

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	21 st November, 2023
Subject:	Committee Nomination – Social Services Scrutiny Panel / Corporate Parenting Panel
Purpose of Report:	To nominate one Elected Member from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to serve on the Social Services Scrutiny Panel and Corporate Parenting Panel
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Douglas Fowlie
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Alun Roberts, Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services and Community Safety Cllr Gary Pritchard, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Children, Youth and Housing
Head of Service:	Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer Fôn Roberts, Director of Social Services / Head of Children's and Families Services Arwel Owen, Head of Adults' Services
Report Author: Tel: Email:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager 07971167198 AnwenDavies@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	Applicable to all Scrutiny Members

1 - Recommendation/s

R1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to nominate one Elected Member from the Scrutiny Committee to serve on the **Social Services Scrutiny Panel and Corporate Scrutiny Panel**.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Not applicable

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

- 3.1** Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]
- 3.2** A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]
- 3.3** A look at any risks [focus on risk]
- 3.4** Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality]
- 3.5** Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:
 - Long term
 - Prevention

- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

3.6 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

Not applicable

5 – Background / Context

1. Background

1.1 Members will be aware that consideration was given to a number of panels which require Scrutiny Member representation at a meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 20th June 2022. Nominations were agreed in respect of all 3 Scrutiny Panels. This report discusses membership of the Social Services Scrutiny Panel.

1.2 The terms of reference pertaining to the Panel is attached (**Appendix 1**) in order to assist Members in the selection process.

2. Discussion

2.1 Membership of the Social Services Scrutiny Panel

Panel membership is not subject to political balance principles and rules¹.

Core membership of the Panel includes:

- **Elected Members** – 4 Members from both Scrutiny Committees²
- **Portfolio Members Adults' Services and Children and Families** – as observers with no vote
- **Officers** – Director of Social Services / Head of Children's Services, Head of Adults' Services, Scrutiny Manager.

2.2 Current Membership of the Social Services Scrutiny Panel

In light of deliberations by both Scrutiny Committees in June, 2022³, current membership of the Panel is as follows:

- **Corporate Scrutiny Committee (4 Members)**
 - i. Cllr Llio Angharad Owen
 - ii. Cllr Sonia Williams
 - iii. Cllr Jackie Lewis

¹ The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the main principles governing political balance of local authorities

² Corporate Scrutiny Committee and Partnership & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

³ Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 20th June, 2022 and Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee of 21st June, 2022

iv. Cllr Alwen Watkin

- **Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee (4 Members)**

- i. Cllr Euryrn Morris (Chair)
- ii. Cllr Pip O'Neill (Vice-chair)
- iii. Cllr John Ifan Jones
- iv. Cllr Jeff Evans.

2.3 One vacancy has arisen on the Social Services Scrutiny Panel as a result of Councillor Alwen Watkin's resignation. This vacancy is from the cohort of Elected Members representing the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the Panel. There is therefore also a vacancy on the Corporate Parenting Panel.

3. Issues for consideration

3.1 The Corporate Scrutiny is now requested to nominate one Elected Member to serve on the Social Services Scrutiny Panel and Corporate Parenting Panel.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

Not applicable

6.2 Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)

Not applicable

6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

Not applicable

7 – Financial Implications

Not applicable.

8 – Appendices:

Terms of Reference – Social Services Scrutiny Panel

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

TERMS OF REFERENCE & *MODUS OPERANDI*

SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL / CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

PART I – BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Scrutiny of Social Services

Keeping vulnerable children, young people and adults safe is a critically important role and one that requires the Council and partners to work together effectively. There has been significant public attention in recent years due to national high profile examples where the system has failed vulnerable individuals, with tragic consequences.

In reporting poor inspection outcomes, care inspectorates¹ often cite poor scrutiny practices amongst other system failings. Ensuring meaningful and robust scrutiny of policies and also support and / or services available to protect vulnerable individuals is therefore a key element of the leadership role of Scrutiny Elected Members.

Ensuring meaningful and robust scrutiny of Social Services is a key element of the leadership role of Scrutiny Members and is much more than adding value to the decisions of the Executive alone. It is about ensuring that a proper scrutiny process forms part of the planning, implementation and follow up on key decisions that have an impact on vulnerable individuals in our local communities or in the care system. As such, effective Scrutiny can:

- Challenge effectively
- Hold decision makers to account; and
- Assist the Executive to make robust decisions for future generations.

Corporate Parenting

The Corporate Parenting role and responsibilities of the Local Authority are defined in statute² and apply to Elected Members, officers and partner agencies. As corporate parents, all Members should seek to stay informed about children in the Council's care and care leavers and the Corporate Parenting Panel is an important forum for regular, detailed discussion of key issues.

Our Local Arrangements

Scrutiny of Social Services has evolved and developed since the Social Services Improvement Panel was established³. The role of the Panel focused on monitoring and scrutinising progress and distance travelled against the Social Services improvement programme and performance against key performance indicators; provide assurance to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on adequate and timely progress / local performance. The scrutiny work carried out by the former Social Services Improvement Panel during the last Administration has been a positive development, having an impact on Social Services performance and improvement journey:

- Development of a model focusing on a smaller group
- Members developing a level of expertise

¹ Care Inspectorate Wales; Care Quality Commission (England)

² Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 & The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (Wales) Regulations 2015

³ Children's Services Improvement Panel was established in June, 2017 the scope of which was broadened to include Adult Social Services in June, 2019

- Encouraging good attendance and teamwork.

Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

In light of an Internal Audit report⁴ on the Authority's corporate parenting arrangements, it is opportune to revise the terms of reference and governance arrangements supporting the Corporate Parenting Panel in order to align with the Social Services Scrutiny Panel. This document therefore aims to incorporate the following matters:

- i. A revised terms of reference
- ii. Governance and secretariat framework in support of the Panel to include – formal forward work programme, annual report to the Executive, covering reports outlining key issues for Members to consider and any recommendations.

PART II – PANEL REMIT AND SCOPE

REMIT

It is a **natural next step** to further develop Member scrutiny of Social Services ensuring a broader scope to its work, with the following key benefits:

- Develop a model of working in Social Services which focuses on a smaller group to enable Members to be more involved, to develop a level of subject expertise and to encourage good attendance and teamwork
- Further strengthen the capacity of Members to challenge performance by improving the quality of information and data on schools
- Forum to discuss information around Service risks as a basis to inform the forward work programme of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee
- Forum to develop a group of Members with the expertise and ownership to lead discussions on Social Services matters in the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

What Care Inspectorate Wales expects to see in terms of political leadership and scrutiny

Elected Members have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the Social Services provision to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively.

The role of the Social Services Scrutiny Panel will be to:

1. Monitor and scrutinise in a meaningful and robust way:
 - Progress and distance travelled against Service development programmes
 - Quantitative and qualitative performance of Social Services.
2. Ensure that the voices of children, young people and adults are heard when considering the effectiveness and impact of services

⁴ Corporate Parenting Panel: Internal Audit Report dated January, 2021

3. Discharge to responsibilities of the former Corporate Parenting Panel (**Appendix 1**)
4. Provide assurance to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the following elements:
 - Adequate, timely progress in delivering Service development programmes
 - Quantitative and qualitative performance of support and care services to children, young people and adults
 - Adequacy of our corporate parenting responsibilities.

SCOPE

Topic	Work programme Focus	Timeline
Effective Scrutiny	Induction of Panel members – workshop format.	July 2021 and during Panel meetings.
Skills	Skills set - training & development inputs to ensure clarity of role and subject knowledge to enable effective scrutiny eg CIW, service area leads, partners.	Delivery throughout the municipal year ensuring alignment with Panel scrutiny work
Self-evaluation	Self-evaluation – Member critique of own performance to enable review, reflection & learning. Objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Stock take ii. Review, evaluate and reflect iii. Establish foundation for next period iv. Confirm Member ownership. 	Annual – to be determined by Panel members
Corporate Parenting	Training & development inputs to ensure clarity of role and responsibilities	TBC – discussion with Panel members
Skills & Knowledge		
Focus	Legal Framework Care provision on Ynys Môn Outcomes for Looked After Children Looked After and Leaving Care Strategy.	TBC – discussion with Panel members
Laming Visits	Elected Members and Senior Leaders to meet staff from a variety of teams in order to hear first-hand staff experiences.	TBC – discussion with Panel members
Stakeholders	Scrutinise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • voice / influence of stakeholders in the provision of Social Services on the Isle of Anglesey • effectiveness of partnership working in supporting the delivery of Social Services 	Delivery throughout the municipal year ensuring alignment with Panel scrutiny work
Voice of the Service User	Scrutinise the effectiveness of mechanisms in place to hear the voice	Delivery throughout the municipal year

Topic	Work programme Focus	Timeline
	of children, young people and adults as an integral part of the Social Services provision on the Isle of Anglesey	ensuring alignment with Panel scrutiny work
Performance	Monitor internal Performance Indicators across Adults and Children and Families Services.	Delivery throughout the municipal year ensuring alignment with Panel scrutiny work
Social Services Development Programmes & Quality Assurance	Receive updates in relation to the Social Services Development Programme and Quality Assurance work.	TBC – discussion with Panel members

PART III – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. Panel Membership

Panel membership will not be subject to political balance principles and rules⁵.

The core membership of the Panel will include:

- i. **Elected members** - 4 Members from both scrutiny committees
- ii. **Portfolio Members for Social Services (Adults and Children's Services)** – as observers, with no vote
- iii. **Officers** – Director of Social Services, Head of Adult Services, Scrutiny Manager.

The Panel's work will require the attendance of other Elected Members (e.g. members of the Executive Committee) and / or officers from other service areas.

Corporate Parenting Panel

As above plus:

Isle of Anglesey County Council

- i. **Elected Members** - Portfolio Holders – Housing, Children and Education
- ii. **Chief Executive (chair)**
- iii. **Social Services** – Director of Social Services; Service Manager - Intensive Intervention; Independent Reviewing and Safeguarding Officers and Education of Looked After Children and Youth Services Officers
- iv. **Housing Services** – Head of Housing
- v. **Education** – Director of Education, Skills and Young People; Senior Manager - Wellbeing

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

- vi. Assistant Director (Children's Services)
- vii. LAC Nurse
- viii. **Anglesey Foster Carers' Association** – 1 representative
- ix. **Tros Gynnal** – 1 representative

⁵ The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 sets out the main principles governing political balance of local authorities

2. Frequency of Meetings and Quorum

- **Frequency of meetings** – the panel has been established as a standing panel to ensure accountability, oversight and scrutiny of social services / corporate parenting on Anglesey, as summarised in the table above. The panel will therefore meet regularly, in accordance with the timeline for the submission of progress reports on social services scrutiny to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
- **Quorum** – this will not apply to the panel.

3. Recording Meetings and Reporting Arrangements

- It is intended for the panel to run in the format of a business meeting. The Scrutiny Unit will collate and distribute any papers in preparation for each meeting and provide a list of action points following each meeting
- **Reporting arrangements** - regular reporting by panel members to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

[26/05/22]