

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
DATE:	4 September, 2017
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	Progress report on the Children's Services Improvement Panel
SCRUTINY CHAIR(S):	Councillor Aled Morris Jones
PORTFOLIO MEMBER(S):	Councillor Llinos Medi Huws (Social Services)
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Not Relevant
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1.0 RECOMMENDATION

R1: The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to note:

- Progress made to date with the work of the Children's Services Improvement Panel
- That all work-streams pertaining to the Service Improvement Plan appear to be on target thus far
- There are no matters at this point that need to be escalated by the Panel for consideration by the parent committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Members will be aware that consideration was given at recent meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee¹ to the need to establish 3 scrutiny panels namely:

- Finance Scrutiny Panel
- Schools Review Scrutiny Panel
- **Children's Services Improvement Panel**

Arrangements are now in place to convene the first meetings of the 3 panels.

This report summarises the progress made as regards the Children's Services Improvement Panel.

2.2 Panel Governance Arrangements

The Panel has been established as a permanent panel and sub-group of this Committee. It is the intention to endeavour to convene monthly meetings of the Panel, in accordance with the

¹ Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 10th April, 2017 and 26th June, 2017

timeline for the submission of monitoring reports to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Care Inspectorate². There is now a process in place for quarterly reporting to this Committee. Councillor Richard Griffiths, as the Scrutiny Committee representative on the Panel, will present the reports on the work of the Panel.

3.0 FOCUS OF GWAITH OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PANEL

3.1 The Children's Services Improvement Panel has now met on two occasions, namely:

- 17th July, 2017
- 21st August, 2017

Attached is the decisions matrix for the first meeting of the Panel³ (**APPENDIX 1**).

3.2 Hitherto, the Panel has concentrated on the following matters:

- Adopting a terms of reference and confirming clear governance arrangements for the Panel
- Overview of the Service Improvement Plan on two occasions
- Detailed consideration to Theme 1 of the Improvement Plan – Service Workforce and Structure
- Putting a work programme in place as the basis for the work of the Panel over the coming months
- Further strengthening the governance framework supporting Laming Visits – eg ensuring a rolling programme of visits; including Panel members on the visits rota; Members accountable to the Panel for visits and introducing a reporting procedure.

4.0 MATTERS TO BE ESCALATED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PARENT COMMITTEE

Hitherto, there are no matters that need to be escalated for consideration by to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

APPENDIX
Decisions Matrix – Children's Services Improvement Panel, 17/07/17

Cllr Richard Griffiths

Corporate Scrutiny Committee representative on the Children's Services Improvement Panel /
Children in Care Champion

Date: 17/08/17

² Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales

³ Children's Services Improvement Panel convened on 17th July, 2017





APPENDIX 1

CHILDREN SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PANEL, 17.07.17

Present: Cllrs Llinos Medi Huws; Peter Rogers; R Meirion Jones; Gwilym O Jones
Gwynne Jones; Caroline Turner; Llyr Roberts Hill; Leighton Rees; Carys Edwards (item 5 only); Margaret Peters; Anwen Davies

Item	Key Points	Action Points	Action by Whom / When?	Status
1. Election of Chair		AP1 Cllr Llinos Medi Huws was elected		
2. Terms of Reference and Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny of Children's Services - when reporting on poor results from an inspection, the CSSIW [1] often cites poor scrutiny practice along with other failings in other aspects of the system. Ensuring meaningful and robust scrutiny of the policies, support and services available to protect vulnerable children and young people is therefore a key element of the leadership role of Scrutiny members • CSSIW recommendations - 14 recommendations were made by the Care Inspectorate following its recent inspection and 2 of those recommendations related specifically to political support for children's services, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.R4 -The council should continue to support senior leaders to improve their knowledge and understanding of the complexities and risks involved in delivering children's services to assure themselves, partners, staff and 	AP2 Summarize the work of the Panel and report every ¼ to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Head of Service in conjunction with the Scrutiny Manager [Ongoing]	
		AP3 Hold monthly meetings of the Panel	Scrutiny Manager [Ongoing]	
		AP4 Offer individual briefings to Members who were unable to attend today	Assistant Chief Executive / Scrutiny Manager [21/08/17]	

Item	Key Points	Action Points	Action by Whom / When?	Status
	<p>communities that their responsibilities are discharged to maximum effect."</p> <p>ii.R8 - Strong political and corporate support for children's services must continue to ensure the service improvements needed are prioritised and the pace of improvement accelerated and sustained.</p>			
3. Setting the Context of the Journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSSIW will return to monitor progress at some point from March → September 2018. No information received yet regarding the form of the follow-up work • Vital that some training is provided for Panel members e.g. through case studies, to help Members to appreciate the complexities of Service • The Social Services and Wellbeing Act is a key context of the improvement journey - challenges and new expectations • A significant increase in the number of children on the LAC register over the past 3 years • Several indications in the system over the last 18 months of concerns about the Children's Services • First Improvement Plan in place during 2016. A new Improvement Plan in place following the CSSIW report (March, 2017) • The role and contribution of this Panel are key elements of the governance arrangements in the improvement journey 	AP5 Organize Training sessions for Members as part of the Panel's work programme	Assistant Chief Executive / Head of Service / Scrutiny Manager [August 2017 → April 2018]	

Item	Key Points	Action Points	Action by Whom / When?	Status
4. Service Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 main headings in the new Improvement Plan - Workforce; Quality Assessment, Interventions and Decisions; Quality Assurance; Working with Families; Improving Services for Families and Review Protocols The current version of the Improvement Plan laid a foundation and was a starting point. The next step would be for the Panel to contribute to the work of measuring the impact of the improvements and interventions. 	<p>AP6 The scrutiny work of the Panel to include monitoring the impact of the improvements and interventions on outcomes for children and young people</p> <p>AP7 Members to continue to undertake regular Laming visits</p>	<p>Assistant Chief Executive / Head of Service / Scrutiny Manager [ongoing]</p> <p>Service Manager (Safeguarding and Quality) / Business Support Team Manager</p>	
5. Theme 1: Workforce and Service Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure underway - 7 of the 8 Practice Leaders now appointed Initial Workforce strategy is now in place and needs to be reviewed after a period of implementation Monitoring the impact of the workforce strategy on practice and outcomes for service users is a key element of the improvement journey e.g. questioning staff, feedback from children and young people. 	<p>AP8 The work of the Panel also to include a review of the impact of the workforce strategy on practice and outcomes for children and young people (the material available to the Panel to include evidence of impacts)</p>	<p>Head of Service / Project Manager / Human Resources [Jan → March 2018]</p>	
6. Panel Work Programme: July - December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vital to ensure a robust work programme to support the Panel's contribution to the improvement journey 	<p>AP9 Establish a work programme for the Panel starting with the period August 2017 → June 2018</p>	<p>Scrutiny Manager</p>	
7. Date of Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling dates for monthly meetings of the Panel, up to December, 2017 	<p>AP10 Next Panel meeting to be held on August 21, 2017 @ 2.00pm</p>	<p>Scrutiny Manager [31/07/17]</p>	

Item	Key Points	Action Points	Action by Whom / When?	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel to focus on a single theme of the Service Improvement Plan in individual meetings. 	AP11 Schedule themes of the Improvement Plan to be considered at individual meetings of the Panel	Assistant Chief Executive / Head of Service / Scrutiny Manager	

Please see below a link to CSSIW's website for easy access to the CSSIW's recent report on the children's services:
<http://cssiw.org.uk/docs/cssiw/report/170307angleseyen.pdf>

ACTION STATUS			
No Action Point(s) to be implemented	On track to implement the Action Point (s) by the next meeting	Anticipated delay in completing the Action Point (s) by the next meeting, but will be implemented.	Behind Schedule and a significant risk of not being actioned
	Green (G)	Amber (A)	Red (C)

[1] Care Inspection and Social Services; Care Quality Commission (England)