

Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee

Annual Report

2019 - 2020

Scrutiny
in Carmarthenshire



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Chair's Foreword



We are at the end of another municipal year and as Chair of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee it is my pleasure to present our Annual Report for the year 2019 - 2020. The Annual Report gives an overview of the work undertaken by the Committee during the year.

Firstly, I would like to thank all committee members for their regular attendance and for their commitment in tackling the many challenges facing Health and Social Care. These are very demanding times and as a committee we would like to thank all our officers and staff for their dedication and hard work in ensuring that the residents of Carmarthenshire, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, receive the very best care.

Our Scrutiny Committee continues to arrange pre-meetings prior to the full Committee meeting. Pre-meetings, which are informal, have proved helpful in dealing with minor queries, thus allowing more valuable time for detailed scrutiny of agenda items during the meeting itself.

In consultation with officers, preparing and monitoring the Forward Work Programme is an important aspect of the Committee's remit. All members have an input, the Forward Work Programme is regularly reviewed during the year and additional items added as required.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act emphasises partnership working. This has always been extremely important within Social Care and Health and we appreciate the opportunity of working together with our partners, particularly the Hywel Dda University Health Board, the Regional Partnership Board and the many Voluntary Organisations within Carmarthenshire that provide such invaluable support to the residents of our County. By working together, we can accomplish so much more, as we all strive towards the common goal of continually improving our social care services.

During the year the Task and Finish Group completed their review relating to "The Impact of Loneliness and Isolation within Carmarthenshire". The review recommendations were presented to and accepted by the Executive Board in September. Progress on implementation of the recommendations has been delayed due to the departure of Neil Edwards, Interim Head of Integrated Services. The Committee would like thank Neil for all his work and wish him all the best for the future. The topic chosen for review by the seven members, cross-party, Task and Finish Group for 2019 - 2020 is "Early Intervention and Prevention of Suicide in Carmarthenshire". A scoping exercise has already been completed and information

received from the Samaritans Association, the “Jac Lewis Foundation” and the “Twilight Sanctuary”.

During 2019 - 2020 Member development sessions included “Fulfilled Lives”, “Social Prescribing” and the Red Cross Home from Hospital Service. During the year a wide range of topics and reports were considered, including reviews of the Revenue and Capital Budget Reports, Quality Assurance Arrangements, Adult Social Care Compliments and Complaints, Adult Safeguarding and Delayed Transfers of Care. In considering these detailed reports, members were able to appreciate the hard work and dedication of our Health and Social Care Staff.

Committee members were delighted on being informed in November that the bid to Welsh Government for Transformation funds had been successful and members thanked the officers concerned for securing the funds on behalf of Carmarthenshire. The Committee received a presentation relating to the three programmes of delivery: - “Proactive Technology Enabled Care”, “Fast Tracked Consistent Integration” and “Creating Connections for All”.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Officers who have been in attendance at our Scrutiny meetings. Thank you for your guidance, expert advice, and informative presentations. A special thanks to Councillor Ieuan Wyn Davies, my Vice-Chair for the past two years, for his valued assistance and a special thanks to Councillor Jane Tremlett, Social Care and Health Executive Board Member for regularly attending and supporting our Scrutiny Committee meetings throughout the year. Sincere thanks and appreciation to our Democratic Support Officer, Emma Bryer, for her guidance and support. Emma is greatly valued as our Support Officer, both for her preparation work beforehand and for ensuring that the Scrutiny meetings run smoothly.

At the beginning of the municipal year, in May 2019, no - one would have for seen how the year would end - a worldwide pandemic and Covid 19 causing the Government to enforce a complete lock down. Life has taken on a new perspective; most staff have been working from home and many have been re-deployed to ensure essential services are maintained. The need to care for the elderly and vulnerable has never been more necessary or more important. Our Officers and our Council Employees are to be thanked and commended for their resilience, their resolve and their determination to do all they can for those in need. To all those who have been prepared to go the extra mile during these difficult times - **“Thank You and Well done”**.

Councillor Gwyneth Thomas
Chair of Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee

1. Introduction

The scrutiny function is a key element of the County Council's governance arrangements and decision making process. Although not a decision-making body, Scrutiny is at its most effective when it grasps the potential to influence and inform decisions made by both the Council and partner bodies affecting the County.

Article 6.2 of the Council's Constitution requires all Scrutiny Committees to "*prepare an annual report giving an account of the Committees activities over the previous year.*"

The main aim of the report is to highlight the work that has been undertaken by the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20. It aims to provide Members with an opportunity to reflect on the achievements during the year and to identify what worked well and where improvements could be made. This analysis is instrumental in developing scrutiny. In addition, this report may aid to facilitate discussions on items which could be identified for inclusion within future work programmes.

The Committee is chaired by Councillor Gwyneth Thomas and is made up of 14 Elected Members. Support is provided by the Democratic Services Unit and other Council officers as and when required.

2. Overview of the work of the Committee in 2019/20

2.1 Number of Meetings

The Scrutiny Committee held 6 meetings plus a joint meeting with the Environment & Public Protection Scrutiny Committee during the 2019/20 municipal year. Two meetings were cancelled during the year.

At the request of the Chair of the Education and Children Scrutiny Committee, the joint meeting scheduled to take place in July was cancelled. However, the scheduled report "Draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 18/19" was included on the agenda in the Health & Social Care Scrutiny meeting held on the 3rd July.

The December budget consultation meeting was cancelled due to the delay in the budget settlement information being received from Welsh Government. The budget consultation reports were provided to the Committee at the meeting held in January.

The April meeting was cancelled as the UK was placed on an enforced lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. The reports will be moved to the next earliest meeting.

2.2 The Forward Work Programme

The Scrutiny Committee develops its own Forward Work Programme (FWP). The Committee consulted with officers to identify items to be considered by the

Committee for the forthcoming year. This involved the inclusion of standard items such as performance, budget and action plan monitoring reports. Additional reports were also requested by members at meetings throughout the year and the Forward Work Programme was amended accordingly. In the main, meeting agendas were consistent with those outlined in the FWP.

The concept and development of the Forward Work Programme and the process for its agreement has allowed each Scrutiny Committee to determine its own agendas. The benefits of such an approach has led to an improved level of debate and input during Scrutiny Committee meetings.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places long term sustainability at the forefront of how public services are designed and delivered and it places emphasis on public bodies to work in partnership with each other and the public to prevent and tackle problems.

The Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee's key responsibilities are:

- Social Services for Older People including Nutritional Standards
- Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Support for Carers
- Mental Health Services
- Safeguarding of Adults
- Integration of Health and Social Care Services
- Dementia Services

To compliment the work undertaken during formal meetings, the Committee also undertakes other scrutiny functions such as Task and Finish, visits to establishments falling within its remit together with member development sessions.

2.3 Performance Monitoring / Strategic Issues

Performance Monitoring Reports - One of the principal roles of Scrutiny Committees is to monitor the performance of services and functions within its remit. They undertake this work mainly through the consideration of performance monitoring reports and various action plan monitoring reports. The performance monitoring reports provide a balanced picture of performance across the relevant service areas. The Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee received the Performance Monitoring Report for the Council's 2018/19 Wellbeing Objectives at the meeting in July and September 2019. The reports mainly focussed on underperforming indicators.

Carmarthenshire County Council's Draft Annual Report 2018/19 - As part of its performance monitoring role the Committee received relevant information from the Council's key strategies and plans. In July 2019 the Committee considered the Council's draft Annual Report for 2018/19 which included an overview of 2018/19 performance, progress reports for all 15 Well-being objectives. The

report also provided additional performance information on out-turn data and National Survey for Wales Results.

[Draft Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services 2018/19](#) - There is a statutory requirement for the Director of Social Services to report annually to their Council on the delivery and performance as well as plans for the improvement of the whole range of Social Services. This report was initially due to be presented at the joint scrutiny meeting with the Education & Children Services Scrutiny Committee, but this was cancelled by the Chair of that committee and was presented to the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee in July.

[Outcomes](#)

The Committee resolved that a report be provided on the [Delayed Transfer of Care](#).

The report was circulated to the Committee in September.

[Communities Departmental Draft Business Plan 2020 - 2023](#) – In January the Committee considered the Communities Departmental Draft Business Plan 2020 - 2023 which detailed the department's aims, objectives and priorities during 2020-23. This provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider and comment upon the priorities outlined for the department for the three-year period.

[Actions & Referrals](#) - During the course of the municipal year several requests for additional items are made by members of the Committee to assist them in discharging their scrutiny role. Actions & Referrals updates are presented to Committee which provide an update on progress in relation to these requests.

2.4 Revenue & Capital Budgets

[Budget Monitoring Reports](#) - The Committee received reports on the departmental and corporate revenue and capital budgets at the meetings held in May, July, September, November, January and March. These reports enabled members to monitor the level of spend in each area and the progress made in connection with any capital works.

[Revenue Budget Strategy Consultation 2020/22-2023](#) - As well as monitoring the current budget, the Committee was also consulted on the Revenue Budget Strategy 2020/22 to 22/23. The report provided the Committee with the current proposals for the Revenue Budget Strategy for 2020/21 together with the indicative figures for the 2021/22 and 2022/2023 financial years.

[Outcomes](#)

The Committee resolved that a position statement be provided regarding the [vacant social work posts](#). The position statement was circulated in October.

2.5 Adult Social Care Complaints and Compliments Report

The Committee considered the above-mentioned report at the Committee meetings in May and November which summarised the number and type of complaints and compliments received and detailed the service area to which they related.

2.6 Annual Report On Adult Safeguarding And Deprivation Of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) (2018-19)

The Committee considered the above-mentioned report at the Committee meeting in July which provided information on the role, functions and activities undertaken by the Authority regarding Adult Safeguarding and the implications of the Social Services and Well Being (Wales) Act 2014.

2.7 Care Inspectorate Wales Inspection of Older Adults' Services

The Committee considered the above-mentioned report at the Committee meeting in November which provided an overview of the inspection undertaken by the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW). The Inspection explored how well Carmarthenshire County Council with its partners was promoting independence and preventing escalating needs for older people.

2.8 Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2018/19

The Committee considered the above-mentioned report at the Committee meeting in September which in accordance with Article 6.2 of the Council's Constitution provided an overview of the Committee's activities over the previous year.

2.9 Welsh Government Transformation Funded Programme in Carmarthenshire

In November the Committee received a presentation providing an overview of the three programmes of delivery – Proactive Technology Enabled Care, Fast Tracked Consistent Integration and Creating Connections for All.

2.10 Services & Support for Children & Young People with Mental Health Issues

The Committee was due to consider the above report at its meeting in April which had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus. This will be carried over into the next reporting period.

2.11 Additional Reports & Information Requested

During the course of the year, the Committee requested reports on the following topics to be included in the Forward Work Programme:-

- Delayed Transfer of Care (DTC) – received via email in 16/09/2019
- Quality Assurance Survey Analysis on the Local Authority Care Homes – received via email 31/10/2019
- Older People Demographics – received via email 06/11/2019
- Discharge to Recover – pathways – received via email 23/01/2020

3. Other Scrutiny Activity

3.1 Task and Finish

“A review of the impact of loneliness in Carmarthenshire”

At the Committee’s Scrutiny Meeting held in July 2019 the Committee approved the above report. This report was then presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) in July and was approved by the Executive Board in September.

Unfortunately, due to the departure of the Interim Head of Integrated Services who had been assigned responsibility for the delivery of the recommendations there has been no reported progress on delivery to date. It is hoped that once the newly appointed Head of Integrated Services is in post work can recommence.

“Early Intervention & Prevention of Suicide in Carmarthenshire”

At the Committee’s Pre-Meeting held in September 2019 the Committee considered a number of potential suggestions and agreed to undertake a Task & Finish review into Early Intervention and Prevention of Suicide in Carmarthenshire. The membership of the Task & Finish Group are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas (Chair) | • Cllr. Louvain Roberts |
| • Cllr. Ieuan Davies (Vice Chair) | • Cllr. Ken Lloyd |
| • Cllr. Emyln Schiavone | • Cllr. Amanda Fox |
| • Cllr. Dorian Williams | |

The Task & Finish Group met a total of 3 times and due to the coronavirus pandemic 2 further meetings had to be cancelled.

3.2 Development Sessions

The following all member development sessions / member seminars were held during 2019/20:-

- Mod.Gov training (Delivered by Civica) – May
- Swansea Bay City Deal Seminar – June
- County Lines & Counter Terrorism Seminar – June
- Conservations & Biodiversity Seminar – June

- Life Science & Wellbeing Village Seminar – July
- Code of Conduct Training – July
- Canfod Cartref – July
- Carmarthenshire 50+ Annual Forum Event - September
- Schools Budget – November
- Digital Connectivity Seminar – December
- Net Zero Carbon Plan Seminar – January
- Dyfed Pension Fund Governance & Investments - March

In addition to the above, several departmental budget seminars were held.

The Committee also received the following updates / presentations at the Scrutiny Committee development meetings during the course of the year:-

- Carmarthenshire is Kind (June)
- Intermediate Care (September)
- Healthier Wales Strategy (September)
- Update on Continuing Care / NHS Summit (September)
- Fulfilled Lives (Domiciliary Care / Dementia) (December)
- Social Prescribing (December)
- Workforce Development Plan / Developing and Sustaining the Workforce - (December)
- LDP Planning Policy Update (December)
- Red Cross – Home from Hospital Service – March
- Financial Training - March

4. Challenges

The past year has been a challenging period for the Authority and the Committee has continued to be constructive in its role in scrutinising performance and contributing to policies and decisions. Social Care & Health area was placed under significant pressure during the Coronavirus pandemic, but everyone involved performed over and above expectations to ensure residents were well looked after.

5. Future Work

The Committee has made significant progress and will continue to concentrate on topics where Members' input will result in positive outcomes to drive forward service improvement. To ensure that the best use is being made of meeting time and with the benefit of the added value of pre-meetings, the Committee is keen to achieve a more streamlined scrutiny process.

The future work of the Committee will be considered as part of the Forward Work Programme planning session. The FWP will continue to be monitored during the course of the year, together with the Executive Board Forward Work Programme.

6. Support for the Scrutiny Function

Support for Carmarthenshire County Council's Scrutiny function is provided by the Democratic Services Unit, based in the Administration & Law Division of the Chief Executive's Department.

Support for the Scrutiny function includes:

- Formulating, in accordance with the FWP, and despatching agendas for Scrutiny Committee meetings a minimum of 4 working days prior to the meeting;
- Providing support and constitutional advice to the Scrutiny Committees and to members of those Committees as well as producing minutes of their meetings and ensuring items arising from those meetings are actioned;
- Giving support and advice in relation to the functions of the Council's Scrutiny Committees to executive and non-executive members of the Council and its officers;
- Managing the strategic development of Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire through engaging in national and regional Scrutiny networks and initiatives, supporting the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Forum and meetings of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs with the Executive Board;
- Advising and supporting the implementation of the requirements of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 as and when guidance is published;
- Managing the co-ordination and development of the Scrutiny Committees' forward work programmes in conjunction with Scrutiny Committee members;
- Managing and co-ordinating Scrutiny review work, including the administration of scrutiny task and finish groups, assisting in writing reports in conjunction with the groups and assisting in the implementation and monitoring of completed reviews;
- Assisting with the Scrutiny member development programme.

For more information on Scrutiny in Carmarthenshire including forward work programmes, task and finish reports and annual reports, visit the County Council's website at: www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/scrutiny

To contact the Democratic Services Unit, please call 01267 224028 or e-mail scrutiny@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

7. Attendance

Attendance by members of the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Committee during the 2019/20 year is shown in the table below. A total of 7 meetings were held including the joint the joint meeting with the Environmental & Public Protection Committee held on the 10th June 2019.

Scrutiny Committee Member	No. of meetings attended	%
Cllr. Sue Allen	7	100
Cllr. Kim Broom	7	100
Cllr. Ieuan Wyn Davies	6	86
Cllr. Karen Davies	5	71
Cllr. Rob Evans	7	100
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	7	100
Cllr. Amanda Fox	4	57
Cllr. Gary Jones	6	86
Cllr. Jean Lewis	5	71
Cllr. Ken Lloyd	5	71
Cllr. Louvain Roberts	5	71
Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone	6	86
Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas	7	100
Cllr. Dorian Williams	6	86
Substitutes	No. of meetings attended	
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	3	
Cllr. Jeanette Gilasbey	1	
Cllr. Susan Phillips	1	
Cllr. Dorian Phillips	2	
Executive Board Member	No. of meetings attended	
Cllr. Jane Tremlett	3	

Attendance at the Social Care & Health Scrutiny Development Sessions shown in the table below.

Committee Member	10/06/19	24/09/19	17/12/19	05/03/20	Total %
Cllr. Sue Allen	1	1	1	1	100%
Cllr. Kim Broom	1	1	1	1	100%
Cllr. Ieuan Wyn Davies	1	1	1	0	75%
Cllr. Karen Davies	1	1	1	1	100%
Cllr. Rob Evans	0	0	0	0	0%
Cllr. Tyssul Evans	1	1	1	1	100%
Cllr. Amanda Fox	0	0	0	1	25%
Cllr. Gary Jones	1	1	0	1	75%
Cllr. Jean Lewis	1	1	1	1	75%
Cllr. Ken Lloyd	0	1	1	0	50%
Cllr. Louvain Roberts	0	0	1	0	25%
Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone	1	0	1	1	75%
Cllr. Gwyneth Thomas	1	1	0	1	75%
Cllr. Dorian Williams	1	0	1	1	75%