



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR

C. Hanagan
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
2 Llys Cadwyn
Stryd Taf
Pontypridd, CF37 4TH

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DYMA WŶS I CHI i gyfarfod o **PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU 2022 - 2027** yn cael ei gynnal yn **Rhithwir** on **DYDD LLUN, 29AIN IONAWR, 2024** am **5.00 PM.**

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democrataidd erbyn Dydd Iau, 25 Ionawr 2024 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

Bwriedir i'r cyfarfod yma gael ei weddarlledu'n fyw, mae rhagor o fanylion am hyn [yma](#)

AGENDA

Tudalennau

1. DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Aelodau, yn unol â'r Cod Ymddygiad.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a
2. Lle bo Aelodau'n tynnu'n ôl o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

2. COFNODION

Derbyn cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu a gynhaliwyd ar 13 Rhagfyr 2023 i'w cymeradwyo.

5 - 12

3. DOLENNI YMGYNGHORI

Gwybodaeth mewn perthynas ag [ymgyngoriadau](#) perthnasol i'w ystyried gan y Pwyllgor.

RHAGLEN WAITH Y CABINET

[Rhaglen Waith y Cabinet](#)

4. YMGYNGHORIAD LLYWODRAETH CYMRU: TRETH GYNGOR DECACH

Galluogi Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu i gyflwyno ymateb ffurfiol i'r [ymgyngoriad](#) uchod.

13 - 68

5. GWEITHIO GYDA'N CYMUNEDAU - DRAFFT O GYNLLUN CORFFORAETHOL Y CYNGOR AR GYFER 2024-2030

Galluogi Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu i rag-graffu ar y drafft o'r Cynllun Corfforaethol newydd ar gyfer 2024/25 – 2029/30, a'i lywio

69 - 122

6. TREFNIADAU'R AWDURDOD LLEOL AR GYFER DIOGELU PLANT AC OEDOLION MEWN PERYGL

Rhoi trosolwg o'r gwaith sydd wedi'i gynnal gan Grŵp Diogelu Corfforaethol y Cyngor a gofyn i Aelodau Etholedig graffu ar fersiwn ddrafft newydd y Polisi Diogelu Corfforaethol a chyflwyno sylwadau.

123 - 170

7. MATERION BRYD

Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion bryd yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig.

8. ADOLYGIAD Y CADEIRYDD A DOD Â'R CYFARFOD I BEN

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democraidd a Chyfathrebu

Cylchreliad:-

Cadeirydd ac is-gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu 2022 - 2027
(Y Cynghorydd J Edwards a Y Cynghorydd B Stephens)

Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:

Y Cynghorydd M Ashford, Y Cynghorydd R Bevan, Y Cynghorydd J Bonetto,
Y Cynghorydd R Davis, Y Cynghorydd S.Evans, Y Cynghorydd S Evans,
Y Cynghorydd C Middle, Y Cynghorydd K Morgan, Y Cynghorydd S Morgans,
Y Cynghorydd G L Warren, Y Cynghorydd M Powell and Y Cynghorydd S Emanuel

Tudalen wag

**PWYLLGOR CABINET CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF
PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU 2022 - 2027**

Cofnodion o gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu 2022 - 2027 a gynhaliwyd Dydd Mercher, 13 Rhagfyr 2023 am 4.00 pm ym Rhithwir.

Cafodd y cyfarfod yma ei ddarlledu'n fyw, ac mae modd gweld y manylion [yma](#)

Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol - Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu 2022 - 2027 Aelodau oedd yn bresennol:-:-

Y Cyngorydd J Edwards (Cadeirydd)

Y Cyngorydd B Stephens	Y Cyngorydd M Ashford
Y Cyngorydd R Bevan	Y Cyngorydd J Bonetto
Y Cyngorydd R Davis	Y Cyngorydd Sera.Evans
Y Cyngorydd S Emanuel	Y Cyngorydd Sheryl Evans
Y Cyngorydd C Middle	Y Cyngorydd S Morgans
Y Cyngorydd G L Warren	Mr M Veale

Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol

Ms G Davies, Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant
Ms A Richards, Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro – Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif a Materion Trawsnewid
Mr P Griffiths, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella
Mr S Williams, Pennaeth Materion Buddsoddi Strategol
Ms L Kidner, Rheolwr Busnes, Arlwy
Mr A Critchlow, Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Parcio a Gwaith Stryd
Mr C Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu
Ms S Daniel, Uwch Swyddog Gwasanaethau Llywodraethol

Ymddiheuriadau

Y Cyngorydd K Morgan

39 Datganiadau o Fuddiant

Yn unol â'r cod ymddygiad, doedd dim datganiadau o fuddiant ynglŷn â'r agenda.

40 Cofnodion

PENDERFYNWYD: Cafodd cofnodion y cyfarfodydd a gynhaliwyd ar 31 Hydref 2023 a 13 Tachwedd 2023 eu cadarnhau'n gofnodion gwir a chywir o'r cyfarfodydd.

Gofynnodd y Cyngorydd Sera Evans i'w henw llawn a ac enw llawn y Cyngorydd Sheryl Evans gael eu defnyddio yn y cofnodion yn y dyfodol i osgoi dryswch ynghylch presenoldeb.

41 Ymgynghori ar Gyllideb 2024–25 (Cam 1)

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu yr

adroddiad i Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu i ymgynghori â nhw ac i ymateb yn ffurfiol i gam cyntaf Ymgynghoriad Cyllideb 2024–25 y Cyngor. Cafodd yr Aelodau wybod y bydd adborth y Pwyllgor yn cael ei gynnwys mewn adroddiad ar yr Ymgynghoriad ar y Gyllideb, yn ogystal â'r holl adborth arall gan randdeiliaid. Bydd yr adroddiad yn cael ei ystyried gan y Cabinet yn rhan o lunio Strategaeth Cyllideb Refeniw ddrafft ar gyfer 2024/25. Bydd y Strategaeth Cyllideb Refeniw ddrafft wedyn yn cael ei rhag-graffu gan y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu yn rhan o gam 2 y broses Ymgynghori ar y Gyllideb yn gynnar yn 2024.

Yna rhoddodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella [gyflwyniad](#) i'r Aelodau ar gam 1 yr Ymgynghoriad ar y Gyllideb.

Dywedodd Aelod y dylai'r Cyngor gyfathrebu'n well i drigolion sut mae cronfeydd wrth gefn y Cyngor yn cael eu defnyddio gan fod camsyniad cyffredin bod gan y Cyngor arian dros ben. Dywedodd yr Aelod hefyd, er eu bod nhw'n deall bod trigolion i gyd yn delio ag argyfwng costau byw, bod gan y Cyngor ddyletswydd o hyd i lunio cyllideb gytbwys.

Dywedodd Aelod fod angen i ni barhau i ddiogelu a blaenoriaethu'r gyllideb addysg a buddsoddi yn ein plant a'n pobl ifainc.

Gofynnodd Aelod sut mae'r Cyngor yn ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd wrth ymgynghori ar y gyllideb ac roedd yn falch o nodi bod ymgysylltu wedi digwydd gyda phobl ifainc.

Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella fod lleoliadau penodol yn cael eu dewis i sicrhau ein bod ni'n gwneud y mwyaf o'r cyfle i ymgysylltu wyneb yn wyneb gyda'r cyhoedd a bod carfan o swyddogion ym mhob achlysur ymgynghori i gynorthwyo ac ateb cwestiynau. Yna dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod yr ymgysylltu hyd yma wedi bod yn dda, a bod llawer o bobl ifainc hefyd wedi cymryd rhan yn yr ymgynghoriad trwy achlysuron ymgynghori mewn ysgolion uwchradd penodol.

Cyfeiriodd yr Aelod Cyfetholedig at y cronfeydd wrth gefn a glustnodwyd ar gyfer prosiectau penodol a gofynnodd a oes modd i'r Cyngor adolygu'r prosiectau i sicrhau eu bod nhw'n mynd yn eu blaenau ac, os nad ydyn nhw, bod yr arian yn cael ei ailddyrrannu. Roedd yr Aelod Cyfetholedig hefyd yn cwestiynu rôl y pwyllgor Craffu o ran nodi arbedion i wella effeithlonrwydd a sut mae'r Awdurdod yn cydweithio gydag Awdurdodau Lleol eraill i sicrhau arbedion.

Rhannodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella bod £105 miliwn, sef tua 53% o gronfeydd wrth gefn y Cyngor, wedi'u clustnodi ar gyfer cyflawni'r Rhaglen Gyfalaf gyfredol a buddsoddi parhaus mewn seilwaith, gydag arian arall o'r cronfeydd wrth gefn wedi'i neilltuo at ddibenion penodol, megis rheoli prosiectau cyfredol a risgiau allweddol. Cadarnhaodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod cronfeydd wrth gefn yn cael eu hadolygu'n barhaus ac yn cael eu hadrodd i Aelodau etholedig o leiaf ddwywaith y flwyddyn i ddarparu opsiynau ar gyfer ail-flaenoriaethu cronfeydd wrth gefn penodol, lle bo'n briodol, i gefnogi buddsoddiad ychwanegol ym meysydd blaenoriaeth y Cynllun Corfforaethol. Aeth y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth ymlaen i sôn am y broses o nodi arbedion cyllidebol a dywedodd fod dull y Cyngor ar waith drwy'r sefydliad cyfan ac yn cael ei arwain gan yr Uwch Garfan Arwain. Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod Swyddog Adran 151 y Cyngor yn cydlynu sesiynau adolygu a herio gydag uwch swyddogion i nodi cyfleoedd arbed at ddibenion

effeithlonrwydd sy'n diogelu gwasanaethau rheng flaen a nododd oherwydd maint y bwloch a ragwelir yn y gyllideb ar gyfer y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf, sef £35 miliwn, bod y broses wedi golygu bod angen adrodd ar gynigion newid gwasanaeth i'r Cabinet er mwyn ystyried a ddylid symud ymlaen i broses ymgynghori cyhoeddus. Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth hefyd fod y gwaith o adolygu'r gyllideb yn cynnwys ystyried cyfleoedd i gydweithio â sefydliadau eraill, er mwyn i arbedion cyllideb y cytunwyd arnynt gael eu cynnwys yn y gyllideb a'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf ar gyflawniad ariannol yn ystod y flwyddyn gael eu hadrodd i'r Cabinet a'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu yn rhan o Adroddiadau Cyflawniad Chwarterol.

Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn ynghylch y cynnig i godi Treth y Cyngor, ymatebodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaeth bod yr rhagfynegiadau presennol yn awgrymu y bydd llawer o awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru yn ymgynghori ar godiadau i dreth y cyngor o 5% neu'n uwch, gyda safle arfaethedig Rhondda Cynon Taf ar ben isaf y raddfa yma ar hyn o bryd.

Gofynnodd Aelod a yw'r Cyngor wedi ymchwilio i'r opsiwn o greu incwm o'r tir a'r adeiladau diwydiannol y mae'n berchen arnynt, ac o werthu asedau nad ydyn ni'n eu defnyddio mwyach neu nad sydd eu hangen arnon ni. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella fod y Cyngor yn creu incwm o adeiladau penodol y mae'n berchen arnynt ac yn adolygu ei holl asedau'n barhaus i sicrhau bod cyfleoedd codi incwm yn cael eu manteisio arnynt a bod gwerthu asedau'n cael ei hystyried lle bo hynny er lles gorau'r Cyngor. Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod y prosesau yma hefyd yn cynnwys ymgysylltu â busnesau a darpar ddatblygwyr gyda'r nod o ddenu mewnfuddsoddiad i'r Fwrdeistref Sirol.

Cyfeiriodd Aelod at rai Awdurdodau Lleol yn Lloegr sydd wedi cyhoeddi hysbysiadau Adran 114 a gofynnodd beth oedd y ffactorau a gyfrannodd at y rhain, ac a oes modd i'r Aelodau fod yn sicr bod rheolaeth ariannol gadarn ar waith i atal y Cyngor rhag cyrraedd sefyllfa o'r fath.

Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella fod themâu cyson o ran trefniadau llywodraethu yn lleodd ble mae hysbysiadau adran 114 wedi'u cyhoeddi gan awdurdodau lleol yn Lloegr, megis gwendidau neu ddiffyg eglurder ynghylch arweinyddiaeth a phrosesau gwneud penderfyniadau a chraffu. Aeth y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth ymlaen i drafod rhai o drefniadau'r Cyngor, gan ddweud bod trefniadau cynllunio a rheoli ariannol cadarn yn eu lle, fel y dangoswyd trwy lunio cyllidebau cytbwys yn gyson a'u rhoi ar waith, er mwyn cefnogi cyflawni blaenoriaethau'r Cynllun Corfforaethol. Nododd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth hefyd fod gan y Cyngor ddull agored a thryloyw o wneud penderfyniadau ac adrodd ar gyflawniad, gyda phwyllgorau craffu yn rhan allweddol o'r trefniadau yma. Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod trefniadau'r Cyngor yn cael eu hategu gan staff sydd wedi'u hyfforddi'n dda a chyfeiriodd at enghreifftiau o adroddiadau cadarnhaol gan archwiliwr allanol y Cyngor, Archwilio Cymru, yn dangos barnau archwilio clir ar ddatganiadau o gyfrifon blynyddol y Cyngor.

O ran Cynllun Gostyngiadau Treth y Cyngor, chafodd dim newidiadau arfaethedig i'r trefniadau presennol sydd ar waith eu hamlygu gan y Pwyllgor.

Yn dilyn diwedd y drafodaeth, **PENDERFYNWYD** gwneud y canlynol:

1. Rhoi adborth ar yr Ymgynghoriad ar Gyllideb 2024–25 y Cyngor.

Gofyn i Gyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu roi adborth y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu i'r Cabinet.

42 CRAFFU AR NEWIDIADAU I WASANAETHAU YN AMODOL AR YMGYNGHORIAD

Cyflwynodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu yr adroddiad i'r Aelodau i ofyn am eu hadborth er mwyn ymateb yn ffurfiol i ymgynghoriadau'r Cyngor ar Barhad Darpariaeth Clwb Brechwast Am Ddim mewn Ysgolion Cynradd ac Arbennig gyda thâl am yr elfen gofal plant ychwanegol i gael ei gyflwyno ac Adolygiad o Bolisi Cludo Disgyblion o'r Cartref i'r Ysgol y Cyngor.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth, derbyniwyd yr adborth, y cwestiynau a'r sylwadau canlynol gan yr Aelodau:

Parhad Darpariaeth Clwb Brechwast am Ddim mewn ysgolion cynradd ac ysgolion arbennig a chyflwyno tâl am yr elfen gofal plant ychwanegol

Gofynnodd Aelod beth fydd yr effaith ar staff sy'n rhedeg y Gwasanaeth Clwb Brechwast presennol ac a fydd modd i'r nifer o staff ymdopi ag unrhyw newid i'r gwasanaeth.

Eglurodd y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant, er ei bod hi'n anodd rhagweld yr effaith ar staff ar hyn o bryd, ni ragwelir effaith sylweddol. Os bydd y galw am y ddarpariaeth yn cynyddu, bydd angen i'r gwasanaeth sicrhau bod nifer priodol o staff. Cafodd ei gydnabod gan y Cyfarwyddwr fod recriwtio yn y Gwasanaethau Arlwyo yn heriol a bod cael swyddi gwag yn y gwasanaeth yma'n weddol gyffredin. Rhoddodd sicrwydd y bydd hyn yn cael ei fonitro'n agos.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant nad oedd llawer o bobl wedi mynychu'r achlysuron Ymgysylltu â'r Gymuned hyd yn hyn, ond bod llawer mwy o ymateb wedi dod i law ar-lein. Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr fod y themâu sy'n dod i'r amlwg yn dangos bod rhai ymatebwyr wedi gofyn am hyblygrwydd o ran codi tâl am 5 diwrnod yr wythnos gan fod nifer ohonyn nhw ddim yn defnyddio'r gwasanaeth bob dydd. Fodd bynnag, dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr y byddai trefniadau codi tâl hyblyg yn dod â chostau gweinyddol ychwanegol ac felly bydd angen safbwynt cytbwys. Adleisiodd sawl Aelod arall y pwynt yma gan na fydd angen i bob teulu ddefnyddio'r cyfleuster 5 diwrnod yr wythnos. Gofynnodd yr Aelodau i'r agwedd yma gael ei hadolygu ac ystyried opsiwn mwy hyblyg cyn gwneud penderfyniad terfynol.

Roedd Aelod yn pryderu ein bod ni'n ychwanegu at bwysau ariannol teuluoedd sydd eisoes yn cael trafferth gyda'r argyfwng costau byw a gofynnodd a oedd opsiynau eraill y byddai modd eu hystyried.

Atebodd y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant fod yr Awdurdod eisoes yn darparu ystod o gymorth i deuluoedd a rhoddodd sicrwydd y bydd y cynnig yn cynnal brechwast am ddim mewn ysgolion fel y mae ar hyn o bryd, cynnig sydd fel arfer ar gael o 8.30am. Mae'r tâl arfaethedig ar gyfer y ddarpariaeth gofal plant o 8am. Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr y bydd adborth yr ymgynghoriad yn cael ei gasglu a'i adrodd i'r Cabinet i'w ystyried yn rhan o'r

broses o wneud penderfyniadau.

Mewn ymateb i sylwadau ynghylch amseru lle mae rhai ysgolion yn dechrau eu darpariaeth yn hwyrach, dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant fod yr amseroedd cychwyn / gorffen yn cael eu pennu gan bob ysgol unigol ac yn unol â'u diwrnod ysgol. Aeth y Cyfarwyddwr ymlaen i ddweud y bydd y gwasanaeth yn gweithio gyda charfanau arwain yr ysgolion i sicrhau bod dull cyson yn cael ei ddefnyddio a rhoddodd sicrwydd y bydd pob ysgol yn rhoi'r cyfle i bob disgybl o'r meithrin i Flwyddyn 6 gael brecwast am ddim, waeth beth fo'i hamseroedd cychwyn / gorffen.

Adolygiad o Bolisi Cludo Disgyblion o'r Cartref i'r Ysgol y Cyngor

Tynnodd Aelod sylw at bryderon yr oeddent wedi clywed gan rieni a gwarcheidwaid ynghylch llwybrau cerdded diogel Gofynnodd am ragor o eglurder ynghylch yr hyn a ystyrir yn llwybr cerdded diogel a gofynnodd i hyn gael ei gyfathrebu i'r cyhoedd.

Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau'r Priffyrdd, Gofal Strydoedd a Chludiant wrth yr Aelodau y bydd y llwybrau cerdded diogel yn cael eu hailasesu i sicrhau eu bod nhw'n ddiogel i ddisgyblion eu defnyddio. Ychwanegodd fod rhan o'r broses adolygu yn cynnwys edrych ar balmentydd, cyrbiau isel a manau croesi a'u bod nhw'n cael eu hadolygu'n annibynnol.

Gofynnodd Aelod beth fyddai'r effeithiau tebygol ar bresenoldeb o ganlyniad i'r cynigion gan fod pryderon gyda'r Aelod y byddai hyn yn effeithio ar bresenoldeb mewn ardaloedd o amddifadedd cymdeithasol.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant fod yr Awdurdod yn blaenoriaethu ac yn buddsoddi mewn gwella presenoldeb yn barhaus. Er enghraifft, mae swyddi swyddogion ymgysylltu â theuluoedd penodol wedi'u hariannu a'u recriwtio i gefnogi ailymgysylltu plant mewn addysg. Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr fod gwaith yn y maes yma'n mynd rhagddo a bod tasglu ar waith i adolygu presenoldeb ledled Cymru gyfan. Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr fod Rhondda Cynon Taf ar hyn o bryd yn un o bedwar Awdurdod Lleol yng Nghymru sy'n darparu cludiant o'r cartref i'r ysgol y tu hwnt i'r gofyniad cyfreithiol statudol.

Gofynnodd Aelod a oedd yr Awdurdod wedi ystyried lleoedd ble mae ysgolion wedi adleoli a'r effaith y bydd hyn efallai'n ei gael ar bresenoldeb disgyblion gan y bydd plant yn awr yn gorfod teithio ymhellach am gost uwch, o bosibl, neu'n gorfod cerdded ymhellach.

Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau'r Priffyrdd, Gofal Strydoedd a Chludiant mai dewis y rhiant / rhieni oedd ble roedd eu plant yn mynychu'r ysgol. Mae'r cynnig yma'n ymwneud â darpariaeth statudol cludiant o'r cartref i'r ysgol y Cyngor. Aeth ymlaen y ddweud efallai y gwelwn ni newid o ran cydbwysedd gyda disgyblion yn dewis cael eu haddysgu mewn ysgolion gwahanol.

Mynegodd yr aelodau bryderon y byddai modd i'r cynigion gael effaith andwyol ar allu'r Awdurdod i gyflawni Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg gan y bydd disgyblion sy'n mynychu ysgolion Cymraeg ar hyn o bryd efallai'n dewis mynychu ysgol Saesneg pe bai hyn yn gwneud trefniadau teithio yn haws. Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant fod Asesiad o'r Effaith ar y Gymraeg wedi'i gynnal yn rhan o'r cynnig ac y bydd y themâu

allweddol yn cael eu hadrodd i'r Cabinet i'w hystyried yn rhan o'r broses o benderfynu.

Mynegodd yr Aelodau bryder hefyd ynghylch yr effaith negyddol y bydd y cynnig yn ei chael ar blant sy'n byw mewn tloidi. Dywedodd Aelod efallai y bydd angen i blant sydd wedi'u heffeithio gerdded ymhellach a chodi'n gynt i fynd i'r ysgol, ac felly efallai y byddant yn llai tebygol o fynychu. Roedd yr Aelod hefyd o'r farn y bydd modd i hyn gael effaith negyddol ar ôl troed carbon y Cyngor gyda rhagor o geir ar y ffordd yn debygol o ganlyniad.

Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau'r Priffyrdd, Gofal Strydoedd a Chludiant fod cydnabyddiaeth y bydd hyn yn achosi newid i rai teuluoedd ond fod effeithiau cadarnhaol hefyd ar iechyd a lles gyda llwybrau cerdded diogel ar gael i deuluoedd. Bydd potensial traffig ychwanegol yn cael ei ystyried yn rhan o ailasesu llwybrau diogel i ysgolion a'r adborth o'r ymgynghoriad. Yn ogystal â hyn, bydd gwaith yn cael ei wneud gyda Trafnidiaeth Cymru i ystyried opsiynau trafndiaeth amgen.

Mewn ymateb i gwestiwn, dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau'r Priffyrdd, Gofal Strydoedd a Chludiant na fydd modd i'r Awdurdod godi tâl am seddi gwag ar fysiau yn y dyfodol oherwydd bod rheoliadau'n cael eu gorfodi lle bydd angen i bob cerbyd lle codir tâl fod yn hygyrch i gadeiriau olwyn.

Ar ôl trafod yr adroddiad, **PENDERFYNWYD** gwneud y canlynol:

1. Ystyried ymateb i'r cynigion y manylir arnynt isod ym mharagraff 5 (yr adroddiad 'Ymgynghoriadau CBSRhCT') fel ymgynghorai.
 2. Fel Pwyllgor, ystyried rhoi sylwadau, arsylwadau neu argymhellion pellach mewn perthynas â'r cynigion yma cyn i'r Cabinet eu hystyried.
- Gofyn i Gyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu roi adborth y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu i'r Cabinet.

43 Adroddiad Cyflawniad ac Adnoddau'r Cyngor (Chwarter 2)

Cyflwynodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu yr adroddiad ar Gyflawniad y Cyngor (Chwarter 2) hyd at 30 Medi 2023, i'r Aelodau. Rhoddodd wybod am bwysigrwydd yr wybodaeth yma i'r broses graffu, yn enwedig o ran darparu gwasanaethau, ond hefyd o ran pennu materion i'w trafod ymhellach yn seiliedig ar yr wybodaeth am gyflawniad sy'n cael ei darparu. Ychwanegodd mai cyfrifoldeb y Pwyllgor yma yw cyfeirio unrhyw eithriadau at y pwyllgor craffu priodol i'w trafod ymhellach, a hynny o dan y cylch gorchwyl.

Cyflwynodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella'r adroddiad i Aelodau a oedd yn cynnwys manylion am ddatganiadau o sefyllfa chwarter 2 ar gyfer refeniw a chyflawniad y gyllideb gyfalaf; dangosyddion darbodus Rheoli'r Trysorlys; gwybodaeth am lechyd y Sefydliad gan gynnwys trosiant staff, salwch a risgiau strategol y Cyngor; cynlluniau gweithredu blaenoriaeth y Cynllun Corfforaethol (gan gynnwys dangosyddion cyflawniad a buddsoddi); a rhaglen barhaus y Cyngor o waith i fynd i'r afael â'r newid yn yr hinsawdd.

Yn dilyn y cyflwyniad, rhoddodd y Cadeirydd gyfle i'r Aelodau ofyn cwestiynau.

Nododd Aelod y lefel uchel o salwch staff mewn meysydd gwasanaeth penodol a gofynnodd a yw hyn yn cael ei fonitro a sut mae staff yn cael eu cefnogi i fod yn iach yn y gwaith.

Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella fod Gwasanaeth Adnoddau Dynol y Cyngor yn rhoi cymorth wedi'i dargedu i wasanaethau i gefnogi staff i ddychwelyd i'r gwaith mor amserol â phosibl a nododd fod y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn parhau i brofi heriau penodol o ran lefelau salwch. Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod y trefniadau'n cael eu llywio gan wybodaeth amser real a ddarperir i reolwyr gwasanaeth am bresenoldeb staff er mwyn llywio camau gweithredu amserol, gyda Gwasanaeth Iechyd Galwedigaethol y Cyngor yn cynnig ystod eang o gymorth a thriniaethau i staff.

Gofynnodd Aelod pam fod oedi ar rai prosiectau rhaglen gyfalaf wedi bod. Dywedodd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau'r Priffyrdd, Gofal Strydoedd a Chludiant fod hyn yn rhannol oherwydd oedi gyda chontractwyr a fu'n anodd ei reoli ar ôl y pandemig o ganlyniad i heriau o ran cyflenwad a galw. Ychwanegodd y Cyfarwyddwr fod Rhaglen Gyfalaf y Cyngor yn cynrychioli buddsoddiad sylweddol mewn nifer fawr o brosiectau, ac yn gyffredinol, mae'r rhain yn cael eu cyflawni ar amser ac o fewn eu cyllidebau. Nododd y bydd y Cyngor yn parhau i gymhwyso ei drefniadau rheoli prosiect cadarn gyda chontractwyr i sicrhau eu bod nhw'n parhau i gyflawni prosiectau.

Tynnodd Aelod sylw at y graddfeydd coch a gwyrdd ar gyfer 'cynnydd hyd yn hyn' yn yr wybodaeth ddiweddaraf o ran cynllun gweithredu'r Cynllun Corfforaethol. Gofynnodd a ddylid ymgorffori graddiad ychwanegol lle mae camau gweithredu ar y trywydd iawn i gael eu cyflawni erbyn dyddiad targed yn y dyfodol. Cyfeiriodd yr Aelod hefyd at y Gofrestr Risg ac awgrymodd fod angen mwy o sôn am nodi cynnydd yn erbyn rheolaethau a chamau gweithredu.

Nododd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella y bydd yr adborth a ddarparwyd yn cael ei ystyried a, lle bo'n briodol, yn cael ei adlewyrchu mewn adroddiadau yn y dyfodol.

Gofynnodd Aelod pa effaith mae pwysau cyllidebol wedi'u cael ar gyflawniad staff ac a oes digon o gefnogaeth ar gael ar eu cyfer. Roedd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cyllid a Gwella yn cydnabod fod heriau ym mhob un o wasanaethau'r Cyngor a rhoddodd sicrwydd bod blaenoriaethau a llwythi gwaith yn cael eu monitro'n agos, a bod y Cyngor yn parhau i fuddsoddi mewn hyfforddi a datblygu staff i gefnogi'r broses o ddarparu gwasanaethau. Cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth hefyd at hunanasesiad diweddaraf y Cyngor sydd i'w adrodd i'r Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio yn nes ymlaen ym mis Rhagfyr, a oedd yn nodi, sefyllfa cyflawniad cadarnhaol yn gyffredinol o ystyried heriau mae'r Cyngor yn eu hwynebu.

Ar ôl trafod yr adroddiad, **PENDERFYNWYD** gwneud y canlynol:

1. Craffu ar sefyllfa cyflawniad ariannol a gweithredol y Cyngor ar 30 Medi 2023 (Chwarter 2).

Ystyried a oes awydd craffu'n fanylach ar unrhyw faterion a gynhwysir yn yr adroddiad yn unol â Chylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor.

Dim

45 Adolygiad y Cadeirydd a dod â'r cyfarfod i ben

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.55 pm

**Y Cynghorydd J Edwards
Cadeirydd.**



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –29 JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION: FAIRER COUNCIL TAX WALES

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to formally respond to phase 2 of Welsh Government's [consultation](#) attached at Appendix 1 which sets out the proposals for a Fairer Council Tax. The proposals aim to rebalance wealth and tackle inequality and create a tax system that is fair for everyone and connects people with communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members: -

- 2.1 Respond to the attached consultation attached at appendix 1, and decide whether they wish to make any further comments or suggestions as appropriate following consideration of the information before them.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To provide Scrutiny with the opportunity to respond to phase 2 of the consultation by the 6th February 2024 so that it can have its say on the proposals which set out to reform the Council Tax in Wales for a fairer and more progressive system.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Council Tax makes up around a fifth of the total of Council spending. As taxpayers, residents collectively provide over £2.4billion a year towards the cost of the £10 billion cost of essential local services delivered across Wales, keeping schools open, our loved ones cared for and our communities thriving.

- 4.2 However, the current Council Tax system places a higher tax burden on households with lower levels of wealth, meaning the tax paid, no longer accurately reflects individual circumstances.
- 4.3 The purpose of the reforms would be to ensure that Council Tax contributions are more fairly spread and reflect the latest information available about economic circumstances. None of the approaches outlined in the consultation represents a revenue-raising exercise.
- 4.4 Members will find the consultation attached at Appendix 1, along with the proposed questions where feedback is sought at Appendix 2.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 8.1 This is an information report presenting the Welsh Government's consultation on its proposals for a new statutory regime for managing disused coal tips. No decisions are being taken in this report.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been afforded the opportunity to respond to the consultation published on the 14th November 2023 by Welsh Government which sets out proposals for a Fairer Council Tax.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &

COMMUNICATION



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

OPEN CONSULTATION, DOCUMENT

Consultation on a Fairer Council Tax: phase 2

We're seeking your further views on a fairer Council Tax system in Wales.

First published: 14 November 2023

Last updated: 14 November 2023

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A Fairer Council Tax

£2.4 billion raised from Council Tax in Wales every year helps to fund schools, social care and hundreds of other services like policing, fire services and transport, from which we all receive huge benefits. A common myth about Council Tax is that it just pays for local waste collection.

The current Council Tax system is 20 years out of date. A higher share of tax is charged relatively to households living in lower value properties. We've been exploring change for a number of years, and we're committed to making Council Tax fairer.

The **Programme for Government** and the **Co-operation Agreement** commit to reforming Council Tax to make it fairer and more progressive. It remains the firm intention of both the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru to make progress on the journey to a fairer system in Wales.

A more progressive system would shift the current pattern of payment away from those with the least and require those with the most to make a greater contribution. There are many ways in which we can make the system fairer without making it more progressive, but a more progressive system would have a greater impact in addressing the inequalities in property wealth. Any moves to make the system fairer and more progressive will, unavoidably, create winners and losers.

In redesigning the system, in terms of the choices we make about the tax bands and tax-rates, we would not seek to increase the total amount of Council Tax raised overall from Council Taxpayers than is currently raised, although some taxpayers would see changes.

The purpose of the reforms would be to ensure that Council Tax contributions are more fairly spread and reflect the latest information available about

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economic circumstances. None of the approaches outlined in this consultation represents a revenue-raising exercise.

A more progressive tax looks to lower the share of tax paid by those who are less able to contribute, making things fairer. This may be difficult to achieve all at once, so we're asking for your views about the approach we take to make the system fairer. The evidence shows the changes we're proposing would reduce longstanding wealth inequalities created by an unfair system.

This consultation seeks views on how and when we should make changes to the basic structure of Council Tax in Wales and update the property valuations used.

Council Tax also includes a detailed framework of support for people who need it, including our support provided to low-income households through our Council Tax Reduction Scheme and a range of discounts and exemptions. Nearly half of households in Wales currently receive some form of discount or reduction on their Council Tax bill and this will not change as a result of this consultation. This consultation provides an update on reviews of these arrangements and proposals for:

- modernising the service provided to taxpayers
- taking powers to reform the system of discounts and reductions over time
- committing to retain the one-adult discount and to keep the level of discount at 25%
- changing the treatment of empty properties to remove the obligation on councils to offer a 50% discount on most empty properties (councils will maintain their discretion on caravans and houseboats, on homes where the owner has died and job-related dwellings)
- changing the time-limits for exemptions on properties in probate
- amending the language we use, and the system in place, to provide help to those with a 'severe mental impairment'
- improving the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

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We would encourage households to check their [eligibility for discounts and reductions](#) or contact their local council.

Background to the reforms

In summer 2022, we carried out a phase 1 consultation on a [Fairer Council Tax](#). We outlined an ambitious programme of reforms as the starting point on our journey towards meeting the [Programme for Government](#) and the [Co-operation Agreement](#) commitment to deliver a fairer and more progressive Council Tax for Wales. We sought views from individuals, experts and organisations on:

- creating an updated and fairer Council Tax structure with new bands and tax-rates
- committing to regular updates in the future
- undertaking a review of Council Tax discounts, disregards, exemptions and premiums
- undertaking a review of our national Council Tax Reduction Scheme

We received more than 1,000 responses to the phase 1 consultation, reflecting a wide range of views and interests. We published [A summary of responses to the phase 1 consultation on a Fairer Council Tax](#) in December 2022.

Over the past year, taking account of these wide-ranging views, we have continued to consider scenarios for a fairer Council Tax, working closely with local organisations and networks that are representative of the people of Wales. This document makes specific proposals for reform in a number of areas tested in the original consultation in relation to some of the discounts and exemption categories. In relation to the basic design of the Council Tax system, including its outdated property values basis and regressive design of tax bands and tax-rates, we continue to explore ways in which we could undertake more ambitious

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change, taking account of the further research and expert advice we have commissioned. This year, we have faced a changing and continually challenging economic context with interest rates impacting on all facets of society, business and services; changes in the housing and rental markets; and a prevailing cost of living crisis.

We've also considered other forms of local taxation. In February 2021, we published a comprehensive **summary of findings** report summarising research undertaken since 2016. We explored how the local tax systems (both Council Tax and non-domestic rates) could be improved in their current forms, but also looked at the potential for a more fundamental shift towards other ideas. We explored the idea of a localised form of Income Tax set and raised by councils as a potential longer-term replacement for Council Tax. However, taxes based on income can have far higher levels of tax avoidance as some sources of income are more easily hidden or moved by those with the means to do so, whereas property is a fixed asset to a local area. The research found that this avoidance risk was unknown and unquantifiable. We have decided not to take forward any future considerations about this type of tax, as revenue streams for local services require stability and certainty to enable councils to plan service provision. In the UK, our incomes are taxed by other institutions for different purposes.

We think property occupation is a good broad indicator of people's wealth relative to each other, whilst being a tangible, simple and local measure. The homes we live in also provide an indicator of household size and therefore relative demand for services. We recognise it's not perfect, as there are many reasons for the size and location of the properties we choose to own or rent. However, the Council Tax system has important elements which take account of income, such as the one-adult discount and support for low-income households. For now, we think this approach strikes the right balance without compromising stability or fairness.

We are continuing to explore the potential for a local land value tax as a

replacement for both local taxes, building on **Bangor University's detailed technical assessment** which we commissioned in 2020. That assessment represented the most detailed work to date considering a local land value tax specifically for Wales, using Welsh data about land valuation. We aim to publish more information on our work by the end of this Senedd term, including potentially a roadmap to implementation and how it could work in practice in Wales.

This consultation discusses reforms to the current form of Council Tax.

The current system and why it's unfair

As we set out last year, in the **phase 1 consultation**, there are around 1.5 million domestic dwellings in Wales liable for Council Tax. Each property is currently placed in 1 of 9 tax bands, A to I, on the basis of property values on 1 April 2003. This is because the last time Council Tax was updated in Wales, the changes took effect on 1 April 2005. As part of those changes, the Welsh Government added an additional tax band (Band I) to capture the highest value properties. Council Tax in England and Scotland is still based on 1991 property values and 8 tax bands.

The **Valuation Office Agency** (VOA), which is independent of the Welsh Government, assesses property values and places each dwelling into a Council Tax band. Each band is charged a tax-rate relative to the reference point of the system, band D, and these tax-rates are set out in legislation by the Welsh Government.

However, the band D charge for each area is set locally by councils each year, depending on the revenue they need to raise to fund local services. This is why Council Tax bills vary between local areas, but the spacing between the charges for bands remains consistent across Wales, and the Welsh Government can

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change this.

The table below shows the current 9 tax bands and the average bill set by councils in Wales, as a percentage of property value, for people paying a full Council Tax bill without any discounts or reductions (and excluding community councils). Over 70% of properties are in bands A to D.

Current Council Tax bands in Wales, 2023 to 2024 (excluding community council precepts)

Band	Property values on 1 April 2003	Average tax excluding discounts	Tax-rate relative to band D	Tax as % of property value	Number and % of properties
A	Up to £44,000	£1,224	6/9	1.3%	213,200 (14%)
B	£44,001 to £65,000	£1,428	7/9	1.1%	305,500 (21%)
C	£65,001 to £91,000	£1,632	8/9	0.9%	320,300 (22%)
D	£91,001 to £123,000	£1,836	9/9	0.8%	239,600 (16%)
E	£123,001 to £162,000	£2,244	11/9	0.7%	198,500 (13%)
F	£162,001 to £223,000	£2,652	13/9	0.6%	120,900 (8%)

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Band	Property values on 1 April 2003	Average tax excluding discounts	Tax-rate relative to band D	Tax as % of property value	Number and % of properties
G	£223,001 to £324,000	£3,060	15/9	0.5%	54,600 (4%)
H	£324,001 to £424,000	£3,672	18/9	0.5%	13,000 (1%)
I	Above £424,000	£4,284	21/9	0.4%	5,600 (0%)

As well as being very outdated, the system also places an unfair burden on those who live in lower valued properties. The amount of Council Tax charged for band I properties is currently 3 and a half times as much as band A, but homes in the top band are worth at least 9 times as much as those in the bottom band.

As part of the work since the first consultation, we have asked the Valuation Office Agency to prepare to undertake a revaluation of properties. The Valuation Office Agency is preparing up-to-date values for all 1.5 million properties in Wales using the latest technology which is being internationally accredited by industry experts. We have also worked closely with the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), a renowned body of experts in taxation and fiscal policy in the UK. Alongside this consultation it has published a new report on the potential impacts of Council Tax reform in Wales. This includes detailed information on how the different reform approaches outlined below would affect different parts of Wales and different types of households.

A revaluation exercise would check everyone's property value for the purposes of building a new Council Tax system; this doesn't necessarily mean your

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Council Tax bill would increase, even if your property's value has increased over the last 20 years. A revaluation would enable us to create new bands and choose new tax-rates for each band to create a fairer tax, and one of the possible approaches to designing a new system includes additional bands at the bottom and top of the scale. Distributing properties in a more fine-grained way like this could enable us to implement a structure that more fairly reflects ability to pay across the 1.5 million homes in Wales.

At the point that we redesign the system, by choosing new tax bands and new tax-rates, we would not seek to increase the total amount of Council Tax raised overall from Council Taxpayers. The purpose of the reforms would be to ensure that Council Tax charges are more fairly spread and reflect the latest information available about economic circumstances. None of the approaches outlined here represents a revenue-raising exercise. However, it is ultimately within the control of local councils to decide the band D charge that each council needs to set according to budget needs in each financial year.

We've also been considering the band-widths. Whilst there is freedom to design a structure that is not fixed to the existing 9 bands or band-widths, the possible approaches we present here are focused on having 9 or 12 bands. We know adding more low-value and high-value bands helps improve fairness, but adding a larger number of bands than this would present valuation challenges and make the system more complicated.

The key questions here, however, are about the scale and pace of change. We would like your views about how far and how fast we should implement Council Tax reform.

Potential approaches

There are many ways in which the structure of Council Tax could be updated. In

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carrying out our work, we have ruled out more radical systems which some stakeholders advocate for, because we feel the changes in tax bills for some households associated with such systems are too high. For the purposes of this consultation, we present 3 approaches which reflect a range of reforms which we think are realistically achievable. These are presented to seek your views on the possible scale of reform.

Approach 1

In the first approach, we would aim for minimal change focussing on ensuring the property values are up-to-date. In this approach, we would keep the current system which is already in place largely the same:

- we would revalue properties for the purposes of placing them into a more modern version of the current 9 bands (keeping the same percentage of properties in each band as there are currently), and update the band thresholds to create an up-to-date system that reflects modern property values, but
- retain the 9 bands and the tax-rates charged for each band that we have at present

The result would be a small move in the direction of fairness. The system would become more up-to-date and accurate under those rules. About 8 out of 10 households would see bills reduced or experience minimal change.

But the tax would remain fundamentally unfair, with only the modest improvement on the system as originally introduced in 1993. Some properties would move up bands, some would move down bands, and most would stay in the same band.

Approach 2

In the second approach, we could consider a modest scope of reform, addressing the outdatedness of the current system and also its regressive nature. In this approach we would:

- retain the 9 band structure and update it with current property values (as Approach 1), but also
- change the tax-rates charged for each band so that bills for households in lower band properties would fall, and bills for those in the highest band properties would rise

The result would be a greater move in the direction of fairness, but the structure of the tax would remain fundamentally unchanged with 9 tax bands. Some properties would move up bands, some would move down bands, and most would stay in the same band. About 7 out of 10 households would see bills reduced or experience minimal change.

Approach 3

In the third approach, we would expand the benefits of reform, making the system more progressive. In this approach, we would:

- increase the number of bands from 9 to 12
- add 3 new bands, 1 at the bottom and 2 at the top
- redraw the new 12 bands so that the width of each band is broadly consistent across the whole structure
- change the tax-rates charged for each band, with a lot less paid by those in the lowest bands, and more paid by those in the top bands

The result would be a decisive move in the direction of fairness, with a more

significant reform in the structure of the tax.

People living in the lowest value properties would see bills fall, and those in the most expensive properties would see bills rise. Again, some properties would move up bands, some would move down bands, and most would stay in the same band, but those reductions would be greater, especially for those living in the lowest value properties. Conversely, the rise in bills for those in more expensive properties would be sharper than in either of the other approaches. About 7 out of 10 households would see bills reduced or experience minimal change.

Based on the preliminary results of preparatory revaluation work of the Valuation Office Agency, the following tables provide an indication of the modern property values which relate to the 3 approaches discussed.

Approaches 1 and 2: minimal version of reform and modest version of reform

Band	Property value in April 2023	Number and % of households (same % as the current system)
A	Up to £112,000	211,800 (14%)
B	£112,001 to £155,000	310,800 (21%)
C	£155,001 to £211,000	318,600 (22%)
D	£211,001 to £278,000	236,500 (16%)
E	£278,001 to £376,000	200,000 (14%)

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Band	Property value in April 2023	Number and % of households (same % as the current system)
F	£376,001 to £516,000	121,100 (8%)
G	£516,001 to £748,000	54,700 (4%)
H	£748,001 to £987,000	13,200 (1%)
I	Above £987,001	5,600 (<1%)

Approach 3: expanded version of reform

Band	Property value in April 2023	Number and % of households
A1	Up to £80,000	47,000 (3%)
A2	£80,001 to £110,000	151,200 (10%)
B	£110,001 to £150,000	289,000 (20%)
C	£150,001 to £200,000	301,300 (20%)
D	£200,001 to £270,000	266,400 (18%)
E	£270,001 to £360,000	198,900 (14%)

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Band	Property value in April 2023	Number and % of households
F	£360,001 to £480,000	124,900 (8%)
G	£480,001 to £650,000	61,300 (4%)
H	£650,001 to £880,000	22,700 (2%)
I	£880,001 to £1.2m	7,200 (0.5%)
J	£1.2m to £1.6m	1,600 (0.1%)
K	Above £1.6m	650 (0.0%)

Based on these approaches and using these April 2023-based tax bands, the Welsh Government worked with the IFS to develop 3 examples of reforms that could be analysed in detail to illustrate potential impacts. Information on the tax-rates assumed in these illustrative examples can be found in [Section 2](#) of the IFS report, with information on how impacts would differ across Wales found in [Section 3](#), and information on how impacts would differ across household types (including by incomes, ages, disability, ethnicity and housing tenure) found in [Section 4](#).

The patterns found are consistent with those found in previous IFS work (published in [2020](#) and [2022](#)). The effects shown in the IFS report should be considered as broadly illustrative only, as the impacts of any reform implemented will depend on the property value estimates, tax bands and tax rates actually used, which may all differ somewhat from those used in the report. In addition, the data available to the IFS means that it was not possible for it to estimate the change in net bills individually for all properties in Wales. Instead,

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detailed analysis by place is based on the average change in net bills by council area and neighbourhood, and detailed analysis by household type is based on a representative household survey, which has a limited sample size, preventing very detailed breakdowns on impacts. The nature of the Council Tax system is that the bills households pay are very individual to households' own circumstances, taking into account the specific exemptions, discounts, reductions and premiums due on their properties. Before implementing reforms, the Welsh Government would analyse all this information thoroughly, as well as consultation responses, to design the most appropriate Council Tax system for Wales.

Reform of Council Tax in any form could lead to different areas being affected in slightly different ways. As any further work is undertaken on models for reform following this consultation, we will consider mechanisms to address any such differences and how they may be addressed and mitigated. This could also include an assessment of spatial impact, within rural and urban areas and in localised areas where house prices have been impacted by high concentration of second homes.

There are more radical examples of Council Tax systems than the 3 approaches outlined in this consultation, often termed proportional systems, which would charge the same percentage in Council Tax for each property. We have ruled out a proportional system as this would produce some very high tax increases on the highest value properties, higher than they would be under Approach 3. We think this is too much change for some taxpayers to bear. If you want to know more about the type of system we've ruled out, you can find more information about this sort of approach in the [IFS report](#) as well.

In summary, Approach 1 represents a fairer system because it is up-to-date and more accurate than the system we currently have, but it is not more progressive. Approaches 2 and 3 are both fairer and more progressive. Approach 2 would see the most households paying lower bills but Approach 3 would result in bigger reductions for the households in low value properties.

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Question

We want to ask you about your appetite for reform.

Do you think we should aim for:

- approach 1: minimal reform
- approach 2: modest reform
- approach 3: expanded reform

Or do you have other views or ideas about the approach we should take to the scale of reform?

Some may favour more ambitious reform over the slowest timetable while others may prefer minimal reform over a shorter timetable. It will be necessary for us to assess the appetite for scale and pace of reform alongside each other.

Timeline for the revaluation and redesign element of Council Tax reform

Of course, redesigning the system is not only about the scale of change, but also about how fast that change should be introduced. The earliest date at which a new revalued and redesigned Council Tax system could possibly come into effect is 1 April 2025, based on property values as at 1 April 2023. Following our phase 1 consultation, we announced that it was our intention to press ahead with a revaluation in some form in 2025. However, having considered this further, we wish to look again at options for carrying out a revaluation and redesigning the tax potentially over a longer period of time, because of the changing economic context we have faced this year. We are therefore seeking your views on a range of choices about the pace with which we deliver reform. Again, we present 3 broad choices for the speed of implementation:

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1. We could aim for the fastest pace of change, bringing in a fairer Council Tax system at the earliest opportunity on 1 April 2025. This could be the minimal, modest or expanded version of reform. Those whose bills fall would see the benefits straight away in 2025, but we would aim to smooth the transition for those whose bills increase over a few years, through a transitional relief scheme, possibly to 2029.
2. We could defer making changes until the next Senedd term. This could be the minimal, modest or expanded version of reform, and the earliest date could be from 2028. From that time, we would still wish to smooth any bill increases over a few years through a relief scheme, and those whose bills fall would see the full benefits as soon as the changes are implemented. A slower reform timeline means there would be longer to wait until any decreases and increases in Council Tax bills are introduced
3. We could implement in stages, starting with minimal or modest reform in the first step (the earliest a first step could be is 2025), moving to implementing the expanded version of reform in a second step (and that second step could be sometime in the next Senedd term).

The Welsh Government is committed to implementing targeted transitional arrangements for households who may need time to adapt to any changes. We would need to design these arrangements once we've considered the views on the approaches presented in this consultation. Any relief scheme would require complex legal and analytical work, as the revaluation data are finalised and Council Tax levels are set in each local area. We would consult in due course on proposals for a transitional relief scheme. If we decided on slower paced reform, we would consult again with updated data at an appropriate time in the future.

Question

Again, we want to ask about your appetite for reform.

Do you think we should make changes according to the timeframe presented

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above:

- the fastest timetable: minimal, modest or expanded reform by 1 April 2025
- slower reform: minimal, modest or expanded reform starting in 2028
- staged reform: minimal or modest reform in 2025, moving to expanded reform in the next Senedd term

Or do you have other views or ideas about the approach we should take to the pace of reform?

It is inevitable that some may favour maximum reform over the slowest timetable while others may prefer minimum reform over a shorter timetable, while some may favour ambitious reform within the quickest possible timeframe. It will be necessary for us to assess the appetite for scale and pace of reform alongside each other.

The legislation, valuation date and delivery steps

The earliest date at which a new Council Tax system could possibly come into effect is 1 April 2025, based on property values as of 1 April 2023. The descriptions below are illustrative of the steps we would need to take to bring in the new system and make some changes to administrative arrangements. These milestones are relevant whichever of the choices about the pace of change were favoured in this consultation, albeit with different timings.

Legislation that would need to be made to confirm:

- the valuation dates, both in relation to the property value basis of the system (the Antecedent Valuation Date) and the date when those values would be implemented. The value basis of the system must be no more than 2 years before the implementation date
- the property values associated with new Council Tax bands and the tax-

rates to be applied to each of the bands

This would instigate a number of key milestones which follow:

- The Valuation Office Agency completes an exercise to revalue properties. All properties would be revalued at a common valuation date (the Antecedent Valuation Date). This date would apply to all properties, until the next revaluation.
- A draft valuation list of new bands for each property is published on 1 September, 7 months prior to the following 1 April in the financial year when a new Council Tax system would take effect.
- The Valuation Office Agency would continue reviewing its draft list of property values, engaging with taxpayers and improving the information it holds.
- The valuation list would be used by councils to calculate local tax-bases, and this information would feed into the local government Revenue Support Grant allocations for the relevant financial year.
- The property list would be used by councils to calculate new tax bills.
- Updates to the valuation list would be made on an ongoing basis by the Valuation Office Agency when new properties are built, properties are demolished, and in some cases where there are significant building works.

In our fastest possible implementation timeframe, the relevant dates would be:

- 1 April 2023 as the property value basis of a new system (the Antecedent Valuation Date).
- A draft valuation list of new bands for each property would be published on 1 September 2024.
- Households would be able to engage with the Valuation Office Agency if they think any data about their property may be incorrect.
- The information would feed into the local government Revenue Support Grant allocations for 2025 to 2026.
- The valuation list and redesigned system would be used by councils to

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- calculate new Council Tax bills in early 2025, and issue bills to households.
- The new Council Tax system would take effect from 1 April 2025.

Keeping Council Tax fair

In addition to a fairer Council Tax system, we have previously outlined that we want to put in place regular updates to the property valuations and the tax bands, so that the system doesn't become outdated again. We believe the right interval between updates is at least every 5 years. At each point, we would also be able to review the bands and the tax-rates to ensure the system remains fair. We would also retain flexibility to shorten or lengthen the intervals if needed. If 5 yearly intervals are successful, and the valuation technology continues to improve, we may wish to move to shorter, more responsive intervals over the longer term, such as every 3 years.

While this consultation is gathering views, we intend to introduce a planned Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill to place regular future updates to Council Tax on a statutory footing. The approach taken in the Bill formed part of our phase 1 consultation in 2022.

Property alterations

In the current Council Tax system, a property may be moved to a higher or lower valuation band because its size or internal structure has been altered. In cases where there has been a material increase in the value of a dwelling, a change in Council Tax band is only triggered when there has been a 'relevant transaction', for example when a property is sold. Where there is a material decrease in the value of a dwelling, there is no need to wait for the property to be sold before the valuation band can be amended. Information to facilitate this process is received by the VOA from councils, HM Land Registry and the Welsh Revenue Authority. In cases where a property is reviewed, the new valuation is always measured

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retrospectively according to the Antecedent Valuation Date of the valuation list (currently 2003) and rebanded accordingly, to remain consistent with all other properties in the valuation list. In a revaluation year, all property alterations since the last revaluation would be captured and updated regardless of sale as part of the production of a new list.

Our phase 1 consultation asked whether this policy should change. The majority of respondents (59%) did not wish to see any change to the current policy, while 36% did want to see change and 5% did not provide an answer.

On balance, we consider that the existing policy approach reduces the disincentive for households to make improvements, and recognises households pay other taxes as part of improving their property (e.g. Value Added Tax). In particular, rebanding properties at the time of substantial improvements risks double-taxing households, who could face an increase in Council Tax band where they have already paid VAT on the value of the property improvements.

In addition, any decision to change the current approach relates to decisions about frequent revaluations. Our ambition to implement more frequent revaluation cycles means changes relating to the policy on property alterations may be less necessary as property improvements would automatically be captured regularly under such a system. As a result, we do not propose bringing in any changes to the current approach to home improvements.

The preceding sections of this consultation deal with the choices to be made around the revaluation and design of Council Tax, where the timing of the changes will be an important consideration. The following sections deal with other ways in which we can make Council Tax fairer, through improving the operation, administration and transparency of the system, or the way in which support is provided. We outlined our broad intentions for these areas in our phase 1 consultation and provide updates on progress below. We also ask for your views on some specific proposals. Our intention with any changes arising from these proposals would be to bring them in as soon as practicably possible.

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Council funding

The annual Council Tax charge is different in each council area because it is important for local government to determine the amount it needs, and to be accountable for the budget it spends on services, as a key demonstration of local democracy. We don't plan to change those arrangements. However, delivering a reformed Council Tax would represent a significant transformation for local government in Wales. We have worked closely with local government and the Welsh Local Government Association for a number of years to discuss the plans for fairer and improved local taxation, including taking advice through a Local Tax Reform Working Group set up in 2021. We will continue to take a collaborative approach to the next stage in this journey which requires more detailed consideration of the possible approaches systems set out in this consultation.

Making the Council Tax system fairer and more progressive overall would have wider benefits for councils. It will improve economic circumstances for hard-pressed households who need other forms of help from their council. A fairer system could also reduce the demand on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

The possible approaches presented would change the amount of revenue which can be raised in each council area. Our phase 1 consultation set out that this would have a redistributive effect on the allocations we make for the Revenue Support Grant; the largest source of Welsh Government funding we provide to councils every year to help fund services, totalling almost £4.5 billion. The realignment of grant funding in response to changing tax revenues would have a protective effect for local services overall.

The Revenue Support Grant is allocated using a detailed formula which takes account of local ability to raise resources, so that grant funding is fair across communities. Where a council's ability to raise Council Tax decreases as a result of reform, the council would receive proportionately more Revenue

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Support Grant from the Welsh Government, and vice versa. We work with councils to agree the funding formula for the Revenue Support Grant each year through the Partnership Council for Wales and its subgroups. The Distribution Subgroup is already preparing to undertake those detailed discussions as part of its work programme throughout 2024, and we will supplement the information in this consultation to enable the Group to undertake its work. These experts will be asked to come together to make recommendations to the Welsh Government about how to approach the Revenue Support Grant allocations.

We will also bring together technical groups to discuss other aspects of this transformation programme, including procedural change, budgeting procedures and collection assumptions.

Modernising the service provided to taxpayers

Embarking upon a journey to create a fairer Council Tax also presents opportunities to transform the service provided to taxpayers, by improving transparency and participation in the process. In this section we discuss how we aim to improve access to information, people's awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the various organisations involved, and to improve the process relating to appeals. We could bring in these changes at our earliest opportunity, in April 2025, regardless of changes to the property valuations and the tax bands.

Access to information

We heard from the phase 1 consultation in 2022, and from **social research** and focus groups in 2023, that there is clear evidence of a concerning information deficit relating to the Council Tax system. Taxpayers reported not knowing what Council Tax pays for in communities, how it is calculated, how the tax is

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designed, and which organisations are responsible for the different elements of it. There are misconceptions as to how Council Tax contributes to wider societal benefits, and a lower than should be take-up of support for those who need it. Council tax policy is also a devolved matter yet there can be confusion about different Council Tax policies in Wales, England and Scotland.

We are committed to improving general awareness of Council Tax and improving access to information. Some responses to the phase 1 consultation specifically called for a single, pan-Wales Council Tax information service to meet this aim. We intend to create a new website repository for Council Tax information relating to Wales, to consolidate and improve digital accessibility, and improve transparency associated with local services funded by Council Tax.

We will work with councils to improve the information they provide through local channels and services about Council Tax. There are also local and national advice services such as Citizens Advice Cymru that provide members of the public with advice and support on Council Tax matters. Such services navigate multiple sources of information about Council Tax. While not seeking to prevent stakeholders from providing their own information to the general public, new webpages for Council Tax in Wales would aid consistency, provide readymade reusable content and help to streamline signposting.

Appeals and empowering taxpayers

Our phase 1 consultation emphasised that people's appeal rights will be maintained as part of any reforms undertaken, as a fundamental aspect of fairness. The key organisations involved in this process are the Valuation Office Agency and the Valuation Tribunal for Wales. Our ambition is to make the process of finding information and querying Council Tax bandings more efficient, easier to navigate between these organisations, more transparent and modernised. We will also open up appeal eligibility for the first year of each revaluation cycle.

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Transparency

We are working with the Valuation Office Agency to explore options for an enhanced online service to meet those aims, bringing Council Tax into line with other online government services for a range of personal and financial matters. We hope this service will allow taxpayers to view and verify more of the information which feeds into property bandings, such as some of the physical attributes or sales information, which has contributed to their Council Tax band assessment.

Eligibility

Currently, there are very limited circumstances when a formal challenge to a Council Tax band can be made as the current valuation list has been in force for a long time, since April 2005. Taxpayers can only formally challenge a Council Tax band within 6 months of becoming a new taxpayer for a property or in specific circumstances (e.g. there has been a physical change to the property or nearby location).

We intend to open up eligibility for appeals for the first 12 months of each new valuation list following a Council Tax revaluation exercise. After that, we would revert to the usual eligibility criteria for band challenges, e.g. restricted to new taxpayers or where there are physical changes to the property or nearby location. However, currently the Valuation Office Agency offers an informal band review process. Communication with the VOA is expected to be enhanced by taxpayers being able to see more information held about their property.

Procedural proposals

We also intend to distinguish more clearly the steps in the appeals procedure.

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When a taxpayer makes a formal challenge, if the Valuation Office Agency does not agree to alter the band the case automatically proceeds to be heard by the Valuation Tribunal for Wales. The Valuation Office Agency will provide information as to why it believes the band does not need amending. Our aim is to give taxpayers the choice about how far along the formal challenge process they wish to proceed. The automatic transfer process to tribunal can result in notification of a tribunal hearing unexpectedly and the taxpayer is not actively involved in that decision. This means the process can be open-ended, vague at times, inefficient and it can have an intimidating or emotional impact on some taxpayers. The Welsh Government occasionally receives complaints from taxpayers who were not aware they would be automatically called to a tribunal hearing.

To empower taxpayers, we think we should separate the stages of a formal Council Tax band challenge. Taxpayers would still make a proposal to challenge their band directly with the Valuation Office Agency, and if the Valuation Office Agency agrees, it will amend the Council Tax band accordingly. If it does not agree, it must provide you with a reason why it does not agree, with supporting evidence. If a taxpayer remains unhappy with the outcome of that process, we propose that they would then be able to decide to make an appeal to the Valuation Tribunal for Wales, who are independent of the Valuation Office Agency. This means taxpayers would not feel forced or surprised into an unexpected tribunal hearing, and would use this service once they have made their own decision to do so.

It is our intention to develop these proposals in more detail. We will consult as appropriate on any specific proposals which emerge from this work.

Council Tax administration

The Welsh Government continues to consider what changes can be made to the legal framework to assist councils in managing the collection of Council Tax in

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ways which better recognise the circumstances of households struggling to pay their bills. This includes reviewing the current enforcement process and considering what amounts households are liable for at various points in the collection process. This is an important issue and, taking into account the views from the Phase 1 consultation, we have been engaging with local government and advice networks that represent taxpayers to consider ways to improve the process. It is our intention to consult on proposals next year once the details have been worked up.

Progress on reviewing the Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme remains a significant system of support and an important lever for tackling poverty across Wales. The scheme is worth over £280 million annually and supports 260,000 low-income households. Delivering a fairer and more progressive Council Tax system could lower the amount of Council Tax income foregone by councils through the scheme, due to lower Council Tax bills for those living in bands A to C. It is important to emphasise however, that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is not being removed or restricted in eligibility. As mentioned above, the IFS estimates that, based on current levels of support, Approach 3 shown in this consultation could lower the Council Tax income foregone by around £23 million per annum. As Approach 1 is an updated but still regressive system, it lowers the value of support by an estimated £3 to £4 million. These are important initial findings for the Welsh Government to analyse further in collaboration with local government.

As well as looking at the effects of a fairer tax, last summer we sought your views on improving the Council Tax Reduction Scheme itself. The majority of responses to the consultation were in favour of the proposals to put a duty on the Welsh Ministers to establish a single national scheme, administered locally

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by local councils and enabling in-year changes to be made. As a result, these changes are included in the forthcoming Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill.

We also brought together a working group of council practitioners to discuss ideas for future changes to the scheme, to continue tackling poverty in light of changes to the UK welfare system.

Support with Council Tax payments through the scheme for working-age households is an important part of welfare support for households on low incomes. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which is administered by councils, has historically had low take-up from potentially eligible residents and the number of households receiving a Council Tax reduction continues to fall.

To help address these issues, we intend to consult on further changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to make Council Tax reductions easier to access and simpler to administer.

Progress on reviewing discounts, exemptions and premiums

This section of the consultation provides an update of our progress on the review that is being carried out. We also ask for your views about some specific changes we propose to make. The timeline for these changes is not dependent on when we make changes to property valuations and the tax bands.

Introduction

Providing discounts and exemptions is an important policy lever for ensuring some household types are supported, contributing to broader socioeconomic goals such as tackling poverty, and making the tax more efficient to collect.

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Many of the arrangements have been in existence since Council Tax was introduced in 1993 and we need to ensure they remain relevant and help to achieve a fairer system.

The phase 1 consultation in 2022 set out that we would embark upon a full review of the 53 categories of discounts, disregarded persons, exemptions and premiums associated with Council Tax, and we sought your views on them. We are now part-way through those reviews.

Our purpose in reviewing the range of discounts, disregards, exemptions and premiums is to improve and modernise the system so that it contributes to our aim of making Council Tax fairer. This could include making the system more accessible for taxpayers, encouraging people to take up their entitlement to support, removing the potential stigma associated with some types of support, and targeting support and liability more effectively.

This consultation provides an update of our progress on the review work and asks a number of questions about changes we're thinking of making as a result of interim outcomes from the review so far. We do not plan to remove or reduce the 25% one-adult discount at this time.

Exemptions

Certain categories of property are exempt from paying Council Tax. A property might be exempt for only a short period, for example, 6 months, or it may be exempt indefinitely depending on the type of exemption. Properties which might be exempt include those occupied only by students or those which have been legally repossessed by a mortgage lender.

Disregarded persons (someone who is not counted towards Council Tax)

Some people are not counted ('disregarded') when working out how many people live in a property for the purposes of calculating Council Tax bills. Examples include, people with a severe mental impairment, students, and young care leavers. If there are 2 adults living in a property and one of them is disregarded, a 25% discount applies. If all the adults living in a property are disregarded, a 50% discount applies.

Discounts

The Council Tax charged on a property is based on the assumption that there are at least 2 liable adults living in it. A property with only one liable resident will be eligible for a 25% discount (referred to as the one adult or single person discount), and a dwelling with no liable residents will be eligible for a 50% discount.

These discounts do not mean that there is only one adult in the household or that the dwelling is empty, this can be a complex feature of the Council Tax system for taxpayers to navigate and understand.

Disabled band reduction

A reduction is available for properties adapted for use by disabled residents. The Council Tax bill is reduced by the equivalent of one band for the purposes of the local council working out the Council Tax bill. For example, a Band B property adapted for use by disabled residents is charged Council Tax as if it were a Band A property.

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A full list of the 53 exemptions, disregards and discounts is provided at Annex A.

Premiums

Properties can also be charged an extra amount of Council Tax (a 'premium') if it has been empty for more than 1 year or if it is not a person's sole or main residence (often referred to as a second home). Each council decided whether to apply a premium in its areas and the level at which to apply it. Having made recent changes to the powers relating to premiums, the review has concluded that no further change is needed at this stage.

Reviewing the categories

Flexibility to make changes

The rules for administering Council Tax discounts, disregards, exemptions and premiums are taken from a complex mix of legislation, including the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and various pieces of subordinate legislation. The rules are complemented by existing powers of Welsh Ministers to make further subordinate legislation in certain circumstances, and powers for local councils to make local determinations relating to discounts and premiums.

Over time, these rules have become more complex and are often difficult for households to understand, for practitioners to administer and for advice agencies to advise on. We are also constrained in our ability to change the rules flexibly enough, and in ways which allow the Welsh Government to respond to changes in the economy, society or the wider world. Some past examples of needing to make changes include responding to the coronavirus pandemic, exempting care leavers and providing support to Ukrainian refugees.

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Views we received in response to the phase 1 consultation supported our proposal to create greater flexibility for the Welsh Government to make changes to the existing statutory discounts through new subordinate legislative powers. We therefore intend to simplify and consolidate parts of the legislation to provide clarity, greater flexibility and help future-proof Council Tax. We intend to do this through the planned Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill.

Progress of the review

We are part way through a review of each category of Council Tax discount, disregarded person, exemption and premium to ensure the arrangements remain relevant to today's policy ambitions and help to achieve a fairer system.

Our purpose in reviewing the range of discounts, disregards, exemptions and premiums is to improve and modernise the system so that it contributes to our aim of making Council Tax fairer. This could include making the system more accessible for taxpayers, encouraging people to take up their entitlement to support, removing the potential stigma associated with some types of support, and targeting support and liability more effectively.

Over the past year, taking account the wide-ranging views from the phase 1 consultation, we have worked closely with local government, local organisations and networks that represent the people of Wales to consider and review each category. As well as a range of discussions, this has included a focussed working group of council practitioners.

An initial high-level review identified 4 categories that should be prioritised for immediate consideration and are summarised below.

1. The one-adult discount.
2. The empty property discount.
3. The exemption for unoccupied properties where probate or letters of

administration have not yet been granted.

4. The exemption and disregard for people with a severe mental impairment.

A further 11 categories have been identified for further in-depth review over the remainder of the Senedd term with a view to amending legislation where necessary. We will also consider whether new categories of discounts or disregards are needed.

The one-adult discount

If only 1 liable adult lives in a property, the Council Tax bill is reduced by 25%. While the discount is widely referred to as the 'single person discount', it not only applies where there is 1 adult living in a property, it also applies in many cases where there is more than 1 adult and all but 1 of them is 'disregarded' (not counted) for Council Tax purposes. This means, for example, that 1 parent households are eligible for the 25% discount, but so too are any 2 adult households where one of the adults is disregarded for some reason (e.g. because they are a care-worker, have a severe mental impairment, or because they are a young care-leaver). This can be quite complex to understand and leads to misconceptions about the one-adult discount.

At 1 April 2023, over 500,000 households in Wales were in receipt of a 25% discount, either because the household contains only 1 liable adult or because all but one of the adults is disregarded for Council Tax purposes. This accounts for a large proportion of the total 1.5 million properties in Wales, making it one of the most important discounts.

The Welsh Government has been clear that the one-adult discount will remain in place. While the planned Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill will include new powers to allow the Welsh Ministers to make regulations about discounts and disregards more generally, the Bill will maintain the one-adult discount. We propose, through the regulation making powers in the Bill, to restate that

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discount at 25%.

Empty property discount (no liable residents)

When the Council Tax was introduced, a 50% discount applied to most empty properties. However, in 2004, the Welsh Government legislated to allow local councils to choose to remove or reduce the 50% discount in certain cases. All local councils in Wales have used these powers to stop applying a 50% discount to properties with no residents.

The Welsh Government believes it is no longer appropriate or necessary to retain a statutory Council Tax discount for empty properties, other than for the particular types of property listed below. The 50% discount will be retained for properties where all residents are disregarded for Council Tax purposes.

There remains a small number of properties with no residents that continue to receive a 50% discount. These include the following:

- a pitch occupied by a caravan, or a mooring occupied by a boat
- an empty property where the former occupier has died and the liable person is their personal representative, and neither probate nor letters of administration have been granted
- a property which is left empty because a person lives in a different, job-related, property which has been provided to them for the purposes of carrying out their employment

Through the planned Local Government Finance (Wales) Bill we intend to remove the statutory 50% discount for properties with no liable resident, except in the circumstances listed above. As all councils have already used local discretion to remove the discount in other circumstances, there will be no impact on existing Council Taxpayers.

Unoccupied properties where probate or letters of administration have not yet been granted

The current position

A Class F exemption is currently provided for properties that have been unoccupied since the former resident's death where the only person liable for Council Tax would be the deceased's personal representative, and no grant of probate or letters of administration has been made.

The exemption applies for up to 6 months after probate or letters of administration are granted. Prior to obtaining probate or letters of administration, there is no minimum period for the exemption to last. This can result in some properties remaining exempt from Council Tax for very lengthy periods. A delay in applying for probate for example does not restrict the exemption, even if the ultimate beneficiary is likely to be the same person as the executor.

The case for change

In reviewing this exemption, we found clear evidence of long delays in obtaining probate or letters of administration, resulting in some properties being left empty and exempt from Council Tax indefinitely. While the numbers involved are relatively small, our work found several cases where properties had been empty and exempt for over 10 years and some cases where properties had been exempt for over 20 years.

Properties left empty for long periods can fall into disrepair, present risks to community and personal safety, and can attract anti-social behaviour such as vandalism, arson or squatting, which can also reduce the value of neighbours' homes. Given the demand for housing and, in particular the need for affordable

housing, we believe we should use all the available policy levers to encourage owners to bring empty properties back into use, either for sale or for the rental market.

Proposal

The Welsh Government proposes to introduce an overall time-limit for the exemption from Council Tax for an unoccupied property where probate or letters of administration have not yet been granted, to discourage properties being left empty.

It is proposed that once a maximum time period is exceeded, the property would become liable for Council Tax and the tax to be paid would be applied to the deceased's estate via the executor for the property. The aim of imposing an overall time-limit is to act as an incentive for probate to be applied for and executed within a reasonable timescale to prevent properties being left empty and exempt from Council Tax indefinitely. We would propose to make this change from 1 April 2026.

We want to ask about your views on the proposal to change Exemption F.

Question

Do you agree there should be an overall time-limit on Exemption F to discourage properties being left empty and exempt from Council Tax for an indefinite period?

What do you consider is a reasonable period for obtaining probate or letters of administration?

Severely mentally impaired people

The current position

A Class U exemption is currently provided for properties occupied only by a person who is severely mentally impaired. If they live with another adult who is not exempt, the person will be disregarded for the purposes of Council Tax, meaning the household will receive a 25% discount. If 2 or more adults are disregarded, a 50% discount is provided.

The exemption applies to anyone who is certified by a registered medical practitioner as being severely mentally impaired. This is currently defined as a person with 'a severe impairment of intelligence and social functioning (however caused) which appears to be permanent'. Conditions that can lead to severe mental impairment include Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, Parkinson's disease, severe learning difficulties and strokes. To be eligible, the person must also be entitled to one of the following benefits:

- Incapacity Benefit
- Attendance Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Disability Living Allowance (higher or middle rate care component)
- an increase in disablement pension (as constant attendance is needed)
- Disability Working Allowance
- Unemployability Supplement or Allowance
- Constant Attendance Allowance
- Income Support (which includes a disability premium)
- Personal Independence Payment (standard or enhanced rate)
- Armed Forces Independence Payment
- Universal Credit (in circumstances where a person has limited capability for work and/or work-related activity)

The case for change

Although the term ‘severely mentally impaired’ may have been acceptable 30 years ago when Council Tax was created, the term is now regarded as inappropriate and potentially creates a stigma which prevents take-up of the discount amongst this vulnerable group of people. Through our phase 1 consultation we received 86 suggestions for alternative terminology. Responses highlighted the need to ensure future arrangements clearly define who is and who is not eligible for the discount and suggested consulting with experts.

We convened a specialist working group of experts from various fields to explore the suggestions for a new title, a new description and the qualifying criteria. Drawing on the suggestions provided in response to the phase 1 consultation, a shortlist of new titles has been settled:

- significant brain impairment
- significant brain condition

The term ‘significant’ is not considered to be restrictive and can be an instigator for discussion between a medical practitioner and an individual. The term ‘brain’ rather than cognitive is considered to be more easily understood by taxpayers. The term ‘impairment’ in this context aligns with the Social Model of Disability, although an alternative could be the term ‘condition’.

The working group also discussed the definition and agreed the following:

“ Significant (and permanent) mental condition or change that impacts on the brain's ability to function. ”

Any change to the definition will be supported by more detailed guidance.

Proposal

Title

We found overwhelming support to change the title ‘severely mentally impaired’ and we propose the following options for a new title:

- Option A: significant brain impairment
- Option B: significant brain condition

Proposed definition and criteria

“ Significant (and permanent) mental condition or change that impacts on the brain's ability to function. ”

There is also support for removing the requirement for a person to be entitled to a qualifying benefit in order to qualify for the exemption or disregard. The need for a medical certification would remain. Alternatively, where a person can provide proof of a clinical diagnosis, the requirement for a person to be in receipt of a qualifying benefit could be removed at the discretion of the council. We would propose to make these changes from 1 April 2026.

Question

We want to ask about your views on the proposal to change Exemption U for severely mentally impaired people:

Which title do you think should replace the term ‘severely mentally impaired’?

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Do you agree with the proposed definition to describe a person with a significant brain impairment or condition?

Do you have any views on the qualifying criteria for a person with a significant brain impairment or condition to be entitled to an exemption or disregard?

Annex A

Categories of discounts, disregards, exemptions and premiums

Statutory discounts (3)

- One liable adult (referred to as 'single person') discount.
- No liable adult (referred to as 'empty property') discount:
 - Local discretion.
 - Restrictions for local discretion.
- Disabled Band Reduction.

Disregarded persons (17)

- Students.
- Youth Trainees.
- Apprentices.
- School and college leavers aged under 20.
- Spouses, civil partners and dependents of students of non-British Citizens who are not allowed to work or claim benefits.
- Care leavers aged 24 or under.
- Severely mentally impaired people.

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- Carers.
- Patients in care homes or hostels providing care.
- Children: aged 17 or under, or someone still entitled to Child Benefit.
- Long-term hospital patients.
- Hostel and night shelter residents.
- Prisoners, people in detention under mental health legislation and people in detention awaiting deportation.
- People in International Headquarters and Defence Organisations.
- Members of religious communities dependent on the community to provide for their material needs.
- Members of visiting armed forces and their dependents.
- Diplomats.

Exemptions (24)

- Uninhabitable property and empty property undergoing structural alteration or repairs.
- Unoccupied property owned by a charity.
- Empty and unfurnished property for up to 6 months after the property became vacant.
- Unoccupied property because the person who would otherwise occupy it is in detention under certain enactments.
- Unoccupied property because the person who would otherwise occupy it is in hospital or a care home.
- Unoccupied property where probate or letters of administration have not yet been granted, and for up to 6 months after the grant is made.
- Unoccupied property where occupation is prohibited by law.
- Unoccupied property held available for use by ministers of religion from which to carry out their duties.
- Unoccupied because the person subject to the tax has their sole or main residence elsewhere in order to receive care.
- Unoccupied because the person subject to the tax has their sole or main

residence elsewhere in order to provide care.

- Unoccupied where the person subject to the tax is a student and has been since he/she last occupied the property.
- Unoccupied property that has been repossessed.
- A hall of residence provided predominantly for student accommodation.
- A property occupied only by students, foreign spouses of students or school and college leavers.
- Armed forces accommodation.
- Visiting forces accommodation.
- Unoccupied property left empty by a bankrupt person.
- Unused caravan pitch or boat mooring.
- A property occupied only by people aged under 18.
- Unoccupied property that forms a part of a single property which includes another property and may not be let separately from the other property without a breach of planning control.
- A property occupied only by severely mentally impaired people.
- A property in which at least one person who would otherwise be liable is a diplomat.
- A property which forms part of a single property, including at least one other property, and which is the sole or main residence of a dependent relative of a person who is resident in the other property (e.g., an annexe).
- A property occupied only by a care leaver or care leavers under the age of 25.

Premiums (2)

- Long-term empty property.
- Periodically occupied property (second homes).

Exceptions to premiums (7)

- Properties being marketed for sale (time-limited 1 year).
- Properties being marketed for let (time-limited 1 year).
- Annexes treated as part of the main property.
- Occupant in armed forces accommodation elsewhere.
- Occupied caravan pitches and boat moorings.
- Seasonal homes where year-round occupation is prohibited, holiday lets or properties that are prevented from being a person's sole or main residence.
- Job-related dwellings.

Consultation questions

Questions about Council Tax bands and tax-rates

Please read about the 3 possible approaches to designing a new Council Tax system before answering the following questions. We welcome evidence about the possible benefits for, and impacts on, households and councils. We are particularly interested in the views of people with lived experience of disadvantaged backgrounds and those who have experience working with people with protected characteristics.

Question 1

What Council Tax band are you currently in? Please choose an option, you may wish to refer to your latest Council Tax bill or [you can check your Council Tax band by looking up your address or postcode](#).

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Question 2

Which council area do you live in?

Question 3

The Welsh Government has shown 3 possible approaches for how to design a fairer Council Tax system. We want to ask you about your appetite for reform.

Question 4

The Welsh Government has described when the changes could be made to the Council Tax bands and tax-rates. Again, we want to ask about your appetite for reform.

Question 5

Do you agree there should be an overall time-limit on Exemption F to discourage properties being left empty and exempt from Council Tax for an indefinite period?

Question 6

What do you consider is a reasonable period for obtaining probate or letters of administration?

Question 7

Which title do you think should replace the term 'severely mentally impaired'?

Question 8

Do you agree with the proposed definition to describe a person with a significant brain impairment or condition?

Question 9

Do you have any views on the qualifying criteria for a person with a significant brain impairment or condition to be entitled to an exemption or disregard?

Question 10

We would like to know your views on the effects that these proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

Question 11

Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy approach could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating

the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Question 12

We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related points which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to record them.

How to respond

Submit your comments by 6 February 2024, in any of the following ways:

- complete our [online form](#)
- download, complete our [response form](#) and email LGFR.Consultations@gov.wales
- download, complete our [response form](#) and post to:

Local Government Finance Reform Division
Welsh Government
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Your rights

Under the data protection legislation, you have the right:

- to be informed of the personal data held about you and to access it
- to require us to rectify inaccuracies in that data

- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be 'erased'
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please **tell us**.

For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

Data Protection Officer

Data Protection Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

E-mail: data.protectionofficer@gov.wales

Information Commissioner's Office

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

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Telephone: 01625 545 745 or 0303 123 1113

Website: ico.org.uk

UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data. In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation. If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

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Further information and related documents

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- The Welsh Government has shown 3 possible approaches for how to design a fairer Council Tax system. We want to ask you about your appetite for reform.
- The Welsh Government has described when the changes could be made to the Council Tax bands and tax-rates. Again, we want to ask about your appetite for reform.
- Do you agree there should be an overall time-limit on Exemption F to discourage properties being left empty and exempt from Council Tax for an indefinite period?
- What do you consider is a reasonable period for obtaining probate or letters of administration?
- Which title do you think should replace the term 'severely mentally impaired'?
- Do you agree with the proposed definition to describe a person with a significant brain impairment or condition?
- Do you have any views on the qualifying criteria for a person with a significant brain impairment or condition to be entitled to an exemption or disregard?
- We would like to know your views on the effects that these proposals would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?
- Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy approach could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.
- We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related points which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to record them.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 JANUARY 2024

WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES – THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2030

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AUTHOR: Paul Mee

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to enable Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to pre- scrutinise and to shape the new draft Corporate Plan from 2024/25 – 2029/30. The draft Plan provides a vision for the County Borough in 2024 and sets out draft Well-being Objectives and priorities for the following six years.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Form a view on the draft Corporate Plan 2024-30 and whether it sets out:
- a) A clear vision and purpose for the Council.
 - b) The right priorities/Well-being Objectives for the Council, namely
 - People and Communities
 - Work and Business
 - Nature and the Environment and
 - Culture and Heritage.
 - c) The principal actions within each priority/Well-being Objective that will have the greatest impact to achieve the new Vision.
- 2.2 Considers whether the plan is sufficiently ambitious and balanced given the financial challenges facing the Council both now and in the future.
- 2.3 Notes the wide ranging engagement activity currently being undertaken.
- 2.4 Notes the strengthened alignment with the Sustainable Development principle as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is a key element of effective strategic planning and financial and people management for the Council to put in place a Corporate Plan to ensure that it:

- Has a clear strategy and set of priorities for future years.
- Informs and directs all the Council's associated strategies and policies.
- Can use this Plan to allocate its resources and ensure action plans are in place to deliver the agreed Well-being Objectives and achieve the outcomes that will make a difference to the people that live, work and visit the County Borough.
- Is well placed to take advantage of future opportunities and meet risks and challenges, particularly in the context of reductions to local authority funding, changes in demography and in the demand for services and legislation.

3.2 In March 2020, the Council approved its Corporate Plan – '[Making A Difference 2020-2024](#)'. This period coincided with unprecedented events; local events from Storms, Dennis, Ciara and Jorge and the local response to the global Covid 19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, the Council has continued its focus on the three priorities set out in the Plan of: PEOPLE: PLACES and PROSPERITY. Whilst managing the significant challenges arising from the response and recovery to these events and latterly the support for people fleeing Ukraine and the Cost of Living Crisis, we have made good progress in delivering what we set out to achieve and have also invested over £450M to deliver improvements across our three priorities areas.

3.3 Our progress in delivering our priorities has been reported to and monitored by elected Members in quarterly and regular reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees. Consideration of this information also forms an integral part of the evidence considered in the Council's annual Self-Assessment, most recent of which for 2022/23 was considered by [Governance and Audit Committee](#) and [Joint Consultative Committee](#) both in December 2023 and [Council 17 January](#) 2024.

4. THE CORPORATE PLAN

4.1 The new draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030, attached at **Appendix 1**, seeks to build on the progress of the previous Corporate Plan(s) and has



revisited its vision, purpose and ambition as local authority for the County Borough.

- 4.2 The Council's proposed vision is for a Rhondda Cynon Taf where:
'People, communities, and business can grow and live in a healthy, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive County Borough where they can achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives and work, both now and in the future'.
- 4.3 The Council's proposed purpose and the reason why it exists is:
'To provide community leadership and deliver high quality public services, working alongside residents, communities and our partners for people, businesses, and the environment to prosper'.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the Council is focused on the following four Well-being Objectives which also meet the Sustainable Development Principle which *'seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'*...
- i. **PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES** - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
 - ii. **WORK AND BUSINESS** - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's economy.
 - iii. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.
 - iv. **CULTURE AND HERITAGE** - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.
- 4.5 The new draft Corporate Plan will continue to be a key part of the Council's budget and performance and delivery planning processes. As a result, the draft Corporate Plan must take into account the fact that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and the wider public sector continues to face significant financial and other challenges. Budgets are under extreme pressure and demands on our services increasing, particularly in the light of the impact of increasing cost of living and the legacies of the Covid pandemic.
- 4.6 RCT is also facing...
- A growing and aging population, many of whom may experience poor health with complex care and support needs.
 - The need to attract investment, high quality jobs and support the green economy whilst addressing the skills gap.
 - The likely impact on lives and the risk to homes and businesses from extreme weather events.

- The need to tackle inequalities in health, education, and work and improve life chances.
 - Rising energy costs, uncertain energy security and higher prices because of supply chain disruptions.
- 4.7 The Corporate Plan addresses these current and future challenges as well as meeting a legal duty to develop and agree a Well-being Plan. As a consequence of the changing environment we are working in, the new plan has a greater focus on creating and strengthening community capacity and resilience so people are better placed to take responsibility for their own well-being; is more closely aligned with the Sustainable Development principle; has embedded climate change into the business of the Council; is delivering additional social value through our contracts and focussing our attention on tackling health inequalities.
- 4.8 The draft Plan has been informed by feedback from a wide range of engagement activities from across the Council and its services over the last eighteen months and which will continue until early February, a review of progress over the life of the current plan and consideration of the current and future challenges we are facing. This early work was the basis of initial engagement through the 'Let's Talk' platform ['Let's Talk about what Matters to You'](#), feedback from the Cabinet and Managers planning discussions in July 2023 and engagement with the staff on the 'Greenspace' channel'.
- 4.9 Our continuing engagement, also includes staff, statutory and not statutory partners, networks, businesses and also through the RCT Councillors' newsletter in December 2023, drawing attention to the ['Continuing To Talk About What Matters to You'](#) online engagement. This online engagement comprised the Council's draft high level Vision, four proposed Well-being Objectives and associated high level priorities and Commitments to residents to deliver a well-run Council, included in Appendix 2.
- 4.10 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, is requested to review the draft new Corporate Plan for 2024-2030 and form a view on the extent to which it sets out:
- A clear vision and purpose for the Council;
 - The Well-being Objectives/priorities for the Council, in terms of People and Communities; Work and Business; Nature and the Environment and Culture and Heritage;
 - The priorities within each Well-being Objective that will have the greatest impact to achieve the new Vision;
 - Embeds the impact of Climate Change into the work of the Council;

- A focus on financial sustainability and the four pillars of Sustainable Development as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, i.e. Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural Well-being;
- A sufficiently ambitious agenda for change and improvement;
- How the Council is maximising its contribution to the 7 national well-being goals.

4.11 For Members' information, the feedback provided by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will be reported to Cabinet on 18 March 2024

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIOECONOMIC DUTY

5.1 There are no specific equality and diversity and socioeconomic duties as a result of the recommendations within this report at this time. However, the Plan considers the socioeconomic issues within the County Borough and how these will be addressed. Work will continue as part of the further development of the Plan.

6 CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT/INVOLVEMENT

6.1 This draft Corporate Plan has been informed by listening to and hearing what our residents of all ages, communities, partners, and staff have been telling us across a wide range of engagement. This approach will continue during the development of the plan.

6.2 It is proposed that the Corporate Plan is approved by Council in conjunction with the approval of the 2024/25 budget in April 2024.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

7.1 The draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030 will be set within the context of the budget setting process for 2024/25. Any investments set out in the Plan will be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Planning arrangements to ensure that spending priorities are aligned, where appropriate, with the Plan.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Cabinet has responsibility for the overall strategic direction of the Council and for formulating the Corporate Plan and duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.



9 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PLAN AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 9.1 This report proposes a new set of corporate priorities which will drive the work of the Council between 2024/25 and 2029/30.
- 9.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act focuses on improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act makes public bodies, such as the Council, think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. The proposed new Well-being Objectives and Actions within the draft Corporate Plan strengthen the integration with Act. This will enable the Council to further embed the requirements of the Act into its arrangements and to demonstrate how it is meeting it's statutory duties and integrating with the work of our partners including in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board's Well-being Objectives set out in the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023-28](#).

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This is an early draft of the Council's new Corporate Plan for 2024-30.
- 10.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been assigned responsibility to form a view on the new draft Corporate Plan, the feedback from which will be reported to the meeting of Cabinet in March 2024 before finally being considered by full Council in April 2024.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 JANUARY 2024

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Item:

**THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2030
FOR CONSULTATION**

Background Papers:

Draft Corporate Plan 2024-2030

Officer to contact: Paul Mee

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**Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's
Corporate Plan
2024-2030**

**Working with our
Communities**

Design in hand

The Council's Corporate Plan is the Well-being Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf as required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Leader's Statement

I am delighted to introduce the Council's third Corporate Plan. This plan builds on the strong foundations of our previous plans and at the same time recognises the changes we need to make to meet the unprecedented service and financial challenges ahead.

When we put in place our second Corporate Plan in 2020, [Making a Difference](#) we could not have foreseen the challenges that faced our residents, communities and businesses in the years that followed as a consequence of Storm Dennis and the Covid pandemic that closely followed. During this time, we have seen the strength and resilience of our communities and have worked alongside community and voluntary sector, business and public sector partners to keep our residents safe and supported.

Many different legacies of the 2020 floods and the Covid pandemic already affecting our residents and businesses will remain with us for years to come. Alongside the pandemic, the impact of global conflict and economic instability on our energy costs, the continuing cost of living crisis and an increased demand for our major services means we are moving into further extremely challenging times.

Despite these challenges, we have delivered most of what we set out to achieve in 2020 and at the same time invested over £450 million (2019/20 -2022/23). We have been able to

PEOPLE: open new Extra Care housing at 'Cwrt Yr Orsaf' Pontypridd, with Porth and Gelli Extra Care under way, complete the George V Athletics Track, continue with 3G pitches, play areas and parks and Community Hubs.

PLACES: continue our roads and bridges programme including the Mountain Ash Cross Valley link and A4119 dualling, repair and renew flood defences across the County Borough, Improve Ynysangharad and Dare Valley Country Parks, develop the Porth Transport Hub and the Material Recycling Facility in Bryn Pica,

PROSPERITY: continue to improve schools, facilities and technologies through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, complete our award winning Llys Cadwyn development, including the new footbridge, in Pontypridd and new Industrial Units in Coed Ely and Robertstown.

Rhondda Cynon Taf remains a great place to live, enjoy and do business. A County Borough of strong and vibrant communities, enthusiastic and talented people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds and rich and varied landscapes with huge potential to take advantage of growing green and sustainable economy.

The Council's Plan focuses on our four Well-being Objectives

1. **PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES**
2. **WORK AND BUSINESS**
3. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**
4. **CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

We are building on the partnerships we have developed strengthening relationships where we can support our people, communities and the many different community-based groups, so that together we create solutions that will help to deliver better outcomes and can share the responsibility for supporting people in our communities who need help. By doing so, we can focus our support on those in the greatest need of care and support to help build their resilience so that they are able to make better choices for themselves and help our young people to achieve their potential.

One of our biggest challenges is preparing for and tackling the impact of Climate Change. The steps to meet this challenge are complex and interconnected but we are committed to reducing carbon across the Council and County Borough, continuing to embed energy saving and carbon reduction into everything we do. Our contributions to tackling the Welsh Government declared climate and nature emergencies is becoming business as usual in all our services. This includes what we buy or commission on behalf of the Council and in our work with Welsh Government, regional and local partners.

Climate Change is only one of the key challenges we face as we tackle the priorities that emerged from our [Self-Assessment](#). These challenges include managing our way through the current and future financial difficulties whilst keeping experienced and skilled staff, particularly in our social care sector, as we face growing demands from a population with more complex and connected needs.

Whilst we will do everything we can to keep our own costs as low as we can, meet our statutory duties and regulatory expectations, there is no escaping the tough decisions that must be taken to ensure a sustainable future for the Council and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

It is clear that for the Council to continue to provide its essential services, valued by the communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf, we will need to change the way we engage and work with our residents, communities and businesses to understand what matters to them and change the way services are provided. At the same time, residents can help by playing their part at home and in their communities.

Introduction

Welcome to the Council's third Corporate Plan. The plan sets out where will we focus our work up until 2030, and the outcomes you can expect to see, because of our work as a Council and also in our work with other partners and stakeholders.

The Plan is structured around four Well-being objectives which will help us to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Rhondda Cynon Taf

1. **PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES** - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.
2. **WORK AND BUSINESS** - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy.
3. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.
4. **CULTURE AND HERITAGE (Strong Communities)** - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.

No single plan can set out the vast range of services the Council delivers, procures, or commissions, either as a single organisation or in partnership with others. Our work is governed by many laws and regulations that, for example, check that we spend our money wisely and that we work with other public bodies to improve outcomes for residents. The work in this plan will be reflected in and aligned to other Council plans, strategies, and policies, those that are most relevant are included in Appendix *** for information.

In setting our Well-being Objectives, we have made sure that our plans to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Rhondda Cynon Taf today, take account of the impact they will have on people living their lives in the future. We have done this by applying 'five ways of working' in our planning, i.e.

- **Involving** local people, a range of stakeholders and Councillors in shaping our plan. We have been listening to and hearing what our residents of all ages, communities, partners, and staff are telling us what matters to them. This will continue as we develop future actions. We also looked at information and feedback from a range of surveys, engagement events and ongoing conversations held across our services over the eighteen months so that we made best use of the information you have already told us. Our Plan provides a snap-shot of the information we have used.
- **Working with others** where we can and seeking further opportunities as we implement the Plan over the coming years. Our Plan provides some examples of where we are already working with partners and more detail will be visible in our annual plans.
- **Looking ahead** at our challenges and opportunities. We have used the best data and information we can find and sought advice about how we consider the challenges and opportunities ahead. There is uncertainty about the long term, but we have included some of the information we have used to inform our objectives and to safeguard the future.
- **Integration:** As we developed our Plan, we considered the work of other organisations so that we complement and do not contradict or duplicate. In particular, Welsh Government

laws and plans and those of our local and regional partners. We have included some of these 'national drivers' that we need to consider.

- **Prevention** We looked at how we can prevent problems from occurring or getting worse across each of our Well-being Objectives as we prepare for the future. A good example of this is working with partners to help to keep people well and reduce inequalities in health so that they are at less risk of disease and ill health. Much of our detailed work will be contained in the annual plans.

These 'ways of working' help us to show that we are meeting the Sustainable Development principle required by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act. The Act also asks that we show how our work contributes to the seven national Well-being goals for Wales. You can see how these national goals have shaped our work and how our Well-being Objectives will meet them in Appendix ??

We also

- **looked** for and examined the best information and data available about the County Borough, residents and communities in the context of the current significant and competing local, regional, national and global priorities.
- **researched** best practice to challenge what we do as we strive to deliver quality services with and for our residents and communities.
- **reviewed** our own achievements and progress over the life of our previous Corporate Plan 2020 -24 '[Making A Difference](#)', our strategic risks and our annual [Self Assessment](#). As well as considering our quarterly reports of progress. The Self Assessment also includes consideration of evaluations of all our services and an assessment of our corporate functions.
- **considered** those areas of work that we legally must deliver and those we have committed to through partnerships, including through the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023-28](#).

This plan provides the framework that will guide and shape what we do, direct how and where we spend our budgets, manage, and mitigate strategic risks and inform how we train and develop our staff and Councillors to meet the current and future challenges. Challenges like

- Growing vulnerability and complexity of need across our population, many of whom may experience poor health with complex care and support needs.
- The need to attract investment, high quality jobs and support the green economy whilst addressing the skills gap.
- The impact on lives and the risk to homes and businesses from extreme weather events.
- Tackling inequalities in health, education, work and improving life chances.
- Dealing with rising energy costs, uncertain energy security and higher prices because of supply chain disruptions.

Rhondda Cynon Taf is the third largest Council area in Wales made up of communities with different needs and aspirations. The area includes a relatively high proportion of our

population living within the 10% most [deprived local areas in Wales](#). We also have more affluent areas across a diverse geographical and cultural landscape. We know from the many hundreds of conversations and survey responses we have from residents, community groups, businesses, visitors and partners, there are many hundreds of points of view, ideas, competing needs and expectations to manage. With budgets under pressure and demands on our services increasing, we recognise the need to develop and manage realistic expectations through a strengthened partnership approach.

Our plans must also recognise the shorter term nature of our financial planning. We are currently as clear as we can be about the available budgets and resources we have available in setting our priorities. Our detailed actions and targets will be reviewed and revised annually in line with our Medium Term Financial Plans. We will also continue to seek any opportunities for grant funding that can help us to do more.

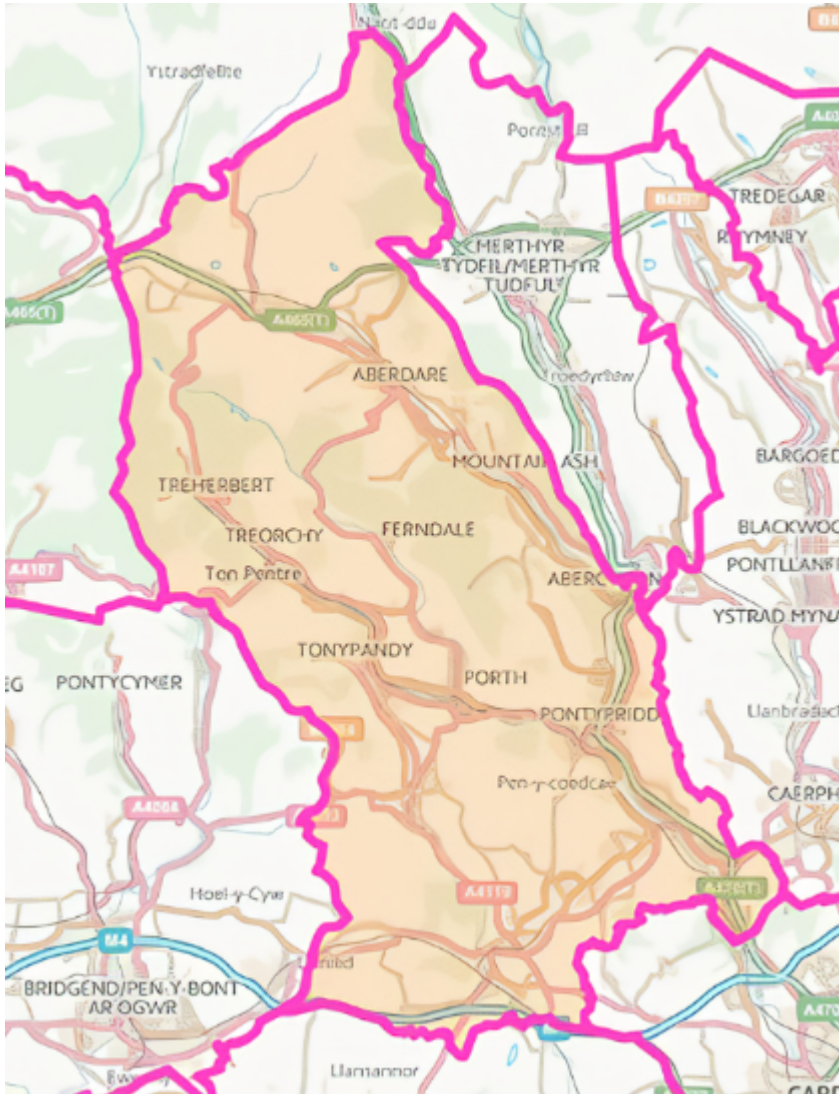
However, we remain ambitious, and we know we can continue to improve by doing things differently and making better use of data and information available to focus more on outcomes for our residents and communities. Doing things differently means inviting everyone that visits, lives, and works in Rhondda Cynon Taf to play a part so that everyone can benefit.

By working more closely together, empowering, and enabling communities and working with our public sector partners, we can deliver what matters, support better outcomes for those in most need of our help and continue to support the economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of the County Borough. This approach builds on our work over the last few years that has already seen.

- parks and green spaces, leisure, and fitness facilities that people can use to keep active and healthy and well.
- creative and community spaces that support individual well-being and help to reduce health, social and economic inequalities.
- facilities where people can recycle more of their waste and send what they no longer need for other people to reuse.
- early years support that helps parents get children nursery and school ready so they can benefit from the opportunities to learn through play.
- Town Centre developments where people can live, work, visit and shop locally and support local businesses and the local economy.

About the County Borough as at *****

For illustration only



RCT graphic map type to present RCT specific data in development

The Council's Corporate Well-being Plan 2024-30

The Council's Vision is for a Rhondda Cynon Taf where:

People, communities, and business can grow and live in a healthy, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive County Borough where they can achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives and work, both now and in the future.

The Council's purpose and the reason it exists is to:

To provide community leadership and deliver high quality public services, working alongside residents, communities and our partners so that people, businesses, and the environment can thrive and prosper.

Our Approach

Our new Plan builds on the strong platform put in place by our previous two Plans. To deliver what our new Plan sets out, we need our staff, Councillors, residents, communities, and partners working in the same direction to deliver our shared vision. The future challenges faced across the Council's services mean that now more than ever, we need well trained, informed, and supported staff and councillors who can respond to the challenges ahead within an ambitious programme of work. As public sector budgets remain under pressure and the demands on our services increase, the need to work with communities and across organisational boundaries to deliver the best outcomes for our residents, both now and in the future, has never been greater.

Our Values

We take pride in our work and set ourselves high standards and ambitions to deliver and have a positive impact for all in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Our role in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board (CTMPSB)

As an active member of the CTMPSB, we are working with our local public sector partners to deliver the two Well-being Objectives agreed by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB in the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan - Cwm Taf Morgannwg \(ourcwmtaf.wales\)](#)

1. Healthy Local Neighbourhoods: - A Cwm Taf Morgannwg where our communities are inclusive and feel cohesive and people feel safe, supported, and valued.
2. Sustainable and Resilient Local Neighbourhoods – A Cwm Taf Morgannwg where we understand and respond to the risk of climate change to our communities. To do this we must value, manage and enjoy our green and blue spaces responsibly.

Listening to and hearing what you say

THIS SECTION IS IN DEVELOPMENT AND WILL BE COMPLETED FOLLOWING FEEDBACK

We regularly seek the views and opinions of our residents of all ages, community groups, businesses and staff as we conduct the business of the Council. This means we have information and feedback from the many conversations and surveys we have held over the last year or so that have helped to inform and shape this Plan. For example, feedback and views about the [Council's budget setting for 2023/24](#); the Council's [Local Development Plan 2022-37](#), [Flood Risk Strategy](#), the place based [Aberdare Town Centre Strategy](#), co production proposals for day service following '[My Day, My Way](#)', Your Voice and the wide ranging engagement as part of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg [Well-being Assessment](#), as well as many [service specific](#) engagement events and surveys.

What we did

We used the information you had already given us as a starting point to start to shape our Plan. We put in place a new conversation 'Let's Talk - What matters to you' to check out that we were on the right track and then we put in place wider ranging opportunities for everyone to consider the detail.

What you told us

Feedback from the conversations, meetings and surveys showed us how strongly you feel about public services.

As a result of what we have learned, we have committed to focusing on the four Well-being objectives that you have told us matter most to you, and that will better prepare us all for the future:

Our Well-being Objectives:

1. **PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES** - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
2. **WORK AND BUSINESS** - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's economy.
3. **NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT** - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.
4. **CULTURE AND HERITAGE** - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.

In guiding and shaping our work for the next six years the detailed action plans that will help us monitor our progress, will embed those big issues that affect every service. For example, tackling all forms of poverty, treating people fairly, mitigating and adapting to the impacts of the changing climate, and importantly, keeping our children, young people and adults at risk safe and protected from harm.

We know that many of these big issues will have the biggest impact on groups of people who are already at a disadvantage. For example, older and vulnerable people are more likely to be affected by the impacts of climate change, such as heat waves, air pollution and other extreme weather events, due to a combination of age, health issues and greater social isolation. Poverty has a significant impact on well-being, educational and other outcomes in the lives of children and families. People with disabilities are less likely to be in employment and those on low incomes experience more housing problems. When developing and delivering our detailed plans, we will be aware of these issues and will listen to and work with our residents and communities, particularly those who are seldom heard and/or in the greatest need.

The four Well-being Objectives deliberate cut across all services. Many of the supporting priorities they contain will benefit more than one Well-being objective as our services work together to deliver our Vision for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

We are also preparing our services to meet new laws that we are expecting to be implemented in the coming months, for example [Eliminating profit from care for children looked after](#), [Coal Tip Safety](#) and the [Environment \(Air Quality and Soundscapes\) Bill](#).

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Now ¹	Looking Ahead
<p>People MYE Total population: 237,497²</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aged 0-15 43,680 (18.4%) • Aged 16-64 147,030 (61.8%) • Aged 64+ 46,787 (19.7%) <p>32,170 people live alone, including 14,049 over the age of 66.</p> <p>Health</p> <p>Life expectancy³ Male 77.0 years Male healthy life expectancy 57.1 years Female 80.5 years Female healthy life expectancy 60.7 years</p> <p>12.0% of people in RCT said they had disabilities which limited them a lot in their daily lives.</p> <p>11.2% of people in RCT provide unpaid care for family members or friends.</p> <p>Housing 68.5% of people in RCT own their own home (with or without a mortgage) 13.7% rent social housing. 17.7% rent private housing.</p>	<p>People 4.1% increase in population to 2030 with RCT projected to remain 3rd largest LA by population in Wales.</p> <p>By 2030: <i>compared to MYE on left</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged 0-15 42,861 (1.9% decrease) Aged 16-64 151,377 (3% increase) Aged 65+ 52,884 (13.% increase) <i>of which Aged 85+ 6573 (25.4% increase)</i> <p>Health projections for Wales.⁴ 33% increase in the prevalence of stroke by 2035 22% increase in people living with diabetes by 2036 70% increase in people living with dementia by 2040 25% increase in people diagnosed with cancer per year by 2040</p> <p>Housing 27% increase in single person households in 2043 25% increase of 1 adult households with children and a 16% reduction in 2 adult households with children</p>

¹ All data refers to RCT and is taken from the 2021 Census unless stated otherwise

² Mid year population estimates [Stats Wales](#)

³ Healthy life expectancy is the proportion of life in good health, data for RCT – [ONS](#)

⁴ [Wales Online](#) referencing report of the [chief scientific advisor](#) NHS in 10+ years: An examination of the projected impact of Long-Term Conditions and Risk Factors in Wales

8,461 pupils in RCT (22.0%) are eligible for free school meals (20.3% in Wales)

*Data from January 2023 School Census Results, [Welsh Government](#)

- Attendance rates 2022/3
 - Primary School learners - 91%
 - eFSM learners - 86.8%
 - Secondary School learners - 85.8%
 - eFSM learners - 77%

Residents told us

General Statement to be completed following engagement

Some of our National Drivers -This information will be available through hyperlink in final version

- [Children and young people's plan](#) What we will do to support children and young people who are growing up, living and working in Wales.
- [Age Friendly Wales](#) – Our Strategy for an Ageing Society
- [Decarbonising Social Care in Wales 2022-27](#)
- [Ending homelessness](#): A high level action plan – 2021-2026
- [Tackling Fuel Poverty](#) 2021 to 2035
- [Our National Mission: High Standards and Aspirations for All](#) 2022 – 2026 A plan to tackle the impact of poverty on educational attainment and supporting every learner.
- [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan](#) Guidance on Local Authority's developing their WESP.
- A [Healthier Wales](#): Long Term Plan for Health & Social Care -2018
- [Public Health Wales' Strategic Plan](#) 2022-2025
- [Sport Wales Strategy: Enabling Sport in Wales to Thrive](#)

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES

In People and Communities our priorities are:

1. Children and young people have the best start in life and can learn and grow safely,
2. Residents can take care of their health & well-being so they can live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives, and
3. Safeguarding our most vulnerable residents of all ages, providing protection, care and support when they need it most so that they can maximise their potential.
4. Residents will have access to affordable, good quality and energy efficient homes.

- 1 Children and young people have the best start in life and can learn and grow safely.**
 - a) Supporting children and families in their early years to have the best opportunities to develop, be healthy, and enjoy a range of programmes and activities in our libraries and Community Hubs.
 - b) Ensuring access to timely intervention and advice so that the needs of learners and their families are identified swiftly and early intervention provided.
 - c) Helping children of all abilities and backgrounds to do the very best they can in school by ensuring that we have a relentless focus on securing continuous school improvement and high standards our schools.
 - d) Providing great learning environments through our new and improved early years settings and schools.
 - e) Supporting children and young people of all abilities and backgrounds to overcome barriers to learning, including experiencing poverty, so that they can achieve the best educational outcomes that they are capable of.
 - f) Keeping children and young people safe and supported as part of their communities and protecting their rights.
 - g) Ensuring that children, young people and their families have a voice and help us to shape and further improve our services and educational experiences.

- 2. Residents can take care of their health & well-being so they can live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives.**
 - a) Helping our residents to keep healthy, active and well through opportunities including learning, leisure, creative opportunities and physical activity accessible to all.
 - b) Considering the implications of the [National Framework for Social Prescribing](#).
 - c) Implementing the five year Health Determinate Research Collaboration in order to tackle health inequalities in RCT and address wider health determinants that directly affect the life chances of our residents.
 - d) Enabling people to be engaged in resilient communities, strengthening connections between community groups, providing opportunities to lead and influence community developments and be involved in volunteering.
 - e) Working with residents and partners to keep our communities safe and free from crime.
 - f) Developing connections so that communities and the third and business sectors can work together to source sustainable and healthy food.
 - g) Developing community focused schools, that provide a range of services and activities, often beyond the school day, to help meet the needs of its pupils, their families and the wider community.

- 3 Safeguarding our most vulnerable residents of all ages, providing protection, care and support when they need it most so that they can maximise their potential.**
 - a) Enabling people to live independently in their community and close to home by providing the right support and care at the right time.
 - b) Providing modern accommodation that meets the needs of people who can no longer live at home.

- c) Protecting children young people and adults at risk from harm, neglect and exploitation.
- d) Supporting people affected by/experiencing domestic violence and addiction.
- e) Giving vulnerable children and young people the best possible opportunities in life and ensure access to safe and supportive environments suitable to their needs, to improve their well-being.

4 Residents will have access to affordable, good quality and energy efficient homes

- a) Working with partners to enable the supply of affordable and sustainable homes across our communities, including supporting those people who are homeless and bringing empty properties back into use.
- b) Enabling more people to live in warm and energy efficient homes to improve their health and wellbeing and enable them to live more sustainably.

Some of the outcomes we expect to see by 2030

- Attendance, exclusions and attainment in all our schools demonstrates strong progress and matches or exceeds the Wales average and leads to improved educational outcomes, work and training opportunities for our school leavers.
- Families will have greater resilience: fewer children will be 'looked after' in our care and will have improved life chances.
- More of our residents will use the opportunities available across the County Borough to keep active, healthy and well and reduce their risk of disease and ill health.
- Children in our care will be looked after closer to their home and stay connected to families, friends and communities.
- Better joined up services across health and social care so that people get the right care in the right place at the right time.
- Fewer people affected by/experiencing domestic violence and addiction.
- More affordable homes and fewer empty homes.
- Fewer homes in RCT will have energy ratings below Energy Performance Certificate D.

Working in partnership with [Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board](#) and other partners to improve the health and well-being of our residents, including joining up the health and social care they receive. By strengthening joint working we want to see fewer people going into hospital and those that do need care receive it promptly, within their communities and spend less time in hospital.

Working with [South Wales Police, Probation and other partners](#) to reduce crime and disorder in our area so that our communities are free from crime and free from the fear of crime.

WORK AND BUSINESS

Now	Looking Ahead
<p>People and Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26.7% have a degree or equivalent Level 4 qualification. • 72.4% of Key Stage 4 learners achieved A*-C grades in their GCSE in 2023 • 24.2% of people have no qualifications. • 25.8% of people in work are employed in the public sector. • 29.6% of RCT residents work in routine or semi-routine jobs. • 23.8% of people aged 16 to 64 in RCT are economically inactive (not in or looking for work) • 9% of adults are digitally excluded. <p>Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently 7,020 active businesses and 169 Social Enterprises operating in RCT⁵ • In 2021, 1,280 businesses started up in RCT and 845 ceased to trade. <p>Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43,100 people travel outside RCT to work. • 21.8% of people work mainly from home, 66.7% commute by driving. <p>1.31 billion vehicle miles were travelled on roads in Rhondda, Cynon, Taf in 2022⁶</p> <p>Prioritisation of road and train travel over buses has widened inequalities in access to essential services, employment and social interactions. Marmot et al 2020</p> <p>22.2% of households do not have a car or van. This rises to over 30% in some areas of RCT (Treherbert, Ferndale and Maerdy)</p> <p>Welsh Language data for work places⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19% of Welsh speakers always speak Welsh with colleagues. 	<p>After 2028, the number of economically active people is forecast to decrease, while the overall population will continue to increase in size.</p> <p>Increase in automation may make a growing share of low skilled workers unemployable, as whatever work they are (or could become) qualified to do could be done cheaper, faster or more reliably by robots or computers.</p> <p>Between 100 and 500 billion devices will be connected to the internet by 2030, between 12 and 60 times as many as the number of people in the world.</p> <p>Development of the service economy and moving away from personal ownership to accessing service e.g. car clubs and media streaming</p> <p>Increasing importance of biotechnology to tackle challenges including pollution, climate change and food security.</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Road traffic in England and Wales could grow by up to 54% between 2025 and 2060(+4%)⁸.</p>

⁵ Business births, deaths and active enterprises, [Stats Wales](#) and Social Enterprises in RCT, Cwmpas

⁶ Department of Transport - [Road Traffic Statistics for RCT](#)

⁷ [Welsh Language Use Survey](#) Jul-19 to Mar-20

⁸ Department of Transport - [National Road Traffic Projections 2022](#)

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11% of Welsh speakers speak Welsh with colleagues usually, but not always. • 21% of Welsh speakers speak Welsh with colleagues sometimes. | |
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Residents told us

<p>General Statement to be completed following engagement</p>

Some of our National Drivers - *This information will be available through hyperlink in final version*

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Employability Plan • Stronger Fairer Greener Wales: a plan for Employability & Skills • Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 • Llwybr Newydd: the Wales Transport Strategy 2021 • Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy • A shared strategic vision for the retail sector • Wales Procurement Policy Statement 2022-2028 • Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023 • Digital Strategy for Wales – Delivery Plan 2021 |
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WORK and BUSINESS

In Work and Business our priorities are:

1. **Supporting people into rewarding and secure work.**
2. **Supporting businesses to prosper and be sustainable.**
3. **Thriving town centres, and**
4. **A well-connected County Borough.**

1 Supporting people into rewarding and secure work

- a) Supporting people of all ages to gain the skills they need for jobs in our local communities and working with local businesses and training providers to identify appropriate opportunities for them.
- b) Supporting people experiencing 'in work' poverty to find more rewarding and secure work.
- c) Providing individual support and solutions for people experiencing barriers to work to gain or make progress into jobs or volunteering.

- d) Leading by example by providing experience, work and training opportunities within the Council particularly for young people and those experiencing barriers to work.
- e) Working with our suppliers to increase the Social Value and Community benefits from all our contracts jobs/experience/training.
- f) Working as part of Cardiff Capital Region to identify and support jobs and skills development in regionally defined priority areas e.g. new and emerging technologies.

2 Supporting businesses to prosper and be sustainable.

- a) Enabling businesses to find the right advice and support to help them modernise, be sustainable and take advantage of new opportunities and emerging markets.
- b) Increasing our local 'spend' and supporting social enterprises.
- c) Building on our natural landscape and heritage to promote new tourism opportunities in the County Borough and support sustainable growth in the sector.
- d) Supporting the development of the circular economy across the County Borough, so that residents are able to share, reuse, repair and recycle existing materials and products for as long as possible.

3 Thriving town centres

- a) Delivering regeneration projects to enable vibrant town centres and good quality public spaces where businesses thrive and people want to visit.
- b) Widening our Town Centre 'offer', including local events and celebrating culture and heritage.
- c) Putting in place amenities that our residents can use to enhance their visits to Town Centres.

4 A well-connected County Borough

- a) Supporting the development of low carbon travel and public transport, including publicly accessible infrastructure such as Electric Vehicle charging.
- b) Encouraging and enabling active travel so more journeys are made by walking, cycling and public transport, supporting healthy lifestyles and improving air quality.
- c) Maintaining and improving our highways infrastructure, fit for the future, keeping people and communities connected, able to socialise and learn and businesses moving.
- d) Improving e digital connectivity across the County Borough, embracing changing work patterns and lifestyles.

Some of the outcomes we expect to see by 2030

- Town centres with thriving businesses that help support the economy.
- Public transport infrastructure and systems are more joined up and encourage people to walk, cycle, use public transport to get about.
- More accessible publicly available EV charging points at Council locations that support low carbon travel.
- More businesses supported to develop, modernise and grow.
- More people in RCT will have the skills they need to find and progress in work.
- More people will visit RCT from outside the County Borough and enjoy the cultural, nature, activity and adventure tourism RCT has to offer.

Working in partnership with the Councils in the [Cardiff Capital Region](#) City Deal and its Joint Committee and businesses to promote economic well-being across the Capital Region and working more locally, with businesses through the Business Improvement Districts to encourage Town Centre businesses to be more sustainable and promote the use of the circular economy.

DRAFT

NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

<p>Now. 64.97% of waste recycled in 2022/23.</p> <p>16 Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs) across RCT.</p> <p>Air pollutant concentrations are currently higher in areas of socioeconomic disadvantage⁶</p> <p>38.5% of people live in a flood risk area in RCT.</p> <p>There are 131 allotments and community growing spaces in RCT.</p> <p>Carbon emissions 3.8 tCO₂e per resident,</p> <p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest in RCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Sites • 2 Special Areas of Conservation • 8 Other Areas shared with other LAs. <p>During the five ‘heat-periods’ between June and August 2022, 3,535 deaths were registered in Wales. 258 excess deaths (7.3%) above the five-year average.</p> <p>Children and young people, older adults and those with respiratory conditions are more susceptible to poor air quality⁹</p>	<p>Looking Ahead Wales temperature projections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • average summer increasing by 1.34°C by 2050 and 3.03°C by 2080. • with precipitation levels projected to increase overall by 5% by 2050 and 9% 2080. • Rainfall will increase overall, but with less rainfall in the summer and more in the winter. Summer rainfall will decrease by 16% by 2050 and 23% by 2080. <p>The Rhondda Valleys have the highest level of social flood risk in Wales.</p> <p>Climate change may have a serious impact on our ability to grow enough food.</p>
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Residents told us

General Statement to be completed following engagement

⁹ PHW – [Climate Change in Wales: Health Impact Assessment](#)

⁹ ONS – [Excess mortality during heat-periods](#)

Some of our National Drivers - *This information will be available through hyperlink in final version*

- [Biodiversity Duty](#) obligations under s.6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016: waste](#)
- [The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales](#)
- [Beyond Recycling](#) A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality.
- [The Clean Air Plan for Wales Healthy Air, Healthy Wales](#)
- [Prosperity For All: A Low Carbon Wales](#)
- [Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 \(2021-25\)](#)

NATURE and the ENVIRONMENT

For Nature and the Environment our priorities are:

- 1. Protecting the natural environment**
- 2. Clean, Safe and Sustainable RCT**
- 3. Using Natures Assets to benefit people and communities.**

1 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

- a) Protecting and enhancing biodiversity: working with nature to tackle both the Climate and Nature emergencies,
- b) Protecting existing trees, supporting woodland expansion through natural regeneration and urban tree planting
- c) Rewetting and restoring peat bogs: reducing carbon emissions and increasing biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
- d) Improving air quality including through implementing local and national Welsh Government traffic management requirements and encouraging shift to low carbon travel options.
- e) Managing public sector land to generate green energy/carbon storage projects, manage flood risk and increase biodiversity and community growing.

2 Clean, Safe and Sustainable RCT

- a) Keeping the County Borough clean and healthy and our streets free from litter, dog fouling and environmental crime.
- b) Working with partners to maximise opportunities for recycling, reducing, and reusing waste.
- c) Providing creative opportunities for people to contribute to a clean and sustainable communities.
- d) Signposting to more and better information on how resident can use less and waste less.
- e) Continuing to work with Welsh Government and partners to manage coal tip safety.
- f) Managing the impact of severe weather.

3 Using Natures Assets to benefit people and communities

- a) Maximising our use of sustainable solutions to support flood mitigation, reduce pollution and manage surface water.
- b) Generating low carbon energy
 - a. continuing to invest in solar energy across our schools and Council buildings.
 - b. continuing to develop the Council owned 6MW solar farm.
 - c. continuing to develop wind energy schemes.
 - d. developing hydroelectric schemes on our rivers and lakes.
 - e. investigating the use of mine water to heat and cool homes and business.
- c) Working with partners to
 - i. create a Local Area Energy Plan to inform decision making on the supply and use of different energy sources.
 - ii. consider a place based approach to reducing carbon through local energy production.
- d) providing opportunities for residents and communities to 'grow your own' through allotments and community gardens.
- e) Providing a range of quality green spaces for people and communities to enjoy

Some of the outcomes we expect to see by 2030

- Improved air quality across the County Borough.
- People and communities able to keep active and well in our green spaces.
- Wildlife will thrive on positively managed council land.
- Communities supported to do more to reduce, reuse and recycle and live sustainably.
- People enjoying clean streets, free from environmental crime.
- Increased green energy produced from 'renewables'.

Working as part of the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Services Board](#) to put in place a Cwm Taf Morgannwg Climate Risk Assessment so that we can better assess local risks likely to arise as a result of a changing climate.

Working as part to of the Rhondda Cynon Taf [Local Nature Partnership](#) to plan and deliver action for nature across the County Borough.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Now	Looking Ahead
<p>43,179 people can either speak, read, write or understand Welsh, while 187,137 have no Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The majority of people in RCT (133,483) did not identify as having any religion. 86,474 consider themselves Christian, with 2,866 belonging to other religions including Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh.</p> <p>58% of RCT residents attend or participate in arts, culture or heritage activities at least 3 times a year¹⁰</p> <p>78 memorial plaques: 77 blue and 1 purple, located across the County Borough RCT looks after approximately 35,000 historical items.</p> <p>3.9% of RCT Residents are Armed Forces Veterans¹¹ -7,506 people (2021 data) 1,595 Referrals were received by the Veterans Advice Service (to Sept-23)</p> <p>Population breakdown/diversity Participation in community events Community Benefits Library usage Community Cohesion ref as population diversifies</p>	

Residents told us

General Statement to be completed following engagement

¹⁰ [National Survey for Wales](#) – Arts, Museums, Libraries and Historic Places (2022-23)

¹¹ [Nomis Data – TS071](#) – Previously served in UK and Armed Forces (2021)

Some of our National Drivers - *This information will be available through hyperlink in final version*

- [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#)
- [Cymraeg 2050 – A Million Welsh Speakers](#)
- [The Historic Environment Wales Act 2016](#)
- Welsh Parliament LG and Housing Cttee [Local Authority Leisure and Library Services Report 2023](#)
- [Connected and Ambitious Libraries 2017-2020](#) – update imminent
- [Theatre Green Book](#) -arrangements for theatres to work more sustainably.

CULTURE and HERITAGE (IN STRONG COMMUNITIES)

In Culture and Heritage our priorities are:

- 1. An RCT where culture and heritage is vibrant and enhances well-being.**
- 2. Celebrating and preserving the cultural, industrial and sporting heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf.**

We recognise and celebrate RCT's past, enjoy the present and embrace a future where:

- 1. Culture and heritage is vibrant, difference is celebrated in strong communities that enhance well-being, by**
 - a) Building on the legacy of the Eisteddfod to benefit our communities and businesses.
 - b) Continuing to grow the use of the Welsh language so that it thrives in our homes, communities and work.
 - c) Recognising and improving our awareness of diversity in our communities so that we strengthen community cohesion and better meet needs of our residents of all backgrounds.
 - d) Engaging with communities to jointly develop activity within our theatres, museums and other creative spaces through an accessible and inclusive approach that embraces all cultures.
 - e) Using our libraries and Community Hubs to support people to fulfil their potential, enhance their wellbeing and strengthen local communities.
 - f) Developing stronger cross sector partnerships that value the positive impacts of culture and heritage including on health and well-being, skills, work and community life.
 - g) Developing Intergenerational Projects to promote learning and shared skills, encouraging intergenerational friendships and help to reduce loneliness.
 - h) Working with a range of public, private and third sector partners to consider the cultural offer across our Town Centres, developing and promoting a range of inclusive Arts and Cultural Events that will serve local and wider communities across South East Wales.
 - i) Strengthening RCT's Community Armed Forces Covenant.

2 We celebrate and preserve the cultural, industrial and sporting heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf by

- a) Protecting and promote the history of RCT for future generations through education, conservation and commemoration by:
 - Identifying, recording and sharing the history of RCT
 - Recognising, preserving, protecting and embracing RCTs industrial heritage including through digitisation, management of artifacts and protecting monuments.
- b) Connecting communities through heritage and local history.
- c) Shining a light on past and present inspirational people from Rhondda Cynon Taf to encourage aspiration and ambition in our children and young people through an RCT Hall of Fame.

Some of the outcomes we expect to see by 2030

- More people are confident to use Welsh in their everyday lives and more learners access Welsh medium education.
- People feel that they 'belong' in their communities, get along well and treat each other with respect.
- More opportunities for residents of all ages and background to 'connect' through arts, libraries and community.
- Opportunities for residents to promote and express their culture, heritage and share commitment to sustainable lives through a thriving arts community.
- More people identify with the history that shaped the Rhondda Cynon Taf of today and have a connection with the past.
- An Armed Forces community is supported by the community.
- Our communities recognise and celebrate RCT's past, enjoy the present, embrace and influence a thriving future.

Working in Partnership with the [Arts Council for Wales](#) to connect with communities, make arts available to people of all ages and backgrounds to enjoy and take part.

Working in Partnership with Cardiff Capital City Region, [Creative Cardiff](#) and [University of South Wales](#) to increase creative sector skills within RCT.

Working in Partnership with the [Awen Cultural Trust](#) to deliver the redevelopment of 'Y Muni', Muni Arts Centre in Pontypridd and support local and national creative industries.

A well-run Council...

Our four Well-being objectives and our priorities can only be delivered by a well-run Council. By this we mean a Council that has a positive organisational culture, that values its staff, manages its resources sustainably and wisely and looks to continually improve what we do to have the biggest impact for residents.

Our commitments to you

- We will deliver our improvement priorities and strive to meet all our targets and you will be able to hold us to account through good governance and local democracy.
- We will lead by example, show strong community leadership and be open about the challenges we face and the tough decisions we have to make.
- We will put residents and customers at the centre of all that we do and the decisions we make through more meaningful, involvement and engagement.
- We will work with partners in all sectors so that we join up our services, make life easier for our residents and communities and deliver better outcomes for them.
- We will work together with residents and communities on solutions that better meet their needs and share responsibility deliver better outcomes together.
- We will manage our workforce, budgets, land, buildings, fleet and information to maximise our efficiency and make the biggest difference to our communities, nature and the environment.
- We will reduce the Council's Carbon Footprint and be a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.
- We will be honest with our residents and regulators about where we are doing well and where we need to do better.
- We will put in place plans to care and support communities in emergency situations when they happen.

Our commitment to staff

We will provide equality of opportunity for all, so that staff feel valued and can reach their full potential. The Council's commitment to its staff and our communities is set out in full in our Strategic Equality Plan and Workforce Plan.

Our commitment to partners

We will be committed and active partners in our work with others, seeking and challenging where we can add more and better outcomes for our residents, communities and businesses by working together. You can see more about our [work with others](#).

How we will deliver and monitor progress of our Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan gives life to our Vision and Purpose, by setting out our four Well-being Objectives with more detailed priorities about how will deliver them, setting a clear direction for the Council's work up to 2030. The plan sets a direction and focus on the high-level ambitions and priorities for the Council which all staff and managers can see, understand and work towards.

Delivery of the priorities will be led by a senior officer. However, they involve and depend on all our services working together and not in traditional 'silos' to deliver creative and sustainable solutions. Some of the work we do is grant funded and so is required to meet grant conditions outside our control or influence.

The detailed plans to deliver our Well-being Objectives will be monitored and scrutinised by Councillors [Cabinet](#), [Scrutiny](#) and [Governance and Audit Committees](#) as part of the [Performance and Resources Reports](#). Those aspects of our work which are dependent upon grant funding will also subject to rigorous monitoring by the funding body e.g. Welsh Government.

The Council's priorities are cascaded into services' Delivery plans; they shape and inform Council policy, strategy and spend, help manage risks as well as inform discussions about development opportunities for staff. These performance arrangements are set out in the Council's Performance Management Framework.

Our Performance Management Framework will not, in itself, manage or improve performance. However, the steps it sets out help to create, develop and maintain a strong performance culture and puts the residents of Rhondda Cynon Taf at the heart of our business. It also allows us to answer three simple questions:

- How are services performing?
- How do we know?
- What are we going to do to improve them?

This strong Performance culture is supported by:

1. Reinforcing accountability through Challenge and Support by Cabinet and the Senior Leadership Team.
2. Strong and effective Scrutiny.
3. Being honest and self-aware.
4. Focusing on delivery and improvement.
5. Managing, as well as measuring performance.
6. Setting aspirational targets.
7. Making best and sustainable use of resources.
8. Empowering and supporting staff to do the right thing.
9. Involving our residents in decision that affect them.

There will be a hyperlink to this data section in final version of the Plan Appendix TBC

Current and Future Data about Rhondda Cynon Taf

Data refers to Rhondda Cynon Taf local authority area unless otherwise stated

Current data is taken from the 2021 Census unless otherwise stated

People and Communities	
Now¹²	Looking Ahead
People	
<p>The population of Rhondda Cynon Taf Total population: 237,497¹³</p> <p>Aged 0-15 43,680 (18.4%) Aged 16-64 147,030 (61.8%) Aged 65+ 46,787 (19.7%)²</p> <p>Of which Aged 85+ 5,242 (2.2% of total population)</p> <p>Male 116,230 (49%) Female 121,267 (51%)²</p> <p>White British - 226,123 (95.1%) White non-British - 3,800 (1.6%) Non White - (7,730 (3.3%) Mixed - 2,469 (1%) Asian - 3,506 (1.5%) Black - 997 (0.4%) Other Ethnic Group - 758 (0.3%)</p> <p>Population density (number of people who live within an area per km²) - RCT 560. This compares to 2,572 in Cardiff and 26 in Powys.</p>	<p>4.1% increase in population to 2030 with RCT projected to remain 3rd largest LA by population in Wales (6.3% increase by 2040)¹⁴</p> <p>By 2030: Aged 0-15 42,861 (1.9% decrease) Aged 16-64 151,377 (3% increase) Aged 65+ 52,884 (13.% increase) <i>of which aged 85+ 6,573 (25.4% increase)</i></p> <p>By 2040: Aged 0-15 42,183 (1.1% decrease) Aged 16-64 151,520(3.1% increase) Aged 65+ 57,715 (23.4% increase) <i>of which aged 85+ 8,422 (60.7% increase)</i></p>
Health	
<p>Life Expectancy¹⁵ Male 77.0 years Male healthy life expectancy 57.1 years Female 80.5 years Female healthy life expectancy 60.7 years</p> <p>How people describe their health¹² Good or very good health - 76.0% (Male 76.9%, female 75.3%), Wales 79.1%</p>	<p>56% increase in people over 65 with dementia by 2040</p> <p>56% projected increase in people over 65 with dementia by 2040</p> <p>Prevalence of stroke (33% increase), Diabetes (22% increase) and cancer in Wales all projected to increase by 2040.</p>

¹² All data refers to RCT and is taken from the 2021 Census unless stated otherwise

¹³ Mid year population estimates [Stats Wales](#)

¹⁴ Population projections [Stats Wales](#)

¹⁵ ¹⁵ Healthy life expectancy is the proportion of life in good health – [ONS](#)

<p>bad or very bad health - 8.3% (Male 8.0%, female 8.6%), Wales 6.8%</p> <p>Fair health – 15.7% (male 15.1%, female 16.1%), Wales 14.1%</p> <p>People suffering from longstanding illnesses (self described)¹⁶</p> <p>Any longstanding illness 45.9%</p> <p>Limited by longstanding illness 35.2%</p> <p>Musculoskeletal complaints 13.6%</p> <p>Mental health condition 14.6%</p> <p>Heart/circulatory complaints 10.0%</p> <p>Respiratory system complaints 6.6%</p> <p>Endocrine/metabolic diseases 7.6%</p> <p>Disability (self described)</p> <p>not disabled 76.2%, (Wales 78.9%)</p> <p>disabled and limited a lot in their daily lives 12.0%, males 11.5%, females 12.5% (10.0% Wales)</p> <p>disabled and limited a little in their day to day activities 11.8% (11.1% Wales)</p> <p>People aged 5 years and over who provide unpaid care</p> <p>Provides no unpaid care - 88.8%</p> <p>Provides 19 or less hours a week - 4.5%</p> <p>Provides 20 to 49 hours a week - 2.5%</p> <p>Provides 50 or more hours a week - 4.2%</p> <p>Data suggests that geographic disparities in health, disability and unpaid care may be connected to the legacy of industrial revolution. Half of the top 10 local authority areas in England and Wales with the greatest need in terms of general health, disability, and the need to provide unpaid care are in the south of Wales, which includes Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p>	<p>However, tackling risk factors like smoking, obesity and low fruit and vegetable consumption could reverse the projected trends¹⁷</p> <p>A transition towards preventive health will enable people to remain healthy for longer, but could also lead to greater polarisation of health between well-informed and less well-informed citizens.¹⁸</p>
<p>Smokers and e-cigarette users¹⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoker - 16% (12.8% Wales) • Ex Smoker - 28.2% (29.6% Wales) • Never Smoked - 55.8% (57.6% Wales) 	<p>Smoking prevalence in Wales is steadily decreasing but the smoking rate in the most deprived fifth remains more than double the</p>

¹⁶ Adult general health and illness by local authority and health board 2020-21 onwards [StatsWales](#)

¹⁷ [Wales Online](#) referencing report of the [chief scientific advisor](#) NHS in 10+ years: An examination of the projected impact of Long-Term Conditions and Risk Factors in Wales

¹⁸ [CIFS Scenario Report Global Megatrends.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#), Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies

¹⁹ Adult lifestyles by local authority and health board, 2020-21 onwards [StatsWales](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E Cigarette User - 9.4% (6.8% Wales) <p>Average weekly alcohol consumption¹⁹ None - 15.2% (18% Wales) Some, up to 14 units (moderate drinkers) - 68.5% (65.5% Wales) Above 14 units (over guidelines) - 16.2% (16.5% Wales) Hazardous, over 14 units, up to 50 units (male)/35 (female) - 12.1% (14% Wales) Harmful, over 50 units (male)/35 (female) - 4.1% (2.5% Wales)</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable consumption¹⁹ Ate no fruit & veg the previous day - 9.7% (6.3% Wales) Ate some but less than 5 portions fruit & veg the previous day - 67.6% (64.5% Wales) Ate at least 5 portions fruit & veg the previous day - 22.7% (29.1% Wales)</p> <p>Physical activity levels¹⁹ Active less than 30 minutes in previous week - 31.7% (30.7% Wales) Active 30-149 minutes in previous week - 13.6% (13.6% Wales) Active at least 150 minutes in previous week - 54.8% (55.7% Wales)</p> <p>Body Mass Index¹⁹ BMI under 18.5 (underweight) - 2.8% (1.9% Wales) BMI 18.5 - under 25 (healthy weight) - 32.9% (36.4% Wales) BMI 25 - under 30 (overweight but not obese) - 36.8% (36.4% Wales) BMI 30+ (obese) - 27.5% (25.3% Wales) BMI 25+ (overweight or obese) - 64.3% (61.7% Wales)</p>	<p>rate in the least deprived fifth, who also have worse smoking related health outcomes²⁰</p> <p>Welsh Government has a target for a smoke free Wales (smoking prevalence of 5% or less in adults) by 2030.²¹ The Kahn review suggests that without further action, this target will not be met in England until 2037, and not in the poorest areas until 2044.²²</p>
Homes and Housing	
<p>No. of households – 103,339</p> <p>32,170 people live alone, including 14,049 over the age of 66</p>	<p>27% increase in single person households in 2043</p>

²⁰ Smoking in Wales online tool, [Public Health Wales](#)

²¹ A Smoke Free Wales, [Welsh Government](#)

²² The Kahn review: making smoking obsolete, [UK Government](#)

<p>Housing Tenure</p> <p>Owned outright - 38.4%</p> <p>Owned - Owned with a mortgage, loan or shared ownership - 30.1%</p> <p>Rented - Social Housing - 13.7%</p> <p>Private rented - 17.7%</p> <p>Lives rent free - 0.1%</p>	<p>25% increase of 1 adult households with children and a 16% reduction in 2 adult households with children</p> <p>Between 2022 and 2037 an additional 255 units of affordable housing will be required each year to meet anticipated needs²³</p> <p>In the next 15 year, an extra 1,394 specialist accommodation units will be required to meet anticipated needs²³</p>
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²³ [RCT Local Housing Market Assessment 2022 - 2037](#)

Work and Business	
Now	Looking Ahead
Skills, Jobs and work	
<p>Qualifications</p> <p>No qualification - 24.2%</p> <p>Highest level of qualification - Level 1,2,3 - 41.3%</p> <p>Highest level of qualification - Apprenticeship - 5.1%</p> <p>Highest level of qualification - Level 4 or above - 26.7%</p> <p>Highest level of qualification - Other qualification - 2.7%</p>	
<p>People in full time education aged 5 or over</p> <p>Not a student - 80.2%</p> <p>Student - 19.8%</p>	
<p>56.5% of all residents are economically active</p> <p>43.5% of all residents are economically inactive (including students and retired people)</p> <p>76.2% of people aged 16 to 64 are economically active (81.2% of men and 71.4% of women) (Wales 75.9%)</p> <p>23.8% of people aged 16 to 64 are economically inactive (not in or looking for work)</p> <p>20.6% of households are non working (Wales 17.2%)</p>	<p>After 2028, the number of economically active people is forecast to decrease, while the overall population will continue to increase in size</p>
<p>Employment by sector:²⁴</p> <p>Public 26,100 (25.8%)</p> <p>Private 75,100</p> <p>Total 102,600</p> <p>Workplace industries – people employed</p> <p>Public administration, defence, education and health 25,200</p> <p>Wholesale, retail, transport, hotels and food 19,500</p>	
<p>29.6% of RCT residents work in routine or semi-routine occupations</p>	<p>In the US, jobs lost to automation have stopped being replaced by an equal number of similar workplace opportunities since 1987. Low-skilled workers who lose</p>

²⁴ Employment in the public and private Sectors by Welsh local authority and status, [Stats Wales](#)

	<p>jobs to automation tend to ‘fall backwards’ into even lower-skilled and lower-paying jobs while high-skilled workers are able to use automation to increase their productivity and hence their income, thereby widening the income gap.¹⁸</p> <p>Automation may very well make a growing share of people unemployable – meaning that whatever work they are qualified to do (or could upskill to become qualified to do) could be done cheaper, faster, and/or more reliably by robots or computers in the future.¹⁸</p>
<p>There are currently 169 social enterprises operating in RCT²⁵</p>	
	<p>Development of the service economy – a growing importance of the service sector in industrial economies and the combination of products and services to combine ‘solutions’ to businesses and consumers. Shift away from ownership through everything-as-a-service (e.g. streaming services, car clubs)¹⁸</p> <p>Biotechnology will likely be as important in the next half century as computers have been in the previous half century. We can manipulate genes in minor or major ways, to help us handle challenges like pollution, climate change, and food security, while neural science will link human and machine at previously unseen levels.¹⁸</p>
Connectivity	
<p>9% of adults are digitally excluded (7% Wales Average) People over 75, with a limiting long term illness or living in social housing are more likely to be digitally excluded</p>	<p>between 100 and 500 billion devices will be connected to the internet by 2030, between a dozen and sixty times as many as the number of people in the world.¹⁸</p>

²⁵ Social Enterprises in RCT, Cwmpas

Travel and Transport	
<p>Car ownership by household No car or van - 22.2% 1 car or van or more - 77.8%</p> <p>Households without a car or van rises to 30% in some areas of RCT (Treherbert, Ferndale and Maerdy)</p> <p>Prioritisation of road and train travel over buses has widened inequalities in access to essential services, employment and social interactions.</p> <p>Young people are making less trips [by any form of transport] than they did 20 years ago and see cost as a major barrier²⁶</p>	<p>Road traffic in England and Wales could grow by up to 54% between 2025 and 2060(+4%)²⁷</p> <p>However, this picture could be changed by the emergence of alternative technologies</p>
<p>43,100 people travel outside RCT to work</p> <p>Distance travelled to work by people aged 16 years and over in employment</p> <p>Travels less than 10km - 33.3% Travels more than 10km - 29.6% Works mainly from home - 21.8% Works mainly at an off shore location, in no fixed place or outside of the UK - 15.7%</p> <p>How people travel from home to their workplace</p> <p>Work mainly at or from home - 21.8% Underground, metro, light rail, tram - 0 Train - 1.8% Bus, minibus or coach - 2.7% Taxi - 0.2% Motorcycle, scooter or moped - 0.3% Driving a car or van - 60.4% Passenger in a car or van - 6% Bicycle - 0.4% On foot - 5.6% Other method of travel to work - 0.8%</p>	

²⁶ The role of transport in supporting a healthy future for young people, [Sustrans](#)

²⁷ Department of Transport - [National Road Traffic Projections 2022](#)

Nature and the Environment	
Now	Looking Ahead
Climate change	
<p>38.5% of people live in a flood risk area in RCT, below national average of 41.3%.</p> <p>In 2022, 53% of RCT respondents to public engagement on flooding said they have been affected by flooding in the last 10 years, compared to 16% responding to the same question in 2013.</p>	<p>The Rhondda Valleys have the highest level of social flood risk in Wales</p>
<p>Carbon emissions 3.8 tCO₂e per resident, compared to Wales average of 6.6 t CO₂e 4th lowest tCO₂e of 22 LAs.</p>	<p>Wales temperature projections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • average summer increasing by 1.34°C by 2050 and 3.03°C by 2080. • precipitation levels projected to increase overall by 5% by 2050 and 9% 2080. • Rainfall will increase overall, but with less rainfall in the summer and more in the winter. Summer rainfall will decrease by 16% by 2050 and 23% by 2080.
<p>88% of people say they undertake at least one of six behaviours that are good for the environment²⁸</p>	<p>Climate change may have a serious impact on our ability to grow enough food.</p>
Natural Resources, Biodiversity and green spaces	
<p>The total annual value for ecosystem services (the contribution of natural assets to economy and society, such as producing food and water, pollution removal and recreation) in Wales is £2 billion²⁹</p> <p>1.1 million fewer people in the UK gained health benefits from spending time in nature in 2022 compared to 2020²⁹</p>	
<p>Overall tree coverage of RCT 33% (19.4% Wales average woodland tree cover) Urban tree coverage 18.5%, 2.2% above the national average.</p>	

²⁸ National Survey for Wales, [Welsh Government](#)

²⁹ UK natural capital accounts: 2023, [ONS](#)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest in RCT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Sites • 2 Special Areas of Conservation • 8 Other Areas shared with other LAs 	18% of species are threatened with extinction from Wales ³⁰
4 Green Flag Awards for RCT Parks 6 Community Awards for sites not owned by Council	
131 allotments and community growing spaces in RCT.	
Local environment	
16 Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs) across RCT.	
Waste and recycling	
67.48% of waste recycled in 2022/23.	

Culture and heritage	
Now	Looking Ahead
Welsh language	
43,179 people (aged 3 or above) can either speak, read, write or understand Welsh 187,137 have no Welsh language skills	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) Targets. By 2032 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% increase in the percentage of year one learners in Welsh medium education • 30% of 3 and 5-year-olds receive their Education through the medium of Welsh • Opened a new Welsh medium all through 3 – 19 school in the Rhondda area.
Welsh Medium Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of 3-year-olds receive their Education through the Medium of Welsh • 22% of 5-year-olds receive their Education through the Medium of Welsh <p style="text-align: right;">(2022-23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of Year 11 Learner Entries for GCSEs in Welsh (First or Second Language) Attending Secondary Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 18.4% First language ○ 62.1% Second language • 3.7% of Year 12 and 13 Learner Entries for AS and A Level in Welsh (First or 	

³⁰ State of nature report 2023, [State of Nature Partnership](#)

Second Language) attending Secondary Schools (2021-22)	
Culture and heritage	
58% of RCT residents attend or participate in arts, culture or heritage activities at least 3 times a year ³¹	
27% of RCT residents visited a museum in the last year ³¹	
76 memorial plaques:75 blue and 1 purple, located across the County borough ³²	
3.9% of RCT Residents are Armed Forces Veterans ³³ -7,506 people (2021 data)	
Community events, hubs, library visits	
Religion and belief	
No religion – 133,486 Christian – 86,474 Buddhist - 588 Hindu - 497 Jewish - 72 Muslim - 378 Sikh - 248 Other religion – 1,083 Census question not answered – 13,826	By 2050, Europe’s Christian population is expected to decline by 100 million people, although it will still remain the largest religious group at 65%. 23% of Europeans are expected to have no religious affiliation and Muslims will make up about 10% of the European population. ³⁴

³¹ [National Survey for Wales](#) – Arts, Museums, Libraries and Historic Places (2022-23)

³² RCTCBC internal data

³³ [Nomis Data – TS071](#) – Previously served in UK and Armed Forces (2021)

³⁴ The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections 2010-2050 [Pew Research Center](#)

Outcomes, Measures and Targets -to be completed/agreed once actions more certain.

Information/data will inform the new Corporate Reporting Dashboard from 2024

People and Communities	
Work and Business	
Nature and the Environment	30% of RCT to be in positive management for wildlife (<i>this is UN 2022 Framework for Biodiversity 30 by 30 target that WG is promoting</i>) Biodiversity deep dive: recommendations/GOV.WALES
Culture and Heritage	Increasing the number of Welsh speakers
Effective and Efficient Council	Carbon Neutral by 2030

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There will be a hyperlink to this section in final version of the Plan Appendix TBC

Aligning Strategic Support and Regional Strategies *In progress* list of Corporate and Service specific policies/strategies assigned to four Well-being Objectives

Well-being Objective	Council strategies
<p>PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES- Supporting and empowering residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives,</p>	<p>Corporate Safeguarding Policy 2020 Digital Strategy for schools 2020-25 Education Strategic Plan 2022-25 RCT Children’s Services Workforce Strategy 2021-24 RCT Empty Homes Strategy 2022-25 RCT Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-26 RCT Local Housing Market Assessment 2022 - 2037 RCT Looked After Children Prevention Strategy 2022-25 RCT Looked After Children: Residential Transformation Strategy 2022-27 RCT Private Rented Sector Strategy 2023 - 2026 RCT Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2022-27 Warmer Homes: A Fuel Poverty Strategy 2019 - 2023 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-2027 RCT Housing Strategy 2024-29 – not yet complete RCT prospectus (2023) CD Strategy Community Safety Strategy</p>
<p>WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT’s Economy.</p>	<p>Active Travel Report 2021-22 Commissioning, Socially Responsible Procurement & Contract Management Strategy 2021-24 Local Development Plan 2006-2021 and the Revised Local Development Plan 2022-2037 Local Transport Plan 2015 Regeneration Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdare Town Centre Strategy 2023-24 (Draft) • Porth Town Centre Strategy 2018-19 • Pontypridd Town Centre Placemaking Plan 2022 (Draft) Town Centre Strategies 2023</p>
<p>NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT’s environment and nature.</p>	<p>Air Quality Progress Report 2023 Biodiversity Duty Report 2019-22 Climate Change Engagement Plan 2023-25 Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy 2021-30 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan 2024 (Draft) Tree & Woodland Strategy 2022-32 Waste Management Strategy 2023</p>

Well-being Objective	Council strategies
CULTURE AND HERITAGE Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.	Library Service Strategy 2022-25 Tourism Strategy 2021
Well run Council	Annual Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2023-24 Climate Change Strategy 2022-25 – ‘Think Climate RCT’ Council’s Decarbonisation Strategy 2023-25 Commissioning, Socially Responsible Procurement & Contract Management Strategy 2021-24 Corporate Asset Management Plan 2018-23 Digital Strategy 2022-26 Human Resources Strategy 2023-28 Involvement and Engagement Framework 2020-24 Medium Term Financial Plan 2023/24 – 2026/27 Public Participation Strategy 2023 Risk Management Strategy 2022 Strategic Equality Plan 2019-2022 – MW updating Welsh Language Promotion Strategy 2022-27 and action plan Workforce Plan 2023-28 *Council’s Operating Model and Working Arrangements Policy
	Regional Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023-2028 • Cwm Taf Morgannwg Area Plan 2023-28 • Others
	CCRC Cardiff Capital Region – The City Deal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Wales Metro - Transport for Wales

There will be a hyperlink to this section in final version of the Plan Appendix TBC

Examples of how the draft Corporate Plan priorities could contribute to the seven national Well-being Goals.

A PROSPEROUS WALES - An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE AND HERITAGE - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.
<p>Tudalen 116</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving vulnerable children and young people the best possible opportunities in life and being a good corporate parent • Meeting demand for housing across RCT • Building modern, fit for purpose accommodation. • Enabling the supply of affordable and sustainable homes • Delivering regeneration projects to enable vibrant town centres where businesses thrive and people want to visit. • Increasing our local 'spend' and supporting social enterprises. • Improving e digital connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting skills and business development to capitalise on opportunities in emerging sectors including 'green' and new technologies and bring quality jobs to the area. • Working with local businesses and training providers to enable people of all ages to gain the skills they need for jobs in our local communities. • Creating opportunities for jobs. • Continuing to support working parents back into employment. • Providing new and improved schools where all children can achieve the best they can. • Developing Town Centre and Tourism offer and supporting businesses to meet the needs of visitors. • Ensuring all homes and businesses have at least access to superfast connectivity, with all key industrial and commercial hubs having access to ultrafast connectivity. Improving e digital connectivity across the County Borough • Keeping people and traffic moving on well-maintained roads and pavements. • Progressing schemes that will benefit communities now and, in the future, including improved public transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving air quality including through implementing local and national Welsh Government traffic management requirements • Enabling community food growing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using our libraries to support people to fulfil their potential, enhance their wellbeing and strengthen local communities. • Developing Intergenerational Projects • Building on the legacy of the Eisteddfod to benefit our communities and businesses.

A RESILIENT WALES - A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

<p>PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives,</p>	<p>WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy.</p>	<p>NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.</p>	<p>CULTURE AND HERITAGE - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to more and better information on how residents can use less and waste less. • Providing creative opportunities for people to contribute to clean and sustainable communities. • Communities and the third and business sectors working together to source sustainable food. • Managing the impact of severe weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the development of the circular economy • Supporting the development of low carbon travel and public transport • Managing public sector land to generate green energy/carbon storage projects. • Generating low carbon energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting biodiversity by protecting existing habitats where possible. • Supporting reforestation • Helping our residents to keep healthy, active and well through assessable outdoor learning. • Delivering natural carbon storage solutions such as those provided by trees, peat bogs, marshy grassland. • Maximising our use of sustainable solutions to support flood mitigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building on the legacy of the Eisteddfod to benefit our communities and businesses. • work with Welsh Government and partners to manage coal tip safety

A HEALTHIER WALES - A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood

<p>PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives,</p>	<p>WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy.</p>	<p>NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.</p>	<p>CULTURE AND HERITAGE - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping people to stay as well as they can for as long as they can by encouraging increased activity. • Continuing to tackle environmental crime • Encouraging and enabling active travel • Putting in place amenities that our residents can use to enhance their visits to Town Centres • Supporting people affected by/experiencing domestic abuse and addiction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting people experiencing barriers including those with disabilities, to work to gain or make progress into jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in our playgrounds, leisure centres and community facilities in schools. • Ensuring new housing and commercial developments have capacity to generate. store and use reusable energy • Make it easier for shoppers to use public transport or active travel to our town centres. • Providing a range of quality green spaces for people and communities to enjoy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthen community cohesion to better meet the needs of our residents of all backgrounds. • Stronger cross sector partnerships that value the positive impacts of culture and heritage including on health and well-being, skills, work and community life.

A MORE EQUAL WALES - A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE AND HERITAGE - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure that residents can access services, no matter what their background or circumstances. • Social prescribing for referring people to interventions in the community. • Working with the local Health Board and GPs to provide more health and care services closer to home. • Helping children of all abilities and backgrounds to do the very best they can in school. • Keeping children and young people safe and supported as part of their communities and protecting their rights. • supporting those that are homeless. • Increasing engagement and participation in the arts and culture and developing our theatres to become more inclusive and accessible to the whole community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing opportunities to all our residents to improve their digital skills. • Keeping Car Park charges to a minimum. • Supporting young people and those experiencing barriers to work to gain or make progress into jobs, including through providing experience, work and training opportunities in the Council. • Offering specific support to help people find work such as care leavers, people with disabilities and Universal Credit claimants. • Working with our suppliers to increase the Social Value and Community benefits from all our contracts jobs/experience/training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure that our residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy our parks and green spaces. • Providing opportunities for all residents to 'grow your own' including those with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying, recording and sharing the history of RCT • Recognising, preserving and embracing RCTs industrial heritage • Recognising and improving our awareness of diversity in our communities so that we strengthen community cohesion and better meet needs of our residents of all backgrounds. • Strengthening RCT's Community Armed Forces Covenant.

A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES - Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives	WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy	NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature	CULTURE AND HERITAGE - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping people to stay in their own homes for longer. • Providing Extra Care facilities for people that need additional support. • Enabling people to be engaged in resilient communities. • Enabling people to live safely at home with the right care and support at the right time. • Protecting children and adults at risk from harm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing connections so that communities and the third and business sectors can work together to source sustainable food. • Working to keep our communities safe and free from crime. • Improving e digital connectivity across the County Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving housing for all our residents and creating pleasant neighbourhoods in which communities can thrive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting communities through heritage and local history. • Stronger cross sector partnerships that value the positive impacts of culture and heritage including on health and well-being, skills, work and community life. • Engaging with communities to jointly develop programmes for our theatres and creative spaces and that will attract audiences of all backgrounds and interests.

A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE & WELSH LANGUAGE - A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives,	WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy.	NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.	CULTURE AND HERITAGE - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing more opportunities for our residents to communicate with the Council and each other in Welsh. • Valuing the positive impacts of culture and heritage including on health and well-being, skills, work and community life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and sports events for all in our parks. • Building on our natural landscape and heritage to promote new tourism opportunities. • Delivering regeneration projects to enable vibrant town centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that all our information signage in our parks and countryside is bi-lingual. • Promoting RCT nature sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to grow the use of the Welsh language so that it thrives in our homes, communities and work. • Promoting RCT as a visitor destination. • Ensuring equal access to the Welsh Language across our services. • Progressing Plans for Eisteddfod. • Action about legacy of inspirational people is in development.

A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES - A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

PEOPLE and COMMUNITIES - Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.	WORK AND BUSINESS - Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's Economy.	NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature.	CULTURE AND HERITAGE - Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home to school transport vehicles, bus operators and taxi vehicles are fit for purpose. • Supporting the development of low carbon travel and public transport. • Supplying affordable, sustainable homes. • Using mine water to heat and cool homes and business. • Working with partners to maximise opportunities for recycling, reducing, and reusing waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular approach to recycling and reuse. • Eliminating single use plastics across the council and schools • Maintaining and improving our highways infrastructure, fit for the future. • Supporting the development of low carbon travel and public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities to create and use our own green sustainable energy such as micro hydro-electric schemes which utilise natural river and water course feature. • Rewetting and restoring peat bogs. • Sustainable solutions to support flood mitigation, reduce pollution and manage surface water. • Opportunities to 'Grow your own' through allotments and community gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and promote the history of RCT for future generations through education, conservation and commemoration

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Developing the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-30

Proposed Outline

The Council's Vision is for a Rhondda Cynon Taf where:

People, communities, and business can grow and live in a healthy, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive County Borough where they can achieve their full potential in all aspects of their lives and work, both now and in the future.

The Council's purpose and the reason it exists is to:

To provide community leadership and deliver high quality public services, working alongside residents, communities and our partners for people, businesses, and the environment to prosper.

Our Approach:

Our new Plan builds on the strong platform put in place by our previous two Plans. To deliver what our new Plan sets out, we need our staff, Councillors, residents, communities, and partners working in the same direction to deliver our shared vision. The future challenges faced across the Council's services mean that now more than ever, we need well trained, informed, and supported staff and councillors who can respond to the challenges ahead within an ambitious programme of work. As public sector budgets remain under pressure and the demands on our services increase, the need to work with communities and across organisational boundaries to deliver the best outcomes for our residents, both now and in the future, has never been greater.

As a result of what we have learned so far, we are proposing four Well-being objectives that you have told us matter most to you now and that will better prepare us all for the future:

Our four Well-being Objectives:

- 1. PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES - *Supporting and empowering RCT residents and communities to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives. This includes:***
 - Children and young people have the best start in life and can learn and grow safely,
 - Residents can take care of their health & well-being so they can live healthy, independent, and fulfilling lives,
 - Residents having access to affordable, good quality and energy efficient homes,
 - Safeguarding our most vulnerable residents of all ages, providing protection, care and support when they need it most so that they can maximise their potential.
- 2. WORK AND BUSINESS - *Helping to strengthen and grow RCT's economy. This includes:***
 - Supporting people into rewarding and secure work,
 - Supporting businesses to prosper and be sustainable,
 - Thriving town centres, and
 - A well-connected County Borough.
- 3. NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT - *A green and clean RCT that improves and protects RCT's environment and nature. This includes:***
 - Protecting and enhancing the natural environment,
 - Clean, Safe and Sustainable RCT,
 - Using Natures Assets to benefit people and communities.

4. CULTURE AND HERITAGE - *Recognising and celebrating RCT's past, present and future where:*

- Culture and heritage is vibrant, and difference is celebrated in strong communities that enhance well-being.
- We celebrate and preserve the cultural, industrial and sporting heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

A well-run Council...

Our four Well-being objectives and our priorities can only be delivered by a well-run Council. By this we mean a Council that has a positive organisational culture, that values its staff, manages its resources sustainably and wisely and looks to continually improve what we do to have the biggest impact for residents.

Our commitments to you

- We will deliver our improvement priorities and strive to meet all our targets and you will be able to hold us to account through good governance and local democracy.
- We will lead by example, show strong community leadership and be open about the challenges we face and the tough decisions we have to make.
- We will put residents and customers at the centre of all that we do and the decisions we make through more meaningful, involvement and engagement.
- We will work with partners in all sectors so that we join up our services, make life easier for our residents and communities and deliver better outcomes for them.
- We will work together with residents and communities on solutions that better meet their needs and share responsibility deliver better outcomes together.
- We will manage our workforce, budgets, land, buildings, fleet and information to maximise our efficiency and make the biggest difference to our communities, nature and the environment.
- We will reduce the Council's Carbon Footprint and be a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030.
- We will be honest with our residents and regulators about where we are doing well and where we need to do better.
- We will put in place plans to care and support communities in emergency situations when they happen.

Our commitment to staff

We will provide equality of opportunity for all, so that staff feel valued and can reach their full potential. The Council's commitment to its staff and our communities is set out in full in our Strategic Equality Plan and Workforce Plan.

Our commitment to partners

We will be committed and active partners in our work with others, seeking and challenging where we can add more and better outcomes for our residents, communities and businesses by working together. You can see more about our [work with others](#).



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 JANUARY 2024

LOCAL AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AUTHOR: Paul Mee

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work undertaken by the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Group and to request elected Members to scrutinise and comment on the new draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Scrutinise the Council's corporate arrangements for the safeguarding of children and adults at risk including the new draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy, and
- 2.2 Scrutinise the new Delivery Plan for 2023-25 and progress to quarter 2, and
- 2.3 Request the Service Director for Democratic Services & Communications to provide Cabinet with the feedback of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in respect of the new draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The safeguarding of children and adults at risk is a priority for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, whether they work for, or on behalf of, the Council. Everyone should have the ability to identify what constitutes a potential safeguarding issue and know how to raise a concern.

- 3.2 It is essential that Members are confident that there are effective safeguarding arrangements in place across the Council, and that our corporate policy and governance is robust.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council adopted its current Corporate Safeguarding Policy at the meeting of Cabinet on [28th July 2020](#). This policy provides a framework setting out how we can be assured that we are fulfilling our duties to safeguard the people of Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 4.2 A Corporate Safeguarding Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, is responsible for ensuring that the Council carries out its responsibilities for the safeguarding of children and adults at risk, as set out in its Corporate Safeguarding Policy.
- 4.3 The Group ensures that robust arrangements for safeguarding are in place across the Council. This includes seeking assurances that the Council has effective performance management processes in place to fulfil its duties corporately and in partnership with other statutory agencies.
- 4.4 The Council's responsibilities for Corporate Safeguarding add to and complement the work of the [Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board](#), which is the multi-agency statutory partnership that has the responsibility for safeguarding across the region. Each agency must ensure that there are adequate arrangements in place to safeguard children and adults at risk.
- 4.5 A significant focus of work during the last 6 months has been the review of the current Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

5 THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- 5.1 The Council's corporate safeguarding policy is subject to review every three years to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and to reflect developments in legislation or best practice.
- 5.2 The policy has been reviewed against the [Welsh Government and WLGA Corporate Safeguarding Good Practice Guide](#) and reflects input on current safeguarding best practice from professionals working across the Council, including Children's Services, Adult Services, Human Resources, Procurement, Digital & ICT and others.
- 5.3 Arising from the review above, we have revised and strengthened our arrangements in a new draft policy set out in Appendix 1 for Member's consideration. The main changes to the policy are as follows:
- The corporate safeguarding framework has been revised to reflect good practice and now has four refreshed principal areas of focus:

- **Leadership & Culture** – a clear articulation of who this policy applies to and that leadership for safeguarding sits at the highest possible level with the Council's Leader and Chief Executive.
- **Governance, Scrutiny & Performance Management** – robust governance through the Corporate Safeguarding Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, robust challenge and scrutiny through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, underpinned by a performance management framework and annual delivery planning cycle.
- **Professional Practice & Service Standards** – a clear articulation of expectations in relation to professional practice in relation to those working with children and adults at risk and the duty to report that applies to all employees, elected members and those working on behalf of the Council.
- Service specific safeguarding considerations around licensing, planning, schools and education, procurement, digital and ICT, and partnerships.
- **Workforce, Recruitment & Selection** – clarity of requirements for mandatory training in compliance with the national safeguarding training, learning and development standards and recruitment processes that prevent unsuitable persons from working for the Council.

5.4 The policy also includes important information on what to do if a member of staff or Councillor suspects someone is at risk; a revised description of what constitutes abuse and/or exploitation to reflect current professional thinking; reference to an updated list of related Council policies, and a description of roles and responsibilities.

6 THE CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING DELIVERY PLAN FOR 2023-2025

6.1 A new Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Plan for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2025 has been developed by the Corporate Safeguarding Group. The Delivery Plan reflects how the Corporate Safeguarding Group will deliver the aims of the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

6.2 The progress against the Delivery Plan update and performance report covering the period to the end of quarter 2, is presented at Appendix 2. The plan includes actions to be delivered over two years to continue to strengthen the organisational approach to safeguarding, reflecting current best practice, legislation and learning from the regional and national Safeguarding Boards.

6.3 Notable progress to quarter 2 includes:

- The development of a new two-year Delivery Plan for 2023 – 2025, including actions relevant to operational safeguarding risks across the Council. The group membership has been expanded to include a wider range of functions to manage new general safeguarding risks, for example around digital and Data Security.

- The Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed and revised to reflect current legislation and practice and considering the WG/WLGA best practice guidance. The revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been expanded to include additional areas, including professional practice, Digital & ICT, planning and contextual safeguarding.
 - A new performance management framework is in place, aligned with the Council's wider performance reporting periods. We have included Corporate Safeguarding in the 2023/24 Service Self Evaluation and it is included as a new section in the corporate elements of the Annual Self-Assessment for 2022/23.
 - A Council specific Safeguarding Training Standards document based on the National Training Standards has been completed and was approved at the Corporate Safeguarding Group on 13th November 2023.
 - Data from schools collected through the "My Concern" safeguarding software system is monitored, and findings reported to the Headteacher safeguarding cluster convenor groups.
 - A thematic review of safeguarding issues arising from internal audit inspection of schools has been included in the annual Internal Audit programme.
 - A guide to '[Tackling Modern Slavery in our Supply Chains](#)' has been prepared and shared with suppliers to raise awareness.
 - Staff mandatory Safeguarding training continues to be rolled out and safe recruitment processes remain in place across the Council.
 - Staff awareness of Corporate Safeguarding requirements has been assessed in the recent staff survey and remains reassuringly high with 96% of respondents aware of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding policy and more importantly, 92% confirming they knew how to report suspected or know abuse/neglect.
- 6.4 The Delivery Plan will be revisited following end of year review and scrutiny to ensure any changes emerging from Corporate Policy revisions and/or Scrutiny feedback is fully reflected.

7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report does not require an equality impact assessment. An equality impact assessment screening exercise has been undertaken for the Corporate Safeguarding policy which indicates that there are no negative impacts upon protected groups. Consequently, there is no need to undertake a full equality impact assessment.

8 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are here are no negative or adverse Welsh Language implications associated with the recommendations set out in Section 2.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 There are no consultation implications arising with this report. Should the new draft Corporate Safeguarding Policy be approved by members following scrutiny, this will be shared with staff across the organisation, as part of our ongoing communication efforts to raise awareness and understanding of safeguarding responsibilities.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

11 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 11.1 The Council's Corporate Safeguarding arrangements function within a complex legislative framework, the details of which are covered in the Corporate Safeguarding Policy.

12 LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

- 12.1 Safeguarding and protecting children and adults at risk is a key priority for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and 'is everyone's business'. By keeping our residents, both young and old, safe, the Council is contributing to the National Well-being goals, in particular a Healthier Wales, a More Equal Wales and a Wales of more Cohesive Communities in particular.
- 12.2 The Council's Corporate Safeguarding arrangements support the 'PEOPLE' priority of the Council's current Corporate Plan 2020-24, '[Making a Difference](#)', particularly "supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities to remain independent and have a good quality of life...and ensuring the needs of children are considered in everything we do".

13 CONCLUSION

- 13.1 The Council continues to make progress in delivering its Corporate Safeguarding responsibilities. The new Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been reviewed against current guidance and revised accordingly. This establishes a framework within which the Council can discharge its safeguarding responsibilities to keep the most vulnerable people in our communities safe.
- 13.2 The Council's Corporate Safeguarding Group has developed a new Delivery Plan for 2023-25 to maintain focus on continuous improvement in respect of safeguarding practice, governance, recruitment, workforce, and procurement. Good progress is being made but as always, the Council will continue to actively monitor its performance and compliance through robust governance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 January 2024

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**LOCAL AUTHORITY ARRANGEMENTS TO
SAFEGUARD CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK**

Background Papers:

- a) The Council's Corporate Safeguarding Arrangements – [Cabinet – 28th July 2020](#)
- b) Local Authority Arrangements to Safeguard Children and Adults at Risk – [Cabinet – 25th March 2021](#)
- c) Local Authority Arrangements to Safeguard Children and Adults at Risk – [Community Services Scrutiny Committee – 24th October 2022](#)

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Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Corporate Safeguarding Policy

November 2023

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Safeguarding is everyone's business whether they work for, or on behalf of, the Council.

If a child, young person, or adult is in immediate danger, the Emergency Services (Police, Ambulance, Fire and Rescue) must be contacted immediately by calling 999.

- 1.2 The Council expects all its employees, elected members, commissioned services, suppliers, and contractors to be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, to be alert to children or adults at risk of harm and to act when they suspect someone is at risk of abuse or harm. Details of what to do if you suspect someone is at risk of harm are set out in Appendix I.
- 1.3 Corporate Safeguarding describes the policy commitment and arrangements that this Council has in place to ensure that all our services and employees play their part in safeguarding and promoting the well-being of children and adults who may be at risk of harm.
- 1.4 The Leader of the Council is the lead elected member and portfolio holder for Corporate Safeguarding. The Council has put in place robust governance for corporate safeguarding through its Corporate Safeguarding Group, chaired by the Chief Executive who is the Council's Safeguarding Champion, and through its wider democratic processes including Scrutiny and Cabinet.

What is Safeguarding?

- 1.5 Safeguarding involves both the protection of children and adults who need care and support from abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm and the prevention of children and adults from becoming at risk of abuse, neglect, or other kinds of harm.
- 1.6 The definitions of a child and adult at risk and the types of harm and/or exploitation are included in Appendix II.

Purpose of this Policy

- 1.7 The safeguarding of children and adults at risk is a priority for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.
- 1.8 This Corporate Safeguarding Policy provides a framework for every Service within the Council setting out responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children and adults at

risk as well as the methods by which the Council is assured that it is fulfilling its duties.

- 1.9 This policy applies to all Rhondda Cynon Taf employees, elected members, volunteers, and suppliers/service providers procured to deliver services on behalf of the Council.

Principles

- 1.10 This policy considers the following key principles:

- Every child and adult (whatever their background, culture, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, religious belief) has a right to participate in a safe society without any violence, fear, abuse, bullying or discrimination.
- Every child and adult have the right to be protected from harm, neglect, exploitation, and abuse.
- Everyone working for the Council and our elected members have a responsibility to protect children and adults from abuse and neglect and work in a way that promotes and supports their best interests.
- The Council will invest in preventative and early intervention services and is committed to prevent situations arising where abuse, neglect or harm may occur.
- The Council will act in response to any reported safeguarding concerns to ensure children and adults at risk are safe and protected.

2 Strategic Context

- 2.1 At a strategic level, this approach to safeguarding supports the delivery of the Council's well-being objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan. [The Council's Corporate Plan](#)
- 2.2 It also supports the priorities set out in the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board Strategic Plan. [CTMSB Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#).
- 2.3 At an all-Wales level, keeping people safe contributes to the Wellbeing goals as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act to improve the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales.

3 Related legislation, policy, and guidance

- 3.1 Legislation that is contained within the various Acts and guidance enshrine the right to

protection from abuse¹. The legal starting point in achieving this objective is professionals' duty to report² allegations of abuse and neglect. The law also identifies the Local Authority as the lead organisation³ in making enquiries to identify whether an individual is at risk and in coordinating the response to protect. In practice, this is never achieved in isolation or without clear leadership and accountability⁴ for the work that is equally set out in law, along with the duty to cooperate and collaborate⁵ with others.

3.2 Good practice in safeguarding brings together all activity aimed at promoting safe practice with vulnerable groups and preventing abuse and neglect. Safeguarding is governed by a framework of legislation; the Wales Safeguarding Procedures and is delivered through our corporate policies. The Council has specific policies that support our employees to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities, including those listed at Appendix IV.

3.3 The intention is that this Corporate Safeguarding Policy will supplement and not replace any responsibilities already set out in legislation, policy, or guidance.

4 Our Framework

4.1 The two key objectives of this policy are:

- a) To set out how Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will meet its obligations towards the safeguarding of children and adults.
- b) To give assurances to the public, elected members, employees, volunteers, and people carrying out work on behalf of the Council that there are sound arrangements in place to safeguard children and adults.

4.2 The Council will implement these objectives via the following framework:

¹ Human Rights Act 1999 and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

² Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

³ Children Act 1989 and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014

⁴ Children Act 2004

⁵ Children Act 1989, 2004 and Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014



Leadership & Culture

- 4.3 Safeguarding is everyone’s business. All the Council’s employees, elected members, commissioned services, suppliers, and contractors are to be aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, to be alert to children or adults at risk of harm and to act when they suspect someone is at risk of abuse or harm.
- 4.4 The Leader of the Council is the lead elected member and portfolio holder for Corporate Safeguarding. The Council has put in place robust governance for corporate safeguarding through its Corporate Safeguarding Group, chaired by the Chief Executive who is the Council’s Safeguarding Champion.

Governance, Scrutiny & Performance Management

- 4.5 The RCT Corporate Safeguarding Group is responsible for ensuring that the Council carries out its responsibilities, as set out in this Corporate Safeguarding Policy. The Group is chaired by the Chief Executive and has membership drawn from across the Council’s core functional responsibilities.
- 4.6 The Council will discharge its wider strategic statutory safeguarding responsibilities through its membership of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board (CTMSB). The Board has a statutory duty to develop an Annual Plan [CTMSB Strategic Plan 2023-2026](#) on a regional basis and has an overall responsibility for challenging relevant

agencies in relation to the measures that are in place to safeguard children and adults at risk.

- 4.7 The Council's Democratic process for challenge is its Scrutiny function. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee will receive an annual report describing how the Council has discharged its corporate safeguarding responsibilities. Through its robust performance management arrangements, the Council will be able to demonstrate the impact of its work and be accountable to elected members.

Professional Practice & Service Standards

- 4.8 In undertaking their work for the Council all employees, elected members and service provides/contractors must comply with relevant professional practice requirements, codes of conduct and service standards where they apply.
- 4.9 The Wales Safeguarding Procedures [Safeguarding Wales](#) set out arrangements for responding to safeguarding concerns about;
- those whose work, either in a paid or voluntary capacity, brings them into contact with children or adults at risk.
 - Individuals who have caring responsibilities for children or adults in need of care and support and their employment or voluntary work brings them into contact with children or adults at risk.
- 4.10 These procedures also support the Council's internal disciplinary procedures and provide guidance to deal appropriately with any concerns or allegations of professional abuse, neglect or harm and to ensure that all allegations of abuse made against employees or volunteers working with children, young people and adults at risk are dealt with in a fair, consistent and timely manner.
- 4.11 Children, young people, and adults live, learn, work, play and visit a wide range of settings in their neighbourhoods and communities. The Council with other public bodies will consider the risks that environments may present to children, young people, and adults. Our staff, volunteers and contractors will be the "eyes and ears" of the Council as they go about their jobs. Employees are equipped with safeguarding training, so they have a good basic understanding of what to do if they observe or are concerned about a potential safeguarding risk.
- 4.12 There are several service specific safeguarding considerations across the Council:

a) Licensing

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-25 [Licensing Policy](#) set out how the Council will discharge its duties under the Licensing Act 2003, including its expectations of the licensed trade in respect of safeguarding. The Council will carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives. The objectives are: -

- Prevention of crime and disorder,
- Protection of Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance, and
- The protection of children from harm

The Council works with a wide range of businesses and business leaders across Rhondda Cynon Taff. People working in these businesses may meet children and adults at risk of harm. People who work in these industries may be able to identify signs of exploitation and other forms of abuse. The Council will encourage licensed premises and other businesses to provide safeguarding training for their employees. All taxi drivers licensed by the Council are required to undertake a SQA level 2 certificate, "Introduction to the role of the professional taxi driver and private hire driver", which includes safeguarding training. Safeguarding advice for the taxi trade can be found here: [Safeguarding Advice for the Taxi Trade](#)

b) Planning

The Council in undertaking its planning authority duty will shape and influence where new licensed premises are located, the location of buildings and the design of public spaces to minimise opportunities for people to be harmed.

c) Schools and other Education Settings

Education settings play a key role in safeguarding and each setting will have a Child Safeguarding Policy which is updated annually by delegated representatives on behalf of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board and adopted by the Governing Body/Management Committee. Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires Local Authorities and Governing Bodies of maintained schools to have arrangements in place to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Governing Bodies and school employees must have regard for this guidance when fulfilling their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The Welsh Government [Keeping Learners Safe](#) guidance details the responsibilities of Local Authorities, Governing Bodies and proprietors of independent schools.

The Council will support schools in meeting their safeguarding duty through compliance processes including Internal Audit as well as advice and guidance via a dedicated Education function within MASH, and Local Authority Designated Lead Officers.

The Council also support the safeguarding of learners and their families via policies and processes for:

- Children Missing Education
- Child Performance Licensing, Child Employment Permits and Chaperones
- Education Other than at School (EOTAS)

d) Procurement

In consultation with the relevant service area, the Procurement Service will assess whether the requirements of this Corporate Safeguarding Policy will apply to any new contracting arrangement. Depending on the nature of specific contracts, the level of pre-appointment checks / required governance practices may vary.

- For those contracts where this Policy applies, the Council will have in place appropriate contract management arrangements as detailed in the contract terms and conditions.
- Following the appointment of a supplier / service provider the purpose of contract monitoring arrangements will be to ensure that supplier / service provider is managing their responsibilities as set out to them within the relevant tender documents and contract of engagement.

e) Digital & ICT

The Council understands that digital provides additional concerns for safeguarding and keeping employees safe using digital systems is a key requirement. Digital safety has become a worldwide risk for users of technology. To address this safeguarding risk the Council has several policies to provide appropriate guidance to employees.

There are several policies and processes that are issued to support the safeguarding of employees and residents.

- All solutions purchased by the authority must undertake a Security Assessment. The assessment evaluates information safety and security against NCSC guidance.
- The Council issues mandatory policies to support safeguarding.
- The Council also monitors and records usage to support safeguarding.

f) Partnerships & Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

The Council will work in partnership through the CTM Regional Safeguarding Board and its associated governance arrangements to ensure that effective measures are in place to safeguard children and adults across the region, challenge partners and provide accountability. The Council commits resources to this regional collaboration and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which brings together different agencies to enable fast information sharing with the purpose of making an efficient and informed decision to safeguard children and adults at risk.

Workforce, Recruitment & Selection

- 4.13 The Council will ensure that all employees and elected members understand their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding children and adults. All employees are required to undertake mandatory safeguarding training (children and adults) as well as the level 1 violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence training. Managers must ensure that this training forms part of the induction process for new employees.
- 4.14 The Council has developed a Standards document based on the National Safeguarding Training Standards developed by Social Care Wales, [National safeguarding training, learning and development standards](#) . This sets out the training standards for Safeguarding, required by RCT Council employees and contracted providers, who have a varied range of levels of contact with and responsibility for children and or parents /carers, and adults. These will include those who, in their work or volunteering, have limited contact with children, young people, their parents/carers and adults at risk, but have no specific responsibility for them, to those who have the highest levels of responsibilities for them, including at strategic level.

4.15 The Council will ensure that safe recruitment processes are in place to prevent, wherever possible, unsuitable people from working in or volunteering for certain roles, particularly roles that involve children or adults at risk. This includes:

- Disclosure and Barring Service checks,
- Recruitment and selection training for managers,
- References and checks prior to employment,
- Reviewing recruitment and selection procedures regularly and auditing effectiveness.

5 Confidentiality

5.1 Information sharing is vital for the safeguarding of children and adults at risk. The Council is committed to complying with data protection law which allows it to use and share personal information only where we have a proper and lawful reason for doing so. The Data Protection legislation does not put barriers in place for sharing information but enhances individuals' rights to have their personal information processed fairly, lawfully, and transparently.

5.2 As a matter of good practice employees should inform the child, their parent or adult at risk about their service's policy on how information will be shared and seek consent.

5.3 Confidential information can be shared without consent if it is required by law, or directed by a court, or if the benefits to a child or young person that will arise from sharing the information outweigh both the public and the individual's interest in keeping the information confidential. In practice, where there are concerns that a child or adult at risk may be experiencing abuse or neglect, it will be lawful for that information to be shared. Welsh Government has produced a fact sheet regarding this issue. It can be found at [information sharing to safeguard children and adults](#)

5.4 Employees should seek advice from their Line Manager or Information Management Team if they are in any doubt about sharing personal information.

6 Roles and responsibilities

6.1 All employees, elected members, volunteers and suppliers/service providers (procured to deliver services on behalf of the Council) have the duty to report

concerns about abuse and neglect.

6.2 Children's Services has the responsibility for receiving and responding to new concerns about children and Adult Services has the responsibility for receiving and responding to new concerns about adults at risk. The responsibilities of key roles in the Council are set out in Appendix III:

APPENDIX I – What to do if you suspect someone is at risk.

If a child, young person, or adult at risk is in immediate danger, the Emergency Services (Police, Ambulance, Fire and Rescue) must be contacted immediately by calling 999.

All those employed by, or working on behalf of, the Council should be alert to the possibility of abuse. An individual may become concerned about a child or an adult at risk in several ways:

- The person may tell you,
- The person may say something that worries you,
- A third party may voice concerns,
- You may see something that concerns you,

Any person with concerns regarding the safety of a child/adult at risk, **OR** the behaviour of a colleague towards a child/adult at risk, has a responsibility to report this immediately.

01443 425003 (adults) 01443 425006 (children)

E-mail:

adultsatrisk@rctcbc.gov.uk (adults)

IAATeam@rctcbc.gov.uk (children)

After 5.00pm, Monday to Friday and on weekends and Public Holidays contact the Emergency Duty Team on 01443 743665 or email:

SocialWorkEmergencyDutyTeam@rctcbc.gov.uk

We all have a responsibility to report safeguarding concerns, regardless of a person's status, profession, or authority. Any concerns about the conduct or behaviour of a practitioner/person in a position of trust must be reported to social services or the police.

APPENDIX II - What constitutes abuse and/or exploitation.

Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 part 7 - Working Together to Safeguard People

Section 128 of the Act imposes a duty to report adults at risk

The Act imposes a new duty on relevant partners to report to a local authority if it is suspected that an adult is an adult at risk.

An “adult at risk”, is an adult who:-

- (a) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect;
- (b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs); and
- (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Section 130 of the Act imposes a duty to report children at risk

The Act defines a ‘child at risk’ as a child who:

- (a) is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm; and
- (b) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs).

Section 197(1) of the Act provides definitions of ‘abuse’ and ‘neglect’:

“**abuse**” means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse (and includes abuse taking place in any setting, whether in a private dwelling, an institution or any other place), and

“**neglect**” means a failure to meet a person’s basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person’s well-being (for example, an impairment of the person’s health or, in the case of a child, an impairment of the child’s development);

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples for each of the categories of abuse and neglect:

- **Physical abuse** - hitting, slapping, over or misuse of medication, physical harm may also be caused by fabricating or inducing an illness, undue restraint, or inappropriate sanctions. The use of physical punishment toward children is now illegal in Wales. [Ending physical punishment in Wales | GOV.WALES](#)
- **Sexual abuse** - rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the person has not or could not consent and/or was pressured into consenting;
- **Psychological/Emotional abuse** - threats of harm or abandonment, coercive control, humiliation, verbal or racial abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or

supportive networks; coercive control is an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten the victim

- **Neglect** - failure to access medical care or services, negligence in the face of risk-taking, failure to give prescribed medication, failure to assist in personal hygiene or the provision of food, shelter, clothing; emotional neglect
- **Financial abuse** - Financial or material abuse, including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits. This will normally only be applicable to adults at risk but may apply to a child in circumstances such as a parent/carer using a child's inheritance in a way that does not contribute to the child's wellbeing.

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

Child sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This includes physical contact, penetrative or non-penetrative acts; non-contact activities including online harm, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

The Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 defines Domestic Abuse as being abuse where the victim is or has been associated with the abuser. The abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

Witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse. It is important to understand that if a child is at risk, action must be taken.

Violence Against Women describes types of abuse and violent acts that are primarily or exclusively experienced by women (also known as gender-based violence).

Sexual Violence is any unwanted sexual act or activity such as sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, or threats of violence of a sexual nature.

Suicide and Self Harm

There is no universal definition of self-harm and different strategies, policies and research use different definitions. The Welsh Assembly Government definition is "the intentional self-poisoning or self-injury irrespective of the nature of motivation or degree of suicidal intent".

Self-Harm behaviour regardless of intent is one of the top five reasons for medical admission in the UK. It is more common in females and the risk of repetition is high – up to 40% will go in to repeat ('Talk to Me 2' Strategy for Wales, 2015-2020).

The Talk to Me 2 Strategy defines suicide as "a death resulting from an intentional self-inflicted act".

Suicide is a major cause of death amongst the 15 to 44 age group in Wales. In 2010-2012,

it accounted for almost one in five deaths ('Talk to Me 2' Strategy, for Wales 2015-2020).

Forms of Exploitation

Provided below are definitions of the different types of exploitation (list is not exhaustive). Please see Wales Safeguarding Procedures for more detailed information and relevant practice guides for more information. [Safeguarding Wales](#)

- **Online Grooming:** Online grooming is term used broadly to describe the tactics abuse deploy through the internet to exploit children. It can happen quickly or over time, but at its core it is a process of exploiting trust to shift expectations of what safe behaviour is and leveraging fear and shame to keep a child silent. It is a difficult but important reality to face so that we can take steps to stop it.

Technology did not create grooming—the process has existed in offline abuse—but the variety of platforms in existence, and the prominence of digital environments in our lives, has increased abusers' reach and opportunity.

Adults seeking to abuse children will go where kids are. As a result, grooming can theoretically happen just about anywhere online.

Predators can reach children in video game chats, possibly creating fictional personas to develop a sense of kinship with victims or portraying themselves as a trustworthy adult in a place where other adults are largely absent.

With the popularity of live streaming across online platforms, an interaction may start as something that feels harmless to the child, such as encouraging specific dance moves to the latest hit or celebrating a new gymnastics routine. However, this type of action can quickly turn into something more concerning when an innocent moment is captured and shared elsewhere online or the interaction continues on over the course of time, with boundaries being pushed along the way.

Perhaps this is why online grooming can also be one of the most challenging issues to understand - it's so varied, and sometimes it feels like it can happen anywhere that children interact with the online world.

- **Sexual Exploitation:** This is a form of sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18, or adult with care and support needs, into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.
- **Missing people:** The definition of missing:
 - "Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established will be considered missing until located and their well-being confirmed." (College of Policing, APP)

- There a number of immediate risks associated with going missing, which could include:
- Involvement in criminal activities;
- Victim of abuse;
- Victim of crime, for example through sexual assault and exploitation;
- Alcohol/substance misuse;
- Deterioration of physical and mental health;
- Missing out on education;
- Sexual and financial exploitation as a result of trafficking.

South Wales Police are the lead agency responsible for the initial risk assessment and management of missing person enquiries and the ensuing investigation to locate the person. The College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) places all missing persons within a continuum of risk ranging from 'no apparent risk' (previously referred to as 'absent'), through to 'high risk' cases requiring immediate, intensive collaborative action. The risk assessment for missing persons is a guide to the appropriate level of response based on initial and ongoing risk assessment in a case. Actively reviewing risk levels on an ongoing basis remains important for all agencies involved to enable them to assess changing circumstances and respond accordingly. While adults can be deemed to be 'no apparent risk' South Wales Police and partners do not deem a child to be 'No apparent risk' or 'Low risk'. Given their age and associated vulnerability they will be classified as either 'Medium' or 'High'.

• **Serious Youth Violence:** There are several definitions that describe 'Serious Youth Violence' but the one element that they all have in common is that they all focus on the **age** of the person involved in the incident and the **gravity** of the offence:

Serious Youth Violence is defined as '*any offence of most serious violence or weapon enabled crime, where the victim is aged 1-19*' i.e. murder, manslaughter, rape, wounding with intent and causing grievous bodily harm. 'Youth violence' is defined in the same way, but also includes assault with injury offences.

Young people associated with gangs are highly vulnerable. Sexual violence amongst peers is commonplace and it is used as a means of power and control over others, most commonly young women. Young people affected by or associated with gangs are at high risk of sexual exploitation and violence and will require safeguarding. Sexual exploitation is used in gangs to exert power and control over members / Initiate young people into the gang / exchange sexual activity for status or protection / entrap rival gang members by exploiting girls and young women and inflict sexual assault as a weapon in conflict.

A gang is defined as 'a relatively durable, predominantly street-based group of young people who: 1. see themselves (and are seen by others) as a discernible group; 2. engage in criminal activity and violence; 3. lay claim over territory (not necessarily geographical but can include an illegal economy territory); 4. have some form of identifying structural feature; and 5. are in conflict with other, similar, gangs.

- **Criminal Exploitation:** Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a

child, young person or an adult into any criminal activity: (a) In exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) For the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator (such as to support serious organised crime and/or terrorism), and/or (c) Through violence or the threat of violence to ensure compliance. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology and/or social media. Because they are more likely to be easily detected, individuals who are exploited are more likely to be arrested and criminalised for criminal behaviour, than those individuals or groups who are exploiting them. Individuals who are being criminally exploited can be involved, linked to or considered to be (by themselves or others) as part of a “gang”. It is important when children or adults identify or are identified as being affected or involved with gang-related activity that involves the use of actual or threatened violence and/or drug dealing that professionals also consider that they may be victims of criminal exploitation. Criminal exploitation is broader than but often part of organised crime and county lines.

- **Organised Crime & County lines:** Organised Crime is “serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain.” Organised crime groups are “organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities.” County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and adults to move, [locally supply] and store the drugs and money. They will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.
- **Cuckooing:** This term is “named after the nest stealing practices of wild cuckoos. It describes the situation where a county lines dealer ‘takes over’ accommodation located in the provincial drugs market, using it as a local dealing base.” (Coomber and Moyle: 2017) An individual or group can do this by taking over the homes of local adults and families through an abuse of power or vulnerability by coercion, control and/or force so that they can provide a base for the supply of drugs into the local community. This places the adult and/or families at an increased risk of eviction (if they are in social or privately rented housing) and isolation from their communities due to the anti-social activity it can create. Cuckooing often forms part of wider ‘county lines’ activity and is also a form of criminal exploitation.
- **Modern Slavery:** Modern slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. It covers a wide range of abuse and exploitation including sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced labour, criminal exploitation and organ harvesting. Victims of modern slavery can be any age, gender, nationality and ethnicity. They are tricked or threatened into work and may feel unable to leave or report the crime through fear or intimidation. They may not recognise themselves as a victim.
- **Human Trafficking:** Article 3 of the Palermo Protocol (2000) defines trafficking as follows: “Trafficking of persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position

of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

- **Hate Crime:** The term 'hate crime' can be used to describe a range of criminal behaviour where the perpetrator is motivated by hostility or demonstrates hostility towards the victim's disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or transgender identity. These aspects of a person's identity are known as 'protected characteristics'. A hate crime can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and bullying, as well as damage to property. The perpetrator can also be a friend, carer or acquaintance who exploits their relationship with the victim for financial gain or some other criminal purpose.

Harmful practices related to tradition, culture, religion, or superstition

- **'Honour' Based Abuse:** The concept of 'honour' is a deeply held belief within many families and communities and those who are perceived to dishonour their family or community by their behaviour can be subject to abuse, emotional abuse and death. 'Honour' crime involves abuse and/or violence, including murder, committed by people who want to defend the reputation of their family or community. It can also take the forms of intimidation, coercive control or blackmail. Honour killing is the murder of a person accused of "bringing shame" upon their family.
- **Forced Marriage:** Forced marriage is an unacceptable cultural practice; it is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls. Forced marriage is illegal in the UK. For the purpose of the criminal law in England and Wales, forced marriage is one which occurs without the full and free consent of one or both parties. Forced Marriage can involve both males and females.
- **Female Genital Mutilation:** Female Genital Mutilation is also known as Female Circumcision or Female Genital Cutting (FGC) and is a traditional cultural practice. The procedure causes severe short and long term health consequences, including difficulties with childbirth, causing danger to the mother and child and mental health problems. FGM has no health benefits, and it causes significant harm. It involves removing and damaging healthy and normal female genital tissue and interferes with the natural functions of girls' and women's bodies. Generally speaking, the health risks increase with increasing severity of the procedure, although the psychological effects may be similar whether or not the procedure is physically severe.

Prevent/Extremism: 'Extremism' is defined in the 2011 Prevent Strategy as vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. 'Violent Extremism' is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) as:

"The demonstration of unacceptable behaviour by using any means or medium to express views, which:

- “Encourage, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs;
- Seek to provoke others to terrorist acts;
- Encourage other serious criminal activity or seek to provoke others to serious
- criminal acts:
- Foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence in the UK.”

There are a number of offences that can be considered when dealing with violent extremism. They include offences arising through spoken words, creation of tapes and videos of speeches, internet entries, chanting, banners and written notes and publications. The main offences employed to date have been soliciting murder and inciting racial hatred.

‘Radicalisation’ refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups. Radicalisation is usually a process not an event.

APPENDIX III – Relevant Council Policies

- Whistle-Blowing Policy,
- Recruitment & Selection Policies,
- Dealing with Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence,
- Regional Safeguarding Board Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding children, young people, and adults at risk,
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg Schools Safeguarding Policy,
- Social media policy,
- Information Security Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Security Incident and Event Reporting
- Internet and Email Acceptable Use Policy
- Acceptable use of Office 365 Teams v1.2
- Office 365 Teams Live Events Protocol
- Password Management Standard

APPENDIX IV – Roles & Responsibilities

ROLE IN THE COUNCIL	RESPONSIBILITIES
<p>Lead Member for Corporate Safeguarding - the Leader of the Council</p>	<p>The Lead Member will work closely with and take professional advice from a range of Senior Officers within the Authority, as appropriate.</p> <p>The Lead Member will liaise and consult with other Cabinet Members on individual matters likely to affect their portfolios as set out in the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.</p>
<p>The Chief Executive</p>	<p>To act as the ‘champion’ for Corporate Safeguarding.</p> <p>Ensure that there are effective safeguarding arrangements in place, including policies and procedures, that those policies and procedures are implemented, that there are effective governance arrangements in place and that all statutory requirements are being met.</p> <p>Work with the Council's Statutory Director for Social Services to ensure there are effective arrangements to safeguard and protect children and adults at risk across the Council. Specifically to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor the implementation of and compliance with this Policy across the Council • ensure that there is a corporate safeguarding training programme in place • set clear lines of accountability, • ensure that there are lead safeguarding managers within each service area • ensure that the Council implements the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. • ensure that annual service reports are prepared • ensure that the annual corporate safeguarding report for Scrutiny is delivered
<p>Statutory Director of Social Services</p>	<p>This role, as defined by the Social Services and Well-Being Act 2014, is fulfilled by the RCT Director of Community and Children’s Services and has the final and indivisible accountability to safeguard children and adults at risk. The annual service reports will be an opportunity for challenge and used to inform the ‘Director of Social Services - Annual Report’.</p>

	<p>Work with the Council's Chief Executive to ensure there are effective arrangements to safeguard and protect children and adults at risk across the Council. Specifically to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor the implementation of and compliance with this Policy across the Council • ensure that there is a corporate safeguarding training programme in place • set clear lines of accountability • ensure that there are lead safeguarding managers within each service area • ensure that the Council implements the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. • ensure that annual service reports are prepared • ensure that the annual corporate safeguarding report for Scrutiny is delivered
<p>Directors, Service Directors and Heads of Service</p>	<p>Through their Management Teams, will be responsible for ensuring that all the statutory requirements in terms of safeguarding children and adults at risk are addressed. They are also responsible for putting in place appropriate systems within their service areas that ensure compliance with this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring appropriate training is delivered. • Communicating information about who employee need to contact and making sure this information is reviewed regularly so that is up to date and accurate. • Compiling a report in respect of their Safeguarding arrangements that will be used to inform the Director of Social Services' Annual Report.
<p>Managers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruiting employees/volunteers in accordance with relevant HR policy, including (where required) Disclosure and Barring Service checks. • Ensuring safeguarding is part of every employee/volunteer's induction. • Identifying employees/volunteers who are likely to come into contact with children or adults at risk as part of their role. • Ensuring training is delivered commensurate with role. • Ensuring that all employees/volunteers are aware of how to report safeguarding concerns and to whom

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice to employees/volunteers on how to report a safeguarding concern • Ensuring that all employees/volunteers are aware of the Council's Whistleblowing Policy • Ensuring that employees/volunteers are aware that they must conduct themselves in a manner which safeguards and promotes the wellbeing of children, and adults at risk. • Providing employees/volunteers with guidance about reporting safeguarding concerns as required.
Service Commissioners	Ensure that contractual arrangements specify responsibilities in relation to safeguarding in accordance with this policy and existing commissioning policies.
Contractors, sub-contractors or other organisations funded by, or on behalf of, the Council	Arrange checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (where required) and ensure that their employee comply with regulatory and contractual arrangements relating to safeguarding children and adults at risk. Contractors are also responsible for informing relevant managers of the Council about any concerns they may have and to refer such safeguarding concerns to the MASH.
Elected Members	<p>Should attend training in respect of safeguarding children and adults at risk and additional safeguarding training needs, e.g. in relation to their portfolios will be addressed as part of ongoing Personal Development Reviews.</p> <p>Should report any safeguarding concerns in accordance with this Policy.</p>
Employees	<p>Should attend training in respect of safeguarding children and adults at risk and additional safeguarding training needs, e.g. in relation to their portfolios will be addressed as part of ongoing Personal Development Reviews.</p> <p>Should report any safeguarding concerns in accordance with this Policy.</p>

DELIVERY PLAN - 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2026

Service	Corporate Safeguarding
Policy Lead	Paul Mee
What are we trying to achieve	Keeping Children and Adults at Risk Safe through strengthened corporate arrangements

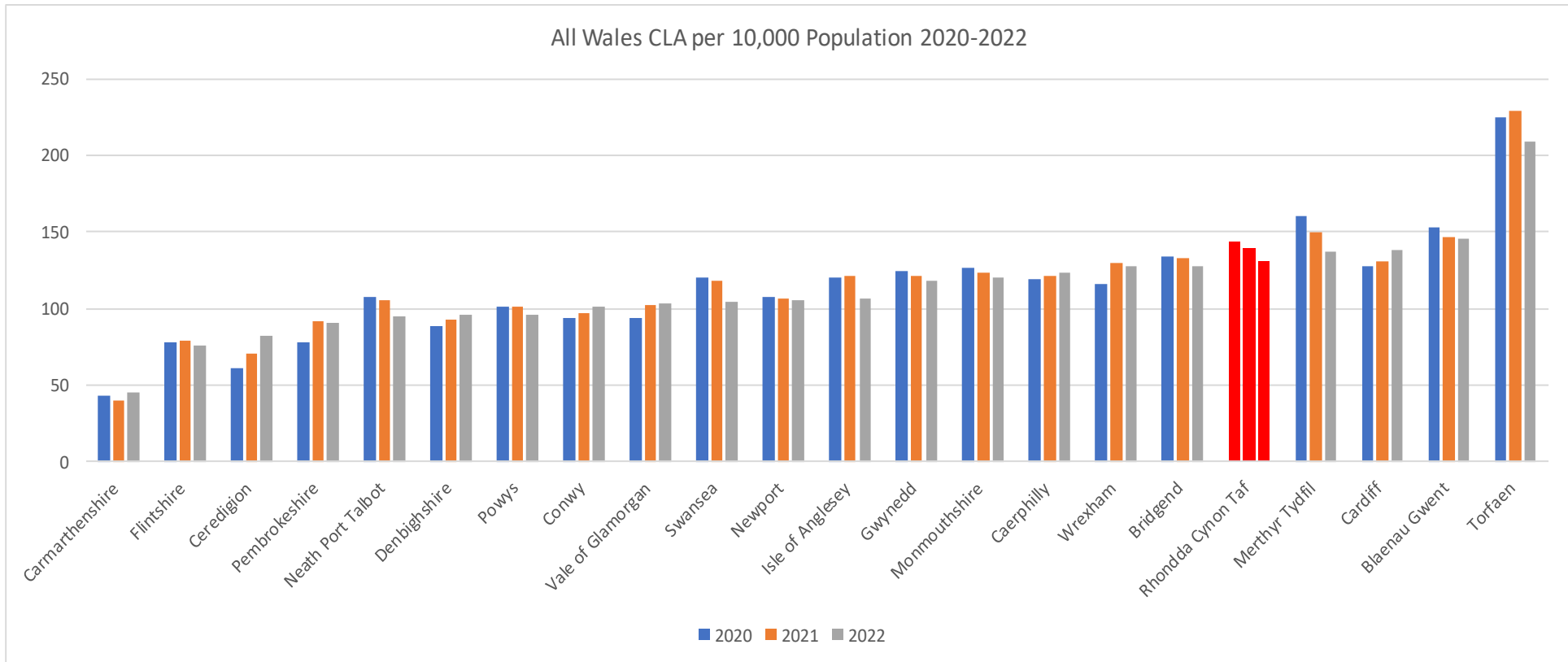
Quarter 2 Update 2023/24

Children

During 2020, 2021 & 2022, RCT's Children Looked After (CLA) numbers dropped per 10,000 of the population; from 143 in 2020 ,139 in 2021to 131 in 2022. RCT has the 5th highest rates of looked after children out of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales.

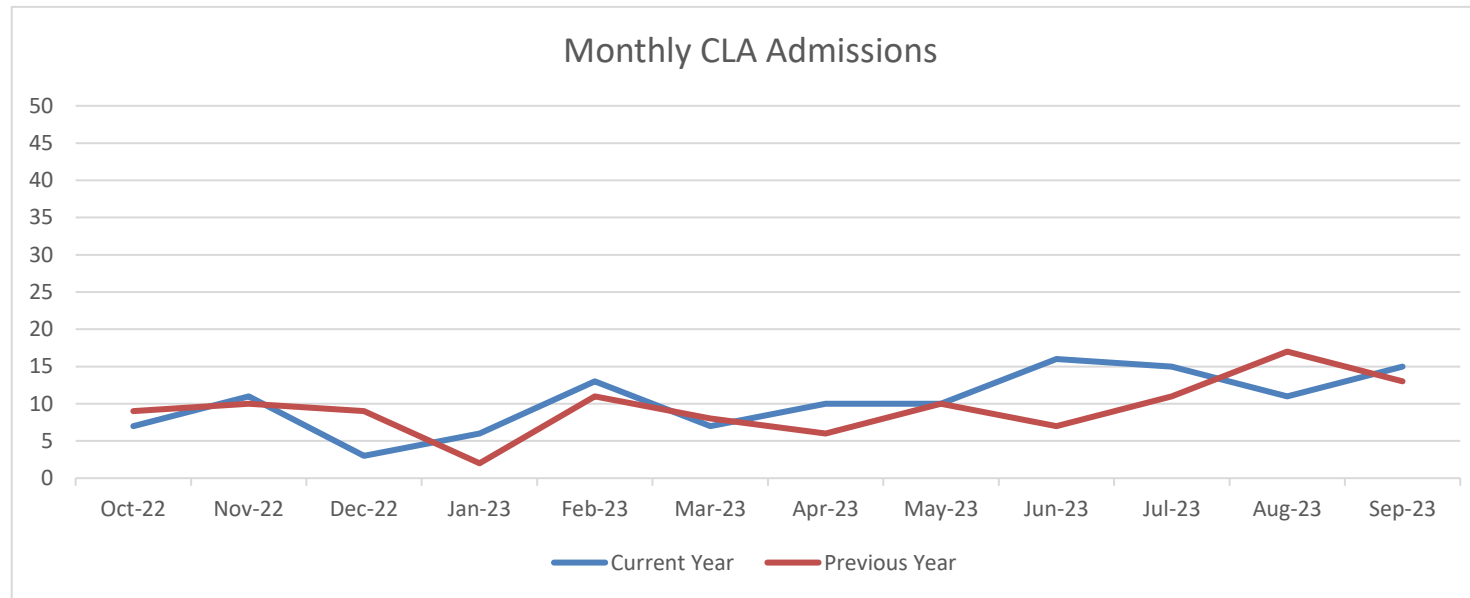
All Wales CLA per 10,000 Population 2020-2022

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Quarter 2 Update 2023/24

The number of CLA admissions during the period October 2022 to September 2023 increased when compared to the same period in 2021-22, from 113 in 2021-22 to 125 in 2022-23, a **11% increase in admissions**.



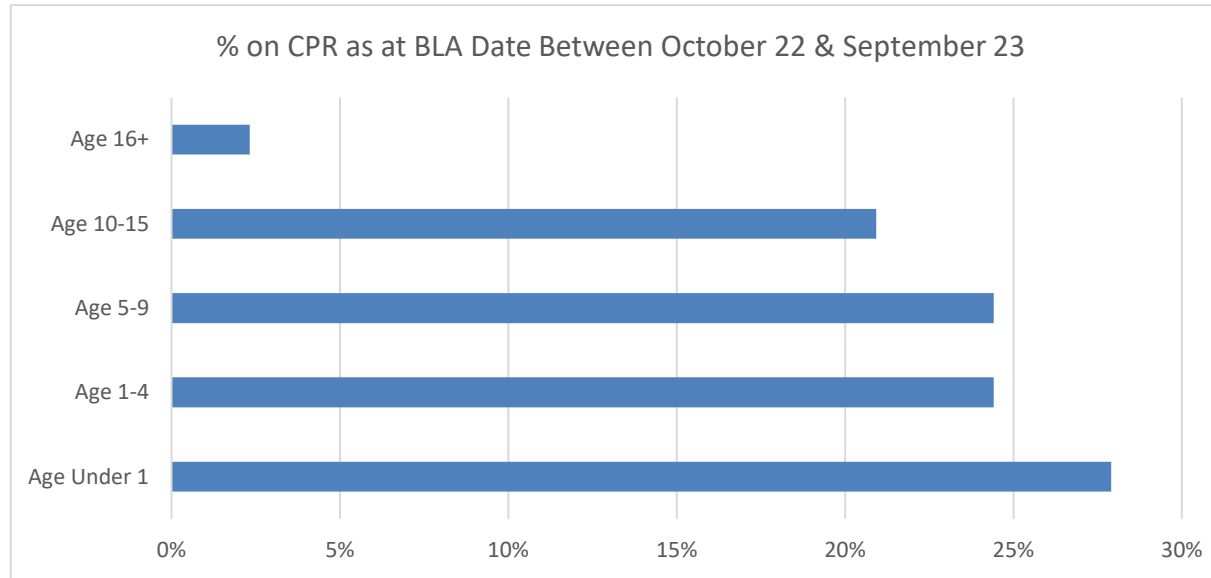
20% of admissions are children aged under 1 year old. The number has decreased from 29 to 25 when compared to the same period in 2021-22 but the trend shows that this age group continues to have the highest number of admissions. More male babies (17/25 admissions) under 1, became looked after compared to female (8/25 admissions).

Comparisons between 21/22 & 22/23 show that the highest number are brought into care within the first week after birth. The second highest age group were for babies aged 2 months +.

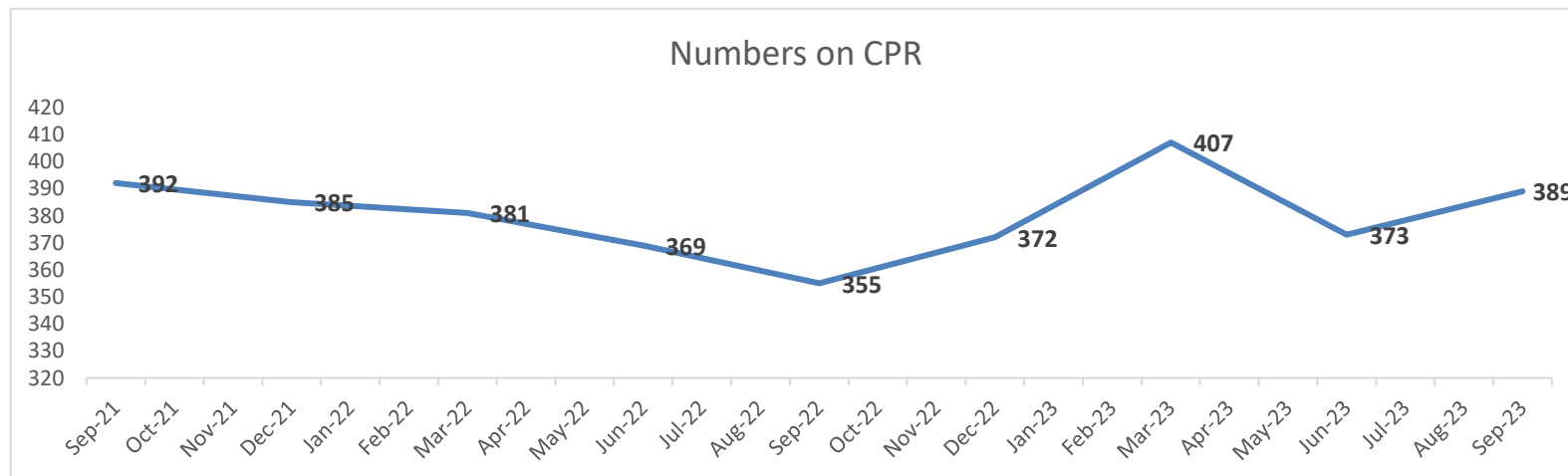
Based on current CLA numbers (636) the highest number are in the 10-15 age group with 278 children in care (44%). This age group is consistently the highest number & percentage.

Quarter 2 Update 2023/24

Out of the 125 CLA admissions since October 2022, 86 (80%) of the children were on the CPR at the point of coming into care. This percentage excludes the 18 admissions managed by the Enquiry and Assessment teams as these children wouldn't have gone through the CP process.

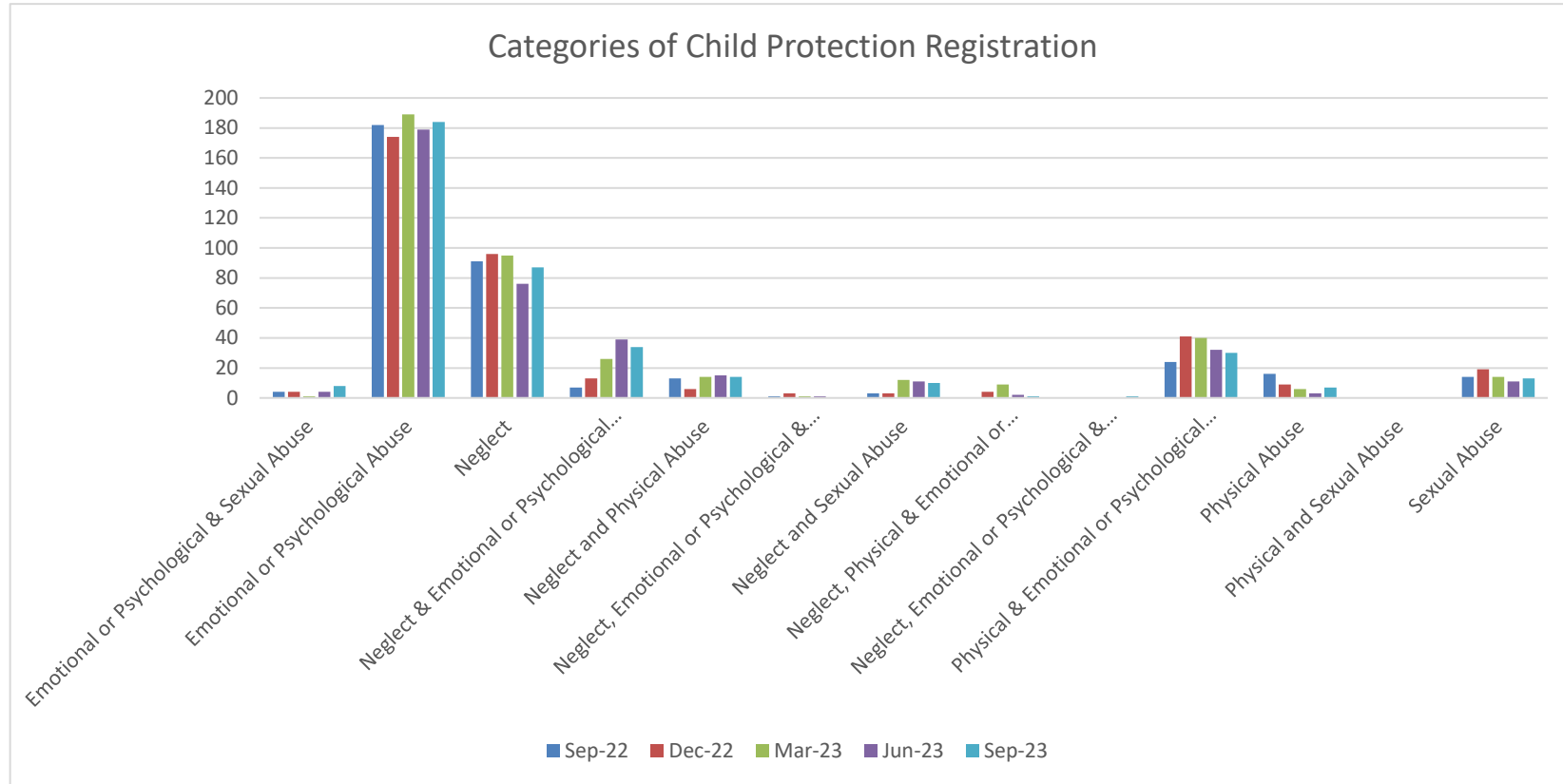


We have seen a rise in our Child Protection Register numbers, from a low of 355 in September 22 to a high of 407 at year end, March 23. Since the start of 2023/24, the numbers have fluctuated, with a fall to 373 in Q1 & an increase to 389 at the end of Q2.



Quarter 2 Update 2023/24

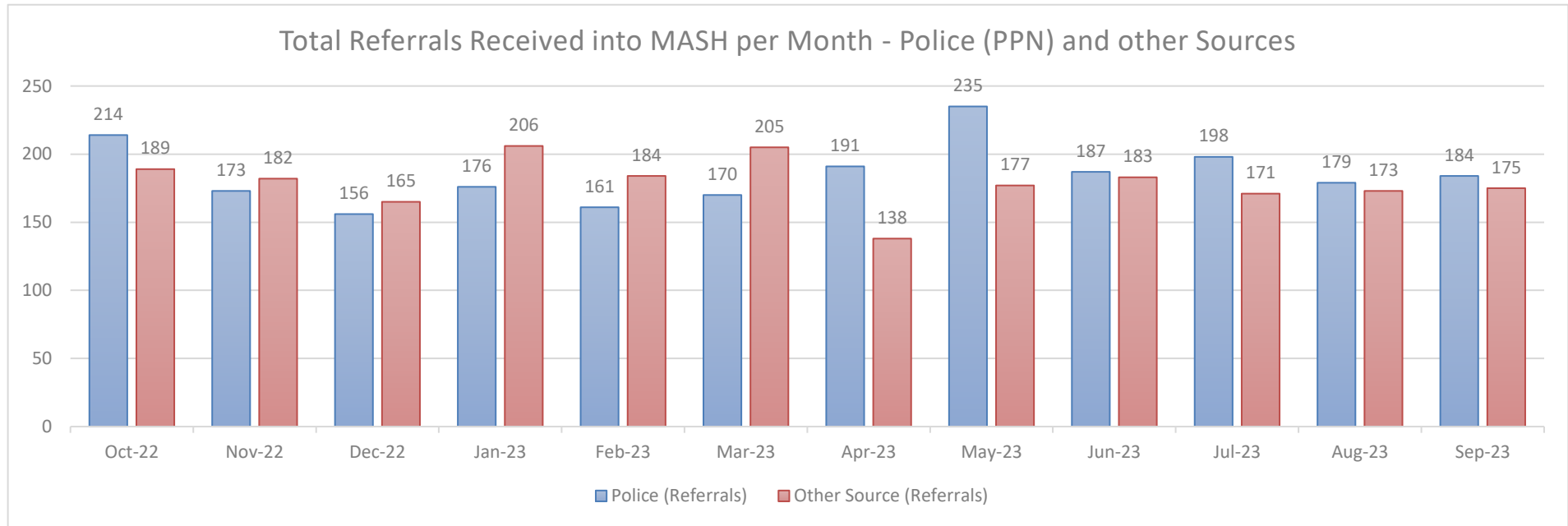
In RCT, the highest percentage of children on the CPR are under the category of Emotional or Psychological, followed by Neglect. Albeit the numbers are small, we also have some children on the CPR due to multiple risk factors.



Quarter 2 Update 2023/24

Adults

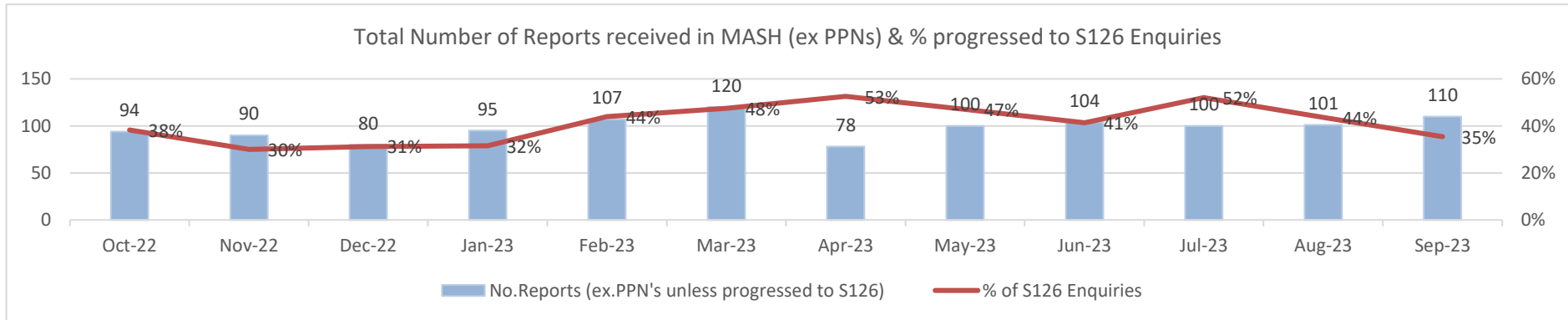
Between October 2022 and September 2023, there were 4,372 Adult at Risk referrals made to RCT's Adult Safeguarding Team at the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), compared with 4,620 during the same period 2021-22. Of these, 2,224 came from Police and 1,181 reports were made by Council staff, elected Members or commissioned service providers.



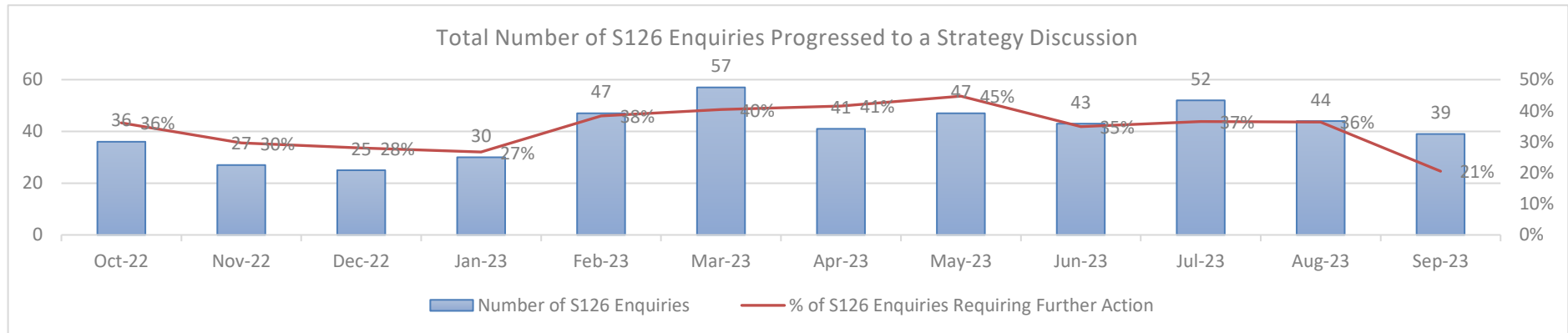
Quarter 2 Update 2023/24

Of the reports received, 43% were concerns about neglect of Adult at Risk. The next most common form of reported abuse was physical abuse (22%).

Section 126 enquiries were carried out in 493 cases (42%) and, of these cases, 180 (37%) were found to be in need of protection and were progressed to formal strategy discussion and further Safeguarding action.



The average timescale for the initial evaluation of Safeguarding Reports was 0.5 days. The percentage of enquires completed within 7 working days was 83%, although the average time for the completion of enquiries was 5 days.



CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING DELIVERY PLAN 2023-25

PURPOSE	Keeping Children and Adults at Risk Safe through by widening and strengthening the organisational approach to delivering the Objectives of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy areas
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Delivery Actions		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
SAFE PRACTICE							
P1A01	Review the Corporate Safeguarding Policy	M01	Revisit the 'Strap line 'and Vision for the Policy. Be clear about what is safeguarding. Post pandemic legacy and the impact on children and young people. Safe systems as a cross cutting theme	Nov-23	PM with group input	On Target	Task & finish group has met and the policy has been comprehensively reviewed and revised in accordance with the WG/WLGA Good Practice Guidance.
						On Target	Welsh Government/WLGA Good Practice Guidance 2022
		M02	Review the content of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy in the context of current good practice, the Wales Safeguarding Procedures, WLGA Guidance and new and emerging risks. Additional areas to consider: <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhoods and communities (see WG Good Practice Guide) and Safe Spaces <input type="checkbox"/> Exploitation <input type="checkbox"/> Harmful Sexual Behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Modern slavery <input type="checkbox"/> Links to LDP – design of buildings to minimise abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing <input type="checkbox"/> Digital safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/> Participation <input type="checkbox"/> Equalities and Diversity	Nov-23	PM with group input Liaise with Community Safety and Zoe Lancelott re Safe Spaces and community wardens	On Target	Task & finish group has met and the Policy has been comprehensively reviewed and revised in accordance with the WG/WLGA good practice guidance. The revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy has been expanded to include additional areas, including professional practice, digital & ICT, planning and contextual safeguarding. The draft Policy will be considered at the Corporate Safeguarding group meeting on 13th November and subject to any further amendments, be presented to Cabinet for approval following pre Scrutiny by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2024.
P1A02	Put in place a series of communication activities/materials to ensure staff and elected Members are made aware of their responsibilities in respect of Keeping People Safe and aligns to CTM Safeguarding arrangements and campaigns	M01	Utilise a range of methods to maximise reach including <input type="checkbox"/> posters <input type="checkbox"/> improved web site presence <input type="checkbox"/> social media <input type="checkbox"/> iTrent <input type="checkbox"/> bulletins	Nov-23	Corporate Comms	Not on Target	Progress for comms is dependent on clearance of new Safeguarding Policy. The implementation of the new Safeguarding Policy, following approval in February 2024, will be accompanied by a range of Comms activity to refresh and widen knowledge of keeping people safe. In the meantime, we continue to support a range of activities to keep people safe, eg. through our current Keeping People Safe arrangements inc Keeping People Safe Comms; 'Ask for Angela'; White Ribbon Day and associated support for people experiencing domestic abuse.
						Complete	Keeping People Safe Poster
						Complete	Ask for Angela
						Complete	White Ribbon day
		Complete	Support for Domestic Abuse				
		M02	Consider comms approaches to maximise reach for non-IT users.	Nov-23	Christian Hanagan	Not on Target	As M01 above
		M03	Develop a Good Practice approach for Managers to include safeguarding as part of supervisions, individual performance reviews and team meetings. To be reviewed as part of Policy	Jan-24	Policy development Team	On Target	Work to develop the approach is ongoing and is being considered as part of the implementation of the revised Safeguarding Policy following its consideration and approval by Cabinet.

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CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING DELIVERY PLAN 2023-25

PURPOSE	Keeping Children and Adults at Risk Safe through by widening and strengthening the organisational approach to delivering the Objectives of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy areas
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Delivery Actions		Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
P1A03	Improve wider external communications relating to safeguarding being 'everybody's business'	M01	Liaise with services to develop comms and awareness campaigns Consider improved awareness raising in relation to taxi drivers, licensed facilities and local businesses, see WG Good practice guide. Will require liaison with service leads.	Mar-24	TBC	On Target	New Comms work programme is in development and will take account of Safeguarding requirements as set out in new Safeguarding Policy areas; the impact of changes in office accommodation and take account of any synergies with Regional Safeguarding Board.
P1A04	Review the Council's Social Media policy	M01	Ensure that this includes safeguarding and the expectations on the use of social media, use of photographs etc	Dec-23	Christian Hanagan	On Target	The Schools specific Social Media Policy is scheduled for consideration by School Governors in the Spring Term. Work to review the wider Social Media arrangements are in hand
P1A05	Continue to strengthen the CS processes that demonstrate the impact of the new CS Policy Ensure that monitoring arrangements are in place to review how the new Corporate Safeguarding Policy is making a difference	M01	Areas to consider: <input type="checkbox"/> Source of referrals <input type="checkbox"/> Staff survey <input type="checkbox"/> Suppliers survey <input type="checkbox"/> Public awareness feedback/surveys	Mar-24	Emma Walters Jackie Neale Marc Crumbe	On Target	Progress on this action will be accelerated as part of the implementation of the new Corporate Safeguarding Policy following its approval by Cabinet.
P1A06	Put in place arrangements that will increase the visibility of Safeguarding activity, governance and compliance within RCT schools and establish monitoring arrangements	M01i	To include •thematic analysis of safeguarding in schools as an integral part of the ongoing annual Internal Audit work programme.	Apr-24	Gaynor Davies	Complete	This is included in the Audit Programme moving forward and will be published annually.
		M01ii	•Schools data and compliance – 'My Concern'	Sep-23	Dan Williams	Complete	Arrangements are in place with regular 'Health Checks' undertaken by the Safeguarding Company to monitor system usage. Findings are being reported to the Headteacher Safeguarding Cluster Convenor group on 17th November. Update report considered by Corporate Safeguarding Group on 13th November

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING DELIVERY PLAN 2023-25

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Delivery Actions	Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
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SAFE GOVERNANCE

P2A01	Ensure that the Council carries out its safeguarding responsibilities through robust effective and transparent governance arrangements	M01	Carry out a review of the Terms of Reference and membership of CSG in the context of the new CS Policy.	Apr-24	PM and Policy use	On Target	Policy scheduled for consideration by SLT in November, Overview and Scrutiny Committee for pre Scrutiny in January and Cabinet in February.
		M02	Prepare annual report to Community Scrutiny Committee, considering alignment with the RSB Reporting and Director's reporting arrangements	Annual Oct/Nov	PM/LAL	Not on Target	The original target of Oct/November 2023 was not met to allow timely consideration of the revised Corporate Safeguarding Policy by Cabinet originally scheduled for December 2023. The Policy consideration has been included in the work programme for pre Scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is scheduled for consideration by the Committee in January 2024.
		M03	Consider the Council's Whistleblowing arrangements in the context of the Culture and Leadership section of the Welsh Government Good Practice Guide	Sep-23	Peter Cushion	Complete	There are no material changes to the Council Whistleblowing arrangements arising from consideration of the WG good practice guide. The Council's Whistleblowing arrangements have recently been subject to review by Audit Wales and the findings have been used to strengthen our approach. Whistleblowing is reported to Governance and Audit Committee annually. The most recent annual Whistleblowing Report 2022/23 including revised Whistleblowing Policy was considered by Governance and Audit Committee 15 March 2023.
		M04	Include Corporate Safeguarding as a new corporate element in the Council's annual Self Assessment	Sep-23	Lesley Lawson	Complete	Safeguarding Section in place within the draft 2022/23 Annual Assessment scheduled for consideration by Governance and Audit and Joint Consultative Committees in advance of approval by Council in January 2023.
P2A02	Continue to widen and strengthen the performance arrangements that will help to evidence the Council wide approach to Safeguarding	M01	Integrate the performance management of the Corporate Safeguarding arrangements with the Council's wider Performance Management arrangements	Ongoing from Q1 2023-24	Lesley Lawson	Complete	Meetings of the Safeguarding Group have been scheduled to allow time to update actions/measures for consideration and challenge as part of the agenda. Plan has been formatted to mirror general performance monitoring arrangements and located within the PM shared monitoring space.
		M02	Continue to critically review and monitor existing data and information to improve performance	Ongoing subject to quarterly review	Corporate Safeguarding Group	On Target	Continuing to seek available information in advance of meeting to enable consideration and challenge to include relevant graphs and analysis. This will be strengthened by direct access through the development of dashboard approach.
		M03	Consider how Internal Audit findings arising from annual review of Safeguarding in Schools can be integrated into the CSG work programme	to follow Audit up date in April 24	Corporate Safeguarding Group	On Target	Follows on from P1A06 - M01i
		M04	Put in place a Corporate Safeguarding Data Dashboard to provide timely access to relevant data direct from Source where possible	Mar-24	Lesley Lawson	On Target	Corporate Safeguarding Data collection framework for includes field to enable identification of system/spreadsheet to which a Corporate Safeguarding Dashboard can be developed.
P2A02	Continue to widen and strengthen the performance arrangements that will help to evidence the Council wide approach to Safeguarding	M05	Consider the inclusion of Safeguarding item as part of the annual Service Self Evaluation process currently being discussed by SLT	May-23	Lesley Lawson	Complete	Corporate Safeguarding update was included in the 2023 Service Self Evaluation which was distributed on 23 October 2023 with deadline for completion of 20 December. Responses will inform Safeguarding work programme and the Corporate Safeguarding Update in the 2023/24 Self-Assessment

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING DELIVERY PLAN 2023-25

PURPOSE	Keeping Children and Adults at Risk Safe through by widening and strengthening the organisational approach to delivering the Objectives of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy areas
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Delivery Actions	Ref	Milestones/Sub Actions that will help to achieve overarching Action	Delivery Date	Responsible Officer	Progress to date	Overall progress to date on Action
P2A03 Consider reports on key areas of concern emerging from other sources	M01	To be identified as and when required but may include mental health and suicide data, schools' data, e.g. put in place a threshold or regular programme reporting schedule	Ongoing	Corporate Safeguarding Group	On Target	For illustrative purposes. Meeting items to date include consideration of Safeguarding issues emerging from 'My Concern' and Cybersecurity and consideration of the findings of the Estyn inspection.
P2A04 Ensure that the safeguarding risks associated with digital technology are addressed	M01	Update guidance on social media for school governors and leaders	Dec-23	Tim Britton	Complete	Education Social Media Policy complete and will be made available to School Governors and Leaders in the Spring Term.
	M02	Consider reports on the compliance with Cyber Ninja Cyber Security Mandatory learning (keeping information safe) Quarterly Updates	Ongoing	GP	On Target	Verbal updates provided at Safeguarding meetings to support data reported in data section.
	M03	Consider regular reports on data security and information sharing breaches.	Jun-23	GP	Complete	Regular reports on Cybersecurity are considered in quarterly reports to the Council's Cyberresilience and Information Management Board
					On Target	Confidential agenda item on Cyber Security Resilience considered by Governance and Audit Committee meeting 19 December 2023.

SAFE WORKFORCE

P3A01 Ensure that all employees and elected members undertake mandatory Safeguarding training (children and adults) as well as the level 1 Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence training	M01	Ensure that all new employees undertake mandatory safeguarding training, as part of their induction	Ongoing	HR	On Target	Data for staff completion of mandatory Safeguarding, and also Cyber Ninja training is held in Source, showing stages of and completion. Managers are responsible for ensuring that new staff undertake all mandatory training, including Safeguarding. There is currently no automated system in place to check/monitor whether the required staff have completed this. Currently exploring the potential to utilise data from the i Trent system within RCT source in order to automate/strengthen the monitoring process.
	M02	Ensure appropriate compliance and monitoring reporting arrangements are in place and are aligned to the Council's Training Framework	Jul-23	Group B/C – Kath McMullen Group C – Kath McMullen and C Edwards (Governors)	Complete	Data is available from Source re actual take up of Group B and C training in respect of Social Care staff and some Education staff. However, whilst managers have manual systems to ensure that staff comply with training requirements there is currently no automated recall or compliance notification system currently in place. The potential to automate the system through 'Source' is currently being investigated.
	M03	Consider alternative approaches to the delivery of training to staff with no access to IT and how compliance can be monitored, to include include refresher training.	Jan-24	HR	On Target	Phase one of a 'Keeping People Safe' set of learning modules is in progress. The learning includes Safeguarding level 1, VAWDASV, Domestic Violence, Modern Slavery and Sexual Harrasment. The learning has been developed to be delivered via video in the first instance to improve accessibility. The video is currently being translated into Welsh for deployment to ICT users in January 2024. Following on from this mechanisms to deploy to non ICT users will be developed for Safeguarding level 1
	M04	Consider/put in place the actions that can be introduced in relation to the implications if mandatory the training is not completed e.g. net consent, not being able to log in - deadline revised from Sept 2023	Nov-23	GP and HR	On Target	The Council has solutions that can be introduced in response to no completion/compliance of mandatory training, ranging from IT/technical approaches and non confirmation of probation. However, the data/ arrangements for recording the levels of compliance is being strenghtened as it continues to rely on managers. See P3 A01 M01 above.

CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING DELIVERY PLAN 2023-25

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P3A02	Ensure that identified employees undertake Groups B + Safeguarding training	M01	Ensure appropriate compliance and monitoring reporting is in place	Sep-23	Kath McMullen	On Target	Data re take up training for Group B staff is available for monitoring by managers and enable staff training to be targeted to relevant staff. Process is strengthened in areas where staff registration with Social Care Wales is required. applies. See also P3 A01M02
		M02	Ensure compliance with the Council's Training Framework	Sep-23	Corp HR & Kath McMullen	Complete	Updates are provided quarterly via Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Plan and regularly to managers.
P3A03	Ensure that safe recruitment processes are followed to prevent, wherever possible, unsuitable people from working in or volunteering for certain roles, particularly roles that involve children or adults at risk	M01	Carry out an annual review of recruitment processes to establish compliance – to include a spot check of JDs and adverts.	Mar-24	RE/AB	On Target	Arrangements are in place to complete an annual review of recruitment processes at the end of the financial year.
		M02	Continue to monitor data on DBS checks	Mar-24	RE/AB	On Target	Quarterly Monitoring in place. SGPI07 and SGPIs 09a and 09b in quarterly data sheets refer.
P3A04	Ensure that policies are in place to protect staff who are working alone	M01	Put in place a 'Comms' campaign in respect of the Lone Working Policy (HS22) arrangements	Nov-23	HR	Not on Target	The Lone Working policy is currently subject to review. On completion, scheduled for Spring of 2024, the revisions will inform a more timely Comms campaign that will set out arrangements and responsibilities for managers and staff. Also, a targetted audit of lone working arrangements within service areas is programmed to start in early 2024. The findings from this work will also help to inform revisions to the Policy and relevant Comms. In the meantime the arrangements described in the current Lone Working Policy and supporting technology remain in place. There is also a Care-Respect-Dignity approach in place in Education/Schools, one of the aims of which is to help to tackle disrespectful behaviour towards workforce in schools.
		M02	Put in place a programme of security software updates for Council issued devices on priority basis security	Jul-23	GP	Complete	Devices updated in line with security patches from applications providers and Microsoft.
P3A05	Keeping staff in school safe	M01	Develop reporting systems for recording the implementation of the 'Managing Unreasonably persistent and Unacceptable Behaviours' guidance for schools	Dec-23	Dan Williams	Complete	Reporting, notification and monitoring system in place. Whenever the protocols are implemented they result in warning letters, ban from school premises or escalated action.
PA06	Ensure effective governance of safeguarding arrangements in schools	M01	Develop and implement an escalation protocol for challenging Chairs of Governors and Designated Leads for Safeguarding on Governing Bodies that do not comply with Level 3 training requirements	Nov-23	Catrin Edwards	On Target	Not yet finalised but Chairs of Governors and Designated Leads for Safeguarding are challenged when they are non-compliant. There are significant pressures in relation to access to appropriate training with bespoke sessions planned for School Governors at a cost to the Education Directorate.

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CORPORATE SAFEGUARDING DELIVERY PLAN 2023-25

PURPOSE	Keeping Children and Adults at Risk Safe through by widening and strengthening the organisational approach to delivering the Objectives of the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy areas
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SAFE PROCUREMENT & CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

P4A01	For all tenders ensure clear instructions are in place that emphasises the requirement to keep people safe and to treat them fairly without the threat of retaliation.	M01	Ensure that all relevant Tender Packs and subsequent contracts have a section on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Council's Corporate Safeguarding arrangements, •Whistle blowing arrangements, and that reflect the Council's Whistleblowing arrangements. •Guidance in respect of tackling modern slavery that reflects the Council's commitment set out in the Council's Modern Slavery Statement. 	Sep-23	Marc Crumbie	Complete	All documents now in place are included in our Tender Packs and are live on our Procurement Policies pages on the Council's Website Procurement Policies
		M02	Develop a 'Guide to Tackling Modern Slavery in our Supply Chain' that can be shared with suppliers with the aim of raising awareness.	Sep-23	Marc Crumbie	Complete	Complete and published on the website in November. The Guide is also included within the Council's Tender Packs.
		M03	Carry out annual awareness surveys to measure supplier awareness of the Council's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Corporate Safeguarding arrangements. •Whistleblowing arrangements, and •Tackling Modern Slavery expectations. 	Mar-24	Marc Crumbie	On Target	Survey will be issued in January 2024.
P4A02	Ensure that a sample of the highest risk contracts in respect of potential cyber security are reviewed annually.	M01	Put arrangements in place whereby 'live' contracts are subjected to an ongoing Cyber Security risk assessment. Review these contracts to ensure the systems are secure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Anti-Spam measures for service •Antivirus measures for service •Ransomware prevention •Data retention and security •Data sovereignty •Data protection measures •Support levels (example 24/7/365) •Service levels including RPO/RTO •Encryption in Transit and at Rest •Security certification (Cyber Essentials) of provider •Staff Access (RBAC) and staff assurance (Security Vetting) •Data Geographies •Commercial approach for service •GDPR – Data Controller and Ownership 	Mar-24	Gareth Pearce	On Target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Currently undertaking an audit process to identify systems that have been procured outside IT and then to identify and review contracts against the Security Questionnaire. •Every new contract is evaluated for security and safety prior to signing as part of the process •Every renewal is reviewed against the Security Questionnaire in order to prove data security and service levels together with data safety.

Measures to support Corporate Safeguarding Delivery Plan

PI Ref	PI Owner	Direction of travel	Performance Measure	2022/23	2023/24		Comments on Q2 performance
				Qtr 4 Year End Cumulative	Actual (Qtr 1)	Actual (Qtr 2)	
SGPI 01	D. Hughes	More is Best	No. of new staff completing mandatory Safeguarding induction training within 6 months	1113	79	138	
SGPI 02a	D. Hughes	More is Best	No. of staff trained in Level 1 Safeguarding face to face	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SGPI 02b	D. Hughes	More is Best	No. of staff trained in Level 1 Safeguarding e-learning	5077	116	153	
SGPI 02c	Emma Wilkins	More is Best	No. of elected Members trained in Level 1 Safeguarding e-learning	38	0	0	Arrangements in place for Annabel Lloyd to provide refresher training to Elected Members in respect of Safeguarding on 14/11 at 4.00 pm.
SGPI 03a	D. Hughes	More is Best	No. of staff trained in Level 1 VAWDASV face to face	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SGPI 03b	D. Hughes	More is Best	No. of staff trained in Level 1 VAWDASV e-learning	5627	108	171	
SGPI 03c	Emma Wilkins	More is Best	No. of elected Members trained in Level 1 VAWDASV e-learning	38	0	0	VAWDASV training currently being integrated into Members' training programme
SGPI 04a	D. Hughes	More is Best	Are you aware that the Council has a Corporate Safeguarding Policy which sets out the responsibilities of all staff in regard to protecting children and adults from abuse/neglect Annual data	97%	96%	96%	Data collected via Annual Staff Survey 2023. For context the survey not mandatory and was completed by 998 staff. 948 respondents answered yes to this question.

PI Ref	PI Owner	Direction of travel	Performance Measure	2022/23	2023/24		Comments on Q2 performance
				Qtr 4 Year End Cumulative	Actual (Qtr 1)	Actual (Qtr 2)	
SGPI 04b	D. Hughes	More is Best	Do you know how to report suspected or known abuse/neglect Annual data	93%	92%	92%	Data collected via Annual Staff Survey 2023. For context the survey is not mandatory and was completed by 998 staff. 911 respondents answered yes to this question.
SGPI 05a	M. Crumbie	More is Best	% of providers who are aware of their responsibilities in respect of Safeguarding Annual data	88%	NA	NA	SGPI 05b is New for 2023/24. No trend comparison available. Previous questions/measures deemed of little value i.e.Q2 Have you seen the Corporate Safeguarding poster in your workplace, or as part of other communication, that tells you that in RCT keeping people safe is everyone's business? Q3. If you saw or heard something while you were at work that concerned you about the safety of a child/adult at risk, or the behaviour of a colleague towards others, who would you contact?• Your Manager• A Colleague• The Council • The Police• Somebody else
SGPI 05b Tudalen 166	M. Crumbie	More is Best	% who found it easy to access information if they had reason to report Annual Data	NEW	NA	NA	

PI Ref	PI Owner	Direction of travel	Performance Measure	2022/23	2023/24		Comments on Q2 performance
				Qtr 4 Year End Cumulative	Actual (Qtr 1)	Actual (Qtr 2)	
SGPI 06	Emma Walters		Total number of Children's Information, Advice and Assistance (IAA) Contacts Comprising internal and external safeguarding referrals.	26,648	6648	6459	The total number of CS referrals is 18% of all referrals, this is 8% lower when compared to Qtr 1 (26%). However school referrals were 37% lower in this Qtr. This is attributed to the summer half term.
			Total number of Children's IAA Contacts (safeguarding referrals) submitted by Internal Services:	5456	1524	1149	
SGPI 06a	Emma Walters		Staff of Social Services	1356	344	371	
SGPI 06a	Emma Walters		Education	3803	1097	667	
SGPI 06a	Emma Walters		YOS	166	38	42	
SGPI 06a	Emma Walters		Other Council Departments	129	45	68	
SGPI 06a	Emma Walters		Councillor/MP	2	0	1	
SGPI 06b	Jackie Neale		Total number of Adult safeguarding referrals (internal and external).	4556	1109	1070	
			Number of Adult safeguarding referrals submitted by internal services:	1141	266	292	
SGPI 06b	Jackie Neale		Education	9	3	2	
SGPI 06b	Jackie Neale		Other Council Departments	37	3	5	
SGPI 06b	Jackie Neale		Staff of Social Services	347	104	92	
SGPI 06b	Jackie Neale		Service Provider - commissioned or in house	757	159	195	
SGPI 06b	Jackie Neale		Councillor/MP	0	0	0	

PI Ref	PI Owner	Direction of travel	Performance Measure	2022/23	2023/24		Comments on Q2 performance
				Qtr 4 Year End Cumulative	Actual (Qtr 1)	Actual (Qtr 2)	
SGPI 07	R. Evans/ A. Bishop		% of DBS reviewed for Children's and Adults Services every 3 years	59.58% (286/480)	95.00%	84.00%	The DBS check system has been subject to audit by both Regional Internal Audit Services and the Disclosure and Barring Service during 2023
SGPI 08	R. Hope/ M. Owen		% of new taxi drivers completing SQA Level 2 Certificate in Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi Driver and Private Hire Driver	98% (40/41)	100% (6/6)	100% (7/7)	
SGPI 09a	R. Evans		Number of DBS checks that are deemed unsuitable for employment	1	1	1	
SGPI 09b	R. Evans		Number of referrals to DBS	0	0	0	
SGPI 10	G. Pearce		No of staff completing 'Cyber Ninja' e-learning	2481	152	199	New measure for 2023/24
SGPI 11	Pete Cushion		Consider the development of database of Whistleblowing cases in the context of Safeguarding of Children or Adult at risk	Baseline			The development of this measure has not been progressed. Reports of unsafe practice are addressed directly through the reporting arrangements for Safeguarding, see webpage below for ease of reference. 'Any person with concerns regarding the safety of a child/adult at risk, OR the behaviour of a colleague towards a child/adult at risk, has a responsibility to report this immediately'. Keeping People Safe
			<i>Other sensitive/confidential Cyber Risk Measures are covered in quarterly reports to Cyber Resilience and Information Management Board.</i>				

RISKS to be managed/highlighted <i>These are the things that will/could impact on the Councils ability to deliver the Safeguarding Policy areas.</i>		Actions to mitigate identified risk <i>Actions to manage the identified risks are cross referenced to actions/milestones above</i>	
		Action reference, if applicable, e.g. A01M02	Mitigating action(s) if not included in Action Plan above
1	If staff are not aware of their responsibilities with regards reporting safeguarding concerns, then incidents of suspected abuse and/or neglect may go unreported.	P1	See actions above
2	If the Council does not have effective governance arrangements in place, then elected members cannot scrutinise corporate safeguarding practice.	P2	See actions above
3	If the Council does not ensure that safe recruitment processes are in place, then children and/or adults could be at risk of abuse.	P3	See actions above
4	If staff are not adequately trained in safeguarding, then they are unable to act appropriately with regards reporting concerns.	P3	See actions above
5	If staff working for contractors working on behalf of the Council are not aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, then incidents of suspected abuse and /or neglect may go unreported.	P4	See actions above
6	There is also a need to keep key people up to date of knowledge of emerging issues linked to digital exploitation.	P2, P3, P4	See actions above

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