

## People Scrutiny Committee

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Meeting Venue  
**Council Chamber - County Hall,  
Llandrindod Wells, Powys**

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Meeting Date  
**Wednesday, 14 December 2016**

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Meeting Time  
**10.00 am**

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For further information please contact  
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County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys  
LD1 5LG

Issue Date  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### AGENDA

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>PSC46-2015</b>
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To receive apologies for absence.

<b>2.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	<b>PSC47-2015</b>
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the previous meeting(s) of the committee held on the following date(s) as a correct record.

(Pages 5 - 10)

<b>3.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>PSC48-2015</b>
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To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to items to be considered on the agenda.

<b>4.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP</b>	<b>PSC49-2015</b>
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To receive disclosures of prohibited party whips which a Member has been given in relation to the meeting in accordance with Section 78 (3) of the Local Government Measure 2011.

NB. Members are reminded that under Section 78 (3) Members having been given a prohibited party whip cannot vote on a matter before the Committee.

<b>5.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S BRIEFING</b>	<b>PSC50-2015</b>
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<b>6.</b>	<b>REVIEW OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</b>	<b>PSC51-2015</b>
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To receive a briefing from the Head of Democratic Services on the review of scrutiny committees.

<b>Updates from Working Groups</b>		
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<b>7.</b>	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY GROUP</b>	<b>PSC52-2015</b>
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To receive an update from the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group.

(Pages 11 - 20)

<b>8.</b>	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY GROUP</b>	<b>PSC53-2015</b>
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To receive an update from the Children's Services Scrutiny Group.

(Pages 21 - 22)

<b>9.</b>	<b>EDUCATION SCRUTINY GROUP</b>	<b>PSC54-2015</b>
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To receive an update from the Education Scrutiny Group.

(Pages 23 - 38)

<b>10.</b>	<b>HEALTH SCRUTINY</b>	<b>PSC55-2015</b>
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To receive an update from the Joint Health Scrutiny Group.

(Pages 39 - 40)

<b>11.</b>	<b>JOINT CHAIRS NOTES</b>	<b>PSC56-2015</b>
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To receive the notes of the Joint Chairs Steering Group held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

(Pages 41 - 52)

<b>12.</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>	<b>PSC57-2015</b>
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(Pages 53 - 56)

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD AT  
COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON  
THURSDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**PRESENT**

County Councillor D R Jones (Chair)

County Councillors A W Davies, L R E Davies, E R Davies, J Gibson-Watt,  
MC Mackenzie, P J Medicott, K M Roberts-Jones, G P Vaughan, Mrs A Davies,  
Mrs M Evitts and Mrs L Jenkin  
Church Representative: Mrs M Evitts

In attendance: County Councillors W. Jones (Portfolio Holder for Finance) and G.  
Brown (Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)

Officers: Ms S. Hughes (Senior Manager – Social Care Delivery), Ms F. Fitzpatrick  
(Interim Head of Children's Services), Ms K. Arthur (Adult Safeguarding Team  
Manager), Mrs E. Patterson (Scrutiny Officer)

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>PSC32-2015</b>
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Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors A. Holloway, S.  
McNicholas and T. Turner.

<b>2.</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	<b>PSC33-2015</b>
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No declarations of interest were received.

<b>3.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	<b>PSC34-2015</b>
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The Chair was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June  
2016.

<b>4.</b>	<b>DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP</b>	<b>PSC35-2015</b>
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No declarations of party whip were received.

<b>5.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S BRIEFING</b>	<b>PSC36-2015</b>
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The Chair advised that at the recent Council meeting on school modernisation a  
number of proposals had been made but this meeting had only been advisory  
and the decision on these schools would be taken at the Cabinet meeting on 27<sup>th</sup>  
September 2016.

Cabinet had met on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and confirmed the closure of Nantmel  
Primary School from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

The Chair advised that the Cabinet meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> September had also  
received information that there was a large budget overspend with details  
reported to the end of June and a verbal update that the position had

deteriorated by the end of July. The overspend is particularly in the area of Adult Social Care.

At Joint Chairs it had been agreed to join with Audit Committee and undertake scrutiny of the position regarding the financial position of Adult Social Care. Scoping of this piece of work would commence the following week.

Members asked if the money held in the Icelandic account that had recently been returned to the authority could be used to cover the overspend. The Portfolio Holder for Finance confirmed that this money was part of the authority's reserves. Reserves can only be spent once and use of reserves does not address ongoing overspending.

Members commented that whilst it was important to address the financial position of the service the quality of care should not be forgotten. The Portfolio Holder advised that the authority had brought in someone to examine the position. The overspend had brought the authority close to tipping point. Not only was the current budget overspent but the proposals around residential care would not deliver the savings which are required in the medium term financial strategy. What is currently being provided is unaffordable.

<b>6.</b>	<b>POWYS REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD</b>	<b>PSC37-2015</b>
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The Senior Manager Adult Services presented a report on the Powys Regional Partnership Board (RPB) (copy filed with signed minutes).

The RPB has been set up as a requirement of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2015 ('the Act'). The Act requires the council to work with health, the third sector and the private sector in partnership to improve care and support, improve outcomes for health and well-being, provide co-ordinated person centred care and support, make more effective use of resources, skills and expertise, ensure sufficient capacity to respond to the needs of the people in the region.

The Act focusses on building on the strengths of an individual and using the individuals own support network and third sector support prior to the provision of more formal support. For the first time the Act also includes a requirement for preventative services to be provided. It is acknowledged that it is difficult to find the money to invest in preventative services when the overall budget is overspent.

There is a strong focus on carers who feature throughout the 11 parts of the Act.

Members queried the governance of the RPB. It was confirmed that the governance costs were funded by Welsh Government. The governance of the RPB is subject to a review by the Monitoring Officer of the Council and the Board Secretary of the Health Board which will be reported to both the Council Cabinet and Health Board.

Members queried how the move towards pooled funds would work in practice if one of the parties was experiencing budget pressures. It was confirmed that pooled budgets fall under a section 33 agreement between the Council and

Health Board but the Officer was not able to answer specific queries regarding section 33 agreements.

Members asked if the implementation of the Act would result in additional costs to the Council. It was confirmed that whilst many of the requirements of the Act were already being complied with by the Council there were some areas such as advocacy where there were additional requirements with no additional funding. In this case the Association of Directors of Social Services across Wales are discussing this position.

<b>7.</b>	<b>FOURTH QUARTER REPORT ON SAFEGUARDING</b>	<b>PSC38-2015</b>
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The Interim Head of Children's Services and the Adult Safeguarding Lead Manager presented the fourth quarter report on Safeguarding to March 2016.

The regional safeguarding board CYSUR meet quarterly and have a sub-group the Child Practice Review Group which also meets quarterly to share practice on multi agency reviews.

Locally the Powys Local Operational Group (PLOG) (which covers Children's safeguarding matters) and the Powys Local Operational Group – adults (PLOGa) now meets on the same day and has a joint session covering common areas. PLOG have a Safe, Stable and Secure sub-group as there are many young people placed in Powys from other local authorities. A Shadow Board comprised of young people is in place who suggest areas of work for PLOG.

The PLOGa now complies with legislation and whilst in its infancy is developing.

*Does an adults panel exist in the same way that there is a Children's Shadow Board?*

The panel are looking to engage with the community and are working with PAVO to facilitate this as part of the requirements of the Act. This work is in its infancy.

*It appears that there was a huge increase in referrals as a result of domestic abuse in quarter 2 (figure 6). Why was this?*

It may be due to a change in the way that a partner reports referrals. The referrals may be sent in bulk which may mean that they appear skewed in quarter by quarter figures.

*Does the authority take too long in getting cases to court for vulnerable children?*

In the Care Courts the test used is 'on the balance of probabilities'. The authority start by working with the family and if this is not working the authority will try to work with the extended family. If a case is going to proceed to court then it is necessary for the parent to be represented by a lawyer and the authority will undertake a considerable amount of pre-court work so that by the time the case goes to court all options have been exhausted. This is necessary as the court will want to know that everything possible has been done to work with the family. If all this has been done it is likely that the authority will be successful at court. The Interim Children's Services Manager confirmed that she had not heard of there being a problem with court matters.

The Adult Safeguarding Lead Manager advised that the next report would be amended to reflect the terminology of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.

*What are the criteria for referrals and is this being implemented consistently across the county?*

The criteria is set out within the act but there is a degree of flexibility. Powys are working with Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire to gain consistency with our partners. In Powys all referrals are made through Powys People Direct and thus there is consistency. What may skew the figures would be for example an issue with a larger care home which may affect a large number of people.

It was requested that further narrative regarding this be included in future reports.

*Does the authority monitor students that are placed out of county?*

If there were safeguarding issues this would be the responsibility of the authority in which the student is placed. However, it would be expected that the authority would inform Powys of any such issue.

The service is working hard to ensure data compliance and has employed additional staff who are starting work now.

*The high number of issues from Montgomeryshire was queried for quarter 4.*

It may have been due to a number of older cases which could have gone back up to 18 months being closed in one quarter.

**Recommended that the new style report contains sufficient narrative to explain apparent anomalies.**

8.	<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY GROUP</b>	<b>PSC39-2015</b>
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**Documents considered:**

- Progress Report – Scrutiny Officer
- Cabinet response to Scrutiny Report on progress against CSSIW Inspection 2015 improvement priorities

The Chair was still seeking a Lead Member for this group and hoped to be in a position to appoint the Lead Member by the end of the week.

**Outcome:**

- That the update be received.

9.	<b>CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY GROUP</b>	<b>PSC40-2015</b>
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**Documents considered:**

- Progress Report – Scrutiny Officer

**Outcome:**

- That the update be received.

<b>10.</b>	<b>CULTURAL SERVICES SCRUTINY GROUP</b>	<b>PSC41-2015</b>
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**Documents considered:**

- Progress Report – Scrutiny Officer

The Place Scrutiny Committee are undertaking some pre-decision scrutiny of Library Services which the previous Lead Member of Cultural Services has been invited to attend.

**Outcome:**

- That the update be received.

<b>11.</b>	<b>EDUCATION SCRUTINY GROUP</b>	<b>PSC42-2015</b>
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**Documents considered:**

- Progress report – Scrutiny Officer

The Lead Member commented that he had received critical comments from schools that remained within budget regarding schools with unlicensed deficits. This would be discussed when the scrutiny group next looked at school budgets.

**Outcome:**

- That the update be received.

<b>12.</b>	<b>HEALTH SCRUTINY</b>	<b>PSC43-2015</b>
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**Documents considered:**

- Progress report – Scrutiny Officer

**Outcome:**

- That the update be received.

<b>13.</b>	<b>JOINT CHAIRS NOTES</b>	<b>PSC44-2015</b>
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**Documents considered:**

- Notes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016

**Issues discussed:**

- LEA Governors were yet to receive the training detailed in the notes

**Outcomes:**

- **The position regarding training for LEA Governors be queried.**

<b>14.</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>	<b>PSC45-2015</b>
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The work programme was received.

**County Councillor D R Jones (Chair)**





## People Scrutiny Committee

14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

<b>Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group</b>
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<b>Purpose of Report:</b> Progress report
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Since the last meeting of People Scrutiny Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the following work has been undertaken:

### Powys People Direct

This is being looked at jointly with Children's Scrutiny and is reported in the Children's Scrutiny update.

### Residential Care

On the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 the group met to look at Residential Care. On the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Cabinet had considered this issue and the following is an extract of Cabinet minutes from that meeting:

1.	<b><i>OLDER PEOPLE'S ACCOMMODATION - OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF COUNCIL-OWNED RESIDENTIAL CARE</i></b>	C175- 2016
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*Cabinet considered options for the management and operation of the Council owned residential homes. A number of options had been appraised and the preferred option identified was the creation of a Local Authority Trading Company by May 2017 with the objective of stabilising the current market and positioning itself as a driving force in the development of residential care services. An LATC would be a separate legal entity from the County Council but would be fully controlled by the Council. It would require the establishment of a stakeholder scrutiny group to take decisions but the day to day running of the homes would be undertaken by the existing staff.*

*Members questioned the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and officers about the risk involved and the budget implications of not achieving savings set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Portfolio Holder acknowledged the risk but pointed out that there were risks with all the options. He also acknowledged that the preferred option did not offer savings in the short term but that it did so in the longer term. He explained that if Cabinet approved the first recommendation the service would press ahead and would only come back to Cabinet if there was any significant change.*

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision:</b>
1. <b><i>To move to the next phase of the project, completing an Outline Business Plan based on Option 3 (LATC), and provided that this plan validates the work contained</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>To secure and maintain welfare and care of residents in the short to medium term.</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Complete due diligence,</i></b></li> </ul>

<p><i>within the Options Appraisal, to proceed with the implementation of a LATC for the management and operation of the council owned residential care homes by May 2017. Should the Outline Business Plan raise issues of principle or significant variance, further Cabinet approval will be sought in December 2016.</i></p> <p><i>2. That cabinet give agreement to the current MTFP savings required in 2017/18 (£940K) and 2018/19 (£940k) being delayed in order that longer terms gains can be maximised allowing suitable time to transition to one of the models in Option 5 (to be determined by the LATC).</i></p> <p><i>3. To endorse the principle that under LATC management, Private/Self-funders should continue to be charged at the market level.</i></p> <p><i>4. That the LATC retains capital receipts to fund future capital work programme subject to Cabinet approval on a case by case basis.</i></p> <p><i>5. That the Portfolio Holder for Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care in consultation with the Strategic Director Resources and the Strategic Director People be given delegated authority to decide the best way of funding these needs.</i></p> <p><i>6. To continue to resource the complex and accelerated work programme necessary to secure integrated recommissioning of residential care with effect from May 2017, in accordance with Cabinet decision of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016.</i></p>	<p><i>defining the strategic direction of the LATC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Develop the proposed company governance and management arrangements</i></li> <li><i>• Specify the support services required by the LATC</i></li> <li><i>• Complete the Outline Business Plan for validation with this Options Appraisal</i></li> <li><i>• To secure a recommissioned service by May 2017.</i></li> </ul>
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The Scrutiny group received a briefing on the position from the Project lead and Portfolio Holder. Since then the Lead Members of Adults and Children’s Scrutiny have observed a meeting of the Project Board and undertook pre-decision scrutiny of the Residential Care proposals at a meeting of the group on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

This matter is due for consideration at Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

#### Budget position

The meeting of the group on the 7<sup>th</sup> October had also been designed to be briefed on the position regarding savings from the service. On 13<sup>th</sup> September Cabinet had heard how the budget position had deteriorated and instructed a Recovery Plan to be prepared. In the light of this a verbal report was provided to scrutiny

outlining the work that was being undertaken to support the preparation of the recovery plan.

To enable further scrutiny of the financial position in this service a joint working group between Audit and Adult Social Care was set up. The representatives from People Scrutiny Committee are Cllrs David Jones, Kath Roberts-Jones and Maureen Mackenzie. The representatives from Audit Committee are Cllrs John Morris and Aled Davies and Independent Member John Brautigam.

The group have met once and further meetings are being arranged. The findings of this group will be reported to both the Audit Committee and People Scrutiny Committee.

### Day Centres

On the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Cabinet discussed the future of Day Centres and the following is an extract from the Cabinet minutes:

<b>2.</b>	<b>REVIEW OF DAY TIME ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE INCLUDING DAY CENTRES</b>	<b>C148- 2016</b>
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*The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care explained that he was seeking approval to go out to consultation on the options for Day Time Activities for Older People including day centres. Whilst acknowledging the high regard in which communities held their day centres, he pointed out that currently there was not an equitable service in the county as not every community had access to a day centre.*

*The service would consult on three options:*

- To not close any of the existing services and to continue as is.*
- To close all day centres including 3<sup>rd</sup> sector provision with effect from March 2017 (but excluding Westwood in Welshpool), and to ensure any clients who have assessed need will be found / offered alternative existing services available to adult social care such as domiciliary care.*
- To take a phased approach to decommissioning all existing provision (except for Westwood in Welshpool) whilst developing a new home support and befriending model using different funding streams so that closure and the phasing in of the new model align up to March 2019.*

*The option favoured by the service was a phasing out of day centres and a move towards a locality based early intervention and prevention service. The Portfolio Holder explained that the Social Services and Wellbeing Act had placed an obligation on local authorities to focus on prevention and delaying the need for care. This model would help the authority meet the challenges of demographic change as well as the savings target set in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The Portfolio Holder pointed to examples of good practice such as the Powys Befriending Scheme in Crickhowell and Rhayader Home Support and explained that the service was looking to work in co-operation with the third sector.*

*County Councillor E Michael Jones, who declared a personal non pecuniary interest as a non-remunerated director of the East Radnor Day Centre, and County Councillor Joy Jones spoke in favour in retaining their respective day centres in East Radnor and Newtown. Councillor Joy Jones questioned the funding given to Welshpool Town Council in respect of the Westwood Day Centre.*

*The Chair of the People Scrutiny Committee said that Scrutiny would play its part by considering the proposals. He said that the Council was not in a position to do everything and that it needed*

to work with volunteers and the third sector. He asked for information on the funding available in each area to be provided.

In answer to Members' questions, the Portfolio Holder confirmed that respite care would be built into any new model.

<b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Reason for Decision</b>
<p>1. That Cabinet provide approval to go out for consultation, following the Listen and Learn exercise already completed, in order to seek the public's view on all three options and in line with the advice and guidance of the Consultation Institute.</p> <p>2. That Cabinet notes the issues outlined for each of the three options in the report and acknowledges that the financial risks will require further work to be done on the impact and implications of each option to the MTFS in order to help Cabinet form a decision on how to proceed following the public consultation process.</p>	<p>1. To ensure that Cabinet receives the views of the public in relation to the 3 options in order to support them in making an informed decision.</p> <p>2. That Cabinet is assured that plans to cover the identified costs are in place ready for when they make their final decision following public consultation</p>

The Scrutiny Group met on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the proposals and observations have been made available for Cabinet/Management Team to consider.

#### CSSIW Improvement Objectives

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 a report on the monitoring of the CSSIW Improvement Priorities went to Cabinet. A copy of this report is attached at Appendix 1. The Cabinet minutes relating to that item are copied below:

1.	<b>SCRUTINY OBSERVATIONS ON THE CSSIW IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>C224- 2016</b>
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*Cabinet received the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group's observations on implementation of the CSSIW recommendations for improvement. The Chair of the People Scrutiny Committee reported concerns that the results of the Commissioning Strategy for Older People had not been reported back to Cabinet but to the Joint Partnership Board which was not a public meeting. The scrutiny Group also had some concerns about the operation of Powys People Direct and would be carrying out a follow-up review.*

*The Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care would provide a response within 2 months.*

The Cabinet response will be reported to the next meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee.

The work programme for the period to May 2017 is to be agreed but will include:

	Implementation of Social Services and Wellbeing Act
	Workforce
	Domiciliary Care
	Learning Disabilities
	Powys People Direct – including third sector brokers

Other pre-scrutiny as identified by Joint Chairs.

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**Sources/background papers:**

**Membership:**

County Councillors: D. R. Jones,  
R. Davies, J. Gibson-Watt, K. Roberts-Jones and T. Turner



**People Scrutiny Committee**  
**Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group**  
**CSSIW Inspection 2015 – Improvement Objectives**  
**Scrutiny Observations October 2016**

**Introduction**

In March and May 2015 the CSSIW undertook an inspection of Adult Social Services in Powys County Council the report of which was published in August 2015. The report was presented to the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 and the Scrutiny Observations from that meeting were submitted to the meeting of Powys County Council on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015 where the CSSIW report was discussed.

It was agreed that a quarterly report would be presented to Cabinet and People Scrutiny Committee on the monitoring of progress against the improvement priorities. The first report was submitted to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2016, a second report on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and this will be the final report.

The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group has met on the following dates:

- 25<sup>th</sup> May – Commissioning Strategy for Older People
- 12<sup>th</sup> July – Powys People Direct Review (No 9) – jointly with Children’s Services Scrutiny Group
- 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 – Domiciliary Care and overview of all CSSIW recommendations
- 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 – visit to PPD

The meetings are attended by the Heads of Service, Senior Managers and Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care.

The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group understands that the CSSIW have written to the Statutory Director of Social Services outlining their current view on progress made against the recommendations and areas that they would wish to follow up on.

The Adult Social Care Scrutiny make the following comments in respect of the twelve original recommendations:

1. The **corporate governance arrangements** for social care commissioning need to be clarified and strengthened in order to effectively challenge and test the design, planning and delivery of the demanding work programme that Powys is facing.

*Corporate governance arrangements have been strengthened but scrutiny have raised concerns regarding the operation of the Commissioning and Procurement Board. The Cabinet has not responded to these concerns to date. In addition it appears that decisions are being made in forums such as the Joint Partnership Board which are not held in public. Whilst it is appreciated that some items would be of necessity discussed in private session it appears that some items of public interest are also decided at this*

*Board (see item 2) and it is recommended that this aspect of governance of joint arrangements should be reconsidered.*

2. The **commissioning strategy** for older people must be based on a rigorous analysis of need and demand at community level and include local infrastructure and innovative and collaborative solutions. It should also consider models of best practice used elsewhere.

*Scrutiny are aware of much work which has been undertaken in this area and the joint Commissioning Strategy for Older People. The Council's Cabinet made a decision in November 2015 to go out to consultation on the document. Scrutiny then understand that the decision to agree the strategy was made at a meeting of the Joint Partnership Board in June 2016. The Joint Partnership Board is not a meeting conducted in the public domain which makes tracking the decision making process of such issues impossible.*

3. The approach to commissioning social care services should make greater use of **service user and carer experiences** and facilitate a wider conversation with its communities about what future service models might look like.

*Scrutiny are aware of the service user forums which are in place although it is acknowledged that the level of engagement at these forums varies and consequently in some of these forums there is more work to be done to ensure meaningful engagement. The service also undertake listening and learning exercises ahead of consultations to improve user engagement.*

4. Future commissioning and procurement exercises for domiciliary care services should be built on a **market development** and partnership approach. It must robustly test the tender submissions, the capacity and capability of organisations to manage the transition of services and deliver the service specifications.

*Scrutiny continue to monitor the activities related to domiciliary care and this will be the case for the foreseeable future.*

5. The **knowledge and skill base** for managers in commissioning and the management of contractual relationships needs to be developed through a range of solutions including training and mentoring opportunities.

*The service has provided assurance that there has been a full programme of training in commissioning and that new staff are encouraged to undertake the training.*

6. The Council needs to strengthen its **relationships** with and oversight of domiciliary care providers operating in Powys, including setting up regular meetings and clear lines of communication with the commissioning managers to address ongoing concerns and queries.

*Scrutiny will continue to monitor the activities related to domiciliary care and this will be the case for the foreseeable future.*

7. The Council needs to consider carrying out a review of the **grants and service level arrangements** to ensure they align with the Powys One Plan and the Integrated Pathway and provide the best value for money.

*A Portfolio Holder decision was taken in March 2016 to consult on proposals to introduce a competitive grant allocation process for 2017/18. At this date actions relating to this item were behind schedule. Scrutiny understand this review is currently being undertaken but have had no further detail on progress.*

8. The development of the **integrated pathway** for older people with Powys Teaching Health Board should be clearly defined and articulated to capture the projected demand and therefore capacity required at each stage, including reablement. The future integrated service model must be supported by clear governance arrangements that include financial commitments and management accountability.

*Scrutiny examined this item in April 2016 and were concerned that progress seems to have been limited with the acknowledgement that the project deadline of December 2016 was unlikely to be achieved.*

9. The **first contact** arrangements via the Powys People Direct should be further developed to ensure it can provide the appropriate level of response, advice, support and information for adult services and therefore reduce the need for an additional duty response at team level.

*Scrutiny initially monitored Powys People Direct in March 2016 and requested sight of the Review of the service that had been undertaken. This report was considered at a joint meeting with Children's Services in July 2016 where Members noted progress had been made but there were still a number of issues to address. The group visited the service in September 2016 and noted further progress had been made over the summer. There are a number of activities which still require attention and scrutiny will continue to monitor progress of this improvement item.*

10. The new adult **safeguarding** management structures and reporting mechanisms must be secured and established as a priority, to ensure that the Designated Lead Managers are supported in their responsibilities and there is consistent reporting, decision making and oversight at an appropriately senior level.

*Scrutiny now monitor adult safeguarding along with children's safeguarding at the People Scrutiny Committee.*

11. The low uptake of **carer assessments** needs to be further investigated to understand the needs of this group of people and how they can be supported in their role.

*Scrutiny understand that this recommendation has been superseded by the Social Services and Wellbeing Act.*

12. A **workforce strategy** which supports the establishment of the integrated pathway for older people should be developed across the wider health and social care workforce including domiciliary care. Opportunities to build



workforce capacity such as care apprenticeships should be considered, as well as potential barriers such as housing and transport.

*Scrutiny will be examining progress against this improvement item at their meeting in December.*

### **Conclusion**

The Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group note the progress outlined to date, in particular that the corporate governance arrangements have been to an extent strengthened, that service user forums are in place, that listening and learning exercises are held and the progress to date developing Powys People Direct. Scrutiny will continue to monitor those items outlined above.

The group would reiterate the comments from the interim report in July that the information provided during the meetings over the year has highlighted a number of areas where progress has slipped from that intended when the action plan was developed. Whilst there may be understandable explanations for this slippage and the Portfolio Holder has expressed confidence that some of these issues can be brought back on time, attention needs to be paid to the timeliness of work undertaken on these improvement priorities. These priorities are of necessity essential to be met and if problems meeting timeframes are being experienced the Portfolio Holder should consider prioritising resources within the service.

The group understand that CSSIW will be undertaking a follow-up review of progress on the recommendations in particular regarding Powys People Direct and the integrated pathway for older people in March 2017. Other areas such as adult safeguarding and carer assessments will be monitored through the CSSIW's national programme.

Scrutiny would invite Cabinet's observation on this report in particular in regard to comments made regarding corporate governance arrangements.





## People Scrutiny Committee

14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### Children's Scrutiny Group

**Purpose of Report:** Progress report

Since the last meeting of People Scrutiny Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the Children's Scrutiny Group met on the 29<sup>th</sup> September with members of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group to visit the Powys People Direct service situated in the Gwalia. This project had been identified as an area for scrutiny resulting from the CSSIW Improvement Priorities report considered by Adult Social Care Scrutiny.

The group were able to view the centre in operation and understand how calls are dealt with as they come in. The group then looked further into the data to understand how the project was progressing and agreed to meet in the New Year to monitor progress of this project.

Since the last meeting of the People Scrutiny Committee the Lead Member has attended a meeting of the Star Awards for Looked After Children on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and the Corporate Parenting Group on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**Report contact:** Liz Patterson, Scrutiny Officer

**Contact details:** 01597 826980, [elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk)

**Sources/background papers:**

#### **Membership:**

County Councillors: D. R. Jones,

M. Mackenzie, **K. Roberts-Jones**, A. Davies, L. R. E. Davies, S. McNicholas

Parent Governor Representatives: Mrs A. Davies, Mrs L. Jenkin

Church Representative: M Evitts

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## People Scrutiny Committee

14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

<b>Education Scrutiny Group</b>
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<b>Purpose of Report:</b> Progress report
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Since the last meeting of People Scrutiny Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the following work has been undertaken:

### Education Scrutiny Group

#### Standards

The group met on the 19<sup>th</sup> September to receive the results for pupils in the Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 and the provisional results at GCSE and 'A' Level together with information on attendance and exclusions. The inspection profile for the academic year 2015-16 was also received and is outlined below:

	Current Performance	Prospects for Improvement	Category
<b>Primary</b>			
Leighton	Adequate	Adequate	Estyn Monitoring
Llangynidr	Good	Good	
Rhiw Bechan	Good	Good	LA Monitoring
Hafren	Adequate	Adequate	Estyn Monitoring
Golwg y cwm	Good	Good	Invited to submit good practice case study to Estyn
Oldford	Good	Good	LA monitoring
Bro Tawe	Good	Good	
Mount Street	Good	Good	
Meifod	Good	Good	
Brynhafren	Good	Good	
Llanfechain	Good	Good	
<b>Secondary</b>			
Builth High	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Special Measures
Llanfyllin	Adequate	Adequate	Significant Improvement
Llanidloes	Good	Good	
<b>PRU</b>	Adequate	Unsatisfactory	Estyn Monitoring

A report on School Standards is due to come to Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and the Joint Chairs have assigned the Education Scrutiny Group to undertake pre-cabinet scrutiny of this report.

#### ERW support for secondary schools causing concern

The group met on the 11<sup>th</sup> October to discuss with the Managing Director of ERW the support provided to secondary schools in Powys that are causing concern. The Managing Director outlined how the level of support that a school requires is identified and then put in place. She explained that there are a number of factors which need to be in place for a school to improve including:

- Leadership
- Effective and rigorous support and challenge
- Bespoke specific support
- Local authority engagement
- Targeted and focused use of resources
- School to school support

She explained that school to school support was particularly important in rural areas where there is a low turnover of staff to ensure that new ways of working are shared.

There are a number of other issues which impact on school improvement which include amongst others:

- Impact of school modernisation on morale
- Impact of small streams on budgets
- Small schools resulting in a teaching commitment for headteachers and senior leaders

#### Deficit budgets

The group met on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the Cabinet Report on school deficit budgets. Observations from this meeting were submitted to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016. A copy of these observations are attached at Appendix A. Cabinet received these observations and confirmed that they would respond thereto within two months.

#### School Balances

The group met on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the Cabinet Report on school budget balances. The outcome of that meeting will be reported verbally at Committee

The review of Fair Funding is due to come to Cabinet on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and Joint Chairs have assigned the Education Scrutiny Group to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on this report.

#### Ysgol Cedewain

Education Scrutiny were assigned by Joint Chairs to scrutinise the deficit budget report on Ysgol Cedewain. This took place on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The outcome of that meeting will be reported verbally to Committee.

## School Asset Management Plan and Pupil numbers

The group met on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to receive a report on pupil projections and how they are calculated, together with a verbal update on the Schools Asset Management Plan.

A Council Seminar on pupil numbers was held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

The School Asset Management Plan is due to come to Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and Joint Chairs have assigned the Education Scrutiny Group to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on this report.

## School Scrutiny Panel

The Education Scrutiny Group met on 29<sup>th</sup> September to monitor progress of the schools which had previously attended the School Scrutiny Panel. They also agreed to invite two schools to attend the School Scrutiny Panel in the autumn term. Llanfyllin High School was invited to attend on the 16<sup>th</sup> November and Caereinion High School were invited to attend on the 29<sup>th</sup> November. The meeting with Llanfyllin was postponed due to the Headteacher being on sickness absence. This meeting will be rearranged for the Spring Term. The meeting with Caereinion High School took place on 29<sup>th</sup> November and this school will now be monitored along with the other schools which have attended the School Scrutiny Panel.

## ERW

The ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group met on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Haverfordwest where the following items were discussed:

- ERW Business Plan
- Estyn Inspection of ERW
- Vulnerable Learners and the Pupil Deprivation Grant
- SEN reform

As a result of the meeting three letters were sent to:

- Cllr Thomas Chair of ERW Joint Committee
- Mr M Rowlands – Chief Inspector ESTYN
- K Williams AM – Welsh Government Minister Education and Skills

A copy of these letters and the responses received to date are attached at Appendix 2.

## Education Scrutiny Forward Work Programme

The work programme for the period to May 2017 is to be agreed but will include:

	School Asset Management Plan
	Education Standards Report
	Review of Fair Funding
	School Scrutiny Panel meetings

	Update on PRU and ALN
	Cashless system

**Report contact:** Liz Patterson, Scrutiny Officer

**Contact details:** 01597 826980, elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk

**Sources/background papers:**

**Membership:**

County Councillors: **D. R. Jones**,

A. Davies, E. R. Davies, M. Mackenzie, S. McNicholas K. Roberts-Jones, G. Vaughan.

Parent Governor Representative Mrs A. Davies and Mrs L. Jenkin.

Church Representative Mrs M. Evitts





### **Education Scrutiny Working Group – Observations on Unlicensed School Deficit Budget Cabinet Report November 2016**

The Education Scrutiny Working Group met on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and considered the Cabinet report on Unlicensed School Deficit Budget Report which is due for consideration on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016. The Group make the following observations:

- Concern that the schools had been given a deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup> to submit budget plans, these were not all forwarded promptly and the position was not reported to Cabinet until 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The schools with unlicensed budgets were given until 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to submit their recovery plan. This deadline has clearly been exceeded if it has not been possible to submit a report to Cabinet until 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016.
- The aim of both Finance and the Schools service is to bring forward budget planning, this is being included in the revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools which is welcomed. It appears that some schools are delaying addressing their problems as there has been no particular requirement to meet deadlines in the past. The scrutiny group would support the service in requiring far earlier action to be taken.
- Scrutiny welcome the work being undertaken by schools finance to provide more benchmarking information and to ascertain what level of funding schools need to be financially viable. There is concern that dual stream schools may be in a difficult position and that if this is the case then this will become apparent by the work that is being undertaken. Scrutiny are concerned that there is a lack of support and challenge around the impact of curriculum planning and staffing levels in the secondary sector in the schools service and would expect that the schools service make available the necessary expertise to work with the finance service to help complete this research.
- Scrutiny are concerned that a small number of schools seem unwilling or unable to balance their budget and would suggest that, if a school is cannot produce a balanced budget then action needs to be taken promptly by the authority to address the position.
- Scrutiny would recommend that the Portfolio Holder ensures that the schools finance service have a clear timetable that is worked to in providing information

to schools which will ensure that schools are in a position to produce a budget within the timescale required.

Membership of the Education Scrutiny Group 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016:

County Councillor D R Jones, A W Davies, S McNicholas, K M Roberts-Jones,  
G P Vaughan

Parent Governors: Mrs A Davies, Mrs L Jenkin

Church Representative: Mrs M Evitts



**Mr Meilyr Rowlands**  
**Her Majesty's Chief Inspector**  
**of Education and Training in Wales**  
**Estyn**  
**Anchor Court**  
**Keen Road**  
**Cardiff**  
**CF24 5JW**

Please ask for: **Scrutiny**  
Scrutiny Office Line: **01792 637256**  
e-mail: [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk)  
Date: **21 November 2016**

Dear Mr Rowlands

### **Estyn Inspection of Education through Regional Working (ERW)**

I am writing to you on behalf of the ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group which is made up of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of six local authorities' Education Scrutiny Committees. We came together in Pembrokeshire on 27 September 2016 for our bi-annual meeting.

Having discussed the outcome of the recent inspection of ERW we are pleased to see that the Partnership has been rated as good and we agreed to follow up on progress with those recommendations that have been made. This is one of the ways that we aim to contribute to the continuing improvement and good governance of ERW and we hope that you will recognise the value of this. We would of course welcome any thoughts you may have on how we can work with Estyn in the future.

We did feel, however, that the inspection did not sufficiently take on board educational outcomes and performance in the ERW region in comparison with other regions. We felt that improving outcomes for pupils in Wales was the key purpose of these regional bodies and that this was an omission that we felt needed to be highlighted.

We would be interested in hearing you views on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Guy Woodham**  
**Chair ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group and**  
**Chair of Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee, Pembrokeshire Council**

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To: Cllr A Thomas  
Chair of the ERW Joint Committee

Please ask for: Scrutiny

Scrutiny Office Line: 01792 637256

e-mail: [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk)

Date: 18 October 2016

Dear Councillor Thomas,

### **ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group on 27 September 2016**

The Chairs and Vice Chairs of all six local authorities' Education Scrutiny Committees came together in Pembrokeshire on 27 September 2016 for their bi-annual Scrutiny Councillor Group. I am writing to you with the conclusions and recommendations from that meeting.

First, I should like to thank you for your letter of 1 July 2016. On consideration, we felt that the letter was a little sparse and request that future responses are fuller. This will help us to feedback and provide assurance to our individual authorities. I appreciate that this is only the beginning of a new process and it will take a little time for us all to find our feet.

On this point may I also ask that you provide further detail on the Challenge Advisors working across the region?

- Are all local authorities working to full capacity in relation to their numbers of Challenge Advisors? Are we, as a region, at full capacity of Challenge Advisors?
- If not what are the gaps in the region? What is being done to fill these? Are some authorities at fuller capacity than others?

I should also be grateful if you would also provide further information on the steps being taken to inform parents about the colour categorisation of schools? The Group is concerned that the current presentation in the media causes unnecessary worries for parents when their schools have been placed in a lower category. The Group would therefore like some more information on what is being done in this area currently and whether this message is being discussed nationally.

The following are the other topics we covered during the meeting

### *Elective Home Education*

This issue has been raised and discussed consistently by local authorities in the region over recent years with some making representations in individual letters to Welsh Government Ministers. Members of the Group have strong feelings about this issue and believe that stronger leadership is required at the national level. Our main concern relates to the safeguarding of children who may be unknown in our areas. As a Group we plan to write to the Minister and, while we appreciate that this is outside the scope of ERW, wanted to share this concern with you.

### *Estyn Inspection of ERW*

At the meeting we heard from Betsan O Connor who shared with us the recent report from Estyn. Overall, we were very pleased to hear about the positive outcome although two issues were raised in our discussion:

1. The Group were disappointed that the aspect of 'raising educational standards' did not form part of the inspection and that this was not referenced in the report even though the main function of ERW is to raise standards. We plan to write to Estyn on this point.
2. The report says that '*Local authority portfolio holders do not have a clear enough input to the management or oversight of the work of ERW despite their key responsibility in their local authority for the oversight of education services*'.

The Group supports the view that there should be a greater role for portfolio holders within ERW. This is not only because they have local responsibility, but they are also the individuals being held to account by scrutiny.

We have therefore asked the Chief Executive of ERW to bring the following information to our next meeting of the Scrutiny Group:

- What ERW have done and plan to do to address this issue i.e. whether this statement is being addressed; and
- A survey of portfolio holders on their views

### *ERW Business Plan*

The Chief Executive outlined the business plan and explained that it is similar to last year but that a 'bridging report' is currently being written that will address the Estyn Inspection recommendations. Changes will then be included in the plan mid-year. The Group will be provided with a copy of the bridging report for discussion at the next meeting.

We were pleased to see scrutiny and ERW highlighted positively in the Estyn report particularly the statement that '*Members of scrutiny committees engage well with each other and share ERW's vision*'.

We would like to thank Chris Millis and Gareth Morgan for the informative presentations and background information on vulnerable learners and the framework for what works

and the ALN transformation. We found both sessions very useful and plan to share our findings and the good practice from these across the regions scrutiny bodies.

Please do respond to any of the points in this letter but we would particularly like to receive your response to the following points:

- Further clarification about the capacity of Challenge Advisors across the region (as detailed above); and
- Further information about how the results of categorisation are provided to parents (as detailed above)

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Guy Woodham**  
**Chair ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group and**  
**Chair of Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee, Pembrokeshire Council**

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**To:**  
**Kirsty Williams AM**  
**Welsh Government Minister**  
**Education and Skills**

Please ask for: **Scrutiny**  
Scrutiny Office Line: **01792 637256**  
e-mail: [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk)  
Date: **26 October 2016**

Dear Minister

### **Elective Home Education**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Education Through Regional Working Scrutiny Councillor Group which is made up of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of six local authorities' Education Scrutiny Committees. We came together in Pembrokeshire on 27 September 2016 for our bi-annual Scrutiny ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group.

At this meeting we shared our concerns on elective home education and in particular issues relating to the role as councillor in safeguarding children within our local authority areas. We had concerns about not knowing where children are being home educated in our communities and particularly that they are not being seen by an education professional. This issue has also been highlighted further over recent years where serious cases have come to light where children have not been on the local authority radar and connections have not been made with other agencies. An example of this is the death in 2011 in Wales of an 8 year old boy. The Seabridge Serious Case review<sup>i</sup> was published in 2016 which has recommended: *'Welsh government consider changing legislation to require parents to register children receiving home education with the local authority on an annual basis and to ensure the children are seen and spoken to and their wishes recorded annually'*.

This issue had been raised and discussed consistently by local authorities in the region over recent years with some making previous individual representations to Welsh Government Ministers. Members of the Group believe that stronger leadership is required at the national level. The Group would be interested in hearing your views and any future plans on this matter.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,  
**Councillor Guy Woodham**  
**Chair ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group and**  
**Chair of Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee, Pembrokeshire Council**

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<sup>i</sup> Concise child practice review: re: CYSUR 2/2015 - NSPCC -  
Published by [CYSUR Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Children Board](#) ([2016])

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**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06016/16

Councillor Guy Woodham  
Pembrokeshire Council

scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

9 November 2016

Dear Guy

Thank you for your letter of 26 October regarding the safeguarding of electively home educated children.

The Welsh Government is due to publish new non-statutory guidance for local authorities in the coming weeks. It takes into account many of the findings of the child practice review you refer to, especially around safeguarding and children's rights.

While the findings of the review focus on elective home education, it is important we consider this case in a wider context and any implications for how regulations, guidance and good practice support all professionals working with adults and children. Our approach must therefore cross Cabinet responsibilities to ensure no individual is so invisible that the risks of harm they may be exposed to cannot be identified and addressed.

To accompany the guidance, we will be publishing a leaflet for parents which clarifies their rights and responsibilities in relation to elective home education, and answers some of the key questions parents might ask when considering to home educate.

We continue to consider the potential for further action to help support elective home educated learners, including if statutory guidance and/or regulation may be appropriate or necessary.

In the meantime we will continue to support professionals to act on their professional curiosity and work more effectively with home educating families.

Yours sincerely

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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## People Scrutiny Committee

14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### Scrutiny of the Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative

**Purpose of Report:** Progress report

The Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative was launched in April 2015 as a result of the findings of the Mid Wales Health Care Study a report commissioned by Welsh Government and undertaken by Prof Marcus Longley.

The first recommendation of this report stated that a joint mechanism 'the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative' should be established in order to implement many of the other recommendations made in the report:

- The joint committee should consist of the three Health boards (with Hywel dda University Health Board , including the Chair and Chief Executive of each, and an independent Chair for the Committee appointed by the Minister (the Minister appointed Co-Chairs Dr Ruth Hall and Mr Jack Evershed)
- The Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative should be accountable to the three Health Boards and also to Welsh Government and to the scrutiny mechanisms for local government
- It should shape the Mid Wales commissioning intentions of the three Health Boards by implementing the recommendations of the study and be held accountable for its work by the Minister for Health and Social Services or the Deputy Minister for Health

The Chair of People Committee together with the Lead Member of Children's Scrutiny Group have been attending meetings of the Board of the Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative in an observer role together with Cllr Aled Davies.

Since the last update in September 2016 the Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative met on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016 with the Joint Scrutiny Chairs meeting in the afternoon. A verbal update will be given to this meeting by Cllrs Jones, Roberts-Jones and Davies.

**Report contact:** Liz Patterson, Scrutiny Officer  
**Contact details:** 01597 826980, [elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.patterson@powys.gov.uk)  
**Sources/background papers:**

**Representatives:** Cllr D. R. Jones, Cllr K. Roberts-Jones and Cllr A. Davies

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS ON TUESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor

County Councillors K W Curry, M J Dorrance, D R Jones, JG Morris and Mr J Brautigam

**Officers:** Officers: Jeremy Patterson, Clive Pinney, David Powell, Peter Jones, Rhian Jones, Wyn Richards, Liz Patterson and Lisa Richards

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>JCSG42 - 2016</b>
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Members: County Councillors L Corfield and S Davies  
Officers: Paul Griffiths

<b>2.</b>	<b>DRAFT NOTES - FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>JCSG43 - 2016</b>
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**Documents Considered:**

- Notes of meeting 5 July 2016

**Issues Discussed:**

- The Chief Executive confirmed that he had briefed the Leader regarding scrutiny of ERW and that he had also raised the issue with ERW directly. Similar concerns had been identified within the Estyn Inspection of ERW.
- The Group queried whether a response had been received from Cabinet regarding a report submitted by the Chairs relating to the Commissioning and Procurement Board. No response had been received and the Chair agreed to pursue this with the Leader

**Outcomes:**

- Noted

<b>3.</b>	<b>DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STRATEGIC DIRECTORS REGARDING POTENTIAL SCRUTINY ITEMS</b>	<b>JCSG44 - 2016</b>
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**Issues Discussed:**

- Previously the Chief Executive had focussed on ERW – the schools service are in the process of preparing a standards report and provisional results show some good results. The Welsh Government are particularly

- been to study information in respect of free school meals. Using that indicator, Powys has performed just below the national average. It was suggested that work should be undertaken to evaluate how pupil deprivation grants are used and what benefit is derived from that funding. It was essential to target those funds where they were needed and this should be evidenced – perhaps in conjunction with a review of standards.
- The Chief Executive informed Members that the Financial Overview and Forecast report showed significant overspends particularly in Adult Social Care. Following discussions with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, further work will be undertaken around modelling and savings. Whilst every local authority is different there needs to be an assessment of savings patterns elsewhere. It is widely acknowledged that current methods of delivery are not sustainable but ongoing initiatives do not seem to be making sufficient difference. The Chair of Audit proposed that joint Audit /People scrutiny be undertaken as a priority. There was a further discussion around the costs of bringing some home care provision in house – costs of £750K had been written off in 15/16 and have been included in the base budget for 16/17 and should not be contributing to the overspend. In total an additional £1.053M had been included in the ASC base budget. Further savings relating to residential care and day time activities are not likely to be achieved in the specified timescale. Members were of the opinion that it had been apparent for some time that savings would not be achieved but this did not seem to be recognised within the service. Spending appears to have been out of control within the service for many years. There was a role for Audit Committee to review and scrutinize the financial affairs of the Authority. The service were reliant on other services meeting their shortfall on a regular basis. The Chief Executive suggested that there was a role for scrutiny in stabilising the ASC budget. The service will produce a Sustainability Plan but Members felt this should be designated a ‘Recovery Plan’. People 2 were also to give advice to the service and scrutiny should be involved throughout this process. The Strategic Director, Resources informed the meeting that the finance team assisting ASC had been bolstered and were currently going through the budget line by line – this detail would be available by the end of the month. The Chair of People suggested a strategic review would also be required.
  - The Chair of Place noted the projected £ ½ M overspend on school transport and suggested that this should be subject to scrutiny.

**Outcomes:**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Action By</b>
<b>Joint Audit /People scrutiny to be undertaken on ASC budgets</b>	<b>End October 2016</b>	<b>Chairs - Audit and People</b>

<b>4.</b>	<b>ONE POWYS PLAN - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION 2015-16</b>	<b>JCSG45 - 2016</b>
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**Documents Considered:**

- Annual Performance Evaluation 2015-16

**Issues Discussed:**

- Annual process
- Document circulated for comments to scrutiny Members
- Will be circulated to the PSB by the end of the week
- Cabinet - 4 October 2016
- Council - 19 October 2016
- Communications Team to proof read
- Consideration should be given to improving the preamble to clarify why the PSB was established together with its aspirations. Statutory partner organisations should be listed. The two stories that are presented may benefit from greater detail regarding the situation before intervention
- There was a disconnect between the narrative and statistics – eg the section on older people is relatively positive but the statistics show that the authority is only ranked 17 and 21 out of 22 for particular services
- There is no reference to the drop in attendance at leisure centres following the takeover by Freedom Leisure
- All Wales performance details were released in early September and it is necessary to qualify some statements and cross reference
- There are no targets for future improvements
- Within the section on education, some data relates to Welsh statistics and some to changes within Powys – there needs to be consistency. There was no mention of schools in special measures or of those being supported.
- Members were informed that it is the Programme Manager and Sponsor who decide whether a project has been successful. In some instances it was noted that success related to initial proposals rather than the totality.

**Outcomes:**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Action By</b>
<b>Any further comments to be emailed to Peter Jones or Rhian Jones</b>	<b>23 September 2016</b>	<b>Members</b>

<b>5.</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>	<b>JCSG46 - 2016</b>
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**Documents Considered:**

- Work Programme

**Issues Discussed:**

- Adult Social Care budget – to be given priority
- Further discussions to be held with the Leader regarding pre decision scrutiny

**Outcomes:**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Action By</b>
<b>The work programme to be amended in line with the discussion</b>	<b>30 September 2016</b>	<b>Wyn Richards</b>
<b>Further discussion regarding pre decision scrutiny items with the Leader</b>	<b>30 September 2016</b>	<b>Wyn Richards</b>

<b>6.</b>	<b>PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD</b>	<b>JCSG47 - 2016</b>
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47.1. Draft Notes of Previous Meeting(s)

**Documents Considered:**

- None

**Issues Discussed:**

- Minutes of the last meeting were not yet available
- The PSB is a statutory body with membership comprising Powys County Council, Natural Resources Wales, Health Board and Mid and West Wales Fire Authority
- Invitees include Police and Crime Commissioner's office, Dyfed Powys Police, Probation Service and PAVO. The Brecon Beacons National Park have requested that they also be invited.
- During the first meeting there had been a broad discussion around the terms of reference. Further development has been requested and the next scheduled formal meeting will become a development session
- Programme spotlights will consider learning and skills initially, followed by organisation and partnership
- Confirmation is awaited regarding the date of the next formal meeting – 20 October has been suggested
- The PSB intends to develop joint scrutiny
- Members discussed the commitment of partner agencies to the PSB. Only the four partner agencies were accountable to the Welsh Government
- The PSB cannot operate on a majority, must be unanimous

**Outcomes:**

- **Noted**

47.2. PSB Dates - For Information

- 22 September, 2016 – development
- 20 October 2016 - tbc
- 1 December, 2016

<b>7.</b>	<b>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS - FOR INFORMATION</b>	<b>JCSG48 - 2016</b>
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- ??? 18 October 2016
- 29 November 2016
- 17 January 2017
- 28 February 2017
- 21 March 2017
- 11 April 2017
- 20 June 2017
- 11 July 2017
- 19 September 2017
- 10 October 2017
- 7 November 2017
- 5 December 2017

**County Councillor**

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# Public Document Pack

Joint Chairs and Vice Chairs Steering Group – 18 October 2016

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS STEERING GROUP HELD AT PEN Y FAN ROOM - COUNTY HALL ON TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2016

**PRESENT:** County Councillor D R Jones (Chair), M J Dorrance, D R Jones, JG Morris and Mr J Brautigam

**Officers:** Clive Pinney, Solicitor to the Council, Wyn Richards, Scrutiny Manager, Liz Patterson and Lisa Richards, Scrutiny Officers

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>JCSG49 - 2016</b>
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Members: County Councillors L V Corfield, K W Curry, S C Davies and M C McKenzie

Officers: J Patterson, D Powell and P Griffiths

<b>2.</b>	<b>DRAFT NOTES - FOR CONSIDERATION</b>	<b>JCSG50 - 2016</b>
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### Documents Considered:

- Notes of Meeting held on 13 September 2016

### Issues Discussed:

- School Transport – potential overspend of £0.5M. A separate meeting had been held with the Chief Executive regarding the outcomes of the Walters report. This could lead to scrutiny on school transport, schools modernisation and the fair funding formula but a further meeting would need to be held to scope those reviews. It was noted that there were a number of historical anomalies within the current arrangements for school transport. Individual arrangements for SEN pupils were also in place and these would not be affected by a general review of the Policy. It was suggested that a report be requested for further consideration regarding the reasons for the overspend and actions being taken to address the overspend.
- Commissioning and Procurement Board – a response was circulated to the Joint Chair's report in May 2016. A Commissioning Procurement Review had been undertaken by the LGA and an Action Plan was reported to be in place. However, the Portfolio Holder had not seen the review. Joint Chairs queried why the LGA and not the WLGA had been used to undertake the review, given the diverging policies between England and Wales. The emerging Resource Plan was also key to future developments.

### Outcomes:

Action	Completion Date	Action By
The Education and Highways services be asked to prepare a report detailing the extent of the overspend in school transport, actions being taken to address the overspend, whether the home to school transport policy is to be reviewed and, if so,	22 November 2016	WR

<b>when this can be expected</b>		
<b>The Chair write to the Leader to ask why the LGA had been used rather than the WLGA and to request a copy of the review</b>	<b>22 November 2016</b>	<b>Chair/LR</b>
<b>The Chair of the Commissioning and Procurement Board to be invited to the next meeting</b>	<b>22 November 2016</b>	<b>LR</b>

<b>3.</b>	<b>DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STRATEGIC DIRECTORS REGARDING POTENTIAL SCRUTINY ITEMS</b>	<b>JCSG51 - 2016</b>
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No senior managers were present due to a Strategic Overview Board having been called at the same time as the Joint Chairs meeting. Every endeavour would be taken to ensure future meetings did not clash.

<b>4.</b>	<b>DISCUSSIONS WITH LEADER REGARDING PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY</b>	<b>JCSG52 - 2016</b>
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The Chairs of Audit and People Committees had met the Leader to discuss items for pre-decision scrutiny. The Cabinet forward work programme was inadequate to enable planning to be undertaken into the new year.

**Outcomes:**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Action By</b>
<b>People Scrutiny Committee – Ysgol Cedewain budget</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>LP</b>
<b>Audit Committee – Brecon High School budget</b>		<b>LR</b>
<b>Place Scrutiny Committee – bulky waste or leisure service savings</b>		<b>LR</b>
<b>People Scrutiny Committee - Daytime Activities, Older People</b>	<b>December</b>	<b>LP</b>
<b>Place Scrutiny Committee – HAMP</b>		<b>LR</b>

<b>5.</b>	<b>ROLES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES</b>	<b>JCSG53 - 2016</b>
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**Documents Considered:**

- Scrutiny committee roles

**Issues Discussed:**

- The proportion of co-opted members on People Scrutiny Committee was greater following the decrease in the membership of committees – this was acknowledged but the number of co-optees was at the minimum requirement. Only the Church and Roman Catholic Church were invited to be represented – other faiths were not represented, as set out in the regulations
- The Group asked if membership of committees should be reviewed. The reduction of members on committees had been designed to increase productivity – Members would have less workload and be committed to one area. This does not seem to have happened, with attendances being sporadic in some cases.
- It was proposed that the Committees be renamed Scrutiny Committee 1 and Scrutiny Committee 2 with their remits being linked to Portfolio Holders' functions

**Outcomes:**

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Revised remits be drafted for the two scrutiny committees to be implemented from May 2017.	22 November 2016	WR

<b>6.</b>	<b>SPEAKING AT CABINET MEETINGS</b>	<b>JCSG54 - 2016</b>
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**Issues:**

- Current arrangements for scrutiny chairs speaking at Cabinet were not effective and causing controversy at Cabinet meetings
- Cabinet must act more strategically
- If Cabinet becomes more strategic then the role of scrutiny chair becomes clearer
- The Constitution allows scrutiny chairs and group leaders to speak at Cabinet meetings – this should not include asking questions
- Scrutiny chairs should be able to present scrutiny reviews to Cabinet
- Consideration could be given to written questions being submitted beforehand
- If scrutiny work had been completed beforehand based on an adequate Cabinet work programme, then there would no longer be a need for scrutiny chairs to speak at Cabinet
- The benefits of scrutiny attendance at Cabinet were questionable
- Cabinet was acknowledged to be 'political theatre'
- There were too many information items or decisions to go out to consultation
- A further misconception was that scrutiny was opposition
- Consideration could be given to allowing group leaders to challenge Cabinet at County Council
- The differentiation between scrutiny chairs and group leaders must be clear
- Any changes agreed should not be brought in before the new Council in May 2017

**Outcomes:**

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Draft proposals to be prepared for discussion with the Joint Chairs Steering Group, Cabinet and Group Leaders in the first instance and eventual consideration by Democratic Services Committee	March 2017	WR

<b>7.</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>	<b>JCSG55 - 2016</b>
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**Documents Considered:**

- Work Programme

**Issues Discussed:**

- Youth Service redesign – it was noted that this was currently out to consultation but no scrutiny had been undertaken. The topic was not included on the Cabinet work programme
- Savings plans must be scrutinised for effectiveness

**Outcomes:**

Action	Completion Date	Action By
Youth Service redesign to be rescored 5 and included as a high priority	December/January	LP
Depot Strategy (category 4) to be removed from list	18 October 2016	WR
Emerging Regeneration Strategy to be amended to category 3	18 October 2016	WR
JVC to be included for review in 2018	18 October 2016	WR

<b>8.</b>	<b>PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD</b>	<b>JCSG56 - 2016</b>
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56.1. Draft Notes of Previous Meeting(s)

The draft notes of 5 June 2016 were not yet available.

56.2. PSB Dates - For Information

- 20 October 2016
- 1 December 2016



<b>9.</b>	<b>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS - FOR INFORMATION</b>	<b>JCSG57 - 2016</b>
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22 November 2016  
17 January 2017  
28 February 2017  
21 March 2017  
11 April 2017  
20 June 2017  
11 July 2017  
19 September 2017  
10 October 2017  
7 November 2017  
5 December 2017

**County Councillor D R Jones**

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## PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2017

**Chair** Cllr D. R. Jones  
**Vice Chair** Cllr M. Mackenzie

Portfolio Holders to attend on invitation from the Chair

2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2017		
<b>Standard Items</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2016	Clerk Clerk
<b>Policy Reviews</b>		
○		
<b>Spotlight Reviews</b>		
○		
<b>Inspection Reports</b>		
○ Adoption (regional) provisional		
<b>Updates from Working Groups</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Services Working Group</li> <li>• Education Scrutiny Group</li> <li>• Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group</li> <li>• Children's Services Scrutiny Group</li> <li>• Health Scrutiny</li> </ul>		
<b>Other</b>		
•		
<b>Joint Chairs notes</b>		
• 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2017		

14 <sup>th</sup> June 2017		
<b>Standard Items</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes</li> <li>• Work Programme</li> </ul>	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2016	Clerk Clerk
<b>Policy Reviews</b>		
○		
<b>Spotlight Reviews</b>		
○		
<b>Inspection Reports</b>		
○		
<b>Updates from Working Groups</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Services Working Group</li> <li>• Education Scrutiny Group</li> <li>• Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children's Services Scrutiny Group</li> <li>Health Scrutiny</li> </ul>		
<b>Other</b> •		
<b>Joint Chairs notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28 Feb 2017</li> <li>21 Mar 2017</li> <li>11 April 2017</li> </ul>		

7 <sup>th</sup> September 2017		
<b>Standard Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes</li> <li>Work Programme</li> </ul>	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2016	Clerk Clerk
<b>Policy Reviews</b> ○		
<b>Spotlight Reviews</b> ○		
<b>Inspection Reports</b> ○		
<b>Updates from Working Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural Services Working Group</li> <li>Education Scrutiny Group</li> <li>Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group</li> <li>Children's Services Scrutiny Group</li> <li>Health Scrutiny</li> </ul>		
<b>Other</b> •		
<b>Joint Chairs notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>20<sup>th</sup> June 2017</li> <li>11<sup>th</sup> July 2017</li> </ul>		

13 <sup>th</sup> December 2017		
<b>Standard Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes</li> <li>Work Programme</li> </ul>	15 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2016	Clerk Clerk
<b>Policy Reviews</b> ○		
<b>Spotlight Reviews</b> ○		
<b>Inspection Reports</b>		
<b>Updates from Working Groups</b>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural Services Working Group</li> <li>• Education Scrutiny Group</li> <li>• Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group</li> <li>• Children's Services Scrutiny Group</li> <li>• Health Scrutiny</li> </ul>		
<b>Other</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>		
<b>Joint Chairs notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017</li> <li>• 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017</li> <li>• 7 Nov 2017</li> </ul>		

## **WORKING GROUPS**

### **Adult Social Care Scrutiny Group**

Lead Member: Cllr David Jones

Chair of People: as above

County Councillors: Cllr Rachel Davies, Cllr James Gibson-Watt,  
Cllr Kath Roberts-Jones, Cllr Tom Turner

### **Children's Services Scrutiny Group**

Lead Member: Cllr Kath Roberts-Jones

Chair of People: Cllr David Jones

County Councillors: Cllr Roche Davies, Cllr Maureen Mackenzie, Cllr Sue McNicholas

Co-opted Members: A Davies  
L Jenkin  
M Evitts

### **Cultural Services Scrutiny Group**

Lead Member: VACANCY

Chair of People: Cllr David Jones

County Councillors: Cllr P Medicott, Cllr Tom Turner, Cllr Mike Williams (by invitation)

### **Corporate Matters Scrutiny Group**

Chair of People: Cllr David Jones

Lead Members of other working groups:

County Councillors: Education: (currently Chair of People)

Adult Social Care -

Children's Services – Cllr Kath Roberts-Jones

Cultural Matters -

**Education Scrutiny Group**

Lead Member: Cllr David Jones

Chair of People: as above

County Councillors: Cllr Maureen Mackenzie, Cllr Rachel Davies,  
Cllr Ann Holloway, Cllr Kath Roberts-Jones  
Cllr S McNicholas, Cllr A Davies, Cllr Gwilym  
Vaughan

Co-opted Members: A Davies

L Jenkin

M Evitts

**Joint Health Scrutiny Group (3 Members each from Gwynedd,  
Ceredigion and Powys)**

Chair of People: Cllr David Jones

2 County Councillors: Cllr Kath Roberts-Jones, Cllr Aled Davies