

Social Services Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Descriptors 2021/2022

(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
8th June 2021	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)
	The Supporting Change Service (Strategy Update)	Taryn Stephens (Head of Children Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Children's Services will provide a position statement on the Supporting Change Service. The report will highlight the progress being made in this service area, areas of development and improvement.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	RTI Plan Update (Completed Projects/ Key Projects)	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Chief Officer for Social Services will provide an updated report around the Recovery and transformation plan, looking at they key projects. For this meeting an overall update will be given and details around the projects that have already been completed.	Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan (Governance)
13th July 2021	Annual Report on Social Services (2020/21)	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Consultation:- as part of the preparation for the Annual Social Services report we are required to consult with stakeholders. This session is with scrutiny members to consider the past year and look at areas of development in 21/22.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Update on the Position of Care Homes (Recovery Plan)	Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Adult Services will provide a position statement on the position within the care home sector. The report will also identify key areas for development and improvement.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery,

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		(Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)		Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Covid Recovery Plan	Taryn Stephens (head of Children Services)/Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny and Challenge: This is to provide an overview to Scrutiny members of the past year and the impact on COVID on social services. With a view to outlining the plans to recovery.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Safeguarding Audit Report Findings (From Internal Audit)	Jon Eyre (Principal Officer for Safeguarding)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny and Challenge: A corporate review of safeguarding was undertaken by Internal audit in April/May 2021. This report outlines the findings and recommendations from this audit.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
7th September 2021	Corporate Self Evaluation KQ1 – Outcomes Deferred until further notice	Taryn Stephens (head of Children Services)/Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	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. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	RTI Plan Update	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Chief Officer for Social Services will provide an updated report around the Recovery and transformation plan, looking at key projects.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.

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	Annual Report on Social Services (2020/21)	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Chief Officer for Social Services will present the Annual Report on Social Services for 20/21. This report should contain all further updates from any additional consultation and previous comments made by Scrutiny, before submitting to Full Council.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Cwm Taf Youth Offending Service (YOS) (Annual Report - listed for Cabinet on 16/06)	Lyndon Lewis (Youth Offending Service Manager)/Taryn Stephens (Head of Children Services/ Cllr Chris Davies (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Youth Offending Service (YOS) is a multi-agency team which is made up of members of the Police, Probation, Health, Education, Substance Misuse and Social Services; as well as other specific to the team. The YOS deals with young people between the ages of 10 and 18 who are involved in the criminal justice system and those who are just on the periphery of becoming involved in the system. The committee requires a position statement on the performance within the Cwm Taf region 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.
12th October 2021	Annual Report – Social Services Complaints and Compliments (2020/21) Deferred until 4th Jan 2022 (agreed in 12th October Scrutiny).	Gaynor Lewis (Corporate Complaints Officer)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	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. The committee has requested an end of year report (2020/21) 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 21/22.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Adult Social Care Strategies – Day Services (position of ds, implications of closure and support provided)	Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Adult Services will provide a position statement in respect of Day Services. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.

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	Children Services Strategies – Early Help Hub	Taryn Stephens (Head of Children Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Children Services will provide a position statement in respect of the Early help Hub. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
23rd November 2021	Update on Staffing Capacity (Children’s and Adult Services) (requested by Members on 12th October Scrutiny)	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/ Taryn Stephens (Head of Children Service)/ Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service) Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Information Report: As a result of challenge and discussions in 12 th October Social Services Scrutiny Committee, Members have requested an Information Report on staffing numbers throughout the Social Services during the pandemic (and currently) for both Adults and Children’s Services. This report should also include details on staff employed to cover issues during the pandemic and staff employed through Covid funding.	Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan. SSWBA. Focus on the Future.
	Update on Budget Position	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	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
	Children Services Strategies – Corporate Parenting Board (also to cover CLA)	Taryn Stephens (Head of Children Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Head of Children Services will provide a position statement in respect of the Corporate Parenting Board and Children Looked after. The report is also to identify key areas for development and improvement.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	RTI Plan Update	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Chief Officer for Social Services will provide an updated report around the Recovery and transformation plan, looking at key projects.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.

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4th January 2022	Regional Partnership Business	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - This report is to provide a regional annual position summary along with a current position update on this service within Merthyr Tydfil	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Corporate Self Evaluation KQ2 – Provision & Service Delivery Deferred until further notice	Taryn Stephens (head of Children Services)/Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	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. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Annual Report – Social Services Complaints and Compliments (2020/21) Deferred from 12th October 2021. (Agreed by members in 12th October Scrutiny).	Gaynor Lewis (Corporate Complaints Officer)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	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. The committee has requested an end of year report (2020/21) 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 21/22.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Verbal Update	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Verbal Update: The Chair has requested a verbal update on the impact of Covid-19 on the service at the beginning of each scrutiny meeting due to the current increased positive cases of the Omicron variant.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.

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15th February 2022	Cwm Taf Safeguarding Board Annual Report (and current update)	Nicola Kingham (Safeguarding Board Manager)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	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 Safeguarding Board Annual Regional Plan, which is to also identify the key areas of improvement going forward both regionally and in Merthyr Tydfil. 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 2021/22.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
	Adult Advocacy Strategy	Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	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 was identified as an area for improvement in the Social Services Recovery, Transformation, and Improvement Plan. This is an update to scrutiny members on the current position regards adult advocacy. 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).	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	RTI Plan Update	Taryn Stephens (head of Children Services)/Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - The Chief Officer for Social Services will provide an updated report around the Recovery and transformation plan, looking at key projects.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Verbal Update	Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for	Verbal Update: The Chair has requested a verbal update on the impact of Covid-19 on the service at the beginning of each scrutiny meeting due to the current increased positive cases of the Omicron variant.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery,

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		Social Services and Deputy Leader)		Transformation & Improvement Plan.
29th March 2022	Corporate Self Evaluation KQ3 – Leadership & Management	Taryn Stephens (head of Children Services)/Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	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. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
	Vale, Valleys & Cardiff Adoption Collaborative (VVC) Annual Report	Taryn Stephens (head of Children Services)/ Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - This report is to provide a regional annual position summary for the VVC adoption collaboration, along with a current position update on this service within Merthyr Tydfil.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA.
	Adults and Young Carers Update	Taryn Stephens (head of Children Services)/Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Service)/Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer Social Services)/Cllr Tony Rogers (Cabinet Member for Social Services and Deputy Leader)	Scrutiny & Challenge: - A report is to be presented to Scrutiny 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 2021/22 within Merthyr Tydfil.	Focus on the Future. SSWBA. Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan.
10th May 2022	Cancelled due to May elections.			

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Additional Topics for Consideration			
<p>2021/22 Self-Evaluation (3 questions) Dates of completion of 2021/22 SER questions are yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>Item to be presented on 29th March 2022</p>	<p>Lisa Curtis-Jones (Chief Officer of Social Services) / Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Tony Rogers (Portfolio Member)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Focus on the Future</p>
<p>Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan - Adult Advocacy</p> <p>Item presented on the 2nd February. This is to be brought back to Scrutiny 6 months from the date it was presented to provide committee members with an update on the position/ development of this particular item.</p>	<p>Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services) / Councillor Tony Rogers (Portfolio Member)</p>	<p>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 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).</p>	<p>Recovery, Transformation & Improvement Plan</p> <p>Focus on the Future</p> <p>SSWBA</p>
<p>Edge of Care (Strategy Update) Deferred from April to next committee cycle. Agreed by Chair on the 14th April 2021.</p>	<p>Taryn Hudd (Head of Children's Services) / Councillor Tony Rogers (Portfolio Member)</p>	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge: - Summary report providing a position statement on the performance within 21/22, 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 2021/22 within Merthyr Tydfil.</p>	<p>Focus on the Future</p> <p>SSWBA</p>
<p>Emergency Duty Team (based in Pontypridd) - Members have</p>	<p>Emergency Duty Team / Lisa Curtis Jones (Director of Social Services)</p>	<p>Scrutiny & Challenge: - A few of the Members has experienced or been informed of negative or poor customer service from the Emergency Duty Team (based in Pontypridd).</p>	<p>Focus on the Future</p> <p>SSWBA</p>

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suggested that this is a potential topic of interest for the next municipal year. – Agreed by Chair on 4 th Jan 2022		Members were interest in a report to be presented to scrutiny regarding numbers of calls being received and all performance related issues.	
Dementia Action Plan Members have suggested that this is a potential topic of interest for the next municipal year. – Agreed by Chair on 4 th Jan 2022	Angela Edevane (Head of Adult Services).	Scrutiny & Challenge: Members have suggested that this is potential a topic of interest for the next municipal year.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
Safeguarding Workshops - Members have suggested that this is a potential action for the next municipal year. – Agreed by Chair on 15th Feb 2022	Jon Eyre (Safeguarding Manager) / Nicola Kingham (RCT) / Members	Scrutiny & Challenge: The Chair suggested that the Members attend a Safeguarding workshop (hosted by the Safeguarding Manager) on a six monthly basis to improve awareness of the area.	Focus on the Future SSWBA
Youth Offending Service (YOS) Workshop - Members have suggested that this is a potential action for the next municipal year. – Agreed by Chair on 15th Feb 2022	Lyndon Lewis (YOS Manager)	Scrutiny & Challenge: The Chair suggested that the Members attend a Youth Offending Service (YOS) workshop (hosted by the YOS Manager) to improve awareness of the area and address any challenges experienced within the Borough.	Focus on the Future SSWBA