

Minutes of the Meeting of OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE held at the Hybrid - Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron / remotely via video conference on Monday, 26 September 2022

PRESENT; Councillor Keith Evans (Chair), Councillors Wyn Evans (Vice-Chair), Gwyn Wigley Evans, Rhodri Evans, Geraint Wyn Hughes, Chris James and Caryl Roberts

Also in attendance: Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of the Council, Councillor Alun Williams, Councillor Mathew Vaux, Councillor Keith Henson, Councillor Wyn Thomas (Cabinet Members). Councillor Hugh Hughes.

Officers in attendance: Elin Prysor, Monitoring Officer and Corporate Lead Officer, Sian Howys, Corporate Lead Officer and Statutory Director of Social Services, Naomi McDonagh, Partnerships Manager, Public Service Board (PSB), Diana Davies, Corporate Manager, Partnerships and Performance, Alun Williams, Corporate Lead, Policy and Performance, Harry Dimmack, Governance Officer, Nia Jones, Corporate Manager, Democratic Services, Lisa Evans, Standards and Scrutiny Officer and Dwynwen Jones, Overview and Scrutiny Officer; Carwyn Williams and Llinos Williams, Translators.

(10.00 - 11.47 am)

11 Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Councillors Endaf Edwards and Ceris Jones apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

**12 Disclosures of personal interest (including whipping declarations)
Members are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. In addition, Members must declare any prohibited party whip which the Member has been given in relation to the meeting as per the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011**

There were no disclosures of personal or prejudicial interests.

13 CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding Report Qtr 4 2021/22

Sian Howys and Councillor Alun Williams (Cabinet Member) attended the meeting to present the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group Safeguarding report to Committee Members to ensure Members monitor progress of the CYSUR/CWMPAS Combined Local Operational Group quarterly management meetings. These are multi-agency management reports in relation to safeguarding children and adults in

Ceredigion during the period 1st January to 31st March 2022. They provide management information on action taken under the Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

Sian outlined the main points as listed in the covering report. A Member raised a concern that Child Protection referrals in the Aberystwyth area had doubled during the quarter. In response to the concern, it was explained that on occasions group safeguarding referrals can be made in terms of concerns, i.e. more than one individual in one family or in a peer group. There could also be seasonal factors. Another Member noted that 12 individuals had been removed from the child protection register and asked if there is an age limit that they are automatically removed from the register. The Officer confirmed this would happen when an individual turns 18 years old. Concern was also raised that the data shows that not all review child protection conferences are being taken within the required timescale. It was explained by the Officer that the workforce due to vacancies are under considerable pressure and are prioritising tasks. A Member asked whether face to face reviews are now undertaken at Penmorfa and Canolfan Rheidol as were pre-covid. It was confirmed that those offices have not resumed access to the public, however, other appropriate locations will be used for this purpose when required. It was confirmed that use of offices is being reviewed on a corporate basis. A reference was made to self-harming in children and the Officer confirmed that the data in the report is provided from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) team, Hywel Dda University Health Board. The Chairman noted that as a Scrutiny Committee, Members have the right to invite any outside organisations in for questioning. The Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Chair, Councillor Caryl Roberts, requested that a representative from CAMHS team attend a future meeting.

Following discussion, Members were asked to note the contents of the report and the levels of activity with the Local Authority. Members agreed to note its contents so that the governance of the Local Authority and its partner agencies are monitored.

The Chairman thanked Sian Howys for attending and presenting the report and also thanked the Officer concerned for providing an Executive Summary.

14 Ceredigion Public Services Board (PSB) meeting held 12th July 2022 & Ceredigion Local Well-being Annual Report 2021-2022

The Chairman welcomed Naomi McDonagh, Diana Davies and Alun Williams and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bryan Davies (Cabinet Member) to the meeting to present the minutes of the 12th July 2022 PSB meeting and to present the Ceredigion Local Well-being Annual Report 2021-2022.

Under Section 35 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Local Authorities are required to ensure their Overview and Scrutiny Committees have the power to scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Public Services Board for the Local Authority area in the

exercise of its functions. The Public Services Board (PSB) is required to produce and publish annual reports relating to the delivery of their Wellbeing Plans. It is a statutory requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 that annual reports are scrutinised by local PSB Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Unlike with the assessments of well-being and the well-being plans, the PSB does not have to wait on the scrutiny panel recommendations to approve annual reports but, the Board is encouraged to use Scrutiny recommendations in developing work programmes and future reporting.

During discussion, it was reiterated that it is important to include Local Members in any discussions/consultations relating to their ward as their input is valuable.

Following discussion, Members were asked to receive the draft minutes of the Ceredigion PSB meetings held on the 12th July 2022, and to receive and note the Ceredigion PSB Local Well-being Plan Annual Report 2021-2022.

The Chairman thanked the Officers and the Leader of the Council for attending and presenting the report.

15 Report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA)

Elin Prysor attended to present the report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) as the Coordinating Committee Members are responsible for reviewing the Council's use of RIPA. Reports are presented to the Committee on a 6 monthly basis; however; this report is presented 12 months following the previous report due to a lack of RIPA activity.

It was reported that there has been no RIPA activity by any service of the Council during the period between the 13th August 2021 and the 4th July 2022. Authorising Officers have confirmed that they have not considered any RIPA applications during this time.

On the 28th February 2022, a half day training workshop was delivered by an external provider to relevant Officers on RIPA. It was reported that the IPCO report will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Following discussion, Members agreed to note the report contents.

The Chair thanked Elin Prysor for attending and presenting the report.

16 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022

Lisa Evans reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report highlights the key issues that have been considered by the five overview and scrutiny Committees during 2021/2022.

There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities to publish an annual report relating to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Annual Report will be published in the Overview and Scrutiny webpage on the Council Website.

Following discussion, Members agreed to note the information contained within the report prior to it being presented to Council on the 20th October 2022.

17 To receive a update from the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to consider the draft Forward Work Programmes

Each Chair in turn provided an update on their respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Following discussion, it was agreed to include the following on each Forward Work Programme:

Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Pay and Display Car Park Machines.

Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee – to request a Council Tax Second Homes update report at the 19th December 2022 Committee meeting;

Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – to invite a representative from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team (CAMHS) to a future meeting to provide an update on their service; and; to request an update relating to recruitment issues for the Porth Cynnal, Porth Gofal y Gymuned and Porth Ceredigion Cynnar teams.

18 To confirm minutes of the Coordinating meeting held on 15 June 2022 and to consider any matters arising from those minutes

The minutes of the Coordinating meeting held on the 15th June 2022 were confirmed as a true record of proceedings and there were no matters arising from those minutes.

The Chairman thanked Committee Members for attending and closed proceedings at 11:47am.

Confirmed at the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 14 October 2022

Chairman: _____

Date: _____