

# Public Document Pack



Cyngor Sir  
**CEREDIGION**  
County Council

Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa,  
Aberaeron, Ceredigion SA46 0PA  
[ceredigion.gov.uk](http://ceredigion.gov.uk)

27 August 2024

Dwynwen Jones

Dear Sir / Madam

I write to inform you that a Meeting of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at the HYBRID - NEUADD CYNGOR CEREDIGION, PENMORFA, ABERAERON / REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE on Monday, 2 September 2024 at 10.00 am for the transaction of the following business:

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **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**
3. **CIW Hafan y Waun Residential Care Inspection Report (Pages 3 - 16)**
4. **Cartref Tregerddan Residential Care Home Public Consultation (Pages 17 - 46)**
5. **Independent Reviewing Service Performance Management Report quarter 3 - 1.10.23 - 3.12.23 (Pages 47 - 80)**
6. **CIW Performance Evaluation Action Progress (Pages 81 - 86)**
7. **Children's Safe Accommodation - update (Pages 87 - 90)**
8. **Domiciliary Care - Update report on the 15 pledge points (Pages 91 - 110)**
9. **To confirm minutes of the previous meeting and to consider any matters arising from those minutes (Pages 111 - 116)**

Members are reminded to sign the Attendance Register

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

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Edwards', written in a cursive style.

**Miss Lowri Edwards**  
**Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services**

**To: Chairman and Members of Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The remaining Members of the Council for information only.

## CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

**Title:** Hafan Y Waun Residential care home – CIW report

**Purpose of the report:** For information

**Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:**  
Not requested

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:**  
Cllr Alun Williams

### **Background**

Hafan y Waun (HYW) Residential Care home came under the ownership of Ceredigion County Council in November 2023. The home offers 90 residential placements including short term, temporary, permanent and respite. Including care and support for people living with dementia. Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) completed a routine inspection of the home on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – the first inspection since the change of ownership. The attached inspection report provides an overview of the home and its performance under the 4 key areas inspected:

- Wellbeing
- Care and Support
- Environment
- Leadership and Management

### **Current Situation**

The report highlights positive and complementary areas within the home, as highlighted within the summary:

The service has recently been taken over by a new provider, it is effectively led by the knowledgeable and passionate manager and deputy. The new Responsible Individual (RI) consults with people who live and work at the service. Information from their quarterly visit reports is used to inform their six-monthly quality of care review.

People appear very happy with the service they receive and are supported by a friendly and caring staff team. Care workers are enthusiastic about their roles and the people they support, one said “The residents are lovely. I love working with them”. Representatives are also positive about the impact the service makes.

The well-designed environment meets people’s needs, is comfortable and generally well maintained. The provider has a plan in place to improve the internal and external aspects of the home, to benefit people. Day to day repairs are completed promptly by the in house maintenance team.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If, not, please state why.**  
No

**Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

**Long term:** INSERT TEXT  
**Collaboration:** INSERT TEXT  
**Involvement:** INSERT TEXT  
**Prevention:** INSERT TEXT  
**Integration:** INSERT TEXT

**Recommendation(s):**

For information and assurance re the operating of the home following the home being taken into council ownership

**Reasons for decision:**

**Contact Name:** Donna Pritchard

**Designation:** Corporate Lead Officer – Porth Gofal

**Date of Report:** 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

**Acronyms:**

INSERT TEXT



## Inspection Report on

**Hafan y Waun**

**Hafan Y Waun  
Waunfawr  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 3AY**

**Mae'r adroddiad hwn hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**This report is also available in Welsh**

**Date Inspection Completed**

23/06/2024

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You must reproduce our material accurately and not use it in a misleading context.*

## About Hafan y Waun

Type of care provided	Care Home Service Adults Without Nursing
Registered Provider	Ceredigion County Council Adults and Children's Services
Registered places	90
Language of the service	Both
Previous Care Inspectorate Wales inspection	
Does this service promote Welsh language and culture?	The service provides an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. It anticipates, identifies and meets the Welsh language and cultural needs of people who use, or may use, the service.

### Summary

The service has recently been taken over by a new provider, it is effectively led by the knowledgeable and passionate manager and deputy. The new Responsible Individual (RI) consults with people who live and work at the service. Information from their quarterly visit reports is used to inform their six-monthly quality of care review.

People appear very happy with the service they receive and are supported by a friendly and caring staff team. Care workers are enthusiastic about their roles and the people they support, one said *"The residents are lovely. I love working with them"*. Representatives are also positive about the impact the service makes.

The well-designed environment meets people's needs, is comfortable and generally well maintained. The provider has a plan in place to improve the internal and external aspects of the home, to benefit people. Day to day repairs are completed promptly by the in house maintenance team.

## Well-being

People receive excellent care and support that meets their needs. The manager involves health and social care professionals to help people remain as healthy as possible. People are respected, interactions with the staff are friendly and relaxed. A comprehensive activities programme ensures people do things that matter to them, such as exercising, gardening, religious services, theme days and events that allow people to socialise with each other and their family and friends. Representatives are also positive about the care and support; one said, *“They are always laughing and I look forward to coming in”*. People live in a service that offers an 'Active Offer' of the Welsh language. We observed staff skilfully switching from Welsh to English to ensure people communicate in their preferred language.

People are protected because recruitment processes ensure they get the right care and support. Care workers receive a thorough induction and effective ongoing development and register with Social Care Wales. Staff protect people from abuse and neglect and are fully aware of their responsibilities to raise concerns. People and their representatives know how to make a complaint if needed and have confidence in the manager.

People are enabled to be as independent and as social as possible because the building is well designed. People personalise their own rooms as they choose. People use the different spaces available to do things they enjoy, for example, taking part in a wide variety of stimulating activities and interacting with each other, staff and visitors. The gardens are accessible and people can do things that matter to them.

People have a voice and input into the running of the service because the RI involves them and or their representatives in quality assurance. Governance processes focus on developing the service by using information from surveys and audits. The Quality of Care Review identifies areas to improve following consultation with people, their representatives and staff work at the home.



## Care and Support

People appear very happy and content with the highly effective care and support they receive. Care workers respect people and we saw many sensitive and understanding interactions between people who live and work at the home. Staff know people well and support them in line with their needs and preferences. A care worker told us *“The reason I come into work is to make a difference and it’s a nice way to give people something positive”*. People’s representatives are also positive about the care and support, one told us, *“I can’t praise the staff enough. They go above and beyond”*.

People, their representatives and care workers are involved in developing and maintaining personal plans. Senior staff regularly review plans to ensure they are accurate and up to date, the manager intends to improve the recording of the reviews. Health and social care professionals are effectively involved, and their guidance helps to enhance people’s overall well-being. For example, creative meal plans have resulted in many people gaining weight and a proactive approach to holistic support rather than the use of medication. Risk assessments are developed around the specific needs of each individual and encourage independence. The manager ensures any restrictions to people are done so legally, with the correct documentation in place. Detailed daily notes record the care and support completed and the manager intends to improve them, with more detailed accounts from the perspective of the person.

Enthusiastic activities coordinators, arrange a wide variety of pastimes such as aromatherapy, dance, gardening, poetry and themed events. There is a focus on community involvement and events such as couples dining gives people who live at the service the opportunity to socialise with people from outside of the home. People can spend time with their family and friends in their own rooms, quiet communal areas or more social spaces such as the tea shop and religious services room.

Medication storage, administration and recording systems are safe and in line with national guidance. The deputy ensures medication is managed appropriately and staff take time to give people the right dose of medication at the right time. Regular audits ensure issues with medication are picked up, actioned, and reported appropriately.

The provider is in the process of recruiting new staff. At the time of the inspection regular agency workers were used to ensure there were sufficient numbers of staff available to meet people’s needs. Staff support people to achieve their outcomes and we observed many unrushed and positive interactions during the inspection.

## Environment

The environment is safe, spacious, and well maintained by a dedicated housekeeping and maintenance team. Carefully designed communal spaces such as the café, activities room, hairdresser and various lounges help people to connect with each other, their visitors, and the staff team. Doors are painted with vibrant colours that help people orientate around the building, staff told us about the difference the colour schemes have made to people's independence. Individual rooms can be personalised with people's own, technology, pictures ornaments and furniture.

The well-designed gardens are used in the warmer weather. Activities such as light gardening and ball games make the most of the outdoor space available. The provider intends to improve the grounds to further improve people's well-being.

The home is bright and fresh, pictures of the local area help connect people with their community. The provider has a planned upgrade programme, they have replaced flooring in individual rooms and are intending to continue this in communal areas. The provider ensures equipment is available for people to use that maintains their dignity and independence. Generally the service's maintenance team ensure ongoing repairs and improvements take place whenever needed.

Regular Health and Safety audits of the property and equipment are completed. Testing of fire safety is up-to-date and Personal Evacuation Plans are individualised and available in emergencies.

The kitchen has a food hygiene rating of three and the provider has taken actions to resolve issues identified by the Environmental Health Officer. People enjoy the option of a social dining experience together or quietly on their own or as a small group. The time and variety of meals are considered to help people to stay as healthy as possible, a representative said, *"The food is great, she's gained weight since coming back from hospital"*.

## Leadership and Management

The service has recently been taken over by a new provider, the new RI and Manager have made a positive impact on the service. The provider has arrangements in place for monitoring, reviewing and improving the quality of the service. The RI has good oversight of the home, and they gain feedback about the service from people, their representatives and care workers every three months. We saw feedback from people and various audits are used to identify areas to improve the overall service in the six-monthly Quality of Care Review.

The manager and deputy work closely together and have created a positive culture at the service. Both are highly visible around the home, they know people well and are enabling staff to succeed in their roles. We saw many friendly interactions between them and people throughout the inspection. Representatives are positive about the effective leadership at the service, one said, "*[Manager] and [Deputy] are available, always greet me when I arrive and if I had a problem I'd be confident to talk to them*". Care workers told us the manager is very supportive, approachable and they value the open-door policy.

Care workers receive regular supervisions and an annual appraisal, they discuss anything at any time with their line managers. A care worker said, "*[Manager] is great, approachable and easy to talk to*". Discussions with staff, demonstrate a good understanding around safeguarding and they are confident to report matters appropriately. Care workers have a good understanding of the key policies and procedures that support good practice.

Pre-employment checks take place before new employees start work. These include references, right to work and Disclosure and Barring (DBS) checks. New staff receive a comprehensive induction, to ensure they are familiar with the people who live at the service. A variety of E-Learning and face-to-face training help all staff to meet people's needs, a care worker told us, "*Some of the training is a refresher and other bits really open your mind*". Care workers complete the 'All Wales Induction Framework for Health and Social Care' and register with Social Care Wales, the workforce regulator.

The service uses regular agency workers to ensure there are adequate numbers of staff available to effectively meet people's needs. We saw many unrushed and encouraging interactions between people and the whole staff team. Many of the regular care workers have been at the service for years and have built up good relationships with people.

### Summary of Non-Compliance

Status	What each means
<b>New</b>	This non-compliance was identified at this inspection.
<b>Reviewed</b>	Compliance was reviewed at this inspection and was not achieved. The target date for compliance is in the future and will be tested at next inspection.
<b>Not Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was not achieved.
<b>Achieved</b>	Compliance was tested at this inspection and was achieved.

We respond to non-compliance with regulations where poor outcomes for people, and / or risk to people’s well-being are identified by issuing Priority Action Notice (s).

The provider must take immediate steps to address this and make improvements. Where providers fail to take priority action by the target date we may escalate the matter to an Improvement and Enforcement Panel.

### Priority Action Notice(s)

Regulation	Summary	Status
N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A

Where we find non-compliance with regulations but no immediate or significant risk for people using the service is identified we highlight these as Areas for Improvement.

We expect the provider to take action to rectify this and we will follow this up at the next inspection. Where the provider has failed to make the necessary improvements we will escalate the matter by issuing a Priority Action Notice.

### Area(s) for Improvement

Regulation	Summary	Status
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N/A	No non-compliance of this type was identified at this inspection	N/A
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### **Was this report helpful?**

We want to hear your views and experiences of reading our inspection reports. This will help us understand whether our reports provide clear and valuable information to you.

To share your views on our reports please visit the following link to complete a short survey:

- [Inspection report survey](#)

If you wish to provide general feedback about a service, please visit our [Feedback surveys page](#).

**Date Published** 30/07/2024

## CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 02/09/2024

**Title:** Cartref Tregerddan Residential Care Home – Public Consultation

**Purpose of the report:**

**Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:**

- Provide scrutiny with a report and recommendations following the consultation on the proposal to transfer the residential care service from Cartref Tregerddan to Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home.

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:** Cllr. Alun Williams

### **Background**

On 19th March 2024 Cabinet agreed the following:

*To approve to progress with the statutory requirement to consult on the transfer of the residential care service from Cartref Tregerddan to Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home.*

A public consultation opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 and closed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a review of the consultation feedback.

### **The Consultation Process**

- The consultation packs and paper questionnaires were distributed to Cartref Tregerddan residents.
- Paper questionnaires were also available for stakeholders, including relatives and staff at Cartref Tregerddan, and at the Council's Libraires, and Wellbeing Centres and Leisure Centres.
- An electronic version of the consultation was available via the Council Website.
- Large print and easy read versions were also made available.
- Consultation meetings were held for staff, families and residents on the 26<sup>th</sup> March (in the run up to the formal public launch), and on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2024.

## Key findings

### *Members of the public*

- Most responses were from **members of the public** (73/125), with the joint second largest respondent groups being 15 responses each from **health & social care professionals** and **relative/partner/friend of a resident in Cartref Tregerddan**.
- The **majority** of responses (84/125) either **disagreed** (17/125), or **strongly disagreed** (67/125) with the proposals.

### *Relative/partner/friend of a resident and residents of Cartref Tregerddan*

- There were 15 responses from **relative/partner/friend of a resident and residents in Cartref Tregerddan**, (6/15) **strongly agreed** and (3/15) **agreed** with the proposal.
- Within these, the responses focus on the small size of the rooms, their preference for a provision including en-suite rooms, providing more independence and privacy.

### *Cartref Tregerddan staff*

- Of the six responses from **Cartref Tregerddan staff** (4/6) **strongly agreed** and (2/6) **agreed** with the proposal. The response comments focus on the facilities providing more resilience for staff including improved external access.

### **Overall responses**

- Of the overall responses (50/125) were thematically linked around **concerns at diminishing services** in the county with numerous comments expressing concern and anger at the prospect of Ceredigion having fewer care homes, particularly in the North. **Loss of bed capacity** was raised frequently; with many responses suggesting the county requires more capacity rather than less.
- Another recurring theme was concern around the **level of care** residents will receive, citing Tregerddan as a smaller home having positive benefits on the wellbeing of the residents. Further concern was highlighted around the **stress and impact on the wellbeing of the residents** through the moving process. Several respondents highlighted the **different operations** of the two care homes, with Hafan Y Waun having locked doors whereas residents in Tregerddan can leave the facility if they wish.
- A frequent secondary theme was **loss of community**, with many responses highlighting Tregerddan being a feature of Bow Street, and a comfortable home to local residents. Concerns included the threat of having to move relatives/friends out of county for care, being able to visit less as Hafan Y Waun is further away..
- Another theme for those who disagreed with the proposal was **financial**, in suggesting that the closure was **motivated solely for financial reasons** with



minimal regard for the needs of the residents and staff. A recurring supplementary theme was concerns over staffing; whether existing **staff would be negatively impacted** by the proposal.

- In terms of respondents who **agreed** (17/125) or strongly **agreed** (15/125) with the proposals, the most common theme was around the **poor state of Tregerddan**, with many commenting on the building being dilapidated and **no longer of a sufficient standard**. Additionally, some pointed out the **financial implications of renovating** the building, and concerns over **insufficient staffing** across both homes making the **merger seem beneficial**.

## Response to the key points

### 1. Care provision in Ceredigion and diminishing provision

Ceredigion has enough residential care beds to meet current demand. However, we acknowledge that there is further work to be considered in relation to the development of specialist nursing and Dementia nursing provisions in the County. There is already a regional partnership project specifically tasked at looking at how this can be developed, in conjunction with the health board.

The acquisition of Hafan y Waun has supported long term sustainability in Ceredigion given it is a modern, purpose built, 90 bed care facility.

As a local authority we are unable to support the overheads of two residential care facilities within three miles of each other, particularly with the challenges and difficulties faced by the whole UK care sector, e.g., recruiting and retaining skilled and qualified staff.

### 2. Staffing: levels of care

We acknowledge the exceptional care and support provided by the staff at Cartref Tregerddan. If this proposal were to go ahead, Tregerddan residents would be located within one of the five wings at Hafan y Waun.

Staffing levels on each shift at all Local Authority homes are based on the specific care and support needs of the residents, and this will fluctuate. This will not be any different at Hafan y Waun where staffing levels are regularly reviewed to ensure that care and support needs can be met.

### 3. Transition of residents to Hafan y Waun

We acknowledge the impacts that moving home can have on residents, families and staff. To ensure that the correct support is available to all involved, we will be bringing together a group of professionals experienced in this field. We will also be following a range of good practice guidelines to minimise the risks.

As part of this process, residents will be able to make a choice on where they wish to live and some may decide not to relocate to Hafan y Waun and chose

another setting. Visits to Hafan y Waun have already been provided for residents, families and staff, supporting familiarisation with the facilities on offer.

#### **4. Hafan y Waun environment**

We acknowledge that Hafan y Waun will feel different to Tregerddan, but we are hopeful that the additional facilities will support the residents, staff and families to be able to enhance their lifestyle and support ongoing independence.

Hafan y Waun currently has a locked door environment. However, we are working with our technical team to develop security functions for the Tregerddan residents to freely access and exit the facility, with increased opportunities to access the sensory garden.

#### **5. Loss of community**

We are extremely grateful for the collaborative working ethos that the Friends of Tregerddan have provided through this process, and their willingness to continue to support the residents of Tregerddan, and to include the Hafan y Waun residents in developing a new Friends group at Hafan y Waun. This provides an exciting opportunity to maintain the community focus that the Friends group brings.

Hafan y Waun has a bus stop directly outside the home plus easy to access parking facilities, both of which will support families who live within Ceredigion and further afield to visit.

#### **6. Finance**

We are currently facing unprecedented financial pressures, and, as noted above, the Council is not in a position to maintain two care provisions within three miles of each other.

In terms of staff, if the proposal is supported, all Tregerddan staff will be transferring over to Hafan y Waun alongside the residents and will become part of the Hafan y Waun team. We will continue to work and support the staff at Tregerddan to review any unplanned impact that the transfer may have.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?** Yes, included in Appendix 1

### **Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

- Long term:** Transferring the provision from the smaller, ageing Tregerddan facility to the larger, modern, purpose built Hafan y Waun site supports the longer-term sustainability of residential care provision in the North of Ceredigion and opens up more options for dementia care.
- Collaboration:** A long term project group has been created with colleagues from Hywel Dda University Health Board. This has already supported the temporary use of one wing at Hafan y Waun to support the emergency works taking place at Bronglais General Hospital.
- Involvement:** A 12-week public consultation has taken place including face-to-face meetings for families, residents, staff and wider public stakeholders. Engagement with the key stakeholders will continue throughout the transfer process ensuring regular, visible communication with all involved.
- Prevention:** The transfer of residents and merger of staff teams into a larger unit will create economies of scale and thus support the sustainability of residential care provision in the North of the County.
- Provides an opportunity to enhance the numbers of apprenticeship and offer a career pathway locally.
  - Reduces the requirement for significant Capital Investment to repair an ageing facility.
  - Reduces the current risk of emergency vehicles being unable to attend the home efficiently due to access issues.
- Integration:** The need to work in collaboration with health to ensure that there is timely access to primary care provision, e.g., GPs. This impact assessment has considered the impact on the four pillars of well-being. We will continue to collaborate with other public bodies and service areas in the Council to mitigate any further impacts that may be identified as we progress with the proposal.

### **Recommendation(s):**

1. To note the background and rationale for considering the transfer of residents and merger of staff teams between Cartref Tregerddan to Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home.
2. To note the results of the consultation process conducted between 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
3. To recommend to Cabinet that it approves the transfer of residents and merger of staff teams between Cartref Tregerddan with Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home.
4. Subject to the approval of (3) above, to authorise the Corporate Lead Officer – Porth Gofal to:

- i. Ensure a schedule is drawn up for the resident transfers between homes, in a way that
  - a. balances the need for each individual and their family to have appropriate time to make decisions against the overall need for the closure process,
  - b. is to be managed within a timescale that minimises uncertainty for the residents, families and staff.

**Contact Name:** Nerys Lewis

**Designation:** Corporate Manager - Direct Services

**Date of Report:** 31/07/2024

**Acronyms:**

## INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IIA) TOOL

This IIA tool is designed to help your decision making and ensure that your proposal:

- is aligned to the Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives
- complies with the Equality Act 2010, including our socio-economic duty.
- complies with the Welsh Language Measure 2011 (Welsh Language requirements)
- contributes to the National Well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and incorporates the principles of Sustainable Development
- considers risk management.

Throughout the document there are information pop ups. You can hover over these for hints and tips. They look like this - [HINT](#)

There are also web links to data sources of [evidence](#) that could help inform your thinking and the judgement you are making. To view this information press **ctrl** on your keyboard and click on the link.

Equality and Inclusion officers read through every IIA and provide feedback to the author via Corporate Lead Officers. IIA that are submitted to Cabinet are published on the Council's website so that the public can see them.

This IIA tool is categorised into the 7 National Well-being Goals for Wales:

1. **A prosperous Wales** – where everyone has jobs and there is no poverty.
2. **A resilient Wales** – where we're prepared for things like floods.
3. **A healthier Wales** – where everyone is healthier and can see the doctor when they need to.
4. **A more equal Wales** – where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background.
5. **A Wales of cohesive communities** – where communities can live happily together.
6. **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language** – where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh.
7. **A globally responsible Wales** – where we look after the environment and think about other people around the world.

# DO I NEED TO ASSESS IMPACT?

Does your proposal:

- introduce a new service or add to an existing service that will affect service users?
- remove, reduce, or alter a service that will affect service users?
- introduce a new policy, strategy, or plan that will affect Ceredigion residents?
- introduce significant changes to an existing policy, strategy, or plan that will affect Ceredigion residents?
- change staffing structures so much that employees or services users may be affected?

## YES

An IIA is required if your answer is yes to **any** of these questions.

## NO

An IIA is not required if your answer is no to **all** these questions

Complete the template below.

Please remember to include your reason for not carrying out an IIA on the Cabinet Report template.

## Proposal Details

<b>Title of Policy / Proposal / Initiative</b>	
<b>Transfer of the residents and staff of Cartref Tregerddan Residential Care Home, Bow Street into a section of Hafan y Waun Residential Care Home, Aberystwyth.</b>	
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Officer completing IIA</b>
Direct Services	Nerys Lewis
<b>Corporate Lead Officer</b>	<b>Strategic Director</b>
Donna Pritchard	James Starbuck
<b>Please give a brief description of the purpose of the proposal</b>	
<p>Following the acquisition of Hafan y Waun Care Home, Aberystwyth, this proposal is focused on the review of future options for Tregerddan Care Home in Bow Street and the opportunity to transfer the residents to Hafan Y Waun Care home as well as the proposal to consult with staff and residents of Cartref Tregerddan regarding the proposed transfer.</p> <p>A public consultation opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 and closed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This IIA has been reviewed following the consultation taking into consideration feedback received.</p>	
<b>Who will be directly affected by this proposal? <a href="#">HINT</a></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents currently placed at Cartref Tregerddan</li> <li>• Families of the residents</li> <li>• Staff of Cartref Tregerddan</li> </ul>	
<b>Have those who will be affected by the proposal had the opportunity to comment on it?</b>	
<p>A public consultation opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 and closed on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The purpose of this paper is to provide a review of the consultation feedback.</p> <p><b>The Consultation Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultation packs and paper questionnaires were distributed to Cartref Tregerddan residents.</li> <li>• Paper questionnaires were also available for stakeholders, including relatives and staff at Cartref Tregerddan, and at the Council's Libraires, and Wellbeing Centres and Leisure Centres.</li> <li>• An electronic version of the consultation was available via the Council Website</li> <li>• Large print and easy read versions were also made available.</li> <li>• Consultation meetings were held for staff, families and residents on the 26<sup>th</sup> March (in the run up to the formal public launch), and on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2024.</li> </ul>	

## Version Control

The IIA should be used at the earliest stages of decision making, and then honed and refined throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and included sustainable development, Welsh language and equality considerations wherever possible.

<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Decision making stage</b> <a href="#"><u>HINT</u></a>	<b>Date Considered</b>	<b>Description of any amendments made</b> <a href="#"><u>HINT</u></a>
V1.0	Nerys Lewis	Pre Consultation/Budget setting	January 2024	n/a
V2.0	Nerys Lewis	Post Public Consultation	August 2024	Post consultation considerations included in the IIA version 2.0



## Council Corporate Well-being Objectives

Which of the Council's Corporate Well-being Objectives does this proposal address and how? Click here to read a summary of our [Corporate Strategy 2022-27](#)

<p><b>Boosting the economy, supporting business, and enabling employment.</b></p>	<p>Transferring Cartref Tregerddan to Hafan y Waun will maintain employment in Aberystwyth and surrounding areas.</p>
<p><b>Creating caring and healthy communities</b></p>	<p>By having a large residential care provision providing a range of specialist provision in Aberystwyth. Proposal will ensure that residential care services are sustainable, fit for purpose and able to meet the needs both now and in the future, of the people of Ceredigion.</p>
<p><b>Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages</b></p>	<p>Providing learning opportunities for student nurses at Aberystwyth University. Developing apprenticeship opportunities near large secondary schools for young people 16+.</p>
<p><b>Creating sustainable, greener, and well-connected communities</b></p>	<p>By re-locating Cartref Tregerddan into Aberystwyth it provides better bus networks for staff to travel to work. Reducing the use of multiple buildings and electricity etc. Improved access for staff, families and emergency vehicles.</p>

## National Well-being Goal: A Prosperous Wales

**An innovative, productive, and low carbon society where everyone has decent work and there is no poverty.**

Click [here](#) for information about a prosperous Wales.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)**

People - The proposals support individuals to continue to live and work in the Ceredigion community, providing opportunities to promote individual and community resilience. Older people will continue to have the opportunity to be cared for in their local area with strong connections to the local community.

Place – supporting people to access local community resources

Enterprise – creating opportunities for ‘social enterprises’ as well as promoting local businesses as a means to meet needs. Maximising the opportunities that the facility (HYW) provides.

Connectivity – linking individuals and families to local solutions within their own communities.

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable, and the transfer of the residents to a better environment but still within their local area will be a positive move and provide greater opportunities for local inclusion. Improved environment will support meeting RISCA requirements.

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?**

Ensure that best practice examples are considered and followed adapted to meet the unique opportunities within Ceredigion.

## National Well-being Goal: A Resilient Wales

**A society where biodiversity is maintained and enhanced and where ecosystems are healthy and functioning.**

Click [here](#) for information about a resilient Wales.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts.** (Click [here](#) for information)

Providing a single more efficient local solution to meeting needs of service users reduces carbon emissions/footprint/environmental impact. There are notable economies of scale.

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?**

Ensure that best practice examples are considered and followed adapted to meet the unique opportunities within Ceredigion.

## National Well-being Goal: A Healthier Wales

**A society where people make healthy choices and enjoy good physical and mental health.**

Click [here](#) for information about a healthier Wales.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. (Click [here](#) for information)**

Proposals will improve access to services and reduce need for out of county solutions to meet the needs of older people.  
Reduce the need for people to be placed in dementia facilities out of county.

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to this National Well-being Goal?**

Ensure that best practice examples are considered and followed adapted to meet the unique opportunities within Ceredigion.

## National Well-being Goal: A More Equal Wales

**A society where everyone has an equal chance whatever their background or circumstances.**

This section is longer because you are asked to assess the impact of your proposal on each group that is protected by the **Equality Act 2010**.

Click [here](#) for information about equality in Wales.

<b>Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their age? (Click <a href="#">here</a> for information)</b>	
<b>Children and Young People up to 18</b>	None / Negligible
<b>People 18-50</b>	Positive
<b>Older people 50+</b>	Positive
<b>Describe the positive or negative impacts.</b>	
<p><b>Positive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved environment for children visiting older relatives and/or family members.</li> <li>• Improved environment for residents to live and maintain independence for longer e.g., en-suite, access to kitchen area for making their own refreshments.</li> <li>• Maintaining provision in North Ceredigion reducing the need to go out of County</li> <li>• Individuals living with Dementia not requiring to move on as provision available within the home.</li> </ul>	
<b>What evidence do you have to support this?</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation and Inspection of Social Care Wales (RISCA) requirements for new provision requiring e.g., en-suites for all bedrooms.</li> <li>• National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable</li> </ul>	
<b>What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	
<b>Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?</b>	
Proposal provides opportunities to provide equity across services and delivery	

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their disability? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Hearing Impairment</b>	Positive
<b>Physical Impairment</b>	Positive
<b>Visual Impairment</b>	Positive
<b>Learning Disability</b>	Positive
<b>Long Standing Illness</b>	Positive
<b>Mental Health</b>	Positive
<b>Other</b>	Choose an item.

**Describe the positive or negative impacts.**

Local services closer to home, dementia care focus with improved access, greater opportunities in relation to range of opportunities available. The environment within Hafan y Waun is purposely dementia friendly, which has a positive impact on people with visual, hearing and physical impairment as well as mental health and chronic illness.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

Proposals provides opportunities to provide equity across services and delivery

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are transgender? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Trans Women</b>	Positive
<b>Trans Men</b>	Positive
<b>Non-binary people</b>	Positive

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

Positive impact with individual en-suite bathrooms providing dignity for people who are transgender.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need.

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

N/A

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different sexual orientation? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Bisexual</b>	Positive
<b>Gay Men</b>	Positive
<b>Gay Women/Lesbian</b>	Positive
<b>Heterosexual/Straight</b>	Positive

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

Positive impact with Individual en-suite bathrooms providing dignity for all.

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

N/A

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are married or in a civil partnership? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>People who are married</b>	Positive
<b>People in a civil partnership</b>	Positive

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

Positive by providing more activities to support married people to maintain their relationship, e.g., better dining opportunities, group activities

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

N/A

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people who are pregnant or on maternity leave? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Pregnancy</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Maternity</b>	None / Negligible

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

No impact anticipated

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

N/A

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?**

N/A



**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people because of their ethnic origin? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Asian / Asian British</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Black / African / Caribbean / Black British</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Mixed / Multiple Ethnic Groups</b>	None / Negligible
<b>White</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Other Ethnic Groups</b>	None / Negligible

**Describe the positive or negative impacts**

No impact anticipated

**What evidence do you have to support this?**

N/A

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

N/A

**Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people with different religions, beliefs, or non-beliefs? (Click [here](#) for information)**

<b>Buddhist</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Christian</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Hindu</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Humanist</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Jewish</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Muslim</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Sikh</b>	None / Negligible

<b>Non-belief</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Other</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Describe the positive or negative impacts</b>	
No impact anticipated	
<b>What evidence do you have to support this?</b>	
N/A	
<b>What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	
<b>Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?</b>	
N/A	

<b>Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on men or women? (Click <a href="#">here</a> for information)</b>	
<b>Men</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Women</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Describe the positive or negative impacts</b>	
The transfer will provide improved facilities and greater opportunities to access the local community.	
<b>What evidence do you have to support this?</b>	
Services are accessible to all who have an assessed identified need	
<b>What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	
<b>Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between men and women?</b>	
N/A	

<b>Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people from the Armed Forces Community? (Click <a href="#">here</a> for information)</b>	
<b>Members of the Armed Forces</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Veterans</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Spouses</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Children</b>	None / Negligible
<b>Describe the positive or negative impacts</b>	
No impact anticipated	
<b>What evidence do you have to support this?</b>	
N/A	
<b>What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?</b>	
N/A	

### Socio-economic Duty

Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, making it more difficult to access basic goods and services.

Family background or where a person is born still affects their life. For example, a child from a wealthy family often does better at school than a child from a poor family, even if the poorer child is more naturally academic. This is sometimes called socio-economic inequality.

<b>Do you think this proposal will have a positive or a negative impact on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?</b>	Positive
<b>Describe the positive or negative impacts</b>	
Offsetting the transfer, provision of a larger more centrally based service should reduce travelling, and cost, for the friends and relatives of individuals that receive the service.	
<b>What evidence do you have to support this?</b>	
N/A	

**What action(s) can you to take to mitigate any negative impacts?**

**Is there an opportunity to use this proposal to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or encourage good relations between people in this group and the rest of the population?**

N/A

## National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Cohesive Communities

**A society with attractive, viable, safe, and well-connected communities.**

Click [here](#) for information about cohesive communities.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. [HINT](#)**

The proposal will provide further opportunities for volunteering in the local area. Opportunities for enhancing and developing local community resources will bring benefits to the general population. Increased local provision will help individuals to maintain their community connections.

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

Through Age Wellbeing Strategy 2021- 2027

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?**

Ensure that there is effective communication and engagement at a local/community level.

## National Well-being Goal: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

**A society that that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language and which encourages people to take part in the arts, sports, and recreation.**

Click [here](#) for information about culture and the Welsh language

<b>Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts.</b>	
Delivering services locally and keeping individuals within their own, albeit wider, community will enhance the opportunities to maintain local connections, promote the Welsh language and access services that are meaningful to them providing a sense of belonging and feeling.	
<b>What evidence do you have to support this view?</b>	
National reviews and best practice examples demonstrate that local solutions are more effective and sustainable and suggests that the approaches prevent siloed approaches to service delivery and marginalisation of specific groups such as people with care needs and dementia	
<b>What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?</b>	
Ensure that the 'Active Offer' is provided and tailoring services to meet the language and cultural needs of the individual. Support staff in opportunities to learn the Welsh language and have an understanding for the cultural elements.	
<b>With reference to the following, do you think this proposal will have a positive or negative effect on the Welsh language?</b>	
Click <a href="#">here</a> for information	
<b>Opportunities for people to use the Welsh language</b>	Positive
<b>Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language</b>	Positive
<b>What evidence do you have to support this view?</b>	
The number of Welsh staff that will transfer to Hafan y Waun ensuring that residents can receive support through their native language. Supporting opportunities for the population to have access to services through the medium of Welsh. Create Welsh resources and organise activities and events through the medium of Welsh - this would build an extended community between residents, families, staff, Ffrindiau Tregerddan, Language Policy Officer and CERED.	

**What action(s) can you take to increase the positive impact or mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language?**

As above

## National Well-being Goal: A Globally Responsible Wales

**A society that considers how our actions might impact on other countries and people around the world.**

Click [here](#) for information about global responsibility.

**Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive or negative impacts. [HINT](#)**

The proposition doesn't impact this goal

**What evidence do you have to support this view?**

N/A

**What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to the goal?**

N/A

## Strengthening the Proposal

If you have identified any negative impacts in the above sections, please provide details of any practical changes and actions that could help remove or reduce the negative impacts.

<b>What will you do?</b>	<b>When?</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Cabinet proposal to go out to consultation	March 2024	Through Age Wellbeing services	Completed
We will ensure that the 'Active Offer' is provided, upskill staff and tailor services to meet the language and cultural needs of the individual.	Ongoing	Through Age Wellbeing services	On-going
We will ensure that there is effective communication and engagement at a local/community level.	March 2024 – October 2024	Through Age Wellbeing services	On-going
Public Consultation	22 April – 15 July 2024	Through Age Wellbeing services	Completed
Report to Healthier Communities Scrutiny & Cabinet following the public consultation	2 & 3 September, 2024	Through Age Wellbeing services	Reports completed
<b>If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative impacts, please justify why. (If you have identified any unlawful discrimination then the proposal must be changed or revised.)</b>			
<b>We will review the action plan following the Cabinet decision and at regular points throughout.</b>			
<b>How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?</b>			
Through the Through Age Wellbeing Programme Governance.			



## Sustainable Development Principle: 5 Ways of Working

Describe below how you have implemented the five ways of working in accordance with the sustainable development principle of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015


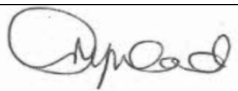

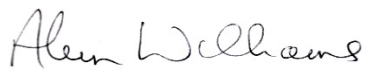
<p><b>Long term</b> Balancing short-term needs with long-term need and planning for the future.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transferring the provision from Tregarddan to Hafan y Waun supports the longer-term sustainability of residential care provision in the North of Ceredigion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Collaboration</b> Working together with other partners to deliver.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A project group has been created with colleagues from Hywel Dda University Health Board, along with discussions with Aberystwyth University and other partners.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Involvement</b> Involving those with an interest and seeking their views.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 12-week public consultation has been completed.</li> <li>• Report with key findings being prepared to be presented to Healthier Communities Scrutiny and Cabinet</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prevention</b> Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal will support the sustainability of a 90 bedded residential care provision in the North of the County.</li> <li>• Provide an opportunity to enhance the numbers of apprenticeship and offer a carer pathway locally.</li> <li>• Reduce the requirement for significant Capital Investment to a facility that is of an age.</li> <li>• Reduce the risk currently of emergency vehicles not being able to access the home due to access issues.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Integration</b> Considering the impact of your proposal on the four pillars of well-being (social, economic, cultural and environment) the objectives of other public bodies and across service areas in the Council.</p> <p><u>HINT</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to work in collaboration with health to ensure that there is access to timely primary care provision e.g., GP</li> <li>• This impact assessment has considered the impact on the four pillars of well-being. We will continue to collaborate with other public bodies and service areas in the Council to mitigate any further impact that may be identified as we progress with the proposal.</li> </ul>

## Risk

Summarise the risk associated with the proposal.

	1	2	3	4	5
Impact Criteria	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
Likelihood Criteria	Unlikely to occur	Lower than average chance of occurring	Even chance of occurring	Higher than average chance of occurring	Expected to occur
<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Probability</b>	<b>Score (Impact x Likelihood)</b>		
Inability to secure approvals to progress with the proposal in its entirety	5	2	10		
Hafan y Waun refurbishment / readiness activity delays transfers	3	3	9		
Illness, e.g. covid outbreak delays transfers	3	2	6		
Community Protests	4	1	4		

## Sign Off

Position	Name	Signature	Date
Corporate Manager	Nerys Lewis		14/08/2024
Corporate Lead Officer	Donna Pritchard		14/08/2024
Corporate Director	Barry Rees		20/08/2024
Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Alun Williams		22/08/2024

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<sup>1</sup> Last updated 20/10/2023

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## CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny

**Date of meeting:** 2 September 2024

**Title:** Porth Cynnal Specialist Services (Children & Adults)  
Independent Reviewing Service  
Performance Management Report  
QTR 3 2023 - 2024

**Purpose of the report:** To monitor the progress of Looked After Children through Independent Reviewing Officers scrutiny of their plans and placements during the third quarter of 2023/2024. This information contributes to Members fulfilling their roles as Corporate Parents

**Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:**

To ensure that the Local Authority and Members can fulfil their duties as Corporate Parents

**Background**

Attached is the Independent Reviewing Service Report Quarter 3 2023/2024.

Quarterly reports are taken to the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of an ongoing examination of the topic to ensure that the Local Authority fulfils its duties as the Corporate Parent.

This report includes national and local standards and targets used to measure outcomes for looked after children and care leavers at the time of their review meeting and includes Welsh Government Performance Indicators.

On the basis of the information available and the views expressed during the review meeting, the IRO makes a professional judgement about the effectiveness of a child/young person's care plan in meeting their needs and may recommend changes to the care plan.

During the review meeting the IRO considers whether the child/young person requires assistance to identify relevant other people to obtain legal advice/take proceedings on their behalf. This action was deemed necessary for 6 young people by the IRO in the period.

In addition, the IRO has regard as to whether the child/young person's human rights are being breached in any way and, if so, might make a referral to CAFCASS Cymru. This action was not required at any of the review meetings in the period.

## **Current Situation**

### **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS;**

- At the end of quarter 3, there were 140 children/young people being looked after compared to 130 as at the end of Q2.
- 109 children/young people were reviewed in this quarter. 84.4% of reviews were undertaken within the Statutory Timescale.
- 7 of the children reviewed in this quarter have left care. Of those 7, 1 child returned home to family. 1 young person went to independent living arrangements and 5 children/young people were the subject of revocations of care orders.
- The placement provision for the children reviewed during this Quarter were that 20 are in Local Authority foster care (18 in county, 2 out of county), 23 in kinship carer placements, 19 were in Independent Foster Agency placements, 20 children were placed with parents, and 14 were placed in residential care provision outside of the county, 7 were in supported lodgings/independent living. 2 were placed with family and 4 in other settings.
- Of the reviews that took place in this quarter and where there were permanency plans in place, the plan for 40 children were that they would be cared for in Long Term Foster Care, 20 were to remain with Kinship carers/family members, 12 children were in placement with parents, 9 children were subject to twin tracking, 2 children are to be adopted, 4 children are to be cared for in residential care and 3 were to be supported with independent living.
- 60 of the children were being cared for under the legal status of a Full Care Order, 26 were under an Interim Care Order, 4 under a placement order and 19 under a Section 76.
- Of the children reviewed in this quarter, 89.9% received a statutory visit within timescale compared to 95.5% of children in Quarter 2.
- 26.3% of the care and support plans were recorded as being in place at the first review in this quarter, compared to the 27.3% that were in place in Quarter 2. The very low percentage again this quarter, was due to staffing difficulties within the Planned Care/Innovate Teams which prevented the plans being completed on time. The staffing issues are in the process of being addressed.
- 109 reviews identified that the child/young person's cultural needs were being met.
- 97 Young people who were placed with Local Foster Carers had been placed with carers who were able to speak their first language.
- 10 Reviews noted that the young person was an unaccompanied child and placed in a care setting which did not meet their first language needs. There was a translator in the reviews to support the young person.
- Delegated Authority was confirmed to be in place for 57 children who were reviewed with 17 reviews noting that this

was yet to be undertaken. It was unknown at 14 reviews with a further 21 reviews recording that it wasn't applicable for the the young person.

- The percentage of children (of sufficient understanding) who understand their reason for being looked after was 93.1%.
- The percentage of children of sufficient understanding who were involved in or consulted about their review, was 97.6%
- The percentage of children who were made aware of their right for an advocacy service, was 90.2%
- The percentage of parents consulted by the social worker prior to the review or who attended the review was 96.8%
- The percentage of placement plans (including Education and Health Provision) that were assessed as meeting the needs of the children/young people were 95.4%.
- The percentage of Looked After Children of school age who had a Personal Education Plan within 20 school days of entering care or joining a new school during this quarter is 86.8%.
- The percentage of Looked After Children who received Health Assessments in accordance with statutory requirements was 92.5%
- 18 Pathway Plans were held in this quarter. Only 33.3% Pathway Plan Reviews were held within timescales and this was due to a variety of reasons including the young person's and other professionals availability, some reviews had to be changed due to the Personal Assistants' availability and others had to be re-arranged.
- The percentage of Young Persons with allocated a Personal Advisor / Social Worker was 100% during this Quarter.
- The Percentage of Young People Consulted for their Review Meeting during this Quarter was 66.7% and 50% of reviews recorded that the young person attended their review.
- 88.9% of Pathway Plan Reviews confirmed that the Pathway Plan was meeting the young person's needs.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

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

No

### **Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

This report is provided on an ongoing basis and demonstrate the continuing work that is undertaken with Looked after Children in Ceredigion

<b>Long term:</b>	Balancing short term need with long term planning for the future.
<b>Collaboration:</b>	Working together with other partners to deliver
<b>Involvement:</b>	Involving those with an interest and seeking their views; stakeholder engagement and consultation
<b>Prevention:</b>	Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse
<b>Integration:</b>	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 for Looked After Children are monitored.

**Contact Name:** Audrey Somerton-Edwards

**Designation:** Corporate Lead Officer: (Children & Families)

**Date of Report:** 13 March 2024

**Acronyms:**

IRO - Independent Reviewing Officer

LAC - Looked After Children

CAFCASS - The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

APR - Action and Progress Records

PEP - Personal Education Plan

PI - Performance Indicators

CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

NEET - Not in Education, Employment or Training

PRU - Pupil Referral Unit



**Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council**

**Safeguarding Service**

**Independent Reviewing Service Performance Management Report**

**Quarter 3: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**



**...yn gofalu i wneud gwahaniaeth  
...taking care to make a difference**

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<b>SECTION FIVE:</b>	<b>EVALUATION</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>SECTION SIX:</b>	<b>PATHWAY PLAN</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>SECTION SEVEN:</b>	<b>REGULAR SHORT BREAK CARE</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>SECTION EIGHT:</b>	<b>SHORT BREAK CARE</b>	<b>29</b>

## **SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION**

This report provides information collated by the Quality Assurance and Independent Reviewing Service in order to monitor performance and quality assure services to looked after children, care leavers, children in residential placements and those children who receive respite care and short breaks. The information is based on the monitoring forms completed by the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) following each review meeting within this quarter along with other performance information held by the Children and Families Service.

During the review meeting the IRO considers whether the child/young person requires assistance to identify relevant other people to obtain legal advice/take proceedings on their behalf. This action was deemed necessary for 6 children/young persons in the period.

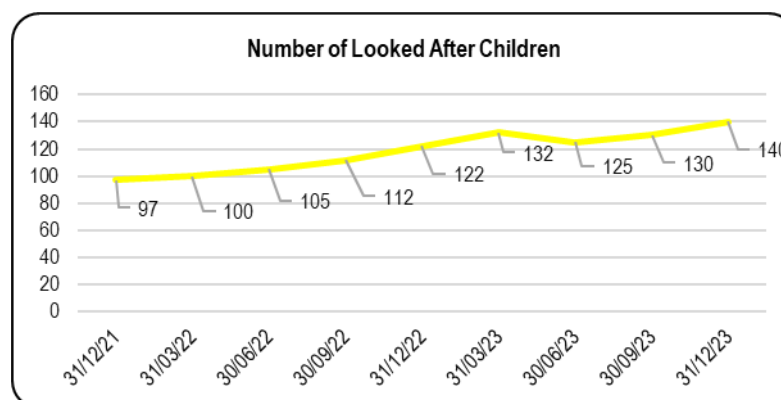
In addition, the IRO has regard as to whether the child/young person's human rights are being breached in any way and, if so, might make a referral to CAFCASS Cymru. This action was not required at any of the review meetings in the period.

## SECTION TWO

### CARE PLANNING

#### 1. Headline Figures for Q3:

<b>The following table and chart provide the total number of Looked After Children data at the end of each quarter commencing with the most recent quarter.</b>	
31 December 2023	140
30 September 2023	130
30 June 2023	125
31 March 2023	132
31 December 2022	122
30 September 2022	112
30 June 2022	105
31 March 2022	100
31 December 2021	97



#### 2. Number and percentage of Looked After Children Reviews undertaken within the statutory time requirement.

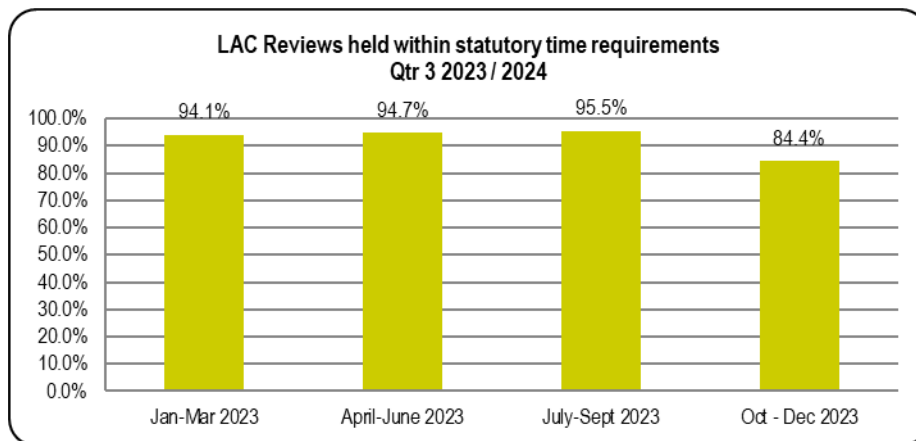
Target Set 100% - Target achieved 84.4%

109 Children were reviewed within the Quarter.

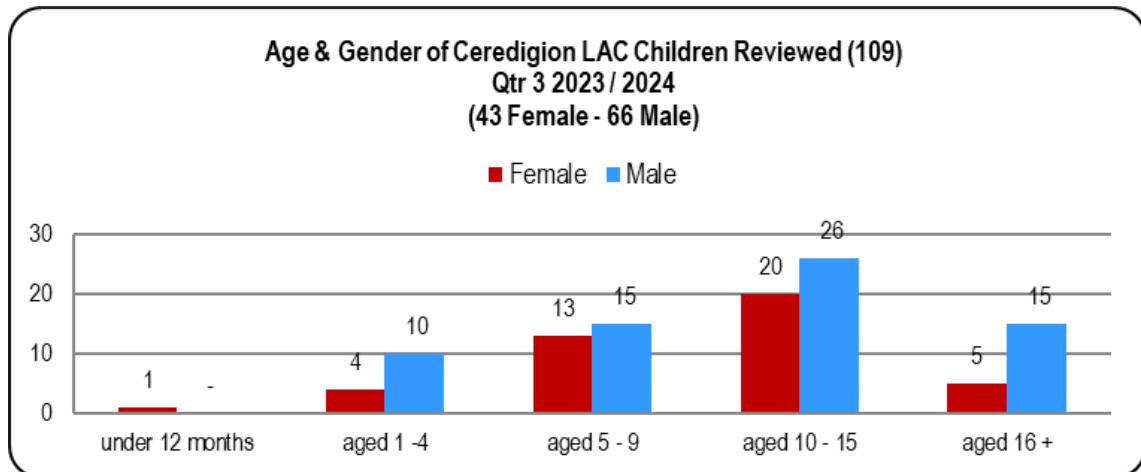
- 92 (84.4%) LAC Review Meetings were undertaken within the statutory requirements.
- 17 (15.6%) LAC Review Meetings were held out of statutory requirements; the reasons recorded were as follows: -
  - A Review for 1 child was delayed due to family availability.
  - For 1 child it was due to Social Worker not advising of new placement.
  - For 2 further children it was due to Social Worker not advising of new placement and availability of Social Worker.

- 4 Other children had their reviews delayed due to Social Worker and IRO availability.
- For 4 further children the review was delayed due to family circumstances.
- A review for 5 additional children was delayed due to staffing issues.

	Oct-Dec 2023	July-Sept 2023	April-June 2023	Jan-Mar 2023	Oct-Dec 2022
Number of children reviewed in the quarter	109	88	95	101	116
Number of reviews held in timescale	92	84	90	95	99
Number of reviews held out of timescales	17	4	5	6	17



**3. Age and Gender of the Children Reviewed in the Quarter:**



#### 4. Cultural, Religious and Language Needs

109 (100.0%) Reviews identified that the young person's cultural views were met. It was recognised at 68 reviews that the young person's religious needs were met; for a further 41 reviews the needs had not been met / it was unknown as to whether the needs had been met.

An interpreter was needed for 11 reviews, with the service being provided for 8 of these reviews, of the other 3 reviews, 2 reviews reported that a translator had been requested but failed to attend whilst the other review noted that the social worker had overlooked the request for a translator.

#### 5 Citizenship

93 Reviews recorded that the child / young person was a UK Citizen, with 16 reviews noting that the child / young person was not a UK Citizen.

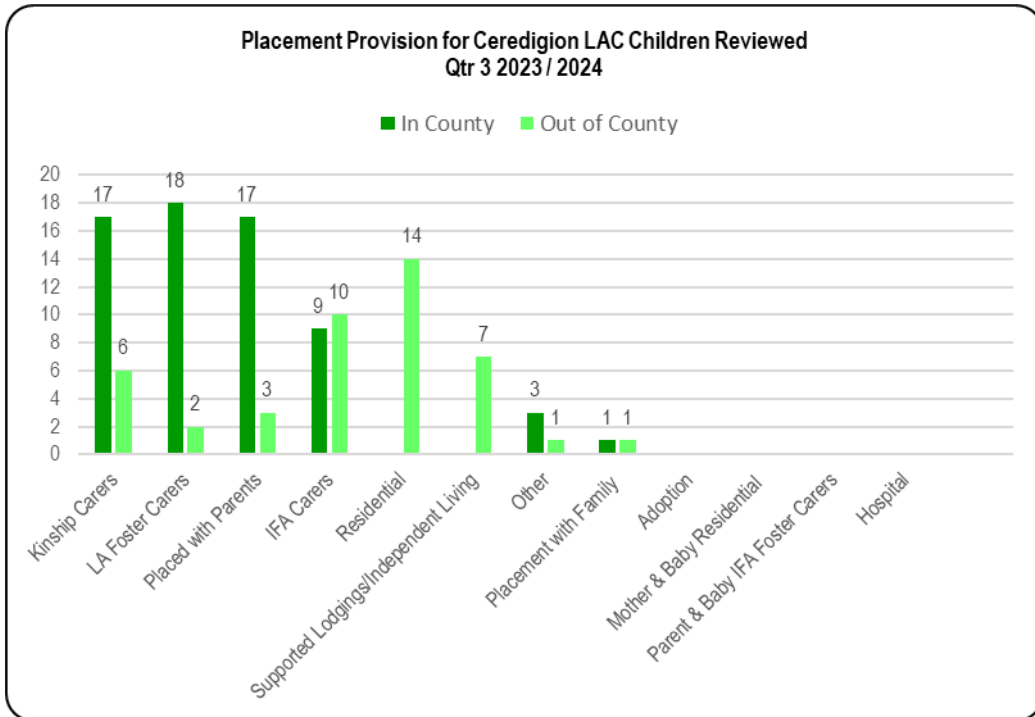
11 Children / Young people were Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers, none of these children / young people had an EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) in place.

All 11 reviews recorded that an application had not been made for an EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS); 7 of these reviews recorded that the young person was being supported in this respect.

There were 5 other children / young persons who were not UK Citizens; it was confirmed that 2 of these young people had an EUSS in place; but it was unknown as to whether the other 3 children had an EUSS in place.

#### 6 Nature of the Placement Provision of Children Reviewed in the Quarter:

Type of Placement	In County	Out of County	Total
Kinship Carers	17	6	23
LA Foster Carers	18	2	20
Placed with Parents	17	3	20
IFA Carers	9	10	19
Residential		14	14
Supported Lodgings/Independent Living		7	7
Other	3	1	4
Placement with Family	1	1	2
Adoption			
Mother & Baby Residential			
Parent & Baby IFA Foster Carers			
Hospital			
	<b>65</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>109</b>

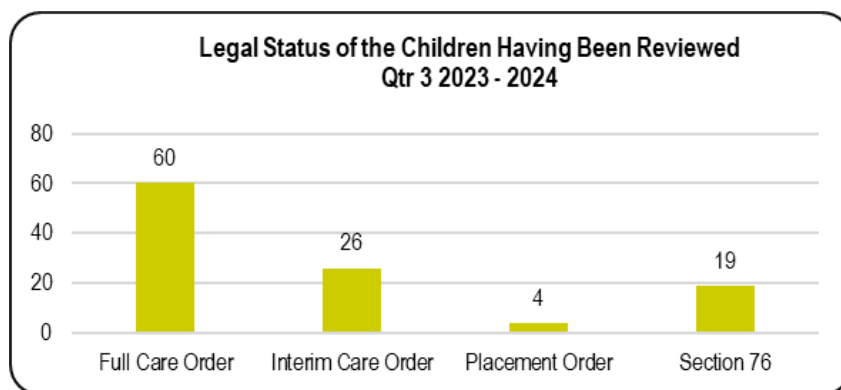


97 Young people who were placed with Local Foster Carers had been placed with carers who were able to speak their first language. It was noted that the information was unavailable for 2 further young people.

10 Reviews noted that the young person was an unaccompanied child and placed in a care setting which did not meet their first language needs. There was a translator in the review to enable the young person to participate accordingly.

**7. Legal Status of Children Reviewed in the Quarter:**

<b>Legal Status of the Children Having Been Reviewed</b>	
Full Care Order	60
Interim Care Order	26
Placement Order	4
Section 76	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>

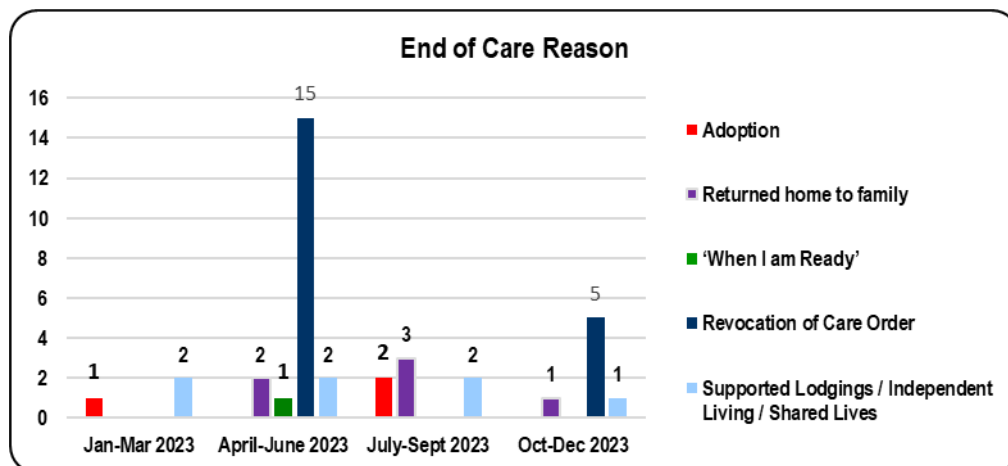


## Delegated Authority

Delegated Authority was confirmed to be in place for 57 children who were reviewed with 17 reviews informing that it was not in place. It was unknown at 14 reviews with a further 21 Reviews recording that it was not applicable for the case.

### 8. Reasons for End of Care of the Children Reviewed

Period	Number left care	End of Care Reason				
		Adoption	Returned home to family	'When I am Ready'	Revocation of Care Order	Supported Lodgings / Independent Living/Shared Lives
Oct - Dec 2023	7		1		5	1
July - Sept 2023	7	2	3			2
April - June 2023	20		2	1	15	2
Jan - Mar 2023	3	1				2
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>





**9. Number and percentage of Looked After Children who have an allocated Social Worker.**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 99.1%

- 108 (99.1%) LAC Reviews recorded that a qualified Social Worker was allocated and actively involved with the child.
- 1 (0.9%) LAC Review recorded that the child was allocated to the team with no named social worker.

**10. Number and percentage of statutory visits undertaken to Looked After Children reviewed within the required timescales.**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 89.9%

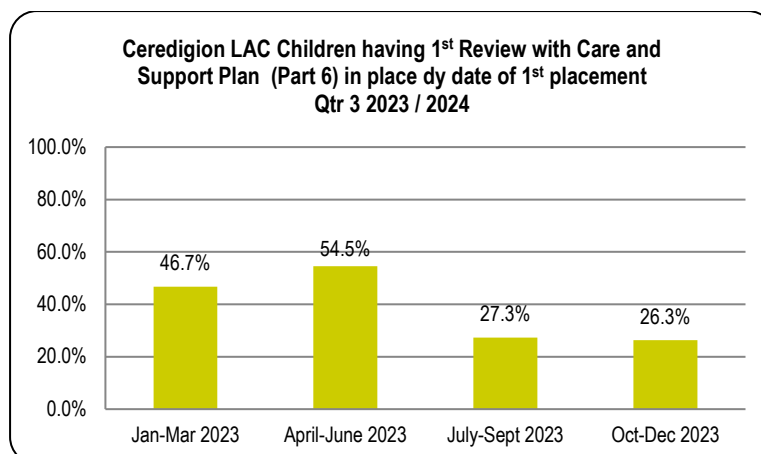
- 98 (89.9%) Looked After Children received Social Worker visits in accordance with the statutory requirements.



**11. Number and Percentage of Care and Support Plans (Part 6) in place at the date of the first placement and of up-to-date plans available for the Review.**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 26.3%

- There were 19 Children that became Looked After during this quarter; 5 (26.3%) Review meetings recorded that the child / young person had a Care and Support Plan (Part 6) in place by the date of his/her placement. The Care and Support Plan (Part 6) was not in place by date of placement for the other 14 children / young persons.



- 67 (61.5%) Reviews recorded that the Care and Support Plan(Part 6) was up to date.
- The IRO identified that updates were required to the Care and Support Plan records (Part 6) of 42 children. It was identified that the updating of the Care and Support Plan was still outstanding for 36 children/young persons.

**12. Number and percentage of Looked After Children who have a Permanency Plan by the second review if a return home has not been planned.**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 44.4%

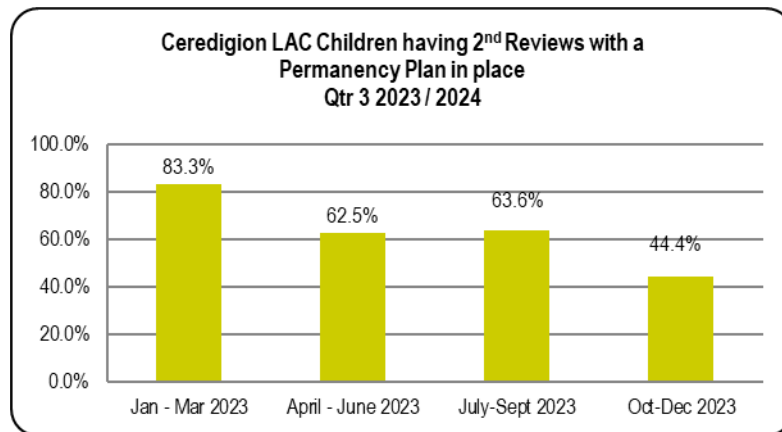
- There were 9 second reviews during this quarter, 4 reviews (44.4%) recorded that a Permanency Plan had been agreed. This compares to 63.6% in the previous quarter.
- There were concerns recorded by the IRO in 11 (10.1%) reviews in this period regarding the progress of the Placement / Care and Support Plan / Permanency Plan.

The nature of the concerns was as follows: -

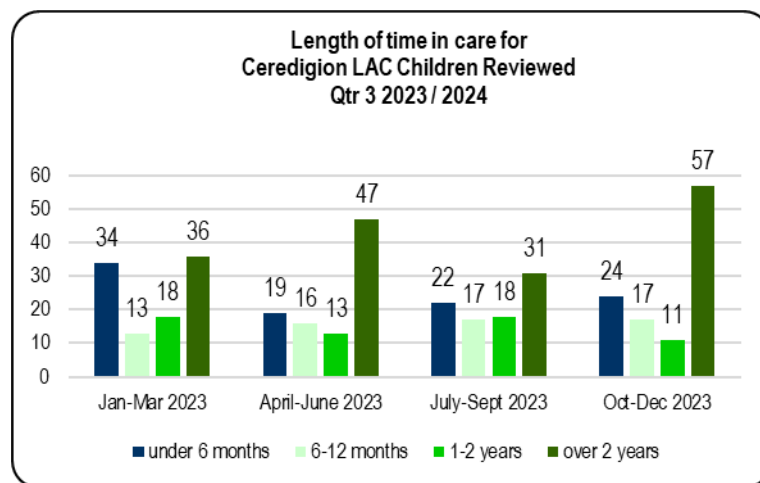
- Concerns regarding parent's ability to work with Local Authority and the impact on young person in being able to access activities or acquire a passport. Current carers have made decision to apply for a Special Guardianship in respect of young person.
- No Care Plan on system despite case being in Court Proceedings. Young person living with extended family.
- One young person was reviewed twice in the period, at the earlier review the young person was placed with family in England, and not started education, however; there had been a key change to proposed Permanency Plan as young person returned to Ceredigion and refused to return to placement with family. At the following review, the social worker was still recommending to

the Final Court Hearing that the young person lived with family in England, despite young person still living in Ceredigion and refusing to return.

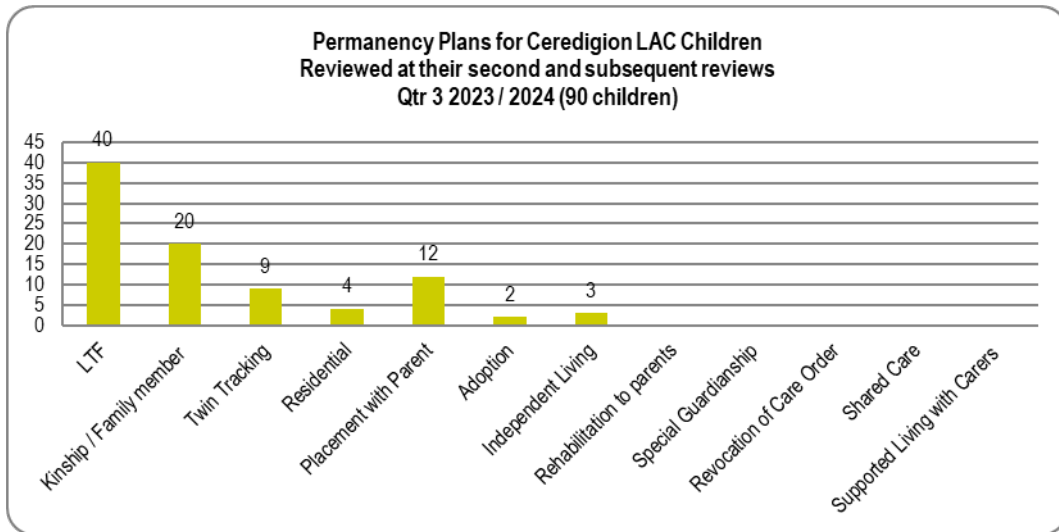
- Young person is currently in an unregulated placement following the breakdown of the foster placement; therefore a long-term solution is needed for long term care with care proceedings still ongoing.
- There is a need to make a decision regarding the long-term care arrangements for one young person, as emotional impact of changes is evident on young person and reassurance is necessary regarding a long-term home.
- One young person’s case has not been discussed at Permanency Panel, with a change in social worker and ongoing court proceedings.
- There is no clear plan for one young person with social worker reporting that s/he was looking for a placement, with young person staying with family, however no assessment made of situation.
- For a sibling group of 2 young people there was a drift in the plan to discharge care order.
- Young person is in a short-term placement again and awaiting the outcome of a parental assessment and s/he would like to live with assessed parent on a permanent basis, there appears to be too much drift for child currently.



### 13. Length of Time in Care:



**14: Nature of Permanency Plans:**



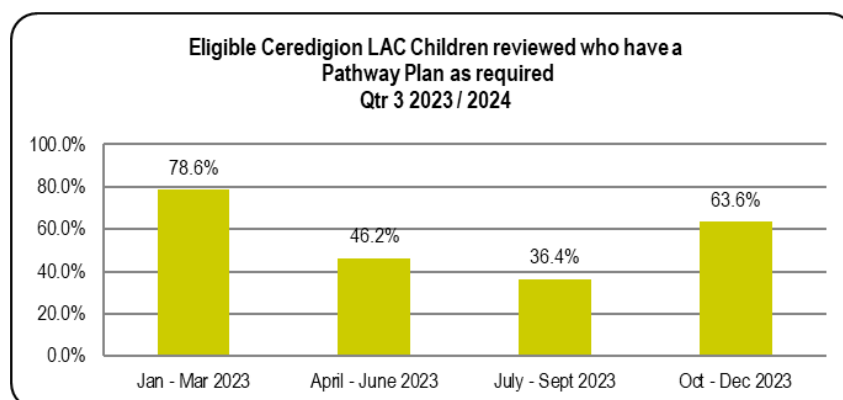
**15. Number and percentage of Looked After Children receiving Short Break Care away from Main Carers**

- 10 (9.2%) LAC Reviews noted that the child / young person was receiving short break care away from their main carer; all these LAC Reviews reported that the respite placement was meeting the young person’s needs.

**16. Number and percentage of eligible young people who have a Pathway Plan as required.**

Target set: 100% Target Achieved 63.6%

- 7 (63.6%) Young People’s reviews recorded that there was a Pathway Plan in place and were allocated a Personal Advisor.
- 4 (36.4%) Reviews recorded that the young person did not have a Pathway Plan in place; however 2 of these young persons were allocated a Personal Advisor; the other 2 recorded that a personal advisor was yet to be allocated.



**17 Number and percentage of Looked After Children (of appropriate age and level of understanding) who understand the reasons for them being looked -**

Target Set 100% -Target achieved 93.1%

- The data for this performance indicator relates to 87 children / young persons as 22 children / young persons were not considered to be of an appropriate age and level of understanding to comprehend the reasons for being looked after.
- 81 (93.1%) Of this group showed some level of understanding about why they were cared for away from their families, which compares to 90.3% in the previous quarter.
- 6 (6.9%) Reviews reported that Life Journey work needed to be undertaken with the child / young person to support in understanding the reasons for being looked after, it was noted that 4 of these children were placed with their parents/grandparents.

**18. Number and percentage of Looked After Children (of appropriate age and level of understanding) understand their Care and Support Plan.**

The data for this performance indicator relates to 83 children / young persons as 26 children / young persons were not considered to be of an appropriate age and level of understanding and were therefore not included in the figures.

- 70 (84.3%) of this group showed a level of understanding as to the nature of their Care and Support Plan (part 6).
- 13 (15.7%) Reviews recorded that this needed to be shared with the children / young persons.

**19. National Measure 33: Number and percentage of moves for Looked after Children.**

- 11 (10.1%) LAC Reviews reported that there was a change in a child's/young person's placement during this quarter; this compares to (11.4%) in the previous quarter.

The reasons for the changes in Placement were as follows:

- 1 Young person had a planned step down move to a semi-independent placement.
- For another young person there was a planned move to a short term placement; however due to a change in carers' circumstances there was an additional unplanned move to a further short term placement.
- Due to placement with kinship carers considered to be unsafe, 1 young person had an unplanned move to further family members.

- There were 3 unplanned moves for 1 young person due to leaving placement and 'sofa surfing' with friends, with Local Authority continuing to identify a suitable placement.
- A sibling group of 2 had a planned move from their foster placement as a further foster placement was identified nearer to their school which reduced travelling times for school and family contact.
- 1 Young person had a planned legal move from one parent due to parent's ability to protect the young person to the other parent.
- The breakdown of a foster placement resulted in 1 young person having an unplanned move to an unregulated placement.
- 1 Young person had an unplanned move from 1 family member to another family member and thereafter had a planned move to a foster carer.
- Carers taking the decision to resign resulted in 1 young person having a planned move to further long term foster carers.
- 1 Further young person had a planned move from a short term placement to a short term unregulated placement.

5 Children had unplanned moves, 1 review recorded that a Stability Meeting had been held within 6 weeks. 2 Other reviews noted that a Stability Meeting had not been held with 2 further reviews recording that it was unknown as to whether a Stability Meeting had been held.

## **20 Number and percentage of placement plans (including education and health provision) that are assessed as meeting the needs of Looked after Children.**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 95.4%

- 104 (95.4%) Placement/care and support plans were recorded as meeting the needs of the children / young people, which compares to 97.7% in the previous quarter.
- 5 (4.6%) Reviews recorded that Placement/care and support plan was not meeting the needs of the child / young person. The reasons recorded were: -
  - For 1 Young person it was identified that basic needs were being met; however the young person requires a nurturing placement on his/her own.
  - It was identified that 1 other person had left his/her placement and was 'sofa surfing'; and believed to have not registered with local services.
  - It was noted at a review for a sibling group of 2 that professionals were meeting the children's needs more so than the parent.
  - 1 Young person has subsequently moved placement due to being unhappy at the placement and concerns whether foster carers were meeting the needs of the young person.

**21. Number and percentage of Safeguarding Concerns identified for Looked After Children during this quarter**

- 5 (4.6%) LAC Reviews identified safeguarding concerns for the young person; it was confirmed that the concerns were being addressed.

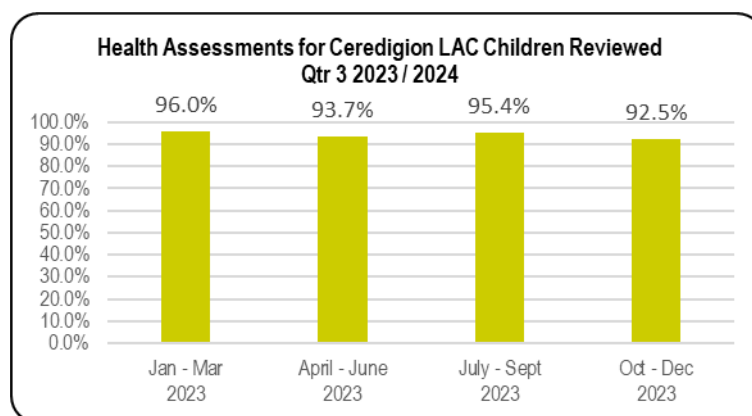
**22. Number of Looked After Children's names on the Child Protection Register.**

- 4 (3.7%) LAC Reviews during the quarter confirmed that the young person's name was included on the Child Protection Register.

**23. Number and percentage of Looked After Children who received Health Assessments in accordance with statutory requirements**

Target Set 100%- Target achieved 92.5%

- 99 (92.5%) Children/Young People Looked After had an up-to-date health assessment reported at their review, which compares to 95.4% in the previous quarter.
  - 11 (57.9%) First Reviews recorded that the Health Assessment had been completed within 4 weeks of the child becoming LAC.
  - At 8 (42.1%) first reviews it was documented that the Health Assessment had not been undertaken within 4 weeks of the child becoming LAC. However 7 of these reviews recorded that a Health Assessment was subsequently completed. One other Health Assessment remained outstanding.
  - 88 (100.0%) Further reviews recorded that Health Assessments were undertaken every 6 months for children aged under 5 and every 12 months for children over the age of 5.
- 2 (1.8%) Children/Young Persons Looked After refused to engage to have a health assessment completed and were therefore taken out of the equation.



**Comment:** Delays often occur due to lack of notification of new children into placement / placement moves and end of placements by Local Authority.

**24. The percentage of children registered with a dentist within 20 working days of becoming looked after**

Target set: 100% Target Achieved 77.8%

**Registered with a dentist.**

The data for registering a child / young person with a dentist within 20 days of becoming looked after relates to 9 children / young persons.

- 7 (77.8%) Reviews recorded that the child / young person was registered with a dental practitioner within 20 working days of the start of placement.
- 2 (22.2%) Reviews noted that the child / young person was yet to be registered with a dental practitioner. This mater has now been resolved for 1 young person.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Registered with a dentist.**

The data for this performance indicator relates to 90 Children / Young persons as 19 Children / Young persons having a first LAC Review were taken out of the above equation to coincide with National Measure requirements.

- 88 (97.8%) Children and young people were registered with a dentist. This compares to 89.6% in the previous quarter.
- 2 (2.2%) Children and young people needed to be registered with a dentist. This mater has now been resolved for 1 young person.

**Comment:**

**25. National Measure 30: Number and percentage of Looked After Children who have had their teeth checked by a dentist within 3 months of becoming Looked After.**

**Seen by a dentist.**

The data for being seen by a dentist within 3 months of becoming looked after relates to 8 children.



- 5 (62.5%) Reviews recorded that the child / young person had been seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming LAC.
- 3 (37.5%) Reviews recorded that the child / young person had not been seen by a registered dentist within 3 months of becoming LAC. This issue has now been resolved for 1 young person.

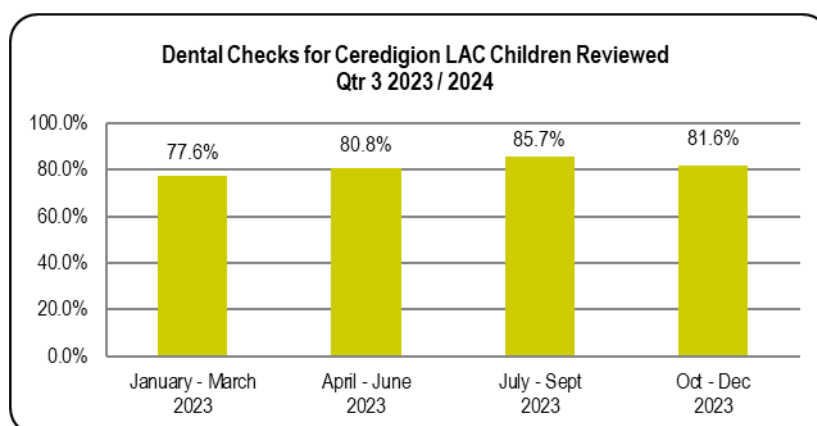
\*\*\*\*\*

### Seen by a dentist.

Target Set 90% - Target achieved 81.6%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 87 Children / young persons as 22 Children / Young persons were under 2 years of age and / or having their first LAC Reviews and were taken out of the above equation to coincide with National Measures requirements.

- 71 (81.6%) Children and young people were recorded as having a dental check during the preceding 12 months, which compares to 85.7% in the previous quarter.
- 16 (18.4%) Children and young people were recorded as not having had dental checks.



## 26. National Measure 31: Percentage of children looked after who were registered with a GP within 10 working days of the start of their placement

- 26 (89.7%) Reviews recorded that the child was registered with a provider of general medical services within 10 working days of the start of placement.
- 3 (10.3%) Reviews reported that this action remained outstanding at the time of the review.

**27. Number and percentage of children looked after who were registered with a GP**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 100.0%

- 109 (100.0%) Children and young people were registered with a GP, which is consistent with the previous quarter.
- 92 (86.0%) Children had their immunisations up to date.
- 15 (14.0%) Children were late in receiving their immunisations. 10 Of these young people are Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and are offered an accelerated programme as there is incomplete previous immunisation history.

2 Reviews were taken out of the equation as the parent / young person was refusing immunisation.

**Comment:** Updating of immunisation is an ongoing process to be compliant with immunisation schedules.

- 99 (90.8%) LAC Reviews recorded that children/young people's mental/emotional health had been considered during the Health Assessment and/or during discussions in the meeting.
  - 10 (9.2%) Reviews recorded that the mental health issues had not been considered.
- \*\*\*\*
- 7 (6.4%) LAC Reviews identified that the young person had a current mental health problem.
  - Behavioural issues were identified for 18 (16.5%) children / young people during this period.

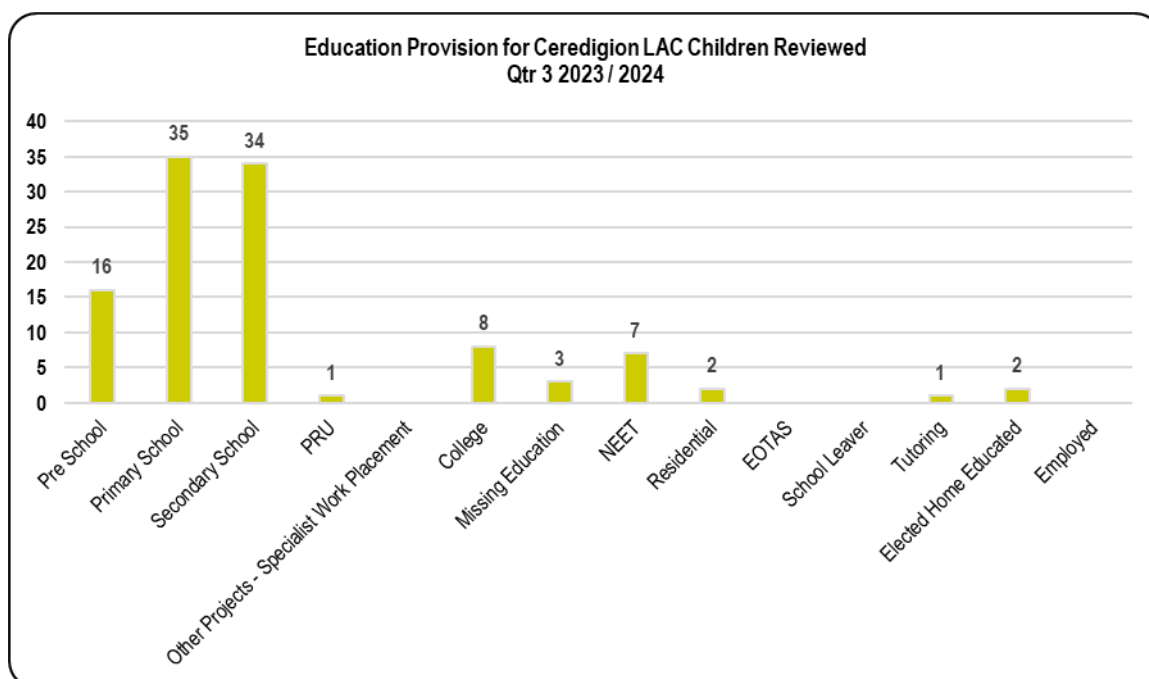
**28. Number and percentage of Looked After Children assessed as requiring CAMHS services that are referred and receive an assessment /service.**

- 3 (2.7%) LAC Reviews recorded that a child/young person had been referred to CAMHS, it was confirmed at 1 review that the referral had been accepted, for 1 review it was unknown if the referral had been accepted and for the other review the young person had moved out of the county before a Choice Assessment could be undertaken.

## 29. Nature of Education Provision:

During this quarter, the children and young people reviewed were in the following educational provision.

Education Provision	
Pre-school children	16
Primary school pupils	35
Secondary school pupil	34
PRU	1
Other Projects-Specialist Work Placement	
College	8
Missing Education	3
NEET	7
EOTAS	
Residential	2
School Leaver	
Tutoring	1
Elected Home Educated	2
Employed	
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>



**30. Number and percentage of Looked After Children of school age who had a Personal Education Plan within 20 school days of entering care or joining a new school.**

Target Set 70% - Target achieved 86.8%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 76 children / young persons who were of compulsory school age and therefore eligible for a Personal Education Plan.

- 66 (86.8%) Children and young people of statutory school age had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan.
  - 14 (63.6%) Reviews recorded that the PEP had been completed within 20 school days of becoming Looked After or 20 school days of a change in school as required.
  - 8 (36.4%) Reviews recorded that the PEP had not been completed within 20 school days.
  - 52 (96.3%) Reviews recorded that the young person had an up-to-date Personal Education Plan.
  - 2 (3.7%) Reviews recorded that the young person's Personal Education Plan was out of date.

\*\*\*

- 12 (15.4%) Children and young people attending school/college were identified as having a recognised highest additional learning need.

\*\*\*

- 26 (34.2%) Reviews deemed that the children / young persons attending school/college needed additional support educationally. 24 Reviews recorded that the young people were receiving support; however 2 reviews recorded that the support was not in place.

\*\*\*

- 11 (64.7%) Reviews identified that the educational provision had been put in place at the start of the placement.
- 6 (35.3%) Reviews recorded that the educational provision was not in place at start of placement.

\*\*\*

- 9 (11.8%) Reviews identified that there had been a period whereby the child / young person had been out of education awaiting a school placement

**31. National Measure 32: Percentage of Looked After Children who have changed schools and outside of transitional arrangements**

Target Set 0% - Target achieved 7.9%

- 6 (7.9%) Reviews recorded a change of school which were not transitional, which compares to (3.5%%) in the previous quarter.

**32. Number and percentage of Looked After Children who were excluded from school**

Target Set 12% fixed term exclusion –Target achieved 0.0%

Target Set 1% permanent exclusion – Target achieved 0.0%

- 0 (0.0%) Reviews reported that the young person had been excluded on a fixed term basis during the review period. This compares to 3.4% in the previous quarter.
- 0 (0.0%) Reviews reported that the young person had been excluded from school permanently, which is consistent with the previous quarter.

There were no exclusions during this quarter.

## SECTION THREE

### CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION

**1. Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Looked After Children of age and understanding consulted by the Social Worker or attended their review.**

Target Set 100% – Target achieved 97.6%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 84 reviews as 25 reviews recorded that the children / young persons were not of an age and level of understanding to be included in the consultation process although 3 of these children / young people were present at their review.

- 82 (97.6%) Reviews recorded that consultation had taken place.
- 2 (2.4%) Reviews recorded that consultation had not taken place

Breakdown of consultation

38 Children / young people attended their review via Hybrid / Teams.

44 Children / young people completed consultation papers spoke with IRO or/and had their views represented by professionals, parents, carers, or advocates.

- The IRO had direct contact with 40 children / young persons during the review period outside of the review meeting.

**2. Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Children who were aware of their right for an Advocacy Service / Independent Visitor Scheme**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 90.2%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 92 reviews as 17 reviews recorded that the children / young people reviewed were not of an age and understanding to be informed about their right for Advocacy / Independent Visitor Scheme and were therefore taken out of the equation.

- 83 (90.2%) Children / young persons were informed of their right for an Advocacy / Independent Visitor Scheme.
- 9 (9.8%) Children / young persons were not informed of their right for an Advocacy / Independent Visitor Scheme

### **3 Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Children informed about the Complaints Procedure**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 96.2%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 79 reviews as 30 reviews recorded that the children / young people were not of the age / level of understanding and were therefore taken out of this equation.

- 76 (96.2%) Children / young people knew about the complaints process, which compares to 90.8% in the previous quarter.
- 3 (3.8%) Reviews recorded that the child/ young person did not know / IRO was unclear if the child / young person knew about the complaints process.

### **4 Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Parents consulted by the Social Worker before the review or who attended the review.**

Target Set 80% - Target achieved 96.8%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 95 reviews as 14 reviews recorded that the parents were not involved in the statutory review process and these were therefore taken out of the above equation.

- 92 (96.8%) Parents completed consultation papers or met with / spoke with the IRO prior and / or after the review or / and attended the review themselves or / and had their views represented by a professional.
- 3 (3.2%) Review identified that no consultation had taken place.

#### Breakdown of consultation

Consultation Papers were sent to 92 reviews.

56 Reviews confirmed that the parents were present; or spoke to the IRO by phone prior and/or after the review.

### **5 Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Foster Carers consulted by the social worker or attends the Child's Review**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 100.0%

The data for this performance indicator relates to 89 reviews as 20 reviews recorded that the child was placed with a parent or living independently, these reviews were therefore taken out of the equation.

- 89 (100.0%) Foster Carers completed consultation papers or / and attended the reviews during this period.

**6 Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of Health Representative attending the Review or Sending a Report**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 84.4%

- 92 (84.4%) Reviews confirmed that information regarding health was available for the meeting.
- 17 (15.6%) Reviews reported that there was no health information at the meeting.

**Comment:** When young people live out of county, it is more difficult to have the health professionals to attend. Non-attendance / receipt of reports will be followed upon.

**7. Local Performance Indicator: Number and percentage of a School Representatives attending a Review or Sending a Report**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 94.0%

- 79 (94.0%) LAC Reviews had a school representative attend or provided a written report, which compares to 94.0% in the previous quarter.
- 5 (6.0%) LAC Review recorded that there was no school representative or written report.

**8. Local performance Indicator: Number and percentage of LAC Review Documents completed by the Social Worker prior to the review**

Target Set 100% - Target achieved 30.3%

- 33 (30.3%) LAC Reviews confirmed that the LAC Review document had been completed by the Social Worker prior to the review, this compares to 44.3% in the previous quarter.
- 76 (69.7%) LAC Reviews confirmed that the LAC Review document had not been completed by the Social Worker prior to the review.



**SECTION FOUR:  
ISSUE RESOLUTION PROTOCOL**

The Issue Resolution Protocol was initiated for one young person by the ISRO during this period.

5 Mid-Point reviews took place during this period and where needed IRO were bringing reviews forward when there were concerns.

**SECTION FIVE**

**EVALUATION**

This information was unavailable for this quarter.

## SECTION SIX

### PATHWAY PLANNING

#### For over 16 years old and not LAC / over 18 year old care leavers

18 Pathway Plan Reviews were held during the quarter.

- 1 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Pathway Plan Review held within timescales.**

  - 6 (33.3%) Pathway Plan Reviews were held within timescales, which compares to 91.3% in the previous quarter.
  - 12 (66.7%) Pathway Plan Reviews were held out of timescales. The reasons recorded were as follows: -
    - 5 Reviews did not take place and there was a delay in rearranging.
    - 3 Reviews were rescheduled due to PA having to deal with an emergency with a further review postponed due to PA availability.
    - 1 Further review was rearranged due to other professionals and young person's availability.
  
- 2 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Young Persons with allocated Personal Advisor / Social Worker**

  - It was identified at all 18 (100%) reviews that all the young persons had an allocated Social Worker or/and Personal Advisor.
  
- 3 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Pathway Plan Review Record Completed for the Meeting**

  - The Review Record had been completed for 16 (88.9%) Pathway Plan Reviews, which compares to 78.3% in the previous quarter.
  - 2 (11.1%) Reviews reported that the Review Record had not been completed at the time of the review.
  
- 4 Performance indicator: Percentage of Young People Consulted for the Review Meeting**

  - 12 (66.7%) Reviews confirmed that the young person had his / her views represented at the review or / and attended the review.
  - It was identified at 6 (33.3%) reviews that the young person had not had his / her views represented at the review or / and attended the review.

- 5 Performance indicator: Percentage of Young People attending their Review Meeting**
- 9 (50.0%) Reviews recorded that the young person attended their review.
  - 9 (50.0%) Reviews recorded that the young persons had not attended their review.
- 6 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Pathway Plan meeting young person's needs**
- 16 (88.9%) Reviews confirmed that the Pathway Plan was meeting the young person's needs.
  - 2 (11.1%) Reviews noted that the plan was not meeting the young person's needs; the reasons recorded were as follows: -
    - Young person is not engaging with his PP, service, and PA. If s/he were then we could say the PP is meeting his/her needs but we cannot say that at present.
    - Young person has not been happy with the PA and has not been engaging with the plan. S/he is of the view that his/her needs are not being met via the plan and via his/her worker as s/he is not getting the support s/he wants.
- 5 Performance Indicator: Percentage of Pathway Plans updated prior to Leaving Care/18<sup>th</sup> Birthday.**
- 1 (100.0%) Review recorded that the Pathway Plan had been updated prior to the young person leaving care / 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- 6 Evaluation This information was unavailable for this quarter.**

**SECTION SEVEN**

**REGULAR SHORT BREAK CARE**

There were no Regular Short Break Care Reviews held during the quarter.

**SECTION EIGHT**

**SHORT BREAK CARE**

No Short Break Care Reviews were held during the quarter.

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## CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Scrutiny

**Date of meeting:** 2 September 2024

**Title:** CIW Performance Evaluation – Actions progress

**Purpose of the report:** Update on progress with recommendations made by CIW following the evaluation in 2023

**For:** Information

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:** Cllr. Alun Williams

### Introduction

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) carried out a performance evaluation inspection of Ceredigion County Council's Social Services in March 2023.

Aligned to the four principles of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA), CIW outlined strengths and areas for improvement and this report updates on progress to those development areas.

### Current position

Most improvement areas have now been addressed. In addition, the launch of a formalised Quality Assurance framework in Spring 2024 and the deployment of regular Thematic Reviews and Practice Assessments within this has strengthened the Division's oversight.

In the summaries ahead, attention is drawn to the areas where continuing activity is underway across the four domains, People (voice and control), Prevention, Wellbeing and Partnerships.

### People (voice and control)

*How well is the local authority ensuring all people are equal partners who have voice, choice and control over their lives and can achieve what matters to them?*

- Quality Assurance thematic reviews engagement form agreed at Scrutiny in March 2024 and first reviews undertaken seeking feedback from service users and those around the client. QA team recruited and in place.
- Complaints processes strengthened and regular meetings between Statutory Director and Complaints Manager are embedded in the operating rhythm; links between QA, L&D & Policy Reviews established.
- Recording policy review underway incorporating specific reference to voice and controls, and specifically, carer's assessment offers and take up.
- A Care Experience forum established within the Corporate Parenting Group; however, this needs further strengthening to ensure care experienced children and young people can better have their voices heard. Further widening of the Adult Service user group expected in Autumn 2024
- A Through-age Disabilities user group will launch early in 2025 when Support Workers in the department are registered for Domiciliary Care with CIW

- Our partners, Gofalwyr Ceredigion Carers, are working with schools to promote understanding around young carers.
- The Social Care Enquiry form (initial contact), Proportionate Assessment and Client & Family Assessment forms (detailed assessments) have triggered questions to offer Carer's support with any client refusal also overtly collected so that accurate tracking can be undertaken.
- A designated Corporate Lead Officer (now Greg Jones) oversees the Carer's service development. As part of that these CIW actions are being driven alongside the national Ombudsman's findings from multiple authority samples
- A Carer's Breaks resource is being recruited to make services more visible.
- A Foster Carer recruitment campaign, underpinned by refreshed policies and procedures has been undertaken with the first adverts resulting in nine (9) applications all of which have passed the Skills to Foster accreditation with one already moving through to full accreditation.
- New Ceredigion propositions for Specialised Disability Services and Supported Lodgings will widen the options for Parents and Carers. Target launches are between November 2024 and April 2025
- Part of supporting clients and carers is having a robust and resilient workforce. National recruitment issues continue in all sectors and given its geography; Ceredigion is finding it particularly difficult to recruit qualified social workers. That said, the investment in Trainee Social Workers, begun in 2021, is starting to mature and currently forecasts an outturn of 21 social workers by 2027 with two in play and three qualifying/registering in November 2024. This development is part of an updated Workforce Strategy published in early 2024.
- For improved oversight, and to strengthen practice decision making, a new Supervision policy has been rolled out alongside a focused Annual Appraisal process. The council-wide hybrid working policy is now fully embedded in TAW and all colleagues have opportunity to meet at an office, with each other and with families.

## Prevention

*How well is the local authority ensuring the need for care & support is minimised and the escalation of need is prevented whilst ensuring that the best possible outcomes for people are achieved? How well is the local authority promoting resilience within communities and people are supported to fulfil their potential by actively encouraging them and supporting people who need care & support, including carers, to learn, develop and participate in society?*

- Relationships between Clic, Porth Gofal and Porth Cymorth Cynnar have been revisited to reinforce efficient transfers of clients between services, build capacity and respond quickly to client contacts.
- Whilst capacity to manage case reviews has been stretched, the development of a peripatetic team comprised of qualifying trainee social workers has been established to resolve backlogs (which are often exacerbated over summer months)
- Partnerships with Hwyl Dda, the Regional Partnership Board(s), Welsh Government and third sector (include WWDAS and DDAS) are playing an increasingly important role in the development of early help solutions. Ceredigion has multiple grant supported initiatives in play that are focused on preventative and universal service access.
- As part of a focused strategy on Assistive Technology and Sensory Services, the authority opened the Penmorfa Centre for Independent Living (PenCIL) in



Spring 2024, including a dedicated Sensory Room; with new agreements with CAVO, RNIB and centres promoting BSL broadening the reach in this area

- In tackling high re-referral rates the Proportionate Assessment (that has been successful in the Adults' arena) has now been rolled out for Children's assessments. Improved enquiries with professionals and families means there has already been a slight downturn in re-referrals.
- Funding from the *Eliminating Profit in the Care of Children* grant has been used to purchase additional legal services to pursue revocations and the discharge of care orders with ten cases already completed.
- To strengthen third sector strategic engagement a full review of contracts is underway linked to a review of grants driving those contracts.
- Investigations into plan drift are ongoing, having been delayed in the early part of 2024 by significant professional concerns activity in supplier businesses, the integration of Hafan y Waun and continued challenges recruiting Independent Safeguarding Reviewing officers.

The Leaving Care protocol and When I'm Ready documentation has been updated and these now directs for better identification of needs for 16yr olds with care leaver status.

## Wellbeing

*How well is the local authority ensuring that people are protected and safeguarded from abuse, neglect and any other types of harm? How well are people supported to actively manage their wellbeing and make their own informed decisions so that they are able to achieve their full potential and live independently for as long as possible?*

- Feedback loops with Health and other professional referrers have been revisited to ensure Assessment outcomes are more widely disseminated.
- Better Management Information dashboards are in pilot so that backlogs and pressure points are more readily identified and tackled.
- The Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been updated whilst recognising a number of practice reviews have reiterated that there are no weaknesses in Ceredigion.
- A thematic audit of Strategy discussions/meetings was undertaken and concerns in Ceredigion regarding consistent recording protocols highlighted to Region.
- As above, thematic reviews via the new QA team and documentation reviews as part of the Signs of Safety and WCCIS replacement programmes aim to further strengthen data collection, insight and overall compliance.

## Partnerships

*How well is the local authority able to assure itself effective partnerships are in place to commission and deliver fully integrated, high quality, sustainable outcomes for people?*

- Both the Signs of Safety programme and the QA Thematic Reviews are bringing visibility to how families, friends, and networks (professional and social) are engaged to be part of client assessments and plan solutions. The Proportionate Assessment in particular offers clear opportunity for partners to engage and be engaged early in the referral.
- Family Group Meeting Co-ordination services have been widened to encourage families to create and deliver their own plans (for safety actions or for care and support) and the assessment forms also now encourage this 'partnered recovery' focus.

- It has been necessary to engage a number of Agency partners to bolster resources in statutory services. Much of this has been successful, and with a small uptick in the market plus investment in Trainees, the Authority now aims to wind back some of these arrangements as safely and as soon as possible.
- The Through Age Wellbeing Strategy has now been widely communicated alongside the operating model of services and their prevention focus. The Social Care website pages have been refreshed (look and feel, navigation) and a programme of content development kicks off in Autumn 2024 aimed at simpler self-service and wider cross-service connection.

## **Summary**

Development / repair activity across the four domains of SSWBA remains a key focus for the Social Care Teams as they are central to the overall long-term Through Age Wellbeing strategy.

Despite the significant recruitment challenges referenced throughout (meaning that one in four statutory roles currently requires Agency personnel to cover), the permanent management teams within the Social Care establishment continue to collaborate on the Division-wide priorities of Safeguarding, prevention, early help and step-down recovery to independence and wellbeing.

It is envisaged that as the third year proper of the six-year TAW Strategy comes to an end (in October 2024) that the planning for the second half of the programme will focus even more on strengthening the base practice, responding to and leveraging repair action from the CIW evaluation. This should ensure the full benefits of Proportionate Assessments, What Matters Conversations and Early Interventions can be fully achieved.

### **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

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

No; individual initiatives noted may well have IIAs of their own that are presented to Scrutiny through the democratic process, but this specific paper is a response to CIW Evaluation actions rather than a change to a specific service or support.

### **Recommendation(s):**

- To continue to monitor CIW Evaluation Actions at CLO level, including visibility at Leadership Group
- To return to Healthier Communities Scrutiny and Overview in early 2025 providing more detail on closing out the Actions and to update on expected evaluations by Social Care inspectorates that are due in the interim.

**Contact Name:** Audrey Somerton-Edwards

**Designation:**

**Date of Report:** 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Acronyms:**

## CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Scrutiny

**Date of meeting:** 2 September 2024

**Title:** Children's Safe Accommodation - Update

**Purpose of the report:** Update on the development of an in-house 24-hour Children's Safe Accommodation provision in Ceredigion.

**For:** Information

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:** Cllr. Alun Williams

### Introduction

On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 Ceredigion Cabinet approved a proposal to establish a small group of sites to provide safe accommodation for children in Ceredigion. The aim was to support children and young people, who require 24/7 care and support, to remain in Ceredigion whilst medium to long-term community placements could be sourced.

This report provides an update on the progress to date within the settings that will be in the Aeron Valley, Aberaeron and Aberystwyth.

- **Aeron Valley** (Sycharth, Felinfach)- provide up to **three** in-county placements for children and/or young people, including sibling groups and those with complex needs.
- **Aberaeron** - provide up to **two** in-county placements for children and/or young people, including sibling groups and those with complex needs.
- **Aberystwyth** - provide **one** in-county placement for a child/young person, including those with complex needs, or **one** parent and baby placement.

All three locations will be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) on a Through-Age basis, providing future flexibility for the council to use for other placement styles.

### Current position

#### Facilities

All three settings have received grant funding through the Welsh Government (WG) Housing with Care Fund (HCF). Totalling c£2.1m, this has supported the acquisition of the properties in Aeron Valley and Aberystwyth as well as the conversion of the homes (into therapeutic environments), in line with the Regulation and Inspection of Social Care (Wales) Act 2016 (RISCA), and in readiness to register the sites with CIW.

Construction for the Aeron Valley and Aberaeron settings is due to be completed by October 2024, with the Aberystwyth provision to be completed by early 2025.

We are currently finalising the documentation that will trigger the CIW registration process. This process is likely to take 12 weeks and can only begin when the physical site works are completed.

### **Staffing**

A recruitment campaign is underway to create the in-house team that will provide 24/7 care and support to they children and/or young people housed across the Safe Accommodation model. To attract suitable candidates, we have worked with the Human Resources team to access a range of marketing tools available to us.

Unfortunately, the incumbent Registered Manager, recruited to develop this model, has decided to leave the authority before launch and subsequently this role has also been re-advertised.

The Direct Services team does, however, have a management role that can temporarily hold the Registered Manager activity as a contingency should recruitment not meet timescales to match the registration of sites.

### **Matching process**

An important consideration when identifying suitable candidates for the provision is the 'matching process'. To ensure the process considers the best interests of the child/young person, before any move of placement a broad group of professionals work collaboratively to identify the most suitable young people to transfer back into Ceredigion as the new settings will not be suitable for all.

Going forward this process will be integral in ensuring fewer children/young people are placed out of county in the first instance.

This process also ensures any group placement matching is reviewed, particularly for our Aeron Valley provision where there could be up to 3 young people being supported.

Once the matching process has been completed, transition planning will start that will include supporting the young people in getting to know staff, introducing them to their new home and individualised training for staff ensuring that the care and support provision is tailored to the needs of each child / young person.

### **Financial benefit**

In the short term, a financial benefit will be achieved only in 'opportunity cost' given the number of Children Looked After remains significantly above the long-term average.

There is substantial revenue investment required to place children in out of county safe accommodation settings. Currently, the local authority is quoted in the range of £5k-10k *per week* for standard needs support and between £12k-15k *per week* for complex cases. The local placement provision will offset some of these unplanned costs.

Some of the benefit to in-county provision is long-term community retention (schooling, training, employment, social value and economic contribution) as too often out of county placements lead to the young person settling away, and never returning to Ceredigion.

It is worth noting that *secure* placements can cost upward of £20k per week if these are required and these costs are fully outwith the standard budgets for Social Care given their rare occurrence.

## **Summary**

These flexible placement options, which if successfully registered as Though Age settings will be a first for Wales, are a valuable addition to the safeguarding proposition for Ceredigion. Alongside expanded Foster Carer recruitment, an uplift in Adoption Social Work focus, new propositions for Special Guardianship Orders and Support Lodgings placements it is hoped that having local accommodation in Ceredigion can better support children and young people in need given family environments post-pandemic continue to present significant challenges.

## **Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

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

Completed in December 2021 and will be updated once the placements have been identified and staff recruited in order that it reflects the final operational elements of the service.

## **Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

- Long term:** The provision of a cluster of safe accommodation settings will provide an opportunity for children who require residential care to remain in Ceredigion and is therefore a long-term investment in their future. This also provides opportunity to develop step-down models where appropriate from residential care to other types of provision, e.g., Fostering and Supported Lodgings.
- Collaboration:** Working with multi-agency partners and families to meet the local needs of children / young people.
- Involvement:** Engagement and consultation with stakeholders has and will continue to take place during the course of this proposal. As the provision becomes operational, there will be regular reviews through the Independent Safeguarding Reviewing Officers (ISROs), Quality Assurance team. The Responsible Individual (RI) visits will take place ensuring that both the children/young people and staff are able to have their voices heard; supporting a compliant and quality focused provision.
- Prevention:** Providing safe placements and care for children / young people within Ceredigion rather than relying on out of county options (which with national demand as it is, can often be as far as Newcastle or Peterborough for the nearest emergency placement).
- Integration:** Working in collaboration with a range of stakeholders including health in ensuring timely access to required services as and when identified.

## **Recommendation(s):**

- To return to Healthier Communities Scrutiny and Overview in early 2025 providing more detail regarding impacts to the financial model for Social Care and progress with the implementation phase(s) of the provision.

**Contact Name:** Nerys Lewis Corporate Manager Direct Services

**Designation:**

**Date of Report:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Acronyms:**

## CYNGOR SIR CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

**Report to:** Healthier Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date of meeting:** 02/09/2024

**Title:** Domiciliary Care and Ceredigion 15 Point Pledge Survey Report

**Purpose of the report:** Analysis of the survey and Findings

**Reason Scrutiny have requested the information:**

Progress update following the implementation of the 15 Point Pledge under the new Domiciliary Care Sector Framework launched in June 2023

**Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:**  
Cllr Alun Williams

### **Background**

The new Domiciliary Care Framework was implemented in June 2023. All providers who joined the Dynamic Purchasing System signed up to the new contract terms and conditions and schedules. This included the 15 Point Pledge. It was agreed to survey all Providers on the Framework in Q4 of 2023/24 with a view to identifying the level of compliance to the mandatory and good practice pledges. The survey was issued in late Q3 to all Providers to self-report their current position.

### **Current Situation**

The Domiciliary Care Working Group which encompasses Officers from Commissioning, Finance, Quality Assurance, Dom Care Provider Hub and Business Support have now analysed the returns and collated the attached report.

It is gratifying to note the compliance providers having acknowledged they have in place under the terms of the contract.

However, it is disappointing to note that against key questions as seen on the summary table on page 4, there are some providers who in their returns are not assuring the authority that they have implemented the expected outcomes.

### **Total mandatory pledges met (maximum of 14)**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	14	14	9	13	12	13	13	14	13	13	14	14
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	0	5	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0

The individual questions breakdown of responses and the actions in regards of individual providers can be found on pages 5-14. The Appendix 1 pages 15-17 provides the additional comments each provider was able to submit to qualify responses as appropriate to the question.

It remains a concern to see the trend in the providers who have not fully implemented the requirements. It is noted the area relating to spend on staff support which is the

key role of the Pledge and quality is suggestive of potentially a finance led decision for those providers.

The next step is to raise these non-compliance points individually with each provider through the *Commissioning Annual Contract Monitoring Meetings* programme that will follow the *Quality Assurance* individual Dom Care Provider visits currently being completed. These contract meetings will enable the Providers to present their reasoning and for the authority to gain additional understanding as to the barriers to full implementation by each of the non-compliant providers.

As a local authority we have given the providers time to introduce the changes and the new contract was issued in 2023 knowing that some had work to do, but it is now timely 12 months on through the monitoring of the contract to reaffirm the standards and expectations. The ongoing challenging fiscal position for providers and the local authority is widely acknowledged. However positively, since the implementation of the new Framework, we are currently seeing far lower levels of service users waiting for availability of care since 2021 and offers from the Dom Care market is at its most responsiveness for the majority of those in need of care. This comes from the improvements made through the Framework, with improved standard rate, the annual uplift and the continuous support and engagement with the sector, together with the marginally improved care sector recruitment for private dom care agencies than was evident at the end of the pandemic.

However, the market situation remains difficult and the business sustainability for some providers continues to fluctuate, which in turn impacts on the availability of care provision. Two of the three new providers have yet to implement their intentions to establish themselves in Ceredigion in autumn 2023 as expected for example.

Therefore, it is important that we continue to work with those providers who have yet to achieve the full suite of pledges and encourage them to make the sustainable changes through an open supportive discussion. The pledge was also designed to be aspirational to further enhance the value of the workforce from 2025/26 and the authority's stated position to increase the standard rate to align further with the Home Care Association national recommendations in readiness for 2025/26 will continue to be a budget challenge given the continued fiscal position.

**Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

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

None required

**Summary of Integrated Impact Assessment:**

**Long term:**

**Collaboration:**

**Involvement:**

**Prevention:**

**Integration:**

**Recommendation(s):**

**For Information Only.**

**Reasons for decision:**



**No Decision required.**

**Contact Name:** Donna Pritchard

**Designation:** Corporate Lead Officer, Porth Gofal

**Date of Report:** 02/09/2024

**Acronyms:**



CYNGOR SIR  
**CEREDIGION**  
COUNTY COUNCIL

**Ceredigion County Council**

**Report on the results of The Ceredigion 15 Point Pledge Survey 2023/24**

**12/12 providers have completed the survey.**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Pages</b>
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**The Ceredigion Pledge**  
**Improved Terms and Conditions for Domiciliary Care Workers in Ceredigion**  
**15 Point Plan 2023/24**

1. All Service Provider Personnel (SPP) directly involved in delivering care regardless of age are to be paid the Real Living Wage (RLW).
2. The employer will pay the cost of the enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service DBS check.
3. The employer may wish to consider covering the cost of the Social Care Wales annual registration fee for the SPP directly involved in delivering care.
4. The employer will cover the cost of SCW registered SPP mandatory qualifications fees.
5. Staff uniform will be provided without charge by the employer.
6. Paid travel time at the RLW to be scheduled between all calls. Contact calls cannot be back-to back. Travel time to the first call and from the last call may be excluded from travel time claims, where shifts are a minimum of 6 hours each.
7. When commissioned hours have been paid for i.e. a cancelled call without sufficient notice, SPP directly involved in delivering care must be paid for this time.
8. When commissioned hours have been paid for under the Retainer Scheme, i.e. for approved hospital and respite periods of absence, SPP directly involved in delivering care must continue to be paid for this time.
9. SPP to be paid the HMRC current mileage rate per mile when using their own car for work duties.
10. The employer covers the cost of a work mobile or contributes to the cost of private mobile phones when used.
11. SPP to be paid for any reasonable amount of time spent training i.e. All Wales Induction Framework (AWIF) and other mandatory training i.e. All Wales Passport and mandatory updates.
12. All breaks except for one 30 minutes break per day, to be paid at the RLW as a minimum, including breaks over 30 minutes.
13. SPP directly involved in delivering care to have adequate rest between shifts i.e. if a SPP worker is rostered to work late they are not scheduled for an early start the next day.
14. SPP have access to emotional support and counselling and wellbeing through proactive support by the employer and by actively promoting access to the programmes of support through SCW and care sector support.  
<https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/health-and-well-being-resources>.
15. Work will be organised to ensure that SPP are rostered in accordance with The Working Time Regulations (1998) unless they voluntarily opt out.

## Providers

- 1- Provider 1
- 2- Provider 2 (Do not currently hold packages of care in Ceredigion)
- 3- Provider 3
- 4- Provider 4
- 5- Provider 5
- 6- Provider 6
- 7- Provider 7
- 8- Provider 8
- 9- Provider 9
- 10-Provider 10
- 11-Provider 11 (Do not currently hold packages of care in Ceredigion)
- 12-Provider 12

## Overview Summary

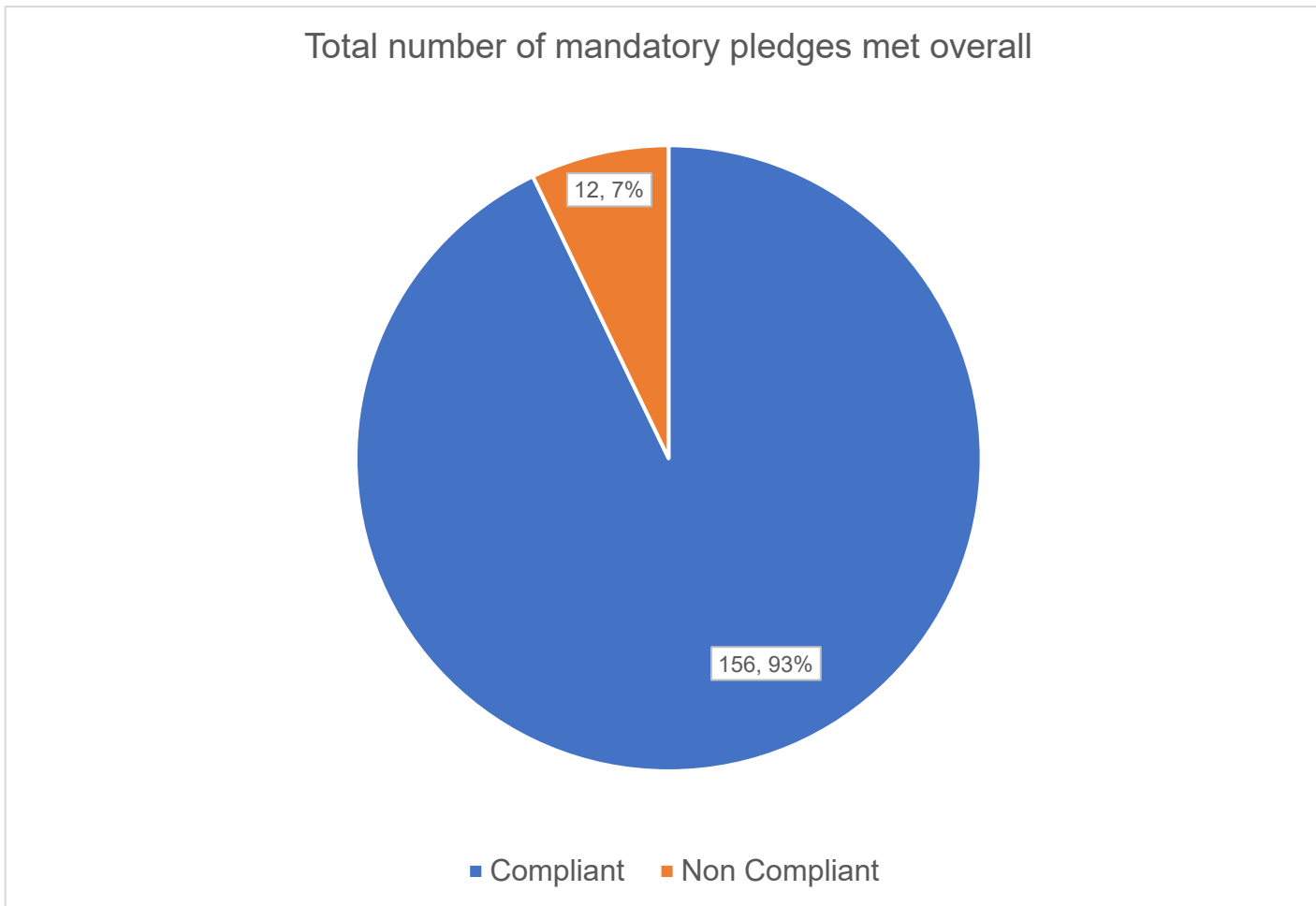
Key:

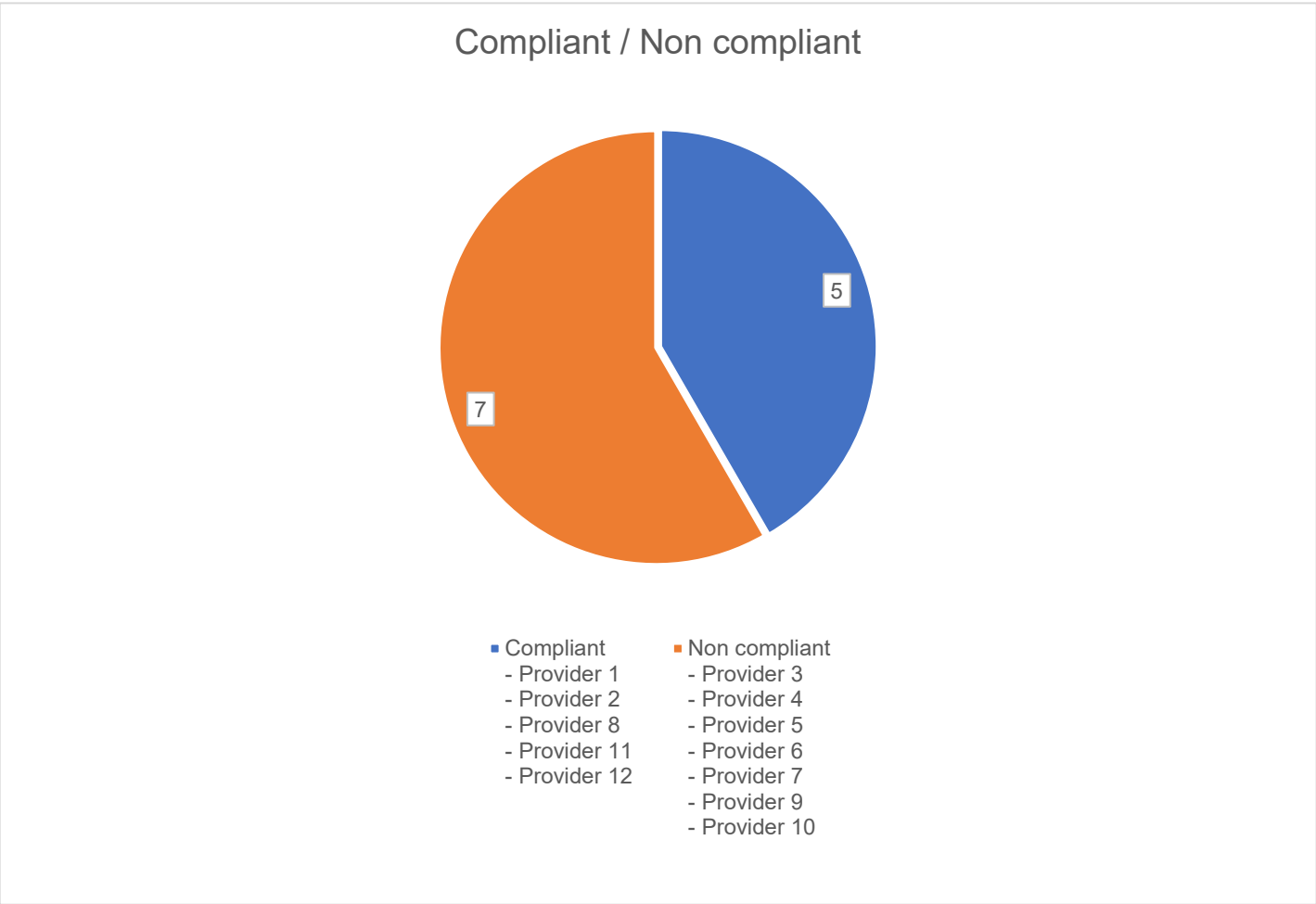
**Mandatory**  
**Good Practice**

	Provider 1	Provider 2	Provider 3	Provider 4	Provider 5	Provider 6	Provider 7	Provider 8	Provider 9	Provider 10	Provider 11	Provider 12
<b>Q1</b> All Service Provider Personnel (SPP) directly involved in delivering care regardless of age are to be paid the Real Living Wage (RLW).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q2</b> The employer will pay the cost of the enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service DBS check.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q3</b> The employer may wish to consider covering the cost of the Social Care Wales annual registration fee for the SPP directly involved in delivering care.	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×
<b>Q4</b> The employer will cover the cost of SCW registered SPP mandatory qualifications fees.	✓	✓	×	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓
<b>Q5</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q6</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q7</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q8</b> When commissioned hours have been paid for under the Retainer Scheme, i.e. for approved hospital and respite periods of absence, SPP directly involved in delivering care must continue to be paid for this time.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q9</b> SPP to be paid the HMRC current mileage rate per mile when using their own car for work duties.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q10</b> The employer covers the cost of a work mobile or contributes to the cost of private mobile phones when used.	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q11</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q12</b> All breaks except for one 30 minutes break per day, to be paid at the RLW as a minimum, including breaks over 30 minutes.	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q13</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q14</b> SPP have access to emotional support and counselling and wellbeing through proactive support by the employer and by actively promoting access to the programmes of support through SCW and care sector support. <a href="https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/health-and-well-being-resources">https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/health-and-well-being-resources</a>	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Q15</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

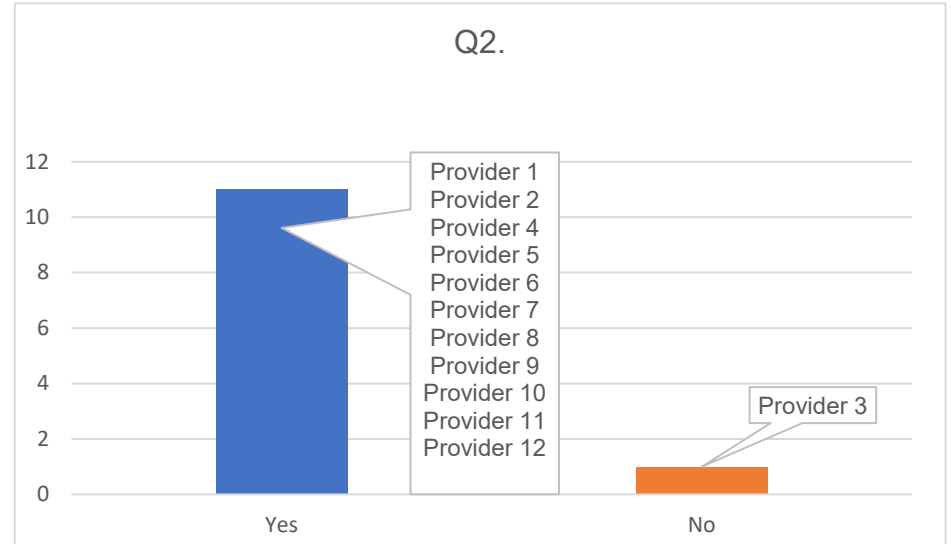
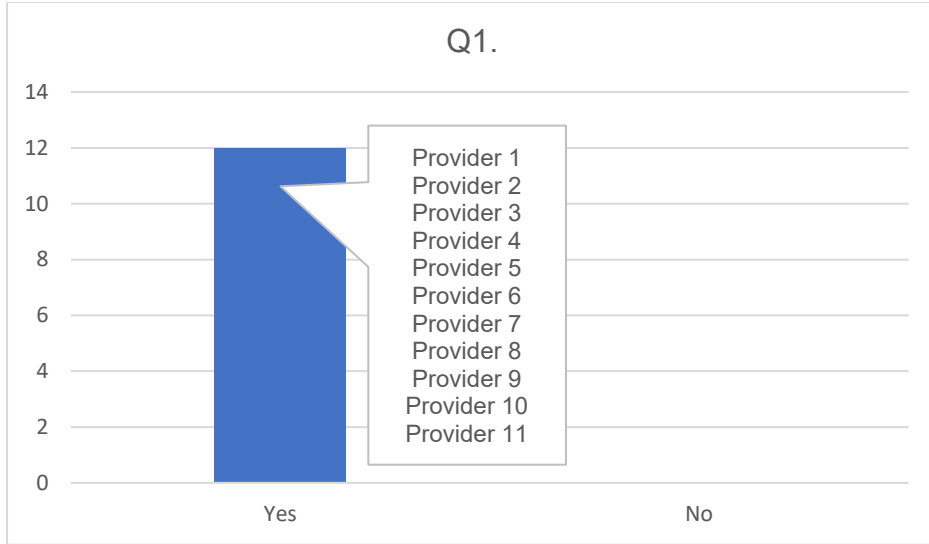
**Total mandatory pledges met  
(out of maximum 14)**

✓	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
×	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>





### Questions and Responses



*Question 1. As an employer are you paying all Service Provider Personnel (SPP) directly involved in delivering care the Real Living Wage (RLW) regardless of age?*

All 12 providers, 100% answered Yes to paying all Service Provider Personnel the Real Living Wage.

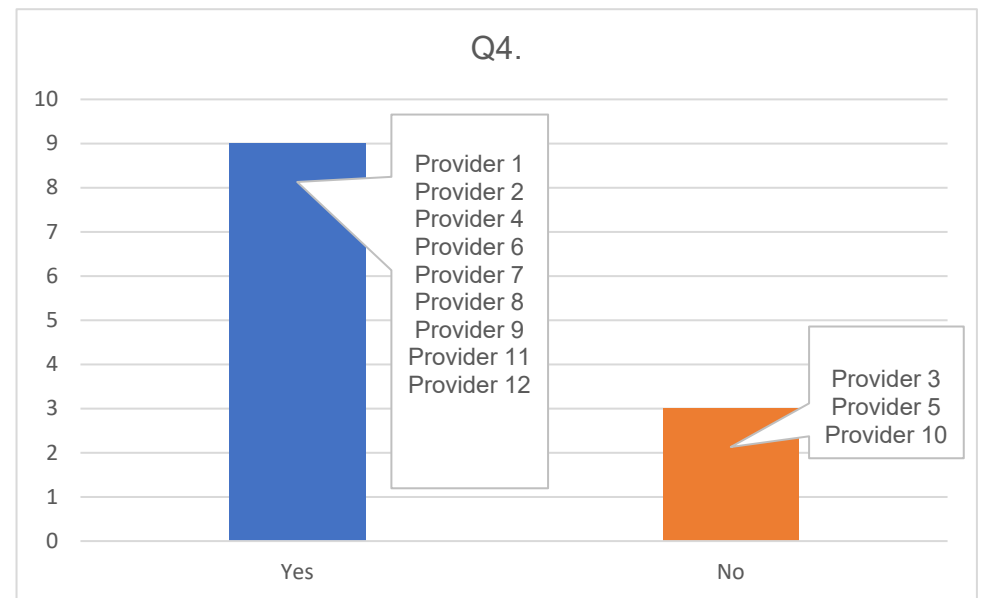
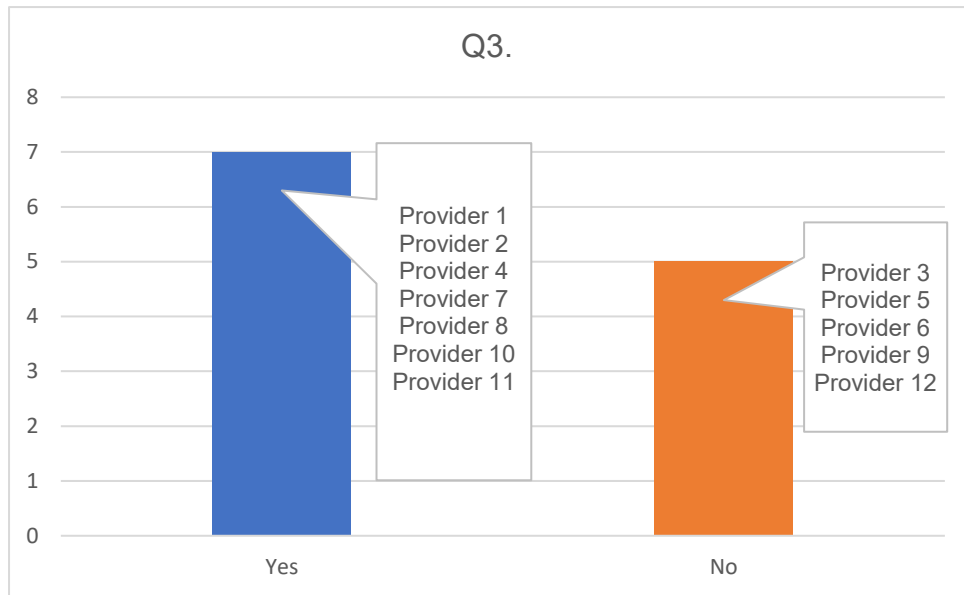
**ACTION:** No action required.

*Question 2. Do you as the employer pay the cost of the enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service DBS check?*

11/12 Providers answered Yes to paying the cost of the enhanced Disclosure & Barring Service Check. Provider 3 answered No.

**ACTION:** Non-compliance will be raised with Provider 3 at the Contract Review Meeting.





*Question 3. As an employer do you cover the cost of the Social Care Wales annual registration fee for the Service Provider Personnel directly involved in delivering care? (Not Mandatory)*

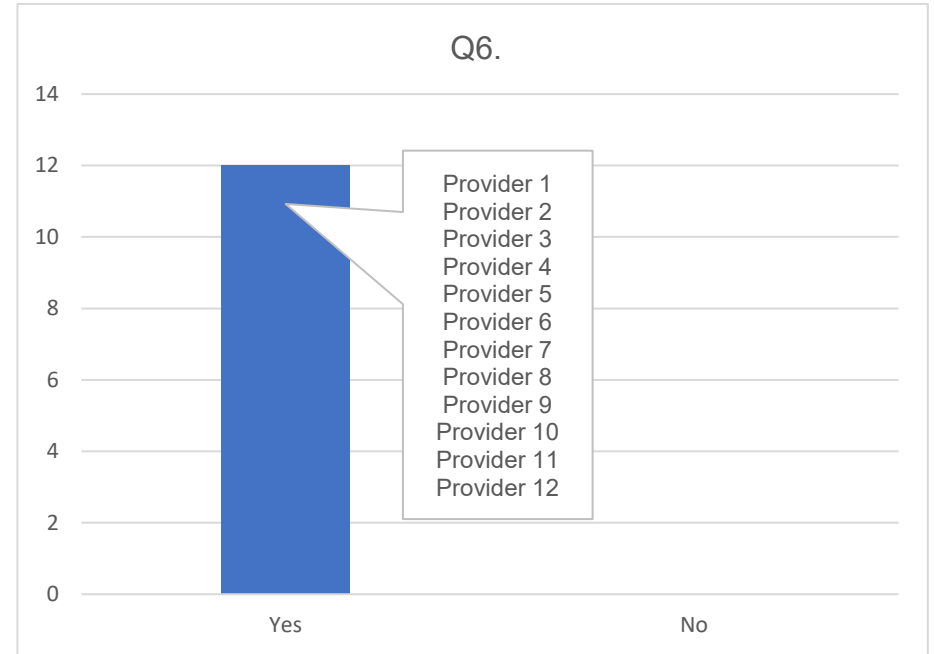
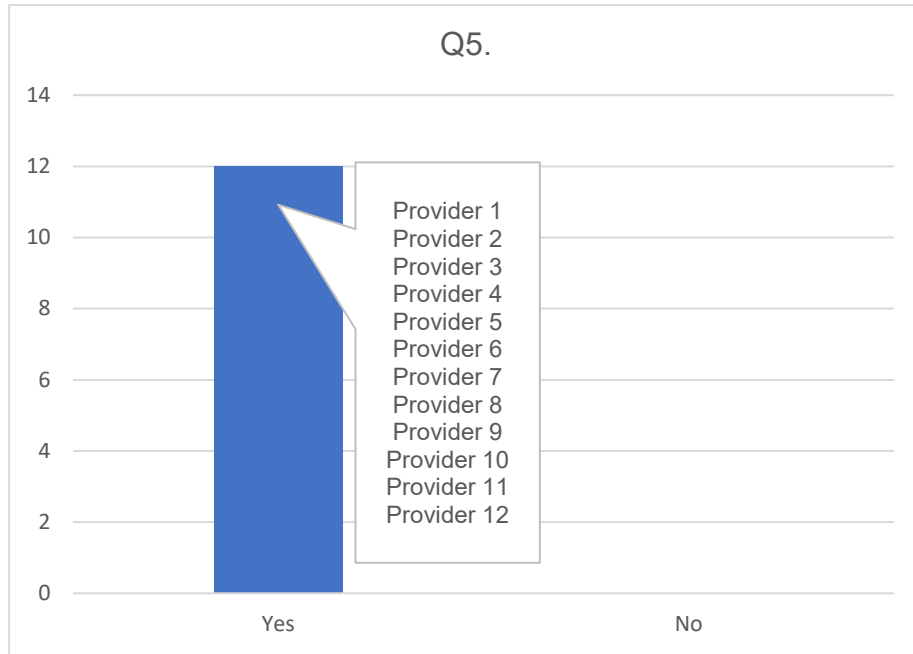
7/12 providers answered Yes to covering the cost of the Social Care Wales annual registration fee. 5/12 answered No.

**ACTION:** All 5 providers who answered No will be encouraged to cover the cost of the Social Care Wales annual registration fee at their Contract Review Meetings.

*Question 4. As an employer do you cover the cost of SCW registered Service Provider Personnel mandatory qualifications fees?*

9/12 providers answered Yes to covering the cost of SCW registered Service Provider Personnel mandatory qualifications fees. 3/12 answered No.

**ACTION:** Non-compliance will be raised with all 3 providers who answered No at their Contract Review Meetings.



*Question 5. As an employer are you providing staff with uniform without charge?*

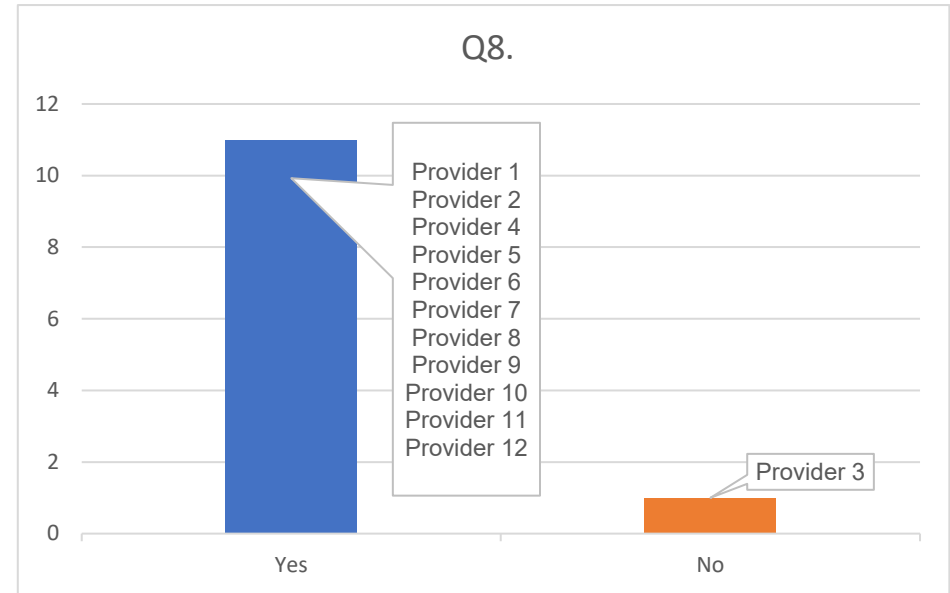
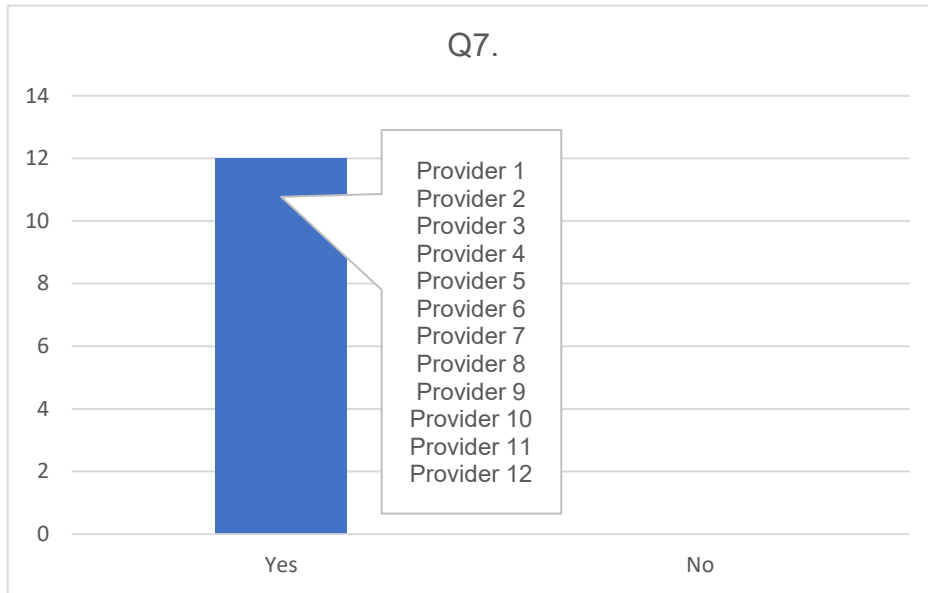
All 12 providers, 100% answered Yes to providing staff with uniform without charge.

**ACTION:** No action required.

*Question 6. As an employer do you pay travel time at the RLW between all calls? (Contact calls cannot be back-to-back. Travel time to the first call and from the last call may be excluded from travel time claims, where shifts are a minimum of 6 hours each.)*

All 12 providers, 100% answered Yes to pay travel time at the RLW between all calls.

**ACTION:** No action required.



*Question 7. As an employer when commissioned hours have been paid for i.e. a cancelled call without sufficient notice. Are you paying the Service Provider Personnel directly involved in delivering care for this time?*

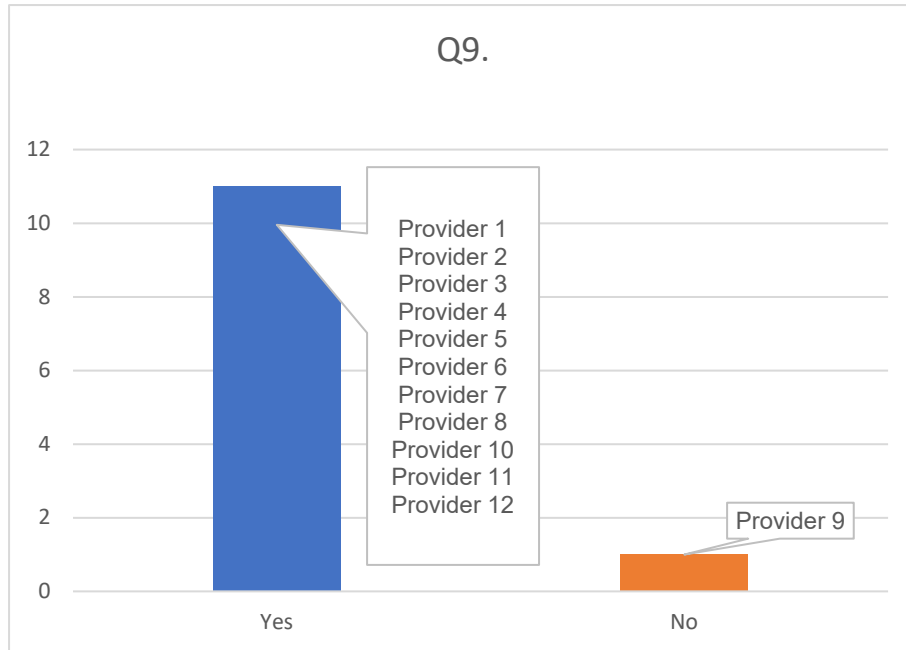
All 12 providers, 100% answered Yes to paying the Service Provider Personnel for cancelled calls without notice.

**ACTION:** No action required.

*Question 8. As an employer when commissioned hours have been paid for under the Retainer Scheme, i.e. for approved hospital and respite periods of absence. Are you continuing to pay the Service Provider Personnel directly involved in delivering care for this period of time?*

11/12 providers answered Yes to paying the Service Provider Personnel for cancelled calls under the Retainer Scheme. Provider 3 answered No. Please see Appendix 2 for further information provided by Provider 3.

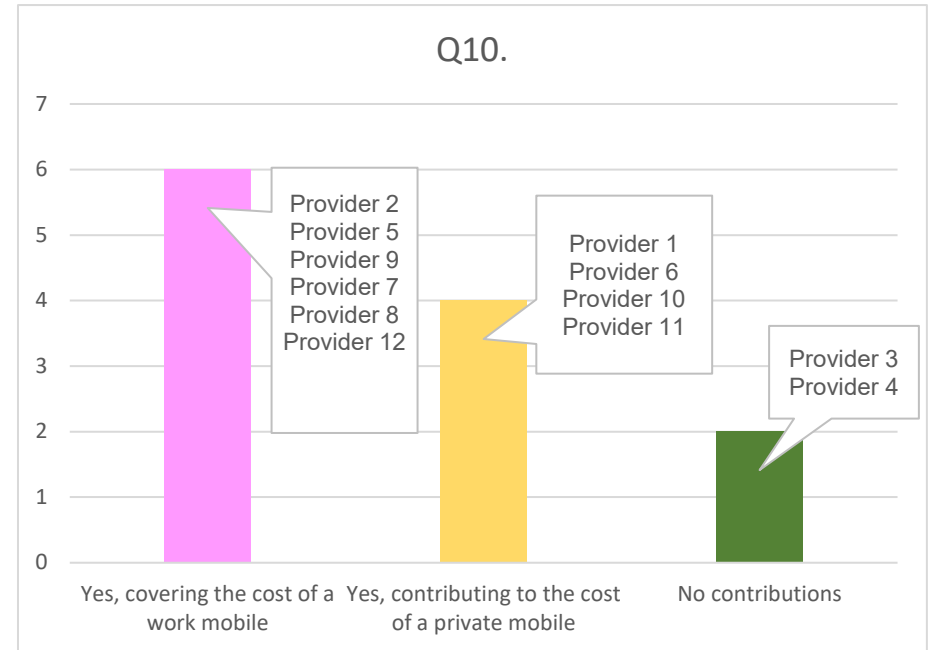
**ACTION:** CCC'S Commissioning + Contract framework will be raised with Provider 3 at the Contract Review Meeting. The Provider is not submitting for eligible claims. There is a need to understand their rationale for not claiming and therefore clarify if personnel are directly paid for these hours/calls.



*Question 9. As an employer are you paying Service Provider Personnel the HMRC current mileage rate per mile when using their own car for work duties?*

11/12 providers answered Yes to paying the Service Provider Personnel the HMRC current mileage rate per mile when using their own car for work duties. Provider 9 answered No.

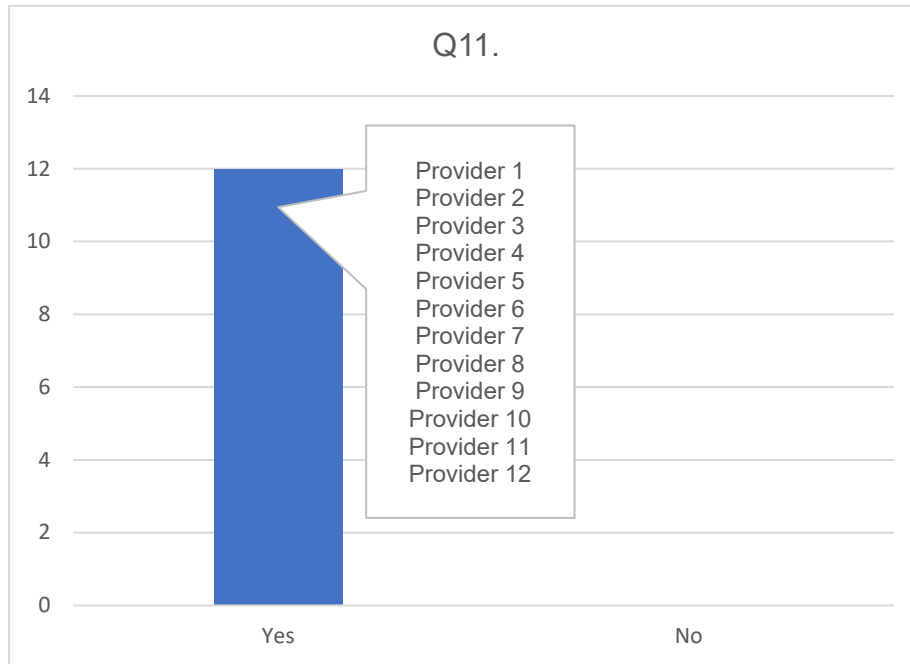
**ACTION:** Non-compliance will be raised with Provider 9 at the Contract Review Meeting.



*Question 10. As an employer are you either covering the cost of a work mobile or contributing to the cost of private mobile phones when used?*

6/12 providers answered Yes to covering the cost a work mobile, 4/12 answered Yes to contributing to the cost of a private mobile and 2/12 answered No contributions

**ACTION:** Non-compliance will be raised with Provider 3 and Provider 4 at their Contract Review Meetings.

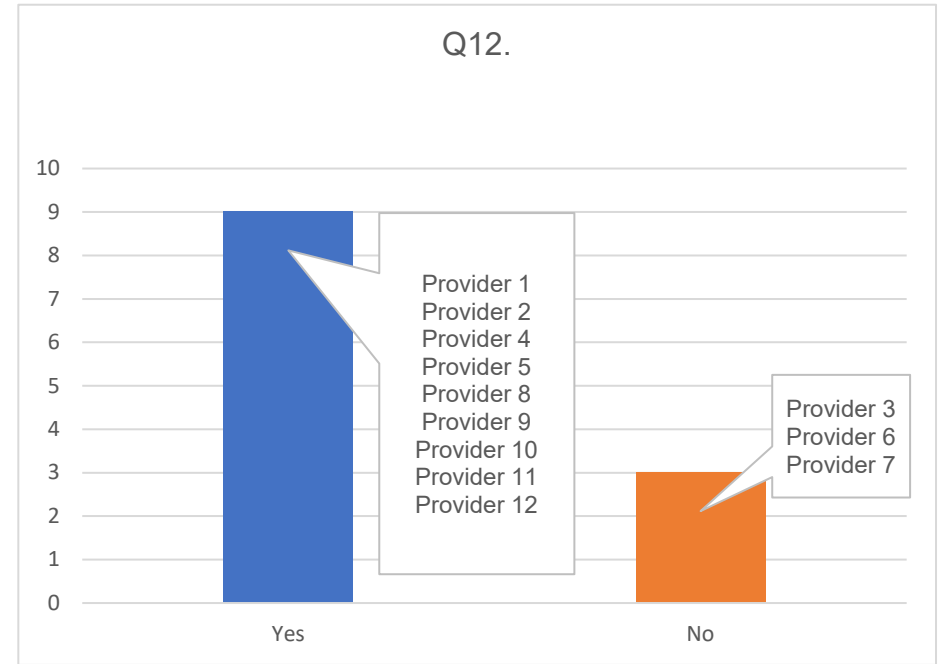


*Question 11. As an employer are you paying Service Provider Personnel any amount of time spent training i.e. All Wales Induction Framework (AWIF) and other mandatory training i.e. All Wales Passport and mandatory updates.*

All 12 providers, 100% answered Yes to paying the Service Provider Personnel any amount of time spent training.

Please see Appendix 2 for further information provided.

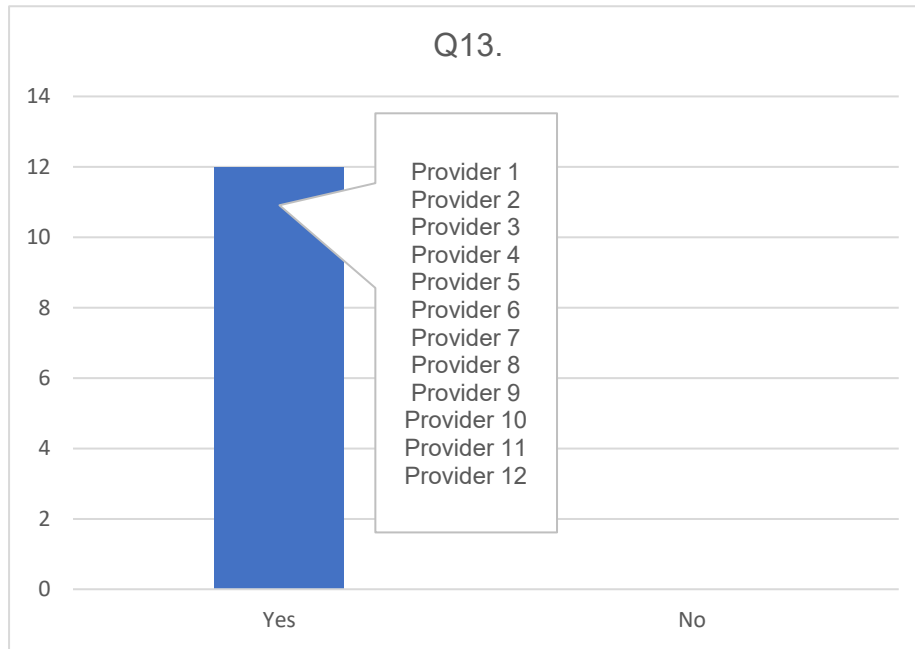
**ACTION:** Provider 4, 1 and 8 will be asked whether training is paid at RLW or lower as ALL providers answered Yes to paying Service Provider Personnel the RLW, therefore training should also be paid for in the RLW.



*Question 12. As an employer are you paying for all breaks at the RLW as a minimum, except for one 30 minutes break per day?*

9/12 providers answered Yes to paying for all breaks at the RLW as a minimum, except for one 30 minutes break per day. 3/12 answered No.

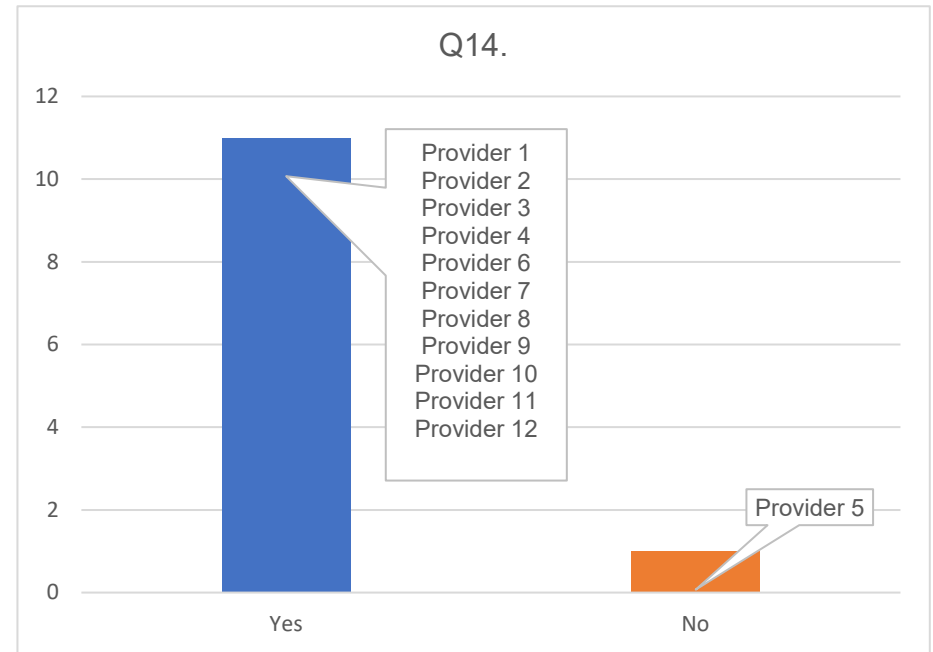
**ACTION:** Provider 3, 6 and 7 will be asked to provide further detail as to what Service Provider Personnel receive for their breaks per day to clarify.



*Question 13. As an employer do you ensure Service Provider Personnel directly involved in delivering care have adequate rest between shifts? (i.e. if a SPP worker is rostered to work late they are not scheduled for an early start the next day, in accordance with the Working Time Regulations 1998.)*

All 12 providers, 100% answered Yes to ensuring that the Service Provider Personnel directly involved in delivering care have adequate rest between shifts per the Working Time Regulations 1998.

**ACTION:** No action required.

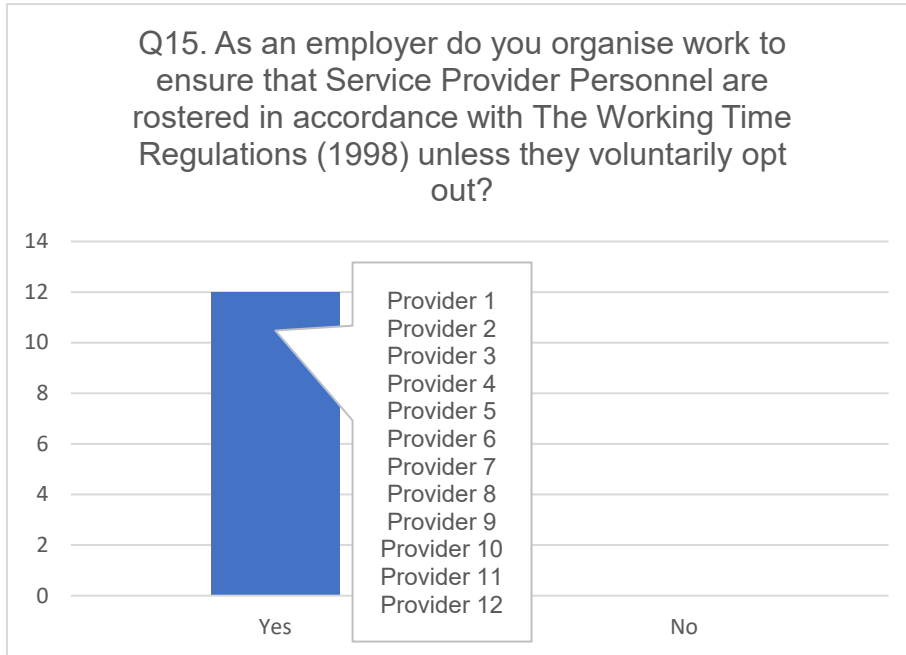


*Question 14. As an employer do you provide Service Provider Personnel access to emotional support, counselling and wellbeing through proactive support?*

11/12 answered Yes to providing Service Provider Personnel access to emotional support, counselling and wellbeing through proactive support. Provider 5 answered No.

Please see Appendix 2 for further information provided.

**ACTION:** Non-compliance will be raised with Provider 5 at the Contract Review Meeting verify their understanding of the question as a range of available and free resources have been suggested by CCC regularly.



*Question 13. As an employer do you organise work to ensure that Service Provider Personnel are rostered in accordance with The Working Time Regulations (1998) unless they voluntarily opt out?*

All 12 providers, 100% answered Yes to organising work to ensure that Service Provider Personnel are rostered in accordance with The Working Time Regulations (1998) unless they voluntarily opt out.

**ACTION:** No action required.

## Appendix 1

Summary Link To MS Forms

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?AnalyzerToken=DcT5wtl0HtkGNPGLTvFSkiqfNnf6XQzL&id=uYWs-IYvNU2Fwnkevin1iNZY7ppPbjxMglKOPQFtvgtURU9QSIYxQ1BaWjhZR0wyUjIKRjBDS1VFRiQIQCN0PWcu>

## Appendix 2

Additional information

**Additional information was provided for question 8 as one provider answered No -**

**1- Provider 3**

*Because we do not receive a retainer payment?*

**Additional information was provided for question 11 as all 12 providers answered Yes –**

**1- Provider 5**

*All training hours are paid to staff.*

**2- Provider 9**

*All training hours are paid at their current hourly rate.*

**3- Provider 12**

*All training is paid for including E Learning & Classroom training. We pay our staff for any training they attend.*

**4- Provider 3**

*We pay our staff for any training they attend.*

**5- Provider 6**

*All training course and time are paid in full.*



**6- Provider 7**

*All staff are paid for attending training per hour.*

**7- Provider 4**

*Training paid at minimum wage.*

**8- Provider 8**

*Staff are paid at NMW for all training.*

**9- Provider 11**

*Yes we pay RLW for training.*

**10- Provider 2**

*We pay the Real Living Wage to staff whilst on training.*

**11-Provider 10**

*Induction training and other in-person training (e.g. manual handling) is paid to carers.*

**12-Provider 1**

*All training paid at standard hourly rate.*

**Additional information was provided for question 14 as 11/12 providers answered Yes –**

**1- Provider 9**

*Health Assured Employee Assistance Program.*

**2- Provider 12**

*Support is carried out with our office based team and our HR department.*

**3- Provider 3**

*We have a company app.*

**4- Provider 6**

*Open door policy in supervisions and good working relationships to ensure emotional support is available. All underpinned by robust policy's and procedures.*

**5- Provider 7**

*Registered Manager is a qualified mental health first aider.*

**6- Provider 4**

*Peninsula counselling support.*

**7- Provider 8**

*We have access to an occupational therapist when required and it is always offered to staff*

**8- Provider 11**

*Counselling online.*

**9- Provider 2**

*Informal support is provided regularly by line managers, and formal supervision is conducted a minimum of three monthly. Regular debriefs are conducted after serious incidents or periods of high intensity. These debriefs provide access to well-being support and independent counselling resources when needed. Cadw'n Iach: Our in-house staff support well-being program offers confidential advice, practical support, and information to enhance emotional health and well-being. Managers can refer staff members to external counselling services and occupational health resources when faced with professional or personal challenges.*

**10-Provider 10**

*Staff fully supported during regular supervisions; we will raise awareness too of resources accessible through SCW.*

**11-Provider 1**

*All employees have access to an Employee Assistance Programme Telus Health which was previously Life Works.*

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at the Council Chamber, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron and remotely on Monday, 15 July 2024**

**Present:** Councillor Ceris Jones (Chair), Councillors Amanda Edwards (Vice-Chair), Elaine Evans, Eryl Evans, Keith Evans, Wyn Evans, Gwyn James, Ann Bowen Morgan, Caryl Roberts, John Roberts, Mark Strong & Carl Worrall.

**Also in attendance:** Councillors Rhodri Evans & Gareth Lloyd.

**Cabinet Members present:** Councillors Catrin M S. Davies, Matthew Vaux & Alun Williams.

**Officers in attendance:** Audrey Somerton-Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cynnal; Greg Jones, Corporate Lead Officer: Porth Cymorth Cynnar; Iwan Davies, Corporate Manager: Early Intervention; Nerys Lewis, Corporate Manager: Direct Services; Heddwyn Evans, Environmental Health Manager; Elis Gwyn, Senior Environmental Health Officer; Dwynwen Jones, Overview and Scrutiny Office & Neris Morgans, Democratic Services Officer.

(10.33am- 12.30pm)

**1 Apologies**

- i. Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Democratic Services, Policy, Performance and People and Organisation apologised for his inability to attend the meeting.
- ii. Councillors Keith Evans and Carl Worrall apologised for having to leave the meeting early.

**2 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.**

Councillor Alun Williams declared a personal interest in the discussions surrounding GP Services in item 7.

**3 A report on the findings of Ceredigion County Council's 2023 Air Quality Progress Report, In fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Air Quality Management.**

Councillor Matthew Vaux (Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection) presented the report on the findings of Ceredigion County Council's 2023 Air Quality Progress Report. Within Ceredigion, the air quality standards had been found to be well within the national standards therefore there were no Local Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). However, across Wales, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) were the main two pollutants of concern, with other

Welsh Authorities having declared more than 40 AQMAs to date, one for PM<sub>10</sub>, the rest associated with NO<sub>2</sub> from road traffic.

The local authority must report on both local NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> levels annually. An overview of the monitoring of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> in Ceredigion was provided. The Air Quality Progress Report related to data gathered in the previous year, therefore the 2023 report related to air monitoring data collected in 2022. The NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations noted at all locations of Ceredigion in 2022 were well below the statutory limit (annual mean of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>) during all months when data was collected. Ceredigion continued to experience some of the best air quality standards in Wales with all monitoring locations being highly compliant with legal standards.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Officers and Councillor Matthew Vaux. The main points raised were as follows:

- Members praised the report and encouraged all to share the county's success.
- Sites were reviewed to ensure the most appropriate areas were monitored and Officers were open to new suggestions. No monitoring had taken place in Penparcau, Aberystwyth in the past and given the traffic levels in the area, the Committee agreed to request that this be considered.
- Higher levels of NO<sub>2</sub> in January compared to the summer months when there was traditionally a higher traffic volume was a trend nationally. This was possibly due to an increased use of central heating and different climatic conditions. Air Quality Standards should improve with an increase in the uptake of electric vehicles.
- The local authority and National Resources Wales (NRW) worked closely together. Local authorities regulated processes that emitted into the air and smaller-sized processes whilst NRW tended to regulate larger processes such as anaerobic digesters and larger-sized biomasses.

It was AGREED to note the contents of the report and to recommend placing Diffusion Tubes in Penparcau, Aberystwyth.

#### **4 Age-friendly Communities assessment**

Councillor Alun Williams (Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing) presented the Ceredigion Self-Assessment for registration with the World Health Organisation (WHO) Age-Friendly Network. In 2014, every local authority in Wales signed the Dublin Declaration committing to working in partnership for the development of Age-Friendly Communities. It was estimated that the population of Ceredigion had declined over the last 10 years, from 75,220 in 2010 to 72,895 in 2020. Trends showed that the working-age population (16-64) had decreased by 14% since 2001, while the 65+ population had increased significantly by 29.5%. It was predicted that these trends would continue.

For the past 18 months, the Carers and Community Support Team have undertaken engagement work with various relevant forums and collected

information in relation to resident's experiences of ageing in Ceredigion, with a view to apply to become a member of the WHO's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

A brief overview of the steps local authorities were required to undertake to achieve membership was provided. The first stage of the process was to provide a self-assessment via online pro-forma against the 8 domains of Age-Friendly Communities and a letter of endorsement from the Chief Executive and the nominated Cabinet Member. The self-assessment would be verified by the Older People's Commissioner Office on behalf of the WHO and if accepted, the Local Authority would be required to develop an Action Plan to make Ceredigion a better place to age. Continual engagement with older persons would be at the heart of developing and reviewing the plan.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Officers and Councillor Alun Williams. The main points raised were as follows:

- The scheme was a commitment as opposed to an accreditation. It would enable the local authority to be a part of the age-friendly network, where organisations nationally and globally would be able to share information and practices for the benefit of the ageing population and to help navigate challenges in society.
- It was acknowledged that family and communities provided valuable support to the older generation, and it was vital where possible, that they remained close to their local areas.
- Members thanked all who had contributed to the scheme to date and wished the team well in developing the action plan.

It was AGREED to endorse the submission of the self-assessment and a covering letter to the World Health Organisation. If successful, this will result in Ceredigion being admitted to the WHO network of Age-Friendly communities.

## **5 Special Guardianship Orders Policy**

Councillor Alun Williams (Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing) explained that reducing Children Looked After (CLA) numbers safe and appropriately was a national priority for the Welsh Government. It was a key corporate priority for the local authority, as, when safe, enabled a positive outcome for children and young people to live in a permanent home, where possible within their own birth family, or where this was not possible, in a permanent family home. There were many reasons why some children were unable to live with their birth parent(s) and at times, arrangements needed to be made for children to be cared for by others. Some children may live with other members of their family, foster carers, adoptive parents or in residential care placements.

A SGO was a Court Order which appointed a specific person(s) to become a child's Guardian until they reached 18. An SGO offered greater security than long-term fostering but did not entail the absolute legal severance from the birth family that stemmed from an adoption order. It was therefore a good

and stable outcome for an increasing number of children and young people. SGOs were introduced by the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The Special Guardianship (Wales) Regulations 2005, were subsequently introduced and amended by The Special Guardianship (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 and Special Guardianship Code of Practice on the exercise of social services functions in relation to Special Guardianship orders 2018. At present, there were 39 SGOs registered through Ceredigion, accounting for in the region of £280k pa, and over 50% of these would be 18 in the next 5 years.

The local authority has reviewed the Special Guardianship Policy, which set out the eligibility to become a Special Guardian, the application process and the Local Authority's responsibilities in terms of reporting to the Court, Support available to Special Guardians etc. The reviewed and updated Policy has been aligned with the "Guide for the Offer of Special Guardianship Support in Wales 2020 (AFA)" which drew together all relevant statutory guidance. The review identified that greater clarification was required in relation to the Financial Support available to Special Guardians and, to do this, a standalone "Special Guardianship Orders Financial Policy" was required. The policy aimed to reduce the potential delay in achieving permanence for children and young people, when Prospective Guardians were uncertain of the Financial Support available to them.

Following a comprehensive review of the Policy, a consultation with existing SGOs in relation to the Special Guardianship Order Policy and Financial Policy was undertaken over 2 weeks (22 May 2024 – 5 June 2024). The consultation was shared with existing SGOs, CAFCASS, Ceredigion County Council Staff, Foster Panel members and other key stakeholders and on the Ceredigion County Council website. The policies have been updated to reflect the input from the 7 responses received. It was acknowledged that the local authority needed to improve contacts with the guardians and the development of the policies was the first step in improving the service.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Officers and Councillor Alun Williams. The main points raised were as follows:

- It was noted that the safeguarding and wellbeing of a child was paramount, as was to ensure a child had a steady home to reside in.
- The possibility of adoption was ruled out before a SGO application process was considered. SGO was the preferred option as opposed to adoption, as birth parents could continue to have input where appropriate.
- Members commended the staff for their work. Officers thanked the SGOs for their support and commitment to the children and young people during a challenging time in their lives.

It was AGREED to recommend that the Cabinet approve the Special Guardianship Order Financial Policy and delegate authority to the Statutory Director of Social Care to implement the new policy and review annually.

## 6 Supported Lodgings Policy

Councillor Alun Williams (Cabinet Member for Through Age and Wellbeing) presented the Supported Lodgings Policy. The local authority currently had minimal opportunities to provide suitable accommodation to accommodate 16+. Supported Lodgings (SL) was intended to provide a 'stepping stone' to independent living for the young people of Ceredigion, aged between 16-25 years of age. This included young people leaving care who may not be fully ready to take on their own tenancies, who were homeless or who were unaccompanied asylum seekers. The provision did not come under the Regulation of Social Care Wales Act (RISCA) and there was no requirement for the provision to be registered with Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

SL described a situation where a young person lived with a family, an individual or a couple who had a spare room and were willing to provide informal guidance and practical assistance to the young person who would live semi-independently. The Host would support the young person's progress and guide them towards full independence. The report outlined a scheme proposal for Ceredigion, that would bridge and provide meaningful support and accommodation for our young people whilst they transitioned into adulthood.

Within the local authority, there were 29 young people aged 16-17 who were due to leave care within the next 2 years and 16 more who were turning 16 in the next 12 months, making the total projected demand approximately 45. The Policy was underpinned by the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and outlined the assessment process along with the role of the panel in reviewing applications alongside the ongoing support that would be developed for the hosts. An overview of the proposal was provided.

Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions which were answered by Officers and Councillor Alun Williams. The main points raised were as follows:

- There was a financial test attached to the scheme in the event a young person was in or found employment whilst in SL and support to explore benefits and financial support would be provided.
- The scheme operated in some other local authorities for several years, and it was a way to help retain young people in the local area.
- SL was set out in legislation, and hosts would be assessed, approved, and reviewed as required.
- The plan initially was to have 3 or 4 SLs in the county, and following feedback, this would hopefully increase in line with the service's capacity.

It was AGREED to recommend that Cabinet:

- approve the Supported Lodgings Policy and scheme.
- give delegate authority to the Statutory Director of Social Care to implement policy and review annually.

**7 To Consider the Forward Work Plan 2024/2025**

It was AGREED to note the contents of the Forward Work Programme presented subject to the following:

- Financial update related to the Committee's remit prior to 25/26 budget setting process.
- Update by the NHS on Ceredigion's dentistry services / GP surgeries.
- Update related to mental health provision in the county (including by agricultural charities– Tir Dewi, The DPJ Foundation & RABI).

**8 Confirm minutes of the 11th March 2024 and 21st March 2024 and to consider any matters arising therefrom**

It was AGREED to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024 and 21 March 2024.

Matters arising: None.

**Confirmed at the Meeting of the Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 September 2024**

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_