

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Venue

By Zoom

Meeting Date

Thursday, 18 July 2024

Meeting Time

2.00 pm

For further information please contact

Carrienne Lloyd-Ralph

carrienne.lloyd-ralph@powys.gov.uk



County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

12/07/2024

The use of Welsh by participants is welcomed. If you wish to use Welsh please inform us by noon, two working days before the meeting

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES
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To receive apologies for absence.

2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
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To receive declarations of interest from Members.

3.	DISCLOSURE OF PARTY WHIPS
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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, Members having been given a prohibited party whip cannot vote on a matter before the Committee.)

4.	MINUTES
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To authorise the Chair to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held as follows as a correct record: 5th May 2024.

5.	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE ACADEMY UPDATE
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To receive and consider an update presentation on the Health and Social Care Academy.

(Pages 5 - 10)

6.	ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT
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To receive and consider the social services complaints, compliments and representations annual report 2023 - 2024.

(Pages 11 - 24)

7.	RESPITE PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES
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To receive and consider a presentation regarding the Respite Provision for Young People with Learning Difficulties.

(Pages 25 - 32)

8.	EXTRA CARE STRATEGY ANNUAL UPDATE
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To receive and consider a presentation of the annual update on the Extra Care Strategy.

9.	OUT-TURN REPORT ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES
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To receive and consider the Out-turn Report in respect of Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

(Pages 33 - 80)

10.	WORK PROGRAMME
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To note the scrutiny forward work programme.

(Pages 81 - 88)

11.	EXEMPT ITEM
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The Monitoring Officer has determined that category 3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules applies to the following items. His view on the public interest test (having taken account of the provisions of Rule 14.8 of the Council's Access to Information Rules) was that to make this information public would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

These factors in his view outweigh the public interest in disclosing this information. Members are asked to consider these factors when determining the public interest test, which they must decide when considering excluding the public from this part of the meeting.

12.	CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE
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To receive and consider the Children's Services Residential Care Report.
(Pages 89 - 94)

Committee Reflection

Following the close of the meeting, the Committee is asked to take 5 to 10 minutes to reflect on today's meeting.

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5

Powys County Council Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	
Date:	
Subject:	

1. Who will be the Lead Officer(s) / Lead Cabinet Member(s) presenting the report?

Name:	Role:
Nina Davies	Director of Social Services and Wellbeing
Julia Toy	Strategic Workforce Lead for Health, Care and Partnership

2. Why is the Scrutiny Committee being asked to consider the subject?

The Chair of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee requested an update on the following:

- How apprenticeships and Grow our Own fits into recruitment model of the Health and Social Care Academy, working with schools etc.

also

- Llais feedback last summer in terms of comments that they did not know what the Health and Social Care Academy was.

3. Role of the Committee:

The role of the Committee in considering the subject is to:

4. Key Scrutiny Questions:

What Key areas should the Committee focus on:

5. Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members:

To assist the Committee when scrutinising the topic:

5.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities :

5.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality
[focus on value]

5.3 A look at any risks
[focus on risk]

5.4 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing and future generations]

5.5 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

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

[focus on equality and Welsh Language]

Key Feeders (tick all that apply)

Strategic Risk		Cabinet Work Plan	
Director / Head of Service Key Issue		External / Internal Inspection	
Existing Commitment / Annual Report		Performance / Finance Issue	
Suggestion from Public		Referral from Council / Committee	
Corporate Improvement Plan		Impacting Public / other services	
Service Integrated Business Plan		Climate Emergency / Nature Emergency	
Suggestion from Members	√		
Partnerships			

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Health & Care Scrutiny Committee 18th July 2024

Report Author: Julia Toy, Strategic Workforce Lead for Health, Care and Partnership

Report Title: Powys Health, Care and Social Care Academy update

Report For: Information

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper is intended to provide an update for information following a request from the Chair of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee as follows:

- How apprenticeships and grow our own fits into recruitment model of the Health and Social Care Academy, working with schools etc.

also

- Llais feedback last summer in terms of comments that they did not know what the Health and Social Care Academy was.

2. Background

2.1 Partners established the Workforce Futures Programme as an enabler of the region's Health and Care Strategy. Membership of the Programme Board is drawn from across partners including social care, third sector and health. The Programme Board is Co-Chaired by the Director of Social Services and Wellbeing along with the health board Executive Director of People and Culture.

2.2 The concept of the Health and Care Academy was approved as both a virtual and physical space in which paid employees, volunteers and unpaid carers could develop. A physical space in Bronllys opened in 2020 and a second location, Spa Road, Llandrindod Wells has recently been completed.

3. Update

3.1 During 2023, the Workforce Futures Programme was reset and 14 priorities agreed by the partnership. The reset process also confirmed an adjusted name for the Academy in light of feedback received and it is now known as the Powys Health, Care and Social Care Academy.

3.2 The health and care sector has struggled to recruit to a range of registrant and non-registrant posts, and the impact of the pandemic worsened the position. The international evidence base shows that early exposure to careers information plus frequent opportunities to experience working in or alongside services plus supportive mentoring would result in young people from rural areas being more likely to be attracted to and retained in health and care careers, enabling us to Grow Our Own future workforce.

3.3 A small 2022/23 academic year pilot within Powys sixth forms provided valuable insights into what mattered to learners: practical skills sessions, speaking with professionals and finding out about the variety of roles. Page 7
Teachers reported engagement in lessons

increased, improved recall of topics in assessments and an appreciation of the “real world” experience that cannot be replicated in the classroom. It became evident we could influence learners’ career choices and highlight the opportunities and roles available within health & social care.

- 3.4 The 2023/24 Academy Careers Education Enterprise Scheme was produced through a multi-agency steering group which included representatives from Powys County Social Care and Education teams, Powys Teaching Health Board clinical education and Welsh language and equalities teams, school and further educational colleges and professionals from the Health, Care and Social Care Academy.
- 3.5 The scheme was divided into phases catering for distinct stages of the school curriculum from years 7-13 and those studying for a health and social care qualification attending a further education establishment in Powys. This phased approach was delivered bilingually and positively received in ten secondary schools, three secondary additional learning needs settings and two further education campuses in Powys. We worked collaboratively with Additional Learning Needs and Pupil Referral Unit settings to ensure appropriate delivery of sessions to learners.
- 3.6 For Year 12 and 13 learners enrolled on a relevant course an immersive programme was developed in addition to the whole school approach, including simulation experience, taught sessions via Teams, practical skills session and a focussed Careers Festival to enable learners to have contact with a range of health and social care professionals.
- 3.7 This phased approach enabled the scheme to engage with over 3,800 learners between September 2023 and April 2024 (a further secondary school engaged with the careers festival for older learners). It is the first scheme of its kind to deliver on such a scale and breadth of delivery and we are keen to share our learning across Wales.
- 3.8 One of the aims of the Academy Careers Education Enterprise Scheme was to raise awareness of flexible routes into employment in the health and care sector, including those delivered in Powys. Examples include apprenticeships and “Grow Our Own” pathway in social care. Apprenticeships provide a valued vocational training route for learners who may not achieve 5 or more GCSEs, and those who appreciate the supportive workplace development provided by an apprenticeship. All sessions aimed at learners in Year 9 and above in schools and colleges include information on how young people can access the Powys County Council apprenticeship talent pool and highlights the social care “Grow Our Own” pathway. Recruitment is then undertaken by the local authority.
- 3.9 The Council’s Work-Based Learning Manager reported an unexpected increase in work experience enquiries within the authority following the visits to the 10 secondary schools in Powys. The Health, Care and Social Care Academy is able to promote these opportunities in schools and colleges, signposting learners and teachers to further information or application.
- 3.10 We were keen to understand the impact of the project in this academic year and designed an evaluation process involving learners, teachers and partners. Key findings are: 27.5% of learners attending phase 1-4 (years 7-13) are likely to make further education or subject choices related to health and social care. 25.7% are likely to take up a career in health and social care. 29% felt motivated about spending more time with the Academy in the future and 32.4% expressed an interest in finding out more about health and social care and related careers in Powys.

- 3.11 Almost 90% of respondents who took part in the phase 5 enhanced programme (for Years 12 and 13 and further education college settings) have reaffirmed that they would be interested in finding out more about health and social care, 85% reported that they are likely to take up a career within this sector and 85% are feeling motivated to spend more time with the Academy in the future, which is very positive.
- 3.12 100% of teacher respondents found the sessions valuable and said they would like to see them continue next year.
- 3.13 Regarding Llais, public board meetings of Powys Teaching Health Board include a representative of Llais, and Llais also provide observers for the Board sub-committee meetings. As a result, Llais is sighted on reports that include information on the Health, Care and Social Care Academy. Based on the feedback from summer 2023, we will send Llais an update on the reset Workforce Futures Programme and invite their representatives to an informal update session with the Workforce Futures Programme Oversight Group.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Health and Care Committee note the update and information provided.

Contact Officer: Julia Toy

Tel:

Email: Julia.a.toy@wales.nhs.uk

Head of Service: Not applicable

Corporate Director: Director of Social Services and Wellbeing

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SOCIAL SERVICES
COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS
AND REPRESENTATIONS
ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24
SOCIAL SERVICES FEEDBACK TEAM



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to have in place a representations and complaints procedure for social services under the *Social Services Complaints Procedure (Wales) Regulations 2014 and the Representations Procedure (Wales) Regulations 2014* and the associated guidance document, *A Guide to Handling Complaints and Representations by Local Authority Social Services*.
- 1.2 Each local authority in Wales is required to produce an annual report concerning the operation of its representations and complaints procedure.
- 1.3 This annual report provides information about the operation of the Social Service’s Representation and Complaints Procedure between the 1st of April 2023 and the 31st of March 2024. The report contains information about the number and type of complaints received and provides details of the activities undertaken during this period to develop the service.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Our approach is based on “*getting it right*” first time and if not, then “*putting it right*” as soon as possible.
- 2.2 An effective complaint handling system is one that provides confidence that complaints are dealt with effectively through the following three steps:
 1. Arrangements for enabling people to make complaints are customer-focussed, visible, accessible, and valued, and supported by management.
 2. Complaints are responded to promptly, handled objectively, fairly, and confidentially. Remedies are provided where complaints are upheld and there is a system for review.
 3. There are clear accountabilities for complaint handling and complaints are used to stimulate and mandate (as appropriate) organisational improvements.
- 2.3 The Council’s Social Services Complaints Procedure seeks to allow service users, or those eligible to speak on their behalf, to voice their concerns in relation to the exercise of Social Service functions.
- 2.4 The Social Services Feedback Team are committed to ensuring that concerns raised are listened to and resolved as quickly and efficiently as possible. Lessons learned from this process are fed back to relevant teams and used, wherever possible, to improve future service delivery.
- 2.5 Similarly, Social Services adopts a positive attitude towards complaints and views them as valuable feedback, to assist in the development and improvement of services.
- 2.6 The aim is to resolve complaints at the earliest opportunity (sometimes without the need for lengthy and costly investigations) and teams in both Services are encouraged to be proactive in achieving this goal.
- 2.7 Where someone has been deemed ineligible to utilise the Social Services Complaints Procedure, in accordance with the guidance, the Feedback Team will endeavour to aid them informally in order to provide the best possible service to the complainant. The Feedback Team keep account of these types of contact, and these are referred to throughout this report as “comments”.

- 2.8 Where a complaint relates to a young person, a care leaver, or an adult who requires support to engage in the complaints process, the local authority has a duty to provide information about advocacy services and to offer help in obtaining an advocate to support them through the complaints process.
- 2.9 Effective engagement with advocacy services enables more individuals and groups to make use of the complaints process at the earliest opportunity.
- 2.10 Experience indicates that complainants who opt to use the services of an advocate, tend to have more of an understanding of their circumstances, their rights, expectations, and the Authority's responsibilities. Additionally, in most cases individuals can reconcile their feelings about the situation through an advocate and resolution is more speedily achieved, often without pursuing a formal complaint.

3. SOCIAL SERVICES FEEDBACK TEAM

- 3.1 During Quarter 2 of 2023/24 a new database was put in place, this has allowed for better management of complaints, compliments, and comments, as well as the storage of all necessary information within one location.
- 3.2 Due to long-term sickness absence, administrative support to the Feedback Team was reduced – this meant the Feedback Team were placed in a difficult and unusual staffing position, and we are taking steps to remedy this.
- 3.3 The email account for the Social Services Feedback Team receives a high volume of emails each day as demonstrated by the table below.

Table 1 Emails Received by the Feedback Team

Year:	Total Emails Received:	Average Per Working Day:
2019/2020	2619	10.3
2020/2021	4694	18.6
2021/2022	4220	16.7
2022/2023	4,321	16.6
2023/2024	4,170	16.0

4. SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF COMPLAINTS AND ENQUIRES.

Key performance indicators – summary overview:

Key Performance Indicator	Actual	Target
% complaints resolved informally	72%	50 % / < 10 days
Stage 1 investigations completed within Regulation timescales	22 working days	15 working days
Stage 2 investigations completed within Regulation timescales	78 working days	25 working days

Number of cases investigated by the PSOW	0	< 2
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- 4.1 It is important to remember that an increase or decrease in the number of complaints does not necessarily reflect a change in the standard of service provided. An increase may indicate the positive view that is taken towards complaints, and that people are more well-informed about how to make a complaint.
- 4.2 The following graphs show the number of complaints each year; we have seen a steady decrease, with a significant drop for 23/24. This can be down to several factors, such as the reduction in agency staffing, as well as lower staff turnover creating consistency with clients. There have also been service provider changes which saw a substantial number of complaints and enquiries during 2021 continuing through to the middle of 2023. It is submitted that improved leadership, together with improved systems of learning developed and refined since 2021, have also been contributing factors.
- 4.3 Complaints in general continue to be complex and involve several service areas or themes and consequently, often take considerable time to be thoroughly investigated. A response is compiled containing enough detail, but which is also concise while answering all of the individual's questions and concerns.
- 4.4 Enquiries still account for 70% of the contact received by the team and are the quickest and simplest informal path to resolution - the majority of enquires do not progress to complaints.

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
% of complaints dealt with as an enquiry.	31%	50%	60%	72%	70%	70%	72%

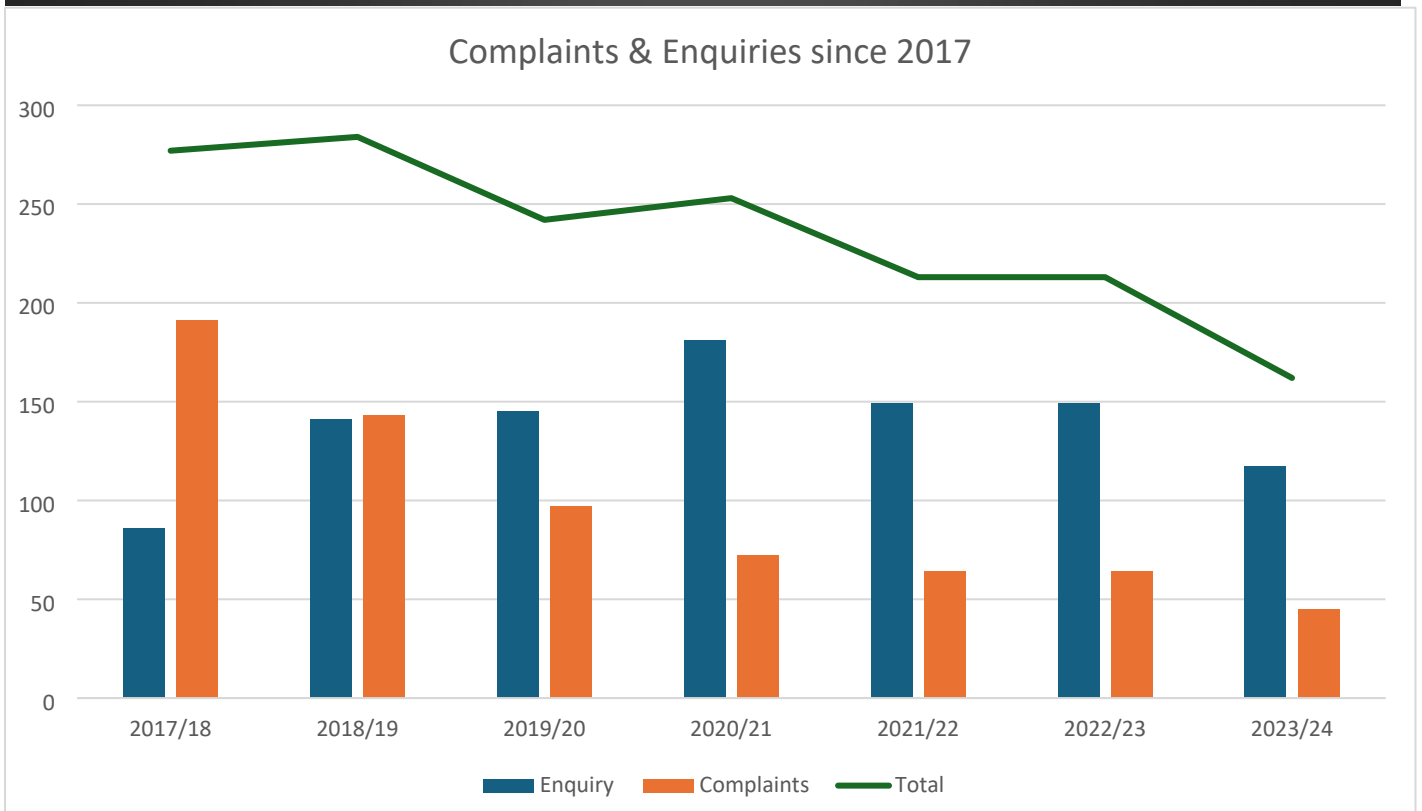
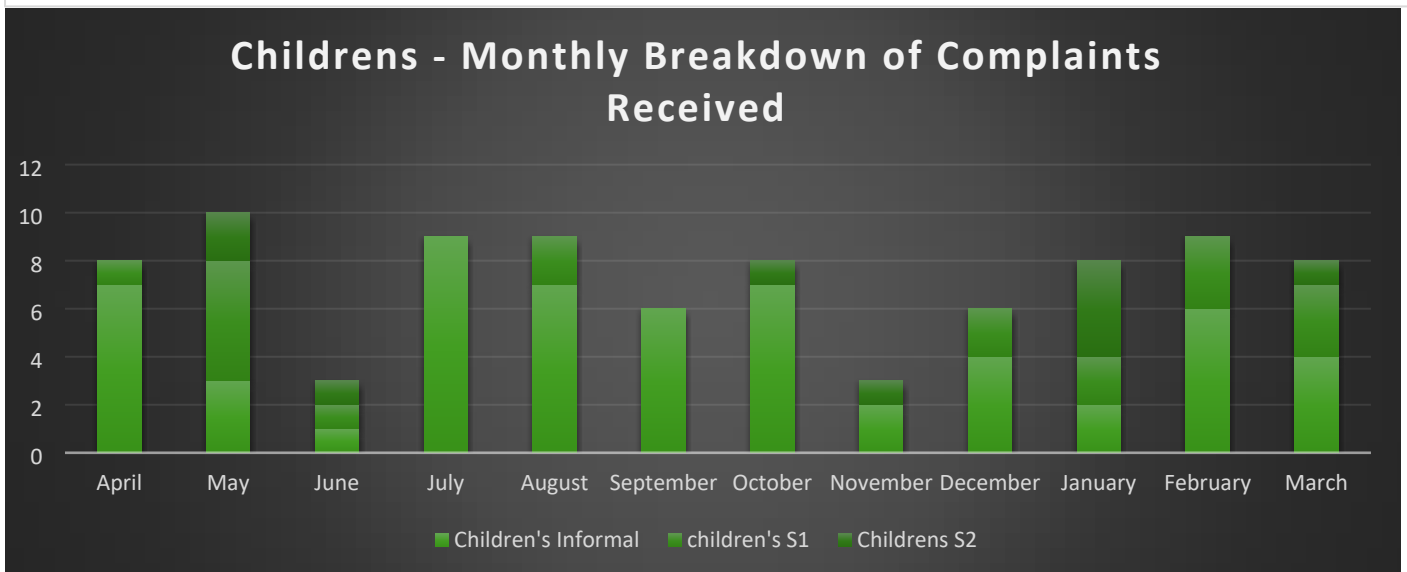
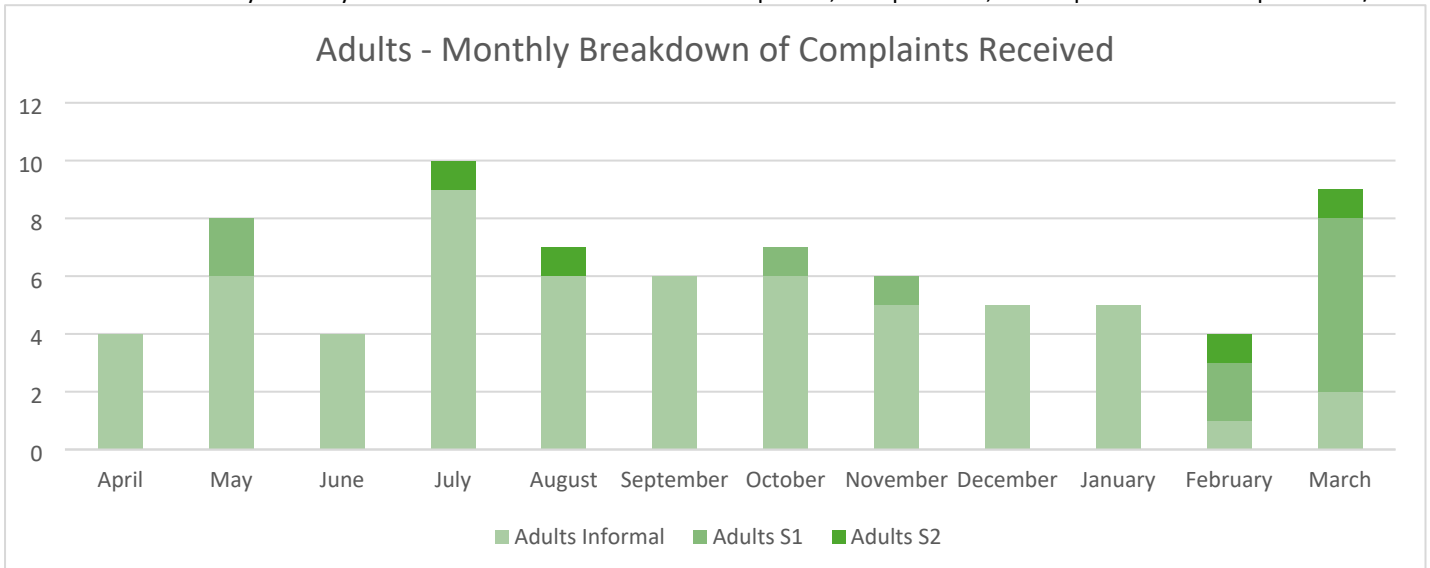


Figure 1 Number of Complaints 2017 to 2024

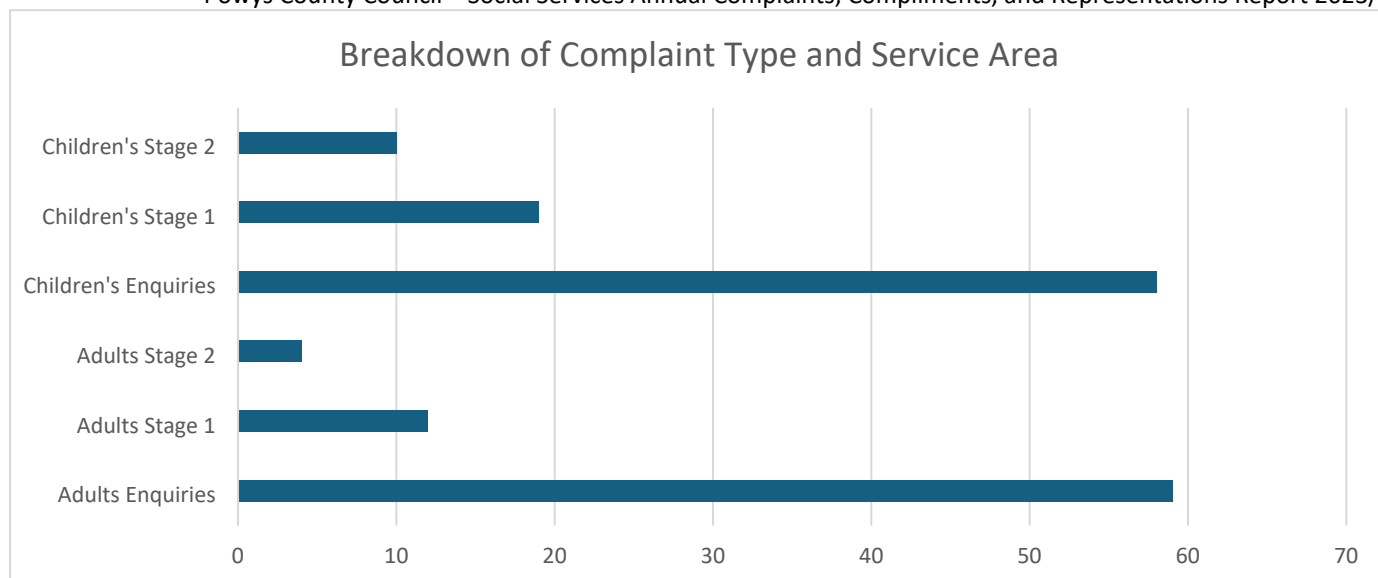
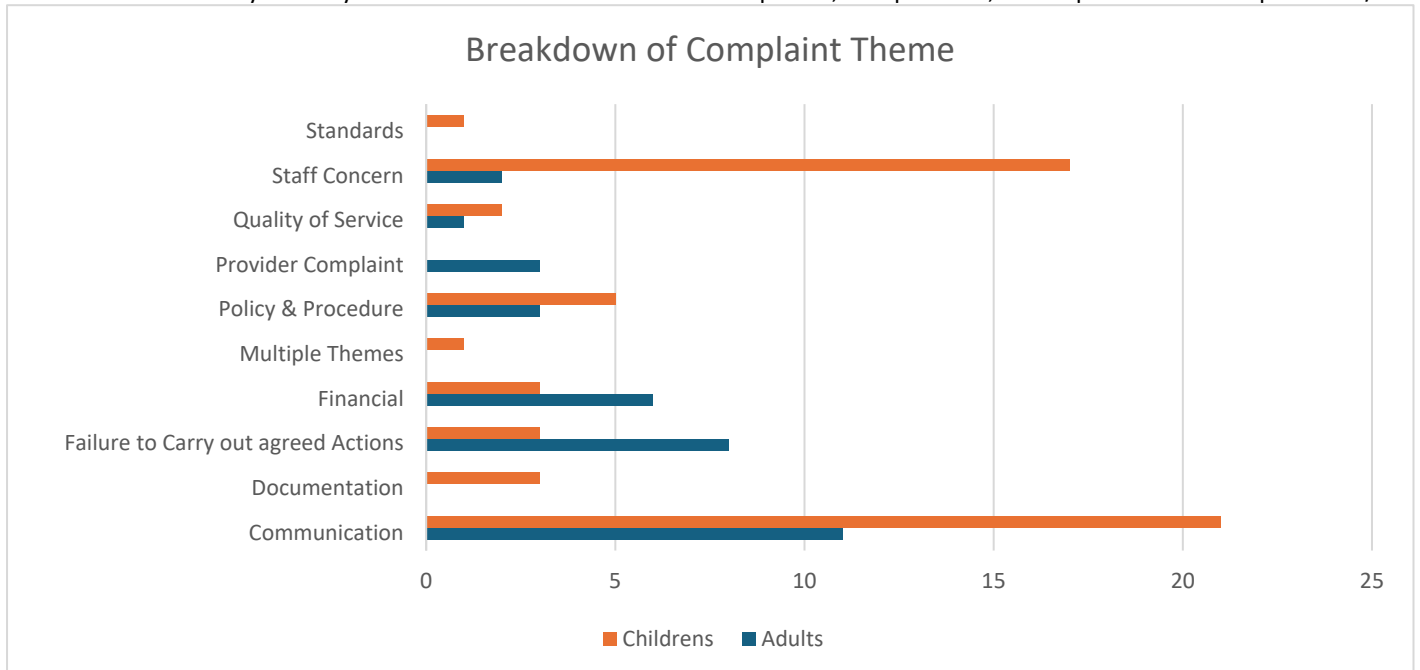


Figure 2 Breakdown of Complaints Per Service

- 4.5 Children's Services received most of the complaints as shown in Figure 3. This is expected given the nature of the work undertaken. At its broadest level, Children's statutory duties centre around ensuring that children are kept safe and protected from harm, whilst Adult Services centre around supporting people to live as independently as possible, doing what matters to them, as well as working to safeguard adults at risk of abuse and neglect.
- 4.6 It should be noted that several of the complaints will be double/triple counted as they are included in each stage of the complaints process that they triggered in the year. However, not all complaints at Stage 2 will have been at Stage 1 in this year. Similarly, not all stage 1 complaints will have been dealt with as an enquiry initially.
- 4.7 Table 3 shows the outcome of elements at different stages of the complaints process. Following changes to the recording process for 2023/24, the number of elements has been recorded for nearly all complaints (due to capacity within the team, there were a small number of complaints in Quarter 1, where the number of elements were not recorded). Since Quarter 2, the number of 'Upheld', 'Not Upheld' and 'Partially Upheld' elements has been recorded for all closed complaints.

Outcome	Adult Elements		Child Elements		Total
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 1	Stage 2	
Upheld	4	14	7	5	30
Partially Upheld	2	0	9	5	16
Not Upheld	15	9	17	7	48
Total Number of Elements	21	23	33	17	94

- 4.8 As complaints are received, they are given a theme, as per the graph below.



4.9 “Communication”, “Staff Concerns” and “Failure to carry out agreed action(s)” are the top issues across Social Services.

Communication deals with issues relating to how the individual has been communicated with by staff or the department.

Staff Concerns are where concerns are raised about the actions or professionalism of a member of staff.

Failure to carry out agreed actions is where an action was taken by the social worker or department, this can include actions that took longer than the service user expected, such as panel approval for funding or finding a care provider to deliver care.

4.10 Complaints are dealt with in line with the *Social Services Complaints Procedure (Regulations) Wales 2014*, which state a complaint must be acknowledged within 2 working days and responded to within 15 working days at Stage 1. Stage 2 complaints should be completed within 25 working days.

We try to acknowledge receipt of any correspondence within 2 working days and resolve any enquiries to the team within 2 working days.

The table below shows the average time taken to close an enquiry or complaint:

Average Duration	Adults	Childrens
Enquiry	5.1	15.2
Stage 1	20.2	25.3
Stage 2	60.5	97.9

4.11 Due to limited capacity during 2023/24, there were significant periods where it was difficult to complete complaint work timeously due to substantial pressure on teams. Conversations continue through both Children’s and Adult’s Operational Manager Team Meetings to ensure that staff are supported to respond to enquiries and complaints in a timely manner. However, complaint work

Powys County Council – Social Services Annual Complaints, Compliments, and Representations Report 2023/24 needs to be diarised by managers, who need to seek further information and review notes to be able to respond, and due to continued sustained pressure on the service and nature of the work with matters sometimes becoming urgent at short notice, complaints need regular follow-ups by the Complaints Officer to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

5. ANALYSIS OF COMMENTS

5.1 Comments are made by individuals who do not wish to pursue a complaint, or where it is not viewed as a complaint. Available data from previous years does not separate out comments into service areas. Previous years have seen comments being recorded as enquiries, since 2022 the team have been working towards ensuring that comments are distinguished from complaints.

5.2 The high level of comments received during 2022/23 were due to the high number of correspondence asking for help with single care support provider. This has been resolved now and the number of comments for 23/24 has markedly reduced.

Comment	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Children's					21
Adults					23
Total	21	17	39	104	44

5.3 Comments during 2023/24 relating to several matters including:

- Concerns regarding the quality of supervision provided by a care provider in the supported living tenancy they live near to.
- Concerns copied to a Councillor regarding the quality of service delivered by a substance misuse service.
- Concerns regarding the delay in being allocated appropriate housing, which allowed them to seek support from social services. [This was not a complaint about the delay in services, but housing]
- Concerns about the delay in the Out of Hours phone line being answered [this is a contract managed by Customer Services]
- An historic complaint regarding the conduct of a police officer.
- Demand for compensation by a holiday-let owner following damage being inflicted by a young person looked after there.
- Request for contact details to arrange post-adoption support for their child's behaviour.

6. COMPLIMENTS

6.1 Table 5 shows the breakdown of compliments the service has received since 2018. The overall number of compliments continues to increase with more compliments being recorded for Children's Services, but a decreasing number being recorded for Adult Services.

Table 2 Break down of Compliments

Compliments	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Children's	14	14	61	77	64	99
Adults	126	130	93	87	56	39
Total	140	144	154	164	120	138

6.2 During Quarter 3 of 2023/24 Children’s Services implemented an all-service staff fortnightly bulletin, which included a section on compliments, this has seen a surge in compliments being sent into the team, with staff complimenting excellent work, and forwarding remarks by families and external professionals that previously went unrecorded. We understand that Adult’s Services are also introducing a newsletter/bulletin, and we will use this to share good practice and learning.

Adult Services at the same time have implemented a new feedback system, formally collating feedback from across the service area. This has collated several compliments about the service, but unfortunately, they have not yet fed into the formal compliments process. Integrating this will be focused on during 2024/25.

6.3 The individuals who have taken the time to submit formal compliments are clear about the value and positive impact that services provided have had on them and their loved ones.

EXAMPLE OF CHILDREN’S COMPLIMENTS

Team	Compliment
Quality Assurance & Training	Hi, first of all I wanted to say a huge thank you for the work you guys do, you always reply quickly and are always great at letting us know what training is available to us 😊
Through Care 14+	<p>Dear [Social Worker]</p> <p>We wish to extend our sincere thanks to you for the significant support and assistance you provided to our Child Practice Review.</p> <p>This was a complex and challenging review and it was extremely important to the panel that family engagement was approached in a sensitive, person-centred manner, in light of the trauma that the family has experienced and the exacerbation of this via the notable press interest that this case has attracted.</p> <p>The trusting relationship that you have built with the family was a vital link in establishing and continuing family engagement and support throughout the lengthy process of the review, and we are extremely grateful for your professionalism and dedication throughout the review process, without which the effective engagement achieved, simply would not have been possible.</p> <p>Thank you for all of your support to the family and for ensuring that their voices were able to be heard.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Chair, on behalf of the CYSUR 3 2021 Panel</p>
Family Time	<p>Just want to give a big shout out to J for today. Had an absolute blast with the girls from the monkey impressions to comic portraits and the rest of stuff in-between, and let’s not forget the fly. As that was a good laugh also, so thanks for playing along J. The best feeling is being with the girls, as spending time together means so much, not only for them but me also. even though we had such I good laugh throughout contact, it was also lovely to have a conversation with them.</p> <p>Once again J thanks for being a such good sport, as in playing along and taking part in stuff we did.</p>
IDS North	<p>Good Morning D, We both hope you are well.</p> <p>X has been supported by Social Services in the Children's Disability Department. The complete team for the last 11 years has been outstanding, especially the last couple with D, our Well Being Officer, who has supported X and our family. With her professionalism she has arranged multiple people who are involved with X to meetings, regular meetings which have been very important through this transition period. Having DI at the end of the telephone or knowing a meeting is coming up adds a lot of comfort to a family with a child with complex needs.</p> <p>Can we take this opportunity to thank all the team for your support in Children's Disability Service.</p>

	Kind regards, Mum, dad and child.
Through Care 0-14	Thank you D, I really am looking forward to next contact. You made everything a breeze for me and the girls.
IDS North	I cannot speak highly enough regarding the support V has offered RA and his family during the 13 months he has resided at Carriage House. During this time RA has regularly displayed resistance to engaging with most professionals but V has been the exception to that rule as he has, almost without fail, engaged with V in a very positive manner. I believe that Vicky has built an accord with RA over many years, and he has come to value V as a confidant, which has been beneficial to us here at Carriage House and RA. V's intervention with the family and support during their visits has also been of great value to all parties and has allowed us all to discuss, and agree, progressing these contacts over the next 12 months, which is a credit to V and her engagement in this process.
Support For Family South	<p>I would like to give some feedback about our time with TAF.</p> <p>The girls and I have come a long way in the last year and really don't think we would have done so without K. We would still be stuck in a rut with the girls being completely traumatised and shut down and not talking to anyone except me. I would still be in a constant state of stress, grief, and traumatised; trying to cope with the numerous issues we were facing, and failing because everything was too overwhelming.</p> <p>Along came K, and for the first couple of months I couldn't hold a conversation with her or anyone else for that matter without crying. K was like a breath of fresh air, and the girls took to her quicker than any other professional in their involvement. K showed me the way, both with coping with the girls and their very many difficulties with diagnoses and also with getting myself mental health support.</p> <p>One year on, and the girls now talk to K, my sister, their grandparents and sometimes others when they feel able to. Having completed the Triple P programme, I can cope better with their difficulties with extreme anxiety. The girls are planning for their futures, and they are much happier in themselves generally. They are looking forward to having an au pair to help them with home schooling, something they would not have wanted at all a year ago.</p> <p>I have been discharged from complex PTSD trauma therapy and I have made my own plans, I am over half way through a Diploma in Paramedicine, and I have applied to go to University to train as a Paramedic from September this year. A year ago, I would never have dreamt that would be possible.</p> <p>K is an inspiration, and an absolute credit to her profession, if anyone deserves support worker of the year it's her (if there is such a thing).</p> <p>Thank you for 'holding my hand' and cheering us on, you are pure gold.</p>
Support For Family South	<p>Hello I had support off J for my son. J was fantastic she really listened and explain everything to me and to my son and took extra time to really make him feel comfortable with what was going on as he was very worried.</p> <p>J really helped with his school and offered some amazing advice.</p>
Assessme nt North	<p>Good morning, thank you so much for all your help & support, you have been amazing & I can't thank you enough, when everyone else didn't believe in me, you did & I will forever be thankful to have you in my corner helping me & my family, you made the whole process so much easier. I still can't believe the improvements M has made. I feel like I can breathe again now M has her diagnosis & Is getting her treatment, despite the struggles we have been treated amazing by the support we've had in place, so thank you for absolutely everything.</p> <p>We won't forget :)</p>

EXAMPLE OF ADULT COMPLIMENTS

Team	Compliments
Adults with Disabilities	<p>"I wanted to pass on all the positive feedback, *** sister – **** has given about your time working with ****.</p> <p>She was full of praise for you and commented several times how lovely with **** you were.</p> <p>We often get caught up in the negatives, or people can be quick to complain, so I always like to pass on any positive feedback I hear, as its good to be appreciated and know how much</p>

	our effort means. Thanks Gemma."
Older Persons Team North	As a family we would like to thank B for all her commitment, support and hard work in finding a short-term care placement and then a care package for a family member. This is greatly appreciated.
Older Persons Team North	Julie I just wanted to let you know that mum passed away peacefully today at [Care Home]. Mum had a nasty chest infection and due to not eating for a month her defences were down and she had nothing to fight with. The staff were brilliant, we could not have received better care anywhere. The care and compassion shown to us as well as a family was amazing by all staff. Thanks for everything you did for mum and us. Your care, kindness, compassion towards mum self-centred care was outstanding. We appreciate everything you did to facilitate mums move from Newtown hospital.
Mental Health	I wanted to drop you a note to thank you for all you have done, above and beyond, for my Dad. From the very first time we spoke back in July I trusted you. I could sense your genuine concern and firm focus on all you could to support and keep driving what was obviously necessary for Dad.
Mental Health	I want to say a huge thank you to you for all that you have done for both A and myself. You have been a constant which has been so necessary for A. He thinks a lot of you and said to E that he was going to miss you and that were a lot of things he has been able to confide over the years. I know I will miss your updates and level headedness. You have been a great support to me in the mine field of mental health. I wish you every happiness and success wherever you go and whatever you do.

7. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT AND LEARNING

- 7.1 The Feedback Team and Quality Assurance Officers continue to work closely together to identify themes and any repeating or significant areas of concern. These help to inform the work around quality assurance to improve and promote best practice.
- 7.2 The link between Feedback Team and Quality Assurance Officers is important to ensure we take on board what people like about our service from compliments and learn lessons where we have made mistakes. It is also important to look at why individuals have made a complaint, regardless of the outcome.
- 7.3 Since November 2020, officers from both teams usually meet every month to discuss the closed complaints from the previous month. This has contributed to a monthly focus on communication, and consideration on how managers could be supported differently to respond to concerns before a complaint is made.
- 7.4 During 2023/24 a Laming Visit by members of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee took place during these Quality Assurance Meetings. Members were happy that this took place, and it was clear that complaints were taken seriously and analysed to establish learning not just within a single complaint, but across the complaints closed and utilising knowledge from previous months. The visits did highlight the lack of formal actions noting from these minutes as such an action log is completed during each meeting to ensure that learning is logged, and any actions monitored to ensure completion.

- 7.5 Training offered by the Complaints Standards Authority has not taken place during 2023/24 as it was not being offered by the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales due to a vacancy arising in their training team. We understand that this will be resumed in 2024/25.
- 7.7 Since April 2021, Children’s Service staff induction has included an overview of the complaints process. During the year, 27 members of staff had been through the induction sessions. Adults Services have included an “Overview of Complaints” fact sheet in their staff induction.

8. UPDATE ON 2022/23 IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Area Of Work	Outcome
<p>During 2023/24, we will roll out a Complaint Handling training course to complement the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales Complaint Investigation training.</p> <p>This training will focus on what complaints are under the Regulations, how to respond, the reasons for complaints, as well as acting as a forum for investigators to share best practice.</p>	<p>Due to the limited capacity of the team during 2023/24 due to long-term staff absence this training was not delivered routinely. An initial session in quarter 4 took place with around a dozen student social workers. The feedback from this session was positive.</p> <p>Unfortunately, no Public Service Ombudsman for Wales training was delivered during 2023/24, due to the trainer no longer being in post.</p> <p>If this training is still offered, then further training will be delivered during 2024/25 in conjunction with further internal complaint investigation training to be commenced later in 2024/25.</p>
<p>We believe that there are many more compliments and a small number of informally resolved low-level complaints being dealt with that are not being officially recorded.</p> <p>It is important that staff know how to record and respond upon receipt of a compliment or complaint, so that it can be officially recorded for our statistics, as well as learning from best practice to continually improve our services.</p>	<p>Through Operational Management Team Meeting (OMT) and Senior Management Meetings (SMT) staff have been reminded of the importance of forwarding compliments and complaints to the team in a timely manner. Furthermore, an overview of complaints and compliments are provided through these meetings, and opportunities for learning discussed.</p> <p>There is a reality that not every matter will be forwarded to the team, and we accept that for low-level matters this is acceptable, provided staff continue to recognise complaints that may be serious in nature, controversial or not satisfactorily resolved.</p> <p>Compliments in Children’s Services have increased following the introduction of their fortnightly bulletin which includes a section on compliments.</p> <p>Adults Services continue to have a lower level of compliments, however work during 2024/25 to address the current non-reporting of compliments through their feedback form will address this.</p>

9. 2024/25 IMPROVEMENT PLAN

9.1 During 2024/25, we will put in place the following improvements:

Area Of Work	Outcome
Training	<p>Look for professional development opportunities for members of the team to ensure continuous improvement.</p> <p>Deliver training sessions to Social Services staff looking at best practice for complaint investigation to share best practice across the service.</p>
Communication	We will do further work with teams across both Services to understand team difficulties in communicating with clients to establish how administrative support can assist with this issue.
Accessibility of information	We will ensure that key information brochures about making a complaint and submitting feedback will be available in alternative formats (e.g., Large Print, Easy Read, Clear Print, etc.) on the Council's website.

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Short Breaks

Presentation for Health and Care committee



Short Breaks

Spectrum of Services

- **Universal services**, eg, theatre groups, holiday clubs, after school clubs, sports clubs

- **Targeted Support** Credu support, hospice services, food and fun, honeypot, Powys childcare team, charitable support for holidays and specialist items

- **Specialist Assessed Support** Child open to IDS team at Care & Support level

Direct Payments (majority), Foster care respite (less than 5 children), care agency support (less than 5 children), residential day support or overnight stays

Specialist Assessed Support budget

23/24

- Short breaks spend was around £1.2mill (£1 mill budget, with overspend of £200k)
- £242k PCAN budget spent on A4C commissioned service

24/25

- Short break budget of just over £1 million. Projected to come in at budget (very early in tax year)
- PCAN £242k. Contract was not renewed as the tenders did not meet needs of service, and supplementary was not good value. 37 children and families affected.
- £242k PCAN budget. Using this budget to fund alternative care plans for the 37 children who previously accessed A4C



What have we done already

- Outcome focused assessments – clear outcome focused plans and regular reviews of any package with a cost
- Holistic assessments, incorporating carer and sibling carer needs
- Short Breaks project – looked closely at plans for children with a residential respite element to their short break provision
- Reviewed all children who have been assessed as requiring a Direct Payment
- Reviewed all children who have health needs: Continuing Care/Mental Health needs
- Projected children's needs and costings over the coming years, in line with transition planning
- Developed creative approaches with children's budgets
- Linked into the fostering developments to ensure there is a focus upon respite foster carers
- Reviewed IDS criteria to be more specific and easier to understand
- Best value plans for each child, that meets needs

Page 28



Case example

Child with multiple disability diagnoses, requires specialist equipment & adaptations in her home. DP's were in place but not effective as PA's were challenging to find, train and rely on – parents exhausted.

Sought out a care agency to provide consistent support to the child during school holidays – parent was able to stay away from the home in a local hotel for their break.

Avoided the child experiencing a residential short break away from their home.

This is a better outcome for child, but also for budget.



Next steps

- Project to consult with parents and stakeholders
- The families of the 37 children have been contacted by commissioning & social care and had a review of needs. Alternative services being set up; Direct Payments, care agency support. Consult by end Sept 24. Implementation start April 2025.
- Monitoring arrangements – SB project team, review in IDS triage, new IDS funding panel is up and running, & working well
- Continued projection of needs and best value costings, alongside transition planning
- Work with Adults services to map transition for children with profound Mental Health conditions.
- Continued savings could happen if there was an increase in respite foster carers & daily living skills support
- Re-registration of Camlas: residential option

Challenges/unknowns

- Children moving into county with profound disability could cost tens of thousands in respite/SB, if assessed as needed
- Seen an increase in past 12 months of children moving into county with profound disability, no pattern for the reason identified thus far – continue to analyse this
- Children being born with a health need, or a disability
 - Nature and degree of child's presentation as they enter puberty
 - Unpredicted uplift in care costs annually

Increase to living wage: increase of DP from £12.85 to £14.60 p/h (£85k estimate uplift)



Any Questions



CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**CABINET EXECUTIVE
30 July 2024**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor David Thomas
Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate
Transformation

REPORT TITLE: Financial Outturn for the year ended 31st March 2024

REPORT FOR: Information and Decision

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide Cabinet with the revenue budget outturn for the 2023/24 financial year. This includes information on the additional funding streams received, delivery of approved cost reductions during the year and an explanation of the variances against the budget.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Council has completed its outturn processes to finalise the accounts for the 2023/24 financial year. This report sets out the position for each service with detailed narrative provided by each head of service in Appendix A. Statutory financial statements were drawn together in time for the sign-off date for the draft statements of the end of June 2024 and presented to audit after that date.
- 2.2. This year again saw the council managing its budget in an extremely challenging economic environment. High inflation and pay awards have continued to impact costs across all services, although on the whole this has been managed well through mitigating action and the utilisation of the risk budget. The financial position of the Council has been monitored closely throughout the year with quarterly reports presented to Cabinet.
- 2.3. Final outturn reports a net underspend, after contributions to specific reserves, of £1.8 million against the £242.1 million budget, a 0.7% variance (excluding Schools and the Housing Revenue Account). In reaching this position, savings of £15.4 million have been delivered during the year as planned.
- 2.4. Additional income, effective use of external grant funding and a continued focus on reducing our spend has created opportunities to release one-off funding to support the increasing pressure already facing the 2024/25 revenue budget and future years. We have been able to set aside funds to support our forward capital programme, investing in schools, social services and climate change activities, as well as supporting projects that will transform the way we work, preparing the Council for the financial challenges ahead. These opportunities go some way to de-risk the council's financial position in the short term but do not reduce the ongoing base budget pressure that continues to create a significant gap in our budget plans for next year and over the medium term, as shown in our medium-term financial plan.

2.5. The Council's Annual Self-Assessment Report is being considered alongside this report and provides a detailed assessment of the Council's performance against its objectives and action plans during 2023-24. Some key areas of activity have been included in Appendix B of this report, this shows what the council's expenditure has delivered in 2023-24. This includes:

- providing **education** to 15,523 statutory school age learners through 72 primary schools, 8 secondary schools, 3 all-age schools and 3 special schools;
- providing **social care** for 1,750 people (older adults and those with mental health issues, physical and learning disabilities within long term care facilities while also providing community based care for 2,771 people to enable them to live well at home for longer and providing early help and prevention to a further 2,570 people to delay their need for more intense support;
- **Children's services** have 876 children's cases open with a further 401 open to early help. 670 children have a care support plan and the Council is responsible for 247 Children Looked After;
- **Highways maintenance** of over 5,800 kilometres of roads (surfaced and unsurfaced) and 14,500 street lighting columns along with 9,250 kilometres of **public rights of way**;
- 1.1 million residual **waste collections** and 3.5 million **recycling collections** of over 55,000 tonnes in total across all collection streams, and a provisional recycling rate for Powys of 68.5% for 2023-24;

3. Revenue Outturn

- 3.1. Table 1 below summarises the outturn position across Council services, a £1.8 million underspend (excluding HRA and delegated schools) after agreed specific and ring-fenced reserve movements have been completed.
- 3.2. Adults Social Care received additional income at the year-end that was not anticipated. £430,000 related to credit notes for non-delivery of provision in "Supported Living" during the Covid lockdowns, £235,000 was due to additional direct payment audits undertaken in advance of a change of provider and £120,000 related to receiving more deferred charges than had been included within the budget. This meant that the service no longer required the planned use of £0.7 million of the risk budget, which explains in part the underspend on the corporate risk budget.
- 3.3. School budget plans submitted by governing bodies in May 2023 showed a planned call on reserves of £6.0 million. The final outturn position required a transfer from school reserves of £5.8 million, leaving a closing balance on overall school reserves of £0.9 million.
- 3.4. Again this year, services managed their in-year expenditure by reducing costs and maximising the use of grant and other funding sources which led to the improvement in the outturn position.

- 3.5. Heads of Service have provided a more detailed explanation of the changes between the forecast position in February and the outturn position as at the end of March in Appendix A.

Table1: Revenue Outturn 2023/24

Service Area	Total Working Budget	Actual Spend	Variance Under / (Over) Spend	Variance Under / (Over) Spend
	£000s	£000s	£000s	%
Adult Services	82,501	82,456	46	0.1
Children's Services	30,775	30,916	(141)	(0.5)
Commissioning	2,187	1,999	189	8.6
Education	18,965	18,662	303	1.6
Highways Transport & Recycling	35,167	35,163	4	0.0
Property, Planning & Public Protection	7,284	7,448	(164)	(2.3)
Housing & Community Development	7,913	7,676	237	3.0
Economy and Digital Services	7,623	7,129	494	6.5
Transformation & Democratic Services	3,997	3,990	6	0.2
Workforce & OD	2,666	2,466	200	7.5
Legal	1,533	1,395	138	9.0
Finance & Insurance	7,078	6,591	487	6.9
Corporate Activities	34,438	33,905	532	1.5
Sub-Total	242,127	239,796	2,331	1.0
Annual transfers to ring-fenced reserves:				
Insurance reserve		(326)		
Early Years settings / Breakfast Clubs / After School Clubs		(168)		
Licensing		(2)		
Section 33 agreements		(42)		
			(538)	
Total Underspend			1,793	0.7
Use of Underspend:				
- Capital reserve to support borrowing			(750)	
- Invest to Save reserve			(750)	
- General Reserve			(293)	
Total			(1,793)	
Housing Revenue Account	0	433	(433)	
Schools Delegated	84,493	84,206	287	0.3
Total	84,493	84,638	(146)	(0.2)

3.6. The in-year council tax collection rate for the year was 96.75%, below the target in-year collection rate of 98.1% and a reduction on the in-year collection rate achieved in 2022-23. Despite this, the overall in-year net council tax receipts for 2023-24 totalled £109.7 million, an increase of £7.3 million over that received for 2022-23. In contrast, the in-year business rates collection rate increased from 97.99% in 2022-23 to 98.11% in 2023-24.

4. Cost Reductions

4.1. Cost reductions of £16.5 million were approved as part of the Council's budget for 2023-24. In addition, undelivered savings from 2022-23 have been rolled forward totalling £0.9 million, bringing the overall total to be delivered in 2023-24 to £17.4 million.

4.2. The summary shown in Table 2 below shows that £15.4 million, or 88%, of the total cost reductions have been delivered in 2023-24, with £2.0 million (12%) undelivered.

4.3. £352,780 of undelivered Highways, Transport and Recycling cost reductions were written out of the budget as part of the Finance Resource Model (FRM) for 2024/25 as it was agreed that these were no longer deliverable. The remaining £1.7 million of undelivered savings have been rolled forward for delivery to 2024/25, further detail is set out in Appendix C.

Table 2: Savings Delivery

£'000	To Be Achieved	Actually Achieved	Un-achieved	% Achieved
Adult Services	4,648	4,648	-	100%
Childrens Services	3,013	1,931	1,082	64%
Commissioning - Adults & Children	97	97	-	100%
Economy and Digital Services	24	24	-	100%
Education	830	825	5	99%
Schools Delegated	864	864	-	100%
Finance	73	73	-	100%
Central Activities	3,003	3,003	-	100%
Highways Transport & Recycling	3,594	2,884	710	80%
Housing & Community Development	379	379	-	100%
Legal Services	8	8	-	100%
Transformation and Communications	8	8	-	100%
Property, Planning & Public Protection	848	618	230	73%
Workforce & OD	20	11	8	57%
Total	17,409	15,373	2,036	88%
		88%	12%	

5. Reserves

5.1. The reserves position shown in Table 3 sets out the reserve movements and balances at year end, with the general fund reserve increasing to £10.0 million, equating to 4.1% of the total net revenue budget for 2024/25 (excluding schools delegated budgets and the HRA).

- 5.2. Specific reserve movements resulted in an increase to specific reserves of £4.5 million compared to a forecast net draw on specific reserves of £6.8 million set out in the February forecast report, an overall shift of £11.3 million on specific reserves. However, £9.8 million of this is in relation to the revenue grants unapplied reserve, where grants that were received in 2022/23 or previous years relating to expenditure in 2023/24 or future years are kept. Throughout the year, the forecast outturn reports have included the expected draw on this reserve for those grants added to the reserve in previous years, to cover the expected expenditure against the various grants. At the 2023/24 year end those grants received in 2023/24 for expenditure in future years were also transferred into this reserve.

Table 3: Summary Reserves Table

Summary	Opening Surplus / (Deficit) Balance £000s	Actual Transfer to / (Use of) Reserves £000s	Closing Surplus / (Deficit) Balance £000s
General Fund Reserve	9,333	704	10,037
Budget Management Reserve	3,584	0	3,584
Specific Reserves ¹	35,324	8,694	44,018
Transport & Equipment Funding Reserve	9,460	1,758	11,218
Useable Reserves	57,701	11,156	68,857
Schools Delegated Reserves	6,666	(5,775)	891
School Loans & Closed School Reserve	(371)	(29)	(400)
Housing Revenue Account ²	3,958	(146)	3,812
Total Schools / HRA	10,253	(5,950)	4,303
Total Reserves	67,954	5,206	73,160

- 5.3. The pay reserve remains at £4.6 million and continues to provide some mitigation towards the element of risk around pay awards being higher than included within the budget. During 2023/24, there was also a drive to minimise in-year borrowing whilst borrowing rates remain high. This along with some capital schemes being reprofiled into future years resulted in an underspend on borrowing costs which was transferred to the capital financing reserve to support future capital expenditure. Overall, the capital financing reserve grew by £1.1 million, after the funding of capital expenditure in 2023/24 is taken into account.
- 5.4. Appendix D lists the service requests to set aside unspent funds as specific reserves to support budget demands in 2024/25, totalling £3.5 million. It is also proposed that the underspend of £326,000 against the insurance budget is transferred to the specific insurance reserve as has occurred in previous years allowing us to hold funds for future insurance liabilities.
- 5.5. We will review all specific reserves in the new financial year to ensure that they remain relevant and required for use in the near future, with any that are not, being transferred to the general fund reserve.

¹ Post-outturn amendment to Revenue Grants Unapplied opening balance of £9,000

² Post-outturn amendment to Housing Revenue Account opening balance of £4,000

- 5.6. The Housing Revenue Account business plan did not plan to utilise HRA reserves. The outturn draw on HRA reserves was £0.43 million. The service now also hold a specific HRA Vehicle Replacement reserve and £0.29 million was paid into this reserve in 2023-24.
- 5.7. The breakdown of the schools' balances and transfers to reserves is set out at Table 4 below. Schools drew £5.8 million from their ring-fenced reserves in 2023/24 to help fund the additional costs arising from the high levels of inflation, this was £0.2 million lower than originally budgeted.

Table 4: School Reserve Movements

School Sector	Opening Balance 31-Mar-23 £'000	Actual Transfer to / (from) 2023-24 £'000	Closed School Write Offs 31-Mar-24 £'000	Closing Balance 31-Mar-24 £'000	Original budgeted cont. to / (from) reserves @ 01-May-23 £'000	Forecast cont. to / (from) reserves @ Feb-24 £'000
Primary	6,654	(2,391)	77	4,340	(3,479)	(3,426)
Secondary	(1,908)	(2,590)		(4,498)	(1,291)	(1,676)
All Through	830	(158)		672	(424)	(427)
Special	1,047	(670)		377	(817)	(456)
Sub-total Schools open 01-Apr-23	6,623	(5,809)	77	891	(6,011)	(5,985)
Closed school adjustment prior years	43		(43)	0	-	-
Sub-total	6,666	(5,809)	34	891	(6,011)	(5,985)
Loans	(7)	7		0	0	0
Closed Schools	(321)	(2)	(77)	(400)	0	0
Closed school adjustment prior years	(43)		43	0	-	-
Sub-total	(371)	5	(34)	(400)	0	0
Total	6,295	(5,804)	0	491	(6,011)	(5,985)

6. Transformation

- 6.1. Transformation of the Council's services continues to change the way we deliver services to our residents which supports the Council's financial plans by reducing the costs of delivery in order to help the Council to become more financially sustainable for the future.
- 6.2. Table 5 below summarises the transformation costs against the budget plan. Reducing costs has led to the release of staff from the organisation and redundancy costs were higher than budgeted for this year. The savings delivered from the release of staff must outweigh the severance costs incurred.

Table 5: Transformation Outturn

Transformation	Budget £000s	Actual Spend £000s	Variance Under / (Over) Spend £000s
Transformation projects	1,960	1,825	134
Transformational redundancy	500	728	(228)
	2,460	2,553	(94)

- 6.3. Transforming our services will continue as part of Sustainable Powys and remains a high priority for the Council. The benefits delivered by these projects and resource updates are monitored through the Transformation Board.

7. Virements and Grants

- 7.1. As shown in Table 1 above, a number of transfers to ring-fenced reserves were accounted for at year-end. In each case, these specific ring-fenced reserves transfers must take place each year to comply with specific requirements. As these are regular reserve movements, approval is sought for any future under/overspends on the four budget areas set out below in paragraphs 7.2 to 7.5 to be transferred at each year end to the appropriate ring-fenced reserve or drawn upon until further notice.
- 7.2. The first of these is the underspend against the insurance budget (£326,000 in 2023/24), which is transferred to the specific insurance reserve as has occurred in previous years, allowing us to hold funds to meet future insurance liabilities.
- 7.3. The second category relates to “non-delegated functions” that are managed by or at Powys schools where the staff are employed by the local authority (£168,000 in 2023/24). This includes early years settings, breakfast clubs and after school clubs, where each setting or club rolls forward its surplus or deficit at each financial year end.
- 7.4. The third category of ring-fenced reserve is related to the Licensing Act 2003 which stipulates that any surplus income received under this Act (for administering licences for alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment) (£2,000 in 2023/24) should only be used for Licensing Act related activities.
- 7.5. The final category of ring-fenced reserve relates to the Section 33 agreement between Powys County Council (PCC) and the Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) in relation to ICT. This relates to joint work with the PTHB which is supported by a pooled budget. Any surplus on this pooled budget (£42,000 in 2023/24) must be transferred to a ring-fenced reserve in order to keep a separate account of it.
- 7.6. As set out in Appendix D, a number of requests have been considered to set up specific reserves to support identified service pressures in 2024/25 which are included for approval. The pressures that have been identified are not funded within the budget approved for 2024/25 and supporting these will ease the additional pressure being faced at individual service level, limiting some of the risk in the budget next year.
- 7.7. The Section 151 Officer will approve the release of these reserves as appropriate spend is evidenced. Appendix D sets out these requests totalling £3.5 million. All these reserves will be reviewed on an annual basis and if not required will be transferred back to the general fund reserve.
- 7.8. Virement requests for Cabinet approval
- 7.8.1. In March 2024, Fleet Management Services generated a further £27,740 (net of auction fees) of income from the sale of vehicles/equipment and it is requested that this be transferred to the vehicle replacement reserve to be used to fund the

purchase of future vehicles and/or equipment, where possible this funding will be used to purchase “green” vehicles. In February the service submitted a virement to transfer £187,410 of income from the sale of vehicles/equipment plus this request results in a total transfer to reserves of £215,150 for 2023/24. This transfer has been considered in the 2023/24 outturn position.

- 7.8.2. Transport fund - The Fleet Management Services has reported an underspend against depreciation charges of £355,990 (due to delayed replacement of vehicles). The service has asked to utilise this underspend with an additional contribution to the vehicle replacement reserve to support the purchase of vehicles through 2024-25.
- 7.8.3. The Street Lighting Department is proposing to make some changes to its establishment in order to reduce its reliance on contractors and to improve resilience and succession planning within the team. The changes will also reduce the level of overtime currently undertaken and allow the department to meet more key objectives. The proposals will increase their establishment costs by £259,000 per annum in 2024/25 (£216,000 increase in staffing costs, £23,000 increase in vehicle hire costs and £20,000 increase in staff overheads, plus an amendment to the existing allocation of management and non-productive recharges of £60,000). The increase in staffing and vehicle costs is proposed to be funded by a reduction in the budget for the use of subcontractors, a reduction in staff overtime costs and an increase in income generation from external clients and charges to the capital programme.
- 7.9. Additional Grants received
- 7.9.1. Schools Delegated – Revenue Maintenance grant £399,600. The purpose of this funding is to support school revenue maintenance costs incurred in 2023/24.

8. Impact of Capital

- 8.1. Capital investment and the financing of capital activities have a significant impact on the authority’s revenue position. In 2023/24, £63.7 million was spent (including HRA) on capital investments representing 79.4% of the revised budget.
- 8.2. The majority of the underspend can be attributed to delays in the delivery of the capital programme. The budgets associated with these projects will, where necessary, be rolled forward into 2024/25.
- 8.3. The revenue budget supports the cost of borrowing for capital purposes and recognises the future need to borrow through the minimum revenue provision budget. The revenue budgets were approved to support the original capital programme of £93.3 million. The actual capital spend was 68% less than this. Grants were maximised to reduce the call on borrowing, with a number received from Welsh Government in the last three months of the year.
- 8.4. The actual net cost of borrowing was £16.97million of which £12.06 million was chargeable to the general fund. This resulted in a £1.66 million underspend on the borrowing budget, and this has been transferred to the Capital Financing Reserve to replace future years’ borrowing and reduce the impact on the revenue account.

9. Key Financial Risks

- 9.1. The greatest financial risk remains in our ability to deliver a balanced budget over the medium and longer term. The budget approved for 2024/25 recognised the ongoing impact of the current economic situation and the impact on public finances in the next few years. The MTFS published alongside the budget in February shows a funding gap of £18.3 million in 2025/26. If not addressed, the cumulative funding gap by 2028-29 of £46.0 million as a best-case scenario, although based on anticipated reductions in aggregate external finance, this gap could be £64.6 million. The Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the assumptions on which the Financial Resource Model is based continue to be reviewed. The Financial Planning paper is being considered alongside this Outturn report today.
- 9.2. The strategy of holding some potential cost pressures “at risk” and setting a revenue risk budget stood the Council in good stead in 2023/24 and has been continued into 2024/25. Despite improvements in the level of inflation, we continue to plan in a challenging and uncertain time so the Council must continue to take every opportunity to reduce costs as we work towards a financially sustainable Council.
- 9.3. The pay award for 2024/25 has not yet been finalised, but the latest (full and final) offer from the National Employers is for an additional £1,290 on each spinal column point. This means that the percentage pay award will vary according to each grade. For those at the lowest grade, this will provide for a 5.77% increase. For those on pay points above the pay spine, an offer of 2.5% has been made. For Powys County Council, it is estimated that the cost to the Council’s budget may be in excess of the assumptions built into 2024-25 budgets, this would need to be funded from the pay reserve and funded recurrently through the FRM.
- 9.4. The Council remains under-borrowed as we continue to utilise our cash reserves to underpin our cashflow. We can borrow both in the short to medium or longer term, but the cost of borrowing has risen due to the changes in bank rate. Our approach is regularly updated and explained as part of the Treasury Management update to Governance and Audit Committee.

10. Resource Implications

The Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) has provided the following comment:

- 10.1. The revenue outturn reported provides some opportunity to further mitigate the ongoing budget pressures through the next financial year. However, the Council faces significant challenge as we develop our plans for future years. Our Medium Term Financial Strategy continues to be extremely challenging with a significant budget gap of at least £50 million over the next 4 years as the financial pressure we continue to face is likely to outweigh the funding available. The financial plans will be subject to ongoing review, funding assumptions will be revisited as more information becomes available, revised budget gaps calculated and clear plans of how we can bridge the gaps will be developed. The Sustainable Powys programme is fundamental to this, as we re-shape council services. We must continue to take every opportunity to reduce costs and ensure the financial sustainability of the Council.

10.2. We must progress at pace to develop our plans to achieve a Sustainable Powys for the future. This is critical to ensure that the Council can remain financially stable and provide sustainable services for the residents of Powys in the long-term.

11. Legal implications

11.1. The Monitoring Officer has no specific concerns with this report.

12. Climate Change & Nature Implications

12.1. Not applicable.

13. Data Protection

13.1. There are no data protection issues within this report.

14. Comment from local member(s)

14.1. This report relates to all service areas across the whole County.

15. Impact Assessment

15.1. No impact assessment required.

16. Recommendation

16.1. That Cabinet note the full year outturn position for the year ended 31 March 2024 and the variances reported against the approved budget.

16.2. The virements proposed as set out in section 7 are approved.

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Corporate Director:	Jane Thomas, Director of Corporate Services

Appendix A: Service narrative to explain the change from February forecast to March outturn

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
48	Adult Services	82,501	82,456	46

Cost Underspend

Underspend was as predicted bar £2k the small underspend is in the main due to staff slippage as a result of recruitment turnover and a reclaim in relation to 2022/23 for non-service delivery on a contract.

Unpredicted additional income received at the end of the year meant the service no longer needed to use £0.7 million of the risk budget.

£120,000 from additional deferred charges received.

£430,000 from credit notes received for non-delivery of services during Covid

£235,000 from Direct payment audits conducted to facilitate the move to new service provider

Cost Reductions

Savings targets were delivered in full.

FRM for 2025/26 – 2029/30

- As in previous years the service will continue to take every opportunity to maximise/utilise grants available.
- Future demographic demand remains a significant concern and risk, the service is prioritising the development of preventative and early intervention models of support to enable citizens to support themselves, remain independent longer reducing admissions into residential care and hospital.
- Service redesign to deliver better outcomes and efficiencies will focus on local area coordination, reablement, mental wellbeing, technology enabled care and digital solutions.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
(594)	Children's Services	30,775	30,916	(141)

The 2023/24 Children's Services outturn position as of 31st March 2024 exceeds the original baseline budget set by £951,000 which equates to 3.17% expenditure over budget. When the agreed transfer was drawn down from the risk/management reserve, it relates to pressures in regard to our unaccompanied asylum seeking children £310,000 and due to Children's Services continuing to face unavoidable pressures in relation to an increased demand for placements for children with complex needs amid a national shortage of placements of £500,000 the outturn is £141,000, 0.5%.

This is an improvement of £453,000 from the period 11 forecast due

- An underspend on the complaints budget of £30,000
- £202,000 previously funded baseline expenditure charged to grants where within the terms and conditions
- £217,000 reduction in contract commitments

Cost pressures £2.342 million. The unfunded pressures within the service are due to

- £2.591 million Children Looked After (CLA) placements - new, step up in provision and increasing costs in relation to meeting the complexity of the need of the current cohort. This is in the context of a national shortage of placements for looked after children across the UK. This was mitigated by the one-off transfer from 'risk reserve' of £310,000 in regard to pressures for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and £345,070 from the Social Care Workforce Grant, which in the main is the decrease in expenditure of £394,000 from period 11.
- £191,000 additional overspend to placement pressures for CLA support, a decrease of £87,000 from period 11.
- £52,000 total pressure for the four 'In House' Residential homes, a decrease of £96,000 from period 11, service decision to transfer employees to meet need in homes not their base and reduce dependency on agency. The overall cost has been mitigated by the Welsh Government seed funding, Regional Accommodation for Children with Complex Needs grant of £641,000. Generally, the overspend is due to relief staff over and above base budget to cover rotas and the use of agency staff due to recruitment and escalating needs of the children, over and above that included in the original business cases. The homes are being used for solo placements of children with complex needs rather than the two bed units set up for mainstream residential.
- £105,000 budget pressure in regard to Section 21, for families in need of care and support, in the main due to post lockdown and trying to keep children with their families wherever it is safe and in their best interests to do so. This is a decrease of £27,000 from period 11.
- £57,000 due to increased demand for short breaks due to the pressures on families as an indirect result of the pandemic, a decrease of £36,000 from period 11 due to addressing procurement over commitments and ledger miscoding's.

All budget underspends £2.473 million baseline budgets are currently being utilised to mitigate the overall budget forecast overspend. The majority of this is around posts and associated costs.

- £140,000 due to underutilisation of the Market supplement. Currently not all qualifying posts are occupied or been occupied for the relevant time frame.
- £1.597 million Staffing underspend based on current vacancies qualified and non-qualified positions.
- £103,000 due to a delay to the Special Guardianship project.
- £127,000 Welsh Government grants mitigating baseline funded costs, in line with grant terms and conditions.
- £389,000 various small underspends across all service subjective headings.
- £117,000 Legal underspend, although this is difficult to predict as Legal services do not use commitment accounting.

Savings were identified of £2.796 million in the 2023/24 budget setting process and £217,000 was rolled forward from 2022/23. £1.931 million of the savings have been achieved during 2023/24 (64%). The savings that have not been achieved are largely due to placements and not being able to step children down from residential care to foster care and from foster care to home. There have not been enough foster families available on a national basis to meet the demand and complexity of needs required. We also had an increase in responsibility for the number of our unaccompanied children where there were insufficient placements available in Powys and Wales.

£500,000 agreed unachieved savings have been funded as a one off from the Risk Reserve in 2023/24 but will be carried forward to 2024/25 to be realised. The outstanding £582,000 was not delivered by the end of the 2023/24 financial year and will be rolled forward to be delivered in 2024/25.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
177	Commissioning	2,187	1,999	189

The underspend position in Commissioning is a result of a combination of factors, namely vacancies in the service and utilisation of grant consistent with grant conditions.

In addition, there was a significant review of the Contracting and Brokerage elements of the service and two key posts (grade 12 Brokerage and Contracting Manager) were purposefully not recruited to whilst the review was being undertaken, the result of which concluded with a management of change and restructure to the service.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
0	Education	18,965	18,662	303

Underspend: Of the £303k underspend at year end, £168k was in relation to specific reserves that are in place for non-delegated functions such as Early Years Settings and Afterschool clubs where the underspend was higher than originally anticipated. The remaining net £135k underspend was achieved mainly through the re-allocation of grants.

Cost Reductions: £5k not achieved due to capacity of service staff to undertake lead Estyn inspection roles.

FRM for 2025/26 – 2029/30:

As in previous years the service will continue to take every opportunity to maximise/utilise grants available.

- Some of the underspends in the 23/24 financial year have already been put forward as part of the 24/25 budget round. The service will further review the outturn to identify future efficiencies for the 25/26 FRM.
- Increased demand for places within the Local Authority Special Schools.
- The Service will review its structure and strategies to look at efficiencies

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
49	Highways Transport & Recycling + Director	35,167	35,163	4

Highways, Transport and Recycling have reported an underspend of £554k at the end of March (£49k forecast underspend in February). The improvement of £505k since reporting in February principally arises from an improvement of £182k in winter maintenance costs, £143k improvement on waste and recycling bin/box expenditure, £37k improvement on Countryside grant funding.

The service have requested the creation of a specific reserve totalling £550k, to permit the use of funds in 2024/25, consisting of £500k to support the council's match funding commitment towards the Levelling Up fund (LUF) round 3 schemes, and £50k to support additional engineering and design ecology capacity for planning services and Health and Safety capacity for schools. Following the contribution to specific reserves, Highways Transport and Recycling will report an underspend of £4k against budget for 2023/24

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
(47)	Property, Planning & Public Protection	7,284	7,448	(164)

Property, Planning & Public Protection report an overspend of £164K. This outturn result has been caused by several reasons, including:

- Savings proposals being achieved for part year rather than for the whole year, such as renting out the Park Office, reduced cleaning frequency and increased fees.
- Increased maintenance costs resulting from the regrading of the maintenance team and additional pressures caused by corporate landlord.
- Statutory compliance costs being higher than predicted as vacant positions had to be temporarily addressed using contractors while recruitment took place.
- Planning application fee income being lower than predicted.
- Increased ecology costs for the Planning Service resulting from the need to secure cover for an unplanned absence.

Except for the planning fee income, which are outside the gift of the service area, the reasons specified above have been generally addressed. Planning fee income trends are to be monitored closely. Welsh Government consultation on increasing fees expected imminently.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
756	Housing & Community Development	7,913	7,676	237

Housing & Community Development is reporting a forecast outturn underspend of £237k. This is after a transfer to specific reserves of £525k. Before the transfer to specific reserves the underspend would have been £762k comparable to the £756k reported, at the end of February. An overspend in General Fund Housing of £846k is offset by an underspend in Leisure of £1,504k and Catering and Cleaning of £104k. The underspends have been utilised to set up specific reserves, one of £450k to fund some of the known pressures on the Homelessness budget and a £75k reserve for catering to enable digitisation of services.

Housing General Fund – Year-end Outturn for 2023-2024: -£846,255

The primary cause of the overspend in the Housing General Fund is the continued high demand for homelessness services, arising from the increased obligations placed by the Welsh Government on housing authorities. The lack of affordable housing suitable and sustainable for homeless households, with particular regard to the size of properties, has exacerbated the need to make use of private sector temporary accommodation (TA), including bed-and-breakfast (B&B) until appropriate permanent housing can be found.

The number of households in privately provided temporary accommodation during the year has been reduced by the use of social housing, owned by both the Council and housing associations. Between October 2023 and March 2024, Housing Services...

- Reduced the number of households in B&B by over 60%.
- Reduced the average B&B stay by over 45 days.
- Reduced the estimated weekly net spend on both B&B and privately provided TA by over £20,000.
- Reduced the estimated annual net spend on both B&B and privately provided TA by over £1 million.

However, this approach reduces the availability of move-on accommodation, can lead to imbalanced communities and creates a risk that homelessness is perceived as the quickest route to a social home.

The Council is already working to develop its own directly provided temporary accommodation – the Enhanced Homeless Service project - which will reduce costs and allow for more intensive one-on-one work with clients to reduce the risk of future homelessness and better support people to find their own accommodation. However, this will mean building or acquiring and repurposing existing properties. Two sites are now under active consideration for two of the four schemes included in the county wide project. Progress will depend upon the technical and financial viability of the identified sites and securing all appropriate regulatory and planning consents. This means that the go-live for the first elements of the Enhanced Homeless Service project is unlikely to be before late 2025-2026 at the earliest.

It has not yet been possible to find suitable sites for Interim Modular Accommodation, which while subject to the same planning and regulatory consents as permanent development, would have a quicker on-site timeline.

Housing Revenue Account – Year-end Outturn for 2023-2024: -£432,530.

The causes of the overspend in the Housing Revenue Account are:

- ↳ Unforeseen additional use of private contractors due to void teams being deployed to complete Red Dragon (two teams, for five months).
- ↳ Continued investment to reduce the long backlog of voids (down from 240 at this time last year to 172 now and continuing to fall).
- ↳ Increasing costs of works to void properties, with particular regard to health and safety related external works (for example retaining walls) arising from the aging stock profile.
- ↳ Void rent loss exacerbated by long term voids, including properties in Ystradgynlais intended for demolition but unable to progress due to lack of contractors in initial tender exercise and now the need to undertake intrusive site surveys and completion of long-term major works voids in Gwaelod-y-bryn, Llanidloes (now complete and let).

Actions are already in hand to bring expenditure in line with a ring-fenced, fixed income, which has been shared with the Tenant Scrutiny Panel (which is made up tenants and Members). The changes outlined below will need to be communicated and shared with our tenants and communities...

- ↳ Action: Expenditure on day-to-day repairs in 2024-2025 scaled back to essential or urgent works only i.e. necessary for the health and safety of the tenants and their neighbours, maintain the structural integrity of the property, prevent claims that a property is Unfit for Human Habitation (as defined by the Renting Homes – Wales Act) or to prevent imminent increased expenditure on major works.
- ↳ Action: Greater use of in-house teams for void works, at an average saving over external contractors of £7,500 per property on a major void. Although this may lead to a small increase in void times, the net effect for 2025-2025 is estimated to be a net efficiency gain of circa £250,000 on major voids alone
- ↳ Action: Consider relative value for money of using agency plumbers and electricians as this may be less costly than outsourcing all such works to contractors (Housing Services has been unable to recruit our own tradespeople due to salary competition from the private sector).
- ↳ Action: The delivery of the Quality of Accommodation Standard (QoAS), used for void properties, will refocus on the requirements set out by the standard, which is designed to concentrate works on what is most visible and of immediate importance to the new tenant being able to move into a clean, tidy, habitable home. For example, internal decorating will, where possible without leaving properties in a poor condition, paint individual walls rather than entire rooms being repainted and kitchens will be repaired or refurbished, where practicable, rather than fully replaced. For 2024-2025 however, the QoAS will now include provision of floor coverings throughout all voids, meaning that tenants will no longer need to cover the cost of carpeting and flooring for their new home.
- ↳ Action: External works to gardens to be health and safety related only and repair rather than replace where practicable fencing.
- ↳ Action: A joint Housing Services/HTR Action Plan to improve the quality of estate management is now in operation to maximise the impact of this work on the way communities feel. However, new projects such as communal gardens will as part of the project development include securing external funding.
- ↳ The approach to recharging tenants for damage caused to properties is being reviewed and a revised policy will be presented for consideration by Members this summer.

Housing Services has maintained its high performance in collecting income due to the Council for landlord services – 98.55% of rent due in 2023-2024 was collected.

Community Development Services

Leisure Services are reporting an outturn under spend of £1,054k against a budget of £4,311k. This is after the transfer of £450k to a specific reserve for Homelessness, and compares to an underspend of £1,585k at the end of February. There has been a reduction in underspend from the February forecast of £531k. £450k of this relates to the transfer to specific reserves and an increased contribution made to Maesydderwen High School for the utility costs as part of the 'leisure contract licence arrangement' at the school. Also, less of an underspend in Arts than forecast.

The main reason for the underspend is the £1,100k set aside for utility support in Freedom Leisure not currently forecast to be required. Alongside this there are savings on staffing and utilities costs and some increased income, offset by the transfer to the specific reserve. The savings in utility costs have been put forward as savings in 2024-25.

Libraries are reporting an outturn under spend of £165k against an annual working budget of £1,256k which is a similar position to the £177k underspend reported at the end of February. The under spend reported is mainly because of vacancies/slippage in staffing costs and increased grant income that is funding base budget funded staffing costs. There are also underspends on utility costs, where costs have not increased to the levels estimated in the budget particularly on gas.

Archives are reporting an outturn underspend of £11k against a working budget of £137k, compared to an underspend of £18k at the end of February. This is due to slippage in staffing costs and increased income for storage of records and records management.

The Policy Unit covers the central team and is reporting an outturn underspend of £62k against a working budget of £478k, compared to a £64k underspend reported in February. The main reasons for the underspend are an underspend against staffing resulting from vacant posts and an underspend of £22k on other services.

Leisure and Sports Centres are reporting an outturn underspend of £612k against a working budget of £1,606k after a transfer to a specific reserve of £450k. This compares to a forecast underspend of £1,100k at the end of February an improvement of £38k. The main reason for the underspend is the £1,100k set aside to support increased utility costs in Freedom not forecast to be required in this financial year. £450k of this has been transferred to a specific reserve to support the additional costs of Homelessness next financial year.

SPF grant was secured to fund the cost of condition surveys being undertaken as part of the Leisure review.

Sports Development is reporting an underspend of £17k against a working budget of £80k. The position is similar to that reported in February an underspend of £20k. The underspend is due to receiving grant income in arrears, increased income and a small underspend on other services.

Arts and Cultural Services are reporting an underspend of £27k against a budget of £106k, compared to £43k at the end of February. This is mainly due to an underspend on other services of £32k. There was a saving put forward relating to a reduction in staffing and this has been

achieved. The reason for the reduction in the forecast from the February position was a newly appointed member of staff from March, greater costs than forecast on computer hardware costs and £5k of reduced income from that forecast in February.

Museums are reporting a forecast outturn underspend of £32k compared to a working budget of £13k, the same position as reported at the end of February. The underspend is mainly a result of underspends against utility costs, general office expenses and the other services budgets.

Y Gaer is reporting an outturn underspend of £127k compared to a working budget of £636k, a similar position to that reported at the end of February an underspend of £131k. The underspend is due to underspends against utility costs and there is also increased income resulting from service charges levied as part of the lease for NPTC and increased income has been generated from grants and contributions.

Catering is reporting an outturn underspend of £2k against a budget of £2,892k this is after a transfer to a specific reserve of £75k. The reserve was set up enable digitisation of some of the processes within catering. This compares to a forecast underspend of £149k at the end of February, a reduction in the forecast underspend of £72k.

The roll out of the universal provision of free school meals continues, the uptake of meals has increased as a direct result of this initiative and therefore income is increased. Welsh Government have now increased the grant funding per meal for the delivery of UPFSM from £2.90 to £3.20. BAC's and vouchers to FSM children during holidays have been provided up until the summer holidays, this was funded by WG up until the end of the financial year and by the council for the summer holidays. WG also provided an admin grant to facilitate the vouchers scheme which has supported other costs within the catering service.

The reason for the difference in the outturn position to that forecast in February is staffing costs were £43k higher than expected offset by reduced costs in catering provisions of £55k, income was also less than forecast by £72k. It has been extremely difficult to forecast catering this financial year due to the continual roll out of universal provision of free schools' meals and the continual change in the costs and income. The roll out will be completed in April so hopefully by the end of the first quarter there should be some more stability to the trends in costs and income.

Cleaning have reported an underspend against budget of £27k at the end of March 2024 against a budget of £594k. The underspend principally arises from a £13k underspend against the cleaning equipment purchase budget.

In February the service reported a forecast overspend of £64k. The improvement of £91k since reporting in February arises from an improvement of £43k in income generated from the mobile services support team, and an improvement of SLA income of £37k following the confirmation of chargeable hours to the school service. When reporting in February there was concern over the level of income recoverable for the Mobile Service Support team and the forecast was adjusted to reflect concern over the level of work awarded to the team. In 2023/24 mobile support services generated income of £296k, £125k of this income was recovered in the final month (42% of the annual income). To improve the accuracy of forecasting the team must ensure they bill timelier during the year.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
730	Economy and Digital Services	7,623	7,129	494

Economy & Digital Overview

The outturn underspend prior to transfer to specific reserves was £895k, compared to the working budget of £6,523k (13%). The final outturn of £6,072 includes a total revenue transfer to specific reserves of £443k resulting in a final outturn position underspend of £494k compared to the working budget.

The underspend of £494k after transfer to specific reserves compares to the forecast underspend of £730k previously reported in February 2024; a reduced underspend of £236k. The transfer to the specific reserve of £400k was not forecast at the end of February, this alongside an increased underspend on ICT Infrastructure of £165k because of an increase in the underspend on contracts are the main reasons for the change in the position from that forecast in February.

Digital and Customer Services

The Digital and Customer Services forecast outturn underspend is £730k compared to the working budget of £6,357k.

The forecast underspend of £730k compares to the forecast underspend of £579k previously reported in December 2023; an increased underspend of £151k. There was an increased underspend in Digital Operations of £41k, increased underspend of £27k in Digital Services, and increased underspend in Customer Services & Information Compliance of £107k. This underspend mainly is a result of staff costing, including the need to retain vacancies within the service to effectively manage the separation on the Joint ICT Section 33 agreement, slippages, and staff funded by transformation and Shared prosperity grant funding. There is also a specific reserve of £25k set aside for the increased capacity of hearing loops in the chamber. Other reasons for staff underspends include short-term funding meaning that it is hard to attract people to our positions, leaving them vacant for periods of time. Also, the recruitment of staff has become increasing difficult with many job adverts having no applicants and needing to go out multiple times.

- The level of underspend seen in staffing costs during 23-24 is going to be significantly reduced in 24-25 as the service is more settled due to the completion of structure changes, separation from the Joint ICT section 33 agreement with Powys Teaching Health Board and the recruitment of posts aligned to the Digital Transformation funding.
- The level of underspend seen in ICT Contract costs is going to be significantly reduced in 24-25 due to the increase in cost arising from the change from the E3 to E5 version of the Microsoft Licence for the organisation.

Economy and Regeneration

The outturn underspend prior to transfer to specific reserves was £377k, compared to the working budget of £1,100k. The final outturn includes a total revenue transfer to specific reserves of £377k. Resulting in a final position after transfer to reserves which is in line with the working budget at £1,100k.

The final outturn for the 2023-24 Financial year is breakeven compared to the working budget, which is in line with the outturn forecast in February. The revenue transfer to specific reserves of £377k compares to a £240k forecast transfer to reserves in the February forecast outturn. The increased transfer to specific reserves is mostly due to the Community Enablement Support Fund

budget of £106k which was forecast to be fully spent in 2023-24. The unspent funds have been set aside in a specific reserve to support the proposed project at the Arches.

- This level of underspend is not expected in 24/25 as the £100k Community Enablement fund will be re-instated. Additionally, there was a further saving offered in respect of a reduction in the Economy events function and budget of £79k as this was offered as a saving in 2024/25.

Saving target

There was a saving target of £24k relating to increased income from the provision of the Careline Service, which has been realised.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
76	Transformation & Democratic Services	3,997	3,990	6

In February, the service reported a £76k underspend due to an underspend on salaries (due to some vacancies). The reason the forecast position has worsened since period 11 is that the reserve funding for the Sustainable Powys team was removed, and costs have been funded from this underspend. This results in the Sustainable Powys reserve balance being available to be spent for a further year.

The outturn position for future years will not be such a large underspend as team vacancies are now filled.

Savings to be found within the service amounted to £8k, all savings have been achieved

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
165	Workforce & OD	2,666	2,466	200

At the end of month 11 our variance stood at £140k and we were forecasting an underspend of £165k at the year end.

In the final period this position changed as we over-achieved on the expected income for the training and development courses we delivered by c £35k. We also overachieved the income we generated from delivering DBS services to hundreds of organisations across the UK by £9k. Given the scale of the turnover involved and the call upon our services being demand driven we recognise that its complex to forecast precise figures.

Looking to future years we are addressing this as it relates to training and development income, and do not expect the variance to reoccur. Given however that our DBS income is demand driven and arises from a turnover of c £1.3m, the surplus income we generate beyond our costs will continue to be difficult to forecast, albeit it will not be a significant figure / variance.

Looking at the £200k variance as a whole, this arose mainly due to slippage in recruiting to a number of new posts and challenges in recruiting to other vacancies in the service.

Turning to next year and beyond, we are now fully staffed and do not have any newly established posts to recruit to. In addition, and as stated above, as we are also taking steps to address the other factor that affects our variance (i.e. the overachievement of income), arising from which we do not expect this to affect the reliability of our forecasting in future years.

Given all of the above we are reassured that we will not see a significant variance against our budget in the current and future years.

In terms of the underachievement of DBS income of £8k for DBS fees from schools, as this is also demand driven, it will continue to be difficult to forecast this from year to year and period to period. Having said this as the income figure involved is reasonably di minimis, we are confident that we can contain this within the service budget.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
83	Legal	1,533	1,395	138

The main variances against budget include a £26k underspend on staffing in elections, £67k underspend on Registrars due to income recovery being above that expected and £219k underspend on Solicitor Legal services mostly due to slippage against the staffing/agency budget, offset by an overspend of £135k on Coroner's costs, £20k under-recovery of land charges income, and £19k overspend on Elections postage costs, ICT software and general office expenses.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
302	Finance & Insurance	7,078	6,591	487

£326k relates to the insurance cost centre and has been transferred to the insurance specific reserve to provide funds for potential future liabilities.

The remainder of the underspend relates mainly to reduced staffing costs within both Accountancy and Commercial Services.

The SWAP internal audit fee was £20k lower than included in the budget. This will form part of the cost reductions required from Financial Services in 2024-25.

February Variance £000s	Service Area	Base Budget £000s	Outturn £000s	March Variance £000s
246	Corporate Activities	34,438	33,905	532

Improved position as a result of:

- a lower than forecast overspend on housing benefit (£145k);
- the HRA contribution for debt management was £42k higher than previously forecast;
- the use of the corporate budget for pay award was £53k less than forecast; and
- the risk budget underspent by £42k, when previously forecast to breakeven. The risk budget was previously forecast to be utilised by services, but this was not required for a variety of reasons. This has been mitigated by making transfers to specific reserves.

Appendix B – Key areas of activity delivered (to be finalised by 10th July)

Service		Activity	
Education	Statutory school age learner numbers: 15,523	72 Primary 3 Special 8 Secondary 3 All through	72 Early Years Settings providing funded education sessions (28 school run; 44 external)
Adult Services and Commissioning	1,750 people (older, mental health, physical and learning disability) supported in Long Term Care	2,771 people in receipt of community based care to enable us to 'support people living well at home for longer'	2,570 people in receipt of early help and prevention
Children's Services	Number of Children cases open - 876 Additionally, 401 open to Early Help	Number of Children with a Care Support Plan - 670	Number of Children who are currently Looked after children - 247
Highways & Transport	Approx 5,079km of surfaced highways and 736km of unsurfaced roads maintained	27 Contracted Bus Routes	9,250km of public rights of way, 14,500 street lighting columns and 2,500 signs maintained
Waste and Recycling Services	Total domestic collections: 1.1 million residual and 3.5 million recycling collections	Council Recycling Rate 2023-24 68.5% (provisional)	Total Tonnage collected across all Streams - 55,227 Tonnes in 2023-24
Leisure and Recreation	18 libraries (177,000 books borrowed, 78,000 audio-visual & electronic downloads, Customer Service Hubs & extensive digital access opportunities provided), 2 Museums & Y Gaer, Brecon - combined Arts, Library & Museum	14 Leisure & Sport Centres (Freedom Leisure contract) 1.3 million visits per year	Sport & Active Communities Development Team supported 30 clubs and organisations - successful funding awarded £174,303 #BeActiveWales

<p>Regulatory Services (includes Public Protection, Licensing, Planning and Trading Standards)</p>	<p>Received over 1,400 planning applications</p>	<p>2,935 inspections of businesses across Powys for food safety (1,183), licensing, animal health (794), trading standards (439) and health and safety.</p> <p>417 trading standards complaints dealt with.</p> <p>268 infectious disease notifications investigated.</p>	<p>Managing 19 cemeteries, 165 burials and 85 cremations administered in Council owned cemeteries</p>
<p>Strategic Property</p>	<p>Management of large carbon reduction project across the Powys supporting community centre at circa £1.7m</p>	<p>Building management of all Council buildings including: 86 schools 134 Farm Holding and associated lettings 17 Commercial workshop sites with over 100 specialist business units 11 Museums/libraries</p>	
<p>Economy and Digital Services</p>	<p>Facilitated several procurements and system replacements resulting in savings identified and/or service improvements; Mobile Phones contract renewal identified saving of approx. £120,000, Housing system replacement – contract cost reduction over 5 years £767,368 and Property, Planning and Public Protection system replacement – contract cost reduction of £16,204</p>	<p>Developed several processes and systems including Supply Chain Sustainability Portal, School but timetables/Alerts, Members Correspondence App, Corporate Forward Plan App, Council Tax/Business Rates e-billing sign up reminders, Garden Waste season rollout, Money Advice/Macmillan Support requests, Applications for volunteers to maintain public rights of way, Declarations of Interest form.</p>	<p>The creation of the Management of Electronic Information Officer post, to assist the Council in managing and protecting its electronic information as appropriate</p>

	Supported 221 residents who have complex needs with intensive one to one mentoring, building confidence and developing skills.	Supported 115 residents with complex needs into meaningful employment	The UKSPF team has administered and committed across the four UKSPF priority areas £20,088,945.
	Digital review, Cultural Tourism Study and Events review have all been commissioned this year to look at our approach to Tourism and the impact this has on our visitors.	<p>Business developments-Number of enquiries dealt with for business grants up until 31st March 2024 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enquiries dealt with for start-up grant – 289 • Enquiries dealt with for growth grant – 5,558 	<p>The service has delivered successful support, advice and guidance. 13,117 emails had been sent to businesses to support with -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General business support advice • Business growth grant advice • Business start-up grant advice • External partner support/funding available • Property advice.
	Supporting the development and delivery of 13 Placemaking Plans.	SPF funding has supported the installation of Town Centre WiFi to 9 towns within Powys. This will provide a network which can be utilised for Lorowan, Internet of things (IOT), as well as offering free WiFi to visitors.	We have signed the new Armed Forces Covenant Pledge, which will strengthen the ambition of the work for Veterans across Powys.
Housing (Housing General fund)	5,507 housing units	3 gypsy sites	404 Live homeless cases
Births, Deaths & Marriages - registration services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 172 birth registrations ▪ 966 death registrations ▪ 565 birth declarations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 491 appointments for notices of marriage / notices of civil partnership (single + double) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 748 civil ceremonies (marriage and civil partnerships)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 74 death declarations▪ 9 re-registration declarations▪ 2 stillbirth declarations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 7 certificates of no impediment (for overseas ceremonies)▪ 28 general appointments (e.g. proof of life, corrections, amendments, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2 non-statutory ceremonies (e.g. renewal of vows, baby naming, etc.)▪ 30 citizenship ceremonies
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Appendix C – Cost Reductions rolled forward to be delivered in 2024-25

Service	Requirement	Amount £	Explanation as to why undelivered and rolled forward
Children's Services	Placements - Closer to Home (step down in provision)/Reduction in Children Looked After. Linked to increase in Foster carers investment above.	721,960	Continued UK challenge around suitable and sustainable placements to meet the needs of children both locally and within Wales. High-cost residential placements have increased in number and cost. A new fostering framework is to be agreed as a way forward.
Children's Services	Placements - Leaving Care/Post 18 - Closer to Home (step down in provision)/ 16+ Commissioned.	133,890	A lack of suitable 16+ accommodation across Powys on offer from Housing sources.
Children's Services	Special Guardianship Order (SGO) Project - Conversion of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placement to SGO placement	87,340	The improved offer to SGO carers needs to be strengthened.
Children's Services	Cost Saving from using permanent Social Workers once qualified instead of Agency (based on "grow your own" project - Masters Students and 50% Open University Students) plus Market Supplement. 3 Agency Workers 6 Months	139,000	Social Workers cannot be recruited and retained on a like for like basis in parallel with agency costs. There are vacancies within the service.
Highways Transport & Recycling	Inflation awarded for pay and non-pay - element of this will be able to be recovered through trunk and capital schemes charges	12,260	Income generated in 2023-24 did not fully cover the additional costs resulting from inflation during the year. This will be reviewed during 2024-25 to ensure that the service is operating on a full cost recovery basis or whether we need to consider alternative options for delivering equivalent cost reductions.
Highways Transport & Recycling	Inflation on materials and contractors used by Highways & Property Consultancy services expected to be funded by an increase in trunk and capital income	24,370	Income generated in 2023-24 did not fully cover the additional costs resulting from inflation during the year. This will be reviewed during 2024-25 to ensure that the service is operating on a full cost recovery basis or whether we need to consider alternative options for delivering equivalent cost reductions.
Highways Transport & Recycling	Mitigation to Newtown De-trunked streetlights - conversion of lights to LED to reduce energy costs.	23,100	Although changes have been made, in the main they have been cost avoidance activity, and in 2024-25 we will identify if there are savings that can be delivered, or if we need to consider alternative options

Highways Transport & Recycling	Street Lighting - Part Night / Part Night Dimming	25,520	The works were not undertaken until late in the year due to 20mph implementation, meaning we did not achieve the full year effect expected, so only partial achievement
Highways Transport & Recycling	Route optimisation of Waste and Recycling Collections	52,500	This has unfortunately taken longer than first programmed. This is due to complexities around data, however is due to be implemented later this year.
Highways Transport & Recycling	Increased income as set out in the Fee Register	50,000	The ability to deliver this is more likely in 2024-25
Highways Transport & Recycling	Use of North Powys Bulking Facility to transfer collected recyclable material (subject to granting of Environmental Permit)	57,920	Is making its way through the planning process.
Highways Transport & Recycling	The Winter Service primary routes have not been reviewed for over 15 years, and many criteria for identifying routes have changed (schools, surgeries, housing, and bus routes) which will probably require changes to the winter hierarchy. The hierarchy needs a fundamental review in light of the current financial austerity. It is considered that the existing treatment network has certain anomalies and there is potential (subject to Council agreement) to reducing the primary treated network by approx. 10% to 15%. For context, the current length of primaries is circa 1000km; therefore a 10% reduction would mean approximately 100/150km would no longer be gritted as part of the primary network.	130,000	Unfortunately, this has taken longer than anticipated. This is due to limited resources. It will also remain unachieved this year due to the election delaying consultation with members that will now occur in September.
Workforce & OD	DBS fees to schools	8,210	This underachievement arises as the income we realise for DBS charges to schools is demand driven. Given this, it continues to be difficult to forecast our expected income from year to year and period to period and some years we could overachieve, and others underachieve. Having said this, as the income requirement involved is reasonably di minimis, we are confident that we will either achieve this, better it, or will otherwise be able to contain this within the overall service budget.
Property, Planning & Public Protection	Energy efficiency measures - Offices	26,000	Energy efficiency measures have been implemented in corporate offices. Energy use savings expected to be realised in full during the 2024/25 financial year.

Property, Planning & Public Protection	Staffing reduction - Strategic Property (1 FTE, Grade 12 & 2.4 FTE, Grade 5)	42,330	Staffing reductions were secured but for part year. Strategic Property are undertaking management of change process to finalise structure that operates within budget envelope.
Property, Planning & Public Protection	Reduce maintenance budget - Offices	23,235	Essential maintenance costs combined with pressures from corporate landlord have resulted in savings not being secured in 2023/24. Service area is aware of the need to operate within budget envelope in 2024/25.
Property, Planning & Public Protection	Reduce maintenance budget - Depots	28,000	Essential maintenance costs have resulted in savings not being secured. Service area is aware of the need to operate within budget envelope in 2024/25.
Property, Planning & Public Protection	Income from undertaking fire marshal and fire extinguisher training	5,000	Requirement to undertake fire risk assessments (FRAs) resulted in no income being received. Other income streams, such as undertaking FRAs, are to be used to secure income target moving forward.
Property, Planning & Public Protection	Rent Park Office, Newtown	47,925	Powys Teaching health Board (PTHB) have had to undertake work to The Park Office to make it fit for purpose. No rental income has been secured while these works take place to reflect the investment in the building by PTHB.
Property, Planning & Public Protection	Reduce building cleaning budget	22,380	Savings were secured part way through the financial year. Full savings to be secured in the 2024/25 financial year.
Property, Planning & Public Protection	Staffing reduction - Building Control	2,535	2024/25 saw reduced demand for Building Control services and therefore reduced income. Trends are being monitored and potential actions to address income shortfalls considered.
Property, Planning & Public Protection	Income secured from 10% increase in income lines selected by Finance (£123,560) minus lines that are outside PCC control	32,865	Some of the fee increased were implemented part way through the financial year. Full income target to hopefully be realised in the 2024/25 financial year. The potential for reduced demand for services due to fee increases is being monitored.
Total		1,696,340	

Appendix D – Service Underspend Reserve Requests

Service	Amount £	What the funding is needed for next year (only essential bids will be considered)	How it will help next years budget forecasts
Adult Social Care	£100,000	Transformation bid in respect of the 'Locality/Place Based Planning' project was agreed with a shortfall in funding of £100k, this will now compliment the bid and enable programme to proceed in full with capacity created in key support areas.	Enable the transformation programme to proceed and deliver associated efficiencies.
Contracts & Commissioning	£65,000	Transformation bid in respect of the 'Powys Leased Care Homes' project was agreed with a shortfall in funding of £65k, this will now compliment the bid and enable programme to proceed in full with additional capacity created in key support areas.	Enable the transformation programme to proceed and deliver associated efficiencies.
Contracts & Commissioning	£300,000	The current Social Care Management system WCCIS will be unsupported, in line with the business case, as was not included in the FRM and no confirmation from Welsh Government re funding as part of 'All' Wales or for Powys to develop in house, this will be utilised and a virement of one off income funding from Adult Social Care to purchase the new Care Management system.	Would be a budget pressure/funding requirement, unless WG funding made available
Contracts & Commissioning	£75,000	Follow up from 2020/21, to undertake a 'Fair cost of care' with the Powys Residential & Nursing Care Homes to inform the 'Powys' rate per week for a placement	Would be an additional resource requirement given the fragility of the care home market currently.
Digital	£400,000	Due to the inflationary increases in the price of laptops, the reserve set aside for the replacement of Laptops is short of funding to cover the replacement of laptops are per the replacement programme, the projected shortfall to the end of 2027-28 is £400k	This will enable the ICT refresh programme across all services to continue.
Economy & Digital	£70,700	An Additional amount to the £425k already in the reserve - Roll forward of economy reserves to underpin 3 year funding model and to smooth out grant funding gaps for a permanent team as per structure business case approved in 2022 - based on funding grant funded staff for 12 months	This funding will have most impact on the budget for 2023-26 for a three year funded staffing structure
Economy & Digital	£106,120	The Arches at the former Ynysgedwen Iron Works in Ystradgynlais, Powys, Wales are a captivating remnant of the town's industrial past situated on a grassed site bounded by Glan-Rhyd Road and Pont Aur, just north of Ystradgynlais Hospital. The request is for the underspend in the Community Enablement Support Fund (C.E.S.F) funding budget to enable a full structural survey of the Arches to be undertaken and the works in the immediate vicinity to be carried out. Officers would support the local Members to work with the community to agree a vision for the surrounding space that is stronger, fairer, greener and sustainable for the future. This could include a community garden, nature area incorporating the boggy land at	There is no budget set aside in 2024/25 for these activities. £30k has been committed due to essential Survey works

		the far end of the site, extending the walking garden of the adjoining Ystradgynlais Hospital, plus information and signage to promote the historical importance of the site and encourage tourism which could be linked in with the new GCRE site proposal.	
Economy & Digital	£200,000	Contribution to complement the 2024-25 Transformation bid for Climate change activities.	There is a requirement for funding of £200k to complement the Climate and Nature Transformation bid from the service budget during 2024-25
Schools Delegated	£500,000	To roll forward the £500k one off funding allocated in the budget approval for 2023-24 for school energy efficiency measures. The work is ongoing and will be completed by end of July 2024. Funding required in 2024-25 to cover the invoices of the completed work.	Will cover the cost of the agreed works
Education	£ 87,700	With the changing financial landscape and the additional support some schools may need, dependant on their Estyn Category, the pressure on the current schools causing concern reserve is a risk. It would benefit the service to increase the buffer in the short-term to provide the required support.	Reduce the risk of the need to call on any central reserves
HCCD - Catering	£75,000	The service area needs to invest in ICT to improve efficiency, communication, and to ensure compliance with statutory training requirements. Currently the department is fully paper based and relies on the in internal Powys van service via a wallet system which only operates Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday every week during school term times across the 91-school site in Powys. 1.To allow the staff to complete Mandatory training and additional identified training needs relevant to their job positions. 2. Communication so weekly or monthly via teams meetings with the head cooks to disseminate information e.g. menu changes, special diet updates, stock sheets and log books. 3. Health & safety reporting immediately, accidents and incidents or safeguarding. 4. Report faults to equipment to include equipment serial numbers via photographs and structure repairs. 5. Access to Intranet for all catering staff and PCC corporate communications e.g. Chief Executives blog. 6. For Area Catering Managers to contact cooks immediately to amend food deliveries shortages and staffing issues. 7. Sickness reporting and time sheets submission. 8. HCCP system digital recording	No funding currently allocated, so any work would result in an overspend

Highways, Transport & Recycling	£50,000	the request is to carry forward £50,000 of HTR underspend to secure additional engineering & Design ecology capacity for the Planning Service and additional Health and Safety capacity for schools (covering issues ranging from path/road safety etc to WRA handover). .	Fund additional resource requirement
Highways, Transport & Recycling	£500,000	<p>The total match funding for LUF round 3, totals £1,467m of which the service are able to use £300k of previously spent capital projects in 22/23, £205k contribution from Neath Port Talbot and it is proposed that the service use £962k of capital funds from our 24/25 and 25/26 capital allocation. To meet the £962k match funding we can confirm that there is £413k of Rights of Way Capital that can be used as match funding, and the remaining £549k will have to be matched by diverting capital out of the existing £6m highways capital allocation (split between 24/25 and 25/26) and this will be subject to a business case submission.</p> <p>In diverting £549k of highways capital funding to match fund the LUF schemes, this will reduce the funds available to deliver other highways capital schemes. The financial outturn for HTR is £505k better than the forecast position reported in February, it is therefore proposed that £500k is paid into a reserve to assist the match funding of LUF, and helping to restore the original highways capital allocation back to it's original allocation for spend on other highways capital schemes.</p>	Restore the original highways capital allocation to allow the service to deliver other capital projects.
Highways, Transport & Recycling	£150,000	All waste facilities are required to have in place a Fire Prevention and Management Plan (FPMP) as part of their NRW permit. Facilities under the old style permits were not required to have these plans and NRW have been taking a risk based approach when requesting that facilities provide an FPMP. This is because of the significant cost to meet the new requirements. Due to a necessary variation to the Rhayader permit, NRW have now requested that an FPMP is put in place. We are currently working with WRAP (partnering with Welsh Government) to prepare the FPMP with no revenue cost to Powys CC. The long term solution is a complete redevelopment of the site or preferably a move to an alternative location. There will, however, be a requirement for capital funding to meet interim requirements at the current site whilst this takes place. It is anticipated that this will be in the region of £200k. This expenditure is absolutely essential to be able to continue to bulk kerbside collected material in mid Powys in the short term.	No funding currently allocated, so any work would result in an overspend, or reallocation of existing capital funding.
Housing	£450,000	Mitigate the likely overspend on homelessness next year and could be used to support initial revenue costs on the new accommodation projects	Can then be drawn against to reduce the overspend and improve next years forecast

PPPP	£400,000	Fire Doors Briefing Paper 24.4.24	Requested £300k as a virement from risk in Feb report, now confirmed £700k is required. Limited works would take place backed on £300k and further works would result in an overspend
	£ 3,529,520		
	£ 3,029,520	(excluding Schools delegated roll forward for energy support)	

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET EXECUTIVE

30th July 2024

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Cllr David Thomas
Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate
Transformation

REPORT TITLE: Capital Outturn 2023-24

REPORT FOR: Decision / Information

1. Purpose

1.1 This report provides an update on the financial position of the Council's capital programme for 2023/24 as at 31st March 2024.

2. Background

2.1 The 2023/24 Capital Programme was approved by Council on the 23rd February 2023. It included capital schemes totalling £93.29 million, of which £23.48 million related to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The programme has been updated following the reprofiling of projects and additional grants received from Welsh Government.

2.2 The final programme at the 31st March 2024 was budgeted at £80.12 million following the successful award of additional grants and the reprofiling of budgets between financial years. Actual spend amounts to £63.72 million, representing 79% of the total budget. An increase of £13.84 million since that reported at the end of February.

2.3 Table 1 - Breakdown by service

Service	Original Budget	Virements Approved	Revised Budget	Actuals	Remaining Budget	
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	%
Adult Services	200	979	1,179	534	645	54.7%
Childrens Services	0	301	301	301	0	0.00%
Education	33,005	(6,257)	26,748	18,798	7,950	29.7%
Highways, Transport & Recycling	12,681	7,174	19,855	18,578	1,277	6.4%
Property, Planning & Public Protection	100	932	1,032	737	295	28.6%
Community Development	922	628	1,550	1,283	267	17.2%
Housing General Fund	1,748	1,279	3,027	2,355	672	22.2%
Economy & Digital Services	16,196	(10,356)	5,840	4,195	1,645	28.2%
Unallocated	4,953	(4,953)	0	0	0	0.0%
Total Capital	69,805	(10,273)	59,532	46,781	12,751	21.4%
Housing Revenue Account	23,482	(2,893)	20,589	16,934	3,655	17.8%
TOTAL	93,287	(13,166)	80,121	63,715	16,406	20.5%

2.4 Additional capital receipts that were already in hand and a contribution from the capital financing reserve was used in place of some borrowing to reduce the Interest and MRP costs charged to the revenue budget in future years. The following table shows how the capital expenditure has been financed.

2.5 Table 2 – Capital Programme funding

Service	Supported Borrowing	Prudential Borrowing	Grants	Revenue Contribution	Capital Receipts	Total
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Capital	4,487	3,757	28,329	4,493	5,715	46,781
HRA	0	6,033	6,001	3,900	1,000	16,934
Total	4,487	9,790	34,330	8,393	6,715	63,715

2.6 A list of the budgets carried forwards into 2024/25 is currently being completed and will be included in the next quarterly report.

3. Projects Delivered

3.1 The capital investment made this year has supported the following:

Housing Revenue Account

- Construction of 18 new council houses and re-purchase of 17 former council houses.
- Tender awarded in year to construct a further 32 new council houses.
- Investment continued to the existing housing stock to ensure it meets the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

Housing General Fund

- 69 large and 67 Disabled Facility Grant adaptations were completed to allow private individuals to remain in their own homes.

Education

- Ysgol Gymraeg y Trallwng opened in May 2023
- Construction continued of the new Ysgol Robert Owen (Cedewain) which is due to open in 2024/25.
- Investment continued in the rest of the school's estate to ensure they are safe, secure, and operational.

Childrens Services

- The opening of the Flying Start Childcare setting at Priory School in Brecon providing free childcare for two-year-olds, parenting groups and training.
- Homes have been refurbished which offer residential provision to children looked after within Powys

Adults Services

- Investment in community equipment, bespoke specialist equipment and digital technology to support residents to remain in their homes

Community Development

- Investment continued in sports and leisure centres including replacement roofs, solar panels and other critical works.
- Reconfiguration and refurbishment of Ystradgynlais library.

Economy and Digital Services

- Levelling Up funded investment in regenerative schemes within the county including the Montgomery Canal Restoration, multiagency hub and refurbishment of Y Llanfa and Theatr Brycheiniog.
- Refurbishment of the Autopalace in Llandrindod Wells completed with nine business units. The building will continue to be the home of the National Cycle Museum and Llandrindod Wells Job Centre.
- Just over £1 million of grant funding has been provided in year as part of the Welsh Government Transforming Towns Programme Placemaking Grant.

Property, Planning and Public Protection

- Works at Machynlleth and Knighton Cemeteries have been completed in year.
- Lifts have been replaced in Ladywell House and Antur Gwy and works have been carried out at other offices and depots across the county.

Highways Transport and Recycling

- B4518 road diverted away from landslip and re-opened to two-way traffic - £1m
- £2.1m invested in re-surfacing, £2.4m in surface dressing, £1.5m in structural maintenance of roads
- Worked in partnership with NRW to replace piped crossing with clear span bridge at Tyle Garw.
- Box culvert replacement at Cloggau Crossroads
- Grant funded Active Travel Schemes
- EV charge points substantially completed / installed at Llanwrtyd Wells, Carno, Llanfair Caereinion
- Flood Alleviation work – Lower Hall culvert improvement, Court Close – Abermule, Ystradgynlais - Swn y nant, Heol Gleien, Caerlan, Rhestr Fawr
- Street Lighting has been upgraded with 1961 lanterns changed, 89 columns replaced, 950m cabling laid which has allowed 11,233kg of CO2/KWh has been saved (full year effect).

4. Grants Received

4.1 The following grants have been received since the last report. These are for additional schemes and have been included in the Capital Programme

4.2 Housing

4.3 A total of £0.36 million has been awarded to from Welsh Government's Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) towards the purchase of four properties to be retained within the Council's council housing stock.

5. Reprofile Budgets Across Financial Years

5.1 There were several schemes in the 2023/24 capital programme which are continuing into 2024/25. The budget carried forward to reprofile these schemes is shown in the Table 3.

5.2 Table 3 - Funding carried forward from 2023/24

Service	£'000
Education	8,256
Adult Services	644
Highways, Transport & Recycling	1,740
Community Development	227
Property, Planning & Public Protection	273
Economy & Digital Services	1,567
Housing General Fund	421
Housing Revenue Account	2,323
Total	15,451

6. Capital Receipts

6.1 A total of £2.41 million was received during the 2023/24 financial year.

7. Resource Implications

7.1 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the content of the report. The re-profiling of schemes that has taken place is welcomed and is essential to enable us to accurately project expenditure, the consequential need to borrow and the impact on the revenue budget. Expenditure on the Capital Programme continues to be monitored carefully through the year, although inflation has stabilised, costs are high, alongside supply chain issues and additional borrowing costs which will have to be carefully considered. The opportunity provided by using capital receipts and reserves to support Capital programme has reduced the Councils need to borrow. Prioritisation of resources at a corporate level ensures that the council can effectively meet its objectives whilst maintaining an affordable level of investment. The delay in utilising the Capital allocated creates slippage in the revenue budget as borrowing is delayed, and although the funding will be required at some point, the revenue budgets will be reviewed and reprofiled.

8. Legal implications

8.1 The Monitoring Officer has no specific concerns with this report.

9. Climate Change & Nature Implications

9.1 The capital programme remains a key enabler in how we contribute to addressing both the Climate Emergency (where we need to reach the goals of Net Zero by 2030), and Nature Emergency. Approximately £33.00 million of the 2023/24 Capital Schemes and at least £10.00 million of the HRA schemes directly contribute to climate change and nature initiatives.

10. Data Protection

10.1 Not applicable

11. Comment from local member(s)

11.1 Not applicable

12. Impact Assessment

12.1 Not applicable

13. Recommendation

13.1 That the contents of this report are noted.

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Head of Service:	Jane Thomas

Appendix A:

Head of Service Commentary

Service Area	Budget	Actuals	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining as a % of Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Adult Services	1,179	534	645	55
<u>HOS Comment</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Housing for Care Fund Welsh Government (WG) grant funding of £285,200 was fully spent on community equipment, bespoke specialist equipment and digital technology.• The WG Substance Misuse Action Fund of £226,513 was utilised on Newtown and Llandrindod Building works in conjunction with Kaleidoscope, in accordance with grant terms and conditions.• Community Equipment Store roof improvements, initial works have commenced of £22,722.45 in 2023/24, the overspend of £2,722 will be funded from the 2024/25 budget allocation.• The underspend was in regard to Powys owned Care Homes and will be vired to 2024/25 in line with the contract end date and the £130,000 Community Equipment budget was not required due to the above grant being utilised instead.				

Service Area	Budget	Actuals	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining as a % of Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Childrens Services	301	301	0	0
<u>HOS Comment</u>				
<p>Capital budget fully spent. Funding utilised to complete the Flying Start Childcare setting at Priory School in Brecon. The provision will provide high quality, free Welsh Government funded Flying Start childcare for two-year-olds and will also be used to run parenting groups and training. In addition, 3 and 4 year olds will also be able to access Foundation Learning and Childcare Offer provision from the site. The setting also has a small multi agency office and a contact room where professionals such as Health Visitors and Speech and Language Therapists can meet families.</p> <p>An element of this capital funding has been used to refurbish homes offering residential provision to children looked after within Powys ensuring the homes meet Care Inspectorate Wales regulations.</p>				

Service Area	Budget	Actuals	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining as a % of Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Education	26,748	18,748	7,950	30

HOS Comment

Transforming Education Programme

The Council's Transforming Education Programme has continued to make steady progress this year. The latest status of each project is outlined below:

- **Ysgol Robert Owen, Newtown** (formerly Ysgol Cedewain) – construction is nearing completion. The new building is due to open to pupils in September 2024.
- **Brynllwarch Hall School, Kerry** – planning for a new behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) school for pupils with complex behavioural needs was approved in March 2024. A new tender package for the build was published in June, and is due to close in August.
- **Sennybridge C.P. School** – it was not possible to award the contract based on the tendering exercise carried out in the summer of 2023. This tendering exercise was abandoned, and a new tender package was published in April, and closed in June.
- **Ysgol Bro Hyddgen, Machynlleth** – a planning application has now been submitted for a new all-age school to replace the school's current buildings.
- **Ysgol Calon y Dderwen, Newtown** – work on plans to provide a replacement primary school for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen had previously progressed to RIBA 2 stage. However, during the last 12 months, a further statutory process has been taken forward to expand Ysgol Calon y Dderwen to include Treowen C.P. School, and to build a larger school for Ysgol Calon y Dderwen than previously planned. Cabinet will consider the Objection Report in respect of this proposal in July. If they agree to proceed, work on revising the school's design will commence. This project forms part of the North Powys Well-being Campus development, which is planned for Newtown. Linkages with the North Powys Well-being Programme are a key feature of this project, and the Council will continue to work closely with colleagues within Powys teaching Health Board (PthB) as discussions around changing the scope of the project develop.
- **Strategic Outline Programme** – a new Strategic Outline Programme has been prepared for the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme's nine-year rolling programme. The SOP was approved by Cabinet in May 2024, and is currently being considered by the Welsh Government. The Programme sets out the Council's plans to construct new education facilities over the next 9 years.

Cost uncertainty, market fluctuations and material availability have continued to be issues for the Programme in the last financial year and will continue to need robust management and scrutiny of costs as project develop this year.

Major Improvement Programme

The Programme supports the improvement of education and early years setting facilities and infrastructure for pupils and staff. In this financial year, there are 1517 projects with:

- 5 projects on hold
- 5 schemes to commission
- 1 scheme commissioned.
- 18 at the design stage
- 26 at the tender stage
- 12 at the construction stage
- 84 schemes are practically completed on site.

PM to check proposals at the design stage with consultants before tendering over concerns around the specification output, scope, and overall estimated/tendered cost.

The overall programme budget is £6,226,508 for 2023/24 with £1.53million rolled forward into 2024/25. This will allow the service to carry out future works. The expenditure to date is £4,623,403 to end of March 2024. There are contract commitments of £1,560,573 for projects in progress. There is some project's part funded by the Welsh Governments Asset Collaboration and Community Focus WG Capital grants as agreed with Schools Service. There has been an allocation of £870,208 WG ALN Capital Grant and all this grant has been expended on schools priorities in agreement with the Schools Service.

Welsh Medium Grant – Ysgol Pennant classroom extension - The classroom extension work has been handed over to the school with minor external works to complete during the spring 2024. There is energy improvement work being tendered. The project is within budget.

Early Years Capital Grant – Ysgol Pennant new early years accommodation – The new early years mobile has been handed over to the school in December 2023. Minor external works to complete. The project is within budget.

Service Area	Budget	Actuals	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining as a % of Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Highways, Transport and Recycling	19,855	18,578	1,277	6

HOS Comment

The Highways Capital programme is track on, below is a selection of schemes substantially completed in 23/24:

- B4518 – road diverted away from landslip and re-opened to two-way traffic - £1m
- Circa £2.1m invested in re-surfacing
- Circa £2.4m invested in surface dressing
- Circa £1.5m structural maintenance of roads (patching works etc)
- Circa £0.6m on programmed maintenance of structures (scour / pointing / parapets)
- Worked in partnership with NRW to replace piped crossing with clear span bridge at Tyle Garw.
- Box culvert replacement at Cloggau Crossroads
- Grant funding – Priory Brecon Active Travel improvement
- Grant funding – Severn Road, Welshpool Active Travel Improvement
- Grant funding – Pumphouse, Newtown Active Travel scheme
- Grant funding – Newtown Active Travel bridge
- Grant funding – EV charge points substantially completed / installed at Llanwrtyd Wells, Carno, Llanfair Caereinion
- Grant Funding – 20mph implementation
- Flood Alleviation Grant – Lower Hall culvert improvement
- Flood Alleviation Grant – Court Close, Abermule
- Flood Alleviation Grant – Ystradgynlais: Swyn y nant, Heol Gleien, Caerlan, Rhestr Fawr
- Maengwyn Car Park, Machynlleth re-surfaced

The Street Lighting programme is on track:

- 1961no. lanterns have been changed
- 89no. Columns replaced
- 950m cabling laid
- 11,233kg of CO2/KWh has been saved (full year effect).

As noted last year, inflationary costs continue to significantly reduce the scope of works achievable within the highway's capital programme.

Service Area	Budget	Actuals	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining as a % of Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Property, Planning and Public Protection	1,032	737	295	29

HOS Comment

Works at Machynlleth and Knighton Cemeteries have been completed in year.

Investment in the county farms estate has generally been delivered as planned. Delays with the restatement of a farm damaged by fire accounts for the majority of the budget remaining and will be carried forward into 2024/25 to complete rebuild.

Lifts have been replaced in Ladywell House and Antur Gwy and works have been carried out at other offices and depots across the county.

The replacement Property ICT system was completed in year together with the purchase of Environmental Health equipment.

Service Area	Budget	Actuals	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining as a % of Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Community Development	1,550	1,283	267	17

HOS Comment

Capital works have been carried out on leisure centres with the agreement of the Capital Oversight Board / CLT. Works carried out in year included replacement roofs, solar panels and other critical works in the Councils Leisure and Sports Centres. Reconfiguration and refurbishment of Ystradgynlais library has been carried out during the year. These works have been funded by a Welsh Government capital grant.

Service Area	Budget	Actuals	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining as a % of Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Housing General Fund	3,027	2,355	672	22
Housing Revenue Account	20,589	16,934	3,655	18

HOS Comment

Housing General Fund

Demand for Private Sector Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) remains high, as the budget of £1.3m was fully spent during 2023-2024, with Housing Services also committing £548,753 which will be brought forward for expenditure against the 2024-2025 budget.

The £1.3m expenditure on private sector adaptations secured:

Sixty-nine large DFG completions within 132-days average from receipt of Social Service Recommendations (near internal target of 130-days, and also well within Welsh Government's (WG) Service Standards Guidance which targets 15-months (450-days).

Sixty-seven medium adaptations completed with 81-days average, also well within internal target of 90-days, and WG Service Standards Guidance target of 4-months (120-days).

This level of efficiency has been secured through effective collaborative working between Housing Services, Social Services, and Care & Repair, with case referrals and progress being proactively monitored by Housing Services so appropriate partners can identify and where possible remedy delays.

Housing Revenue Account

Our new build development programme remains limited to the areas of the county not affected by the moratorium on new house building until the management of phosphate matters is resolved in the Wye and Usk river catchments. Six proposed Powys County Council social rented housing schemes fall within the affected area. The Housing Development Team have continued to work make progress in other areas outside of the Usk and Wye catchment areas which are not affected by phosphates with 96 units currently in design and planning

Pre commencement works are underway on the next new build site which will deliver 32 one bedroomed homes in Newtown, pre-tender work is underway for the demolition of redundant apartments and the development of new homes in the Ael-y-bryn and Pen-y-bryn area of Ystradgynlais and for the demolition and development of the old Gungrog school site in Welshpool.

Housing Services has commenced design, initial appraisal and viability preparatory work on HRA land in Llandrindod Wells (which remains phosphates affected) for the

development of two new Council-housing schemes one of which is the site adjacent to the Autopalace now transferred to Housing Services.

The acquisitions programme in particular is now proceeding well, with fifteen homes let at social rent on secure contracts added to the Council's portfolio

Service Area	Budget	Actuals	Budget Remaining	Budget Remaining as a % of Budget
	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
Economy & Digital Services	5,840	4,195	1,645	28

HOS Comment

Digital Services Capital

The continual device refresh programme has allowed the purchase of new devices to maintain a modern estate as planned.

The cloud migration work has continued in 23/24 but much of the work has been carried out in house. However, it is anticipated that capital will need to be spent in 24/25 due to a number of end of life pieces of equipment needing replacement.

For the individual projects, these have been reviewed in light of the Digital Programme and will be drawn down as part of the Individual Business cases.

Economy Capital

Levelling-up Capital Projects. Project expenditure is currently behind schedule, this is regularly reviewed with partners to ensure delivery against grant terms and conditions. Council project aspects are being managed carefully and costs are within contingency limits with work slightly behind schedule but within grant agreements.

Any required changes will be considered as a one-off Project Adjustment Request (PAR) during the lifetime of the project. Underspend of capital receipts from UK Government in quarters 1 to 4 has continued. A PAR review will take place for the Montgomery Canal Restoration project in July 2024. An early General Election will potentially mean a new PAR process. This review has been left late in programme so that we are confident of anticipated delivery timescale from partners and have accurate costings from contractors, as changes can only be made once in the lifetime of the programme between 2022 and 2025.

Project boards are monitoring progress on a monthly basis to ensure the programme remains on track against the current profiled spend on an ongoing basis.

The 2 Brecon projects (Ty Brycheiniog & Theatr Brycheiniog) commenced construction/renovation during Q4 2023/24, whilst the Montgomery project (Y Lanfa) will commence in Q1 2024/25. The brownfield site in Llandrindod (Brecon & Radnor) was completed at the end of Q4 2023/24.

The Montgomery Canal project managed by Canal & River Trust is split into separate contracts which will be awarded in Q3 2024/25.

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10

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2022 – 2027

[2023](#) [2024](#) [2025](#) [2026](#) [2027](#)

Working Group	North Powys Well-Being Hub:	Children's Services:	Adults Services:
Members indicated interest	G Jones, G Preston	G Jones, L Rijnenberg, B Breeze, J Ewing	C Robinson, C Walsh, J Ewing + Chair

2023

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
27-01-23 09:00–10:00	Pre-Meeting	
27-01-23 10:00–12:30 (Possibly 27 th Jan)	Public Meeting Presentation – CIP CSG Board Report Performance and Risk Q3 Finance	Done via Teams.
Jan	Work Programming	
31-01-23 13:00–14:00	Pre-Meeting	
31-01-23 14:00–16:30	Public Meeting Budget Scrutiny Legacy children's cases (Confidential)	2 hours for Adults and Childrens) FACE TO FACE requested by cttee chair
10-02-23 13:00–14:00	Pre-Meeting (if required)	
10-02-23 14:00–16:30	Public Meeting Alternative Budget	
31-03-23 09:00–10:00	Pre-Meeting	
31-03-23 10:00–12:30	Public Meeting Minutes 15-12-2022 Number of residential placements/costs/strategy for bringing children closer to home (Childrens Extra care strategy and delivery of strategy – including potential questionnaire to service users (Adults) Corporate Safeguarding report and action plan?? Appoint Members to Joint Leisure Working Group (2) (ERC WG with representation from LS and HC)	Sharon Head of Adults Nina Cllr Richard Church
Mar	Self-Assessment	
02-06-23 09:00–10:00	Pre-Meeting	
02-06-23 10:00–12:30	Public Meeting Election of Vice Chair Minutes: 27-01-23 31-01-23 31-03-23 Q4 Performance and Risk Q4 Finance Discussion with health (Confidential) Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report	(see below) Nina Davies / Cllr Richard Church
	Work Programming	
07-07-23	Pre-Meeting	
07-07-23	Public Meeting Annual Complaints Report Annual Report of the Director of Social Services Number of residential placements/costs/strategy for bringing children closer to home (Childrens Extra care strategy and delivery of strategy – including potential questionnaire to service users (Adults) Presentation from Llais as to role and link to Council / committee	Steve Holcroft Nina Sharon Powel Rachel Evans and Jen Jeffreys Sharon Frewin Head of Adults Katie Blackburn, Powys Regional Dir Llais
17-08-23	Work Programming	Connor Farmer/Cllr Amanda Jenner
08-09-23 14:00–15:00	Pre-Meeting Performance scorecard guidance	James Langridge Thomas
08-09-23 15:00–17:00	Public Meeting Q1 Performance ● To also include: ● Staff sickness trends,	Heads of Service: Sharon Frewin/Sharon Powell/Rachel Evans

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2022 – 2027

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update on Foster Recruitment; ● Related previous recommendations (<i>N.B. see Informal Recommendation Tracker</i>). <p>Q1 Finance (delayed to 12th September Cabinet/EMT, to be received by Cabinet on 19th September).</p> <p>Review Recommendation Trackers</p>	Heads of Service/Anne Phillips Connor Farmer/Heads of Service
22-09-23	Pre-Meeting	
22-09-23 10.00 – 12.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Meeting</p> <p>To approve draft minutes of the previous meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 02/06/2023 ● 07/07/2023 <p>Work, Leisure and Learning Programme Update Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report (potentially virtual scrutiny)</p> <p>Direct Payments – strategy and future plans/ impact on outcomes including potential questionnaire to service users (Alternatively, paper on services available for adults living with disabilities)</p>	<p>Rachel Evans, Head of Commissioning</p> <p>Nina Davies / Cllr Richard Church</p> <p>Invite Michael Gedrim and Wayne Welsby to comment verbally about elective education and Safeguarding requirements in procurement contracts. Rachel Evans, Head of Commissioning and Partnerships/</p>
19-10-2023	<i>Meeting cancelled</i>	
19-10-2023	<i>Meeting cancelled</i>	
TBC	Work Programming	Connor Farmer/Cllr Amanda Jenner
03-11-23	Pre-Meeting	
03-11-23 10.00 – 12.30	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Meeting</p> <p>1. Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Location of placements; ● Types of support needed by the children according to their experiences; ● Budgets; ● Costs to the Council; ● Intelligence from other Local Authorities. <p>2. Powys Social Services Response to Llais Feedback (Summer 2023)</p> <p>3. TBC – Extra care strategy and delivery of strategy update – including potential questionnaire to service users (Adults)</p> <p><u>Confidential session:</u></p> <p>4. JICPA information summary</p> <p>5. Powys Owned Care Homes – Confidential Cabinet report</p> <p>6. TBC – Q2 Budget updates, if Q2 data not available, initial thoughts about efficiencies (current and future, reports to be circulated to Members to review before meeting) – Confidential</p>	<p>Charlie Darwin, Senior Manager Corporate Parenting/Jo Harris, Commissioning</p> <p>Nina Davies/ Heads of Service</p> <p><i>Rachel Evans, Head of Commissioning/Sharon Frewin, Head of Adult Services</i> Lynette Lovell, Director of Education and Children David Moody/Rachel Evans/Nina Davies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To be rewritten and received at Cabinet/EMT for 07/11/2023. Heads of Service/Jacqueline Pugh/ Cllr David Thomas ● To circulate Q2 Finance cabinet paper with Committee Members once released by Cabinet/EMT (07/11/2023).
01-12-23 09.00 – 09:30	Pre-Meeting	
01-12-23 09:30 – 13:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Meeting</p> <p>Q2 Strategic Risk Report Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report <u>Confidential session</u> Therapeutic Attachment Team work relating to Children’s Services. North Powys Wellbeing Hub Hospital Discharges Joint working (Accelerated Sustainable Model) Q2 Strategic Risk Register – Closed Risk</p>	<p>Heads of Service/ Bets Ingram</p> <p>Nina Davies / Cllr Richard Church</p> <p>Victoria Ruff-Cock/Sharon Powell, Head of Childrens Carly Skitt (PTHB)/ Nina Davies/Cllrs Sian Cox/Sandra Davies Sharon Frewin Clare Lines (PTHB, on behalf of interim CEO) Nina Davies/Sharon Powell/Sharon Frewin/Rachel Evans</p>

2024

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
18-01-24	Pre-Meeting	
18-01-24	Cancelled	
Jan	Work Programming	
26-01-24	Pre-Meeting – Budget	
26-01-24 Tuesday 2.00 p.m.	<p>Scrutiny of budgets for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adult Services ● Children Services <p style="text-align: center;">○ Use of agency staff and impact on the budget.</p>	Nina Davies/Sharon Frewin/Rachel Evans/Jackie Pugh Lynette Lovell/Sharon Powell/Jackie Pugh
09-02-24	Pre-Meeting (if required)	
09-02-24 Fri 2.00 p.m.	<p>Alternative Budget (if required)</p> <p>Cancelled – no alternative budget proposed.</p>	
08-03-24	Pre-meeting	
08-03-24 Friday	<p>Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 01/12/23 	

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2022 – 2027

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
2.30 – 4:30pm	<p><i>Q3 Strategic Risk Report</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Considered at joint scrutiny instead?</i> <p>Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report PCC response to Llais feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ystradgynlais and Builth <p><u>Confidential Session</u> Transition between Children's and Adult Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning and management of the transition and support required. ● How does this change? ● Financial impacts and considerations. ● Anonymised case studies may be considered in confidential session. <p>Reflection: Review Self-assessment workbook/action log before annual self-assessment session on 15/03/24</p>	<p><i>Bets Ingram/Directors/ Heads of Service/Jackie Pugh Nina Davies / Cllr Richard Church</i></p> <p>Nina Davies/Lynette Lovell</p> <p>Sharon Frewin/Sharon Powell/Gavin Williams</p> <p><i>(Service requested this report be considered in confidential session, due to risk of identifying service users)</i> Scrutiny Officer/Committee</p>
03-04-24	Self-Assessment	
11-04-24	Pre-Meeting	
11-04-24 Thurs 10:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster Carer annual feedback review 2. Safer Accommodation update 3. Options regarding Learning Disability Services 4. Responding to Powys County Council's recruitment and retention challenge in social care through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GGG ● staff development and our offer ● including making the best use of the H&S Care Academy 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sharon Powell/Charlie Darwin 2. Sharon Powell/Jo Harris 3. Rachel Evans/Pamela Iyer/ Sharon Frewin/Cllr Sian Cox 4. Holly Gordon
23-05-24	Pre-Meeting	
23-05-24 Thurs – 10.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of Vice Chair 2. Corporate Safeguarding Board 3. Engagement activity on the Day Opportunities Review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committee Members 2. Sharon Frewin/Cllr Richard Church 3. Sharon Frewin/Rachel Evans Pamela Iyer
Work Programming		
18-07-24	Pre Meeting	
18-07-24 Thursday 2.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health and Social Care Academy update 2. Annual Complaints Report 3. Respite Provision for young people with learning difficulties 4. Extra Care Strategy Annual update 5. Out-turn report ASC /CS 6. Confidential 7. Our challenge with and plans for Residential Care. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Julia Toy PTHB 2. Steve Holcroft/Nina Davies 3. Gavin Williams 4. Rachel Evans 5. Finance 6. Exempt 7. Sharon Powell
20-09-24	Pre-Meeting	
20-09-24 Fri - 10.00	<p style="text-align: center;">Public Meeting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2. Adult Services Q1 Performance 3. Children's Services Q1 Performance 4. Corporate Safeguarding Board 5. CSE Strategy and Implementation Plan 6. Review the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) allocation process. 7. To review the actual cost of the proposed modelled average cost savings relating to UASC placements. 8. Engagement activity on the Day Opportunities Review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nina Davies 2. Sharon Frewin 3. Sharon Powell 4. Nina Davies Cllr Richard Church 5. Sharon Powell / Holly Gordon 6. Sharon Powell/Charlie Darwin 5. Sharon Powell/Charlie Darwin 6. Pamela Iyer

**Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2022 – 2027**

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
	9. Scrutiny of the Action Recommendations of Older Persons Day Opportunity Review 10. Direct Payments Review update	7.Pamela Iyer 8.Rachel Evans/Sharon F/Cllr Sian Cox
25-10-24	Pre-Meeting	
25-10-24 Fri - 10.00	Public Meeting	
	1. Q2 Risk Report 2. Adult Social Care workforce themed item (TBC) 3. Powys Health and Care Academy 4. Prevention of falls work 5. What difference was this making? 6. Permanence vs Agency Social Worker rate 7. Step down cost benefit analysis of closer to home 8. Child Practice Review – Joint with L&S SC	1. Bets Ingram/Heads of Service 2. Sharon Frewin 3. Nina Davies/Sharon Frewin/ Sharon Powell/Rachel Evans/ Powys Teaching Health Board 4. Sharon Frewin/Nina Davies 5. 6. Jackie Pugh / Sharon Powell 7.Jo Harris 8.Nina Davies / Sharon Powell / Holly Gordon
19-12-24	Pre-Meeting	
19-12-24 Thurs - 10.00	Public Meeting	
	1. Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report 2. Update on the cost pressures around recruiting additional staff for residential homes caring for children with complex needs. 3. JICPA Report & Action Plan Joint with GAC & L&S	1. Nina Davies Cllr Richard Church 2. Sharon Powell/Gavin Williams 3. Holly Gordon

Items to be Scheduled:

ACTION Children’s Respite for Learning Disabilities Impact Assessment (Budget) – add to work programme - item from self-assessment

2025

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
Jan	Pre-Meeting	
Jan	Public Meeting	
	1. Q3 Performance and Finance 2.	1. Bets Ingram 2.
Jan	Work Programming	
Jan / Feb	Pre-Meeting	
Jan / Feb	Public Meeting	
	1. Budget Scrutiny	
Feb	Pre-Meeting	
Feb	1. Alternative Budget (if required)	
Mar	Pre-Meeting	

**Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2022 – 2027**

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
Mar	Self-Assessment	
May / June	Pre-Meeting	
May / June	Public Meeting 1. Election of Vice Chair 2. Q4 Risk Report	
July	Pre- Meeting	
July	Work Programming	
Sept	Pre-Meeting	
Sept	Public Meeting 1. Annual Complaints Report 2. Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 3. Q1 Performance and Finance	
End Oct	Pre-Meeting	
End Oct	Public Meeting 1. Q2 Risk Report	
Dec	Pre-Meeting	
Dec	Public Meeting	

Items to be Scheduled:

2026

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
Jan	Pre-Meeting	
Jan	Q3 Performance and Finance	3. Bets Ingram
Jan	Work Programming	
Jan / Feb	Pre-Meeting	
Jan / Feb	Budget Scrutiny	
Feb	Pre-Meeting (if required)	

**Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2022 – 2027**

Date and Time	Type and Detail	Notes
Feb	Alternative Budget (if required)	
Feb / Mar	Pre-Meeting	
Feb / Mar		
Mar	Self -Assessment	
May / June	Pre-Meeting	
May / June	Election of Vice-Chair Q4 Risk Report	
July	Work Programming	
Sept	Pre-Meeting	
Sept	Q1 Performance and Finance	
End Oct	Pre-Meeting	
End Oct	Q2 Risk Report	
Dec	Pre-Meeting	
Dec		

Items to be Scheduled:

2027

Date and Time	Type and Detail
Jan	Pre-Meeting
Jan	Q3 Performance and Finance

**Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2022 – 2027**

Date and Time	Type and Detail
Jan	Work Programming
Jan / Feb	Pre-Meeting
Jan / Feb	Budget Scrutiny
Feb	Pre-Meeting (if required)
Feb	Alternative Budget (if required)
Feb / Mar	Pre-Meeting
Feb / Mar	
Mar	Self Assessment
May / June	Pre-Meeting
May / June	Election of Vice-Chair Q4 Risk Report
July	Work Programming
Sept	Pre-Meeting
Sept	Q1 Performance and Finance
End Oct	Pre-Meeting
End Oct	Q2 Risk Report
Dec	Pre-Meeting
Dec	

Items to be Scheduled:

**Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
Forward Work Programme 2022 – 2027**

Reserve Scrutiny Items:

Order of Priority	Scrutiny Items	Source

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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