

PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 20 January 2026

PRESENT:

Councillor Dylan Rees (Chair)
Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Non Dafydd, Douglas M Fowle,
John Ifan Jones, Euryrn Morris, Pip O'Neill, Derek Owen,
Margaret Murley Roberts, Ken Taylor, Sonia Williams

Councillor Dyfed W Jones – Portfolio Member for
Children, Young People and Families (for item 4)

Co-opted Members

Mr John Tierney (The Catholic Church),
Mrs Kathryn Seeney – Parent Governor – Primary
School Sector,
Mrs Christina Williams – Parent Governor – Secondary
School Sector and ALN.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,
Head of Democracy (DS),
Service Manager for Safeguarding and Quality
Assurance (SP) (for item 4),
Senior Manager Health Wellbeing and Safeguarding
(GR) (for item 4),
Scrutiny Officer (EA),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Webcasting Committee Services Officer (FT).

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Liz Wood.
Chief Executive.

ALSO PRESENT:

Portfolio Members

Councillor Neville Evans – Portfolio Member for Adults'
Services,
Councillor Alun Roberts – Portfolio Member for Leisure,
Tourism, Maritime and Property,
Councillor Dafydd Roberts – Portfolio Member for
Education and the Welsh Language,
Councillor Nicola Roberts – Portfolio Member for
Planning and Public Protection,
Councillor Ieuan Williams – Portfolio Member for
Highways, Waste and Climate Change,

Councillor Robin Williams – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience.

Programme Manager – Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board (ST) (for item 5)

1 APOLOGIES

As noted above.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Euryrn Morris declared a personal in respect of Item 5 as he is employed by Gwynedd Council.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the following meetings were confirmed as correct:-

- Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November, 2026.
- Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November, 2026, subject to the inclusion of the name of Councillor Sonia Williams to the list of apologies.

Action points arising from the meeting held on 26 November, 2026:-

- **ACTION 1** – The data as to the number of calls the Ambulance Service in North West Wales receives with regard to Mental Health emergencies.

Data was afforded by the Welsh Ambulance Service to Members of the Committee by email before the Christmas period.

- **ACTION 2** – Discussions to be undertaken between the Welsh Ambulance Service and the Chief Officer of North Wales Fire & Rescue Service, together with the Joint Emergency Services Group, to reassess and reconsider the assistance of the Fire & Rescue Service as regards to falls.

Assurance was given that the Welsh Ambulance Service have contacted the Chief Officer of North Wales Fire & Rescue Service and initial discussions have been undertaken. The matter will also be raised at the next meeting of the Joint Emergency Services Group.

- **ACTION 3** – Matters raised as to what measures will be taken for therapy and assessment for children with additional learning needs on Anglesey and what provision is in place to reduce waiting times.
- **ACTION 4** – Matters raised as to the work undertaken by the Health Board and other agencies to tackle the rise in ketamine use.

Members of the Committee received details by email to both Action 3 and Action 4 above.

- Minutes of the special meeting held on 10 December, 2026.

4 CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING

The report of the Director of Social Services was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families said that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility across all services in the Council together with staff, contractors, volunteers and Elected Members have a role to play in protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm whether be inside or outside the home. He noted that one of the key actions undertaken from the scrutiny meeting held in January 2025 was to revise the Terms of Reference for both the Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board and the Corporate Safeguarding Board. This work has now been completed, and the revised Terms of Reference have been formally approved by the Corporate Safeguarding Board. These revisions strengthen governance arrangements, clarify accountability and ensure that safeguarding responsibilities are embedded consistently across the Council. The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board has expanded its membership over the last year, and this has strengthened cross-departmental engagement and created positive momentum in driving forward safeguarding responsibilities across the Council. He further said that Safeguarding continues to be identified as the third highest risk to the Council. Since the publication of 'Our Bravery Brought Justice', the Council, particularly Social Service and the Education Service, have been working closely with the North Wales Safeguarding Board to demonstrate how the Authority has responded to the recommendations in this Child Practice Review. This work was explored in detail during discussions within the joint meeting of the Education Scrutiny Panel and Social Service Scrutiny Panel in December 2025. The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board is currently scrutinizing the procurement processes relating to the transportation of children to and from school as is noted within the report and this work forms part of a wider focus on strengthening safe commissioning across the Council.

The Portfolio Member welcomed that it has not been necessary for the Authority to refer any cases to the North Wales Safeguarding Board for a Single Unified Safeguarding Review in the last 12 months. He referred to the workforce development and training as was noted in the report and refers to further areas of development that are required. The key priority for the coming year includes launching the five-year Corporate Safeguarding Board Strategy in April 2026; strengthening contractor safeguarding requirements; continuing to embed safeguarding across all directorates; enhancing multi-agency collaboration and community engagement; implementing a quarterly safeguarding newsletter and developing and delivering the new safeguarding communication plan. He said that the work undertaken over the last 12 months demonstrates strong process in strengthening safeguarding arrangements across the Council. The Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Board will continue to drive forward improvements, ensure

compliance with statutory duties, and promote a culture where safeguarding is recognized as everyone's responsibility. The issues in relation to the recording of training records for schools will be escalated to the Corporate Safeguarding Board in February.

In considering the report, the Committee discussed the following main matters: -

- Questions were raised as to reasons for the low percentage of school staff who have completed mandatory training on Learning Pool. The Senior Manager Health Wellbeing and Safeguarding responded that challenges have occurred in the past with school staff unable to access the Authority's Learning Pool facility but completed the training through EduCare. Further questions were raised that some schools have been using the HWB to complete training and it seems that schools use different online systems to complete training. The Senior Manager Health Wellbeing and Safeguarding responded that the matter can be raised with the IT and Human Resources Department regarding the use of different systems for training purposes.
- Questions were raised as to the reasons why not all staff have completed the Group A mandatory training by the Safeguarding Week in November 2025. The Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families responded that the intention within the Safeguarding Week was to promote the training and not that all staff needed to complete the training by November 2025 as some staff do not have access to a computer during working hours
- Questions were raised whether the Authority could introduce a policy in prohibiting the use of mobile phones in primary and secondary schools. The Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families responded that there are concerns as to the misuse of social media by young people and it is important that pupils are taught how to use social media safely and wisely. He noted that Ysgol David Hughes has prohibited the use of mobile phones in the school but there was different opinion following the introduction of the policy within the school. It was highlighted that the matter is for the Governing Body of individual schools to decide whether to prohibit the use of mobile phones in their schools. Further matters were raised that the Authority should have a policy in place across five secondary schools on the Island prohibiting the use of mobile phones. It was noted that examples of good practise in prohibiting of the use of mobile phones in schools across Wales should be investigated. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People responded that he was willing to discuss the matter with the Heads of the five secondary schools and to investigate examples good practise across Wales.
- Reference was made to the publication of 'Our Bravery Brought Justice' report and questions were raised as to whether the Authority is confident that stringent measures are in place to address any difficult situations with missed opportunities as has happened in another Authority. The Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families responded that the 'Our Bravery Brought Justice' report has been discussed in a joint meeting between the Education Scrutiny Panel and the Social Services Scrutiny Panel recently. He noted that as a Portfolio Member he is confident that measures are in place on Anglesey to respond and address any similar challenges. The Director of Social Services said that there were 23 recommendations within the 'Our Bravery Brought Justice' report and discussions were undertaken in detail within the joint

meeting of both Scrutiny Panels. He noted that this Authority has stringent measures in place to address any situation that may arise; however, it was explained that such situations may arise, but was confident that the Authority has measures in place to address such issues and that clear expectations are in place for the staff of the Council and partners. The strong close working relationship between the Social Services and Education Departments is in place within this Authority and in schools. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People said that the Governing Body of schools should also be made aware of any situations that may arise within their schools. The Chair referred to the 'Our Bravery Brought Justice' which highlighted that the Governing Body within a particular school in another Authority, were unaware that the list of the names of the Governing Body and designated roles was not available on the schools' website and Governors had a 'loose grip' of matters of governance. The Chair questioned whether this Authority is confident that the Governing Bodies on the schools on Anglesey are aware of their important roles as school governors. He said that it seems that the names and roles of Governing Bodies of schools on Anglesey are also unavailable on the school's website. The Portfolio Member for Children, Young People and Families responded that all the Elected Members are represented on governing bodies on schools within their electoral wards. He emphasised that training is an important part of any governor's role and that they have completed the designated training afforded to complete their roles effectively. The Senior Manager Health Wellbeing and Safeguarding said that every school should have safeguarding poster outlining the measures in place and contact details for any person that wishes support together with pictures of school staff and the designated person on the governing body. He referred to the training opportunities afforded and considered that Safeguarding should be an item on every meeting of the governing body. The Director of Education, Skills and Young People said that he would take an action point from this Committee to ensure that schools put names of their governing body and their designated roles. The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language said that Welsh Government is currently reviewing the role of governing bodies, and the report will be published in the Summer 2026. He said that both schools that he is a Governor has a 'handbook' with a list of names of school staff and the governing body.

- Reference was made to the PREVENT week in raising awareness and safeguarding against radicalization; staff and partner organisations have had an opportunity to complete training. Questions were raised as to whether consideration has been given to afford such training to secondary schools' pupils and whether a teacher is designated in each of the five secondary schools as a PREVENT Officer. The Service Manager for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance responded that regional discussion are currently been undertaken which will allow young people to be part of such training as regards to radicalization. She noted that 'Shout Out UK' afforded workshops to highlight safeguarding against radicalization. The Senior Manager Health Wellbeing and Safeguarding said that a designated Safeguarding Officer has been appointed who lead on PREVENT also within the schools.
- Questions were raised whether each contractor who undertakes work by the Authority will need to undertake Safeguarding Training. It was noted that a lot of workers are self-employed. The Director of Social Services responded that

Safeguarding will be included in every contract afforded by the Council and there will be a sentence in the contract to highlight that if they witness any issues of concern that they should be aware as to whom they should contact to report the incident of concern. The Authority will support any person who wishes to complete the Safeguarding training.

- Questions were raised as to the training and guidance afforded to Residential and Care Homes owners as regards to Safeguarding. The Director of Social Services responded that guidelines are robust, and Care Inspectorate Wales ensures that safeguarding is important to safeguard individuals within the care sector.
- Questions were raised as to the requirement for Hackney Licensing/Taxis as regards to Safeguarding and DBS checks. The Service Manager for Safeguarding and Quality Assurance responded that the Corporate Safeguarding Board expects Hackney Licensing operators to undertake firstly DBS checks and thereafter safeguarding training before the issue of the hackney license.

It was RESOLVED that following examining the information presented and reviewing developments over the past 12 months, it was agreed that the Council is fully meeting its Corporate Safeguarding obligations.

5 GWYNEDD AND YNYS MÔN PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD

The Annual Report 2024/2025 incorporating the governance arrangements/scrutiny of delivery of the Wellbeing Plan was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience said that the Public Services Board is in year 3 of the current 5-year Wellbeing Plan, and most of the objectives have either been completed or there is a workplan in place with a proposed timescale for completion.

The Programme Manager – Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board reported that the Board has evolved over the years and meetings are focused more on decision making and prioritizing action as opposed to being an information sharing forum and has also developed to have an operational perspective with many examples of partners jointly collaborating, sharing good practice, learning lessons and moving forward together. The Sub-Groups have been established with Officers working in collaboration which have been recognized as good practice across Wales. A workshop on Trauma Informed was held for all Board Members, delivered by Ynys Môn County Council experts. The Language Sub-Group has completed the Good Recruitment Practices Project and is working with partners on the 'Busting the Myths About Working in Welsh Project' which is to be launched at the Urdd Eisteddfod on Anglesey in May. The Children's Commissioner for Wales, in collaboration with the Welsh Government, has proposed piloting specific sessions for Public Services Board partners on the UN Children's Rights Charter. This is a unique opportunity for the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board to lead the way in North Wales in collaborating with the Children's Commissioner to deliver this workshop.

In considering the report, the Committee discussed the following main matters: -

- Reference was made to the Boards engagement in the 'Voice of the Learner' and discussions have undertaken with Coleg Llandrillo Menai and Coleg Meirion Dwyfor as regards to transport issues for students to attend the colleges. Questions were raised as to how the Board deals with this matter and whether it will extend to primary and secondary schools. The Programme Manager – Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board responded that the matter was raised at the September 2025 meeting of the Public Services Board, and the Futures Generations Commissioner for Wales attended this meeting. She noted that the Futures Generations Commissioner for Wales challenged the Board to ensure that the voice of young people needed to be heard and how their voice will be reflected in the work undertaken by the Board. Coleg Llandrillo Menai invited representatives from the Board to speak to the students at the college. She further said that Gwynedd Council will be consulting on transport issues and will be reporting back to the Board in due course. The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member for Finance, Corporate Business and Customer Experience said that it was important that the Board members were informed of the challenges that Coleg Llandrillo Menai students were facing with bus routes and transport links. He noted that the sharing of the link to warn of bad weather was shared with the college to enable them to plan for the transport safety of their students. The Deputy Chief Executive said that the same transport issues refer to secondary school pupils with some having to cross both bridges to attend and return from the schools.
- Reference was made to the Newborough Project is an example of good partnership working to address transport issues in the area. The Programme Manager – Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board responded that this is a pilot project, and the intention is to develop a model of good practice that could be applied across the area of partnership working to respond to traffic issues.
- Concerns were expressed that the mitigating poverty objective has slipped to the Summer 2026. Questions were raised as to the reason for this slippage in the mitigating poverty objective as the cost-of-living crisis still exists and what are the intentions of the Board in the Summer of 2026. The Programme Manager – Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board responded that the Members of the Board have made it clear from the outset that they wish to investigate the reasons as to poverty in the local communities and not just receiving data as is similar to other objectives set by the Board. She noted that a trial session was undertaken with the Bevan Foundation, but it was evident that it was data focused exercise. The partner organizations within the Board recognize their role in mitigating poverty and work has been undertaken with Officers within both local authorities who work on poverty and have identified postcodes where there is low uptake upon the flying start voucher scheme. She further said that referring people to receive support is important and Medrwn Môn, Mantell Gwynedd, Citizen Advice Bureau, ADRA and Barnardo's have offered to support the work on mitigating poverty. Bangor University has also undertaken work to identify areas of poverty in Gwynedd and Anglesey.
- Reference was made to Good Recruitment Practices Project and working in partnership on the 'Busting the Myths About Working in Welsh Project' which is to be launched at the Urdd Eisteddfod on Anglesey in May. Questions were raised as to the expectations of the project after the launch at the Urdd Eisteddfod in May and who will benefit from the project thereafter. The

Programme Manager – Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board responded that discussions were undertaken by the partner organizations within the Board as regard to recruitment issues. Comments that were of concern were that people were unable to have a career within the public sector in Gwynedd and Anglesey if they were unable to speak Welsh or that they considered that their ability to speak Welsh was not up to the required standard. The Board commissioned TYLWYTH organizations to help to ascertain problems and issues people encounter by Welsh learners. The Head of Democracy said that the conclusions of the project have been included in the guidance to Managers during the recruitment process.

- **It was RESOLVED to note the governance arrangement of the Public Services Board and the progress against the 2023-2028 Well-being Plan, published in July 2023.**

6 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2025/2026

The report of the Scrutiny Officer setting out the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's indicative Forward Work Programme for 2025/2026 was presented for consideration.

It was RESOLVED to :-

- **Agree the current version of the Forward Work Programme for 2025/2026;**
- **Note progress thus far in implementing the Forward Work Programme.**

**COUNCILLOR DYLAN REES
CHAIR**