

Social Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2020/2021

(The Work Programme is reviewed at each meeting and as such is subject to change)

Committee Date	Overarching Item	Officer & Cabinet Member	Scrutiny Focus	Cross Cutting Strategies and Plans
15th September 2020	Forward Work Programme 2020/2021	Cllr Bill Smith (Chair) and Scrutiny Committee Members	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The draft Forward Work Programme is developed at the beginning of the municipal year by the Members of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee, which includes the areas the members wish to focus on throughout the year. However, it is a fluid document and it may change due to the needs of the Social Services Scrutiny Committee. Therefore, the committee is to consider and approve the Forward Work Programme as it stands for Social Services (2020/2021).	Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan (Governance)
	Coronavirus Pandemic - Update on Recovery and Activity	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer of Social Services) / Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The committee has requested a report to give an update on how Social Services are responding to the demands and challenges due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This report should also outline the services transition to recovery and lessons learned going forward.	Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan
6th October 2020	Complaints and Compliments (2018/19)	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer) / Gaynor Lewis (Complaints Manager) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Local Authorities are required to the Social Services Complaints Procedure (Wales) Regulations 2014 and the Representations Procedure (Wales) Regulations 2014 to produce an Annual Report about the operation of their Social Services Complaints, Representations and Compliments Policy and Procedures. The complaints reports are completed retrospectively after the complaints have been resolved; this can take up to 6-8 months after the financial year. Therefore, a mid-year report (2017/18) was presented to Scrutiny in September 2019. The committee has now requested an end of year report (2018/19) for consideration and challenge. The report should include any details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement for 2019/20.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Day Services	Angela Edevane (Head of Adults Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Summary report providing a position statement on the performance within 20/21, along with any details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome. The report is also to consider key areas for development and improvement for 2020/21 within Merthyr Tydfil. Specific focus to be confirmed.	Focus on the Future SSWBA

As per the Audit Wales (AW) scrutiny forward work programmes should: provide a clear rationale for topic selection; be more outcome focussed; ensure that the method of scrutiny is best suited to the topic area and the outcome desired; align scrutiny programmes with the council's performance management, self-evaluation and improvement arrangements.

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	Forward Work Programme	Chair and Committee Members	Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report.	
17th November 2020	Budget Position updates	Lisa Curtis Jones (Chief Officer of Social Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - A report is to be presented to Scrutiny providing an update on Social Services budget and areas of likely overspend and the measures that have been put in place to help reduce any overspend within the department. This report should also give any details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome.	Focus on the Future
	Transition of Young People Leaving Care	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer of Social Services) / Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Summary report providing a position statement on the performance within 20/21, along with any details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome. The report is also to consider key areas for development and improvement for 2020/21 within Merthyr Tydfil. Specific focus to be confirmed.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Forward Work Programme	Chair and Committee Members	Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report.	
5th January 2021	Adult Services Strategies (2020/21)	Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Adult Services will provide a position statement on strategies applicable to Adult Social Services. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement for Q4 (2020/21) and 2021/22.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Children Services Strategies (2020/21)	Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Children's Services will provide a position statement on strategies applicable to Children's Social Services. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement for Q4 (2020/21) and 2021/22.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Forward Work Programme	Chair and Committee Members	Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report.	
2nd February 2021	Adult Services Strategies (2020/21)	Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Adult Services will provide a position statement on strategies applicable to Adult Social Services. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement for Q4 (2020/21) and 2021/22.	Focus on the Future SSWBA

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	Deferred from 5th January 2021	Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)		
	Children Services Strategies (2020/21) Deferred from 5th January 2021	Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Children's Services will provide a position statement on strategies applicable to Children's Social Services. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement for Q4 (2020/21) and 2021/22.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Review of Whistleblowing and Corporate Safeguarding Referred by Audit Committee	Jon Eyre (Safeguarding Manager) / Fran Donnelly (Head of Human Resources) / Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer of Social Services)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Referred to Scrutiny by Audit Committee for review and challenge. Note and debate the progress made against the Corporate Safeguarding Action Plan.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Forward Work Programme	Chair and Committee Members	Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report.	
16th March 2021	Adults and Young Careers	Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - A report is to be presented to Scrutiny with on the Carers Strategy and the impact it is having on the Adults and Young Carers. Details should also be provided on any issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome or how you plan to overcome them. The report is also to consider key areas for development and improvement for 2020/21 within Merthyr Tydfil.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Safeguarding Board Annual Report (and current update)	Nicholas Kingham (RCT) / Jon Eyre (Safeguarding Manager)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Safeguarding is a clear priority for the Council. As a Local Authority we have a duty to safeguard children and adults at risk as set out by the Social Services and Well-Being Act (SSWBA). Therefore, the committee has requested a summary of the 2019/20 Safeguarding Board Annual Regional Plan, which is to also identify the key areas of improvement going forward both regionally and in Merthyr Tydfil.	Focus on the Future SSWBA

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	Deferred from 2nd February 2020		The cover report should include any trend/current data specific Merthyr Tydfil and details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement for 2020/21.	
	Social Services Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan Update	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer of Social Services) / Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: The social care provision has been under strain throughout the pandemic and there are likely to be additional pressures from new caseloads being reported following a release from lockdown and over the winter months placing further challenges on the resilience of the services. Therefore, the members have requested the Chief Officer of Social Services to provide a position statement on the Social Services Recovery, Transformation, and Improvement Plan along with any details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome. The report is also to identify the key areas for development and improvement for 2021/22.	Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan Focus on the Future
	Forward Work Programme	Chair and Committee Members	Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report.	
7th April 2021	Community Occupational Therapy (COT) and Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer of Social Services) / RCT	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Summary report providing a position statement on the performance within 20/21, along with any details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome. The report is also to consider key areas for development and improvement for 2020/21 within Merthyr Tydfil. Specific focus to be confirmed.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Edge of Care (Strategy Update)	Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - Summary report providing a position statement on the performance within 20/21, along with any details of issues/barriers experienced and how these have been overcome. The report is also to consider key areas for development and improvement for 2020/21 within Merthyr Tydfil.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan - Adult Advocacy	Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny and Challenge: - The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 defines advocacy services as: "services which provide assistance (by way of representation or otherwise) to persons for purposes relating to their care and support". The act refers to services being provided by independent professional advocates in relation to adults' and children's care and support. Adult Advocacy has been identified as an area for improvement in the Social	Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan Focus on the Future

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	Deferred from 2nd February 2021		Services Recovery, Transformation, and Improvement Plan, therefore, the members request an update report to be presented on the development of advocacy services for adults. The report should also provide any details of issues / barriers experienced and how these have been overcome and priorities going forward, and any analysis of the engagement undertaken and a draft of the co-produced strategy (if possible).	SSWBA
	Forward Work Programme	Chair and Committee Members	Scrutiny and Challenge: - To review the items due to be presented at the next Committee meeting, ensuring a clear brief of the Committee's expectations are available to report authors who will be drafting the report.	

Additional Topics for Consideration			
2020/21 Self-Evaluation (3 questions) Dates of completion of 2020/21 SER questions are yet to be confirmed.	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer of Social Services) / Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Chris Davies (Portfolio Member)	Scrutiny and Challenge: Made up of 3 key questions the re-focused self-evaluation process supports Chief Officers and service teams to reflect on what they achieved and identify and set priorities for improvement. The Committee will receive the service's response to the first of the key questions which is linked to Outcomes. They will be required to scrutinise the proforma outlining the findings of the process (along with relevant supporting evidence); and review the validity of the judgment ascribed.	Focus on the Future

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