cyfarfodydd Strategaeth Amddiffyn Plant Ganllawiau
Amddiffyn Plant Cymru Gyfan / Child Protection Strategy Meetings of the All
Wales Child Protection Procedures**

Category of Child Protection Strategy Meeting	Total number of cases	Total number of meetings
Risk of child exploitation	9	10
Concerns regarding neglect	7	12
Concerns regarding sexual abuse	1	2
Concerns regarding sexually harmful behaviour	5	6
Concerns regarding a young person going missing	6	10
Concerns regarding emotional abuse	1	1
Concerns regarding on-line images	1	1
Concerns regarding a person in contact with children through their work	9	10
Total number of meetings		52
Total number of cases discussed in this quarter	39	

ADRAN/SECTION 8: Ecsbloetio Rhywiol Plant Cyfarfodydd Rheoli Aml Asiantaethol / Multi Agency Child Exploitation Management Meetings

New Case / Review	Exit / Remain in MACE	Male / Female	Age	At home / in care	CPR	Date of meeting	Agency Attendance
Review	Remain	F	15	H	Yes	19.07.22 20.09.22	Safeguarding, Police, Education, Planned Care. WWHA, PCC
Review	Remain	F	13	H	Yes	19.07.22 20.09.22	Safeguarding, Police, Education, Planned Care. WWHA, PCC
New	Remain	F	13	H	Yes	09.09.22 20.09.22	Safeguarding, Police, Education, Planned Care, Health, CAMHS, PCC
New	Exit	F	16	C	N	04.08.22 05.08.22	Safeguarding, Police, Health, CAMHS, PCC, Legal, Extended Support
Review	Exit	M	13	H	Yes	12.07.22	Safeguarding, Police, Education, PCC
Review	Exit	F	12	H	No	14.07.22 14.09.22	Safeguarding, Police, Education, Health
Review	Exit	F	17	C	No	16.08.22	Safeguarding, Police, TPA, CAMHS, Barod
Review	Exit	M	14	H	No	13.09.22	Safeguarding, Police, Education, Health, TAF, YJS
New	Remain	F	13	H	No	08.07.22	Safeguarding, Police, Education, TAF, YJS, PCC

SECTION 9: : Police Marac Report

Monthly Data Returns July

Overall number of cases met MARAC criteria	290
Number of cases reviewed and resulted at MRE (MARAC Repeat/Escalation) review stage.	159 Reviewed 95 Resulted
Overall number of cases dealt with at Daily Discussion.	193 discussed 160 resulted
Cases through to MARAC	30
Percentage of cases	32.75% resulted at MRE 55.17% resulted at DD 10.34% progressed to MARAC
Divisional breakdown of case numbers	Carmarthenshire – 110 Ceredigion – 37 Pembrokeshire - 87 Poys 56
No of children in the household	Carmarthenshire – 89 Ceredigion - 25 Pembrokeshire - 104 Powys - 30

	Resulted at MRE	Resulted at DD	MARAC	Time Saved going to MARAC (*average 10min a case)	
Carmarthenshire	37	57	14		
Pembrokeshire	34	48	7		
Ceredigion	9	19	5		
Powys	15	36	4		

Monthly Data Returns August 2022

Overall number of cases met MARAC criteria	329
Number of cases reviewed and resulted at MRE (MARAC Repeat/Escalation) review stage.	185 reviewed 127 resulted
Overall number of cases dealt with at Daily Discussion.	217 discussed 196 resulted
Cases through to MARAC	23
Percentage of cases	38.60% resulted at MRE 59.57% resulted at DD 6.99% progressed to MARAC
Divisional breakdown of case numbers	Carmarthenshire -135 Ceredigion- 42 Pembrokeshire -95 Powys -74
No of children in the household	Carmarthenshire -130 Ceredigion- 41 Pembrokeshire -132 Powys -60

	Resulted at MRE	Resulted at DD	MARAC	Time Saved going to MARAC (*average 10min a case)	
Carmarthenshire	49	75	11		
Pembrokeshire	40	53	2		
Ceredigion	11	26	5		
Powys	27	42	5		

Monthly Data Returns September

Overall number of cases met MARAC criteria	286
Number of cases reviewed and resulted at MRE (MARAC Repeat/Escalation) review stage.	148 reviewed 94 (resulted)
Overall number of cases dealt with at Daily Discussion.	192 discussed 167 resulted
Cases through to MARAC	21
Percentage of cases	Resulted at MRE – 32.86% Resulted at DD - 58.39% Progressed to MARAC – 7.34%
Divisional breakdown of case numbers	Carmarthenshire – 95 Ceredigion – 37 Pembrokeshire – 95 Powys - 59
No of children in the household	Carmarthenshire – 96 Ceredigion – 37 Pembrokeshire – 90 Powys - 58

	Resulted at MRE	Resulted at DD	MARAC	Time Saved going to MARAC (*average 10min a case)	
Carmarthenshire	31	56	7		
Pembrokeshire	43	47	5		
Ceredigion	8	26	3		
Powys	12	38	6		

SECTION 10: Learning Services

ADRODDIAD LOG GWASANAETHAU YSGOLION

BWLIAN / BULLYING

Mae data bwlio yn parhau i gael eu gasglu yn dymhorol ym mhob cyfarfod Llywodraethol yr ysgolion. Gweler isod, data Tymor yr Gwanwyn 2022 (a gafodd ei goladu yn ystod tymor yr Haf 2022).

Bullying data is collected by all schools during Governing Body meetings on a termly basis. Please see below data collected for the Spring Term 2022 (which was collated during the Summer term 2022)

Math o Fwlian / Type of Bullying	Gwanwyn 2022 / Autumn 2022
Gallu / Ability	4
Oedran / Age	0
Edrychiad / Appearance	7
Biffonig / Biphobic	0
Anabledd / Disability	0
Rhyw / Gender	2
Homoffonig / Homophobic	0
Plentyn sy'n derbyn gofal / Looked after Child	0
Di-ddeuaidd / Non-Binary	0
Beichiogrwydd neu Famolaeth / Pregnancy or Maternity	0
Hiliol / Racial	2
Crefydd neu Gred / Religion or Belief	0
Rhywiol / Sexual	2
Sexual Orientation	0
Trawsffonig / Transphobic	0
Gofalwr Ifanc / Young Carers	0
E Ddiogelwch / E Safety	4
Eraill / Other	5
Cyfanswm / Total	26

Mae'r ffigyrau uchod yn dangos gostyngiad mewn achosion bwlian sydd yn cael ei cofnodi, i gymharu a'r tymor blaenorol, sef tymor yr hydref 2021, ble adroddwyd 28 achos penodol.

The above figures show an reduction in bullying incidences being recorded, in comparison with the previous term, Autumn 2021, where 28 cases were reported.

HYFFORDDIANT / TRAINING

Mae hyfforddiant Diogelu ac Amddiffyn Plant lefel 1 ar rhaglen e-ddysgu yn unig, dyma'r nifer o staff sydd wedi cwblhau yr hyfforddiant hyn drwy cyfnod cwarter 2. Yn ogystal, mae'r niferoedd o staff sydd wedi cwblhau lefel 2 Amddiffyn Plant yn rhithiol hefyd wedi ei ychwanegu yn ystod y cyfnod hwn.

Level 1 Safeguarding and Child Protection training is only available as an e-learning programme, below is the number of staff who have completed the training during the quarter 2 period. In addition, the number of staff who have completed the level 2 Child Protection training virtually during this period, is also noted below.

Lefel 1 / Level 1	333 mewnlol / internal 60 allanol / external
Lefel 2 / Level 2	33 mewnlol / internal 18 allanol / external

VAWDASV

Mae yna 399 o staff mewnlol a 18 o staff allanol wedi cwblhau hyfforddiant VAWDASV ar-lein yng nghyfnod cwarter 2.

399 internal staff and 18 external staff have completed the online VAWDASV training during the quarter 2 period.

ADDYSG DDEWISOL GARTREF / ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION

Nifer o blant yr ydych yn ymwybodol ohonynt sydd yn cael eu haddysgu'n ddewisol gartref / Number of children that you are aware of that are Electively Home Educated (EHE)	Nifer o blant EHE sy'n hysbys i'r Awdurdod Lleol sydd wedi cael cynnig ymweliad blyneddol yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf / Number of EHE children known to the Local Authority that have been offered an annual visit in the last 12 months	Canlyniad / Outcome
226	240	Declined – 58 DNA'd – 35 Child seen – 88 Child not seen – 11 School Attendance Order letter sent to 1

PLANT MEWN GOFAL / LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

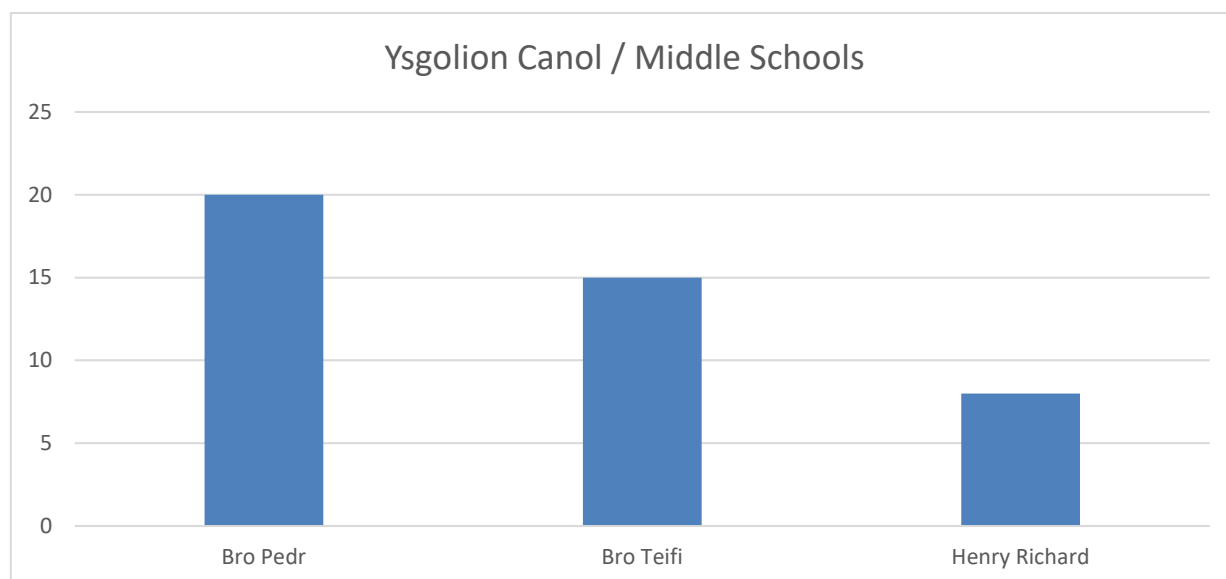
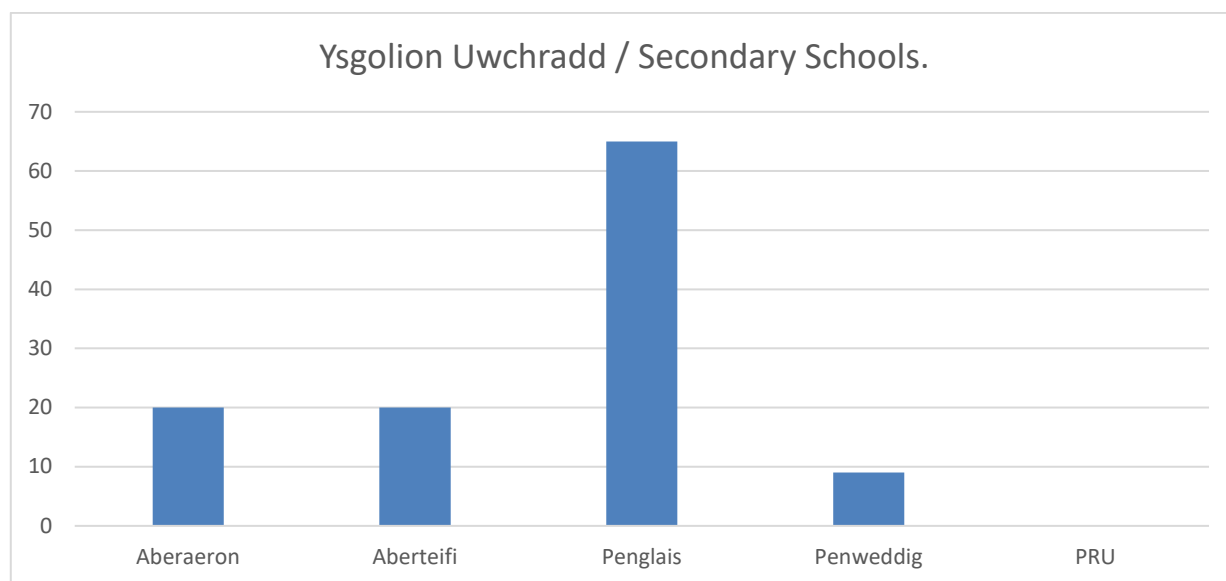
Plant mewn gofal yng Ngheredigion o oedran ysgol stadudol / Looked after children in Ceredigion of statutory school age	Gorffennaf / July: 48 Medi / September: 49
Plant mewn gofal allan o'r Sir o oedran ysgol statudol / Looked after children placed out of County of statutory school age	Gorffennaf / July: 22 Medi / September: 31

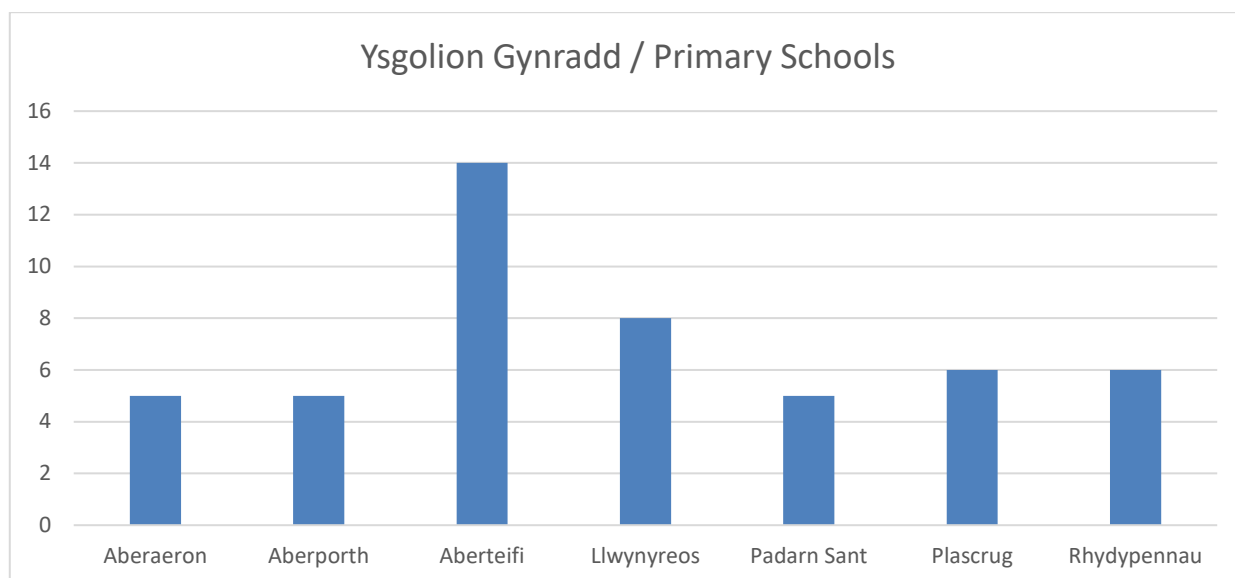
Plant mewn gofal o Siroedd eraill o oedran ysgol statudol / <i>Looked after children from other Local Authorities of statutory school age</i>	Gorffennaf / July: 27 Medi / September: 25
---	---

CYSWLLT YSGOLION / SCHOOL CONTACTS

Gweler isod, y rhifau a natur y cyswllt a dderbyniwyd o ysgolion / sefydliadau dysgu yn ystod cwarter 2.

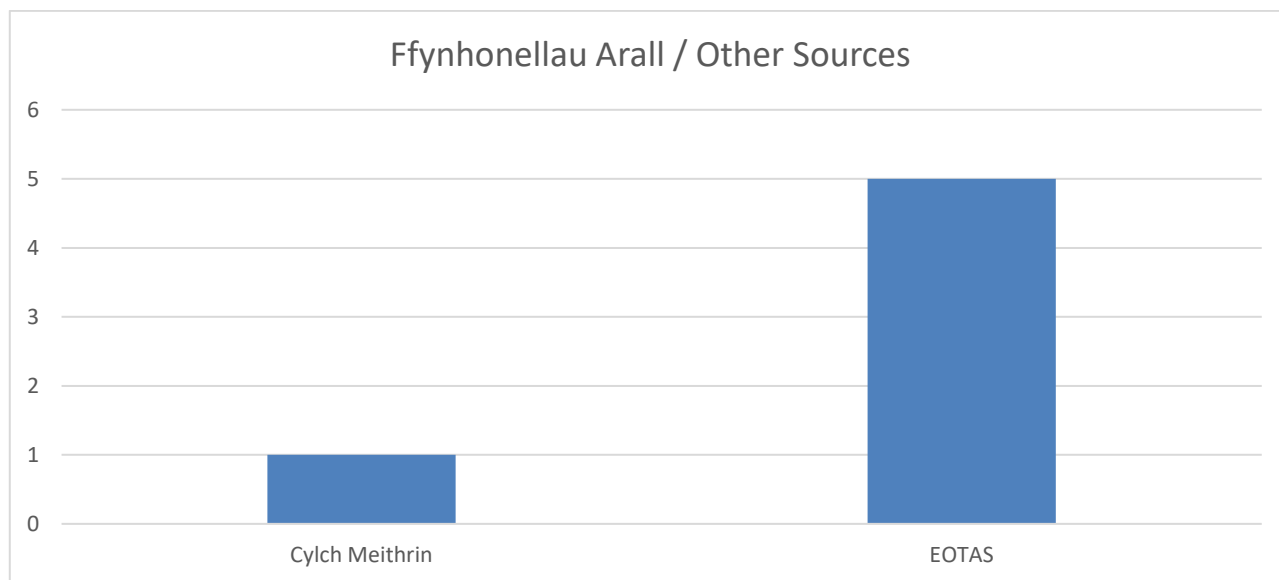
Please see below the number of contacts received from schools/learning establishments and their nature, during the period of quarter 2.

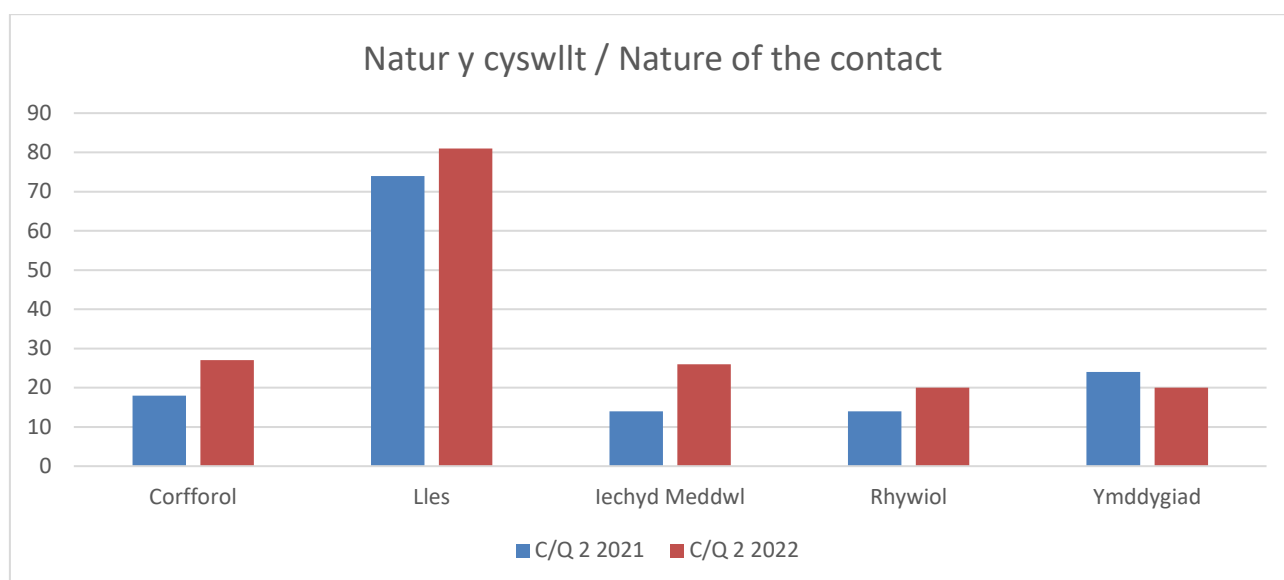




I nodi, fe wnaeth 20 o'r Ysgolion Cynradd gwneud cyswllt yn ystod cwarter 2. Oherwydd y rhif uchel hyn, nid oedd modd cynnwys pob Ysgol ar y dabl, felly wedi cynnwys yn yr uchod, y rhai wnaeth gysylltu pedair gwaith neu mwy drwy gydol y cyfnod.

To note, 20 Primary Schools made contact during quarter 2. Due to this large figure, it wasn't possible to capture all on one table. Therefore the above only highlights the Schools who made contact on four or more occasions during the period.





Oherwydd fod niferoedd fawr o rhesymau cyswllt, maen't wedi crynhoi mewn l'r grwpiau isod, er mwyn medru darllen yn fwy glir ar y siart. Yn yr adroddiad yma, dwi wedi ffocysu ar y prif pryderon, er mwyn medru ei cymharu efo'r cwarter un blwyddyn diwethaf.

Due to the large amount of reasons given for contact, some have been grouped together as noted below, in order for the information to be presented more clearly on the chart. In this particular report, I have highlighted the main concerns raised, in order to compare with quarter 1 from last year.

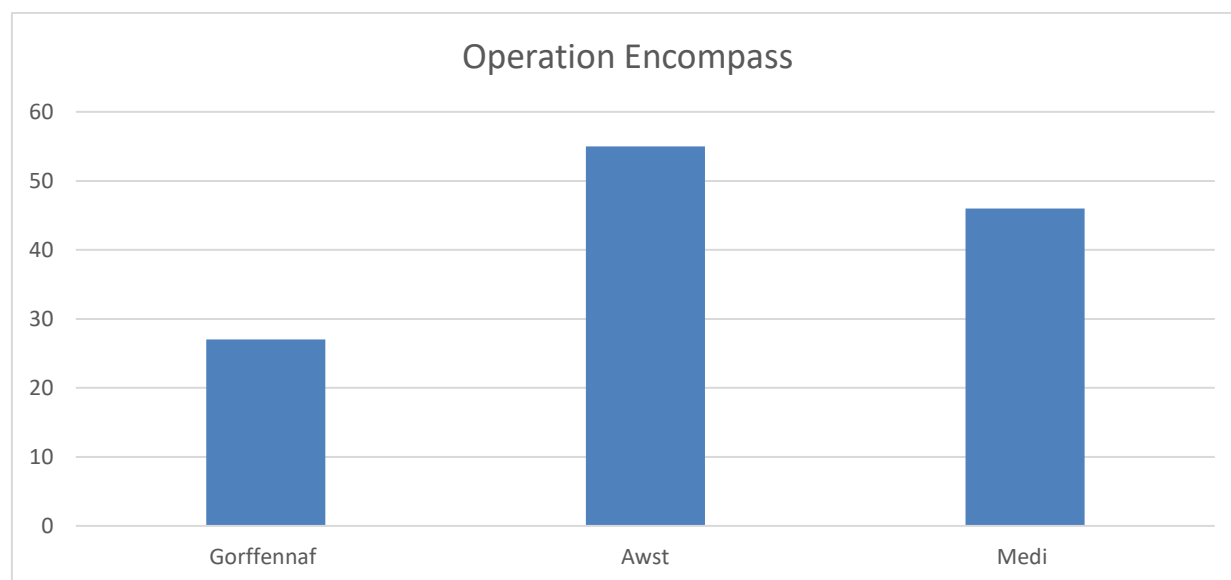
Lles / Wellbeing	Gan gynnwys plant ar goll, presenoldeb, tor perthynas, galar, gofawyr ifanc, cyswllt cyfnod clo, materion cyswllt rhwng rhieni / Which also includes missings, attendance, relationship breakdown, young carers, contact difficulties during lockdown, contact issues between parents.
Rhywiol / Sexual	Gan gynnwys perthnasau amhriodol ag egsbloetio plant yn rhywiol / Which also includes inappropriate relationships and Child Sexual Exploitation.

I nodi, gafodd 39 o ddisgyblion ei gwahardd o ysgolion uwchradd Ceredigion yn ystod cwarter 2, a hynny o gyfanswm 82 diwrnod. (Y rhif yma yn amlwg yn gymharol llai na chwarter 1, ond y rheswm am hynny, oedd gwyliau haf). Y rhesymau sydd wedi cofnodi am y gwaharddiadau yma, fel y ganlyn; Difrod, Sylweddau, Ymddygiad Aflonyddgar, Ymosodiad Corfforol, Ymddygiad Rhywiol, Ymddygiad Bygythiol, ag arall.

Yn ogystal a hyn, fe dderbyniwyd 85 o gyfeiriadau ar gyfer cefnogaeth ataliol drwy Porth Cymorth Cynnar yn ystod y cwarter (nid yw'r ffigwr yma yn cynnwys cyfeiriadau TAF).

To note, a total of 39 pupils were excluded from Ceredigion Secondary Schools during quarter 2, for a total of 82 days. (These figures naturally being less than those reported in quarter 1, due to the summer holidays falling within this period). The reasons noted for exclusions have been recorded as: Damage, Substances, Physical Assault, Persistent Disruptive Behaviour, Sexual Misconduct, Verbal Abuse / Threatening Behaviour.

In addition to this, Porth Cymorth Cynnar received 85 referrals for Support and Prevention during this time not including TAF referrals.



Mae'r ffigyrau uchod yn dangos gostyngiad mewn achosion camdrin domestig yn ystod mis Gorffennaf, I gymharu a Gorffennaf 2021, ble adroddwyd 33 achos. Ond er hyn, nodwyd cynnydd sylweddol yn nigwyddiadau mis Awst a Medi I gymharu a 2021. (Awst 21 = 22 achos / Medi 21 = 35 achos).

The above figures show a reduction in domestic incidences being reported in July, in comparison to July 2021, where 33 cases were recorded. Despite this, there appears to have been a significant increase in the number of incidences recorded in August and September, in comparison to 2021 (August 21 = 22 cases and September 21 = 35 cases).

SECTION 11: HEALTH



Hywel Dda University Health Board Safeguarding Report to the Local Operational Groups Qtr 2 2022/23

This report informs the Local Operational Groups of updates on safeguarding developments in Hywel Dda University Health Board during quarter 2 2022/23

Adult Safeguarding

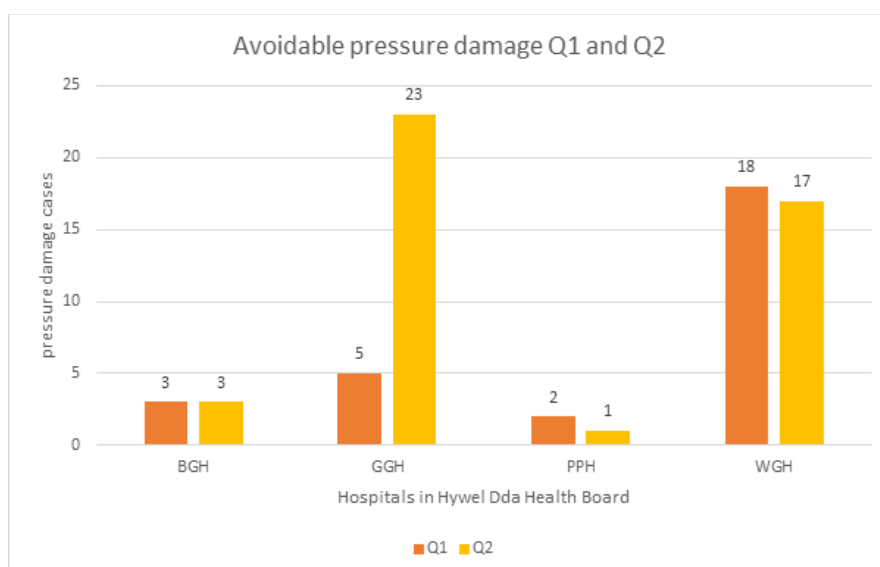
-Update

The pilot of the RLDatix Safeguarding Management Module continues to progress within the Health Board. Adult Safeguarding reports related to services are now accessible to the Health Board Leads, Deputies and Heads of Service in their respective areas. Training is currently being delivered by the Adult Safeguarding Practitioners to those who require access to enable them to have oversight of their reports and to be able to extract meaningful data.

In addition to internal safeguarding training, the team supported Aberystwyth University in delivering level two safeguarding training to second year mental health students. Bespoke training was also provided as part of a full day Dementia Awareness Day organised by the Health Board.

As part of internal arrangements in support of National Safeguarding Week, a bespoke lunch and learn session on Safeguarding and the Older Person will be undertaken.

- Quarter 2 2022/23 Acute Hospital Avoidable Pressure Damage Audit



There was a total number of 44 avoidable cases of pressure damage incidents across all four acute hospital sites in Qtr 2. 37 reported cases were grade 1 or 2, these grades would not have been reported to safeguarding prior to the SSWBWA; three were recorded as

Suspected Deep Tissue Injury (SDTI), a significant reduction from eleven in the previous quarter. It is not uncommon for pressure damage to be reported as SDTI, but within a few days, it becomes apparent that it is a grade 1 or 2. Incident reporting captures the pressure damage at its most significant grading. Three were reported as grade 3; there was no pressure damage reported as grade 4, and a single unstageable case.

It is of note that the numbers reflect when the scrutiny meetings took place, rather than when the pressure damage occurred; in this report 34 (77%) cases occurred in the preceding quarter. The lag in data capture is multifactorial, with reasons including; cases being deferred if further information or investigation is required, cases being carried over if meetings are re-scheduled; delays in submitting scrutiny meeting outcomes to the safeguarding team.

There is a notably higher number of cases in Glangwili compared to other sites, and to the last quarter. This is attributable to a number of outcomes from Qtr 1 being added to this report due to being received after the Qtr 1 report was prepared; otherwise the number of cases across sites remains similar to the previous quarter.

- Risks

The adult safeguarding service in the UHB has reported risks on the service risks register due to fragility of resource to sustain current demand on the service. This is caused by an increase in activity as a result of the pandemic and gaps in sustainable capacity in the corporate adult safeguarding team.

Looked After Children

We have 2 new LAC Nurses in post, one permanent to mitigate the risk with increased workload and a temporary position to cover a career break.

- Risks

We have added a new risk to the service risk register due to the cost pressure on the service budget to meet the needs of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children placed under the National Transfer Scheme. With only 3 out of 26 children placed within the UHB geography, the service are incurring costs due to commissioning health assessments in the areas where the UASC has been placed.

Safeguarding Children

Child Safeguarding Report Form Activity

Activity within the Health Board, continues to be high with Qtr. 2 2022-2023 seeing 405 child safeguarding report forms submitted. Although this is a slight decrease from the 417 submitted in Qtr.1 2022-2023 it equates to a 9.75% increase on the figures for Qtr. 2 2021- 2022.

The three most prevalent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) identified within the MARF are parental separation, mental health and domestic abuse.

Update

Ruth Harrison, Lead Nurse Safeguarding Children will be retiring from her post on the 30th, December 2022. Interviews for the role will be held on the 7th, December 2022.

VAWDASV

There has been a rise in reports of domestic incidents received and daily discussions cases within all 3 counties Quarter 2 as compared with Quarter 1 this year. This includes a rise in health referrals to MARAC, particularly in Carmarthenshire. This is encouraging and may be related to practitioners increased awareness of VAWDASV, as training compliance for Ask and Act has also increased steadily. However, this does impact on capacity within a small resource.

We are identifying examples of good practice within health services identifying those at risk of VAWDASV, and facilitating opportunities for victims to receive support. These examples were recently highlighted in our Autumn Safeguarding newsletter.

The Lead Practitioner for VAWDASV completed an evaluation of the Ask and Act training to identify how effective Ask and Act training is in equipping practitioners to respond to VAWDASV, asking practitioners to provide examples of how they managed disclosures from patients within health settings. The responses identified participants had increased knowledge and understanding of how to address the wider safeguarding issues relating to VAWDASV, such as adult at risk referrals, and concerns relating to the safeguarding of children. Practitioners also indicated that they would like further training on domestic abuse affecting older persons and supporting male victims.

The IRIS pilot has commenced within Carmarthenshire Primary Care, with 9 GP practices receiving training since start of roll out, and referrals to the IRIS IDVA to provide support being received.

We are extremely pleased that the bid made to NHS Charities for funding of a Domestic Violence Advisor to work within one of the HDdUHB Emergency Departments has been successful. The criteria for funding required the post to be managed by a third sector organisation. This post is currently going through the HDdUHB procurement process, and once awarded, we aim to commence this role in January 2023 within Bronglais Hospital Emergency Department.

- Risks

We have risk on the service risk register for to the fragility of the resource in the UHB to manage DINs and MARAC meetings This is caused by an increase in activity as a result of the pandemic and gaps in sustainable capacity in the corporate safeguarding practitioner resource and safeguarding administration team to manage domestic incident notifications via the Criminal Justice System (CJSM) and share that information and flag UHB systems in high risk cases.

Once for Wales Management System

The national team are still seeking to resolve some outstanding issues which are impacting on commencement of the pilot. A programme work plan before the end of this year is expected to provide an expected timescale for a solution.

Mandy Nichols-Davies
Head of Safeguarding
1st December 2022

SECTION 12: S-CAMHS:

S-CAMHS Update Report for CYSUR

In line with the Welsh Government document “Admission Guidance”, HDUHB has in place a robust Admission Policy/Pathway outlining the process for admitting any young person into an Adult Mental Health Ward. The Guidance stipulates that the Health Board must have a designated Unit and within HDUHB this is Morlais Ward on the Glangwili Hospital campus.

A new Protocol has been approved to meet this statutory requirement which will ensure compliance against Welsh Government expectations.

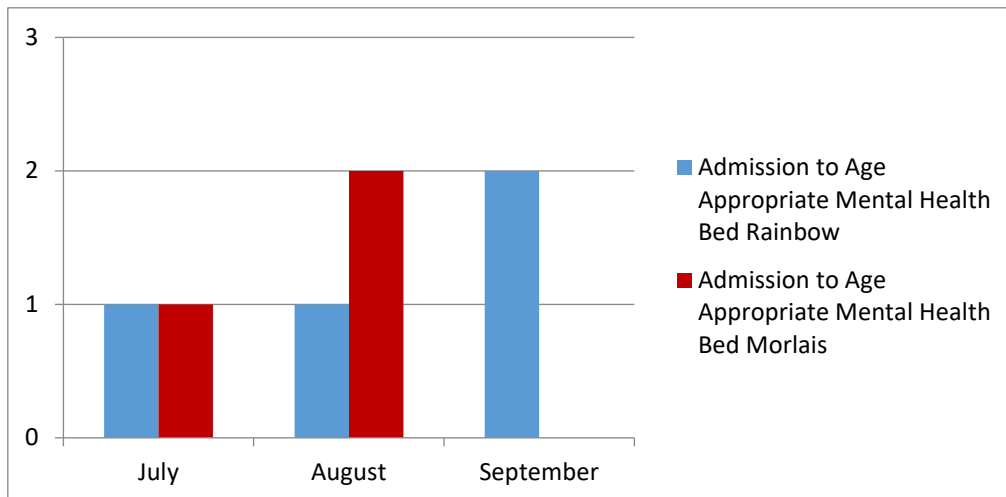
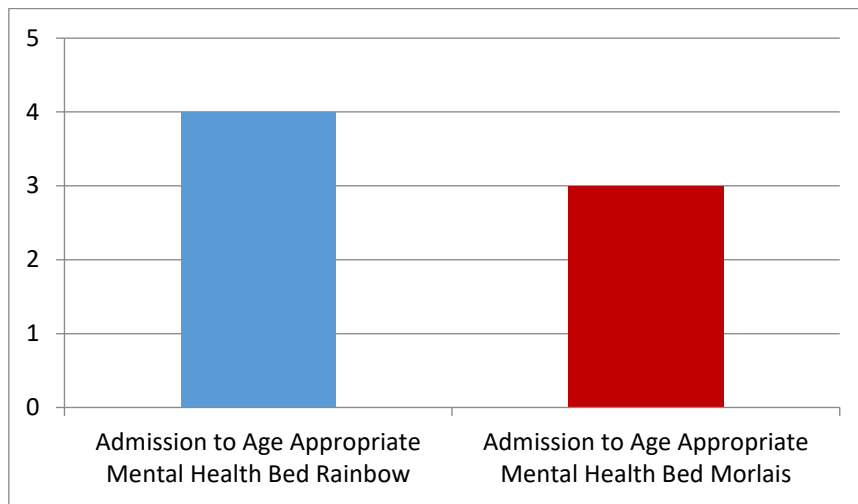
Admission to an adult mental health ward can be a frightening experience and every attempt is made to consider the least restrictive alternative for admission. In the majority of cases a young person is admitted to the designated unit on Cilgerran Ward supported by staff from the mental health unit.

In line with the guidance, the staff have received additional training in safeguarding young people and in addition the staff on Morlais ward have all undertaken the following:

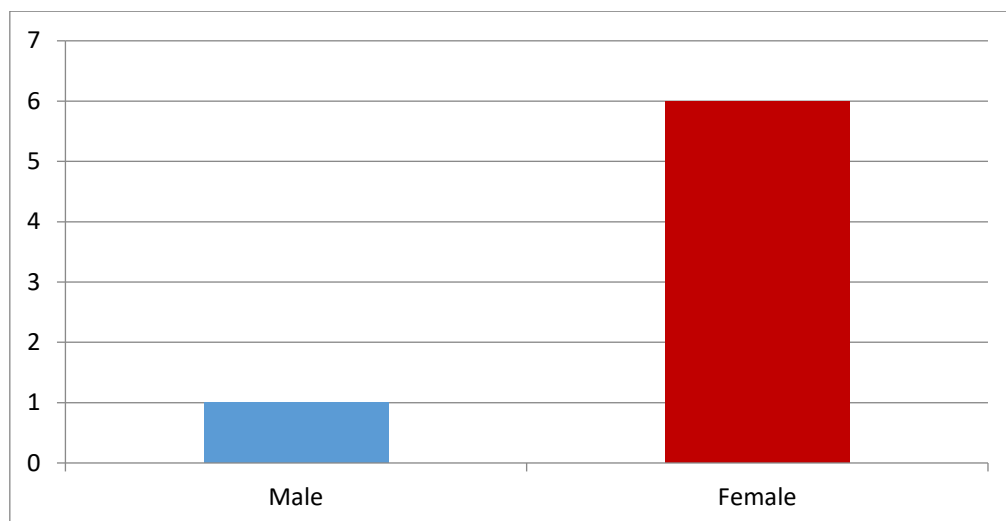
- Safeguarding Children Level 3 Training
- Have a valid Enhanced DBS in place
- Undertaken specific training on the emotional and mental health needs of children and young people
- Training on the Mental Health Act and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

All admissions to the mental health bed must be reported, initially internally as a DATIX, and followed by a Serious Untoward Incident report to the Delivery Unit in line with the Welsh Government’s Admission Guidance Document.

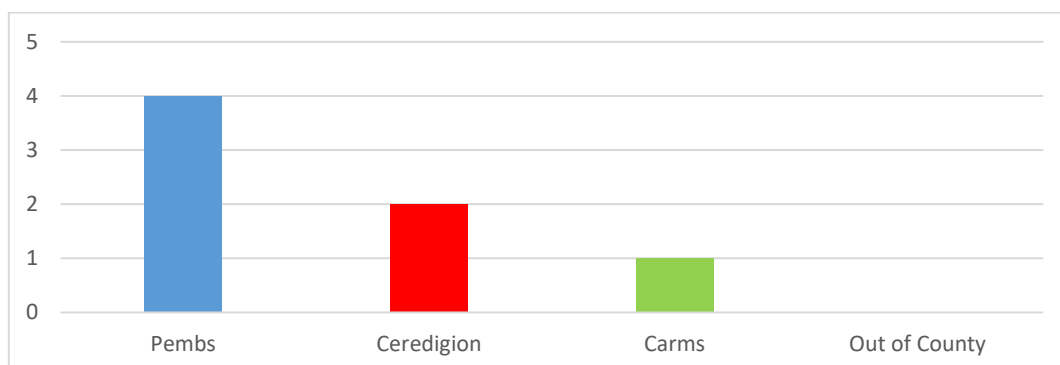
Q1 Admissions to the age appropriate bed on the Rainbow bed and Morlais Adult Mental Health Ward Glangwili Hospital site:



Q1 Admission to Age Appropriate Mental Health Bed Rainbow / Morlais Bed by gender:



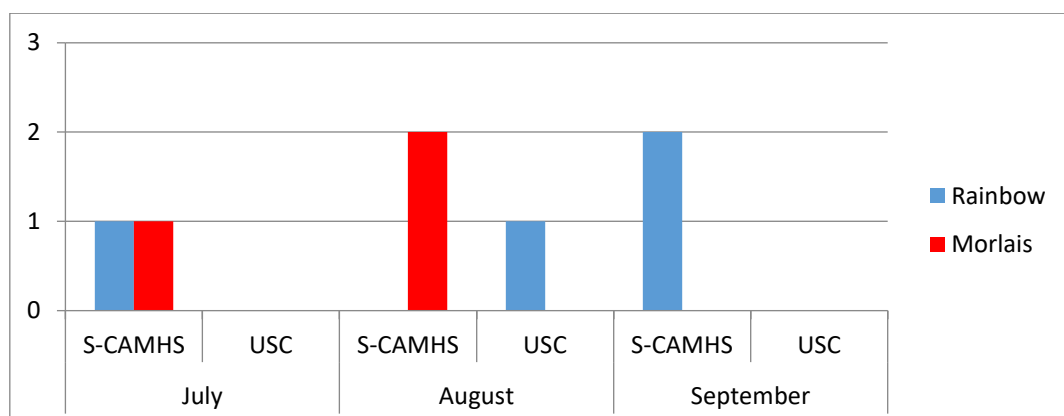
Q1 Admissions to Rainbow / Morlais Bed according to Locality:



Admissions to Paediatric Age Appropriate Bed (Rainbow Unit, Non reportable)

Specialist CAMHS records for Quarter 2 are outlined above with 7 Admissions in total, with 4 Admissions to the Paediatric bed and 3 Admissions to the Adult Mental Health Ward (Morlais).

Q1 Admissions to Rainbow / Morlais split by admitting team:



Mental Health Act Status

There was an unusually high level of MHA activity during this period.

5 x S136

1 x Section 5(2)

2 x Section 2

Admission Outcomes

	Discharged Home	Onward Admission	Remains on Ward
Rainbow	4	0	0
Morlais	2	1	0

Admissions relating to Self-Harm

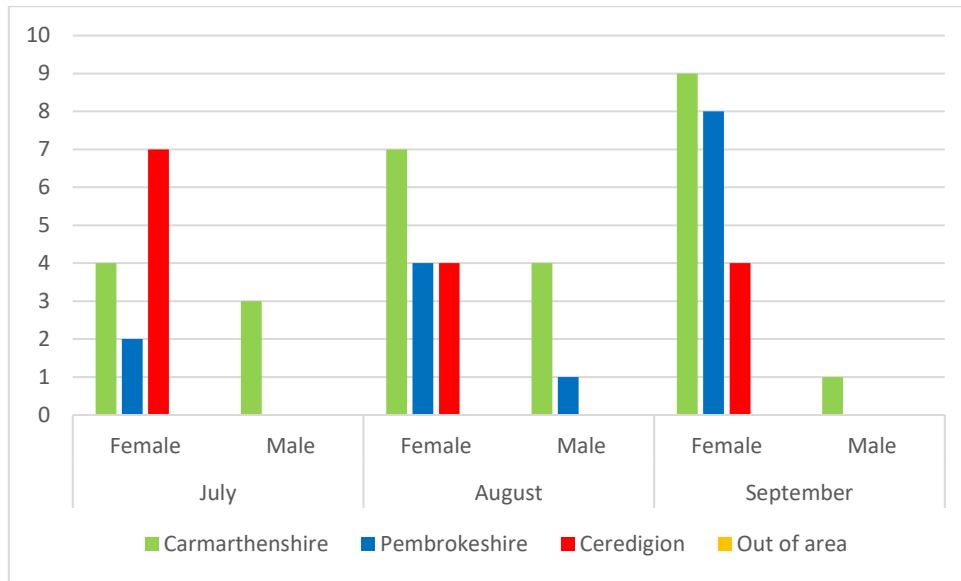
Within HDUHB there are robust systems in place for S-CAMHS to provide a mental health assessment, following referral from the Paediatric ward where any young person is admitted following an episode of self harm. The reason for admission is generally following an overdose but, on occasions, it can be following deliberate cutting or an attempted hanging.

All overdose/self harm admissions receive a follow up appointment within three working days to monitor risk and provide support. There is a robust Pathway in place along with Guidance for admission of all young people who present following self harm in order that a comprehensive mental health assessment and risk management plan can be agreed. Where appropriate, referral to the Safeguarding team and/or Social Services may be considered.

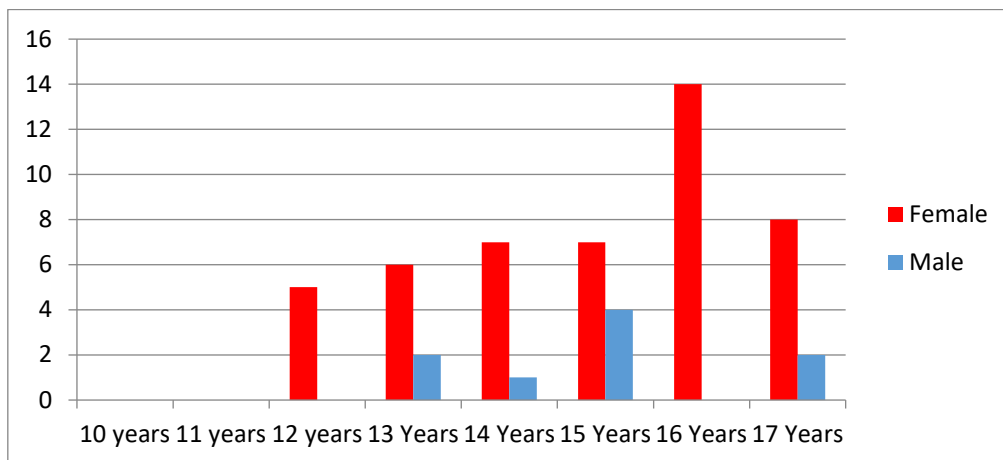
The following table details the numbers of admissions following Deliberate Self Harm (DSH) Quarter 2 2022/2023 for the 3 Local Authority Areas:

Performance Management Report 1/7/22 - 30/9/22

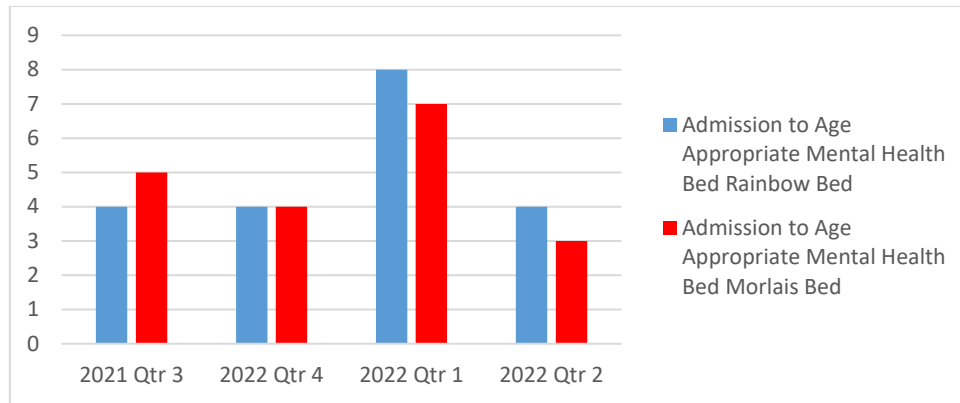
Q1 Self-harm / Overdose Admission Statistics split by gender and locality:



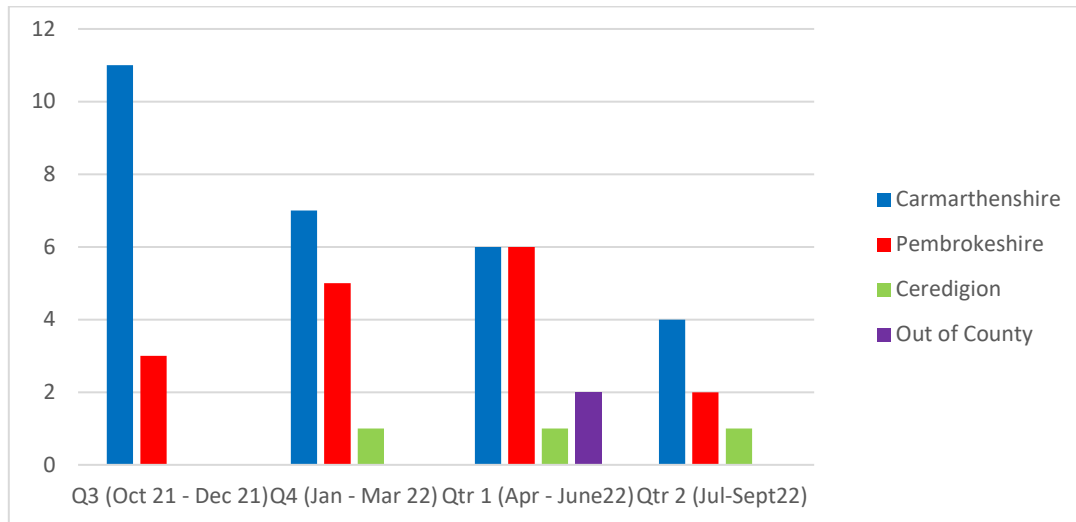
Q1 Self-harm / Overdose Admission Statistics split by gender and age profile:



Comparison Data (last 12 months) - Age Appropriate Bed

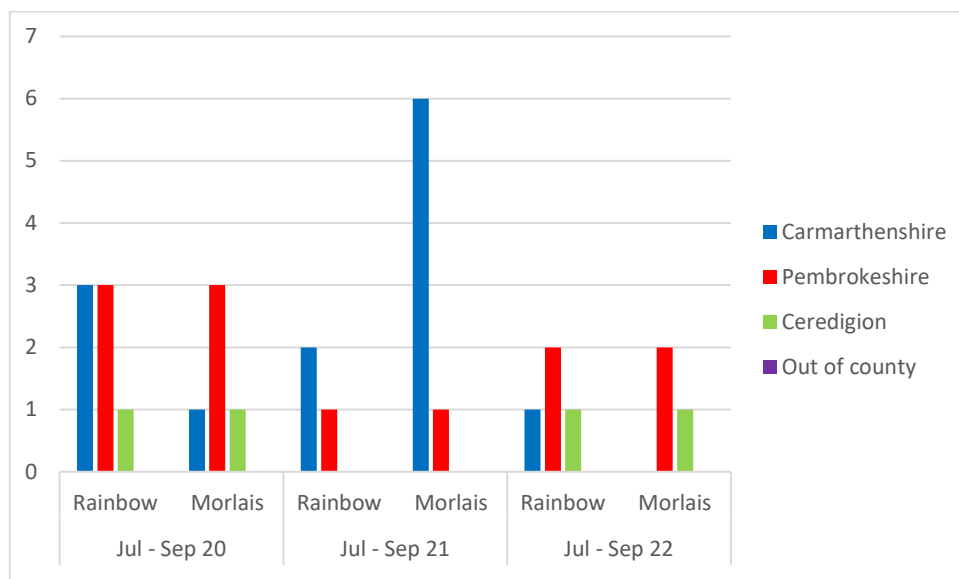


Admission Trend comparison by locality (last 12 months)



Annual Admission Comparison by locality

The following graph compares the numbers of admissions for Quarter 2 2022/2023 against the number of admissions for the same quarter of 2021/2022 and 2021/2020, further defined by locality.



Advocacy

In line with the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2012, Health Boards are expected to ensure that access to Advocacy Services is in place, as per Part 4 of the Measure, for any individual admitted into hospital. All young people admitted to Morlais Ward are asked on admission if they would like access to an Independent Mental Health Advocate. The expected performance target is that 100% of clients are offered this and this information is recorded and reported via our Information Analyst.

On Cilgerran Ward, information is provided to young people on admission on the availability of access to the Advocacy Service. However, the above performance standard is not applicable therefore data is not routinely collated.

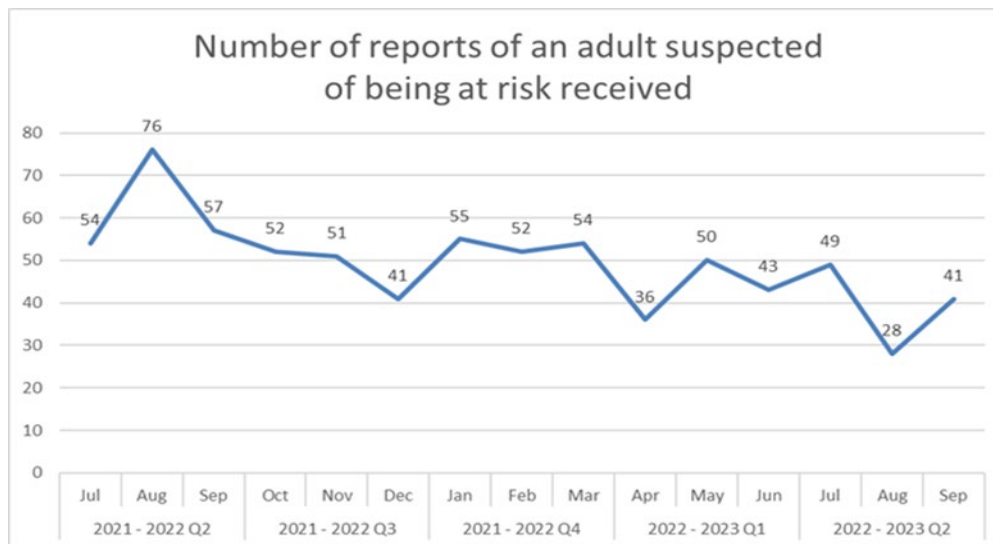
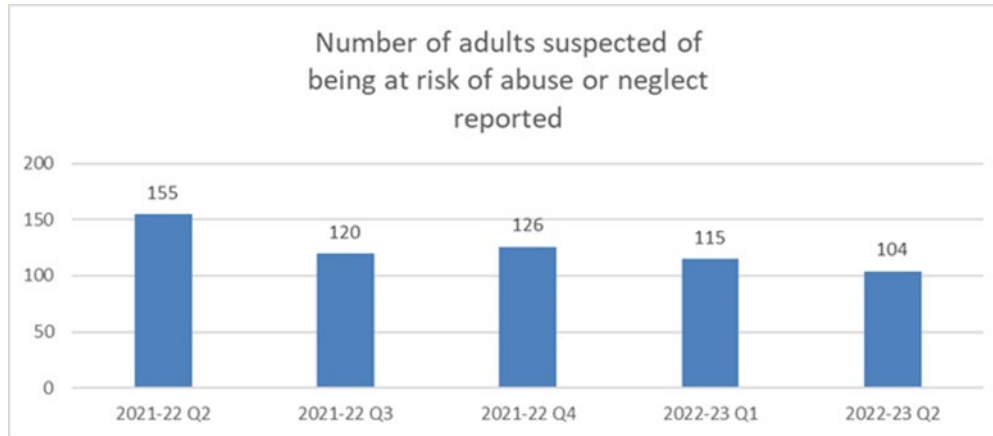
CEREDIGION
CWMPAS LOCAL OPERATIONAL GROUP

Performance Management Report – Safeguarding Adults

Quarter: 2

1/7/22 – 30/9/22

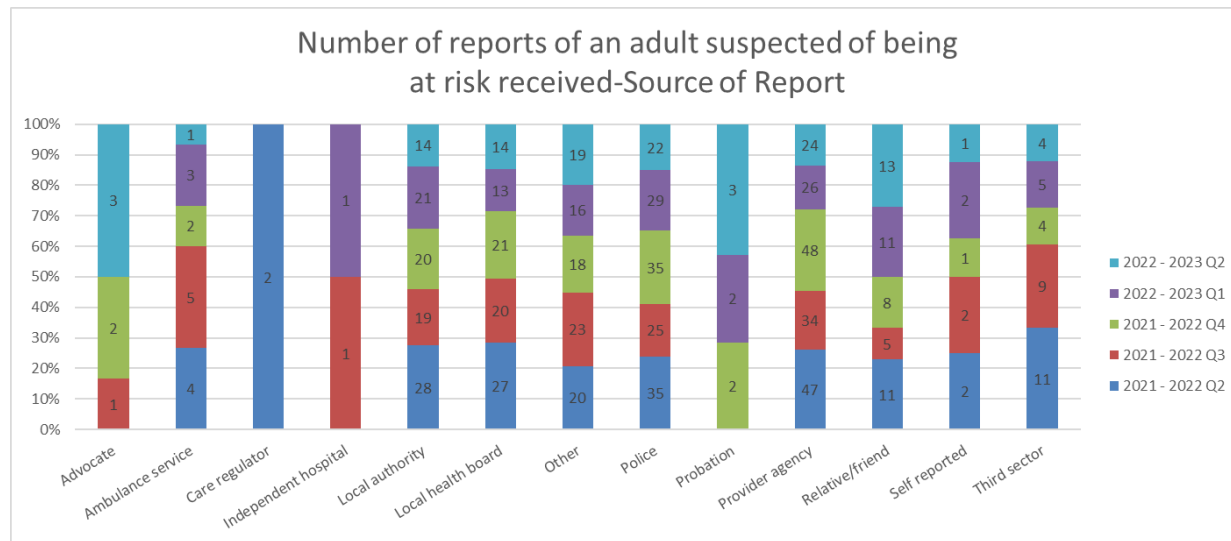
Quarter 2 Overview



In comparison to Q1 there is again a marked decrease in the number of Adults suspected of being at risk of abuse or neglect, There is a need to monitor this and undertake further information analysis to fully understand if this is a short- or long-term reduction or trend.

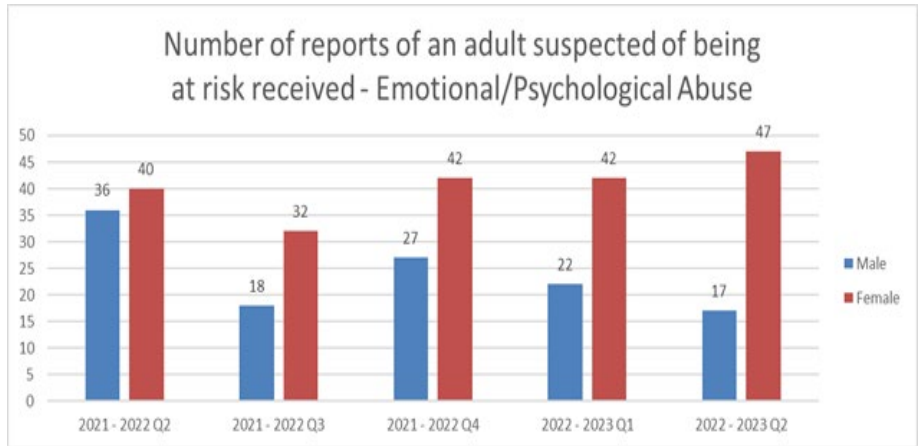
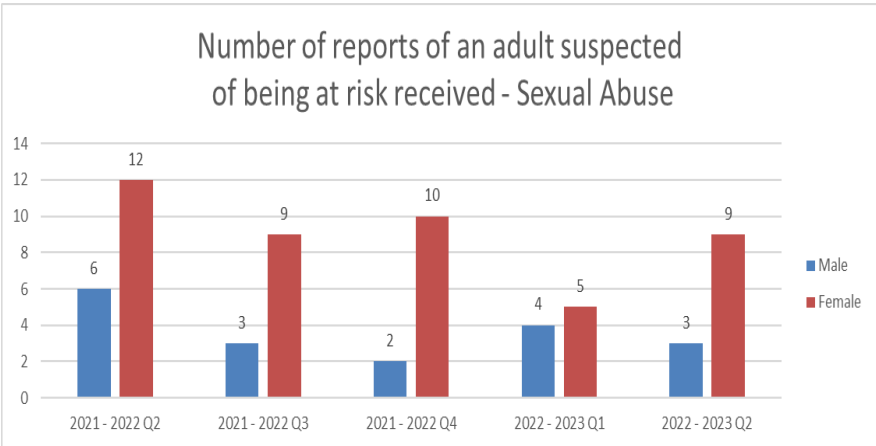
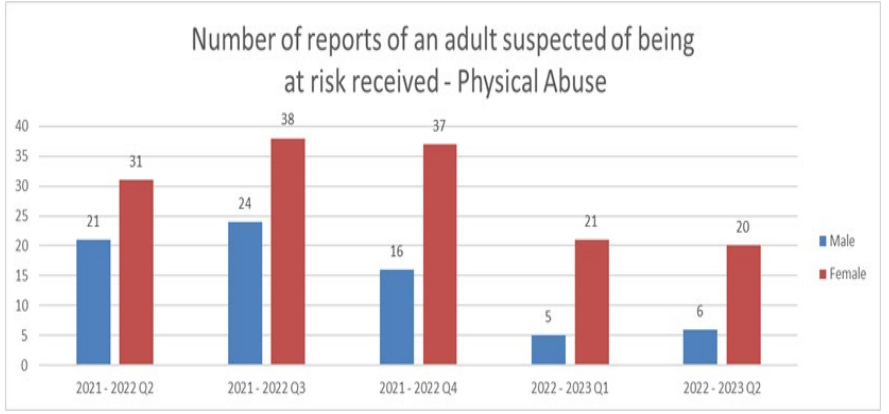
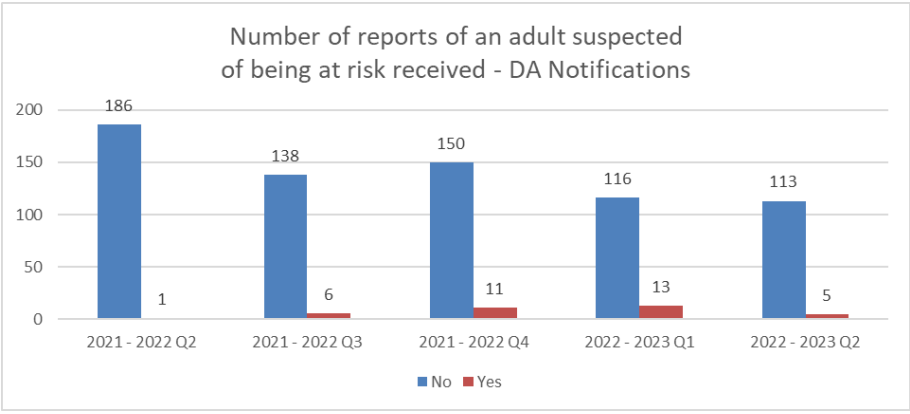
Reports - Month

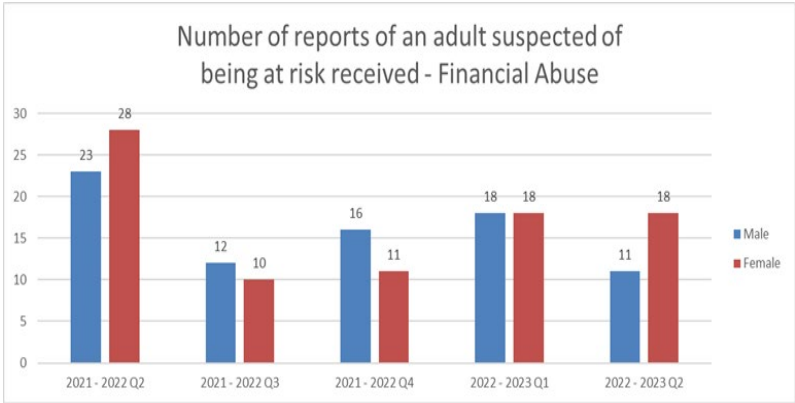
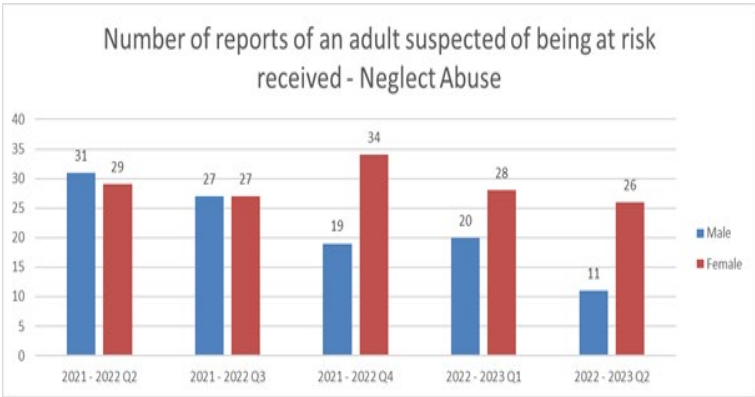
Row Labels	Count of Assessment ID
2021 - 2022 Q2	187
Jul	54
Aug	76
Sep	57
2021 - 2022 Q3	144
Oct	52
Nov	51
Dec	41
2021 - 2022 Q4	161
Jan	55
Feb	52
Mar	54
2022 - 2023 Q1	129
Apr	36
May	50
Jun	43
2022 - 2023 Q2	118
Jul	49
Aug	28
Sep	41
Grand Total	739



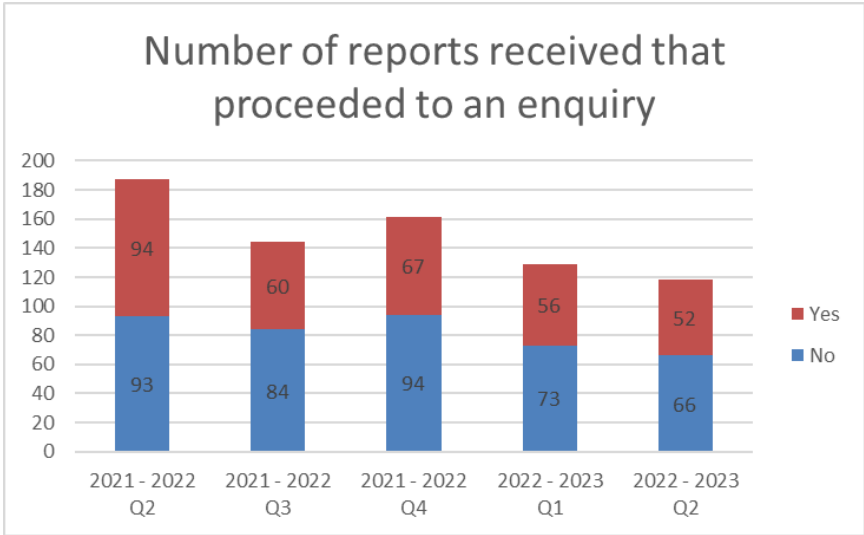
Count of Assessment Id	Column Labels					
Row Labels	2021 - 2022 Q2	2021 - 2022 Q3	2021 - 2022 Q4	2022 - 2023 Q1	2022 - 2023 Q2	Grand Total
Advocate		1	2		3	6
Ambulance service	4	5	2	3	1	15
Care regulator	2					2
Independent hospital		1		1		2
Local authority	28	19	20	21	14	102
Local health board	27	20	21	13	14	95
Other	20	23	18	16	19	96
Police	35	25	35	29	22	146
Probation			2	2	3	7
Provider agency	47	34	48	26	24	179
Relative/friend	11	5	8	11	13	48
Self reported	2	2	1	2	1	8
Third sector	11	9	4	5	4	33
Grand Total	187	144	161	129	118	739

This highlights **Provider agency** and **Police** are still our main referral source over all, however based on the recent reporting period they have both shown a reduction. Comparing the last quarter report shows a large decrease from the council and a slight increase in the number from our Health colleagues.





Emotional/Psychological abuse is again the main category of abuse that reported in this quarter.



There are still a high number of reports that come through that are deemed not to need to proceed through to an Enquiry and therefore are deemed to be inappropriate reports. There needs to be some more in depth work as to what the nature of the reports are and why they are being referred in to the team.

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