

## PWYLLGOR CRAFFU'R GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL, TAI A DIOGELWCH CYMUNEDOL

#### 2.00 PM DYDD IAU, 21 MEDI 2023

CYFARFOD AML-LEOLIAD - SIAMBR Y CYNGOR PORT TALBOT A MICROSOFT TEAMS

## Rhaid gosod pob ffôn symudol ar y modd distaw ar gyfer parhad y cyfarfod

Gellir ffilmio'r cyfarfod hwn i'w ddarlledu'n fyw neu'n ddiweddarach drwy wefan y cyngor. Drwy gymryd rhan, rydych yn cytuno i gael eich ffilmio ac i'r delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gael eu defnyddio at ddibenion gweddarlledu a/neu hyfforddiant o bosib.

- 1. Cyhoeddiad y Cadeirydd
- 2. Datganiadau o fuddiannau
- 3. Cofnodion y Cyfarfod Blaenorol (Tudalennau 5 12)
- 4. Adroddiad Blynyddol (Tudalennau 13 26)
- 5. Tai a Chymunedau Adroddiad Cynnydd Canol Blwyddyn (Tudalennau 27 60)
- Craffu Cyn Penderfynu
   Dewis eitemau priodol o agenda'r Cabinet ar gyfer craffu cyn penderfynu (amgaeir adroddiadau ar gyfer yr Aelodau Craffu)
- 7. Cofnod Gweithredu'r Pwyllgor (Tudalennau 61 62)
- 8. Blaenraglen Waith 2023/24 (Tudalennau 63 64)
- 9. Eitemau brys

Unrhyw eitemau brys yn ôl disgresiwn y Cadeirydd yn unol ag Adran 100BA(6)(b) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 (fel y'i diwygiwyd).

10. Mynediad i gyfarfodydd Mynediad i gyfarfodydd i benderfynu a ddylid gwahardd y cyhoedd o'r eitem ganlynol yn unol ag Is-adran 100a(4) a (5) Deddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 a'r paragraffau eithriedig perthnasol o Ran 4 Atodlen 12a y Ddeddf uchod.

#### Rhan 2

- 11. Craffu Eitem/Eitemau Preifat Cyn Penderfynu
  - Dewis eitemau preifat priodol o agenda cyn craffu Bwrdd y Cabinet (Adroddiadau Bwrdd y Cabinet yn amgaeedig ar gyfer yr aelodau craffu).

## K.Jones <a href="mailto:K.Jones">Prif Weithredwr</a>

Canolfan Ddinesig Port Talbot

Dydd Gwener, 15 Medi 2023

## Aelodaeth y Pwyllgor:

Cadeirydd: C.Galsworthy

Is-gadeirydd: H.C.Clarke

Cynghorwyr: O.S.Davies, J.Jones, A.R.Lockyer, A.Lodwig,

P.D.Richards, M.Spooner, D.Thomas, S.Rahaman, A.R.Aubrey a/ac H.Davies

## Nodiadau:

(1) Os yw aelodau'r pwyllgor neu'r rhai nad ydynt yn aelodau'r pwyllgor am gynnig eitemau perthnasol i'w cynnwys ar yr agenda cyn

- cyfarfodydd y dyfodol, rhaid iddynt roi gwybod i'r Prif Weithredwr/Cadeirydd 8 niwrnod cyn y cyfarfod.
- (2) Os yw'r rhai nad ydynt yn aelodau'r pwyllgor am fod yn bresennol ar gyfer eitem o ddiddordeb, mae'n rhaid rhoi rhybudd ymlaen llaw (erbyn 12 hanner dydd ar y diwrnod cyn y cyfarfod). Gall y rhai nad ydynt yn aelodau'r pwyllgor siarad ond nid oes ganddynt hawl i bleidleisio, cynnig nac eilio unrhyw gynnig.
- (3) Fel arfer, ar gyfer trefniadau cyn craffu, bydd y Cadeirydd yn argymell eitemau gweithredol sydd ar ddod i'w trafod/herio. Mae hefyd yn agored i aelodau'r pwyllgor ofyn i eitemau gael eu trafod er y gofynnir i'r aelodau ddewis a dethol yma o ran materion pwysig.
- (4) Gwahoddir aelodau perthnasol Bwrdd y Cabinet hefyd i fod yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod at ddibenion Craffu/Ymgynghori.
- (5) Gofynnir i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Craffu ddod â'u papurau ar gyfer Bwrdd y Cabinet i'r cyfarfod.



## PWYLLGOR CRAFFU'R GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL, TAI A DIOGELWCH CYMUNEDOL

## (CYFARFOD AML-LEOLIAD - SIAMBR Y CYNGOR PORT, TALBOT A MICROSOFT TEAMS)

Aelodau sy'n Bresennol: Dydd Iau, 13 Gorffennaf 2023

Cadeirydd: Cynghorydd C.Galsworthy

Is-gadeirydd: Cynghorydd H.C.Clarke

**Cynghorwyr**: O.S.Davies, J.Jones, P.D.Richards a/ac

S.Rahaman

Swyddogion sy'n

**Bresennol:** 

R Davies, J.Hodges, C.Howard, A.Jarrett,

A.J.Thomas, K.Warren, A.Bradshaw,

S.Bradshaw, L. Morris, S.Waite, C.Jones,

E.O'Brien, C.Frey-Davies, S.Jenkins, N.Maund,

N.Jones, H.Short, V.Smith, M.Weaver, E. Gibbs, E.Bennett, S.Jones a/ac A.Thomas

Gwahoddedigion y

Cabinet:

Cynghorwyr J.Hale, S.Harris a/ac A.Llewelyn

## 1. CYHOEDDIAD Y CADEIRYDD

Croesawodd y Cadeirydd bawb i'r cyfarfod.

Cadarnhawyd y byddai'r Pwyllgor yn craffu ar eitemau 7, 8 a 9 a 10 ar Agenda Bwrdd y Cabinet.

## 2. **DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANNAU**

Ni dderbyniwyd unrhyw ddatganiadau o fuddiannau.

## 3. COFNODION Y CYFARFOD BLAENOROL

Cymeradwywyd cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 8 Mehefin 2023 fel cofnod gwir a chywir.

#### 4. CRAFFU CYN PENDERFYNU

<u>Strategaeth Gofal Cymdeithasol i Oedolion Castell-nedd Port Talbot</u> 2023-2026

Cyflwynodd Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Oedolion gyflwyniad a oedd yn amlinellu'r pwysau a wynebir gan y gyfarwyddiaeth a thynnodd sylw at pam a sut y bydd angen i Gastell-nedd Port Talbot weithio'n wahanol yn y dyfodol.

Croesawodd yr Aelodau gynnwys y cyflwyniad ond dywedodd y gallai trafnidiaeth gyflwyno problem wrth hyrwyddo rhwydweithiau cymdeithasol a hunanreoli; holodd yr Aelodau a oedd trafnidiaeth gymunedol yn cael ei ystyried fel rhan o gynlluniau'r dyfodol? Ymatebodd Swyddogion y gallai cyflawni'r cynlluniau os ydynt yn rhan o ymagwedd weithredu ar draws y cyngor yn unig. Wrth drafod yr agenda ataliol, mae angen i atebion fod yn ehangach na thrwy gyfarwyddiaeth y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn unig.

O ran cyfeirio at yr addasiadau synhwyraidd yn yr adroddiad, teimlai'r Aelodau fod angen hyrwyddo'r gwasanaeth addasu synhwyraidd ymhellach i feddygon teulu er mwyn cyrraedd rhagor o bobl; holodd yr Aelodau a oes unrhyw gynlluniau i weithio'n agosach gyda gwasanaethau Gofal Iechyd i hyrwyddo'r gwasanaeth hwn? Ymatebodd Swyddogion fod y tri aelod o staff yn y Tîm Synhwyraidd yn gysylltiedig â'r Tîm Therapi Galwedigaethol Cymunedol, gan weithio gyda phobl ag amhariad ar y clyw a'r golwg. Mae'r tîm profiadol yn gweithio'n agos gyda'r gwasanaethau iechyd, ond gellir gwneud rhagor o waith i wella ar hyn. Dywedodd Swyddogion fod gan Lywodraeth Cymru fenter sy'n gweithio ochr yn ochr â gwasanaethau'r Bwrdd Iechyd i wella gwasanaethau amhariad ar y synhwyrau.

Gofynnodd yr Aelodau sut y bydd y gwasanaeth yn mesur canlyniadau ac yn adrodd yn ôl i'r Pwyllgor yn y dyfodol. Ymatebodd Swyddogion fod achosion busnes wedi'u costio wedi cael eu datblygu ar gyfer pob cynllun a bydd y rhain yn cael eu cyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor pan fo hynny'n briodol. Bydd y canlyniadau'n cael eu mesur wrth i'r cynlluniau fynd rhagddynt a bydd unrhyw wybodaeth ofynnol yn cael ei darparu fel y gofynnwyd amdani.

Holodd yr Aelodau ynghylch y llinell amser ar gyfer hybiau cymunedol a mynegwyd pryder y gallai unrhyw adeiladau gwag addas posib ddadfeilio os oedd y llinell amser yn rhy hir. Cadarnhaodd Swyddogion fod y mater hwn wedi'i godi gyda'r Cabinet a Chyfarwyddwyr Corfforaethol; ar hyn o bryd mae arian cyfalaf y cyngor a rhanbarthol ar gael ac mae angen i unrhyw gynlluniau wneud cynnydd yn gyflym i wneud yn fawr o'r cyllid hwn. Bydd gwaith yn cael ei wneud dros yr haf gyda phenderfyniadau'n dechrau cael eu gwneud ddiwedd mis Awst/dechrau mis Medi. Mae angen i rai cynlluniau wneud cynnydd yn fuan ond efallai y bydd angen trafod cynlluniau posib eraill fel y Pentref Pobl Hŷn a Gelligron dros gyfnod hwy o amser.

Yn dilyn craffu, cefnogwyd yr argymhelliad gan Fwrdd y Cabinet.

#### Cynllun Strategol Tai a Digartrefedd drafft 2023-26

Rhoddodd y Pennaeth Tai a Chymunedau gyflwyniad ar Gynllun Strategol Tai a Digartrefedd drafft 2023-2026, gan ail-ddweud bod lefel uchel o bwysau ar y system dai ar hyn o bryd ac ni ellir tanbrisio maint y newid sydd ei angen.

Diolchodd yr Aelodau i'r Swyddog am y cyflwyniad diddorol a holwyd a oedd ystyriaeth wedi ei rhoi i fodel lle roedd y cyngor yn prynu tai lle nad oedd addasiadau yn bosib ac ailgartrefu preswylwyr mewn tai cymdeithasol wedi'u haddasu fel modd o gynyddu stoc dai'r cyngor. Dywedodd y Swyddog nad oedd yr ymagwedd hon wedi cael ei hystyried ond gellid ei thrafod ymhellach y tu allan i'r cyfarfod i archwilio'r dichonoldeb.

Holodd yr Aelodau ynghylch y cynllun a fyddai'n galluogi'r awdurdod i brynu eiddo gwag i'w hailddefnyddio. Cadarnhaodd y Swyddog fod yr awdurdod wedi prynu nifer o eiddo gwag yn flaenorol, fel y crybwyllwyd yn y cynllun, a bydd y cyfle hwn yn cael ei archwilio ymhellach yn y dyfodol. Ar hyn o bryd, mae tîm lechyd yr Amgylchedd yn mapio lleoliad eiddo gwag; mae rhai ffrydiau cyllido ar gael drwy Lywodraeth Cymru i ddileu digartrefedd a dyma un ffrwd waith y mae Castell-nedd Port Talbot yn ymchwilio iddi.

Gofynnodd yr Aelodau a oedd gan Gastell-nedd Port Talbot gysylltiadau gyda datblygwyr preifat. Cadarnhaodd y Swyddog nad yw'r berthynas gyda datblygwyr preifat ar hyn o bryd yr un fath â'r berthynas â landlordiaid cymdeithasol cofrestredig ond y gobaith yw y bydd modd datblygu hyn yn y dyfodol. Dywedodd y Swyddog y cynhaliwyd cyfarfod gyda'r adran gynllunio yn ddiweddar i sefydlu sut y gellid datblygu cysylltiadau â'r broses gynllunio, er mwyn ymchwilio i sut y gellid cynyddu lefel y tai fforddiadwy pan fydd cynigion ar gyfer datblygiadau newydd yn cael eu cyflwyno. Mae gwaith hefyd yn mynd rhagddo i edrych ar fforymau landlordiaid preifat i helpu i ysgogi'r farchnad a rhoi rhagor o wybodaeth i ddatblygwyr fel eu bod yn ymwybodol o anghenion lleol.

Diolchodd Aelod y Cabinet dros Dai a Diogelwch Cymunedol i'r Swyddog am y cyflwyniad ac i Aelodau'r Pwyllgor Craffu am eu sylw i'r adroddiad. Nodwyd mai hwn yw'r cynllun Strategol Tai a Digartrefedd cyntaf o'i fath ar gyfer Castell-nedd Port Talbot ac mae'n dod ar adeg o bwysau digynsail. Mynegodd Aelod y Cabinet werthfawrogiad am waith caled y timau tai ac am ddod ynghyd mewn ffordd ymroddedig. Amlinellodd fod yr argyfwng tai yn cyflwyno nifer o heriau allweddol i swyddogion, staff, aelodau etholedig a phartneriaid cymdeithasau tai. Bydd datblygu'r cynllun tai yn gofyn am ymagwedd cyngor cyfan a bydd y strategaeth newydd hon yn rhoi fframwaith i fynd i'r afael â'r heriau.

Yn dilyn craffu, cefnogwyd yr argymhelliad gan Fwrdd y Cabinet.

## Cynllun Strategol Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant a Phobl Ifanc Castellnedd Port Talbot 2023 - 2026

Rhoddodd Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Plant a Phobl Ifanc gyflwyniad ar Gynllun Strategol Gofal Cymdeithasol Plant a Phobl Ifanc CNPT 2023 – 2026.

Mynegodd yr Aelodau bryder ynghylch amserau aros plant â nodweddion o gyflyrau niwro-amrywiol sy'n aros am apwyntiadau llwybrau CAMHS ac Anhwylderau Niwroddatblygiadol. Yr amser aros presennol ar gyfer apwyntiad CAMHS yw 3 i 6 wythnos ac mae'r rhestr aros ar gyfer llwybr Anhwylderau Niwroddatblygiadol yn 28 mis. Holodd yr Aelodau a oedd gwasanaethau plant ac addysg yn gweithio gyda phlant yr effeithiwyd arnynt gan y broblem hon, yn enwedig y rheini sydd ar amserlenni llai neu'n wynebu gwaharddiad. Roedd yr Aelodau'n cydnabod fod hyn yn broblem ar draws Cymru a gall oedi effeithio ar blant yn negyddol wrth iddynt drosglwyddo i fod yn oedolion. Cydnabu'r Pennaeth Gwasanaeth y pryder a dywedodd fod hyn yn nodwedd yn hanes llawer o bobl ifanc a'i fod yn broblem genedlaethol. Mae cyfarfod parhaus dan arweiniad addysg wedi dechrau edrych ar gynlluniau cymorth bugeiliol a chymorth sydd

wedi'i dargedu'n benodol ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc yn yr ardal hon. Cydnabuwyd bod hyn yn broblem ar draws y cyngor ac mae'r niferoedd wedi cynyddu; mae gwaith datblygu i'w wneud yn y maes hwn o hyd.

Yn dilyn craffu, cefnogwyd yr argymhelliad gan Fwrdd y Cabinet.

Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr grynodeb o'r 3 chyflwyniad, gofynnwyd i Benaethiaid Gwasanaeth fod yn ddi-flewyn-ar-dafod ynglŷn â'r heriau a wynebir gan eu gwasanaethau. Mae'r heriau wedi cynnwys; y gallu i staffio gwasanaethau penodol, y cynnydd yn nifer y bobl sydd angen gwasanaethau a chymhlethdod problemau. Mae heriau'n gysylltiedig ag etifeddiaeth COVID-19, a nodwyd y byddai'r adferiad ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Thai yn cymryd peth amser. Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr er bod polisïau Llywodraeth Cymru ar ddefnyddio staff mewnol, nid er elw, cyfreithiau tai newydd, mewn lle da, roedd angen cyllid priodol. Y cam nesaf yw i gynlluniau gael eu costio a'u cyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor Craffu a'r Cabinet, nodwyd bod yr holl gyfarwyddiaethau yn wynebu pwysau y bydd angen edrych arnynt yn gyffredinol a'u blaenoriaethu yn y dyfodol. Bydd angen trafodaethau ar sut y bydd gwasanaethau statudol yn cael eu hariannu yn y dyfodol. Canmolodd y Cyfarwyddwr ymagwedd ragweithiol y Penaethiaid Gwasanaeth.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Cyfarwyddwr a staff y gyfarwyddiaeth am eu gwaith caled a'u syniadau arloesol wrth gynllunio sut i oresgyn heriau.

Adroddiad Perfformiad Chwarter 4 (Ebrill 2022 - Mawrth 2023) - Gwasanaethau Plant a Phobl Ifanc, Gwasanaethau i Oedolion a Diogelwch Cymunedol

Holodd yr Aelodau ynghylch canran yr ailgofrestriadau ar gyfer plant ar y gofrestr amddiffyn plant a gofynnwyd sut allai'r gwasanaeth fod yn hyderus nad yw plant yn cael eu dadgofrestru'n rhy gyflym? Gofynnodd yr Aelodau hefyd am esboniad o'r system lle gwneir atgyfeiriadau nad ydynt yn bodloni'r trothwy amddiffyn plant.

Ymatebodd Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Plant fod llawer o waith wedi'i wneud ar y data amddiffyn plant, a chynhelir cyfarfodydd strategol a gweithredol rheolaidd gyda rheolwyr tîm, gweithwyr cymdeithasol a phartneriaid. Nodwyd bod y niferoedd yn isel ond pan fyddant yn cael eu cyflwyno mewn fformat canran mae'r ffigurau'n ymddangos yn uwch. Dywedodd y Pennaeth Gwasanaeth fod trylwyredd yn y

system. Mae atgyfeiriadau achosion a gofrestrwyd yn flaenorol yn cael eu hystyried o fewn 24 awr a byddai rheolwr y tîm yn gwneud penderfyniad ar y cyd â phartneriaid. Mae'r penderfyniad i ailgofrestru plentyn yn benderfyniad amlasiantaethol a defnyddir y cyfle i ddeall pam eu bod wedi dod yn ôl ar y gofrestr ac mae'r dysgu'n cael ei fwydo yn ôl i'r system. Roedd y Pennaeth Gwasanaeth yn hyderus bod y dulliau a'r systemau cywir ar waith i fonitro a dysgu o achosion. Mae gwaith ar ailgofrestru wedi'i gyflwyno i'r Aelodau yn flaenorol a chytunwyd y byddai'r gwaith hwn yn cael ei ailddosbarthu.

Holodd yr Aelodau ynghylch y ffigurau ar gyfer diogelu ar dudalen 262 yr adroddiad, o'r 1,392 a adroddwyd am honiadau o gam-drin, 271 ohonynt yn unig yr oedd angen ymholi amdanynt, a gofynnodd yr Aelodau am esboniad ar sut mae'r penderfyniadau hyn yn cael eu gwneud. Cadarnhaodd Swyddogion fod y fformat atgyfeirio wedi'i sefydlu i dderbyn atgyfeiriadau ymyrryd yn gynnar hyd at ddiogelu. Yn ystod y 24 awr gyntaf yn dilyn atgyfeiriad, cynhelir ymholiadau gyda gweithwyr proffesiynol eraill, teuluoedd ac eraill arwyddocaol i greu darlun llawnach ac yn dilyn yr ymholiadau hyn, gwneir penderfyniad ar sut i weithredu. Gall hyn fod o dan adran 47 (plant) neu adran 126 (oedolion) pan fo'r atgyfeiriad yn gofyn am ymchwilio pellach i ddeall yr wybodaeth a gyflwynir. Eglurwyd, er nad yw pob achos yn gwarantu gweithdrefnau diogelu, mae elfennau gwaith eraill y gellir eu gwneud yn dilyn atgyfeiriadau fel atal ymyriadau, Tîm o amgylch y Teulu neu Gofal a Chymorth.

Yn dilyn craffu, nodwyd cynnwys yr adroddiad.

## 5. BLAENRAGLEN WAITH 2023/24

Nodwyd yr eitem hon.

### 6. **EITEMAU BRYS**

Ni chafwyd unrhyw eitemau brys.

## 7. MYNEDIAD I GYFARFODYDD

Penderfynwyd: gwahardd y cyhoedd o'r eitem(au) ganlynol/canlynol yn unol ag Adran 100A(4) a (5) o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972 a'r paragraffau eithriedig perthnasol o Ran 4 Atodlen 12A y Ddeddf uchod..

## 8. GWASGARU CEISWYR LLOCHES AC ANHEDDU FFOADURIAID

Yn dilyn craffu, nodwyd cynnwys yr adroddiad.

## 9. CRAFFU EITEM/EITEMAU PREIFAT CYN PENDERFYNU

Ni chafwyd unrhyw eitemau eu craffu.

### **CADEIRYDD**



### **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## Social Services Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee 21st September 2023

## Report of the Social Services Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee Chairperson

Matter Information			

#### **Wards Affected:**

1. All Wards.

# **Annual Report of the Social Services Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee**

## **Purpose of the Report:**

2. To update members on the work undertaken by the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee for the civic year 2022/2023 and to note and commend the report to Council.

## **Background:**

3. To provide an overview of the work of the committee for 2022/2023.

## **Financial Impacts:**

4. No Impact.

## **Integrated Impact Assessment**

5. There is no requirement at this stage to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information only.

## **Valleys Communities Impacts:**

6. No impacts.

## **Workforce Impacts**

7. No impacts.

## **Legal Impacts**

8. No legal impacts.

## **Risk Management Impacts:**

9. No impacts.

#### Consultation

10. There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

#### Recommendations

11. That the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee note and endorse the annual Report 2022/2023 attached at Appendix 1 and commend to Council.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

12. To note and endorse the Annual Report 2022/2023 of the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee.

## Implementation of Decision

13. Immediate.

## **Appendices**

- 14. Appendix 1 2022/2023 Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee Annual Report
- Appendix 2 Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee summary of items considered

## **List of Background Papers**

16. None.

## **Officer Contact**

17. Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy - Chair of the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

Cllr.c.galsworthy@npt.gov.uk



#### 1. Chair's Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report for the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee May 2022 – April 2023.

This report provides the opportunity to reflect on the work that has been undertaken by the committee and its attempts to ensure that any decisions taken are in the best interests of the citizens of Neath Port Talbot

This report covers a time of worldwide crisis as the war in Ukraine continues to have a very real effect on worldwide and local communities. The cost of living crisis is also significantly affecting our local population.

The Scrutiny Committee worked during the year to scrutinise various decisions to be taken by the Council.

The Committee continued to monitor quarterly performance management data and scrutinise the information received. The committee scrutinised various decisions including the Future of Trem Y Glyn, Rapid Re-Housing Support, the Leasing Scheme Wales and an Extension to the provision of a Welcome Centre in respect of Ukrainians fleeing the conflict.

The committee also continued its own work and received information pertaining to statutory nuisances in Environmental Health, Adults and Childrens Single Point of Contact and Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Vice Chair, Councillor Helen Clarke for her continued support along with the Cabinet members, Councillor Alun Llewelyn, Councillor Jo Hale and Councillor Sian Harris, who have been present at the meetings to listen to and consider the views of the committee prior to making any decisions.

Finally, I would like to thank the officers for their invaluable support, continued hard work, professionalism and guidance throughout the year

Councillor. C.Galsworthy, Chairperson Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

#### 2. Introduction to Scrutiny

The Centre for Public Scrutiny suggests that there are four key principles to effective Scrutiny and they are:

- 1. provides 'critical friend' challenge to executive policy-makers and decision-makers
- 2. enables the voice and concerns of the public and its communities
- 3. is carried out by 'independent minded governors' who lead and own the Scrutiny process
- 4. drives improvement in public services

Scrutiny is an integral part of the Council's political structure and in many ways it plays a key role in assisting the Cabinet. Scrutiny Committees in the Council have met regularly through the year and have considered a wide range of issues. A number of the Scrutiny Committees have undertaken some in depth work as part of their forward work programmes, and this is highlighted within this document.

The Scrutiny Committees within the Council are:

- Cabinet
  - Policy & Resources Sub
- Education, Skills and Wellbeing
- Social Services, Housing and Community Safety
- Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services

Each of the Committees includes a mix of non-Executive Councillors that is politically balanced to reflect the political balance of the Council. The Chairs and Vice Chairs plus the Committee Membership are decided annually by Full Council. Each Committee meets at least 8 times during a Civic Year.

#### 3. Purpose of Annual Report

- **3.1** The main aim of this report is to highlight the work that has been undertaken by the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Committee Scrutiny Committee 2022-2023.
- **3.2** The document may also facilitate discussions on additional items that could be included within the work programme for 2023/2024.

## 4. Overview of the work of the Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Committee 2022/2023

#### 4.1 Number of Meetings

The Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee met on 8 occasions during 2022/2023.

#### **4.2 The Work Programme 2022/2023**

Generally the agendas for the scrutiny meetings have been consistent with those outlined in the forward work programme. The Committee agree its Scrutiny work programme during their Forward Work Programme Workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

It is acknowledged that the workshop session took place later than planned due to the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the subsequent cancellation of all meetings during the official mourning period.

When developing the work programme it was essential to give consideration to the key plans and strategies of the Council. The work programme also includes the results of any external inspections that had been undertaken within a specific service area or on a corporate level.

The review of the work of the Committee is included in the following pages has been structured to reflect the key roles of the Committee: Pre-Decision Scrutiny (which included policy development and review) and any items they wished to look at as part of their remit (usually for information purposes)

#### 5. Key Issues considered during 2022/2023

Throughout the civic year the Committee is consulted on a number of areas that require decision. These range from routine general issues to the larger more complex decisions. Cabinet Board Members are in attendance during discussions and any views of the Committee are taken on board prior to making a decision.

The Scrutiny Committee also undertakes the performance monitoring role by considering a wide range of reports. Members challenge the information that is included which enables them to understand the issues facing the service. These reports are monitored on a quarterly basis.

As well as scrutinising key decisions, the Committee identifies topics within their remit in which they wish to look at in more detail. These items are usually for information purposes e.g. updating Members on specific projects of work.

The Council is well placed to demonstrate the improvements it has made to the scrutiny function and it is essential that we continue to build on these developments and I look forward to the next year as we take forward the priorities of the Council.

#### Issues considered

May 2022 – April 2023

As detailed in the table attached at Appendix 1.

## **6. Scrutiny Contact Information**

The Scrutiny Team are located in the Chief Executive's Policy and Democratic Services section and their contact details follows:

Name	Position	Contact Details
Alison Thomas	Senior Scrutiny and	E-mail a.thomas6@npt.gov.uk
	Project Management	
	Officer	Tel: 01639 763300

Tom Rees	Scrutiny Officer	E-mail: t.rees1@npt.gov.uk
		Tel: 01639 763922
Pamela Chivers	Scrutiny Officer	E-mail: p.chivers@npt.gov.uk

Alternatively if you think Scrutiny should consider a certain area or issue as part of their work programme then please e-mail democratic.services@npt.gov.uk



## Appendix 2

Committee Name:	Social Services, Housing & Community Safety			
Number of Meetings held during the Council Year: 8	Scrutiny Committee			
(including FWP Session)				
, ,				
Date of Meeting	Issues Considered	Information/Monitoring/Decision	Amendments	Task and Finish Group Created
27th June 2022	Contractual Arrangements for the	Decision - recommendation was	None	N/A
	Prevention and Wellbeing Service	supported to the Cabinet Board		•
11th October 2022	NPT Youth Justice and Early Intervention	Decision - recommendation was None		N/A
	Plan 2022-2023	supported to the Cabinet Board		•
	Rapid Re-Housing Report	Decision - recommendation was	None	N/A
		supported to the Cabinet Board		
	Future of Trem Y Glyn	Decision - recommendation was	None	N/A
		supported to the Cabinet Board  Monitoring - scrutiny Members noted		
	Quarter 1 Performance Indicators	the report	None	N/A
	Establishing a Managed Account and	Decision - recommendation was		N/A
10th November 2022	Payroll Support Framework	supported to the Cabinet Board	None	
	Procurement of a Specialist Domiciliary	Decision - recommendation was	Nicos	21/2
	Care Framework	supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A
	Uplift To Older People Care Home Fees	Decision - recommendation was	None	N/A
	·	supported to the Cabinet Board	None	
15th December 2022	Environmental Health - what is a Statutory	Information Only - Members noted the	None	N/A
13th Determiner 2022	Nuisance	report	None	N/A
	Children & Young People and Adult	Decision - recommendation was		21/2
	Services - 2nd Quarter Performance Report (April 2022- September 2022)	supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A
	Quarterly Performance Management Data			
	2022-2023 - Quarter 2 Performance (1st	Monitoring - scrutiny Members noted	None	N/A
	April 2022- 30th September 2022)	the report		4.
	Directors Annual Report	Information Only - Members noted the	None N/A	N/A
	Directors Armaar Report	report	None	14/74
	Leasing Scheme Wales	Decision - recommendation was	None	N/A
	-	supported to the Cabinet Board	110110	,,,,
	Grant Arrangements For The Provision Of	Decision - recommendation was	None	N/A
1	Warm Spaces Funding	supported to the Cabinet Board	-	<u>,                                      </u>

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	26th January 2023	Consultation 2023/2024 Budget Proposal	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
		Asylum and Refugees Resettlement Jan 23	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
		Anti-social behaviour and homelessness	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
		Audit Wales Report On Direct Payments For Adult Social Care	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
		Manager's Report On Hillside Secure Children's Home	Monitoring - scrutiny Members noted the report	None	N/A
		The Procurement Of a Social Care Case Management Platform	Decision - recommendation was supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A
	9th March 2023	Adults and Childrens Single Point of Contact	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
		Early Intervention and Prevention Support within Childrens Services	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
_		West Glamorgan Safeguarding Annual Report	report	None	N/A
iidalen24		Housing Support Grant Annual Report 2022	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
n 22		Quarter 3 Performance Indicators	Monitoring - scrutiny Members noted the report	None	N/A
		Substance Misuse Action Fund - Grant Agreements	Decision - recommendation was supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A
		Participation in Welsh Government Empty Homes Scheme	Decision - recommendation was supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A
		Contractual Arrangements for a Range of Services Funded Through the Housing Support Grant 2023/24	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
		Extension to the provision of a Welcome Centre in respect of Ukrainians fleeing the conflict	Decision - recommendation was supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A
	20 April 2023	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
		Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities	Decision - recommendation was supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A
		West Glamorgan Partnership Area Plan 2023- 2027	Decision - recommendation was supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A
		Continuation Of Orientation Support To Families Settled Under The Afghan Relocation And Assistance (ARAP) Scheme	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A

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Contractual Arrangements for a Third Sector and Non-Regulatory Services funded by Social Services, Health and Housing	Information Univ - Members noted the I	None	N/A
Contractual Arrangements for a Range of Children and Young People Services funded by Social Services, Health and Housing	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
Hillside Manager's Report	Information Only - Members noted the report	None	N/A
Eco 4 Flex Scheme	Decision - recommendation was supported to the Cabinet Board	None	N/A

Mae'r dudalen hon yn fwriadol wag



# NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## 21st September 2023

## Report of the Interim Head of Housing and Communities – Chelé Zandra Howard

**Matter for Information** 

Wards Affected: All Wards

Housing and Communities Department – Mid-Year Progress Report

#### Purpose of the Report

The Housing and Communities Department was established in January 2023, this report sets out progress against key programmes of work over the first half of the department's establishment. In addition this report provides a response to questions raised by Scrutiny Committee.

## **Executive Summary**

In January 2023, an Interim Head of Housing and Communities was appointed to oversee the newly established Housing and Communities Department ("the Department").

The Department brings together a number of Council functions including, Community Safety Team, Area Planning Board Team, Refugee & Asylum, Housing Strategy, Homelessness, Housing Support and Housing Adaptations & Renewals.

Each of the above areas have their own work streams and priorities, this report sets out some of the key achievements against the various programmes of work.

This report also answers questions that were posed by Scrutiny Committee in July 2023 and sets out key areas of work that is being progressed by the department.

#### **Background**

Following the presentation of the Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan (Background Paper One) to Scrutiny Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, a number of questions were raised in relation to how the Department was working to resolve the identified challenges.

Whilst the Department has only been established since January 2023, significant work has already been progressed against a number of key Department priorities and clear plans of action are in place to work towards resolving some of the most challenging issues facing communities within Neath Port Talbot.

Since the Department is newly established and in light of questions raised in Scrutiny, Officers have developed a mid-year update report (Appendix One). This report covers some of the key projects undertaken across the whole Department, each team within the Department has its own extensive work plan and so this report does not include business as usual and is not meant to represent the Department's work plan in its entirety.

A response to the questions raised by Scrutiny Committee is provided below.

**Question One** - Private sector housing is more expensive than local housing allowance and Registered Social Landlords ("RSLs") cannot accommodate demand – what is being done to address this issue?

**Answer One** – The Rapid Rehousing Plan (Background paper Three) sets out an action plan to address these issues, a Rapid Rehousing Coordinator came into post in May 2023 and is responsible for supporting the Council to progress this five year Plan (2022-2027). The intention of this Plan is to transition from the current baseline homelessness position, to providing more suitable models of accommodation and support, including moving away from the use of temporary accommodation.

Alongside the Rapid Rehousing Plan, are a range of actions within the Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan (Background Paper One) to help stimulate the development of more affordable housing. This includes utilising Social Housing Grant ("SHG") to develop more affordable housing.

The Department update at Appendix One sets out some of the work being undertaken in these areas.

**Question Two:** What are the waiting lists for RSL's and what housing is being developed through SHG?

**Answer Two:** Officers use waiting list figures from our largest RSL, Tai Tairan, for the purposes of strategic planning. The reason for this is that a household may be on the waiting list for more than one RSL operating in Neath Port Talbot and so combining this information would not provide an accurate picture of demand. Tai Tairan's waiting list as at 31.07.23 was:

Band	Number of Households
Urgent banding	203
Gold banding	286
Silver banding	569
Bronze meeting	2391
Total	3449

In relation to the use of SHG, we are currently projected to deliver a total of 661 homes in Neath Port Talbot via this capital scheme during the grant period 2022/23 to 2024/25.

**Question Three:** How many private houses are available in Neath Port Talbot.

Answer Three: This is not information that is collected by the Department. The development of the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) is led by the Planning & Public Protection Department and contains information on the local housing market. The LHMA has been submitted to Welsh Government for their approval.

The draft LHMA indicates the following tenure breakdown in Neath Port Talbot in 2020.

Tenure	%	Number of Households
Private rental	10.67	7,033
Social Housing	19.02	12,534
Owner Occupied	70.31	46,342

**Question Four:** How many people are homeless and what are the demographics and circumstances?

**Answer Four:** Please refer to Appendix Two, which provides a breakdown of this information.

It is clear from both July presentations to Housing Options and from cases open to Housing Options that the biggest reason for approaching the service is due to tenants of private sector properties needing advice or assistance. This may be due to a notice already having been served, or for advice if they are pre-empting a notice due to the changes brought in by the Renting Homes Wales Act in December 2022. Some changes to the Renting Homes Wales Act were not fully implemented until June 2023, which is likely to be the reason for high numbers in July.

Relationship breakdowns remain a consistent reason for becoming homeless, with 41% of all open cases being due to either a relationship breakdown or breakdown with family/friends which has impacted on their accommodation. There are mediation services available and when it is appropriate this service is offered to applicants.

**Question Five:** What emergency accommodation for those that become homeless are operated by the Council?

**Answer Five:** Please refer to Appendix Two, which provides a breakdown of all temporary accommodation ("TA") operated by the Council.

Question Six: How can we make TA better/more available?

**Answer Six:** This is a key action within both the Rapid Rehousing Plan and Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan, currently there is an overreliance on Hotels/B&Bs, which is not an optimal environment for people and is very costly. The Department update at Appendix One sets out some of the key work to date in this area.

The leased stock of TA has increased almost 300% since 2020 and discussions with RSL's continue to be had on availability of properties that can be leased by the Council. The current leased portfolio is a mix of short and long term leases. Short term leases are generally 12 months and currently several properties are leased in areas of further development e.g. county flats where properties are vacant pending redevelopment but are planned for a later phase of redevelopment so the void properties are then utilised for TA.

A considerable amount of work is currently ongoing to minimise the use of hotels for families. This includes a process to ensure that any families placed in hotels are moved to a self-contained unit when one becomes available to ensure that time spent in hotels is as short as possible. There is also a considerable amount of work underway to

source family sized accommodation with plans for RSL's to utilise a WG capital grant to purchase more family sized properties.

The current ratio of single people to families in TA is 4:1; however Officers recognise the significant impact on families and children that are living in hotels and therefore sourcing family accommodation is a high priority for the Department.

#### **Financial Impacts**

This report has no financial impacts as it for information purposes.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes.

## **Valleys Communities Impacts**

This report has no valleys communities' impacts as it for information purposes.

### **Workforce Impacts**

This report has no workforce impacts as it for information purposes.

## **Legal Impacts**

This report has no legal impacts as it for information purposes.

## **Risk Management Impacts**

This report has no risk management impacts as it for information purposes.

#### Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item as the report is for information purpose.

#### Recommendations

To note the contents of the report.

#### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

To ensure oversight of the Housing and Communities Department work programme.

#### Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

### **Appendices**

Appendix One: Update Report;

Appendix Two: Homelessness Data.

### **List of Background Papers**

Background Paper One: <u>Draft Housing and Homelessness Strategic</u>

<u>Plan</u>

Background Paper Two: Draft Healthy Relationships for Stronger

Communities Strategy

Background Paper Three: Rapid Rehousing Plan

Background Paper Four: <u>Housing Support Grant Strategy</u>

#### **Officer Contact**

Chelé Zandra Howard: Interim Head of Housing and Communities

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## Appendix One – Mid-Year Progress Report on Key Projects

	Otracta ala Hassalia a
	Strategic Housing
Housing and Homelessness Strategy	A three year Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan has been drafted and is currently out for consultation. This consultation will take place over three months and includes a number of stakeholder events. The draft Plan sets out for key areas of focus with a number of actions to take forward over the three year period. The priority areas are:  Implement a More Strategic Approach Prevent Homelessness Increase Access to Appropriate Affordable Housing Support Those with Social Care Needs to Live Well in Their Communities
Private Rental Sector Rescue	A local private landlord with a large portfolio decided to retire and began issuing notice on his tenants so that the properties could be sold with vacant possession. Neath Port Talbot Council (NPT CBC) worked in partnership with Welsh Government (WG) and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) to prevent nearly 30 households from being evicted.
	Using Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) Grant the Council and RSLs purchased a number of homes from the landlord to prevent the families from becoming homeless with NPT CBC purchasing five of the properties. As the purchased homes were in a poor condition, TACP was also used to make the necessary improvements.
	As a result of this work, a number of families were prevented from becoming homeless and now have improved living standards.

	The total cost of purchasing and renovating the properties to NPT
	was around £260k, with around £606k being provided by WG, the
	annual rental income for NPT CBC will be around £42,000.
Eco4 Scheme	ECO4 is an energy efficiency scheme which places a legal obligation
	on energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency and heating
	measures to the least energy efficient domestic homes occupied by
	low income, vulnerable and fuel poor households, in order to improve
	their energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty.
	To enable local households to access ECO4 Flex, NPT CBC must
	state publicly through a Statement of Intent (SOI), the criteria it
	intends to adopt to identify the households that meet the Flex
	eligibility criteria. The SOI confirms NPT CBCs intention to participate
	in the Flex scheme and enables contractors / agents to engage with
	eligible residents on behalf of Energy Suppliers. Warm Wales
	administers the scheme with NPT CBC signing the declarations to
	approve the claims.
	Patusan March 2022 and mid August NDT CPC have agreed 111
	Between March 2023 and mid-August, NPT CBC have agreed 111
	declarations. Equating to over £16,000 in fees for the Council and
Forefullence	£1.1m in energy efficiency works carried out funded by ECO.
Empty Homes	In March 2023, NPT CBC agreed to take part in WGs Empty Home
	Grant Scheme to further reduce the number of long-term empty
	properties in the area and increase housing supply.
	To take part in the scheme, NPT CBC agreed to invest up to
	£240,000 with WG providing up to £2.4 million of funding over the
	two year scheme period. The scheme works by providing grants to
	eligible homeowners to undertake the necessary work to bring the
	property back into use.
	The response to this scheme as at 15/08/23 is:
	38 requests received
	25 requests progressed to survey
	25 .545555 p.55.55564 to 54.759

	<ul> <li>19 properties surveyed</li> <li>18 schedules completed</li> <li>4 properties formally approved</li> <li>2 properties cancelled as no eligible works identified.</li> </ul> The total cost of identified eligible works to date has been £509,345.50 and the total value of approvals is £124,841.64
Leasing Scheme Wales	This is a scheme in which private sector landlords rent their property to NPT CBC for a guaranteed period of 5-10 years, a grant can also be provided to make improvements to the property. The aim of this scheme is to increase access to good quality private rental properties at the local housing allowance rate.
	NPT CBC receive around 3-4 enquires a week but very few then become formal requests and unfortunately to date we have not entered into any agreements with landlords, this low interest is reflected across Wales. The main reason for the low interest is that landlords are do not wish to rent their properties at the local housing allowance rate.
	In total we have received 10 formal requests, the majority of these were subsequently withdrawn due to the cost of works required to bring the properties to an acceptable standard.
Home Adaptations	Home adaptations funded through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and ENABLE is a well-established area of work and supports people to remain independent within their own homes. There continues to be significant demand for works, which has to be balanced against the available budget, which is £3 million for DFG and £280,000 for ENABLE.
	As at 13/07/23, 59 DFGs have been delivered, with an end to end time of 266 days, which is a reduction from last year's average of 308 days.

Housing with Care Fund	This WG capital grant is overseen on a regional basis by the West Glamorgan Partnership and is used to develop specialist accommodation for people with social care needs.  NPT CBC have worked with RSLs to submit a bid to WG for a total of six new developments this year and work is progressing to deliver these schemes. These schemes will be:  • 2 buildings containing a total of 4 apartments in each building for adults with social care needs
	<ul> <li>2 supported living schemes for a total of 6 adults with social care needs</li> <li>1 supported accommodation service for young adults transitioning from foster care</li> </ul>
	The total funding requested from WG for these developments is just under £2.5 million and will enable people with social care needs to live more independently in the community. Those that will move into the schemes may be currently residing in out of county care home placements or looking to transition from their family home.
	These schemes provide much better personal outcomes for people and the cost of care services is more efficient than traditional care home placements.
Social Care Accommodation	A number of schemes to support people with social care needs that commenced in 2021 have now been concluded, this includes:
	<ul> <li>Specialist supported living service for 3 adults with complex ASD</li> <li>Adapted super bariatric accommodation</li> <li>The core element of a core and cluster serivce for people with physical disabilities, the cluster element is in progress and anticipated to conclude by the end of this year</li> </ul>

	Work is also progressing on a specialist scheme for people that have mental ill health and are at risk of experiencing repeat episodes of homelessness and insterutionised care due to vulnerabilities relating to their mental health.
Older Persons Village	A business case is in the process of development which will set out a proposal to develop an older person's village on Council owned land. This scheme will help better manage the pressures facing adult social care and provide improved options for our older population that may need assistance to remain independent.
	This is a complex area of work and the scheme will be a first for Neath Port Talbot. Potential areas of land have been identified and work is ongoing to understand what funding may be available to support this development.
Violence against Women, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) Accommodation Review	A review of building based VAWDASV support services is in progress with an intention to undertake public consultation on a proposed new model of supported accommodation. The intention of this work is to ensure that services are responsive and flexible to the needs of those that require refuge. Officers are being proactive in ensuring that Service User feedback is at the centre of the review and any recommendations made, take peoples lived experance into account. There are currently a number of Service User focused surveys in place, which are being facilitated by Service Providers. The surveys will close on 8th August and the next stage of the review process will be collating and analysing the feedback.
Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP)	NPT CBC have worked with RSLs to submit a bid to WG for capital funding that will support our objective of reducing homeless families. If successful, the funding will be used to purchase around 55 family homes, which will be a mix of 'buy backs' (where an RSL buys back a property that they used to own and was subsequently sold to the tenant) and open market purchases.
	Some of these homes will support our 'temp to perm' model, which is explained further on in the report.

Social Housing Grant (SHG)	The SHG is the main capital grant provided by WG the provision of affordable housing. Local Authorities are responsible for choosing their Housing Association partners, who are paid SHG to develop, own and manage the affordable housing. Our 3 year rolling budget is circa £40m and this is managed via the Programme Development Plan (PDP).
	A more strategic approach to allocating SHG has been implemented in which a panel consisting of various Officers from Estates, strategic planning, planning, social services, homelessness services and strategic housing assess the viability, impact and benefits of proposals against an agreed criteria.
	Other work includes the development of geographic information mapping to better understand patterns, relationships and geographical context of developments.
	To further improve the strategic approach to SHG allocation, a survey of all relevant stakeholders has recently been undertaken.
	We are currently projected to deliver a total of 661 homes via the SHG scheme during the period 2022/23 to 2024/25.
Modern Methods of Construction	Significant work is underway to look at how modern methods of construction can be optimised in Neath Port Talbot. Methods such as modular accommodation can be completed in much shorter timeframes and can be erected on land that is less viable for traditional construction methods. In addition, these buildings are highly energy efficient and can be mobilised to different locations.
	There are opportunities to utilise Council land that may not traditionally be attractive to developers, such as old car parks and to work with WG to obtain capital funding to build modular housing that can quickly accommodate those that become homeless. A business case is currently in development setting out proposals to progress this type of development.

<u>Homelessness</u>	
Review of Housing Options Structure	The existing Housing Options Team is not currently equipped to manage the significant change in demands, not just in terms of the number of people requiring a serivce, but also the complexity of people coming into services and the requirement to implement a Rapid Rehousing approach to managing homelessness. Whilst Officers are dedicated, the gap between demand and resources has impacted on their ability to deliver an optimised service and an inability to move the service towards the Rapid Rehousing approach.  In light of this, a comprehensive review of the current structure has been undertaken and proposals of a new structure developed. The proposed new structure will completely transform the operation of the team, including enhanced staff supervision and specialist training in areas such as trauma informed practice.  The Community Independence Serivce (CIS) have now relocated from Social Services to Housing Options and is being refocused to support households that are experiencing homelessness. For
Increasing the Number of Lettings to Homeless People	example, the team are now working with people moving on from temporary accommodation and helping resettlement.  One RSL has committed to offering 100% of vacant properties to
	Housing Options and negotiations are ongoing with other RSLs to try and increase the number of properties that are allocated to those that are owed a homeless duty.
	Alongside this, there will be closer work with RSLs to guarantee a higher proportion of properties allocated to those that are homeless within new developments.
Increasing Dispersed Temporary Accommodation	To reduce reliance on B&B's, Officers have been working RSLs to lease units for Housing Options to provide temporary accommodation.

Strategy to Reduce Families in B&Bs

To the end of the 2022 calendar year, the service had a total of 34 leased units (excluding the hostels). Work is ongoing with RSL's, Tai Tarian in particular to increase this stock level in order to reduce the reliance on hotels for families. In 2023 so far, 13 additional units have been sourced and are occupied, with a further 19 due to be brought online imminently. This brings the total of leased units to 66.

Tai Tarian have several new developments under way and some are subject to a phased development due to the size. In these cases the current void units which are subject to re-development in approx. 12 months are being offered to Housing Options as leases. These cannot be long term due to the development programme but enables us to focus on reducing hotel use while other factors are considered in how we intend to reduce temporary accommodation use long term.

Consideration is also being given to working with the private rental sector to increase temporary accommodation options, with Officers in negotiations with a provider of temporary accommodation who operates across Wales.

In response to the alarming and sharp rise in families with children residing in B&Bs, a strategy has been implemented to prevent this situation from occurring. Whilst it has not yet been possible to completely prevent families from needing to move into B&Bs, the number of households have been significantly reduced. Prior to this work, numbers were in excess of 30 families at any one time but figures as of 21/8/23 are 13 families with a total of 16 children.

Work to reduce this number includes prioritising families for dispersed temporary accommodation, where applicable working closely with children social services so that there is a more holistic approach to supporting the family and increasing the number of dispersed temporary accommodation units operated by NPT CBC.

This work does not necessarily reduce the number of families needing to be placed in hotels at point of presentation, but will reduce

	the amount of time spent in hotel accommodation prior to moving into a self-contained unit.
Strategy to Reduce Homeless Families	Whilst there may be a reduction in the number of families with children residing in B&Bs, there are still a notable number of families that are homeless and living in temporary accommodation.
	As previously noted, NPT CBC is working with RSLs to apply for TACP funding in order to purchase a number of family homes, which will be prioritised for homeless families in temporary accommodation/B&Bs.
	One of the main barriers for homeless families obtaining long term accommodation is having a history of rent arrears, with landlords concerned that the household will be unable to sustain ongoing household payments. This situation is compounded by the fact that families residing in NPT CBC operated temporary accommodation are unable to evidence to a landlord that they are now able to make reliable rent payments, as their housing allowance is directly paid to the NPT CBC and families may not have responsibility for the same level of utility bills as they would in a secure tenancy.
	To help families overcome this barrier, NPT CBC are about to pilot a "Temp-to-Perm" model with participating RSLs. Families will be provided with temporary accommodation but will be responsible for paying rent to NPT CBC and will also be supported by Officers to manage their housing related finances. After a period of demonstrating that they have been able to maintain their tenancy, they will be offered a permeant tenancy either in their current accommodation or an alternative home.
	A number of RSLs have agreed to be part of this pilot and families have been identified.
Tenancy Sustainment Panel	A tenancy sustainment panel is being developed with RSLs and support providers in order to ensure that residents who might be struggling with their tenancy receive early interventions. By working

	in partnership across organisations to identify at risk households, this multi-agency approach will ensure that focused work takes place with a household before issues escalate and their tenancy is placed at risk, thereby reducing the number of households that become homeless due to tenancy failure.  It was anticipated that the panel would be in place by summer,
	however there has been a delay due to the need to ensure that all organisations have the correct data sharing processes and protocols in place.
Housing First	When the Rapid Rehousing Transition plan was written, there were 31 people with severe and multiple disadvantages or complex support needs, who were identified as potential beneficiaries of Housing Frist. At present, these people are largely housed in the Ambassador Hotel in Neath. There is current no Housing First provision in NPT.
	Work to progress this model has begun following the appointment of a Rapid Rehousing Coordinator in May 2023, who is currently researching different approaches and engaging with stakeholders to inform our model. We are taking a strategic and collaborative approach to ensure a successful Housing First launch that aims to include wider homelessness prevention measures, accessible housing option advice, increase of housing supply, robust partnership working and flexible wraparound housing support.
IT Review	Neath Port Talbot is currently reviewing its IT platforms and is in consultation with users to identity solutions and development needs for each team. The existing Housing Options data base enables front line staff to deliver the service fairly effectively and efficiently, it is felt with some refinement and additional service options, the data base can evolve to meet the needs of the service, alternatively a new system can be built based on existing parameters.
	NPT has also started to improve the digital platforms for service users, and this needs to continue to make the website accessible for

people in emergency situations to present as homeless. The current Housing Options landing page provides limited advisory information and pushes demands to telephone and emails contacts, resulting in low value demands on the service which can often be managed by providing additional supporting information on the webpage using a variety of methods such as informative animation videos.

Workshop sessions will be held with a selection of front-line staff to discuss and agree what system developments are required and what data reporting tools are needed. The initial staff workshop was arranged for the start of August, however, due to staff changes at a senior level within the service, the workshop has been put back to the end of September. The working group that attends the workshop will also consider changes needed to the Housing Options webpage.

#### **Refugee and Asylum Support**

Ukrainian Humanitarian Support

In March 2022, a corporate operational group was established to develop and implement a humanitarian response for people arriving from the Ukraine into our communities through the sponsorship routes. This included NPT CBC hosting a Welcome Centre and providing support into a hotel commissioned for Ukrainians by WG.

A key feature of our work has been to welcome people into initial or temporary accommodation, and then to work with them to secure more sustainable long term accommodation.

Following an announcement that WG intended to wind down the Welcome Centre, the pace of work to support guests to move into more sustainable longer-term housing has been accelerated.

At the time of writing, 6 of the 13 families from the Welcome Centre had confirmed accommodation to move into, with another four families in the process of securing accommodation.

	Alongside supporting guests at the Welcome Centre, the team have also supported 51 guests that have stayed in the hotel to move into longer term accommodation.
Afghan Relocation Assistance Policy Scheme	Following the UK Government decision to close hotels for Afghan households who fled Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover, NPT CBC have supported one household to obtain accommodation with the area.
Commu	ınity Safety Team
Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy	The 'Healthy Relationships for Stronger Communities Strategy' has been refreshed for 2023-2026. This outlines the work to be undertaken over the next 3 years to eliminate all forms of Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, and ensures the NPT CBC discharge its duties under the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.  The strategy was developed through consultation with partners and survivors of domestic abuse. This is our third iteration of the strategy since 2016 and excellent progress has been made since this time.  The 7 key areas of work within the strategy are;  Communications & Engagement  Children & Young People  Perpetrators  Early Intervention & Prevention  Training  Accessible Services  Criminal Justice  Each of the above has a series of actions which will be overseen by the VAWDASV Leadership Group and its sub groups. The strategy will be officially launched in autumn 2023.  The Council operated Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
	(IDVA) service supports those considered very high risk victims of

	domestic abuse. The team continues to work to increased demands when compared to the same period last year.  The referrals of high risk domestic abuse victims into the service are far more complex in nature, post Covid pandemic. However, engagement rates remain high, at 65%.  The team continue to work with South Wales Police and local specialist providers to manage this demand, and ensure victims are appropriately supported with robust safety plans in place.
	This element of the service remains heavily reliant on grant funding for staff salaries.
Paws on Patrol	The scheme continues to empower our residents to be the eyes and ears in their local community, reporting the issues they see whilst out and about. The scheme also offers us a very light touch way of engaging with residents about other community safety related topics such as domestic abuse and hate crime.
	So far during 2023, 87 new members have signed up to our Paws on Patrol scheme, meaning there are now over 1400 members. Alongside promoting membership at all events attended by the Community Safety Team, there have been four events specifically to promote Paws on Patrol.
	An annual survey was conducted early on in the year, responses were very positive and the feedback from members will be used to shape the service over the coming year.
	Quarterly newsletters are distributed to our members with information on latest trends, emerging issues, as well as general crime prevention and safety advice.

Grant Funding	During the first 6 months of the year, the Community Safety Team were successful in securing 2 additional grants:
	£4,000 from Tata Steel to fund our annual Crucial Crew Event. This covered the cost of venue hire, press release (including vlog), uniforms for facilitators and refreshments. This would otherwise have been funded via NPT CBCs core money, so has helped our teams' budget position for the year.
	£5,000 from WG for Target Hardening equipment – This funding will allow us to purchase home security items for the high risk victims of domestic abuse that we are supporting. This includes items such as Ring doorbells, window locks, door jammers, security lighting, dash cams etc. Being able to offer items like this to the people we support, offers an extension of the holistic support and helps with risk management.
Community Cohesion	WG continue to fund Community Cohesion activity across Wales.  During the first six month of the year, the Community Safety Team have organised several key events, including:
	<ul> <li>The first NPT Pride - in partnership with local LGBT community groups, Local Area Coordinators and local Councillors.</li> <li>The Mayors Interfaith Afternoon Tea at Margam Orangery – This event saw many people from our local BAME community come together to celebrate their contribution to our local community during the Covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>Windrush Coffee Morning – This event commemorated the 75th Anniversary of Windrush, with an informal coffee morning. Events were replicated across the region and were well attended.</li> <li>Chai &amp; Chat – In partnership with CVS we are supporting weekly Chai and Chat sessions, aimed at women in our local</li> </ul>

	BME Community. These weekly sessions are now being attended by over 20 people each week.
A Safer' Events	The Community Safety Team are trialling a new approach to their Community Safety engagement events – ensuring they are bespoke to each area of the borough they visit. Officers use local intelligence, and anecdotal information to ensure the most appropriate services attend with us on the day. So far this has generated greater footfall, and allows residents to speak to us about what matters to them most.  Events undertaken to date are:  • 'A Safer Briton Ferry'  • 'A Safer Cadoxton'  • 'A Safer Croeserw'  • 'A Safer Dulais Valley'  • 'A Safer Glynneath'  Events in Sandfields and Ystalyfera will also be arranged during
Distribution of Grants to Local Community Groups	2023.  The Community Safety Team continue to form part of the Afan Tawe Nedd Crime Prevention Panel, and provide small grants of £500 to the local community in order to support diversionary activities for young people.  This year, the following local clubs have received funding:
	<ul> <li>Trefelin BGC Under 5's &amp; Under 6's</li> <li>Taibach RFC Under 16's</li> <li>Port Talbot Town Cricket Club</li> <li>Tonmawr Under 13's Rugby</li> <li>Aberavon Harlequins RFC U7s</li> <li>Ynysygerwn Sports and Social Club – Junior Team</li> <li>Neath Netball Under 15's</li> <li>Llandarcy AFC U14s</li> <li>Afan Lido Gymnastics Club</li> <li>Surf School Wales Youth Related Activities</li> </ul>

	Neath Cricket Club Junior Team
	Resolven RFC Juniors
	Tata Steel Cricket Club Junior Team
	South Wales Police Football Tournament
Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership	An application totalling £275,000 to the Home Office Safer Streets Grant has been made for a regional project to help tackle anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, and acquisitive crime.
	A further bid within the region of £50-60,000 is being developed for the UK Shared Prosperity fund to enable to continuation of the 'The Hangout' provision for young people in need of diversionary activities.
Crucial Crew	Crucial Crew is Community Safety's flagship event, and has been running for 27 years. Each year, at least 1500 Year 6 pupils attend the event, and visit a series of 10 minute safety workshops.
	The aim of Crucial Crew is to make sure young people stay safe over their summer holidays and during their transition from primary to secondary school.
	Workshops include Fire Safety, Water Safety, Healthy Relationships, Road Safety, Railway Safety and many more. This year, we were also supported by Ysgol Cwm Brombils Year 10 drama students, who provided a 10 minute peer education production to every school, which was incredibly emotive and thought provoking.
Area Planning Board Team	
StEPS	In response to a Matters of Serious Concern report in relation to continued high levels of drug related deaths and long waiting times for prescribing, the APB undertook a Strategic Evaluation of Prescribing Services.
	The outcome of this Evaluation was a recommendation to develop a new prescribing model, which would be made up of 4 Elements: a single point of entry (which would provide rapid access to

	prescribing); followed by a three tiered arrangement with Low Intensity; High Intensity; and Additional Health Needs Elements alongside a Co-occurring Wellbeing Therapies and Counselling Hub (CWTCH).
	Existing services have been asked to put forward proposals to increase and amend their existing provision to meet the needs of the agreed new StEPS model. This model will be implemented as a pilot project.
	The APB set an implementation date of the 30th June 2023, however there have been a number of challenges resulting in this being delayed, with a revised timescale of 30th September 2023 now being worked to.
Substance Misuse Counselling Service	Following a successful bid to WG for funding, the Substance Misuse Counselling Service has been established. The project will create a trauma informed mental health support hub for people with cooccurring mental health and substance use needs in the Western Bay area.  The service commenced in August 2023 and will be delivered alongside the StEPS prescribing model to provide dedicated wellbeing support for those with complex needs, especially around co-occurring mental health and substance use issues. The service will be available for all those engaged with substance use services (Newid) and providers can refer directly in for support.
Western Bay Drugs Commission	Figure 8 Consultancy have been commissioned to lead a commission to explore the high number of drug-related deaths in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, with a focus on:  • the nature, extent, and impact of substance use across the region.  • drug-related harms and deaths (inclusive of illegal, illicit, prescription and alcohol use).  • the wider (cultural, economic, familial, psychological, and social) determinants and influences of problematic substance use.

	being a critical friend to all stakeholders (local commissioners, communities, leaders, and providers).  Since it started the Commission has met formally three times and a range of further activity planed, with a report planed for March 2024.
Service User Engagement Service	Funding has been made available to the Council to deliver a Service User Engagement Service. The funding will create one full time fixed term post commencing in September 2023 until March 2025. The Engagement Officer will further build on the Peer Network that was set up to deliver Peer to Peer Harm Reduction interventions to become a functional Service User Forum for the region that is led by service users. A Service User Engagement Framework will also be developed.
First Point of Contact (FPOC) Evaluation	The FPOC developed by the APB Team to improve access into services has been in operation for a year. As such, it was agreed that an evaluation of the serivce would be undertaken.  The APB Team has worked with our Peer Network, who undertook mystery calls into the service to provide feedback on the service they received. The Peers used their own life stories and experiences and were fully supported by the APB Team.  Monitoring Officers also linked with Peers in Cwm Taff to carry out similar calls in order to make comparisons. Data from the FPOC has also been analysed and audits carried out on live cases.  The final report is due to be presented to the Commissioning, Finance and Performance Sub Group and will include recommendations to improve the service going forward and recognising good practice.
Alliance Commissioning	This work has been delayed whilst waiting to appoint a Programme Manager to drive forward the necessary transformation. A post holder came commenced work towards the end of July and is now progressing the necessary work to establish an 'Alliance'.

The commissioning and development of an 'Alliance' will seek to combine resources across the range of partners currently commissioning substance use related services within the West Glamorgan footprint and enable them to pool budgets. The overall budget will be utilised to commission an Alliance of providers, creating a 'single' organisation delivering a whole system approach.

The new integrated services will be easy for those requiring a service to understand and access, focused on achieving the best possible outcomes for people. The commissioning of the service will ensure co-production is embedded in the process and so will ensure people with lived and living experience of substance use are included in all aspects of the service.

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#### <u>Appendix Two – Data on Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation</u>

#### **Presentations to Housing Options**

Total new presentations received in 23/24 financial year so far:

Month	Number of households
July 2023	200
June 2023	232
May 2023	269
April 2023	217

#### Reasons for homelessness – all applications received in July 2023 (200 in total):

Homeless Reason	Total	
Breakdown of relationship with partner - Non Violent	25	12.50%
Breakdown of relationship with partner - Violent	13	6.50%
Current Property unaffordable	4	2%
Current Property unsuitable (Including Disrepair)	14	7%
In Institution or care	1	Less than 1%
Loss of rented or tied accommodation (including Illegal Eviction)	38	19%
Mortgage Arrears (Repossession or other loss of home)	5	2.50%
NOT HOMELESS – advice only (no assessment required)	12	6%
Other (including homeless in emergency, returned abroad, sleeping rough or in a hostel)	15	7.50%
Other Violence	2	1%
Other relatives or friends no longer able to accommodate	27	13.50%
Parent no longer willing or able to accommodate	25	12.50%
Prison Release	9	4.50%
Rent Arrears Private Sector	5	2.50%
Rent Arrears Social Landlord	5	2.50%

Gender (by lead applicant if	Total
family or couple)	
Non binary	1
Male	87
Female	112

Age range	Total
16/17	2
18 to 25	42
26 to 60	143
60 +	13

#### Cases Open to Housing Options As At 31.07.23 (511 open cases)

#### **Reasons for homelessness**

Homeless Reason	Total	%age
Breakdown of relationship with partner - Non Violent	54	10%
Breakdown of relationship with partner - Violent	27	5%
Current Property unaffordable	5	1%
Current Property unsuitable (Including Disrepair)	32	6%
In Institution or care	4	1%
Loss of rented or tied accommodation (including Illegal Eviction)	167	33%
Mortgage Arrears (Repossession or other loss of home)	8	1.50%
Other (including homeless in emergency, returned abroad, sleeping rough or in a hostel)	33	6.50%
Other Violence	6	1%
Other relatives or friends no longer able to accommodate	67	13%
Parent no longer willing or able to accommodate	66	13%
Prison Release	29	6%
Rent Arrears Private Sector	11	2%
Rent Arrears Social Landlord	2	less than 1%

Age range of all open applicants	Total
16-17	2
18-25	78
26-60	384
60+	36

Gender of all open applicants	Total
Male	227
Female	282
Trans gender	2

#### Temporary Accommodation (TA) Stock Profile from 2020 to 1.8.23

Type of TA	2020	2021	2022	2023 (as at 1/8)
Self contained	22	22	34	63
units leased by		(see note 1)		(see note 3)
LA from RSL's				
Buildings owned	17	18	18	18
by LA (by number		(see note 2)		
of rooms – see				
note 4)				
Hostels leased by	9	9	9	9
AL from RSL's (by				
number of rooms				
– see note 5)				

Note 1 - due to lockdown, all moves were suspended so no properties were becoming void to enable RSL's to assist with increasing TA stock. Once restrictions were lifted, stock started to increase again.

Note 2 – communal lounge was repurposed as a bedroom to increase capacity

Note 3 – discussions are ongoing with RSL's on increasing leased units and numbers are increasing on a regular basis.

Note 4 – Beaufort House x 15 rooms and Rhodes House x 3 flats

Note 5 – Lewis Rd x 5 flats and Golwg Y Dre x 4 flats – both leased from Pobl

#### TA Resident Profile As At 31.7.23:

#### Number of households in temporary accommodation

Month	Number of Households	
31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	197	
30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	196	
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	208	

#### Reasons for homelessness for all TA residents

Reason For Homelessness (31/7/23)		
Loss of rented or tied accommodation (including Illegal Eviction)	46	23%
Parent no longer willing or able to accommodate	38	19%
Other relatives or friends no longer able to accommodate	31	15%
Breakdown of relationship with partner - Non-Violent	22	11%
Prison Release	17	8%
Other (including homeless in emergency, returned abroad, sleeping rough or in a hostel)	12	6%
Breakdown of relationship with partner - Violent	11	5%
Current Property unsuitable (Including Disrepair)	9	4%
Other Violence	3	1.5%
Rent Arrears Private Sector	3	1.5%
In Institution or care	2	1%
Termination of AST	2	1%
Mortgage Arrears (Repossession or other loss of home)	1 th	less an 1%

Age	Number
16/17	0
18-25	39
26-60	146
60+	12

Gender	Number
Male	111
Female	85
Transgender	1

#### Families in TA as of 31.7.23

#### **Total number**

Family Units	52
Total Children	102

#### **Breakdown by Accommodation Type**

Accommodation Type	Family Units	Children
Hotels	16	19
Self-Contained Units	36	83



# Social Services, Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Committee Actions and Referrals Update – 2023-24

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Minuted Action / Referral / Request	Progress Update	<u>Officer</u>	Target / Completion Date	Completed / On-going
8.6.2023	(Renamed in the meeting as Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service Grading Analysis of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-2023)	Members requested a visit to Base 15.	Suitable date arranged with Officers	Alison Davies	Visit arranged for 22 September 2023 10.00- 12.00	Completed
13.7.2023 Tudalen61	Children & Young People Services, Adult Services and Housing & Community Safety - 4th Quarter (April 2022- March 2023) Performance Report	Work on re-registration has been presented to members previously and it was agreed that this work would be re-circulated.	Information received and circulated to Scrutiny Committee Members	Keri Warren	5.9.2023	Completed

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## Social Services, Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee

### (All starting 2pm unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2023		
13 <sup>th</sup> July	Asylum Dispersal, Refugee and Ukrainian Response	Claire Jones
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 22-23	Chair Cllr C.Galsworthy Alison Thomas (Dem Services)
	Housing and Communities – Mid-Year Progress Report	Chele Howard
16 <sup>th</sup> November	Local Area Coordinators	Sarah Waite
	Hospital Discharges	Adrian Bradshaw/Sorelle Jones
2024		
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Respite Services	Sarah Waite/Sue Bradshaw
21 <sup>st</sup> March	Direct Payments	Sue Bradshaw /Adrian Bradshaw/Lisa Morris
2 <sup>nd</sup> May		

#### • To be programmed into the cycle

Report on personal assistants – Angela Thomas/Maggie Hayes Unpaid Carers - It was suggested in meeting on 8.6.23 that a report should come back to Scrutiny in six months' time.