

Health and Care Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Venue
By Zoom

Meeting Date
Thursday, 19 December 2024

Meeting Time
10.00 am

For further information please contact
Carrienne Lloyd-Ralph
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County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

Issue Date
13/12/2024

Mae croeso i chi siarad yn Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg yn y cyfarfod. Rhowch wybod pa iaith rydych am ei defnyddio erbyn hanner dydd, ddau ddiwrnod gwaith cyn y cyfarfod.

You are welcome to speak Welsh or English in the meeting. Please inform us of which language you wish to use 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.	JICPA UPDATE
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To receive an update on Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA).

(Pages 5 - 10)

5.	INTEGRATED DISABILITY SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE
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To receive an update on the Integrated Disability Service Development Plan.
(Pages 11 - 16)

6.	MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORTS ADULTS & CHILDREN'S SERVICES
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To receive updates as necessary regarding the Monthly Performance Reports for Adults and Children's Services.

7.	WORK PROGRAMME & OPEN ACTIONS
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To note the scrutiny forward work programme and open actions.

Date	Agenda Items – Subject to Change	Notes
23/01/2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Budget Scrutiny Adults Services2. Budget Scrutiny Children's Services	
06/02/2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Alternative Budget (if required)2. Monthly Performance Reports3. Step down cost benefit analysis of closer to home4. Powys Day Opportunities Review5. North Powys Health & Wellbeing Hub Update6. Corporate Safeguarding Board Activity Report (Dec 2024)7. Powys Owned Care Homes	

8.	EXEMPT ITEM
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RESOLVE to exclude the public for the following items of business on the grounds that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under categories 1, 2 & 3 of The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007).

The Monitoring Officer has determined that categories 1, 2 & 3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules apply 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.

9.	UNACCOMPANIED ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
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To receive a report on the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children looked after by Powys County Council.

(Pages 17 - 26)

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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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Health & Care Scrutiny Committee
19th December 2024

Report Author: County Councillor Sandra Davies
Portfolio Holder for Future Generations

Lead Officer: Dr Holly Gordon, Senior Manager for Safeguarding & Quality Assurance

Report Title: JICPA Update for Scrutiny

Report For: Information

1. Purpose**1.1.****2. Background**

2.1. In October 2023 Powys agencies were informed that Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW), and Estyn would be undertaking a Joint Inspectorate Review of Child Protection Arrangements (JICPA) in Powys County Council during the week commencing 16th October 2023.

2.2. The primary focus of the JICPA involved reviewing:

- the response to allegations of abuse and neglect at the point of identification
- the quality and impact of assessment, planning and decision-making in response to notifications and referrals
- the protection of children aged 11 and under at risk of abuse and neglect
- the leadership and management of this work
- the effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding partner arrangements in relation to this work

2.3. The methodology focused on three main areas:

- a) an evaluation of the multi-agency 'front door' for child protection when children at risk of harm first become known to local services.
- b) a 'deep dive' evaluation of the experiences of children at risk.
- c) an evaluation of the quality of the leadership, management, and governance arrangements in place to develop and support service delivery.

2.4 A total of six in-depth case file audits occurred focusing on practice within the previous 6 months with two of these cases being selected for involved agencies to attend a focus group with inspectors. A total of 10 Front door referral were also sampled with particular emphasis on Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA). This included an evaluation of the local authority 'front door' multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for education, health and police. It also included a focus on how well organisations communicate, share information and contribute to safeguarding arrangements.

2.5 In preparation for the inspection, a joint evaluation form was completed on all six cases selected. This was completed via a multi-agency reflective session which drew out responses and reflections. On the first day of the inspection, a multi-agency presentation

was delivered led by Social Services and Education Directors.

- 2.6** The inspection concluded that safeguarding organisations in Powys have systems and arrangements in place for effective joint working when children are considered at risk of abuse or neglect. Senior leaders in the local authority, police and health boards demonstrate a joint approach to regional safeguarding arrangements. Leaders and managers have established a highly positive culture of joint multi-agency working.
- 2.7** The inspection report specifically highlighted areas of good practice such as: PTHB regularly attending strategy discussions, a clear CP medical pathway, pupils reported feeling happy, safe and listened to, Local Authority leaders scrutinised performance data and have an effective QA framework in place, senior police leads chairing daily management meetings and a valued IRO role.
- 2.8** The inspection recognised that Children's Services have a skilled social care workforce with wellbeing worker positions having made a positive impact on practice. The assessments undertaken were highlighted as comprehensive and included an understanding of situational and historical contexts. Senior managers in Children's services were described as visible and supportive with peer support being identified by staff spoken to as part of the inspection. The inhouse psychologist was recognised as providing support to staff to enhance wellbeing and upskill staff. Supervision was found to be frequent and good inductions programmes are in place for new staff.
- 2.9** Areas for development were also identified such as multi-agency training, the lack of review/outcome strategy meetings after s47 enquiries are completed, a need for education services to improve the effectiveness of auditing, increased conference participation for children and young people and for PTHB to ensure 1-1 supervisions are triggered at the correct time.
- 2.10** The JICPA inspection report highlighted that for some children exposed to long term neglect, the effectiveness of multi-agency planning, and interventions required improvement. In response to this, multi-agency practice guidance and assessments tools were launched in April 2024. The practice guidance provides staff with a model to use to monitor home conditions for children and families and provides a clear framework for multi-agency practitioners to work within where there are worries about home conditions.
- 2.11** The guidance has been adopted by the following agencies who will utilise aspects of the content within their day-to-day practice when appropriate:
- Children's Services
 - Adults Services
 - Education
 - Health
 - Housing
 - Police
- 2.12** The home conditions assessment tool considers 20 aspects of home conditions such as odour, cleanliness and home maintenance. It concludes with a decision about the level of concern, what actions need to be taken, what tasks need to be done and who needs to undertake them. The toolkit includes resources on how to capture the daily lived experience of a child at various stages of development. The toolkit was launched at the multiagency safeguarding fora where an academic specialist presented research alongside the policy officer who presented the toolkit. This was a successful event with over 80 staff from various agencies attending. The toolkit is now available to staff across the safeguarding partnership.

- 2.13** The inspection found that in some cases child protection visits were mainly announced, stressing the importance of unannounced visits to provide a balanced perspective of the child's lived experience.
- 2.14** A thematic audit on child protection visits was undertaken in June to August 2024 with a report completed in September 2024. The audit found that visits were often occurring at the same time / day even when they were unannounced. The audit report offers recommendations which aim to enhance the effectiveness of unannounced visits and ensure the safety and well-being of children supported by child protection plans. A webinar regarding the findings is planned for December 2024 in line with Children's Service 'Theme of the Season'. The audit did find the large geographical area did make unannounced visits more challenging as there is a risk that the family are not at home.
- 2.15** Outcome strategy meetings were identified as not always occurring following the completion of a s47 enquiry which Children's Services and Police colleagues are required to improve. This area of improvement has been given considerable attention since the inspection and has been discussed at several managers meetings. Some teams have implemented a tracker to ensure oversight of these. Performance reporting has shown that this requires ongoing monitoring, and this action remains in progress to date.
- 2.16** The inspection report considered workforce stability across the sector. The reduction of agency social work reliance was highlighted and efforts in this area continue. Since the inspection, Children's Services workforce continues to stabilise with agency social worker numbers decreasing. The reduction of agency staff has reduced staffing costs and has stemmed from the success of the grow our own social work project and the number of agency staff who have joined the workforce on a permanent contract.
- 2.17** The inspection found that multi-agency audits need to be completed routinely to disseminate the good practice which was evident. The partnership welcomed this finding and a renewed focus on multiagency auditing has emerged. This has supported the longstanding audit subgroup to take forward identified areas for auditing as well as an increased auditing focused within regional subgroups.
- 2.18** The identification of a need for increased multi-agency training was also welcomed and supports existing efforts being made by multiagency training subgroups. In response to this finding, there has been an increase in efforts such as developments to deliver joint investigation training with police and children's services staff. This is a critical course for staff progressing with their professional development and was historically delivered jointly across Wales. The first inhouse joint course will commence in 2025. Additionally, there has been a renewed effort to support the partnership in understanding the signs of safety approach which is the practice model used by Children's Services.
- 2.19** Other joint initiatives include the development of multiagency supervision which is currently in progress whereby there has been a lengthy period of child protection registration and the development of a child protection medical peer review group which will see agencies assess child protection medicals against prescribed national standards.
- 2.20** The areas identified for improvement have been developed into a multi-agency action plan and this will be monitored as a multi-agency group on a quarterly basis with PLOG monitoring progress. This action plan has also been submitted to Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and feedback on progress will be provided on a regular basis. The action plan continues to be reviewed, and good progress has been made since its inception. The current

initiatives in development are building on the success of the JICPA inspection and promoting continual improvement on both a local and regional level.

2.21 The JICPA outcome overall has been a very positive inspection for the Powys safeguarding partnership. The public can feel assured that children are being protected and that agencies are proactive in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities. This offered Powys an opportunity to highlight the progress which has been made over many years and has given increased confidence that safeguarding partnerships are strong and effective. The link to the full report is below.

<https://www.careinspectorate.wales/joint-inspectorate-review-child-protection-arrangements-jicpa-powys-2023>

3. Advice

(Include officer advice on the issue and set out what is being proposed for Cabinet to agree/approve)

3.1

4. Resource Implications

(State here any resource implications of the Cabinet / Council approving the recommendation. This should include financial (ie budget); workforce (ie staff); digital (ie ICT/customer service) and physical (ie property). Confirm that the report has been approved by the Section 151 Officer)

4.1

5. Legal implications

(State here any legal implications and confirmation that the report has been approved by the Monitoring Officer)

5.1

6. Data Protection

(State here if the proposal involves the processing of personal data and if it does insert the comments of the Data Protection Officer)

6.1

7. Comment from local member(s)

(insert here any comments received from local Members on the subject matter and impact assessment)

7.1

8. Impact Assessment

(Please include the Overall Summary from the Impact Assessment here and attach the full Impact Assessment as an appendix, or explain why an assessment is not required)

8.1

9. Recommendation

(Clearly state what you are recommending – be specific)

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Head of Service:	Sharon Powell
Corporate Director:	Nina Davies

SCRUTINY REPORT NEW TEMPLATE

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CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

**Health & Care Scrutiny Committee
19th December 2024**

Report Author:	County Councillor Sandra Davies Portfolio Holder for Future Generations.
Lead Officer:	Gavin Williams, Senior Manager Care and Support, Children's Services
Report Title:	Update on Integrated Disability Service Development Plan
Report For:	Information

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the developments that have taken place within the Children's Integrated Disability Service (IDS) over the last 12 months, this includes the IDS early help provision.

2. Background

- 2.1 A review of the IDS early help and statutory processes has been ongoing for the past 18 months, due to an identified need to make improvements within this area of the service, and due to recommendations contained within a child practice review. The service has worked hard to streamline processes, increase effective collaborative working alongside our multi-agency partners including health and education.
- 2.2 In the previous year, Childrens Services have updated Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee in respect of specific IDS areas of work such as 'transitions' of young people from children services to adults services. This was jointly presented between Children and Adult Services. Furthermore, there has been updates reported into Scrutiny around the progress of IDS with the challenge of meeting the reduced budgetary demands in terms of its use around meeting children's needs with 'short breaks.'

3. Advice

- 3.1 Review of the IDS early help process has been undertaken. As a result, this process has been amended to align with the Children's Services Early Help Team by streamlining paperwork, strengthening the closure procedure, and ensuring mutual sharing of resources and training opportunities across all Early Help. All IDS Early Help cases have been reviewed, and the work was found to be outcome focused, with children having clear plans of support. Families are now offered visits at home, with direct work in the home environment. The IDS team work collaboratively with the NHS Learning Disability Nurses, and the Highly Specialist Social Competence and Parenting practitioners. The early help staff and some wellbeing workers within IDS are provided with peer coaching from the lead Highly Specialist Competence nurse practitioner.

- 3.2 The closure process is a key significant change which has now been implemented. When a child is closed to the service, there is a process to follow which promotes communication of this decision and the rationale. The process has been reviewed and tightened to ensure that this includes agreement from the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) working with the child and includes information about how and at what potential future points re-referral to the service should be considered, with a particular emphasis on transition support.
- 3.3 SWAP audit has taken place specifically in relation to the use of direct payments. This audit identified three areas of improvement which positively had already been picked up on by the IDS managers as part of the review and processes put in place to improve these. This audit process, findings and associated next steps have already been presented to Scrutiny. A further internal audit has been arranged to ensure that these processes have been embedded.
- 3.4 An IDS Funding Panel has been set up and is now embedded within practice. This meets every fortnight, and each package of care is presented to the panel consisting of the Team Managers (North and South) and Senior Manager (Care and Support). This provides good oversight of not only the child's care package, but also has a focus on ensuing best value for money. The IDS Funding Panel provides management oversight with quality assurance checks being undertaken as routine. A robust review of the care and support package is undertaken together with ensuring financial processes and administration is accurate and followed so that costs are accurately forecasted for the current and upcoming tax year. This has been key in promoting effective budget management for the service.
- 3.5 The IDS team is currently reviewing the transition protocol with adult services for children and young people within IDS. Additionally, they are examining how to widen this to identify the small number of cases that may transfer from general children's services to adult services. This review will include re-referral guidance for any children who closes to IDS but have not yet reached 18 and may require support post-18. While this review is ongoing, the established transition meetings can be utilised as a temporary measure. This update has been communicated to all Team Managers across Children Services at a recent Operational Management Team Meeting. A well-planned transition is vital for ensuring that young people with disabilities can lead fulfilling, independent, and healthy lives as adults.
- 3.6 The service is currently reviewing the Disability Register with a view to change how this is accessed by families across Powys. There are plans to move to an online form rather than only including children already open to IDS as it is now. There is a duty on the Local Authority to hold a 'Disability Register,' however, the scope of this initiative is much broader than that of young people enrolled in IDS, and it is also based on consent. The goal is to gather accurate, comprehensive information that can be utilised effectively and used to feed into future service planning.
- 3.7 IDS have pages on the Powys internet site. This is being updated to make it more useful to families and professionals wanting to know how they can access support for children with disabilities in Powys. Areas of support on the website include accessing charities and grants, universal services in the local communities, carers support, health care pathways, early intervention, transition advice and parenting courses.
- 3.8 The IDS criteria have been reviewed and updated to ensure that the service is focussed on supporting children and families that most require specialist support and ensures that the short break funding is targeted at the families that are most in need. The IDS Short breaks policy has been updated, alongside the IDS criteria statement.

- 3.9 Relationships between the IDS team and the specialist schools continues to be fostered to ensure that we are highlighting any children that may require transition support. Collaboration ensures that children receive comprehensive support tailored to their individual needs. Disability teams can provide specialized services and interventions that complement the educational strategies used in special schools.
- 3.10 Maintaining strong relationships helps ensure consistency in the care and support children receive across different settings. This consistency is crucial for their development and well-being. Disability teams and special schools can share expertise and resources, leading to more effective strategies for supporting children with disabilities. This collaboration is crucial and can enhance the quality of education and care provided.
- 3.11 These relationships can also provide better support for families, helping them navigate the complexities of raising a child with disabilities. Coordinated efforts can offer families a more cohesive support network. Ultimately, strong partnerships between disability teams and special schools can lead to better educational and developmental outcomes for children. By working together, they can create more inclusive and supportive environments.
- 3.12 The IDS has worked collaboratively with health colleagues to gain NHS funding to train the IDS Early Help practitioners in the Incredible Years Autism programme and they are now co-facilitating the delivery of this programme to ensure that families are receiving early intervention and continuity of advice around supporting children with autism and profound sensory and communication difficulties. This has meant all IDS Early Help Practitioners, and all but one Wellbeing Workers are qualified to deliver the Incredible Years Autism parenting course: with some staff members working towards specialist accreditation. All IDS early help practitioners have received Thera-play and Attachment training, thus increasing the team's ability to offer more focused and specialist support.
- 3.13 There is a plan in place to review the multi-agency triage meeting to ensure that the right children and the right information is being discussed to support care planning between health, education, and social care for our highest risk/most complex children. This will include the development of a Terms of Reference and a working agreement. It is expected that the new Terms of Reference will be in place early in the new year.
- 3.14 The IDS Service (Early Help included) set up and ran independence workshops during the Summer Holiday period which were received positively by children and their families. This offered young people a chance to learn certain independence skills but also met a social need. Furthermore, they provided a 'short break' for families. This is an area of work the team plan to build upon over the next twelve months.
- 3.15 Staff have been encouraged to attend the training that is being put on as part of National Safeguarding Week by SHINE around Spina Bifida and the complicating factors of this disability. This has been internally highlighted as an area of development and will strengthen the team's knowledge around the wider complicating factors of this complex condition, ensuring that staff feel confident to support and advocate on behalf of children with this condition.
- 3.16 IDS have worked with the Family Information Service to continue to promote information with families about relevant charities/organisations that offer services to support / events / useful information for children with disabilities. Knowing what services are available helps families access the necessary resources and support at the right time.

- 3.17 Early access to support services can significantly improve outcomes for children with disabilities. Early intervention can address developmental delays and provide essential therapies and support. Being informed empowers families to advocate effectively for their child's needs. This knowledge enables them to navigate systems and ensure their child receives appropriate care and support. Understanding available services can alleviate the stress and uncertainty that often accompany caring for a child with a disability. It provides families with a clearer path forward and a sense of community support. Comprehensive knowledge of services ensures that families can address all aspects of their child's well-being, including physical, emotional, and social needs.
- 3.18 Staff are actively promoting the Welsh Government-funded Powys Child Care Offer to ensure that children with disabilities can access holiday and after-school clubs alongside their peers.
- 3.19 Children Services next planned thematic audit focuses upon the work undertaken within IDS. A part of this audit is gathering the views of children, young people and families who are supported by IDS. The team are looking forward to the responses to this, which will feed into any future planning discussions. Furthermore, it is worth noted, each review meeting there will be a focus given to the voice of the young person and their family.

Next Steps

- 3.20 Continue to work with commissioning colleagues to review and forward plan in house residential options in line with the closer to home strategy.
- 3.21 Further consider how we address the identified gap in service for children aged 12years plus with significant disabilities where parents require childcare. The Welsh Government-funded Powys Child Care Offer only supports up to the age of 12years. Those children under 12 years with very complex health or behavioural needs and those over 12years are often having to be provided with a costed package of care (such as a direct payments) due to lack of alternative resources to support these children.
- 3.22 Consider how to manage the risk to Direct Payment provision in terms of the impending changes to the minimum wage / living wage/ real living wage; this change will impact the demand on the short break budget. An initial estimate for this additional costing in the 25-26 tax year, is around the £24,000.
- 3.23 Currently the support offer to families is very limited in terms of costed packages. Overnight short breaks are limited to one residential provider with very few children able to access short breaks through foster care (2 children currently accessing fostering short breaks). Due to the number of children accessing Direct Payments and the rurality of Powys, families are continuing to find it challenging to identify people to employ through a Direct Payment. IDS managers are meeting with the fostering manager to discuss strategies for promoting short breaks foster carers, and to consider whether daytime-support foster caring could be possible. This forms an aspect of the Fostering Development Plan.

4. Resource Implications

N/A

5. Legal implications

N/A

6. Data Protection

N/A

7. Comment from local member(s)

N/A

8. Impact Assessment

N/A

9. Recommendation

9.1 Health and Social Care Scrutiny notes the content of the report detailing the improvements within the service.

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Head of Service: Sharon Powell, Head of Children’s Services

Corporate Director: Nina Davies, Director of Social Services and Wellbeing

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 13 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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